

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Opening of Parliament

Parliament, which adjourned on 12 December 2019, was prorogued by proclamation dated 19 December 2019. By proclamation dated 19 December 2019, it was summoned to meet on Wednesday 5 February 2020, and the Second Session began on that date.

The house met at 12:00 pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. V.A. Tarzia) presiding.

PROROGATION

The Clerk (Mr R. Crump) read the proclamation summoning parliament.

The Speaker read prayers.

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

Dr CLOSE: Point of order, standing order 144: is it appropriate for the member for Waite to be in parliament today, given the allegations against him?

The SPEAKER: Deputy leader, I am advised that that is not a point of order based on procedure and, therefore, it is currently out of order.

Parliament House Matters

CHAMBER PHOTOGRAPHY

The SPEAKER (12:04): Members, please be advised there will be some external videography and, potentially, photography today. Obviously they must abide by the usual rules, but they have allowed it for the opening day of the session.

CHAMBER BROADCASTING

The SPEAKER (12:04): While we await our next phase, members, I wish to make a statement in regard to the webstream broadcast problem. I have been advised that, due to technical difficulties, the ability to provide member information on the webstream broadcast and internal parliamentary TV system for the proceedings of the House of Assembly will not be available for today and, potentially, tomorrow. The problem does not affect the broadcast of proceedings of the Legislative Council. I am advised that the problem will be resolved ahead of the next sitting week of parliament.

The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Government Business is called to order.

Opening of Parliament

PROROGATION

Honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council chamber to hear the speech of His Excellency the Governor. They returned to the assembly chamber and the Speaker resumed the chair.

Sitting suspended from 13:30 to 14:30.

Members

MEMBER FOR WAITE, SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The SPEAKER (14:30): Before I move to the Premier, I wish to make a statement regarding the investigation into the alleged conduct of the member for Waite. I wish to advise the house that on becoming aware of allegations concerning alleged inappropriate conduct by the member for Waite

within the parliamentary precinct, I have engaged an independent investigator to inquire into the alleged behaviour. Whilst an option may have been to involve the equal opportunity commissioner, my understanding is that the equal opportunity commissioner is somewhat limited in her ability to investigate the alleged conduct under the Equal Opportunity Act.

My understanding is that the allegations of harassment by a member of parliament towards specified categories of parliamentary staff can only be investigated by the equal opportunity commissioner when a complaint is made in writing to the commissioner. Further, my understanding is that sexual harassment by a member of parliament against another member of parliament is not unlawful conduct for the purposes of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 and cannot be the subject of a complaint or investigation under the act, as the act does not provide for a member of parliament to make a complaint of sexual harassment against another member of parliament.

As, to my knowledge, as at this morning, no complaint was made to the commissioner by any parliamentary staffer, the equal opportunity commissioner is, on my understanding, unable to investigate the alleged conduct of the member for Waite. I have therefore undertaken this course of action by virtue of my position as Speaker as generally responsible for the good governance of the House of Assembly and for maintaining order. I would like to advise members that there was also the option to do nothing. I did not think that nothing was an option that I was prepared to do.

I feel it is necessary to undertake some investigations so that I can form a preliminary view as to whether the allegations against the member for Waite are well founded. If further evidence comes forward, that will certainly be taken into account. It is for this reason that I am seeking the assistance of an experienced independent investigator to assist me with the task, noting that neither the investigator nor myself have powers of compulsion when dealing with this matter. Relevant people can be invited to participate, answer questions or provide information, but no powers of compulsion can be exercised.

As Speaker, I have no formal power to resolve the matter. If conciliation or mediation fails, there is nothing more that I can do, and I have no authority to impose any sanction on the member for Waite if the alleged conduct complained of is proved to be founded. While I undertake this course of action, there is nothing preventing any aggrieved person from making a complaint to any relevant body, such as South Australia Police, at any time, or for the house to adopt a course of action it thinks is appropriate to deal with the matter. I will not be commenting further publicly regarding the investigation, as it is live and I do not wish to prejudice the investigation.

Motions

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:34): By leave, I move:

That this house—

- (a) expresses its deep regret at the loss of life as a result of bushfires in South Australia so far this summer and extends its condolences and sympathy to the families and loved ones of those killed;
- (b) records its sorrow and support for those who suffered injury and who lost their homes, property and personal possessions;
- (c) praises the work of firefighters and other emergency services, volunteers and community members for their courage and sacrifice in responding to the fires and protecting our communities in this time of need;
- (d) recognises the profound impact on those communities affected and the role of governments and the South Australian community in assisting them to recover and rebuild at the earliest opportunity; and
- (e) appreciates the great generosity and support to the affected communities by all those who have contributed to the Premier's Emergency Relief Fund and other appeals.

In parts, this is a motion no Premier ever wants to move. It speaks of the death of some of our citizens and injury to others, the impact of this summer's bushfires on communities and the loss of homes and other property, but this is also a motion that speaks to the best of our South Australian community—to courage, reaching out to others, generosity and the best of us in response to the worst that nature can throw at us.

The devastation of the fires that swept through parts of Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills is well known, but it is important to recognise that this bushfire season has already been a long one and is not yet over. From the beginning of November, there have also been major fires at Port Lincoln, on Lower Yorke Peninsula and at Keilira in the South-East. Even earlier than that, in September late last year, our Country Fire Service personnel began a series of deployments to other states to assist their firefighting efforts, while the first of this season's total fire bans in South Australia was issued four months ago, on 4 October.

Today, our parliament offers its deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Hills fires, to those who have been injured in all this season's fires and to those who have lost their homes and other property and, in some cases, their livelihoods as fires turned day into night in beautiful places in the Adelaide Hills, on Kangaroo Island and elsewhere, places loved for generations by those who live in or visit our regions, fires leaving in their wake only eerie silence as singing birds and wandering wildlife disappeared, nature at its best destroyed or damaged by nature at its most awesome and awful.

Our thoughts are with all victims of the fires so far this summer. We share their shock, their anguish. So far this summer, 186 dwellings have been destroyed in South Australia's bushfires. Also destroyed have been 870 outbuildings, sheds, barns, hay sheds and carports. Stock losses approach 60,000 cattle and sheep, with a total financial impact for the agriculture sector alone estimated at more than \$19 million. Other sectors heavily impacted include tourism, the wine industry and our national parks and wildlife.

For those who have lost their homes, it is much more than that: it is the irreplaceable contents that make a house the family home—photographs of children and grandchildren and other memories of a family's life destroyed. For our farmers, many have had to not only fight fires on their properties but immediately afterwards shoot their burnt stock. We are doing whatever it takes to support recovery and rebuilding work so that people and their communities get back on their feet and recover their lives. Local recovery coordinators have been appointed.

Personal hardship emergency grants were immediately made available in all affected communities for temporary relief. An emergency relief fund and tax relief measures will help provide longer term support to people who have lost their homes and livelihoods or have been severely affected in other ways. Stress for families with children returning to school is being alleviated through the waiving of school fees, supply of uniforms free of charge and provision of free child care.

These are practical measures, built on financial and other support, coming from our federal government. I thank Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his ministers for the deep interest that they have taken in the challenges faced this summer by South Australia. This has been constantly demonstrated through their visits to fire locations and ready responses to our proposals for assistance.

It goes without saying that the impact on individuals, families and communities would have been even more devastating without the heroic work of our firefighters. Today is also an opportunity to honour these firefighters, recognising that their work may be far from over for this season. They have already been on the front line for more than four months. Sometimes, this has meant deployment far from home, going where they are needed, getting by on very little sleep while the threat was at its most relentless, running towards fires as the rest of us are able to escape them. It is impossible to speak too highly of the commitment and courage of our firefighters to save lives and to protect property.

So far this summer, 134 of our firefighters have been injured. This compares with about 50 members of the public being injured in fires attended by our CFS. This is one demonstration of the extent to which our firefighters put themselves in harm's way to protect the community. The homes of more than 55 firefighters have been lost or damaged. Shane Leahy of the Parndana CFS was one of those to lose his home.

Shane has lived on Kangaroo Island since 2003 and last year clocked up his 250th game for the Parndana Roosters Football Club. He is now an islander through and through and has said, in reaction to the bushfires, that islanders will 'fight and fight. It will take years to recover, but we'll get there'. Of that there is no doubt with the determination like Shane has shown. He got back onto his

fire truck immediately after realising his own home had been destroyed to help others avoid the same outcome.

As Major Trent Harron, heading the Australian Defence Force recovery work on Kangaroo Island, has said: 'The community here must be among the most resilient Australians that we have.' For the same spirit, I also salute Kit Mizi-Wong of Hahndorf, who fulfilled her CFS obligations in the Cudlee Creek fire while seven months' pregnant. Her husband is also a CFS volunteer. Kit has said, 'After the baby, next fire season I'm ready to go back.' The men and women who fight bushfires embody that great spirit of self-sacrifice in the service of others.

I thank the Minister for Emergency Services for the constant support he gives to our fire and other emergency services. During this bushfire crisis, the minister ensured that his cabinet colleagues were kept fully advised of the services and support needed from their agencies. We thank all CFS firefighters, led so capably by their chief officer, Mark Jones, and MFS and SES personnel called upon during this emergency. We thank firefighters from other jurisdictions and other nations who came to South Australia's aid.

We also pay tribute to our police for their vital work in managing this emergency, led by Commissioner Grant Stevens. We thank our doctors and nurses, ambulance officers and paramedics, charity organisations, workers and volunteers at community centres and the state government agencies assisting with immediate relief measures, veterinarians and members of the community who retrieved and treated wildlife in distress. I pay tribute as well to the hundreds of Australian Defence Force reservists for their contribution to the recovery effort in South Australia and to employers who enabled volunteer firefighters and other emergency personnel to remain available for their crucial work.

It is also important to recognise local government councils in the areas affected for their support to their communities. In particular, I refer to the work of the mayors of each of these councils for their tireless commitment to and support of their communities during this time and their engagement with government about the relief and recovery effort. In all that has happened in recent months on Kangaroo Island, in the Adelaide Hills, and elsewhere, the role of the press and media should be commended for keeping the public informed about the bushfire threats as they emerged and the support available to victims in the aftermath.

I acknowledge the cooperation the government has received from the opposition and other members of this parliament, as well as the work of the federal member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie MP. It is important for South Australians to know that, at a time like this, all of their elected representatives are with them.

These fires have seen unbelievable courage by other South Australians doing extraordinary things in the most challenging of circumstances. I refer, for example, to Adam Stone of Balhannah. In the Cudlee Creek fire, Adam first led Merri Glatz to safety before driving back through the flames to seek her husband, John—well known as the chair of the Onkaparinga Racing Club for 25 years. Adam found John slumped on his tractor. He described the situation as follows:

There was stuff exploding, gas bottles going up, like nothing I ever want to hear again. If that wasn't Armageddon, I don't know what is.

As he worked to save John he burned his hands on the tractor. An ambulance had been called but could not get through the fire, so Adam and a police officer had to get John out. Through all of this, Adam did not give thought to his own safety, and I quote, 'Not because I'm brave,' he said, 'but just because you deal with what you have to and just get on with it'. Thankfully, John is now recovering from his critical burns. After this extremely brave rescue mission, Adam spent the following two days fighting spot fires.

Dick Lang and his son Clayton were two of the many on Kangaroo Island who helped others. They used their farm vehicle with a trailer and water tank to put out fires on neighbouring properties but, tragically, were unable to make it back to their own farm. Within hours of the death of his uncle and cousin, Kynan Lang got a call from the Army to advise that reservists were being called up to help on Kangaroo Island. Kynan did not hesitate, saying, 'My uncle and my cousin put the community before themselves and they gave their lives doing it; I could only do the same.'

The Adelaide Hills community mourns the death of Ron Selth whose body was found in his Charleston home after it was destroyed by the Cudlee Creek blaze. Ron built a highly successful engineering business that contributed to the design of thousands of buildings mainly in the Hills. He is remembered as a loving, optimistic and generous man.

As we grieve for those lost in these bushfires, we know for sure there will be future blazes. South Australia's relatively recent history includes Black Sunday in 1955, Ash Wednesday I in 1980, Ash Wednesday II in 1983, Wangary in 2005, Kangaroo Island in 2007, Bangor in 2014 and Pinery and Sampson Flat in 2015. These bushfire events are etched in South Australia's memory, and we can expect that future premiers will stand in this place to lead their state in sorrow again.

It is important therefore that we do all that we can to minimise damage from future events. That is why the government has announced an independent review into what has happened this bushfire season with a focus on the Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek fires. The review is already underway because we want the outcomes to inform what we do in the next bushfire season. It will look into South Australia's preparedness for dealing with significant bushfire activity and what can be done to mitigate the impacts on our community into the future. As I have emphasised, our emergency services have done an outstanding job over recent months, and this review will help identify any learnings that can be applied from what they have gone through.

We are pleased that former Australian Federal Police commissioner Mick Keelty has agreed to lead the review with support from the South Australian Emergency Services Commission and experts from across our state's emergency services. Mr Keelty will be able to draw upon his significant operational experience and the reviews that he has conducted on behalf of other states after previous bushfire seasons. This review will also enable South Australia to provide helpful input to the royal commission the Prime Minister is calling to look at what has happened across many parts of our nation already this bushfire season.

In closing, I can advise that recovery has commenced in all fire-affected areas. I have appointed Margot Forster as State Lead for Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience. Her focus is on rebuilding the economic and social infrastructure that underpins affected communities in a way that makes them more resilient for the future. Margot will work with the community and industry, as well as the new National Bushfire Recovery Agency established by the Prime Minister.

It is important to recognise that for many people in communities affected by these bushfires, there is still a very long way to go. I want them to know that this parliament is with them all the way. As this motion affirms, we are united in our grief for those who have been lost, in our sympathy for those who have suffered injury or loss of their homes or other property and in our determination that our communities will recover and rebuild. Our support will continue. It will continue to be provided where it is needed for as long as it is needed.

We have seen again during this bushfire season that we cannot always control those things that challenge us. What we can count on is the response of our emergency services, the ability of communities to bounce back and the willingness of all South Australians to get behind them in this time of greatest need. For that, my government is extremely grateful. In many cases, rebuilding will take months and years, not days or weeks. My government will continue to do everything, absolutely everything, within its power to support all those affected to rebuild their lives and their communities. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:51): I rise to second the Premier's motion. I do so to mark the heartbreaking events since 20 December last year and I do so to honour all those who have suffered and pay tribute to those who have assisted. Today, I offer my deepest sympathies, as does the whole parliament, to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives in these extraordinary and terrible bushfires. Our hearts of course go out to everyone who was impacted. We hope that the process of reclaiming their lives has already begun.

To all those South Australians who lost their homes, and in many cases everything they owned, and to all those people who have lost their businesses and livelihoods in the bushfires, again, our thoughts are with you at this painful time. We share in your shock and your grief and we share in the anguish of the many communities which have been affected by this extraordinary tragedy.

Today, I pledge that the opposition will continue to do everything we can in support of the government and you in rebuilding your lives and your communities.

The bushfires on Kangaroo Island and in Cudlee Creek, as the Premier mentioned, saw three South Australians tragically perish. The Cudlee Creek fire saw one person perish and more than 70 houses destroyed, as well as 400 outbuildings and 200 cars. The KI fire burnt more than 211,000 hectares of land, destroyed 89 not houses but homes, 296 outbuildings, more than 53,000 head of livestock and tragically claimed the lives of Australian bush pilot Dick Lang and his son Dr Clayton Lang.

'Desert' Dick Lang was a pioneering bush pilot and safari operator who opened up the outback to countless travellers from Australia and overseas, while Clayton was one of Adelaide's leading plastic and reconstructive surgeons, specialising in hand surgery. No words I express today will be adequate to express our sympathy to the family and friends of Dick and Clayton Lang. May they rest in peace.

But amidst all this great tragedy and loss I believe that we, as members of this parliament, have seen and heard of things that will inspire South Australians for years and decades to come. We have seen the very best of human nature: unbelievable self-sacrifice and firefighters remaining steadfast while their own homes burned. We have seen the unbelievable courage of ordinary South Australians who, when the time came, did extraordinary things in the most testing of circumstances. We have seen mateship, hundreds of volunteers, ordinary South Australians, supporting communities impacted and doing whatever they can to help.

One of those unbelievable self-sacrificers has joined us today—and the Premier referred to this earlier. I am so pleased that this gentleman accepted my invitation to attend today's opening of parliament and was able to join us for lunch and be in the gallery to hear this motion. Shane Leahy is a garlic farmer, a wool classer, a business owner, an amateur league footy player but also, importantly, a CFS volunteer. As the Premier mentioned, when Shane discovered his home had been lost in the KI bushfires, what he did was truly remarkable. Shane decided to get straight back on the CFS fire truck and continue the fight, trying to prevent others suffering the same fate.

There was no time for rest or reflection, even though Shane feared he had lost even more: the business dream he had shared with two mates whose lives also had been tragically cut short. The far-reaching consequences of the fire on his own life would have to wait for the crisis to pass. As a lieutenant at the Parndana CFS, Shane had already spent every day for two weeks fighting the initial blaze, which started on 20 December. He plans to rebuild, probably on the same spot as the gutted house that he had spent years gradually renovating. Today we thank you, Shane, and all the other tireless firefighters in our state.

I would also like to place on the record our thanks to the Army personnel and the reservists who assisted, from not just Australia but also New Zealand. Their support was greatly appreciated by all South Australians. There are so many people who deserve our collective compassion and shared admiration. From those who fight fires to those helping with the relief and recovery efforts, the vets working constantly to relieve the agony of family pets and wildlife and SES volunteers who provided important logistical support, we thank them all. We thank SAPOL and we thank Health staff, an endless number of committed public servants in our state all endeavouring to look after others more than they look after themselves.

During my visits to both the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island, I felt an unbelievable sense of pride in seeing the overwhelming number of volunteers who had been assisting in the relief efforts, including farm firefighters who were looking after other people's property yet again, rather than their own. Everywhere I have been I have seen extraordinary South Australians pitching in and doing what they can, but there are so many other untold stories.

One was recently drawn to my attention in a far more humble set of circumstances—not wearing a uniform, not getting paid by South Australian taxpayers, but on everyday streets. The story of young Henry Frossinakis struck me recently. In Hudson Street, Prospect, a humble suburban street, Henry, a six-year-old young man was watching telly with his parents asking questions about the bushfires. He saw images of koalas on TV and asked mum and dad what was going on. They

explained to him the tragedy that was unfolding live on television sets throughout South Australian homes.

Young Henry was distressed. His mother, Sally, tried to explain that in Australia when things like this happen we look after each other. She woke up the next morning to find that Henry had written a letter to all the other people in his little suburb of Prospect in and around Hudson Street asking them to donate cans—because cans are currency when you are six years old—and bottles that he would collect and then cash in at the recycling centre to make a donation to Adelaide Koala Rescue. So the Frossinakis family photocopied the handwritten letter and distributed it in and around Hudson Street, Prospect, and slowly but surely over the coming days their front yard turned into a makeshift recycling centre.

Not long after Christmas, there were a few South Australians who clearly had a number of things that could be recycled. Young Henry, with his younger brothers Jack and Louis, raised, I am advised, \$262.60 for Adelaide Koala Rescue. What a fine young man. He is a young man who I think gives us all extraordinary hope and confidence that future generations carry the candle for the idea that in Australia we do look after each other as much as we look after ourselves, and I congratulate the Frossinakis family.

The Premier is right: it is going to take time for those impacted communities to get over these fires, but I know they will rebuild. The opposition shares their determination, as I am sure does the parliament. We all want to help get these communities back on their feet. We all want to replace the community buildings, the parks and the tourism facilities. We all want to see businesses—wineries and shops—reopen, and we want to see families back in these areas enjoying themselves again. If passion and determination are anything to go by, and if people like Shane Leahy and Henry Frossinakis are an example to us all, then we will succeed.

We pause today to remember the lives that have been lost, to join with the families and friends in their grief and to remember that people have been injured, homes have been destroyed and communities shaken, but we also resolve to remember by rebuilding. We thank all the hundreds of volunteers who have helped. We thank their employers, whoever released them. We thank the ABC and other media outlets for their magnificent coverage of the bushfires and providing information where they can. We thank the SES, the police, our great fire services—the CFS and MFS—farm firefighting units, the Department for Environment and Water and their firefighting teams.

To those impacted, we will do whatever is possible to support you and ensure that your communities recover, that your towns flourish once more, and we do all we can to prevent a tragedy such as this from ever happening again. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:00): I rise to endorse the comments of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and thank them both for their contribution to the chamber expressing the sentiment of so many of us in seeing what has transpired during the bushfire season for 2019-20 in South Australia. Most of us were following the three major fires on Yorke Peninsula, the Adelaide Hills and then Kangaroo Island over a time when we were expected to be preparing for and enjoying the Christmas and holiday season during which our state was alight in those regions.

The similarities in these regions are obvious. All three are rural and, secondly, they are major food and fibre producers of our state, and they are also major areas of destination for tourism in our state. There are of course other industries, but I highlight those as being consistent with all. Unsurprisingly, whilst there has been a focus, as has been repeated in this motion's contribution to date, on the heroic response of the work to the fires themselves and their containment by our emergency services personnel and other volunteers and people in the communities, the relief and recovery aspects are also important. Again, they have been acknowledged, and I will not repeat them all, but it is ongoing.

Can I say that, of the communities that I think I and many of the members have been in over this period of time, once the fire is put out—and of course they have to be alert to the next fire starting because it was not the first fire in South Australia and it will not be the last this season—they are having to consider how they are going to rebuild. Some in those communities will draw a line in the sand and say, 'I've had my turn. I'm not going to do this again. I'm not going to be exposed to this.'

We respect that; it is a hard decision to make. There are those who get up, throw off the ash, say, 'Yes, we will rebuild. We'll order new fences, we'll build a new home, we will build up our livestock again, we will make sure that we establish our tourism venture again,' and the like. With help from all of us, initially at least, they will have a chance to do that.

I draw the attention of the house to the third group. The third group are paralysed into indecision. They are incapable of making a decision at this point. They probably need our assistance more than ever to support them during the period until they are fit and strong enough, resilient enough, not only to be able to make decisions but also to be able to make the right decisions and, secondly, to make sure they do not lapse into a period of depression or despair during that journey. That is a really important aspect of the recovery of this fire.

I commend all the personnel who have been involved in mental health and other services to help support people. I have seen strong farmers, usually pretty tough nuts, certainly on football fields, on Kangaroo Island in recent time in tears as they are trying to explain it and go through a form with someone who is assisting them in a recovery centre. It is a fragile period, and these people will need our continued support for a long time. I am confident that everyone in this house understands that.

Our commitment of course must be to ensure that we be part of the repair and rebuild and that we join with others who can go out and demonstrably do physical things such as rip up fences—as the Australian Defence Force and the reservists are doing, and we appreciate that—and clean up burnt buildings and so on. These are all important jobs to do, and we thank them for it. In a way, it is a physical expression of that level of repair and it is necessary. However, the mental and emotional repair is equally significant. Those in the emergency service recovery world have each been acknowledged; I will not repeat them today.

I would like to refer to the Kangaroo Island fire because, as most of you know, this island is dear to my heart. It was the first settlement in the colony of South Australia, I remind you, in July 1836. I did again receive a recent submission to have another public holiday for the settlement day, but I will raise that another day. Unsurprisingly, it is not the first fire that these communities have had and it will not be the last, so it is terribly important that the public has a chance to have a say in relation to the Mick Keelty review. I thank the Premier, and indeed my colleagues, for understanding the significance of reviewing not only the performance of what occurs during the recovery of a fire but also the preparation in the future. To invite the public to be able to have a say in this regard I think is an important initiative.

Of course, we have a number of experts in the emergency services world who will be able to define what has occurred and document the horror of the events. They will be able to analyse all the responses. However, we do need to bring the people with us when we talk about the future decisions that will need to be made and what actions we are going to employ to try to minimise the horror of what has occurred in these periods. Also, whilst today we are acknowledging the best and the bravest, and that is great, we also need to listen carefully to what they have said.

I also bring to your attention that a lot happens during a fire. People still die of natural causes or other reasons, sickness and the like, and children are still born. I want to say that although the burial of one person on Kangaroo Island had to be delayed for a couple of weeks because the football club burnt down and he could not have his service there, it was transferred to the racetrack and hundreds of people came to that occasion to celebrate the life of Rodger Borgmeyer.

Rodger would be unknown to most of you, but he symbolised for me somebody who had made an enormous community contribution. He had been burnt on the day, and had burnt himself over the years, and on his own property he had lost a lot of stock and part of the buildings and structures on his properties. He was really a means by which that community came together, hundreds of them, to celebrate his life and also to support each other. On a happy note, in the last week of the fires we had the first bushfire baby born that I know of: Charlotte Riggs.

It is really important to remember that these are events those communities can celebrate and embrace, and they are symbolic of a new future. To draw a line in the sand will help those who are not able to make a decision straightaway, but we will support people to assist the community in rebuilding the economy, as homes, buildings and fences are all important.

I will tell you a brief story—not about me in a fire; there are plenty of those and I do not need to share them with you. Kate Stanton and I started school at the same time. We both married and had two sons. She married the boy next door; I did not. She lived her life on Kangaroo Island; I did not. In this last fire, she and Richard lost everything, except her two sons. They lost all their stock. Richard's two brothers and their families lost their homes and all their stock. Their Stokes Bay hall/church/meeting centre/tennis facility went to dust, and as a community and a family they were devastated.

Kate symbolises to me someone who is prepared to say, 'We are really well into our period of time of farming, but we have two sons and we are committed to making sure that we rebuild and that we stay strong for them to ensure that they rebuild.' Twenty years of developing a special breed of sheep to a very high standard have been wiped out for the younger son. These are the sorts of hidden losses of fires. Homes and loss of lives are obvious, but decades of work to develop a certain product or skill or benefit for others just evaporated overnight with these fires.

The other area I would like to implore members to remember is this: for all these small businesses and people who operate enterprises that have been wounded in some way in these areas, there are also a very large number of people who have been employed by them, casually or on a permanent basis, and the business or shop that they went to work for has just disappeared. There is no work to do, and so a lot of these people are unemployed and without any direct future. They do not have something they have insured. They do not have a job. They do not even have an income.

Of course, some government benefits are available to support those who are unemployed, but there is a whole area of particularly young people on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills who have lost their employment and will need a future. We have to rebuild these rural communities not just to ensure that we have the food and fibre production that we need and the beautiful places in tourism to sell to the world but so these people have a future as well. So the message from Kangaroo Island is very simple: do not forget us. We will be green again.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:11): I rise to support this motion as well and to talk about the really hard time that the people of Kangaroo Island have had in the past 50 days or so as this fire snaked its way across the western end of Kangaroo Island. It touched people's properties but did not destroy them the first time around. It touched them again on the other side the second time around. It touched them for a third time, in some cases. People thought they had miraculously survived, only to be hit by this serpent that came a fourth time and wiped them out.

The fires started on 20 December. Priscilla and Geoff, friends of mine—Priscilla is here today—were the first to lose their home. Priscilla works in my office in Kingscote. They are wonderful people who are homeless. That was the word on the Saturday night when Geoff and Priscilla had gone out to survey their property to see what had happened. That one word on your Facebook post that said 'homeless' really hit home. You were the first to become homeless. Eighty-nine homes have now been lost on Kangaroo Island, and it is a terribly tragic story for so many individuals. Multigenerational farming families have lost four or five farms. They have lost all the genetics they put into the breeding of sheep.

Without trying to single anyone out, Sam Mumford, as the Deputy Premier would know, is just one of those great characters. He is probably six foot four. He is a big, burly guy. I had a very good chat with him for about an hour in the Landmark office. He was a broken man on the inside, and you could tell that he was hurting, but on the outside he kept putting on a stoic face. He was the fellow who broke both wrists on day 2 of these fires. When he was told that he needed them put in plaster casts, he said, 'I can't. I'm the bloke who fills the aerial water bombers. Who is going to turn on the standpipe and fill up those water bombers if I'm not there?' So he has been carrying on with two broken wrists for close to 50 days.

About a week before the fires, he was bitten by a tiger snake. He did not go to the doctor because he thought he just had a bit of heat stroke. When he did go to the doctor, he was told there was no way he could have been bitten by a tiger snake because he would be dead. Sam said, 'Well, what do you reckon this is?' He pulled up his shorts and she said, 'You have been bitten by a tiger snake.' His words to me were, 'Lucky I'm a bit of a fat bugger because she reckons the venom is all

in the fat. So, if I lose weight and it gets into the meat, I might die. So I'm just going to eat cheeseburgers for the rest of my life.'

They are sorts of great characters that we have on Kangaroo Island. But, beneath that veneer of stoicism, there are a lot of people really hurting and we need to be by their side doing everything we possibly can in the weeks and months and years ahead. We need to throw more money at mental health than we think is necessary because there are people out there who have not even been identified yet as needing support in the mental health area.

We need to iron out some of the bureaucratic blockages as well. I have been talking to people like Priscilla and Geoff. It has been nearly 50 days and the remains of their crumpled, burnt-out house are still on their property and no-one has fixed that up for them. I have spoken to Shane as well. On day 35, he is waking up and getting out of a caravan that someone has loaned him and is surrounded by asbestos dust and the wreckage of what was his home. That is not good enough. We are letting our fellow South Australians down by not being there and providing the sort of assistance they need, because this is now starting to have a real impact on these people's mental health. We have had the physical atrocity and now we are having the mental health damage.

I have been a bit critical of some of the actions and inactions of this government, but I want to draw a line in the sand and say, 'Come on guys, let's work together.' I am the local member over there. I have not heard from any of you ministers in these 50 days of the fires. I wrote a letter to the Premier on 23 December—day 4 of this crisis—asking for a recovery centre to be set up and for some leadership. I have not had a response to that letter.

When I rang Michelle Lensink on day 4 and said, 'Priscilla has lost her home. What's available?' she said, 'Well, there is this grant and this grant.' I said, 'Well, I'm driving, so could someone please email that information through to my office?' She said, 'We're too busy to send you an email.' I said, 'Well, how am I meant to get the information?' She said, 'Look it up on social media.' That is not a standard that I am prepared to accept, but I do want to work with you.

I think from now on we should do everything we can because this is not getting any better for people over there. We have already had victims of the fires. The next round of victims will be those who have suffered economic loss, those who have lost their jobs or those who stand to lose their businesses, and we really need to help them. I spoke with one tourism operator on Monday. His normal January turnover is \$190,000; this January he did \$9,000. He has had to lay off 10 staff.

As the Deputy Premier knows well, the island sustains five footy clubs and netball clubs, three schools and myriad small businesses with 4½ thousand people. If the population drops to 4,000 or 3,800, does the island survive in the way that we have known it? There needs to be some sort of economic stimulus that helps not just those who were physically impacted by the fire but all those who have been financially impacted by the fire as well. I think there are some good ideas floating around about what we need to do, but I do not think we can waste any more time on this. I think that we really need to work very quickly.

A whole series of fires joined up and ultimately became one big fire, but if you cut it all down there were probably eight fires. I remember three turning into one and then another separate three turning into another one and they also joined together. I went out on the Saturday morning, 4 January, with Tony Nolan, who is a mate of mine. We drove around and what we saw was horrific.

We saw cattle that had been snap frozen on the sides of roads; one looked like it was just standing there halfway through chewing cud and the intensity of the fire had just vaporised it. I saw possums on dirt roads that looked like they were still running down the road—they had just been vaporised. I saw trees that were at this angle, and if you did not know you would swear that you were driving through a cyclone. Everything had been frozen in time.

We went past Dick and Clayton Lang's vehicle, where they had been killed by the fire. I offer my condolences to the Lang family. Dick and I first met in the eighties when I was a journalist and we would go up into the outback. He would tell stories to our TV audience about the outback and really helped open that up.

There was another fellow out there that night, 37-year-old Garth Miller, who is a friend of mine from McLaren Vale. He played a bit of footy over on Kangaroo Island a few years ago. He sent

me a text on Thursday 2 January that said, 'Hey Biggles, I need to get over to the island and help fight these fires because of the predicted damaging and dangerous conditions that are on the way.' My advice back to him was, 'It's probably unsafe given the conditions we have coming for us, but I'm sure the farmers would appreciate a bit of a hand.' We kept going backwards and forwards that Thursday night and into Friday and he said, 'I'm on my way. They need my help.'

Garth was over there actually fighting the fires for a few days with Dick and Clayton and other friends of theirs west of Parndana. Every time Garth rang me from that morning, after I had seen all that loss, because I knew he was out there and he was one of the first people to come across Dick's and Clayton's bodies, I took his calls, because he needed to tell someone those stories.

What he told me was horrifying. Not only had they been out fighting the fires with these massive walls of flames and noise and unbearable and unbelievable heat but then, after that had passed, he shot thousands and thousands of sheep and cattle for his mates. He had seen a lot of really bad stuff. I reckon he spent about 12 days on the island doing all this.

He came back and a few days later he was involved in a speedboat collision at Finniss and lost his life. I just want to say to Garth's kids, 14-year-old Montana and five-year-old twins Molly and William, that your dad, Garth Miller, was a great man. Your dad raced into the face of danger to help his fellow South Australians and his life was taken way too soon.

I want to thank everyone in the CFS, the SES, the farm firefighting units, the ambulance, the police, the Army Reserve, the Defence Force, and those wonderful technicians from SA Water and SA Power Networks who were out there. Hours after going out there and surveying the damage on that Saturday morning, we saw them out with big, long ladders and up poles, trying to put the power back on. To Paul, the local Telstra technician over there, and to everyone on the Telstra team, thank you for your great work. To the people who work in health, the firefighters in national parks and the people of PIRSA who have done an amazing job, I want to thank you, too, from the bottom of my heart on behalf of all those people you helped out on the island.

I also want to talk about the generosity of people right across South Australia and, indeed, around the world who came together to help. Sometimes it is not easy to know what to do and how to provide practical support. Someone contacted me from a farm firefighting unit on Kangaroo Island on New Year's Day, in those days leading up to that horrific Friday 3 January. They said, 'You know these farm firefighting units don't have any two-way radio communication? How could we get 20 or 30 of these two-way radios?' I said, 'I don't know, but leave it with me.' I rang them back about an hour later and I said, 'We've got 50 on the way.'

Within a few days, we had 163 two-way radios on the island. I want to thank Jamieson Marine and particularly Bradley Jamieson, who ran the scheme from that end, and I want to thank the company in Sydney, GME, which got them over here and into the shop. We know from the feedback that we are getting from farmers that those two-way radios save lives.

I want to thank BankSA for their tremendous response to their customers and to those who are not their customers. I have never met a more generous person in my life than branch manager Kaytee Collins. She is amazing. Nick Reade is the CEO. We might have had our differences over the years, but I have to say that Nick Reade and the BankSA crew have really stepped up.

Not only did they help out their customers but he rang me and asked, 'What do you think we can do?' I said, 'There are a whole lot of people out there who have lost everything. The only thing they want to do right now as part of the grieving process, as part of the cleaning process, as part of the rebuilding in the early stages, is to get back out on their property, so what they need is power. How about we get some generators for them?'

BankSA chipped in \$35,000, the Hotels Association, \$30,000, and Dudley and Irina Brown from Inkwell Wines in McLaren Vale, \$25,000. Dr Michael Reid at McLaren Vale—what a legend he is—sent a text message around saying, 'Biggles needs these generators. They are \$2,500 each. If you don't chip in and buy one, you are going to get a very uncomfortable prostate check next time you come in.' So 10 of his mates chipped in and each bought a \$2,500 generators. I reckon we have put about \$120,000, \$130,000 worth of business through local businesses on the island. There is no

point sending generators over from the mainland because that just hollows out the economy of our island. So we did that, and we got those generators out to people.

There are a few more schemes on the way and we will make sure that we do everything we possibly can. As I said, the fire is finally out after 60 millimetres of rain last Friday, but the crisis is far from over and we can help that next round of victims. We might not have been able to get out there and physically put out those flames, but we can help save these people from financial ruin and from the economic loss that we know the island will sustain without our assistance.

Premier, I look forward to working with you and your team. Let's help the people of Kangaroo Island. They are great people. I commend this motion to the house.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:26): I also rise to support the Premier's motion: as the Premier rightly said, a motion no Premier ever wants to move. As Minister for Emergency Services, people often ask me about matters relating to stations, trucks, hoses, PPE and helmets. But what I want to talk about today is what is behind all that—that is, the people.

Without the people to staff the stations, jump on the trucks, hold the hoses and wear the PPE and helmets we have nothing. We have all the state-of-the-art equipment in the world, but without the people standing on the front line with the equipment it is all of no use. While I cannot mention all those people now, I have met many and will continue to get around and meet more and thank them for their service.

Prior to the Christmas break, as the weather warmed up, members in this place reflected on the important roles of our emergency service men and women, volunteers and paid staff who do not just give up their time but also their safety to protect our state when called to do so. At that time, no member in this place could have anticipated the true scale of destruction and devastation that was to come in the weeks that followed.

In the 55 days since we last met in this place, South Australians have battled through some of our darkest days in recent memory. Whilst there is no question that the greatest impact has been seen on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills, and indeed is still being realised, we have also seen substantial fires and damage at Keilira and Bunbury in the South-East, Angle Vale in the north, Miltalie on the West Coast, and, of course, Yorketown on Yorke Peninsula.

As we left 2019, many were excited at the prospect of a new decade. Heartbreakingly, many South Australians are now faced with the reality of starting 2020 from scratch. One thing they can all be assured of as they rebuild their lives piece by piece, brick by brick, is that all South Australians will be with you every step of the way. You are not alone and you never will be.

The stories of pain and suffering and loss are immense, but these stories are vastly outnumbered by the stories of hard work, dedication, commitment, perseverance and sacrifice by so many South Australian men and women. I have been very fortunate to travel throughout the state in recent weeks to meet with many locals—many who have lost everything.

On Christmas Day, as I drove through the Adelaide Hills I was blown away by just how many volunteers were out on the front line. Every corner you took there was another CFS truck hard at work. I was fortunate to join CFS chief, Mark Jones, and other volunteers on Christmas Day at the Gumeracha Oval, and special thanks to all the volunteers from the Salvation Army who put on lunch for our firefighters, as well as all the local volunteers who baked cakes and delivered food for those volunteers.

When catching up with members from the Morphett Vale, Blewitt Springs and other CFS brigades that day, Danny Burns told me how that morning he had video called his daughter from the fire truck to watch her open her Christmas presents. I asked him, 'Why did you come out and fight the fire today? You have every reason to stay at home. Your young daughter is celebrating Christmas.' And he just looked at me and said, 'Well, if I don't who's going to?' That attitude is just embedded in our CFS, and I commend everyone for it. It was at this time that I realised that this was the spirit of Christmas and what it is all about: self sacrifice and giving to others. Nothing we can say or do will ever repay these heroes. They are just outstanding people.

More recently, on Kangaroo Island I visited the Western Districts footy club. I have fond memories of playing footy out at Wonks as a boy and having to move the cows and kangaroos off the field before games. It was absolutely heartbreaking to see the damage that was done. The oval served as a place of last resort for a few people at the peak of the Kangaroo Island fires, and the stories they shared were quite horrific.

On other visits, and on this occasion as well, I went to Parndana, and we have heard Shane's story, but every time I went to the Parndana CFS I would catch up with Johan Kuchel. He was there every time. Like so many others, he was living out of that place and just giving back to his community. Everyone there are just wonderful people.

Whilst down at Stokes Bay last week, I met up with Kate Stanton, who the Deputy Premier talked about, as well as Danielle Bowden and another team from that community at their community hall, which had been levelled by the fires. Kate also took me to her house and showed me the devastation there. It was heartbreaking to see, but they are very resilient people on Kangaroo Island. If you know anyone from there, you will know that and that they are determined to rebuild.

Going to that local community hall where they met, where they congregate, where they gathered as a community, you could see the people there were torn between rebuilding their own personal lives, getting clothes to put on their back and rebuilding their homes and also building their community hall again and having that meeting place where they could all come together and bond. They are wonderful people, they are resilient, and we will be working with them every step of the way. They are people who have lost so much. They are people focused on rebuilding their community and people we will continue to work with every step of the way to help them do it.

At Cudlee Creek the other day I met with local CFS captain Mark Hawkins and the crew, along with the federal member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, and I acknowledge the importance of her involvement working so closely with the members for Morialta and Kavel, who have been doing outstanding work in their community. Both of them, I know, have missed many hours of sleep, and I think that the member for Kavel is still looking to catch up sometime later this year. He has just done an outstanding job.

As we have heard, there have been stories along the way of local surf clubs, like the Robe Surf Club, raising money for their local community. I mention again the great work of the member for Kavel at the O'Leary Walker Bushfire Relief Race Day they had in their local community—again raising money and doing all they can to help out.

However, remember back to earlier in the year—and this is another example of the great people we have in our state—when our firefighters were going over and helping out in New South Wales. A group of firefighters were at the cafeteria in the airport. They were ordering food and coffee before they got on the plane, and someone just slipped by and paid the bill. They paid the bill as a way of saying thank you for what our volunteers were doing. Again, I think that just shows the greatness of our people who have come together to help at these times.

I talked before about the Keilira fire, and I went down to the member for MacKillop's electorate to meet with the locals. The fire happened on 30 December, and it was one of the biggest fires in the South-East since the Ash Wednesday fire in 1983, burning through over 25,000 hectares, and it really was a miracle that no lives were lost. I thank again the member for MacKillop and the mayor, Kay Rasheed, who took us on a tour, and other members of the Kingston District Council (including my old man) who took us on this tour. Again, we could see the devastation.

Whilst those other fires have been talked about quite prominently, it is a poignant time to say that the people of that region will not be forgotten as well—again, wonderful people. We met with local property owner Greg Fisher, who spoke of the fire there and it being the third one to go through his property in the last seven years. His story of the way the community pulled together, neighbours helping neighbours, people helping people was inspiring.

I will also talk about the remarkable contribution by the South Australian Country Fire Service, which includes at last count more than 430 CFS brigades, 66,310 volunteer firefighter deployments and 10,900 appliances attending fire events across the state. The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service has been actively engaged in fighting regional bushfires, with in excess of 500 personnel

being deployed, including firefighters and support staff. The South Australian State Emergency Service has provided support to firefighting activities, with approximately 400 volunteers and 60 staff joining the effort. The CFS aerial firefighting fleet has also been instrumental, with a combined total of 1,700 flying hours, making over 2,500 drops of water and fire retardant to affected bushfire areas.

The tireless work and countless hours donated by South Australia's emergency service volunteers can never be underestimated. Day or night, rain or shine, our first responders are prepared to swiftly respond to emergencies right across the state. They are people our state treasures. Our volunteers can have confidence that the government will continue to support them by ensuring they have the resources to do their job.

Many stories have also been told of the tireless effort of farm firefighters. For them, I have a clear message. We want to know who these heroes are. I know that farm firefighters step up without even being asked to do so. Often these people want to go unnoticed and go about their business quietly—something which makes it hard to thank them for their efforts. They are hard to track down. We want to get them the necessary gear and give them the proper equipment to protect themselves while they help other people.

I will be continuing to visit KI and the regions in the coming weeks and months to start discussions with farm firefighters to see how we can work together with the CFS. As minister, I want to make sure our farm firefighters have the proper protection and cover, like the CFS currently has in place. As minister, it is my role to ensure that anyone going on a fireground is as safe as they can possibly be. It is absolutely devastating to have lost lives and property but we must not forget the crews who have done an outstanding job protecting and saving countless homes and properties.

This has been an extremely trying time for many of our community, but I am heartened by the support and the efforts being shown by our dedicated emergency services volunteers and personnel. The logistics behind responding to a bushfire event—be it in the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island or the Far West Coast—are unique and challenging. Thanks must also be reserved for all those who have worked behind the scenes across the emergency services sector to get people to and from our firegrounds. Not many people get to see what goes on behind the scenes, but I can assure you that South Australia is in good hands.

I pay tribute to Mark Jones, who was literally thrown straight into the deep end of a major emergency in Australia. Mark kept his cool and kept our volunteers safe, as his team fought and contained some of our most ferocious fires ever seen. Leaders need to be emphatic and authentic, and Mark certainly has those traits. I also thank the police commissioner, Grant Stevens, and deputy police commissioner, Linda Williams, for their support, leadership and coordination during times of emergency. I also thank Dominic Lane, our new SAFECOM chief, for his expertise and professionalism. Dom has been an excellent support to me and others since coming into the role.

Other mentions go to MFS chief officer, Michael Morgan, and SES chief executive, Chris Beattie, and their teams. But the biggest thankyou, the most important thankyou, goes to the people we cannot thank enough—our volunteers. To each and every single one of you, whether you are CFS, SES, DEW, Salvation Army, MFS, farm firefighters, St John's, SAAS, BlazeAid, or if you helped bake cakes to feed the workers on the front line, thank you. You are wonderful people.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:38): I rise to also support the motion brought by the Premier. I support it wholeheartedly and place on record my own personal condolences to the families of all those who have lost their lives in this bushfire emergency, recognising that it is not over yet. We have a long way to go.

We often observe that Adelaide is a small town and South Australia, by extension, is a small place. We all know each other and this takes on a whole new light when we collectively experience a disaster of the scale we have seen in the recent bushfires. It is not just Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island that have grabbed our attention in recent weeks. It is the South-East, as has been mentioned, and Angle Vale, up our way in its own small way—I do not think any property was lost there but certainly it looked pretty dangerous for a while—and also Yorke Peninsula earlier on. I want to mention and acknowledge that the member for Goyder is here today in the house to watch this debate.

An honourable member: Former.

Mr ODENWALDER: Former. Sorry, yes. Indeed, the former member for Goyder. If only!

In the days following the first explosive fire that rushed through our Hills communities, what we call for shorthand the Cudlee Creek fire, the leader and I drove to a community meeting at Oakbank Area School. We drove up there in my car to listen to those affected, to get an understanding of the impact of the fires. It was a large community meeting and the members for Kavel and Morialta were there along with the federal member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, who as well as being a great supporter to many people also has been personally affected by the fires in Cudlee Creek.

The leader and I had barely left the car when we were unexpectedly approached by someone we both knew professionally. This often happens, of course, in South Australia: you run across people. We exchanged hellos, and it quickly became apparent that she was upset, she was shaken, and it turned out that this person we both knew had lost everything, or at least she assumed at the time that she had lost everything. It turns out that was the case. She had left her property as part of a bushfire plan, taking what she could, and at the time we spoke to her she had no idea what had happened but assumed the worst. As it turns out, the worst had happened. So immediately upon getting out of the car we were confronted with the human reality of these fires.

I should say at this point that this community meeting and other community meetings I have attended over the last couple of months have been extremely well run, with the CFS, the police, DPTI, the councils and all the agencies clearly doing what they could to give people the information required. I can see the Minister for Education nodding. He has been to many of these meetings himself. As an aside, I want to thank Alex Zimmerman, who is leading the recovery effort in the Hills in the seats of Morialta and Kavel up in Cudlee Creek and doing an excellent job I am told. Knowing Alex, I am sure that is the case. He is making sure that the resources go where they are needed not just in the immediate aftermath but in the treatment of mental health injuries that are sure to follow, as has been mentioned.

As I said before, emergencies like this bring communities together and remind us that we are indeed all close neighbours and that things like this touch us all. The sense that we are all in this together was reinforced again in very emotional ways on my recent visit to Kangaroo Island, and I can barely add to the member for Mawson's observations of the resilience, the cohesion and the suffering of the island community. Among the many very interesting conversations I had on Kangaroo Island was one at the Parndana Football Club, which has been mentioned as being claimed as a base for both BlazeAid and for the Army reservists.

I met the officer in charge of the Army reservists, who again in a very Adelaide moment turned out to be a friend of a friend, and we got chatting on both occasions I was there. He gave me a very good understanding of the work that the ADF and the reservists were doing on the island and also the help they were receiving from their New Zealand counterparts, particularly in terms of identifying killer trees, which I had not realised were such an enormous problem until I went to Kangaroo Island. I sincerely hope that similar work is going on in Cudlee Creek because we do not want any of those trees coming down.

He gave me a very good understanding of the work that they were doing but, perhaps more importantly, he became very emotional when he told me about the reception he and all his other members had received upon arriving on Kangaroo Island, the spontaneous applause they got when they got off their vessel on arrival, and their subsequent acceptance by the tight-knit Kangaroo Island community. I heard stories like this from soldiers, reservists and other mainland emergency services workers all across the island.

I want to focus on the volunteers themselves, and previous speakers have done this, and I will not speak for too long. In doing so, I do not want to distract from the paid firefighters, the police, the soldiers, the cops, the ambos, the Salvation Army and all those who have been and still are working so hard in the common cause of responding and recovering. But the volunteers are something else again, and I also include those who invested in farm fire units and they support the CFS obviously in defending their own and their neighbours' properties.

We have seen both in this debate and in the media the word 'hero' used a lot. It is mentioned time and time again in the public discourse around the volunteer firefighters. Of course they are

heroes, but there is a part of me that fears there is a risk that we are overusing this word and that it in some way detracts from the type of people they are. At the end of the day, they are ordinary people like all of us, everyone in this chamber. They are ordinary community members. They get up each day, they go to work, they love their family and they do their best for their family every day, but they have something else: they have a drive to give back to their communities and take risks that most of us will never have to take.

We have all seen this on ubiquitous mobile phones and social media. We have seen some incredible footage—some of us have seen it up closer than others—of terrible fires and unbelievable bravery. It is important to remember that in many cases the same people fighting these fires stand to lose, and actually did lose, everything in these fires. Over 40 individual CFS volunteers experienced their own personal loss of property or stock during the Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island fires, and that is before we even mention the South-East and Yorke Peninsula.

Over the past several months I have been lucky enough to talk to countless volunteer firefighters, and one thing that shines through above all others is the humble belief that they are only doing the right thing by their neighbours, that they are only doing what they believe anybody else would do. It is this belief, that it is their obvious duty to help and protect their neighbours and not simply the physical and psychological acts of bravery that we call heroism, that is what truly makes them heroes and sets them apart from most of us.

I met a husband and wife at Parndana, whom the members for Bragg and Mawson may well know, who had lost everything. They explained to me that they had lost everything: home, stock, land—everything—and they were absolutely devastated. At this stage, they had no idea what they were going to do in terms of recovery. They had no time to think about the future, yet they told me that they were both out the very next day on the back of CFS trucks fighting fires and protecting the lives, the stock and property of their friends and neighbours and that it was their duty. It was, to their way of thinking, simply the right thing to do.

I also met another couple who nearly lost everything, with the fire snaking across the countryside, as the member for Mawson has explained. They nearly lost their property not once but twice. Luckily, their house was saved, but a lot of their property and stock was lost, sadly. This couple sought me out deliberately. When people seek you out deliberately at a public meeting you kind of brace yourself. They told me they had a message for me.

What they wanted to tell me was that they were dismayed that the media were portraying all farmers as climate deniers. They wanted me to help get the message out that they and many other farmers accepted the truth of human-induced climate change. They wanted me to know that they had seen their land change over time and had no doubt why this was happening, and they were very emotional about it. So, I have brought that message back to this house.

While these volunteers and paid firefighters deserve our sincere thanks and gratitude, they also deserve our ongoing support. It is important to remember, as others have said, that the fires are not out, that the job is not yet done. When it is, our firefighters as well as all the other volunteers—the SES, St John and, of course, those landowners who protect their own property and the property of others—deserve our ongoing support. We need to really listen to them when they tell us about their experiences. We need to listen to what went right, what went wrong, what we need to do better now and the next time there is an emergency, because there will be.

I sincerely hope that this is what the Keelty review will do. I sincerely hope that this is what the royal commission, which the Prime Minister has announced, will do, and I sincerely hope that the government will be listening. We on this side will be listening because we owe it to our volunteers. I also hope, as some commentators have optimistically suggested, that this is a turning point in our nation's approach to the challenges of climate change because taking climate change seriously may well be the greatest gift we can give to our firefighters.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. S.K. Knoll.

*Parliamentary Procedure***SESSIONAL ORDERS**

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (15:48): Without notice, I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable me to move for the adoption of sessional orders relating to the day and time of meeting of the house and private members business.

The SPEAKER: I have counted the house and, as there is an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house present, I accept the motion.

Motion carried.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Pursuant to order, I move:

That for the remainder of the session sessional orders be adopted so as to provide for the day and time of meeting of the house and private members business as detailed in the draft sessional orders circulated to members.

Motion carried.

*Personal Explanation***MEMBER FOR WAITE**

Mr DULUK (Waite) (15:50): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr DULUK: Having attended a Christmas function at Parliament House on the afternoon and evening of 13 December 2019, at which I had consumed too much alcohol, I made an error of judgement in choosing to join several parliamentary colleagues for further Christmas drinks. I deeply regret that my behaviour on that night caused offence and distress to others, and for that I apologise. I subsequently conveyed my personal apologies to those concerned, including the Hon. Ms Bonaros and the Hon. Ms Franks in the other place, as well as making public apologies to my parliamentary colleagues and the broader community.

My behaviour on that evening was not consistent with my character and values. I take full responsibility for my actions on that night, which is why I have apologised privately and publicly, and that is why I am making this statement to the house today. I assure the house that I intend to cooperate with the inquiry process underway. I have sought, and am receiving, professional help in both combating alcohol use as well as dealing with the disappointment and distress that I have caused to those who have supported me and who continue to support me. In reflecting on my behaviour, in seeking forgiveness and in proactively seeking professional help, I believe that I have begun a journey of recovery.

The privilege of holding office in this place comes with great responsibility. While my actions in December fell short of what is expected of me and of what I expect of myself, I am confident that by taking this journey I am recommitting to that responsibility, and I commit to serving my electorate to the very best of my ability. I am grateful to the many people in my electorate who have been supportive during this time. They have supported not only me but, importantly, my staff as well. Once again, I take this opportunity to say sorry to those whom I offended on that night.

*Petitions***MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRY**

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): Presented a petition signed by 12,705 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to retain the Motor Vehicle Registry and all its functions under public control, to especially protect personal data from being used for private profit, and to keep all Service SA offices open, preserving face-to-face services upon which people rely.

*Parliamentary Procedure***SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (16:46): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the restoration and introduction of government bills before the Address in Reply is adopted.

The SPEAKER: I have counted the house and, as there is an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house present, I accept the motion.

Motion carried.

PAPERS

By the Speaker—

Governor—Speech—Opening of the Second Session of the 54th Parliament 2020 [Ordered to be published]

Local Government Annual Reports—

Adelaide Hills Council Annual Report 2018-19
Adelaide Plains Council Annual Report 2018-19
Adelaide, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Alexandrina Council Annual Report 2018-19
Barunga West Council Annual Report 2018-19
Berri Barmera Council Annual Report 2018-19
Copper Coast Council Annual Report 2018-19
Gawler Council Annual Report 2018-19
Kangaroo Island Council Annual Report 2018-19
Karoonda East Murray, District Council of Annual Report 2018-19
Kimba, District Council of Annual Report 2018-19
Light Regional Council Annual Report 2018-19
Loxton Waikerie, District Council of Annual Report 2018-19
Mid Murray Council Annual Report 2018-19
Mitcham, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Mount Gambier, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Naracoorte Lucindale Council Annual Report 2018-19
Norwood, Payneham and St. Peters, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Onkaparinga, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Port Augusta City Council Annual Report 2018-19
Port Lincoln, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Port Pirie Regional Council Annual Report 2018-19
Prospect, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Renmark Paringa, Council Annual Report 2018-19
Roxby Downs, Council of Annual Report 2018-19
Salisbury, City of Annual Report 2018-19
Yankalilla, District Council of Annual Report 2018-19
Yorke Peninsula Council Annual Report 2018-19

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Criminal Law Consolidation—Relevant Industry Regulatory Authority

Rules made under the following Acts—

Magistrates Court—Criminal—Amendment No 80

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

Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Department of—Amended Annual Report 2018-19

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. S.K. Knoll)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—
Planning, Development and Infrastructure—Development Assessment No 2

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

Maternal and Perinatal Mortality in South Australia 2017—Pregnancy Outcome Unit,
Wellbeing SA
Regulations made under the following Acts—
Controlled Substances—
Poisons—Emergency Supplies
Poisons—Nitrous Oxide

By the Minister for Energy and Mining (Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan)—

Review into the South Australian Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme—Report 2019
Regulations made under the following Acts—
Australian Energy Market Commission Establishment—Confidentiality
Mining—Budget Measures

By the Minister for Environment and Water (Hon. D.J. Speirs)—

Government's Response to the State of the Environment Report for South Australia 2018
International Koala Centre of Excellence Charter
Regulations made under the following Acts—
Landscape South Australia—Transitional Provisions

Question Time

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (16:51): My question is to you, Mr Speaker. Is it appropriate that the member for Waite is present in the parliament today after his alleged incidents, including making sexist, racist and homophobic remarks towards other parliamentarians and parliamentary staff?

The SPEAKER (16:52): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and I appreciate his concern and the other concerns of those who have raised these issues with me. As I have alluded to today and from my earlier statement to the media of 17 January, there is obviously a process underway and I don't really feel it is appropriate to add to that at this time.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (16:52): Mr Speaker, my question is to you. Did the Speaker consult with the victims of the member for Waite before allowing him to be present in the parliament today?

The SPEAKER (16:52): Again, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I have provided, I believe, quite a thorough background as to how I have arrived at my actions on this topic. I do appreciate that it is a contentious topic and I do appreciate that some people out there feel that it is appropriate to run these things through the media, which I think is highly inappropriate. I have obviously—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: You have asked your question and I am giving you an answer. I have pointed out—

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: This is the Speaker you are talking to.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Energy and Mining, I am well aware of what I can do, thank you. I have availed myself of relevant details and I have acted accordingly. I appreciate that others

may have a point of view about another course of action that can be taken. I haven't taken the action that I have taken lightly. As I said, there was the option to do nothing. I did not feel that doing nothing was an option. There is a process that is underway and I don't wish to allude to or expand on that any further.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (16:53): Mr Speaker, my question is to you. Did the Speaker consult with the Premier, his office or any of his staff before making the decision to appoint a private investigator rather than a public authority?

The SPEAKER (16:54): I suppose you could say we made a variety of inquiries, because obviously we are in uncharted territory—we are in somewhat uncharted territory. Like I said, I have real empathy for the alleged aggrieved victims here and the action that I have taken I have not taken lightly.

Of course, I had to obtain research and I had to consult widely but, as I said, I have made two thorough statements and I won't be expanding on what I have provided to the house at this stage. I am moving to—

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Supplementary.

The SPEAKER: I have given you three. I am moving to the government and I will come back to someone on my left after that. Member for Colton.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (16:54): My question is for the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on the practical relief being provided to families, staff and students in bushfire-affected communities?

The Hon. A. Piccolo: He's already told us that today.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Light is called to order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (16:55): I thank the member for Colton for the question. As the Minister for Education, I obviously have a role, and I have information that I think most members of the house would be interested in. As the member for Morialta, can I say that I am really pleased to have the opportunity to reflect on this issue. I will do so more in the Address in Reply and on the motion that has been put on the *Notice Paper*.

It has been a significantly traumatic time for my community, for the community of the member for Kavel, for the community of the member for Mawson and a range of other people around South Australia, and I just want to take this opportunity to place on the record my absolute regard and respect for everyone who has been volunteering, for everyone who has been in paid employment, working in the relief, the response and the recovery efforts so far. My community is very grateful for that support.

There is a lot of trauma confronting people in bushfire-affected areas. As the Minister for Education, we take a particular role in relation to trying to relieve and support the needs of the children in our community whose futures are so important for all of us. There are a range of immediate measures and a range of longer term measures that we are looking at, that we have already taken and that we are also looking at for potentially expanding that response from the Department for Education.

Already, we have identified that for affected families no school fees will be applied in the 2020 school year, there has been the provision of free child care, all replacement uniform costs have been covered, replacement of laptops, iPads and other electronic educational devices have been covered and there has been dedicated and targeted welfare support for students and staff. I also acknowledge the efforts of the federal government in providing direct financial support for families as, indeed, it is has been supported by the state government. I do not think there is a minister in this cabinet who has not had a role to play in supporting these communities, including their children.

All students and staff directly affected by the bushfires at Duck Ponds, Yorketown, Keilira, Cudlee Creek and Ravine are eligible to benefit from these measures. The department has identified

families impacted by the Ravine fire to enable the delivery of targeted support. Work is currently underway to identify families impacted by other declared bushfires to offer the same support. Ongoing support needs will be reassessed and a long-term psychological support plan for employees will be established that will comprise regular onsite support, telephone counselling and mental health/recovery-focused workshops.

Since 13 January, the department has facilitated trauma-focused support and counselling. This will continue during term 1 as a minimum, and we will reassess needs as we go. In addition to these overarching measures, we have also been working with specific schools that have been impacted. We will be providing extended bus services on Kangaroo Island for the 2020 school year, including a door-to-door service where possible. This has been arranged between the Transport Services Unit and the principal of Kangaroo Island Community Education. The school transport policy will not apply on the island.

Staff at the Kingscote Children's Centre have been impacted by the fires, so the centre has been staffed by volunteers. A creche service is being provided for the Kangaroo Island preschool. Lobethal Community Kindergarten has been supporting a creche with resources for four to six year olds since 10 January, and the Social Work Incident Support Service (SWISS) was available on Kangaroo Island during week 1 to assist in supporting children, families and staff. I spoke to the staff who were being supported when we were on the island and they very much appreciate it. Work will go on with the school to reassess the need for ongoing support there.

The SWISS team has also been providing support to schools and preschools situated in Birdwood, Oakbank and Lenswood, with a backup team of social workers being taken offline to support schools. They are liaising with the child and wellbeing practitioners, mental health services, SA Health and the child protection department to provide a coordinated response to schools. Extra teachers and leadership have been provided to schools to back up those staff particularly who have needed to take special leave.

On the island, in particular, these staff have been fighting fires. They have not had a rest since the fires began. Then, when school started, the children have demonstrated their resilience at school, but a lot of those staff are very tired and so those extra staff have been provided by the department to assist during the first month. Indeed, at the end of the month, we will be reassessing with the principal what further supports are needed so that that can continue. Similarly, extra staff support is being provided to schools in the Hills. I will add further to this in my responses in the Address in Reply.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (16:59): My question is to you, sir. Regarding the appointment of a private investigator, did the wide consultation you referred to in your previous answer include the Premier or anyone in his office?

The SPEAKER (17:00): I've got nothing to add about the appointment of the investigator. Obviously, we thought of a range of aspects and factors, and I am not going to go into it any further than that. Leader.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:00): Supplementary question, Mr Speaker: the 'we' you referred to in your previous answer, does that include the Premier?

The SPEAKER (17:00): I am referring to I, me, when I say 'we'. I should have said 'I', and I am not going to elaborate further. Leader.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:00): Thank you, sir. My question is to you, Mr Speaker. Why did it take more than four weeks from the events of Friday 13 December 2019 for the government to launch an investigation into the member for Waite's conduct?

The SPEAKER (17:00): Obviously, what has occurred is well set out and that is to date. Obviously, I became aware of the allegations in a personal capacity probably towards the end of December. I would have thought that the party of the worker would realise that there is this period of time between Christmas and new year where a lot of government agencies are closed, a lot of staff are on leave.

I have had to put in calls over the break, myself and my office, and some of those agencies were actually closed at the time. It is a time when obviously a lot of organisations do not have all staff accessible at that time, so—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Yes. I can say that I have certainly acted, let me tell you, as quickly as I reasonably could. I was in correspondence over the break, over the Christmas/new year period, so I do not accept that it has taken—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I understand the frustration. Can I say that I just don't appreciate the comments to suggest that in any way I have delayed this process, because I have acted as quickly as I can. I think that everyone would agree that it is in everyone's interest that this be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. Leader, and then the member for Hammond.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:02): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to you. Did the Speaker consult with the victims of the member for Waite before making a decision to appoint a private investigator rather than use a public authority?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that question seeks to insert fact and argument under standing order 97.

The SPEAKER (17:02): All I am going to say to the leader is that I am going to respectfully refer to my earlier statements. The member for Hammond has the call.

NATIONAL PARKS

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:02): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Can the minister update the house on the impact the recent bushfires have had on the state's national parks and what the Marshall Liberal government is doing to assist with the recovery of the natural environment and wildlife?

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (17:03): It is good to be able to update the house on the particular challenges that our natural environment faces following unprecedented fires that have occurred both in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island—but also in the South-East of the state—over the last few weeks.

We know that there have been very significant impacts on our natural environment, an environment already facing the threat of the change in climate and the particular resilience threats that come with it, and now of course we have the added challenge that that environment, that landscape, must be supported in order to recover following these unprecedented bushfires.

I have had the opportunity to visit the fireground in the Adelaide Hills and also on Kangaroo Island, the latter on four occasions over the last four to five weeks. On Friday, I was able to travel down into the west end of the island and see the very substantial damage that has occurred to parks, such as the Kelly Hill Conservation Park, the wilderness areas in the west end of the island, and of course the iconic Flinders Chase National Park. Around 97 per cent of that national park has been fire impacted and the recovery in that landscape is I think going to occur because the Australian bush does bounce back from these events, and we know that Flinders Chase bounced back from the very significant 2007 fires.

But our immediate concern, and our long-term concern obviously, is for the small and fragile and often fragmented populations of native animals which, because of human impacts over many years, have seen themselves reduced to these small populations. With the impact of fires knocking those populations so significantly, there is a great concern that those populations of particular

species, both flora and fauna, may struggle to recover. So they are going to need the help of a range of different groups, from people working on the ground in the community to the work of NGOs and, of course, the application and work of the state, federal and local governments to help get these natural landscapes back on their feet and those populations of native wildlife back on their feet as well.

I think we have had a number of speeches today in response to the bushfire motion earlier this afternoon, which highlighted the human impact and the environmental impact as well. What all those speeches revealed was the immense generosity that has been shown by people. I have seen that time and time again from a whole range of NGOs, from individuals. I think of the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park, I think of Adelaide Koala Rescue, Minton Farm at Chandlers Hill in the Adelaide Hills, a range of koala rescue organisations, many different people coming together working alongside the government with local government, with local communities, to help our unique natural environment get back on its feet.

The journey will be substantial. It's going to be a long-term journey, but we are going to have to work together to ensure that the generosity, which has been shown in the short term, actually leads to long-term landscape recovery. It has been a great pleasure to be able to work alongside Nature Foundation SA, in a partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, to establish the Wildlife Recovery Fund. That has already generated hundreds of thousands of dollars of donations and there is a hope that other pots of money, which have been raised as a result of particular campaigns, can coalesce around that one fund and lead to sustainable medium to long-term recovery actions for the landscape.

There is also a real movement amongst people who want to help animals in the shorter term as well. People have been providing plenty of donations, in particular towards koala rescue, and it has been really good to see that as well.

Time expired.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the next question, I would like to acknowledge that we had today in the presence of us the former premier Dean Brown. We also had Mr Steven Griffiths, former member for Goyder, and the former member for Bragg Mr Graham Ingerson.

Question Time

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:08): My question is to you, sir. Why does the Speaker have to approve the witnesses who will be interviewed by the private investigator?

The SPEAKER (17:08): Now this is definitely a question that goes to the investigation, so I am going to refer to my earlier statement where I said I am not going to be commenting further publicly regarding the investigation, as it is live and I do not wish to prejudice the investigation. There seems to be many out there who are quite happy to firstly criticise the process then, when some kind of investigation has been established, they want to criticise that. It's not helpful.

Mr Malinauskas: Well—

The SPEAKER: No, listen to me. Don't talk over me. I have made a real attempt. I have pointed out that I didn't have to do anything. I have gone above and beyond within my powers and I have no further comment. Leader, do you have another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:08): I do, sir. My question is to you, sir. Can the Speaker rule out having had any contact with the Premier or anyone in his office regarding the list of witnesses that you have approved to be contacted by the private investigator?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER (17:09): No, it's okay, minister. I refer to my earlier statements. Do you have another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:09): Thank you, sir.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MALINAUSKAS: My question is to you, sir, Mr Speaker. Why didn't the list of witnesses to be contacted by the private investigator include everyone that attended the function at Parliament House on Friday 13 December 2019, particularly those who were present with Mr Duluk, the member for Waite?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: that question is out of order under 97.

The SPEAKER: That question contains argument. I uphold that point of order. Member for Newland.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (17:09): My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister inform the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is assisting those affected by the bushfires with registration and licence replacement?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (17:10): I thank the member for Newland for his question and certainly acknowledge that he and I, not in this bushfire season but in previous bushfire seasons, have country that used to be in my electorate that is now in his electorate that was severely affected. In fact, can I tell you that this summer this bushfire season brings back memories, very awful memories, of 2015 with the Sampson Flat and Pinery bushfires, and indeed the Eden Valley bushfire back before that in 2013.

Can I say first and foremost that my department's role in this first, as the bushfire is happening, is around making sure that roads are okay to traverse. We know that when the Sampson Flat fire happened road closures were a real issue for the community, and in fact then when the Pinery fire happened that there was a lot better work that was done to be able to open roads more quickly and that process improved.

Certainly with the Cudlee Creek fire, when a huge number of roads were closed, our department did work as hard as it could in conjunction with the council to do that work, to get those roads open so that people first and foremost who live there can get back to their houses and to their farms and properties, but then also so that the broader community can, where it is safe, start to get back in, which is a message that needs to be put out there, especially as we seek as a government to help affected communities have visitors, tourists, come back and spend money in those regions.

In terms of Kangaroo Island, the state government only has one road, the Playford Highway, on Kangaroo Island. That road, thank goodness, is largely unaffected, but there is a whole heap of other work in relation to Department for Environment and Water assets and in tourism destinations to be able to do that work. After the bushfires were contained, very quickly our minds turned to what are the simple things, what are the simple ways that we can make people's lives easier dealing with the tragedy of the loss that they are experiencing.

It is amazing how pervasive and all encompassing the effects of a bushfire are. There were hundreds and hundreds of vehicles across multiple fires across South Australia, and it is important for us also to remember the fire on Yorke Peninsula, as well as in the South-East, in the member for MacKillop's electorate, down at Keilira, and the impacts that are being felt there, and this response also includes them.

What happens is that people are actually paying rego for a car that no longer exists. As a department, for those owners of those registered vehicles that are destroyed during the bushfire we

can apply for a refund for unexpired registration as well as the other components of registration, including CTP, Lifetime Support Scheme levy and the emergency services levy, making sure that people are not being punished for having been affected by the bushfire.

We are also, through Service SA, waiving the administration fee for replacement driver's licences for people whose licences were lost or destroyed as a result of the bushfires—again, a simple thing, that if somebody had their licence at home or in the car and that was burnt out it does not exist as, again, the simple act of having to go and get a replacement should not cost affected people money, and the Registrar of Motor Vehicles also has the ability to waive the administration fee on the registration of replacement vehicles, as again people needing to purchase new cars to replace the ones that were lost—and fees associated with purchasing replacement copies of birth, death and marriage certificates for those who have had these lost or destroyed in the bushfires.

We know that these documents are important. They are important for recovery, they are important for people to be able to put their lives back together, and as a government we need to undertake these simple measures to make it that bit easier for those people who have lost so much.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:14): My question is to you, sir. Can the Speaker assure the house that all the attendees of the function at Parliament House on Friday 13 December will be contacted by the private investigator?

The SPEAKER (17:14): That is a question that definitely goes to the heart of the investigation. Today, in this house, in this chamber, I have made a statement whereby I pointed out that the investigation is live and I do not wish to prejudice the investigation.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Yes, I am going to caution the leader. This cannot continue. You may not like the answers, but I am answering.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: You're a bully!

The SPEAKER: Minister for Innovation, you are warned. If this continues, members will be leaving the chamber. I have nothing further to add. Does the deputy leader have another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:15): I do, thank you, sir, and again it is to you. Why did the Speaker's public statement on 17 January 2020 fail to mention that the private investigator would also be investigating the member for Waite's conduct at the Liberal Party Christmas function on 13 December?

The SPEAKER (17:15): I believe that the statement said, and I have it here:

The scope of the independent investigator's inquiries will be to endeavour to obtain full particulars as to what took place concerning the alleged conduct of Mr Duluk and to provide a report for the Speaker's consideration.

So, if the deputy leader wants to interpret it that way, she may, but I've got nothing further to add. The deputy leader and then the member for Heysen.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:15): My question is again to you, sir. Has the Speaker or his office been contacted by or received statements from witnesses who have not been interviewed by the private investigator?

The SPEAKER (17:15): Again, that goes to the heart of the investigation. I am not prejudicing the investigation, and I have nothing further to add. The member for Heysen.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (17:16): My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney advise the house of the work undertaken to date by Consumer and Business Services to assist bushfire victims?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (17:16): Indeed I can. I thank the member for his question and his considerable work with the member for Kavel during the Adelaide Hills fire. The State Emergency Relief Fund has been established, as the government is coordinating the South Australian Bushfire Appeal. They are collecting the funds, of course, through the SERF, which is the relief fund to support those affected at Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. It has been established under section 37 of the Emergency Management Act 2004 to provide a mechanism to receive donations through a public appeal.

I may say, as the minister relating to Consumer and Business Services, we have had a number of inquiries and provided support to those who have wanted to establish other appeals and have sought approval in relation to various status relating to those. Can I say that all moneys donated to the SA Bushfire Appeal go directly to the people who have experienced injury, loss or damage and to support community rebuilding.

Under the act, a committee has been appointed by the Minister for Human Services to administer the fund. The SERF committee includes representation from communities directly impacted by the bushfires. The minister has approved four particular members of the SERF committee, one from each of the three councils affected by the Cudlee Creek fire, from the Mid Murray Council, Mount Barker council and Adelaide Hills Council, and one from the Kangaroo Island Council.

For the benefit of members, I just highlight as follows: the government has issued instructions to the committee to ensure the payments happen fairly and in a timely way. I am advised that the committee is reporting to the Minister for Human Services on a weekly basis. SERF committees develop criteria to guide the distribution of funds, with priority given to those most affected by the event.

The response from the community to donate and to fundraise for the SA Bushfire Appeal has been significant and indeed greatly appreciated. The government has also contributed \$2 million dollars to kickstart the fund, \$1 million for each of the two fire events. I am pleased to inform the chamber that the SA Bushfire Appeal has commenced making payments to those who have lost their homes. Applications continue to be received and assessed, supporting those who have lost their homes, with additional payments for those households that include children.

The SERF application form is available online, and I think members are already familiar with this. Hard copies are also available at Lobethal and Kangaroo Island recovery centres. The Premier and I have been in attendance to those to see that they are underway. On Friday the 31st, SERF received 207 applications, and on Thursday 30 January SERF received 74 inquiries regarding authorisation of external fundraising events.

Significant effort has been put in by the community and resulted in excess of \$5.1 million being received by SERF from the community as at today's date. On top of this, a further \$1 million was raised at the Showdown 2020 bash at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday 2 February. I hope that if anyone attended they enjoyed it.

The Hon. S.S. Marshall: Go the Power!

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Thank you. There were another 279,000 at the SA bushfire gala event last Friday, attended by the Premier and other members. Some other significant funds have been raised from corporate donors and are expected to be received soon.

A range of grants have also been made available to families, individuals, primary producers and small businesses impacted by the Cudlee Creek, Kangaroo Island, Yorketown and Keilira fires—is that pronounced correctly?

An honourable member: Keilira.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: 'Keilira', I am reliably informed by the member. I thank everyone at the Department of Human Services and the members of the SERF committee for their dedication and hard work in the recovery effort and ensuring that 100 per cent of the money donated will go to the affected community.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, WORKPLACE SAFETY

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:20): My question is to you, sir. Are parliamentary staff entitled to a safe workplace under the Work Health and Safety Act? With whom does that duty rest?

The SPEAKER (17:20): I am going to take that question on notice. I will provide a thorough reply to the member. Is there another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:20): My question is again to you, sir. Has the Speaker set a time line for the private investigator's inquiry to be completed?

The SPEAKER (17:20): On the media release of Friday 17 January 2020, it is stipulated that the inquiry will be of a confidential nature and is anticipated to be completed within four weeks. That is the current information that I have.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:21): My question is again to you, sir. Why didn't the Speaker require the investigation to be completed in time for parliament's return?

The SPEAKER (17:21): With all of these sorts of things, obviously I believe it's in everybody's interest to conduct them thoroughly and get them done within the time that was given to us. Obviously, there was a range of factors that was taken into consideration by the investigator, but that was the time line that ultimately resulted. That's the information that I have at the moment, and if further information comes to light about when the inquiry will be finished—if it will be more prompt or take longer—I will obviously endeavour to keep the house up to date.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (17:22): My question is to the Minister for Industry and Skills. Can the minister update the house on how the state government is supporting the small businesses impacted by the recent bushfires?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (17:22): I can, and I am very pleased to. I thank the member for Morphett for his question and also his interest in this matter. Of course, the South Australian communities of Cudlee Creek, Kangaroo Island and Yorketown have been severely impacted by bushfires. The state government is supporting residents, small business and industry and their workers as well as community groups.

As the Minister for Small Business, I have visited small businesses in the Adelaide Hills—Woodside and Lobethal—and I was pleased to do that with the member for Kavel. It was a busy day, but we learnt a lot about the needs of industry and business on that day. Of course, I was on Kangaroo Island on 14 and 15 January and again back there at the end of January with my Liberal Party colleagues.

The conversations I had with small business owners have been extremely valuable to gauge the extent of the losses and the challenges. My visits were supported by the Small Business Commissioner, Mr John Chapman. The commissioner and his office are committed to being present in these regions for a longer period of time. I believe on Kangaroo Island Mr Chapman is making weekly visits to continue to offer support and advocacy for businesses that may be coming across hurdles in dealing with insurance companies or the bureaucracy in some way.

Of course the state government, through the Small Business Commissioner, is working closely with my department, the SA Tourism Commission and of course PIRSA. We also deal, if necessary, with bank and insurance companies should disputes arise with their small business and farming customers. The Small Business Disaster Recovery Grants are starting to roll out and are being administered by my department, the Department for Innovation and Skills. The state and federal governments are providing grants of up to \$50,000 to eligible small businesses and not-for-profit organisations. Funding will assist the clean-up and immediate restoration.

To date, the department has received 33 applications from South Australian businesses impacted in Yorketown, Cudlee Creek and the KI region. So far, \$769,000 in funding support has been committed. The Department for Innovation and Skills has an active presence at the Lobethal Recovery Centre and the Kangaroo Island Recovery Centre.

On a sidenote, I was very pleased to bump into Craig Pollard with the member for Kavel. Craig Pollard has an antique centre. It's a little bit like *Steptoe and Son* when you walk in there. There is glassware, bric-a-brac and farmhouse furniture. He was very pleased to share with me that agents for Warner Bros, who are producing *Mortal Kombat*, spent a lot of money in his shop for props for the movie. It's a typical Adelaide story: wherever you go, somebody has a story that relates to something you might be doing. Of course, he was very, very pleased to share that story and very pleased to have the visit from the member for Kavel and myself.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:25): Mr Speaker, my question is again to you. Can you assure the house that all parliamentary staff who attended both events in December are on the list of witnesses approved by you?

The SPEAKER (17:26): That question, the way I took it, seems similar to a question that I took before, so again I am going to refer to the statement that I made to the house earlier today. I will not be commenting further publicly regarding the investigation and there are good reasons for that. Obviously, the investigation is live and I don't wish to prejudice the investigation, so again, deputy leader, I respectfully refer to my earlier remarks.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:26): Sir, my question is again to you. What authority does the Speaker have to demand that witnesses do not speak to anyone about the investigation?

The SPEAKER (17:26): Again, I refer to my earlier statement that I made today.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are cautioned. If I hear talkback over me when I'm giving an answer, you will be leaving. I understand that this is an emotional issue and a contentious one, but I'm trying to be respectful and I expect the same respect back.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:27): Sir, my question is again to you. Does the Speaker stand by his statement to the Hon. Tammy Franks MLC that he has no authority to impose any sanction on the member for Waite?

The SPEAKER (17:27): Again, I refer to the statement that I made today that canvassed that topic and I don't accept a characterisation outside of my statement. I made this statement and I stand by what I said today when I made my statement. Member for Kavel.

Ms Hildyard interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Reynell can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A for an hour. For 35 minutes I have been tolerant.

The honourable member for Reynell having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: Member for Kavel.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (17:27): My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney provide further information to the house about the assistance Consumer and Business Services is providing to bushfire-affected communities, including my own?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (17:28): Indeed I can. I thank the member for Kavel for his question because Consumer and Business Services

probably wouldn't be seen at first blush as an organisation or unit that provides immediate and direct assistance to those in bushfire-affected communities, but let me assure you that the government and all our agencies are working very hard to ensure that we provide services in the aftermath of bushfires, particularly to those who have been affected in a manner that is significantly after the bushfires have passed.

Obviously, it can take many months and years for those affected to come to the attention of some of the agencies, so all our agencies are on alert to provide such services. If I think of one directly within Consumer and Business Services, I think of the Public Trustee during the fire with inquiries being made as to whether someone might have left a will with the Public Trustee in circumstances where someone has died during a fire and they may have lost certain documents that can prove their identity.

The immediate role in the wake of this natural disaster may not be obvious, as I say, but the practical measures have been put in place. Births, Deaths and Marriages, as a constituent part of CBS pursuant to its natural disaster policy, is providing replacement certificates free of charge to those who have lost them during the fire. As members know, identity documents are so important to access a range of other government services and assistance. CBS is working closely with the statewide recovery centre, which will issue a card confirming the person's entitlement for free certificates prior to the person making an application thereby streamlining that process.

Births, Deaths and Marriages will waive the fee if the person resides in New South Wales and was affected by interstate fires but their birth or other registered event occurred in South Australia, while interstate registrars will apply the same waiver for South Australian residents where their event occurred interstate. Sometimes we have circumstances such as that at the Western Australian border.

I know the Premier was active in negotiating with his Western Australian counterparts to assist South Australians in Western Australia stuck on the other side of the border. Similarly, Western Australians were stuck in South Australia unable to traverse. This is the incidental legacy of some of these events and they do need our assistance. Some of them are temporary and some of them are resolved. Thank you to the Premier for his negotiation of that matter. Our South Australians were able to get back but were fed and looked after in the meantime and I think we looked after the Western Australians pretty well too.

The other matter I just bring to the attention of the house is that Births, Deaths and Marriages will waive the fee, otherwise in interstate. In addition, from the outset CBS has been providing advice to other government agencies, particularly the Department of Human Services, as the department managing the state's bushfire appeal, as to their legislative obligations. CBS is working with stakeholders and the not-for-profit sector to streamline the process where possible for charity applications.

CBS is also assisting other organisations where possible by expediting approvals, waiving requirements for fees where the proceeds of fundraisers would go to bushfire relief efforts. This includes fundraisers by Tennis SA, SA Cricket and the live music event Fire Aid. I also advise anyone affected by bushfires to contact CBS directly for waiver of other fees and charges which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In that area, in relation to licence fees and permits and the like for which they are responsible, I thank CBS for their work in this regard. I am also proud to say that the fines unit has been letting a lot of people off, and I am happy to advise the house further in due course of their assistance in the circumstances.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:32): Mr Speaker, my question is again to you, sir. Can the Speaker assure the house that no witness the private investigator wishes to interview will be vetoed by the Speaker?

The SPEAKER (17:32): I refer to my earlier statements that I made regarding the investigation. We can do this for the next 19 minutes—would you like another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:33): I would, sir. My question is to the Speaker again. Will the Speaker commit to the house that he will publicly release the private investigator's report?

The SPEAKER (17:33): My statement touches on the confidential nature of the inquiry and I don't wish to add anything further. Would you like another question? Leader.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:33): Thank you, Mr Speaker, my question is to you: what possible reason is there for the Speaker to deny a witness making a representation to the investigator?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: standing order 97.

The SPEAKER: I have the point of order. That question did contain argument.

Mr Malinauskas: How? I'm asking—

The SPEAKER: Because you are accusing me—I don't need the gesticulation. I have been very good to the leader today. I have allowed him to ask his questions. I am going to uphold the point of order—but, in the event that I didn't, I am going to refer the leader back to my statements that I have made on this matter. The member for King and then the deputy leader.

BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

Ms LUETHEN (King) (17:34): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Minister, can you outline to the house how the Department for Child Protection has responded to the bushfire threats faced by those communities in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island who are most involved with our vulnerable children and young people?

The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (17:34): I thank the member for King for the opportunity to speak about this very significant issue for South Australia, and I also note her longstanding interest in the wellbeing of all children and young people in our state. In December, when many young people and children in care and their families should have been counting down the days to Christmas, they were impacted instead by the devastating fires that struck our state. The fires in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island have had a truly devastating effect on many South Australian families, communities, their animals and our environment, who are now facing some of the greatest challenges in living memory.

I wish to take this opportunity to specifically mention how proud I am of my department, the Department for Child Protection. Since December, the Department for Child Protection has been working hard to ensure that, when action was required, emergency plans were engaged swiftly and with minimal disruption to ensure our most vulnerable children and young people remained safe. My department has worked alongside our families to ensure that they were aware of the risks presented and that they had access to the necessary supports in real time.

I wish to recognise and thank my department for its tireless commitment to ensuring the safety of the affected children and young people and those who care for them. In particular, I would like to recognise staff at the Mount Barker office, who have demonstrated extraordinary professionalism and compassion in their work supporting carers and children affected by these fires. This support will be available for as long as it is needed.

DCP staff also rallied together to donate more than 40 backpacks for children and young people affected by the bushfire, which included personal messages of hope. Lara Facto and Jessica Atterton from my department's human resources division have also volunteered in their own time with BlazeAid to assist a farmer affected by the Cudlee Creek bushfire.

I spent my time on Kangaroo Island with two dedicated carers who are local business owners and have heard firsthand the impact of these fires on them and their community. Staff within my department were also impacted by fires, and I extend my sympathies to these workers and their families and thank them for their continuing commitment to the department in such difficult times.

The recent events have highlighted the importance of having action plans in place to ensure the safety of children and young people.

Lastly, I would like to thank every person who has dedicated time and resources to fighting the fires as well as those who have provided vital support or contributed to the rebuilding efforts in the affected communities. During these difficult times, the generosity, strength and resilience of the South Australian community has really shone through. I would encourage everyone to get out into the communities directly impacted by these events and #BookThemOut.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:37): My question is to you, Mr Speaker. Why shouldn't every witness to the member for Waite's actions on 13 December be provided an opportunity to make representations to the private investigator?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, standing order 97: that question contains fact and argument and is out of order. The question presupposes facts.

The SPEAKER (17:37): It certainly does do that. Leader of the Opposition, I am just going to respectfully refer you to my earlier statement, which canvasses the investigation.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I rise on a point of order: standing order 98, which requires a member in answering a question to address the substance of the question. For the last 46 minutes, we have not had answers to these very legitimate questions.

The SPEAKER: That is a completely bogus point of order. Member for Lee, you will leave for the remainder of question time, and if you don't immediately I will name you.

The Hon. C.L. Wingard interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police, you are called to order. When the member for Lee leaves, and leaves in silence, I will call for the next question.

The honourable member for Lee having withdrawn from the chamber:

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:39): My question is to you, Mr Speaker. Can the Speaker rule out having discussed the terms of the investigation with the member for Waite?

The SPEAKER (17:39): I am going to refer to my earlier statements I made about the investigation that is live. I don't wish to prejudice it and I won't be commenting on it.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (17:39): My question is to the Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister inform the house how the state government is supporting farmers to address the impacts of the recent bushfires?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:39): I thank the member for Flinders for this question. Let me acknowledge at the beginning that it is not only farmers who have been impacted by these bushfires, but I will address the substance of the question, which is about farmers. Our government has been very involved in supporting farmers in many places across the state and, as acting minister, I would like to thank those people in PIRSA and others, of course, who have been working incredibly hard to support our farmers across the region at this time, support them with immediate assistance and also support them into recovery.

With regard to agricultural assessments, PIRSA has been on the ground in all areas impacted by the recent devastating bushfires, undertaking agricultural assessments, working with the livestock, apiary, horticulture, viticulture, forestry, aquaculture and fishing industries, as well as boutique local producers on Kangaroo Island. With regard to losses, as of 31 January the overall agricultural economic impact of these fires has been \$22 million. Specific production losses to the agricultural industry include:

- livestock: 60,000 head of stock, 53,000 of which were on Kangaroo Island;

- apiary: 2,075 hives, which equates to about 27 tonnes of honey lost;
- viticulture: 530 hectares;
- horticulture: 70 hectares;
- cropping: 1,600 hectares; and
- forestry: 15,480 hectares.

With regard to recovery grants and other assistance to producers, bushfire-affected primary producers in South Australia may be eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 of grant support. The Emergency Response in Primary Industries Grant can be used for clean-up, disposing of damaged goods and livestock, and repairing or replacing fencing, plant and equipment. Twenty-five applications have been received, with \$1.045 million paid out to 17 farmers so far. Assessment time by PIRSA is a mere two days, and I stress that point. PIRSA is doing everything they can to help access support as quickly as possible. Grants are also available in these—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: I hope the opposition is interested in the answer to this question. Grants are available in council areas of the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, Murray Bridge, Mount Barker, Mid Murray, Yorke Peninsula and Kingston. The Marshall Liberal government is jointly funding these grants with our federal government colleagues, and funding is available until 31 July this year. PIRSA is assisting primary producers apply for grants at the Parndana and Lobethal recovery centres, PIRSA regional offices and via the dedicated Recovery Hotline: 1800 931 314.

Working with Livestock SA has also been an important feature of this support by the South Australian government. More than 2,000 tonnes of fodder have been donated to support farmers, with Livestock SA as our designated agency, and \$120,000 to transport donated fodder, coordinated by Livestock SA, across to Kangaroo Island on the ferry. Livestock SA are also working with the Australian Defence Force. Farmers wanting access to water for stock or donated fodder can also contact Livestock SA. The government is supporting farmers with regard to veterinary assistance. Also, there is specific support for the wine industry with their challenges to do with smoke taint.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to parliament in the gallery today former Senator Teague. Welcome to parliament, sir. It is always good to have you here.

Question Time

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:44): Can the Speaker rule out discussing with the member for Waite the approved witness list before the private investigator?

The SPEAKER (17:44): That is, again, a question—

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Elizabeth, you can leave for one hour.

The honourable member for Elizabeth having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: Again, that's a question that goes to the heart of the investigation. Again, I reiterate that I won't be commenting further on the investigation publicly. It is live. I am not going to prejudice it. I am not going to talk about who is in, who is out or anything like that. I refer to my earlier statement.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (17:45): My question is to you, Mr Speaker. Why won't the Speaker rule out discussing with the member for Waite the witness list approved by the Speaker before the private investigator?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: again, that question contains argument and the supposition of fact.

The SPEAKER: It does presuppose facts. I am going to refer the Leader of the Opposition to my earlier statement that I made today. Would you like another question?

The Hon. S.S. Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:45): Mr Speaker, my question is again to you. Why does the Speaker refer to the question of whether the member for Waite saw the witness list as being the heart of the matter?

The SPEAKER (17:46): I refer to my earlier statements.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (17:46): My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister please update the house on how the state government is supporting the skills and workforce needs of businesses impacted by the recent bushfires?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (17:46): May I thank the member for Narungga for his interest in his electorate and, of course, those in regional South Australia. Supporting the skills and workforce requirements of business and industry impacted by the recent critical bushfires is an important part of the recovery. I have been advised that as of 29 January there are 90 employers employing 144 apprentices and trainees—36 on Kangaroo Island and 108 in the Adelaide Hills—who potentially have been impacted.

The Department for Innovation and Skills advises that no apprentices or trainees employed within a bushfire-affected area have had their training contracts terminated in the period since the fires commenced. We have put arrangements in place to support employers and apprentices and their trainees, including those employers who cannot currently offer their apprentices or trainees on-the-job training due to the effect the bushfires have had on their businesses.

There are several options open to those employers, putting the apprenticeship or the traineeship on hold for up to 90 days—this is three times longer than is normally permitted—and consideration will be given in each circumstance. We are very keen to keep the options for these apprentices open. Those options are very limited on Kangaroo Island because of the devastation that we have seen. Those businesses that are out of business because they have been directly affected have also had a significant impact on those businesses that haven't been directly affected because of the nature of the island. So moving from one business to another to move your trainee or your apprentice or to move for a job is very limited on Kangaroo Island.

We are providing flexibility for apprentices or trainees to undertake off-the-job training until the employer is ready for them to resume duties at work and, if appropriate, transferring the apprentice or trainee to another employer, including a group training organisation and potentially hosting them back when they are able to do so. In partnership with employers, the state government is exploring new training opportunities to support small businesses and industry such as in tourism and revegetation.

Importantly, the Department for Innovation and Skills will be responsive to emerging skills needs to support the recovery rebuild. There is a lot more work to do in that space. The department is a member of the state government's consequence group which is ensuring that longer term strategic responses are developed to assist with recovery efforts, including having a focus on small business and its workforce.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:49): My question is again to you, sir. Will draft sections of the report be provided to witnesses to ensure their account has been accurately reflected?

The SPEAKER (17:49): This is definitely a question that goes to the heart of the investigation, and on a number of occasions today I have said that, as the investigation is live, I will not be commenting on the investigation so as to potentially prejudice that investigation. The deputy leader knows that I am going to refer to my earlier statement on that. Is there another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:50): My question is again to you, sir. Can the Speaker explain why ruling out vetoing witnesses would prejudice an investigation?

Mr Cregan: It quite clearly would, quite clearly.

The SPEAKER (17:50): The member for Kavel may have something important to say, but the question was to me and not to you and you are called to order. I respectfully refer the deputy leader to my statement that I made to the house today. Is there a question on my right? Member for Colton.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (17:50): My question is to the Minister for Planning. Can the minister update the house on what steps are being taken to ensure people are able to rebuild their homes quickly and ensure that the planning system maintains the highest level of bushfire safety?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (17:50): I thank the member for Colton for his question. Again, this is another area of public policy which impacts upon people who are impacted by the bushfires. I have personal experience with this with my electorate and previous bushfires, and the work for instance that The Barossa Council and the Light Regional Council did to make sure that they gave priority at that time to planning applications from people who were affected by bushfires, especially where they were like-for-like replacement dwellings.

The Adelaide Hills Council, unfortunately through the Sampson Flat fire, is actually all too familiar with what happens when properties are affected and the need to be able to get people back on their feet more quickly. What we don't want to see is bureaucracy getting in the way of people being able to rebuild and rebuild quickly. We have offered as a department to provide support directly to both the Adelaide Hills Council as well as the Kangaroo Island Council to deal with the volume of applications that they are dealing with. Certainly, KI Council has a huge task in front of them, but we as a state government are here to help.

Can I say also that we were already and will continue to update bushfire mapping to make sure that we have and maintain the highest levels of standards within the code and making sure that, as people replace dwellings, that they do so using the latest safety standards so that, if the unfortunate event of a bushfire was to happen again, the property itself is protected as best as can be to survive and also to keep people in and around those properties safe.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. S.K. Knoll.

Grievance Debate

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (17:53): Today, I would like to inform the house of the local Australia Day celebrations held in Gawler and the associated award ceremonies not only in Gawler but also in adjacent councils, Light Regional Council and the City of Playford. The Gawler event is run by the Apex Club of Gawler with assistance from a whole range of other service clubs, including the Gawler Town Band and the St John volunteers. Sadly, this year's Australia Day celebrations were held against the backdrop of horrific fires across our nation. It is not the first, nor will it be the last, adverse circumstance that our nation will find itself in.

As in previous crises that we have faced as a nation, we have responded by coming together and helping each other out—in other words, pitching in any way we can. Our response to the crisis also reflects our values as a nation. Some of the key values we have as a nation include that we believe in a fair go for all, we are as a nation quite modest in our achievements and, also, we look

out for each other and our neighbours, which was mentioned earlier today in the speeches during the motion on bushfires.

In this regard, I would like to particularly acknowledge the volunteers in our community who uphold these values. Our volunteers can be seen in almost every walk of life. In fact, there is not one walk of life in our communities that volunteers are not involved in in some way making a contribution. Our society and communities would be poorer if we did not have them.

Before I mention the Australia Day award winners in my local area, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the service of all volunteers and paid staff who have worked very hard to attack the fires that have ravaged our state and nation. I would also like to thank all the volunteers from the service clubs and, as I mentioned, the Gawler Town Band and St John's Ambulance volunteers, who make the Apex Club Australia Day breakfast and award ceremony possible.

The award winners I am about to mention I believe reflect the Australian values I mentioned earlier. This year, the Town of Gawler had joint Citizens of the Year. The first joint winner was Pat Suridge. Pat has been either the president or treasurer of the Gawler chapter of the Australian Red Cross for the past 30 years. Pat also sews curtains and blankets for families escaping domestic violence and living in respite homes. Pat's commitment to the Red Cross began with her mother, who was a Red Cross supporter at Clare.

The other joint winner was Trevor Lucas. Trevor has lived in Willaston all his life and is a committed supporter and volunteer at the Willaston Football Club. Although his playing days are numbered, he has been a volunteer and a board member since the 1970s. Currently, he helps run the downstairs bar at the Donnybrooks' home games and helps with the club's young leadership team.

Our Young Citizen of the Year reflects, I believe, what I mentioned in terms of our modest achievers. Nathan Stafford, a local Trinity student, was named Young Citizen of the Year for his achievements in the entertainment industry as a singer, dancer and actor. Already, Nathan has travelled to the United States, where he competed against 6,500 participants from across the world. He also won the South Australian Youth Choreographic Award at the SA Dance Festival for his routines and performance.

The Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Gawler Christmas carols concert, run by the Gawler Apex Club for the second year. It has been recognised as the top community group event this year. Community Group of the Year was awarded to two groups: the Gawler Community Retirement Homes and the Gawler Domestic Violence Network, recognising their outstanding community service.

The not-for-profit Gawler Community Retirement Homes commenced as a combination of service groups, council and interested individuals and has been providing aged-care accommodation for local residents for the past 50 years. The Gawler Domestic Violence Network is also a combination of service groups, organisations and interested individuals, providing education and information to raise awareness of the impact of domestic and family violence in our community. I would also like to mention the Corporate Citizen of the Year, which is Gawler's well-known Forgie family, awarded for their work for the community over the past 164 years.

While we celebrate Australia Day, we should also acknowledge and not forget what the day means to our First Nations people.

COMMUNITY COMPASSION

Ms LUETHEN (King) (17:58): I want to kick off 2020 highlighting local stories of kindness. Over the Christmas period, we have all seen great generosity, kindness and compassion demonstrated by South Australians: firstly, the community's outstanding support of the SA Bushfire Appeal set up by the South Australian government to raise funds for people directly affected by bushfires in Cudlee Creek and on Kangaroo Island. It is clear that financial donations are the best way to help disaster-affected communities recover, as people can buy exactly what they want and they can spend locally.

I take this moment to extend my sincere thoughts to those families impacted. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, can make a difference to those most affected by this tragedy. Every dollar donated directly to the SA Bushfire Appeal goes to those affected by the fires, with the government absorbing all administration costs. Thank you to every person who has donated to support our fellow South Australians through many activities taking place.

I have attended many local events on behalf of constituents in King to fundraise for bushfire recovery, including a recent Salisbury CFS fundraiser held in Salisbury, the sale of sunflowers by Hilltop Fresh Flowers and the United Sikhs of South Australia bushfire relief fundraiser. I am looking forward to the upcoming fundraising event organised by the One Tree Hill Soccer Club and the Tea Tree Gully Soccer Club, which will be held at One Tree Hill on 29 February—actually, it could be at Tilley reserve. This event will funnel proceeds to the local One Tree Hill and Tea Tree Gully CFS centres. Local fundraising for CFS helps our CFS volunteers to continue to fight for our community and helps money flow to the CFS volunteers who have themselves been directly impacted while they have been out volunteering their services to help us.

As you know, our local community is kind and compassionate, and I am so very proud that they always stand up and have their say. This is also a reminder that the South Australian government has a YourSAy community consultation activity open until late March, where we are encouraging community members to have their say on how we can better prepare for our bushfires in the future. People can visit the YourSAy website to contribute feedback online, and there will also be important face-to-face consultation sessions taking place in April this year.

Another local activity of kindness and generosity, which does not relate to bushfires but addresses an important need in the local area, is a brand-new initiative organised by Golden Grove resident and local teacher Joss Adele. Joss is one of the driving forces behind the formal wear drive for those who cannot afford to buy expensive outfits for school formals. Her successful new initiative is called With Love Formal Wear. This superb venture calls out for donations of formal wear, which is then given free of charge to young people who are in the care of the state, foster parents and kinship carers. This initiative enables children to feel proud and special and enables them to celebrate their end of year just like their friends.

With Love Formal Wear is wrapping love and kindness around these young people who, through no fault of their own, may be doing it tough. Hopefully, this initiative will remind each of these young people that they are just as important to us as every other child. These young people deserve to fully participate and to achieve whatever they set their mind to so that they, too, can reach their full potential. To the With Love Formal Wear team—Sarah Bisbal, Joss and Rose Adele and Christie Bower—as well as everyone who has donated, I applaud your incredible and kind work.

Another local star is Martin Roantree from Floors 2 Go. He led a fundraising activity at Sfera's on Saturday night, raising over \$40,000 to build an outdoor play area for children at the Women's and Children's Hospital. This followed an activity where a large group of local tradies had also donated their time and materials to upgrade the classroom at the Women's and Children's—a great result for all attending school in hospital. Our own local hero, Allegra Barnes, attested that this was a very important initiative.

The kindness in our local area is all I have time to talk about today. However, I also want to say to everyone: please support those affected by the bushfires—ongoing and the recovery—and help them out.

COMMUNICATION PARTNER SERVICE

Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (18:03): I rise today to speak about the Communication Partner program that was funded by the former Labor government and has since been cut by the current Liberal government. The Communication Partner Service began in late June 2016 and has been run by Uniting Communities. The program is designed to assist people living with disability and other special needs with their communication in accessing the court and justice system.

The program, which Labor initiated, was part of the state's Disability Justice Plan and was established on a statutory basis under the Statutes Amendment (Vulnerable Witnesses) Act 2015. I made a contribution to this bill during the debate and was very proud to see it pass under the then Attorney-General, the Hon. John Rau.

The service is delivered by volunteers who help victims, witnesses, suspects and defendants to communicate and give evidence in police interviews and throughout court proceedings. The service is free and has been funded by the state in order to help vulnerable people, people who have limited access to funds. But, as has happened regularly through the Liberal Party budget process, the Marshall Liberal government have decided that this service model is no longer what they want and they have cut the funding, just like the cutting of funding to other legal and support services such as the Welfare Rights Centre and the like.

From 1 March 2020, a new model for communication partners will be in place. It is a fee-for-service model. What does this mean? It means that vulnerable people, who often do not have an income stream other than supplement payments or NDIS assistant services, will have to pay for this vital service to help them seek justice.

For clarity, NDIS payments cannot be used to pay for this service. It would not have formed part of their plan when the plan was put in place, so even if they wanted to they could not fund it out of NDIS funding even if it were eligible. The service will be managed in the future by government agencies and legal professionals. For example, members of SAPOL or legal practitioners will have to seek the assistance they need.

Yesterday afternoon, I attended the Uniting Communities function to celebrate the great work all the volunteers and workers have contributed to the program over the years before this program is cut by the government. It was more of a wake, I guess. Some of the statistics I learnt at the function—and I am very happy to provide more if people are interested—were that, since 2016, 343 people have sought assistance through this program. The referrals have come from organisations like SAPOL, with 222 requests; defence lawyers, 31 requests; the DPP, 30 requests; eight from court affiliates; and 58 from family and support workers. These people do not necessarily always have the skill set to deal with people who have complex needs—not like those who have a full suite of communication skills. Some people are non-verbal and use communication devices.

Of those who sought help from the program, 195 were provided with assistance at interviews, hearings and meetings. This is because they had specific communication needs. This cohort can include people with autism, intellectual disabilities, acquired brain injuries, multiple complex conditions and more. This program provided a central hub, if you like, that vulnerable people could easily find, easily navigate and understand. But, of course, this is no more.

Yesterday, Simon Schrapel, Chief Executive of Uniting Communities, remarked to his cohort of volunteers that they had pioneered the service over the last 3½ years. They had set up the program from scratch. They developed all the material and all the backgrounding. They did all the work required to start this valuable service, and it was viable and it was delivering for all their contacts. Over the past few years, people in all sorts of situations in need were helped with the enormous effort and contribution from the volunteers, and I congratulate Simon and his team on doing so.

Uniting Communities has produced a publication that has been put together to tell the stories and the experiences that have been delivered by the program. The booklet is being distributed to lawyers, the police and others who work within the justice system in an effort to assist them with delivering this fee-for-service assistance program, which we will be watching closely.

I urge the Attorney-General to read the document, to reconsider the value of this important service and to reconsider the relatively small amount of funding, which I understand is less than a quarter of a million dollars a year to run the program, and to consider reinstating it. It is valuable and the people who access it do not get help through any other means.

COPPER COAST TOURISM

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (18:09): It is with extreme pleasure that I rise today to report on the arrival of cruise ships into Wallaroo on the Copper Coast on Yorke Peninsula for the first time ever. It happened over this most recent summer period. The first ship, *Vasco Da Gama*, docked at Wallaroo on 7 December and was greeted by plenty of locals geared up to lay out the welcome mat and welcome onshore everyone on board. Those locals who went to such great lengths to lay out the welcome mat recognise the value of such cruise ships, the visits they provide and the benefits

for the local tourism economy and small businesses in surrounding towns. Many community groups gathered together to ensure that the first visit would not be the last.

I particularly commend the significant effort and work by Copper Coast Council staff, Mayor Roslyn Talbot and CEO, Russell Peate, as well as Lyn Spurling, who worked tirelessly in her capacity as Council Tourism Coordinator to ensure that the visits went smoothly and volunteer greeters were trained and ready for the important role they would play in making sure visiting passengers would have an enjoyable time.

It is with great pleasure that I report that the first ship contained some 967 passengers, as well as 543 crew. Mindful of the importance of first impressions, when disembarking they were greeted, provided with information and directed to activities and sites that we had on offer. Many enjoyed the Wallaroo main street and the markets organised especially for the occasion by the NYP Rotary Club, with 50 market stallholders there offering their wares.

Also organised especially for the occasion were town shuttle buses and two ship shuttles. The passengers enjoyed intercruise tours to the historic Wallaroo Walk, the Farm Shed Museum and Tourism Centre at Kadina and also to Camelot Gardens in Kadina, an acclaimed garden created and maintained by Helen and Dean Rodda from their home, which is right around the corner from mine. It is a tremendous garden, and if anyone is in town and would like to visit I am sure Helen and Dean would be more than happy to show them through.

Other passengers disembarked to enjoy tours of Moonta Mines, the Moonta Road Tram, Celtic Cuppa experiences, pasty making and an op shop tour. Well done to all involved in offering these experiences, which no doubt led to the even better patronised second cruise ship visit to Wallaroo that occurred on 3 January. On this ship, there were 1,292 passengers and 537 crew on board the *Vasco Da Gama*. Again, the markets were there to greet the disembarking passengers. Many more enjoyed the hop-on, hop-off town shuttle buses to Kadina and Moonta and back. There were increased ship shuttles operating in the morning, bringing passengers and crew to and from the ship to the John Terrace Reserve area.

Unfortunately, bad weather forced the cancellation of one of the scheduled cruise ship visits and also some intercruises and local tours on the second visit, but all stakeholders, community groups and businesses are looking forward to again welcoming more cruise ships in the 2020-21 season. The first one for Wallaroo is due to arrive on Wednesday 16 December.

I cannot commend enough the efforts of the more than 70 local volunteers who attended information sessions and registered to help direct and welcome passengers upon their arrival. So much preparation was required to become a new destination for the cruise ship visits, which included significant council works to provide suitable parking areas for tour buses, improvements to the port, etc. All involved were mindful that first impressions count and that cruise ships coming to our shores may very well be the catalyst for major spin-off benefits for local businesses and tourism operators not only in the Copper Coast but across Yorke Peninsula, Mid North and into the neighbouring Clare Valley.

Overall, across the state it was a very busy cruise season last summer, bringing in multimillion dollar economic benefits for our state. Last year, more than 182,000 passengers arrived at South Australian ports, some 12,000 more than the previous year. It is fantastic that they visited and experienced more regional communities than ever before, including, somewhat biasedly, Wallaroo. The latest statistics highlight that the cruise sector injected more than \$145 million into the state economy last year, compared with \$114 million the year before.

Across the state, there were some 80 scheduled cruise ships visiting South Australian ports, including 38 visits to Adelaide, 26 visits to Penneshaw—and they need those now more than ever—13 to Port Lincoln and two to Wallaroo. It is a great outcome for all those regions and for tour operators, pubs, wineries, shops, visitor service providers and communities who have the opportunity to showcase their unique rural lifestyle. Well done to all on the Copper Coast to ensure that, when our first passengers arrived, they were offered a wide range of activities and treated to a wonderful experience on the Copper Coast.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN ROYAL COMMISSION

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (18:14): I rise to talk about the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission. We are just a week or so over the first anniversary of the delivery of that report to the government, and in that year I am disappointed to say that almost nothing has occurred as a result of the very useful recommendations and considerations made by that royal commission. In fact, the only clear action that has occurred is that the government, one year on, decided to delete the website, so any member of the public who wishes to find the submissions or read the transcripts is no longer able to do so. They simply get that friendly error sign one gets on the internet when a web page has been deleted.

I understand that initially there was an intention to delete it after the first month. Remonstrations were made by senior people, and they decided to keep it for a year. However, to abandon it demonstrates the lack of respect this government has shown to a very worthy, very useful and, in fact, while deliberate and careful, a very pro South Australian report, a report that took the interests of the health of the river seriously—which means the health of the river in South Australia seriously, as we are at the bottom of the river.

There were very many areas, and clearly in now four minutes I do not have time to canvass all the recommendations and all the actions that ought to have taken place. However, I want to talk about two areas in particular. One is that it gives a very cogent and detailed description of the reasonable concerns that are held about the legal basis of the plan and about its management, implementation and monitoring.

Leading up to the last federal election, the Labor Party, although Tony Burke at the time did not want to engage in the discussion about the legal basis of the plan, did acknowledge that the absence of a proper climate science consideration in determining the amount of water required to keep the river healthy needed to be remedied. The Labor Party federally, had they been in government, were to have initiated a climate science review. There has been no such review taking place from the conservatives who won that election.

There is also the question about the oversight of monitoring. I was very pleased to see that Mick Keelty was appointed, and I think that was welcomed in a bipartisan manner possibly across the country. However, I note that that is not sufficient to resolve the concerns raised in the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission: the absence of monitoring sites, the way in which flood plain water is harvested before it reaches the river and therefore before it is accounted for, the way in which the Murray-Darling Basin Authority itself is largely the gamekeeper in charge.

That is, it is the organisation measuring what is occurring as well as being responsible for it occurring, and it is not doing the two jobs in a sufficiently separate manner for us to be certain that they are monitoring themselves well enough. It is a lot to put on Mick Keelty, to ask him to take on that responsibility entirely. I do not think the governance principles currently in place are sufficient, and the royal commission has very many cogent and detailed arguments to substantiate that concern.

Of course, the other big area for South Australia is this question of the 450 gigalitres. Anyone who cares about the health of the River Murray knows that those 450 gigalitres are not a discretionary add-on but are absolutely essential to our being confident that, at the minimum, South Australia's section of the River Murray, all the way down to the mouth, is going to remain healthy. Without that 450 gigalitres—and it may prove not to be sufficient as the climate dries and warms—we can be more or less confident that we will hit a crisis point in the health of the River Murray.

The deep concerns that were raised by the royal commission about the conduct of the minister in agreeing to overly complex criteria for water efficiency projects to be approved to harvest the entitlements of 450 gigalitres appear to have spooked the Premier and the minister so that they have been incapable of taking the rest of the report seriously. That is a pity because in politics you get criticism, and in politics you have to accept criticism whether you agree with it or not and nonetheless do the right thing for the state.

Let me give a handy hint for what needs to happen. The commonwealth government needs to agree to voluntary buybacks for the 450 gigalitres if we are going to get the other states to act. To

do that they need to lift the Barnaby Joyce cap on voluntary buybacks and they need to modify the plan to say that that is the way the 450 gigalitres can be taken. If the government does not do that, then we have no hope of seeing a healthy river.

TOUR DOWN UNDER

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (18:19): I take the opportunity at this time to make some remarks in recognition of Australia's premier cycling events that have just taken place, and very substantially, I am proud to say, in those parts of the Adelaide Hills that are within Heysen. I do so in some ways in unusually subdued circumstances because the men's and women's races conducted between 16 and 26 January were taking place in the midst of the fire emergencies about which much has been said already today and much more will be said in the course of the Address in Reply and on the Premier's motion moved earlier today.

By way of context, the men's tour finished in quite spectacular circumstances on the afternoon of Australia Day. For me, it is a day that, in my time as member for Heysen, has already established some traditions that are very much centred on celebrations of community, and all the more so on this Australia Day. It is a day that commences for me at a breakfast that is hosted at Mylor on the Mylor Oval and a breakfast that is provided free for the community and is a wonderful gathering. It is an occasion at which I have an opportunity to say a few words on the back of a truck at the edge of the oval, surrounded by members of the community. On this occasion, that was very much reflecting on themes related to our response to the bushfire emergencies, particularly qualities of hope and resilience.

As is the case annually, it was followed by an event later in the morning hosted by the Adelaide Hills Council at Stirling that includes a citizenship ceremony. It gave us all an opportunity to pause and reflect upon what wonderfully privileged opportunities we have as Australians and, I might say, particularly in my local community in the Adelaide Hills.

Against that background, and with a particular reflection this year on those qualities that have been displayed in the face of the fires, it was truly a joy to see the end of what has become really a premier event in this country. To see the Tasmanian cyclist Richie Porte triumph in the tour overall, there was some pathos I suppose in the fact that he did not actually win the stage to be first up and over Willunga Hill this year. In that race, he was beaten by young Matthew Holmes, the English rider, who I think almost could not believe his form in getting to the stage win, but Richie Porte made time up and was the overall winner.

It was a tremendous vote of confidence in the Hills. It was a sign that in the course of disaster we continue on, including with these major events. In amongst the tens of thousands of people I observed attending at stages through the week leading up to the 26th and the final stage on top of Old Willunga Hill, I saw a distinct tone of hope and resilience through those large crowds supporting the races. My congratulations to the women's tour winner, Ruth Winder, and to Richie Porte, about whom I have spoken. I hope the race comes back stronger than ever next year for both the women and men, leading the year's cycling events and also helping us as we recover from these fires.

Parliamentary Procedure

SESSIONAL ORDERS

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:24): Without notice, I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion for the adoption of sessional orders relating to answers to questions and eligible petitions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will need an absolute majority for that. I am counting the house and there not being an absolute majority, I ask that we ring the bells.

An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:

Motion carried.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Pursuant to order, I move:

That for the remainder of the session sessional orders be adopted so as to provide for answers to questions and eligibility of petitions as detailed in the draft sessional orders circulated to members.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Committees

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:26): I move:

That Dr Harvey, Ms Luethen, Mr Picton and Ms Michaels be appointed to act with Mr Speaker as members of the committee.

Motion carried.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:27): I move:

That a Publishing Committee be appointed consisting of Mr Cowdrey, Mr Ellis, Ms Luethen, Ms Wortley and Ms Cook.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (18:27): I advise that I have received the resignation of the member for Waite from the Joint Committee on End of Life Choices.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:27): I move:

That Mr Murray be appointed to the committee in place of Mr Duluk (resigned).

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BILL

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:28): By leave, I move:

That the members of the House of Assembly on the committee have power to continue sitting on the committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:28): By leave, I move:

That members of the House of Assembly on the committee have power to continue sitting on the committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON END OF LIFE CHOICES

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:29): By leave, I move:

That members of the House of Assembly on the committee have power to continue sitting on the committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (18:29): I advise that I have received the following resignations from standing committees: the member for Waite (Mr Duluk) from the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary

Standing Committee; the member for Hammond (Mr Pederick) and the member for Playford, (Mr Brown) from the Environment, Resources and Development Committee; the member for Ramsay (Hon. Z.L. Bettison) from the Economic and Finance Committee; and the member for Light, (Hon. A. Piccolo) from the Public Works Committee.

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:30): I move:

That Mr Patterson be appointed to the committee in place of Mr Pederick (resigned).

Motion carried.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: I move:

That the Hon. A Piccolo be appointed to the committee in place of Mr Brown (resigned).

Motion carried.

ABORIGINAL LANDS PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:30): I move:

That Mr Teague be appointed to the committee in place of Mr Duluk (resigned).

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:30): I move:

That Ms Michaels be appointed to the committee in place of the Hon. Z.L. Bettison (resigned).

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:31): I move:

That Mr Szakacs be appointed to the committee in place of the Hon. A. Piccolo (resigned).

Motion carried.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:31): I nominate the member for Kavel to move an Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech and move:

That consideration of the Address in Reply be made an order of the day for tomorrow.

Motion carried.

At 18:32 the house adjourned until Thursday 6 February 2020 at 11:00.