

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 6 February 2020

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

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

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I advise members of the presence in the gallery today of students from Mount Barker Waldorf School, hosted by the member for Kavel. Welcome to parliament. I hope you find your time here most inspirational.

Bills

INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION (INVESTIGATION POWERS) NO 2 AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (11:01): I move:

That the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* as a lapsed bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act 1934.

Motion carried.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:02): I move:

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

To His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of South Australia and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia:

May it please Your Excellency—

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

As members know, Christmas was a time of loss in my community and in communities across the state. Although we have started out on the process of recovery, there will be many hard days. We also need to ask hard questions, including how we can better mitigate the effects of climate change and prepare for the future. In the time I have before the house, I want to record what is now well known about the Cudlee Creek fire, to acknowledge the work that has been done and to extend my deep gratitude to my community and to communities, as I have earlier remarked, right across the state affected by fire for working so closely together when it was most needed.

On 20 December at Hollands Creek Road, six kilometres south-west of Gumeracha in the member for Morialta's electorate, a tree brought down powerlines and ignited a blaze. The morning was hot and dry. It reached well over 40° by midday. The air was thick with grit and dust haze. The fire burned through Cudlee Creek, Lenswood, Lobethal, Woodside, Charleston, Kenton Valley, Mount Torrens, Birdwood, Brukunga, Harrogate in the member for Hammond's electorate, and much of the country between those townships.

About 11 days later, the fire was contained. Eighty-four homes had been destroyed, many others had major damage, 493 other structures were lost and 292 vehicles were destroyed or damaged. Thousands of animals were dead or dying. The blaze had scorched over 23,000 hectares and much, much more had been lost on Kangaroo Island, which was rightly acknowledged first yesterday. Thousands of tonnes of fodder had been destroyed at a time it was most needed.

In Charleston, within my community, a life was lost. Throughout the Hills, many people were seriously injured and, of course, also on Kangaroo Island. On Kangaroo Island, two more lives were lost, Dick and Clayton Lang, who were remembered to us by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mawson yesterday. Our hearts are in this way scarred. There is an abiding sadness and, for the families of those who have died or been very seriously injured, unfathomable grief.

I wish to record in this place that our community also deeply respected Mr Ron Selth, who died, as the Premier remarked, at his home in Charleston. Mr Selth was a talented civil engineer and passionate farmer. Many buildings and structures in the Hills benefited from his technical expertise and commitment. He delighted in frugality and simplicity and loved and encouraged his family and all in our community. Life was precious to him. Mr Selth leaves behind his partner, Suzy; his children Johanna, Luke and Jasmine; their partners Lachlan, Jo and Scott; and six grandchildren.

Mr John Glatz is in hospital with serious burns. John is deeply respected and admired. He has worked for our community his whole life, including as chair of the Oakbank Racing Club. The Premier recorded yesterday the circumstances in which Mr Glatz was injured and the great bravery displayed by those who immediately, and without thought for their safety, assisted him when he needed it most.

Members, you will know that when Mr Glatz woke from a coma he was offered a glass of water, and he said that he would rather a beer. Knowing this, I will tell you that a small case has been sent to Mr Glatz containing two beers. The note within reads, 'With every good wish and prayer, from all in the Hills.' John, we think of you and all others who have been injured. In some ways, you represent them all. We are looking forward to the day you return to our community, as other communities look forward to the day they receive back those who have been injured, remembering those who will not return.

It is essential that I record my gratitude and the gratitude of our whole community for the work of the CFS and all emergency services. Their work saved many lives. Within the gallery today is Mr Nick Brockhoff, an experienced ambulance officer in my community and also an experienced CFS officer, who served as divisional commander in the Cudlee Creek fire and on Kangaroo Island three times. As I earlier remarked, the service of these emergency service workers saved lives and protected many properties.

I want to share one story representative of many. Mr Simon Prosser defended his own property at Brukunga. When the heat of the fire became too great, he dived into his pool. Whenever he came up for a breath, he burnt the skin on his head. The air was many hundreds of degrees. One of his cattle dogs died and the other survived. I met Mr Prosser at the gate of his property days after the fire. It was an emotional meeting for me. With his neighbour, Mr Prosser drove in unimaginable conditions along Pyrites Road, which was a tunnel of flames and heat. At Brukunga, where the CFS station was itself defended, Mr Prosser and his neighbour crossed the line of CFS firefighters defending the township.

Local residents used a garden hose to cool Mr Prosser's skin while the firestorm beat down on the town. Embers, ash and debris made the air hard to breathe. All emergency services helped Mr Prosser and Brukunga that day and thousands of others across the Hills. Many were volunteers who used the lessons they had practised at small CFS training nights over decades. We were on 20 December and on the days that followed all the beneficiaries of that generosity and that commitment.

It is also right for me to acknowledge CFS group officers: Heysen Group Officer Nathan Watts, Onkaparinga Group Officer Peter Wicks AFSM, Gumeracha Group Officer Rick Drury, and all the CFS brigades and captains within Kavel, Morialta, Heysen, Newland, Hammond and throughout the Hills, and the many CFS brigades that arrived from across the state. I remember pulling over in

the car and seeing the names of small towns on the sides of passing trucks, the soot on the face of exhausted firefighters. They were beyond fatigue.

I will not easily forget the tragedy of speaking to a vet who had put down many tens of horses that same day, or the wife of a man who had seriously burned his hands and arms, or the livestock owner who broke down telling me he had shot his best cattle. The sheep and cattle did not even move as he came to each one. This is a family's life work, animals that have sustained them for many years. All of this leaves a deep scar, a deep and painful scar. Livestock have been incinerated, killed before they could even get up off their haunches. Their bodies are mounds of ash in burnt paddocks and beside fence lines, and it is hard to stay composed when you drive past knowing what it is you see.

The task of containing the fire was immense and sometimes impossible. Fallback lines were drawn. They circled the fire to the south, east and the west over a vast tract of the Hills. On Kangaroo Island, the task was even more difficult. Planes landing that night over the Hills and later over Kangaroo Island described looking down at a landscape so broken by fire that it looked as if it had been firebombed.

On the evening of 20 December at 6pm, with a thick smoke haze in the air, agency support arrived at Highbury and Mount Barker. I attended at Mount Barker High School to await the arrival of the emergency relief team. All around the high school, in the showgrounds, and at Keith Stephenson Park people had brought horses, livestock and their families. It was a makeshift place of safety and importantly there was water. The Mount Barker Football Club and the cricket club led by Scott Filmer, Alex Dunbar, Wayne Buckland and Jason Webb—Jason also serves as a district officer for Meals on Wheels—opened up their clubrooms for hot showers and stock water.

The Salvation Army, led by local pastors Jordan and Sarah Innes, arrived with food. The local council provided practical, immediate and valuable assistance including to the many animals who had made Mount Barker home. At Wallis Cinema, staff had closed cinema 4 and made it available for people with animals of all kinds. Mount Barker Shopping Centre opened its doors to animals and residents seeking refuge. Local churches including Paster Leigh Philp's Baptist Church on Victoria Road, nearby my own home, opened their doors to take in people and animals.

Even as the fires continued to burn for more than about 11 days, my community rallied. Where there was a need, people worked to meet it. In Lobethal, within the member for Morialta's electorate, and a town encircled by fire, Adam Wienert, Jodie Turpin and Kelly Lewis set up a local recovery centre. Adam had received his training in the Army as an officer and is also a local fuel distributor. Jodie is a longstanding community worker and Kelly is an emergency nurse at Flinders hospital. It is not possible to adequately express our gratitude for their work and the value of their skills when combined in this way. They were of course assisted by many but their names represent the work of many.

In Nairne, Jade Brook and Kirsten Wynn established Nairne Fire Support. They stocked the Nairne family church with every practical item. They provided ongoing outreach for many weeks. Lobethal Bushfire Recovery and Nairne Fire Support continue to meet a very real need in our community, including for the love and friendship that comes from an outreach visit when you have been trying all day to clean up your property, you are covered in soot and sweat, and you just want to talk about something else other than what you have done and seen that day, and done and seen for so many days.

I also acknowledge the Hills Football League fire support group. I note that Don Cranwell, their president, is here with us today. Hills football is essential to our community. It is so essential that we look to the league as an environment in which we can come together over winter as a community. Preseason training is underway. The HFL, using the horsepower of their teams, have been out assisting property owners. I know our whole community is grateful for that, and I acknowledge in particular Katie Sewell who has led the women's teams to provide assistance to a number of vineyards. I acknowledge, too, briefly but as representative of many clubs, the Onkaparinga Valley Football Club, whose men's teams have been out assisting property owners as well, including Craig Paschke, who owns and operates a vineyard at Woodside.

In Woodside, the Lutheran parish, with help including from Fay and David Pfeiffer, Bronwyn Norsworthy, Kelly Johnston, Tania Schoell and others, immediately provided meals and practical aid for those who had lost their homes. The Lutheran community also sent fodder from the Mid North to the Hills. They need it themselves in the Mid North, but they decided we needed it more. It was an act of profound generosity.

In Mount Barker, Father Thomas and his congregation established a makeshift supermarket. The member for Heysen was present to assist also with that task. Donated items were arranged in a way that they could be best and easily accessed, and these items were then supplied to the northern and southern fire grounds, and they included water, food, sanitary products, burn cream for people and animals, and any other required goods. Father Thomas worked with many others in our community, including Sally Harding, whose extraordinary photographs document communities deeply impacted by fire. Those photographs have also affected me greatly.

Local businesses, including Lobethal Bakery, Cafe Aqua, Mount Barker Corner Takeaway, Woodside Takeaway, Nairne Corner Takeaway, Quarter Mile Cafe, Pallet Cafe Nairne, Brother Bear and The Painted Poodle, all provided meals to emergency services workers. I am sure that I have omitted some if only by mistake; there are many others. It was hard to pay for a meal. At Woodside, the CFS needed a constant supply of hot food. Woodside Takeaway and Pizza refused to accept payment. The CFS, to their enduring credit, did their very best to settle up.

The Oakbank Racing Club worked with Livestock SA to establish a fodder exchange. Hay was donated from the South-East and the Fleurieu Peninsula. After a call by radio for assistance, more than 100 tonnes arrived at Oakbank by 10pm that same day. In subsequent days, 1,000 tonnes was committed, and even more came after that. Thank you to the farmers of the South-East and the member for MacKillop, the member for Mount Gambier and also the member for Hammond, whose community equally supplied a great deal of fodder to ours. As I mentioned earlier, the member for Hammond takes in the community of Harrogate.

We will not forget SAVEM, the RSPCA, Habitat for Humanity or the Red Cross. We will not forget Garry and Rachel Barlow at Stroud Homes, who took in and managed thousands of donations of food and other items. They were assisted by religious groups, including the Muslim community. Garry and Rachel, you are heroes too.

We will not forget the Australian Defence Force, who arrived when fatigue was setting in. Initially, 90 soldiers assisted our community. That force has grown to over 300 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Mark Mankowski, who is based at Woodside Barracks. I acknowledge, too, the many soldiers who are stationed on Kangaroo Island, some under the command of Major Trent Harron, who was mentioned by the Premier yesterday, and Warrant Officer Darren Wasley from Nairne in my community. Darren owns a small business within Kavel.

I also acknowledge Corporal James Findlay of Cudlee Creek from the member for Morialta's electorate. Alex Zimmerman, our disaster recovery coordinator, continues to work extremely long hours. His diligence and belief in our community is respected. Members will know that Mr Zimmerman was also recovery coordinator after the Pinery fires. He brings valuable experience, commitment and a determination to help our community as if it were his own. I understand that he was in fact born at Woodside, in our community. We also recognise and deeply value the efforts of Ann Paschke, Leanne Trotman and many other volunteers who have worked to care for injured native wildlife.

Service clubs, including Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary, have offered extraordinary assistance. Kiwanis, led by Charles Sheldrake and Geoff Johnston, donated \$1,000 in Bunnings vouchers. Lions members, including Kingsley Blenkiron, whose house was lost at Woodside, have worked to provide meals to BlazeAid volunteers. The RSL and Mount Barker Lions cooked barbecue meals for those at the emergency relief centre in Mount Barker. I should add that it was a very moving thing to see Kingsley, only days after losing his house, preparing meals for BlazeAid volunteers. His first instinct, his very first instinct, was to provide service to his community, even in the very difficult personal circumstances that he and his family faced.

BlazeAid has brought hope to weary farmers. I joined a BlazeAid team for a day. I know that the member for Hammond, too, has been working closely with BlazeAid. I was taking down fences—I think if I were building them up they probably would not last until winter, so it is well that I was placed

on that task. I want to thank and acknowledge in this place Kevin Butler for having the foresight to commit BlazeAid to our district. Volunteers have come from overseas, from all around the state and from around the country to assist. We will not easily forget them.

I earlier mentioned local councils. Mayor Ann and Mayor Jan-Claire have been exceptional, and their councillors and staff have worked every day since the fire to help in so many practical ways that cannot be adequately enumerated by me in the house today. Instead, it is right to say that their leadership under immense pressure has been remarkable. I will always remember what they have done for our community. Mayor Ann, who is originally a native islander, has also assisted Kangaroo Island with her love and generosity. She has also prepared many Anzac biscuits, which I think have become a staple part of the diet of many volunteers.

I thank and acknowledge the member for Morialta, the member for Heysen and the member for Hammond, with whom I have worked extremely closely over these many weeks. The member for Heysen, and the member for Davenport, too, helped run our electorate office in the first urgent days and when it was necessary for me to travel extensively in the fireground. The member for Hammond has deep experience in fighting fires on his own property and throughout the district, and that experience is very valuable to us.

I also want to send a special and heartfelt message to Rebekha Sharkie. Rebekha and I travelled together in each other's cars, sharing the load, one of us at the wheel and the other making calls. To reflect on remarks so generously made by Rebekha, this is as it should be. I also acknowledge and thank Rebekha's staff, who have worked so closely with our own. They have been outstanding.

I also thank members of the opposition who contacted me or my office and expressed their deep concern for our community. It is sincerely appreciated. The truth is that the care, planning and good decisions of so many people, especially the CFS and police and ambulance officers, saved many lives. In a crisis of this type, there is a focus on the scale of destruction. What must be remembered, too, are the many efforts made by farm firefighting units, farmers, property owners and others working with the CFS and our whole community to save lives. Many lives were saved, many dwellings were saved and many businesses were protected.

However, as the Deputy Premier observed, the economy in my community and on Kangaroo Island is made up of small businesses. People employ themselves and, if they are able, several others, often young people starting out in life. Many of the over 60 vineyards within the fire scar have suffered very significant losses. I have seen those losses firsthand. Horticultural businesses have massive losses: cherries alone were losing \$1 million for every day they could not be picked. I believe those losses will be much greater. Other horticultural businesses have also suffered greatly, including apples.

As their respective industry bodies have made plain, growers are now faced with having to make decisions about the future viability of their businesses. The state government has also worked to provide immediate and ongoing assistance. More than 2,000 personal hardship grants have been made in the Hills, 412 on Kangaroo Island and more than 2,700 in the state overall. This type of fire is a monster. It is capricious. It spares some dwellings and burns others. It runs up a gully and then across a ridge line. Embers fall ahead of the fire front and the sky is dark.

Inside the fire it is more than 600°. This is known because we have seen many aluminium posts and fittings that have simply melted away—and they dissolve at temperatures above 660°. By the end of the day, with the fire running hot and fast, trees were exploding along the Harrogate ridge line. That is where vital and much-needed communications infrastructure in our community was also destroyed. In the face of the power of this force, our community took shelter, fought the fire when it could be fought and rendered assistance to those who needed it.

Gratitude is a bridge to the heart, and I am grateful for the many small but profoundly generous things that have been done to help. Those acts will never be recognised, though it is not recognition that is sought, just private knowledge that one person was able to help another. This has long been our tradition in our community and in communities across South Australia.

Importantly, disaster recovery psychologist Dr Rob Gordon has provided our community with practical lessons. This fire has taken a very substantial mental toll. There are spare and unrehearsed stories of grief that will linger with all of us, and I say to my community, 'Please seek help if you need it. It is available. We live in a modern community. You can ask for it. Nobody will think less of you.' I have had my own moments, and I freely admit to that. From the outset, Disaster Recovery Ministries and the Red Cross provided immediate comfort in the Hills, and for that, too, our community is grateful.

To his Excellency the Governor and to the Premier, thank you for being so immediately present in my community and grieving with us. To the many people from around the state, from Australia and overseas, thank you for your donations, for providing labour and for providing immediate care and assistance. We know that you will be with us on this road to recovery.

To communities right around the country—after all, this is a national crisis—we know and understand what it is that you face, and we will, I am sure, at times be able to supply you with volunteers in the same way and for the same reasons that you have supplied volunteers to us. That will never be forgotten. If I go on, I am sure that emotions will very soon overcome me and that will be embarrassing.

I will draw my remarks to a close where they are, recognising the vast task that lies ahead of us, the commitment to thoroughly examine what has occurred in our communities and the very real and valuable energy, the wholehearted energy, that reflects our government's commitment to South Australia's precious and fragile natural environment. His Excellency the Governor detailed many of the commitments that our government has made to ensure that a substantial program to address climate change will be brought forward.

Our government has made many and very courageous decisions, including instituting the largest home battery rollout per capita of its type in the world. That is a substantial commitment. In acting now to mitigate climate risk, South Australia can be an international leader in successfully harnessing current and emerging opportunities, including hydrogen and biofuels, the transition to electric vehicles and lower emission transport, climate resilient agriculture, and innovations in waste and recycling. Members will know that our government has detailed a plan to ensure that single-use plastics can be eliminated from our community and, most importantly, from the environment.

These are some of many commitments—His Excellency detailed others—and in coming days the government will continue that program. This is what my community expects. It is what other communities expect. As the Governor has detailed, it is also what we will do now after the fires.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:29): I would like to acknowledge the contribution by the member for Kavel in the Address in Reply and not just his contribution here today but the contribution he made alongside people in his electorate and from outside of the electorate who assisted during the fire and with the aftermath, especially the Cudlee Creek fire, and also the many people who assisted with the fires right across this state.

I want to reflect on the Keilira and Bunbury fires in the South-East, which I think were about 150,000 acres between them; the Yorketown fire and Kangaroo Island fires, which were well over 500,000 acres; and, obviously, the Cudlee Creek fire, with thousands of hectares from across Morialta, Kavel and Hammond, which created devastation across the landscape. I want to acknowledge some of the earliest comments in His Excellency the Governor, Hieu Van Le's speech acknowledging the impact of the fires. To quote his words:

We think particularly of those who have lost their lives, including those who came from overseas to help us.

We acknowledge Ron Selth and Dick and Clayton Lang. Ron was from the Hills and, sadly, Dick and Clayton lost their lives on Kangaroo Island. We also want to acknowledge volunteer firefighters and others from right around the country who lost their lives in the face of this fury. It is too difficult to comprehend how big this fireground is not just in this state but around the country as well. I wish John Glatz a very speedy recovery from his severe burns. Those are just a few names of locals who have been mentioned, but I also want to acknowledge the assistance we had from the United States pilots who came out here.

Sadly, three aircrew from the United States lost their lives. They came out to Australia because they recognised the contribution that Australian firefighters have made in their country over time. It also reflects on the interaction between our interstate fire services and volunteer fire services, whether it is the Rural Fire Service in New South Wales, the Country Fire Authority in Victoria or the Country Fire Service here in South Australia. I acknowledge that at times, even though New South Wales had massive fires, here in South Australia we were able to access a 737 tanker, the big air attack plane. There has been a great sense of cooperation across the services.

I would also like to acknowledge all the people right across the state—and the nation, to be frank—with farm fire units. Farm fire units do a great deal working alongside the official fire services, the Country Fire Service and the Metropolitan Fire Service, which I will reflect on a bit more later on in my contribution.

Another fire I should have mentioned in my list was the Carcuma fire, at the back of Geranium and Coonalpyn, which is almost a forgotten fire, and there was another one just out the back of Coonalpyn. There have been a few questions on how it started, but we will let people come up with that later on. It did get into some hay sheds and local properties.

My brother lives at Coonalpyn on a property working for the Ashby family. He had 800 young ram lambs to make sure he got through, and he did. I had a chat with him after they had been fighting this fire alongside the CFS down the back of Carcuma for about five days, and I said, 'Look, I'll come down and give a hand.' So I grabbed my other brother and we went down with our private unit, working alongside other private units and Country Fire Service units locally as well as from Glossop, from the Riverland, who were also there.

It was mainly in heritage scrub and some parkland. I will talk about this further in the bushfire motion, but we really need to make some real changes in how we manage our parks and our heritage scrub into the future, as well as native vegetation along roadsides. It will not be impossible to stop fires but it might help with more burn-offs, more cold burns.

I would like to salute everyone involved. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to serve alongside other Country Fire Service members on Kangaroo Island in a five-day swing in mid-January. Doing that, you witness all the agencies, not just, obviously, the Country Fire Service. The Metropolitan Fire Service was there in many numbers, farmers were out doing their bit with their farm fire units, and then there were all the agencies underneath it. The State Emergency Service and the Salvation Army were there. They were telling me they would rise at 5am and not go to bed until midnight. They kept everyone fed and watered.

I witnessed the contribution of our military forces, mainly Army, on the island. There were hundreds of reservists, but I was talking to a regular soldier in Parndana one day—300 regulars had come down from Darwin to assist with fighting the fires and with the recovery—and it was a very interesting conversation I had with this gentleman. He said, 'You know, before we pack up at Christmas we set kits aside for flood or cyclone, but we've never done it for fire before. We might have a rethink into the future.'

There are many other services I have probably missed but, to everyone who has rotated, whether it be in the Cudlee Creek fire, the fires in the South-East or the fires on Yorke Peninsula, the best thing we can say is just, 'Thank you. Thank you so much.' Sometimes in these situations you see a lot of bureaucracy, but I did not witness that this time on Kangaroo Island. People could go out and keep operating.

Essentially, we were in mop-up phase by then, but things did keep flaring up. I note that in this instance the Salvos served 460 meals in one night, and that just goes to show the amount of work that went on. They were working alongside Army cooks to supply all that food and drink to keep everyone going in the field.

There were a whole lot of things done around the place. There were professional people assisting in the Hills getting rid of trees that had fallen down or that were at risk of falling down. I witnessed at Vivonne Bay on Kangaroo Island—and you do not see this very often, for obvious reasons, because it is illegal to do it anymore—that a whole roadside had been chained down with scrub chains and dozers as a firebreak, just to try to take the cap out of the fire if it got that far.

When you think about it, 210,000 hectares or over 500,000 acres is huge. In fact, I took some people up through the Cudlee Creek fire area when we went to the Harrogate recovery meeting to talk to the locals and work with Alex Zimmerman and the member for Kavel and others on getting the message on recovery out. I said, 'Look, the Cudlee Creek fire is big, but it pales into insignificance alongside what has happened on Kangaroo Island.' That is only as far as size goes; obviously there was a lot of loss in the Cudlee Creek fire.

Many houses were lost. People on the fireground that day were trying to get in front of the fire on The Glen Road at Harrogate and they said, 'We had to bypass places because there was no point pulling up because the fire was racing us.' They did all they could to save what buildings they could. It was just amazing to see how many houses, mainly, were saved. A lot of sheds were saved, but I know that a lot of houses and sheds were lost. If no-one has been to the town of Harrogate, it is well worth a look because it is close to a miracle that the actual town was saved. It is black right around the perimeter—totally burnt, despite the efforts of the CFS. A lot of the CFS personnel that day were from my electorate—not that it matters, but I just make that point.

What a fantastic effort by all the volunteers, whether they were Country Fire Service, the State Emergency Service, the Salvos or myriad others, in assisting and still assisting, whether it is cooking a few meals, baking a few cakes or whatever it is. It makes you really proud to be an Australian and a South Australian, obviously in this state, to see what has gone on, and we must also recognise the assistance that has gone on around the country.

Thankfully, we have had some rain, but we are a long way from recovery, as the member for Kavel has indicated. There are supports in place from the government, but that does not take away the shock of losing all your possessions or shooting thousands of stock. I want to acknowledge PIRSA for getting right on board in supporting us. Shooting stock is just the reality. I know one property owner on Kangaroo Island had to shoot 8,000 sheep. To PIRSA's credit—and I do not want this to sound macabre—they supplied a lot of ammunition, because it is necessary in these times.

I also want to acknowledge vets and others who have had to do this terrible work, especially those putting down their own stock; there is no joy in it. But when animals are burnt beyond repair you do have to get on board. I wish everyone a very speedy recovery—as speedy as it can be. I know the government, through a whole range of agencies—whether it be through Housing, Primary Industries or emergency services—are there working alongside everyone to get people back on their feet as soon as possible.

I want to reflect on some other items in the Governor's speech and talk about what our government is doing and what we are looking forward to doing into the future. The cost to families and businesses is being lowered, more jobs are being created and there is a continuing focus on providing better services. We are going to look at reintroducing legislation around extending shop trading hours in the Greater Adelaide shopping district and proclaimed shopping districts. We are still looking at capping local government council rates and permanently lifting the prohibition on growing genetically modified crops in all areas of the state except Kangaroo Island.

I know some people in this house do not agree with the lifting of the ban on growing genetically modified crops, but I know that a lot of people in this house do support it. From our side of the house, all we are saying is: give people the choice. They do not have to grow, and Kangaroo Island will be exempt anyway.

Other things that are being done include a fully funded pipeline of infrastructure works worth \$12.9 billion over four years. Many hundreds of millions, in fact, billions of dollars are being spent on the north-south connector, but we are also putting much-needed funding into regional roads—over 1,000 kilometres of roads to get them up to speed. We have eight roads on our list to get back up to a 110 km/h speed limit. Some of those roads require tens of millions of dollars, including the Browns Well Highway between Pinnaroo and Loxton, and the Ngarkat Highway, which stretches into the member for MacKillop's electorate between Pinnaroo and Bordertown, apart from others around the state.

Some people argue that only a few hundred vehicles a day travel on some of these roads, but they are valuable connectors for industry in our electorates, especially in the agriculture sector. I note that 80 per cent of the country's potatoes, apart from other horticulture, are grown in my

electorate, and these connections and vital outlets are needed right around the country. Some of the things that this Marshall Liberal government has achieved in the first couple of years include:

- payroll tax to small businesses has been abolished;
- emergency services levy bills have been significantly reduced;
- lower water costs from July; and
- land tax reforms will benefit 92 per cent of smaller investors and 75 per cent of company groups.

We are also looking at further cost relief, including:

- electricity bills for households;
- reductions in compulsory third party insurance premiums;
- doubling the value of sports vouchers for primary school-age children; and
- free screening checks for volunteers.

Certainly one of the major projects that I believe is absolutely vital in this state and that we are promoting heavily on this side of the house—and I know the other side used to promote it until they decided to have a change of heart—is the interconnector to New South Wales. There is no more serious time to get that interconnector into gear, that multibillion dollar project, so that we can connect to power stations in New South Wales. Obviously, some of that will be coal fired, but we can also use our solar and wind generation.

When the sun is up and the wind is blowing and we have plenty of power, we can transmit that power and export it to New South Wales. As I said, it is important at the moment because of issues with the Heywood interconnector, the main interconnector for South Australia through to Victoria—there is another smaller interconnector through the Riverland—and it just goes to show that we cannot be isolated. I applaud this project and may we soon get on board and get going.

The Liberal government are promoting a growth state. We have opportunities in defence, space, energy and minerals, food, wine and agribusiness, international education—which is a huge one in this state—tourism, high tech, health and medical industries, and creative industries. There is so much that this state has to offer.

I want to reiterate some of the other commentaries around the speech and some of the assistance that is given to families, especially in light of these fires. I mentioned briefly earlier about providing tax relief by waiving fees and charges and by the commonwealth allocating funding to support recovery and rebuilding. Some of these are grants of \$10,000 to individuals or up to \$75,000 to farmers. Alongside this, and prior to the fires, assisting farmers and families suffering from drought and other challenges, is a dedicated drought support program with the injection of \$21 million. Also in the agriculture sector, we have put \$7.5 million aside to promote and do work around the red meat and wool sectors.

The government has fired up the Adelaide Desalination Plant to capacity, probably a temporary measure, I believe, to offset some of the angst around what has happened in the drought. There has been some really poor discussion from some areas in regard to what should or should not be done with the River Murray, but I note our commitment to the basin plan and also the commitment that is shared by both sides in this house not to build a weir at Wellington. I would like to have hoped that that discussion had been killed off between 2006 and 2010, but some people think they will raise that.

A river dies from the bottom up, and I have said that multiple times in this place. If that is what people think they can do, they will just keep putting in the north wall further up the river. It is interesting with river communities that you find some people complain about people taking river, generally north of them. Anything that goes past their gate is wasted in their summation, but that is not the case. You need to have a healthy, flowing river and I am so pleased that our government is playing an active role in getting water into the system and supporting the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

I note as part of the legislative framework for our government that the state's pastoral land laws will be repealed and rewritten to support the production of livestock and the growth of the pastoral industry, which is absolutely vital for this state, and to complete the legislation around increasing penalties for those trespassing on agricultural land with the intention of interfering and disrupting the normal activities of our farmers and food processors. That legislation will be completed in this parliament so that we can give more protection to our farmers against people who I think, quite frankly, are ill informed and would be better off spending their time seeing how well the technology that farmers are using these days produces that valuable food and fibre that we need to assist our state and our country.

I also recognise the rebuilding of 1,600 kilometres of the dog fence with the \$25 million plan, working alongside the federal government, state government and funds levied from sheep. This is absolutely vital to protect not just our pastoral lands but the lands further south. You only need to talk to people who have wild dog sightings as close as the Riverland and sometimes in the lower north to know that these fence repairs are absolutely vital for the whole livestock industry. Obviously, this is a major rebuild for most of the fence on the South Australian side.

I have already talked about the fast-tracked establishment of the electricity interconnector and that it is absolutely vital for our surety of electricity generation into the future. Seven reservoirs will be opened up to provide further recreation opportunities and to deliver economic benefits for local communities and our regions. I think that is a great initiative, and I saw all the media event around opening up the Warren Reservoir on the way to Gawler. That was well done, with a heap of people in kayaks and minister Speirs up there launching it.

A massive piece of legislation we passed in the last session was the Landscape South Australia Act. This just shows our priority as a government for the management of natural resources and how that will be decentralised decision-making and back-to-basics land management. I know that some people do not like the criticism, but natural resources management turned into quite a bureaucratic nightmare and seemed to have lost its way.

It would not matter which government was in place, as I think that, sadly, it is just the nature of the beast and the nature of the legislation that was passed in 2004. I can say this with, I hope, a little bit of credibility, because my wife is an environmental scientist and used to work in this field. So many times they had to do reviews and reviews—three-year reviews, five-year reviews. It seemed that so much work was done on doing reviews. Let us hope that more time can be spent now getting better outcomes on the ground.

I also want to note that for more than 40 years we have been recognised in this state as our nation's leader in waste management and resource recovery. The container deposit scheme is a fantastic initiative which I believe is rolling out right across—I think Victoria made an announcement only the other day of it coming in there fairly soon, if it has not already. It has been rolled out over much of this country. I noted, when we raised it from 5¢ a container to 10¢, all my bales and drums of bottles doubled overnight in value, which was fantastic—

Mr McBride interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: A big windfall. It takes a long time to fill them up, member for MacKillop; it takes many years. I think it does help to keep the litter stream to a minimum. You have seen over the years, when you travel interstate, the difference in the roadside with litter, etc. During this session, we will introduce comprehensive legislation to reform our local government sector, to help reduce red tape costs and to improve member conduct and public confidence in our councils.

I just want to reflect very briefly on the Coorong council and my good friend, the new mayor, Paul Simmons. There had been some issues there. I met the new chief executive officer the other day, and I was impressed with her within about 30 seconds. They say first impressions count, and first impressions certainly counted there. There is a bit of tidying up to do, but Paul and Bridget will be the people to do the job.

Also with this government we are looking at a new planning system—and I note that some of that work came before me when I was on the Environment, Resources and Development Committee—to try to streamline planning issues across the state.

As announced in the Governor's speech we are completing the regulations required to support implementation of the legislation passed last year to modernise our mining laws. I certainly believe that we did make some very good progress in relation to mining laws and the relation to land access. Not everyone will agree, but that is up to them, but it certainly was an improvement from decades-old legislation in how we go about accessing those minerals, which do make up, as does agriculture, a vital part of our income for this state.

Also, in relation to education, by mid-2020 our schools will have the best internet connection in the nation when our government completes its partnership with Telstra to deliver internet infrastructure. Another item which was put in the Governor's speech and which I think is a fantastic thing moving forward, because it has taken a long time to get some recognition is medicinal cannabis. I think we have been a bit slow off the mark here. Yes, we have legislation on how people can access it, but it is difficult. A pilot program will be put in place to assist the treatment of epilepsy in children, and that will be established to trial medicinal cannabis. From everything I have heard anecdotally, I think that will be a fantastic initiative.

Sports change rooms, family—friendly facilities, catering for both male and female teams, will be built and expanded. Also noting that there have been many of these lost around the state, clubs whose facilities have been damaged by the recent bushfires will receive grants to kickstart the rebuilding process.

I also want to acknowledge that we appointed our state's first Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, the member for Elder, Carolyn Power, working alongside the Hon. Michelle Lensink in this vital work in our state, delivering a strong focus on delivering a range of policy initiatives, with Murray Bridge being one of the regional safety hubs.

I commend the Governor for his speech. I again want to acknowledge everyone, and those from the Metropolitan Fire Service as well, who assisted the many thousands of volunteers who have rotated right across this state to protect our loved ones and our infrastructure and who are assisting in the recovery process into the future.

Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (12:00): I rise to make a contribution to the Address in Reply. I indicate that I am not the lead speaker for the opposition, but I am very happy to kick this off and be the first speaker for the opposition on the Address in Reply. Hopefully, my two new knees that I received over summer will not give way. I may sit down early, but I would prefer to stand. I will indicate if I am required to finish speaking from a seated position.

The government's speech, written for His Excellency, yesterday told us that after two years there was no new vision from the government to contribute to the state. This new radical legislative agenda gave us nothing new, and certainly nothing radical. To my mind radical, by definition, refers to complete and total social or political change and also is commonly linked to a very progressive agenda. I do not believe that that is actually what occurred yesterday. I heard a summary of delivered programs and some continuance of the previous parliamentary agenda but certainly nothing new to solve the so-called headwinds and the problems in this state. I most definitely heard nothing new or nothing visionary to support the vulnerable people in our community. In fact, not surprisingly, they barely rated a mention.

In terms of something that has been discussed, employment, I would like to talk specifically about youth unemployment. The government purports to have maintained a solid growth in employment in this state. While we hear that the numbers indicate a solid and steady rise in unemployment, we do not hear youth unemployment being talked about very much, the young people in South Australia who are facing terrible barriers to employment. Over the past two years, the fact is that since this government came to office youth unemployment has increased to 14.3 per cent. That is up from 11.5 per cent in March 2018 when the Liberals came to office. I do not think that is any kind of figure that you can hang your hat on.

We have seen many cuts to job programs, specifically youth programs. In terms of apprenticeships, which is one of the main visions spelt out by this government, they say that it is much easier to get apprenticeships, that we are growing apprenticeships. But I can tell you that just saying something does not actually mean it is true. In fact, my son is one family member who has

struggled to attain and secure an apprenticeship. The increasing numbers in the tens of thousands is certainly not something we are seeing and not something that we see benefiting our young people.

Many people come into my office, and the young people I hear from are facing the usual let-downs, the usual disappointments. They may be offered trials, they may be offered a go at an entry position in a company, but often their employers are not able to keep them on or suddenly give them any long-term commitment. Part of this may also be due to the housing and building industry struggling significantly at the moment. Sadly, it seems to have all but ground to a halt in the last two years since the Liberal government came to power.

Around a dozen builders have gone belly up and out of business in the last couple of years. I think that is pretty disappointing. That is under this Premier's watch. I think it is shameful and that more needs to be done about this. The building industry, rightly, is worried and concerned about the future, and that flows on to young people trying to get apprenticeships. People in the public—parents, family members—are not buying that rhetoric either. I think more needs to be done about this. All we are hearing is the good news and not the reality underneath it.

Today, in *The Advertiser* I saw that there are more cuts to TAFE programs. That is a worry. We have seen many skilled teachers leave TAFE. I have been approached by a number of them who have said that their programs have been cut, and they are very worried about the future of young people being able to access the nurturing and supportive wraparound services that are provided by TAFE.

What does that mean for the future skilling of South Australians? I do not think it is something that we can be confident about. I think more needs to be done to invest in TAFE. The Liberal government can use whatever language they like in speeches, but TAFE needs a true and new action plan; it needs real investment. That will give us more confidence for the future. We heard a statement in the speech that young people are not moving out of the state anymore.

The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:

Ms COOK: The statement was there: prove that. I am still hearing from parents and families that young people are leaving to seek employment. Quite honestly, this has happened for many years and it will continue to happen, in order to access industries and jobs that are present in the Eastern States, where there is a bigger population and a bigger economy of scale in terms of providing these starting point jobs in many industries.

I do not think that is a bad thing, in order for people to gain experience in some of these sectors in starting point jobs, as long as we can entice them back. Let's make sure they do not stay there. Let's make sure that people know that South Australia is the place to raise families, it is the place for you to bring your children up. Bring those young people back to South Australia. That is what is really important. Also, do not just make this blanket statement that 'in two years, we have done this', and not back it up with anything. Where are the facts? We want to hear what is really truly happening.

The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:

Ms COOK: The minister over on the other side cannot keep quiet as usual. The businesses that we need to attract these young people to stay, and that we need to develop, are the ones that the Labor government actually started developing: the high-tech industries, the medical devices sectors, the growth, the innovation, the entrepreneurship. This is not a new thing that is happening. This was started at Tonsley.

I was watching and learning and being part of the evolution of that with NVI Flinders, with a whole range of other companies that were start-ups at Tonsley and saw that development. Yes, that has flowed on now, and we hear about Lot Fourteen being another new space to do that. That is great; these places do work. We started that and you are continuing it; that is great. This is nothing new. Just because you say it is does not mean it is true.

One of the things that really does concern me as well regarding employment, obviously, is the capacity for people with disability to participate in the workforce. We know that there is an extremely low level of participation for people with disabilities. People with disabilities cannot always work a full day, and there are many challenges and barriers to this. The government needs to be the

gold standard and set the benchmark in terms of providing the capacity for people with a disability, or people living with disability, to participate in the workforce.

I was really pleased to hear, again, the comment that the Aboriginal participation level in the workforce has increased. I missed hearing actually what the data was around that. I do not know whether that was said. It possibly was not, but I will be keen to look that up. If it has increased, that is fantastic. What we also need to see now is people with a disability improving and increasing their capacity to participate. If they can only work several hours a week, then what we need to do is increase the ways that we can contribute towards job sharing programs, the ways that we can provide smaller periods for people to participate in the workforce.

It not only creates that level of confidence and assurity that you get from having a job, but it also develops a whole range of additional social connections that, as we know, are the number one way that you can increase your life expectancy, and that is through social connection and friendship. You can do that most definitely through the workplace. I did not hear anything about disability employment support in yesterday's speech. There was not much at all about people living with disability. There was a small amount in respect of housing, I believe; there was something stated. But I certainly did not hear a plan.

As we know, we have been through what is being touted as Black Summer. I do not think it has finished. I am certainly expecting that we will have more terrible incidents of bushfires. My heart goes out to them and my sympathies are with people, but I will speak more to the bushfires given the opportunity through another motion.

I want to thank all the volunteers and workers at the coalface, on the ground and behind the scenes who have already been mentioned in the past couple of days by members in this place and in the media. I also pay particular thanks to the public sector employees, through the Department of Human Services, who have at the last minute dropped everything and gone to the fire front and set up relief centres. They have been available to provide support, to help navigate bureaucracy, to try to access what is available for relief and support.

I think we need to think about those people as well because we think about the people on the fireground who have seen things you would never want to see, and I think some of the members have described that to us incredibly. These people have to listen to these stories of trauma and devastation over and over again. I know members of parliament have as well and I think we have seen some members on TV giving powerful representations about what they are listening to and what they are seeing.

I was completely shattered when listening to the member for Mawson yesterday in his recounting of his journey through KI. To the public servants who are doing this and hearing them still every day in the relief centres, thank you. I hope that the government works to ensure that not just victims and first responders but volunteers and Public Service employees who are providing this help get some ongoing support and welfare into the future and some much needed respite after the fire season finishes.

Contributors to the debate around bushfires and what has been happening have a range of opinions being put forward. I proudly support the science and evidence and pay much attention to climate science and the evidence-based climate change approaches that are being discussed around bushfire contributing factors. I know there are other things as well around management of the environment that need to be taken into account and I look forward to hearing the input into the inquiry around this.

Yesterday, we heard some focus on environment and emissions in the agenda that was set out via the Governor. Broadly, with this National-Liberal Party alliance across Australia, they certainly have some very vocal people—and I guess many would call them troglodytes—who do not support the progressive science and evidence around climate change. There are many of those people who are getting some voice, sadly not just in Australia but nationally, so I did chuckle a little at the Liberal Party here spelling out its vision for lowering emissions and climate change.

I am sure members will recall the opening speech of the Second Session of the Fifty-Third Parliament, when the Hon. Jay Weatherill announced Labor's establishment of a target for

50 per cent of our electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2025, I believe it was. We talked about the carbon neutral economy, autonomous vehicles and a whole range of progressive energy solutions and targets. Of course, it was welcome yesterday that we heard this being repeated by the current Liberal government.

This is a commitment that we made as a Labor government because it is both good for our environment and the right thing to do for the transitioning economy, which affects employment and a whole range of things for our young people. What the current Liberal government have done is stop it, copy it, rename it and claim it as their own, but the electorate knows this. The electorate sees through the smoke and mirrors. Just because you say it is true does not mean it is real. Again, people know that this is an ongoing piece of work that was started under the previous Labor government. We welcome the government adopting our policies.

Another issue around the environment and energy that I welcomed being repeated yesterday—not new: repeated—was the Housing Trust battery scheme, the Home Battery Scheme and virtual power plant. I am really pleased to see that the government is committing again to continuing these great initiatives that were started under the Labor government. I refer people, however, to Housing Trust properties and the way many of them are constructed. We know that older homes struggle to support solar panels on their roofs. We know that many of them have been said to be unable to have solar panels.

I look forward to seeing the maintenance program assessment that was started under the former Labor government, per the report being completed, so that some of these issues with ageing stock might be addressed. They are going to have to clearly address it. I believe it was a \$75 million commitment over maybe 10 years for additional maintenance. I do not know about you but, doing the maths, it is not going to get you very far. It is not going to get you very much maintenance and it is certainly not going to get you very many new roofs. We all know how much a new roof costs.

There was zero money in that breakdown—that is, nothing—to be invested in public housing or new builds for public housing. We did see some investment in houses to be sold, but we did not see anything from a public housing point of view. It will be interesting to see how that massive increase for solar panels is going to appear. I look forward to watching it and hearing more from the department on that.

This brings me to the housing strategy. In his speech, the Governor mentioned the housing and homelessness strategy. Where do I start? The speech yesterday was full of many deliverables, lots of small ones, tens of thousands of dollars. They are really small target projects, which are welcomed in local communities. They certainly add up, and we expect a government to have locally targeted projects—I think that is great—but we had a half a billion dollar housing strategy.

It was released at the last minute last year and not much was said about it. Yesterday, there were a couple of sentences on it. It was probably the biggest announcement of investment last year in terms of the community, and we had a couple of sentences. There was not much to say about it, I would say, because it is shocking and it is terrible. Affordable housing outcomes are important but, as a government, you work in partnership with people, with the public, the punters who need the housing and the builders to make sure the settings are right and the opportunities are available for these people to go out, because they can talk and they can access a loan.

We need to make sure those settings are right and, if those settings are right, they can then access the housing and buy an affordable property. However, I am not sure that we should be buying them from the government and I am not sure that the government should be building them in competition with the private sector. What we need to see is investment in public and social housing at a much bigger rate.

The lack in the strategy of any public housing builds shows a lack of compassion and care by the government for those less well off than most. While I appreciate all governments have sold a number of houses—and this happens nationwide in order to refresh and renew stock and to change the way that communities invest in affordable properties through the social and public balance—the Treasurer in the other house has been the biggest seller of public housing in the history of this state.

I have said this before in this place and it is on paper. It is on the record. The numbers are in *Hansard*. I have put them there, and I am very happy to share them with any member who would

like me to send them to them. The current Treasurer in the other place has been the biggest off-loader of public houses in the history of this state. I will have far more to say on housing and homelessness as we continue to consult with the community and with service providers over the next two years.

In respect of disability and people living with disability, the environment is vitally important and I welcome the reannouncement by Liberal government of the discussion about the banning of single-use plastics. We on this side of the house are committed always to ensuring that we re-use, repurpose, recycle and minimise the use of throwaway items, and we welcome the discussion in the last parliament and look forward to seeing the bill.

However, as the spokesperson on this side of the house for people living with disability, I want to make sure that people who require and must use single-use straws and other items to ensure they have quality of life and are able to access hydration and nutrition in a dignified way have access to those products in a way that is not embarrassing, in a way that is dignified and in a way that is publicly understood. This has been raised with me a lot by the community I engage with and we will be watching carefully and consulting with the sector and the community to ensure best outcomes.

In terms of disability, the rollout of the NDIS has been, shall we say, problematic from a federal and a state point of view. South Australia does lag behind in many of the measures and that is shameful. We should not be accepting that. We have seen many things that have been a much bigger challenge in terms of the NDIS, and I cannot count how many times I have spoken about the taxi voucher scheme in this place.

There has been an ending of it, a reinstatement of it, a reannouncement of it, a change of it, a resetting of it. A number of pieces of communication have gone out to people in the community. There is incredible ambiguity and confusion in the disability community about this scheme, so I have begun to pull this together in one document and I will gladly present it to the minister for disability in the other place, and the Minister for Transport in this place, to see if we can work with the community to ensure that people really have a fair go.

As we know, the Community Visitor Scheme, which was started about five years ago by the Labor government, has worked beautifully in order to highlight and, in fact, save the lives of people with disability living in institutionalised care. We have seen a transition of people to different types of care, which is fantastic, but we still know there are issues. What we have seen since the withdrawal of funding from the Community Visitor Scheme and going into NGO and privately owned facilities is a lack of voice for those people and a real risk that issues are not being identified.

We have not heard anything about any reinstatement of or change to that, so we will certainly be working on that this year, as a plan moving forward, to ensure that everybody, no matter where they live, has a voice and equal access to advocacy in this community. A statement was made yesterday that this government has delivered the Disability Inclusion Plan.

This government has delivered the legislation that was started under the previous government two parliaments ago. The document has been delivered. There has been consultation on and conversations about the document. We have not seen any delivery investment at this point. We do not know of any jobs that have been put in place specifically in the department to make sure that this is broadly implemented in an effective way, so I question how committed the government is to actually doing something that ensures real, true and full inclusion for people living with disability. I look forward to hearing about that.

As a woman and as a registered nurse, I thank the Attorney-General for bringing the issues of abortion law and abortion reform to this house. I do not think people understand this until they are fully confronted by it. It is the worst time in someone's life and it should never be part of the legal process. This must be part of the Health Care Act. Abortion care is health care, and that must be spelt out absolutely and finally in South Australia.

For decades, we have been one of the most progressive states in terms of these reforms; let's catch up to the others now. This will be contentious, and many people will be upset by this debate, but I hope that members see why this particular part of the reform is necessary. I am very

pleased to be the person who in this house is carrying the Health Care (Health Access Zones) Amendment Bill, which will make it safe and more dignified for people accessing abortion care.

A big ongoing issue I have as a registered nurse is hospital car parking, but not just for our public sector nurses. As I highlighted in the media last week, with the help of some people who wanted to make a statement, people are having difficulties parking in the Flinders Private overflow car park, which has been made available on DPTI land. There were sudden, last-minute changes to the way they could access that car park. They were being forced to walk down a very dark path with potholes, on dirt, across 10 lanes of Main South Road Darlington upgrade traffic. This has been going on for four years, with many iterations of car parking options.

It was highlighted last week by nurses who have to pay 130 per cent more than they had to two years ago for the privilege of parking, because the government said they were going to reduce hospital car parking costs but they have actually jacked it up. This was reversed. I thank the minister, if the minister was involved in this decision at all, or his officers and his department, for reversing that decision and making access to car parking for nurses in our southern suburbs much safer and easier. It is a great outcome, and it took only two days, which is perfect. Thank you for that.

In summary, the reset is very much a review of what was happening and what is still happening. We have seen things such as council rate capping. It is being done to bring the cost of living down. The best way of doing that is to take away the bin tax because, once you put the bin tax on, council rates went up by 1 per cent to 2 per cent. I do not think it is council rate capping that is the issue. There was the GM modification and there was the shop trading deregulation. All these things are being refreshed.

You say that this is why we have had to spend tens of thousands of dollars on pomp and ceremony, stopping people from being able to access their trams and their public transport and holding up the traffic and the court process because all the judges had to come and sit in the parliament. The MPs are not doing their work, we have started parliament later and we have missed a day. I think it was just an ostentatious waste of time in order for you to shove a couple of bills back on the paper, bills that are not actually going to go anywhere. With that, I conclude my remarks and I thank you for the opportunity of providing an Address in Reply response.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (12:30): I rise in reply to the Governor's address yesterday—and what a wonderfully inspirational address it was. I came away very enthused about the future of the state, both enthused about the future and in wonderful celebration of all the things we had achieved in the first two years. If this address that we enjoyed yesterday is as prophetic as the one we enjoyed almost two years ago, we are in for a wonderful two years ahead of us, a wonderful two years indeed.

It was very pleasing to see a focus by the Governor on bushfires, which of course are dominating national headlines at the moment, both in response to the fires we have had to endure across the country and also as to how we might mitigate the impact of those fires going forward. It is a very important topic of discussion at the moment, and it was pleasing to see the Governor dedicate such precious time to it in his address yesterday. I would like to expand on that and speak about the fires that have impacted the electorate of Narungga within the last couple of months, the impact they have had on both families and businesses at home on the bottom end of Yorke Peninsula.

Members may be aware that since 20 November there have been fires on Yorke Peninsula at Edithburgh and Yorketown, as well as at Price, Maitland, Arthurton and Port Wakefield. The major one dominating the news for a little while started on 20 November—it was one of the first ones of the season, I suspect—near Yorketown. It spread out across a 61-kilometre front and was described by local farmers as one of the most ferocious fires they had ever come across. More than 5,000 hectares were burned, along with 11 homes and a long list, an extensive list, of farm machinery and infrastructure, livestock, horses and poultry.

Thirty-three people were injured, but thankfully no lives were lost, although the fire did get close to taking some lives. We all saw the famous photo in *The Advertiser* of the ute and trailer in a ditch, completely burnt out. How the driver of that ute survived that incident I will never know, but he did. Thankfully, no lives were lost in the fires at the bottom end of the peninsula.

Of course, none of us could know then that the Yorketown and Edithburgh fires were sparked by an electrical fault—but they were. Neither could we know that these were only to be the start of

the devastating bushfire season across our nation that has burnt almost 12 million hectares, killed an estimated one billion native animals, destroyed more than 3,000 homes and tragically seen 33 people lose their lives across our wonderful nation.

In South Australia, some 245,000 hectares have been burnt. While the Yorke Peninsula fires on 20 and 21 November only burnt 5,000 hectares, which may pale in comparison to the more than 210,000 hectares burnt on KI or the 24,000 hectares burnt at Cudlee Creek, as well as the fire in the South-East, no less severe has been the local impact of such fires on the property owners, residents and landholders in and around the townships of Edithburgh and Yorketown who lost their homes and possessions and, in many cases, their life's work. For these people the fear and devastation experienced are the same. They are all on the same road of recovery from what is a significant trauma felt by everyone—individuals, families and landowners—who has lost much and continues today to recover with the assistance of a great many people.

The Yorketown local recovery centre remains open some 10 weeks since the fire started. Just as fierce as the fires were has been the power of the rallying communities of people digging in to help others and the enormous, amazing efforts to raise funds for various appeals. Pleasingly, on the southern Yorke Peninsula, \$60,000 of donations, raised locally directly for those impacted by the Yorketown fires, has begun to be distributed, with applications for assistance closing today.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Wendy Ault from the Police Credit Union, Yorketown, for putting her hand up and organising this local recovery effort, everyone else who made a contribution to that fire fund as well as those who have put their hand up to help in other ways. Well done, Wendy, for making a Police Credit Union bank account available for local donations. Fittingly, the job of assessing just what funds are allocated where from this local fundraising is in the capable hands of members of the local bushfire recovery committee, headed by local recovery centre coordinator Deb Richardson.

I commend the Yorketown local bushfire recovery committee for their considerable work in recent weeks. Their role has been to share information, recognise support and action groups and find solutions. The committee is comprised of community representatives Peter Stockings ('Soxy') and Karen Warren, who has headed up the BlazeAid effort; local farmers Ben Wundersitz and Kay Barlow; Yorke Peninsula council representatives, Mayor Darren Braund, CEO Andrew Cameron and Director Development Services, Roger Brooks; Max Barr from Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board; and Marty Collin from the Weaver Ag Bureau.

What a tremendous support Marty has been for local farmers throughout this whole ordeal. The committee also includes Mary-Anne Young from PIRSA, Captain Karen Armstrong from the Salvation Army, plus SAPOL and Department of Health representatives. It has been pleasing to sit in on their meetings on a couple of occasions and hear how well they are working together and how well they are serving their community in their recovery efforts. I commend all involved on the committee. May it continue to provide great recovery services to the people who have been affected by that fire.

I can also advise that the local recovery committee is hosting a community check-in on 14 February, which I am looking forward to attending at Yorketown. It will certainly be a valuable social gathering as well as another opportunity to further assess the value of efforts so far and how the area and local people in it are recovering. I would encourage everyone who has been affected to get to that local gathering. If they have any concerns or issues of any nature that need further addressing, please make them known at that event.

I can advise that the state government's personal hardships grant program, which opened the day after the fires on 21 November, offering emergency cash for adults and children forced to evacuate, has been closed and replaced with the recovery payments programs. As of 28 January, 374 personal hardship grants totalling over \$175,000 had been issued for the Yorketown fire. I can tell members of this place that it was wonderfully well appreciated by the local people that that money was so readily available to them when they were needing it most. It was pleasing to see that it was wheeled out without a great deal of bureaucracy, without a great deal of hindrance or paperwork.

It was very well appreciated, as I said, by those who needed it at that time. I commend the government and the minister for making that money available at such short notice and so quickly. As

I said, I was pleased to see this assistance swiftly coordinated, along with the recovery hotline opened and a full recovery centre operational within 72 hours of the fire starting. Local recovery coordinator Deb Richardson was appointed to coordinate all the efforts and assistance services.

They came from far and wide to help. People just appeared to help feed the fireys, house them, offer clothing and emergency supplies for those forced to evacuate. Farm units rallied, as did SA Police, SES, MFS, SA Ambulance Service, St John's volunteers, Salvation Army, SA Housing Authority staff, Red Cross, social clubs, sporting clubs, progress associations and local businesses. Everyone rallied to help, and it was wonderful to see everyone rallying around the community in need at their most dire time. Soon after, more federal disaster recovery payments and income support were made available and a PIRSA hotline was up and running for animal and livestock issues.

BlazeAid started arriving. What a great organisation and charity BlazeAid is. I have to admit, ashamedly, I was a little bit unaware of the work that BlazeAid did prior to this fire, but, having seen them in action now, I can attest to the wonderful work they do. I can tell you, after having talked to many farmers who have needed their assistance, their work is wonderfully appreciated.

In the wake of a fire like that, fencing is a job that no-one wants. To have a team of volunteers ready to lend a hand and do all the dirty work, help clean up the wire and fence posts and then install new wiring and new fence posts going forward is well appreciated. I can tell you that one farmer who needed help was brought to tears by the generosity of those volunteers who had travelled from far and wide and set up their caravans in a little community being housed at the Light Church in Edithburgh ready to help.

I did a day with BlazeAid myself. I am more used to office jobs than hard work, as many in this place will know. I thought they were having a lend of me when my first job was getting down on my guts with an empty tuna tin, fishing out loose gravel from the bottom of fence post holes ready for the installation of the fence posts. Those were the deepest holes out of all of them, at the end of the day. I spent the first half of the day fishing out loose gravel from the bottom of fence post holes. I did not enjoy it a great deal, but it was pleasing to help out a farmer in need.

We then got onto the job of actually installing the fence posts, which was far more rewarding, as we could see the fence being erected and coming together. We did almost three kilometres worth of fencing—holes, wire, posts and all—that day and it was really pleasing to join in with a team of mostly local volunteers, at that point, who had come from surrounding towns like Point Turton, Edithburgh and other towns like that just to lend a hand. They were unaffected, but they appreciated that these farmers needed their help, and they came from local communities to help out. It was wonderful to join in with those people.

I would also like to pay tribute to the farm home that miraculously dodged the fire. The fire had burnt all around it and singed the back door, but somehow they managed to save the house. The lady who lived there welcomed the whole BlazeAid team that was on the fence line that day into her house and made us all burgers for lunch and wonderful homemade scones with homemade jam for dessert. It was really a nice break from fishing loose gravel out of the bottom of fence post holes.

It was a wonderful experience and I came away really appreciative and really cognisant of the fact that BlazeAid does fantastic work and it is really well appreciated by the farmers. If anyone in this chamber feels particularly inclined to help, I would suggest that BlazeAid is a particularly productive way in which they can do that. If they are so inclined and willing to get their hands dirty, that is a recommendation that I would readily make. Congratulations to everyone who has served so far in BlazeAid around the state.

So much has been said today about the bravery displayed by the CFS and its volunteers and the exhausting and amazing work of firefighters across the state this bushfire season. To be frank, no praise is high enough for them. The efforts of the CFS and farmers who fought the fires on Yorke Peninsula in November were no different. On 20 November, you will recall, half the state experienced catastrophic fire weather conditions, with the remaining areas rated as severe or extreme. On that day, the CFS responded to over 60 fires at Price on the YP, where 290 hectares burnt; Appila in the Mid North; Beaufort in the Mid North; Yorketown on Yorke Peninsula; Finnis on the Fleurieu; and Angaston in the Barossa. It was a busy day for the CFS indeed.

But the Yorketown fire, with its 61-kilometre perimeter, was by far the largest and most dangerous on that day, with over 47 appliances and 250 firefighters committed to it at its height. To give an indication of the scale of the effort, there were 53 CFS brigades that responded to the Yorketown fires, without whom the result would have been far worse, and they came from far and wide. At nearby Port Wakefield, there were another 67 crews, 14 appliances, three water carriers and two fixed-wing aerial bombers. Thank God for the fixed-wing aerial bombers. At Price, of course, fighting a grassfire at the same time were another 100 firefighters, 18 trucks and three aircraft.

The justified praise of the local CFS for literally saving our towns has been loud throughout the weeks, as we all watched in horror at what occurred in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island. I want to touch on 'literally saving our towns' because, upon visiting Edithburgh with the Premier and the Minister for Emergency Services, we were able to witness firsthand how close the fire got to the township of Edithburgh.

A house on the edge of town adjoins what used to be a wonderfully bountiful wheat crop. The entirety of that crop had been burnt out, with only burnt seed lying on the ground, and the fences torched. While still standing, they were clearly and obviously burnt and destroyed. The Colorbond fence that bordered the wheat crop and the house was black on one side but remained its usual cream colour on the other side—that is how close it got. It literally burnt the side of the fence before it got to the house. If that house had taken off, who knows how it would have gone through the town after that, so those CFS volunteers and firefighters literally saved the town, I suspect. As I said, there is no praise high enough for them.

There were firefighters there battling to contain fires for six unrelenting weeks, all stretching to breaking point. Their efforts across the state have been staggering. As I stated in my speech to this house on 26 November, the CFS crews and farmers who literally risk life and limb to help others are genuine heroes and no words can fully convey how grateful and inspired multiple communities across the YP are for their efforts on the southern part on 20 November, so amazing were their skills and dedication.

I commend, too, the ongoing significant efforts of Livestock SA, which has been coordinating the donated fodder to KI from their makeshift camp at the Cape Jervis depot. My office has been inundated with inquiries about this effort, and I commend all local growers who I am aware have directly assisted in fighting fires on KI, have helped clean up and who have donated hay to help their island neighbours.

I had the solemn privilege of visiting KI recently. As I said, there were a number of Yorke Peninsula farmers who went over to help with the clean-up efforts, and one was courteous enough to call and invite me over for the day so that I had the opportunity to witness the destruction and despair that had been brought upon that island. I accepted the offer with the caveat that I did not want to get in the way of the clean-up effort. I was only going over there if I could be of some use, so it was pleasing to get over there and help those YP farmers who were on the island doing something productive.

While we were over there we travelled around the entirety of the island and it was just staggering, particularly in Flinders Chase, to see the destruction. You could stand in the middle of that national park and turn around 360° and not see anything alive for as far as you could see. It was really alarming. At the same time it was remarkable to see how houses had been saved in the middle of fire grounds. As I said, it was a solemn privilege to get over there and witness that, and I thank those farmers, some of whom have land over there, for showing me around.

One lasting memory, amongst many lasting memories I will take away from that visit, is driving around and periodically seeing big piles of dirt that had been removed from the ground. After a couple I asked what they might be and was informed the dirt was from the holes the sheep had been buried in; it no longer fitted back in the hole because of the vast quantity of sheep. To see the size of those piles of dirt and the number of sheep it must have taken to displace that was truly breathtaking and staggering.

That visit to KI was a real eye-opener for me, and to speak to people who were over there fighting the fire when it happened was important for me to do. I am glad I went in the end, and I am

pleased to report that I did not get in the way. I also learnt a lot to improve processes to better prepare us for future emergencies and disasters.

As the recovery continues and as reviews of efforts formally commence, there will be much more to assess. I would like to raise a couple of issues that have been brought up with my office, including ways in which we can improve going forward. Issues that have been raised by volunteers and farm fire units include communication procedures; CFS vehicle technology and tracking; firebreaks management, which is a big issue I took away from my visit to Kangaroo Island; assistance for fodder donors (I have highlighted Livestock SA and PIRSA's work on that); water access and replacement for fighting fires; and ideas I will pass on that have been brought to me about how to improve coordination of bushfire assistance grants and qualifying criteria.

The independent review announced by the Premier on 28 January will be valuable. It will rightly look into SA's preparedness for dealing with significant bushfire activity, and I encourage participation by everyone. I would like to commend the tax and fee relief measures made available by the state government, as well as the assistance for volunteer firefighters, who have put in time volunteering in the current fire season and who have incurred great personal financial costs.

The Volunteer Firefighters' Financial Support Program commenced on 23 January, offering eligible volunteer firefighters who are self-employed or employed by small to medium businesses payments of up to \$300 per day tax free and not means tested. I was pleased, too, that in mid-January Yorke Peninsula Council was included as an eligible LGA area to receive grants of up to \$75,000 for farmers and \$10,000 for small businesses.

This additional assistance, provided through the jointly-funded commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements will be most welcome to those in desperate need. It has been incredible to have so many volunteers and support people working so hard across the state and our country, undertaking myriad tasks, from fire containment to wildlife and habitat assistance, to driving fodder relief and fundraising. All these efforts are deserving of all the support government can provide.

As one of the local SYP people impacted, I will not forget the descriptions they relayed of watching their homes being engulfed in flames, of racing through blackness to the Edithburgh tidal pool for shelter, unable to even see the beach or find the boat ramp, escaping just in time with only the clothes on their back, packing their cars with what they could stuff in them and congregating on the beach parking bays, hearing of the numbers of livestock killed, of tractors engulfed in flames, of the collective community cheer that went up when the Boeing 737 dropped 15,000 litres of fire retardant to protect the Yorketown township.

Locals have told of fire literally lapping at the doorsteps of the homes in Edithburgh and of the firefighters, ambulance crews, SAPOL, SES and council staff who assisted them have been described as heroes who ensured no lives were lost. On behalf of the Narungga people, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the efforts of so many special people. Now that I have concluded that part of my speech, I would like to touch on a couple of other things mentioned in the Governor's address, particularly the success that we have had as a government over the past nearly two years.

We have had tremendous and well overdue success securing road funding for the electorate of Narungga, including \$3½ million for the entrance to Kadina from Moonta, a road that was notoriously bumpy and without drainage for a long period of time. I know it has been a council priority for a long period of time, so to see that road being done up in what is quite a heavy business district is wonderfully pleasing. It is pleasing for me that it was delivered so quickly, particularly after having taken the minister there to demonstrate the need for it.

Even more pleasing, I suspect, for people who live anywhere south of the central part of Yorke Peninsula, is an eight-kilometre stretch of the Maitland to Minlaton Road, which has been completely resealed. This road is notorious amongst locals and truck drivers who deliver grain to port as a particularly bad road, and it is alleged by local people that it is right up there amongst the worst roads in the state. They may well be biased—who knows. It is pleasing that eight kilometres of that stretch of about 40 kilometres is done, so we are well on the way to fixing that problem, which had well and truly been ignored, at least for the prior 16 years.

There has also been heavy maintenance done on Highway 1, which is another bugbear of many local people who have to go back and forth to Adelaide regularly. I would like to commend federal member Rowan Ramsey for his advocacy in ensuring that that part of the road is updated and made more safe. Also, wonderful work has been done for those who deliver grain to Port Giles, with improvements to the road there to make their truck trip safer, and stock to the Dublin saleyards, which is the beneficiary of an \$11 million investment to make access easier for trucks with large stock loads. Both of those will make it easier for our primary producers to get their product to port, and I commend the government and the minister for their excellent work in delivering that.

One of the priorities of the local population in Narungga for some time has been health care. After the disaster of Transforming Health, it is pleasing to see real inroads being made into the service provision of health in the electorate of Narungga. It gives me great pleasure to report that the work on the surgical theatre at Yorketown Hospital will commence in the immediate future.

This will be a wonderful addition to a hospital that does a great job of servicing a population of largely retired people who need access to these sorts of provisions more often, who like to have them locally and do not like to travel the 3½ hours to Adelaide. It is pleasing that this health minister sees fit to provide those services locally instead of just shuttering hospitals all over the country and making people drive to Adelaide.

It is wonderful for the Yorketown people and wonderful for the SYP people, and we will keep going and deliver better health services for our regional communities. We are also pleased to report that \$2.6 million was spent to upgrade Lumeah Homes in Snowtown, which was left to rack and ruin and has now been upgraded to meet safety standards, which it previously did not meet—a wonderful investment there.

Finally, in terms of hospitals, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the minister. Community-owned hospitals are a difficult proposition for a health budget, which is already an extensive part of the overall budget, but the minister in the other place, the Hon. Stephen Wade, was able to find over \$700,000 for the Ardrossan Community Hospital accident and emergency services, which is really well appreciated by the local community board that run the hospital. They were having a hard time making ends meet when uninsured patients presented. You cannot turn them away—you have to treat them—and this money will ensure that they can continue to do that.

It has been a wonderful period in our electorate after so many years, in securing road funding, which we have been waiting for, and securing health funding, which we have been waiting for. I would like to commend this government and the ministers for the work they have done in securing that. I would like to touch on one or two more things in my brief time remaining. There has been a great announcement recently, and it is subject to an upcoming motion, of an investment by this government in our beautiful coastline around this state. The electorate of Narungga has been a wonderful beneficiary of that grant program as well.

Considerable money has been allocated to flood protection works at Port Clinton. At high tide, that township is subject to extreme flooding; we should be able to prevent that and keep the bottom floors of homes safe into the future. There is also well over \$50,000 to address sand drift and sand retention issues at North Beach, which is the bugbear of people who live on the beachfront and who constantly have to empty out their porches and front verandahs. There is also almost \$40,000 to the Barunga West council for their design protection works at Port Broughton. It is wonderful that we have improvements for road infrastructure in Narungga, improvements in health finally in Narungga and that there is work being done on our coastline as well.

I want to conclude by saying to the people of Narungga that I remain committed to highlighting to as many people as I can, and as often as possible, that regional South Australia is home to less than 30 per cent of the state's population yet contributes some \$26 billion to the state's economy. A big part of that is the thriving agricultural industry, and policy and investment must reflect the vital importance of farmers and the primary production sector to the economies of our nation and state.

This year, I particularly look forward to the continued work being done by the Marshall Liberal government on the state's first regional development strategy; on the new grains industry blueprint, in recognition that our state's 4,500 grain farmers last year contributed an estimated \$4.2 billion to

our state's economy; and now on the new beef and sheep industry blueprints, supported by \$7.5 million for the red meat and wool industry growth program, in recognition that our red meat and wool industry is South Australia's largest manufacturing employer, supporting 30,000 jobs.

I really enjoyed and was inspired by the Governor's address yesterday. I look forward to the forthcoming success that it hopefully brings. It was very pleasing that the Governor touched on the wonderful successes of the government over the past two years, noting of course that we are almost at the halfway point of this government's first term. I thought it was very exciting to hear the vision he outlined for the future of this state going forward.

I am looking forward to being part of the government and continuing to work cohesively with the ministers to ensure that Narungga gets its fair share going forward. We certainly have enjoyed a greater share of the benefits than previously, particularly the previous 16 years, during which the share we received was an abysmal reflection on the government's priorities and city-centric thought processes. It now being exceedingly close to lunchtime, I conclude my remarks.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:57): I also welcome the opportunity to reply to His Excellency the Governor's opening remarks in parliament. As it is just a short period of time before lunch, I will soon ask to resume my remarks after question time and grievances. However, I want to highlight one key thing and that is the former member for Finniss and his role in the bushfires on Kangaroo Island.

Michael Pengilly, as mayor, I believe has done an amazing job in the work he has done on the island under enormous stress. I have spoken to him many times over the last few weeks. He has finally come to the point where he is able to relax a little bit and not operate on pure adrenaline. The work he has put in as a leader of his community needs to be recognised, and we need to congratulate him on the work that he has done for that community.

It is very hard for someone who knows so many people to go through what he has gone through. His friends have lost houses. He has lost friends and neighbours through the unfortunate loss of two lives on the island. He certainly is someone who has done a wonderful job for his community. With those few comments, I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Petitions

PORT AUGUSTA CITY SAFE PROGRAM

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining): Presented a petition signed by 36 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to earnestly consider future funding of the Port Augusta City Safe program as an adjunct to the law and health provisions of the state budget.

Members

SENATOR, ELECTION

The SPEAKER (14:15): I lay on the table the minutes of the joint sitting of the two houses for the choosing of a senator to hold the place rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Cory Bernardi, to which the Hon. Andrew McLachlan was appointed.

Ordered to be published.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee is called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth is called to order.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, please be quiet.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Economic and Finance Committee Inquiry into South Australian Investment Attraction Policies—Government Response 2019

Remuneration Tribunal—

No. 13 of 2019—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Judicial Case Management and Ethics Programme Determination 2019

No. 13 of 2019—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Judicial Case Management and Ethics Programme Report

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

Urban Renewal Authority (trading as Renewal SA)—Charter 2019

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Heavy Vehicle National Amendment Regulation 2019 under the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 of Queensland—Miscellaneous

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Genetically Modified Crops Management—Designation of Area No 2

The SPEAKER: Before I call for questions without notice, I am advised that the opposition had 29 questions yesterday.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I asked for that.

Question Time

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. Did the member for Waite slap a female member of parliament on the backside on Friday 13 December?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:18): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. That is going to be the subject of the investigation which is currently underway.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: This process was put in place last year and my understanding is that there is not long to wait. I wasn't at the crossbench drinks at the time of the incident. I had attended earlier in the afternoon before our end of season event—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —which was held in the Members' Dining Room, but I wasn't present at the time and that's exactly and precisely the reason that this process has been put in place.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Reynell, Badcoe and Morphett. Leader.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier asked the member for Waite if he slapped a female member of parliament on the backside on 13 December last year?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:19): I have canvassed this matter in the press. I have spoken with the member for Waite when I first became aware—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —of the situation of the unacceptable behaviour which occurred on 13 December last year, and that's exactly and precisely why the process was put in place late last year. An investigator has been put in place and I don't think we have long to wait for that investigation to be complete.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): My question is to the Premier. Why has the Premier not asked the member for Waite if he did hit a member of parliament on the backside on Friday 13 December?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:19): I think I have answered that question twice now. There is an investigation that is underway—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and I am perfectly satisfied with that investigation which is underway.

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth is warned.

STATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT

Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:19): My question is to the Premier.

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Ramsay is called to order. I would like to hear the member for King's question, just as I like to hear all your questions. Member for King.

Ms LUETHEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Can the—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for King, please pause. Member for Lee, you are giving me no other option but to warn you.

Ms LUETHEN: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on how the government will continue to deliver for South Australians in this new session of parliament?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:20): I thank the member for King for her excellent question, and I—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Settle!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —appreciate the opportunity to outline to the house—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Settle! Members on my left, I don't understand the provocation. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —the agenda which we have for this Second Session—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call. Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament of South Australia. I must say, so all those—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier, please be seated for one moment. The member for Badcoe is warned. The member for Mawson has been well behaved today; I thank him for that. I would like to hear the Premier's answer. Premier.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Thank you very much, sir. It's extraordinary, isn't it, the level of excitement from those opposite when we talk about the achievements of this government continuing to deliver for the people of South Australia?

Ms Stinson: So much anticipation for so little.

The SPEAKER: The member for Badcoe is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I must say, it was an honour for us yesterday to have His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, here to open the Second Session of the—

The Hon. A. Piccolo interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Light!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —Fifty-Fourth Parliament here in South Australia. He outlined the government's agenda for the rest of this session. I must say that it's an exciting—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —agenda that he outlined. Of course, principal amongst that agenda is the continuation—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to deliver on our strong plan for real change in South Australia: more jobs, lower costs and better services. That will always remain a focus, but more than that—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —I thought it was excellent that His Excellency—

Ms Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hurtle Vale!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —outlined that the government of South Australia would be reintroducing the legislation which failed to pass the first session of this parliament—

Mr Hughes interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Giles!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —which was really responding to the needs of the people of South Australia. In particular, I refer to shop trading hours deregulation, where it's quite clear that the people of South Australia want further deregulation of shop trading hours, council rate capping and, of course, a lifting of the GM moratorium in South Australia outside of Kangaroo Island.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I can't believe those opposite are standing in the way of these particular policies, which we know the people of South Australia want. We know that they are going to deliver increased economic activity for our state, more jobs for our state, put more money in the pockets of South Australians, yet they are being blocked by those opposite. We will not be deterred. In fact, in the speech yesterday His Excellency—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —outlined the government's agenda to massively invest in productive infrastructure here in South Australia: \$12.9 billion over the next four years. We are very proud of that. Principal amongst that of course is the completion of the north-south corridor, a very important program for the people of our state. It doesn't stop there—

Ms Stinson: Why are you still delaying it then? Why do you need so many studies before you can decide something?

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Badcoe!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: The completion of the electrification of the Gawler line, which was something that was on-off, on-off, now it's back on again and it's going to happen. It's going to be delivered with a good Liberal government. We are excited about the delivery of the rail line going through to the Flinders University. We know that this is going to be a massive advantage to Flinders University. Removal of level crossings, upgrading of metropolitan intersections—so many positive programs; \$12.9 billion—

Dr Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to stimulate economic activity. We are also delivering on the continuation of delivering lower costs for the people of South Australia. We started with the removal of payroll tax for small business in South Australia and halving the emergency services levy in South Australia. These are important programs. We are very focused—

Ms Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hurtle Vale!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —on lowering water prices in South Australia and stopping the rort presided over by those sitting on the opposition benches. Long may they stay on those benches because they were a danger to the hip pocket of every ordinary South Australian when they were in with their outrageous rort—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —the outrageous water pricing rort inflicted by those opposite. They had no shame—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —whatsoever. We are fixing up your mess. Do not worry about it anymore. Of course, we are putting downward pressure on electricity prices in South Australia. It's

already underway and they hate it. They absolutely hate it every day of the week, but we are getting on with doing those things that we were elected to do to govern on behalf of the people of South Australia. We are very focused on all the things that we know the people of our state so richly deserve.

The SPEAKER: Can the leader be seated just for one moment. Before I call the leader, I have to call the member for Reynell to order, the member for Playford and I warn him, the member for Hurtle Vale and I warn her, and the member for Ramsay. The Leader of the Opposition is warned, as is the Minister for Education. I call to order the member for Narungga.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): My question is to the Premier. Did the member for Waite make racist, sexually explicit or homophobic comments to any other members of parliament or any other members of parliamentary staff on Friday 13 December last year?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:25): As I have previously outlined to the parliament, I wasn't at that function at the time that the alleged incidents occurred and that is exactly and precisely why a process was put in place in December last year. I support that process. An investigator has been appointed last month and that investigation is underway at the moment. I won't be commenting on it any further.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier asked the member for Waite if he made racist, sexually explicit or homophobic comments to members of parliament or staff on Friday 13 December and, if not, why not?

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

Ms Stinson: Show some leadership.

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

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): Given that the Premier has not asked—

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: the use of the phrase 'given that' again presupposes a hypothetical and is out of order under standing order 97.

The SPEAKER: I respectfully advise the Minister for Transport, as I did the Minister for Education, that I would like those sorts of points of order towards the conclusion of the answer. But the leader does know better. I will give him one opportunity to rephrase and then I am switching to the member for Narungga.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: My question is to the Premier. For what did the Premier ask the member for Waite to apologise?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:27): This has been already in the public domain, but I'm happy to provide it again to the parliament. When I became—

Mr Malinauskas: Answer the question.

The SPEAKER: Leader, you are warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: When I became aware of an incident that occurred on Friday 13 December, I contacted the member for Waite and I asked him whether his recollection of events concurred with those that had been reported to me. He indicated that his behaviour—

Mr Picton: What were they?

The SPEAKER: Member for Kurna!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —on that night was unacceptable. I suggested to him that he make an immediate apology and, to the best of my knowledge, that is exactly and precisely what he tried to do. My understanding is that he has now given a direct apology and a public apology for his behaviour on that evening, which was completely and utterly unacceptable. They are the facts that have been put into the public domain and they have been supported by the member for Waite, who also says that the actions on that night were unacceptable.

Ms Stinson: So you don't know what he did, but he had to apologise.

The SPEAKER: The member for Badcoe is on two warnings and continues to interject. Member for Badcoe, you can leave today, please, for half an hour under 137A.

The honourable member for Badcoe having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: Leader, I am going to the member for Narungga. I will come back to you. You have plenty of time to think of your next one. Member for Narungga.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:28): My question is to the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr ELLIS: —Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Can the minister please update the house on South Australia's fully funded pipeline of infrastructure worth \$12.9 billion over four years?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:28): I do thank—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —the member for Narungga for this question. I do note that there is some \$125 million worth of that \$12.9 billion that is being spent on arguably the most important infrastructure project for his electorate, that being the Port Wakefield duplication and overpass—a project that was thought of previously. In fact, it was thought of for a generation but is something that this government was able to deliver within the first few months of coming to government.

On that front, we will see the awarding of that contract start very, very soon. The land acquisition process is in its final stages and we are getting on and delivering this project amongst a \$12.9 billion program for the people of South Australia.

First up, you have to ask, 'Why is it that we build these things?' We don't build these things simply because they're nice things to look at: we build them because they create jobs. That is precisely what we told South Australians we would do and that is precisely what we are getting on and delivering—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford is on two warnings.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —\$12.9 billion, a huge record. A record some \$800 million or \$900 million over what any previous record was over a four-year period we are injecting into the economy to create jobs. What it also does is deliver better services by allowing people to get to and from where they want to go that much more quickly. What we have also done, and one of the great achievements of the first session of this parliament, is to deliver Infrastructure South Australia. Instead of delivering pet projects in marginal seats around electoral cycles, what we will deliver—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —is infrastructure that South Australia needs based on evidence, based on what the experts say we need to be doing, so that we can drive that dollar as far and as hard as we can to deliver as much benefit to South Australians as possible. There is a lot that is now going to happen over this second session of this parliament.

The Premier did allude to a number of projects that are underway at the moment, but over the course of this year we will see construction commence on those seven metropolitan intersections that are going to help ease congestion right across metropolitan Adelaide to make our network work that much better. We are already in the land acquisition stage on a number of those projects and in the design phase on all those projects, and we will see diggers in the ground over the coming months creating jobs for South Australians.

For the two level crossings in Ovingham and Hove, we are in that consultation and design phase to make sure we get those two projects right. I do note they were part of the former government's agenda, but there was just one small part of the puzzle that was missing, and that was the money to deliver the projects. It is all well and good to deliver billions of dollars worth of infrastructure—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Kaurana is warned.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —without cash in the budget to be able to deliver them. But that is what we put on the table—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —a funded pipeline of \$12.9 billion worth of infrastructure for South Australia. Perhaps the most important work we will do over this session of the parliament is fixing around 10 per cent of our country roads in South Australia that had been left in a disastrous mess by those opposite for some two decades. We are fixing 1,000 kilometres of road in regional South Australia, a huge down payment on creating jobs, on saving lives and helping to inject money into regional communities that have for so long delivered productively for our state but have not had the benefit of a government willing to reinvest in them.

This government also has huge investments it is making in education infrastructure, in health infrastructure, in prison infrastructure, all of which were highlighted in the Governor's speech. What the South Australian people can come to understand from this government is that we deliver the infrastructure they need, create the jobs they so strongly desire and, in doing so, create a better South Australia, a more livable city, a more livable state and something that delivers better services for them and for their families.

The SPEAKER: The members for Lee, Kaurana and Ramsay are all warned. The Leader of the Opposition.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): My question is to the Premier. What actions were totally unacceptable from the member for Waite?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33): I think they have been well canvassed in the press.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Member for Light is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: They are that he was intoxicated at an event that occurred here in Parliament House, and his behaviour was unacceptable and caused offence.

The Hon. A. Piccolo interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Light, I am trying to give your leader another question. I am trying to listen to his question, but when you interject it is hard to do so—

Mr MALINAUSKAS: My question is—

The SPEAKER: —I haven't called you yet—so you are warned for a second time. Leader, you have the call.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): My question is to the Premier. What behaviour did the member for Waite conduct that was unacceptable?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33): It's like they are asking the same question over and over again. That behaviour is the subject of the investigation. We are having this investigation to get to exactly and precisely what occurred. That is underway at the moment. We don't have long to wait.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It is an interesting one for me because—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader continues to interject and she is warned. The Premier has the call. Opposition members, I advise that the leader has asked the question and you are entitled to hear the answer.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It is interesting because the deputy leader and the Leader of the Opposition were out there in the public domain saying that there needs to be an investigation. So an investigation is put in place. Interestingly, it's exactly and precisely the methodology used by those opposite when they were in government when they had multiple claims of bullying and intimidation—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —against former and current members of this parliament; exactly and precisely the same methodology, but now not only did they want an investigation but they wanted a different type of investigation. I'm satisfied that the investigation that has been put in place by you, sir, is an appropriate investigation and there is not long to wait, and we will see the results of that in the coming weeks.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Light, I am going to respectfully ask you to depart the chamber for half an hour for repeated interjections, and when he does the Leader of the Opposition will have one more question and then we will move to the member for Morphett.

The honourable member for Light having withdrawn from the chamber:

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier rule out discussing the private investigation that the Speaker is conducting with the Speaker?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:35): I have been very clear on this. I was informed, obviously, about what the Speaker was doing once the decision was made, but if you're suggesting that there was some discussion before the decision was made, no, that is incorrect.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: A supplementary.

The SPEAKER: I have promised the member for Morphett. I will come back to the leader.

ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing. Can the minister update the house on the success of the Adelaide International?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:36): I thank the member for his great question and note what a wonderful forehand he has, plenty of top spin, a great slice backhand, a very crafty player who was on display, I must say, at the Adelaide International. What a time for tennis in South Australia, what a time for sport in South Australia and what a time for South Australia.

'Build it and they will come,' and we built it and they came. South Australia has played home to world-class tennis before but, as we saw in January this year, there has never been a more exciting time for tennis in our state. The Marshall government has delivered yet again and we're not stopping anytime soon. I think you will agree that the new roof that we have on Memorial Drive and that precinct was absolutely fantastic and it served our community wonderfully well.

The works commenced in May last year and to deliver such a great project is a compliment to all. The Marshall Liberal government invested \$10 million in that precinct to redevelop Memorial Drive and to deliver ATP and WTA tennis to the drive for the first time in a decade. Having such a big event was proof that that investment brought world-class facilities and world-class athletes to South Australia.

This is the first time that a major international has been played in Adelaide since 2008. We had the men's event back then, but we have never had a women's event before, and to see the class of talent on display in South Australia was truly awe inspiring. It has been inspiring to young women as well to have the WTA event here in South Australia. I spoke to a number of young women and girls who were overjoyed at having those athletes here in South Australia. It was sensational.

Of course, we saw the likes of world No. 1 Ash Barty—and didn't she deliver, too?—the first female to win a title on home soil in just about a decade. Wimbledon champ, world No. 4 Simona Halep as well as young gun Canadian Felix Auger Aliassime were some of the big names who arrived in South Australia. Tennis at Memorial Drive made for exceptional viewing for the thousands of people who attended the seven-day event, but it also put our city and our state on the global stage once again, with broadcasts streamed to over 200 countries.

As we know, showing the world what our state has to offer is more important now than ever before. The tragic fires over recent weeks, particularly in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island, have devastated families, homes and livelihoods. World-class sporting events such as the Adelaide International help to draw in visitors from across Australia and the world, and our doors are open to the regions as well.

The Adelaide International event is a major part of the Marshall government's strategy to increase visitation to South Australia and grow our tourism industry, benefiting our state's economy as a whole. January's tournament has provided a further boost to the state's already booming \$7.6 billion visitor economy and supported the creation of more local jobs. This event once again reinforces Adelaide as a must visit holiday destination.

For 2020, the Marshall government has three priorities to deliver in sport. We have our Game On, which is getting South Australia active; the grants review, secondly; and, thirdly, the South Australian Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan. The development of the state Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan will identify infrastructure needed to support sports participation from the grassroots right through to the elite, and we know how neglected that was by those opposite. As a government, we want to develop facilities for the future, facilities that will fill current gaps and that are accessible and encourage all South Australians to live an active and healthy lifestyle.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Kaurua is on two warnings.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: The plan will include feedback received from a wideranging community engagement process, and we look forward to delivering more great outcomes like the

roof on Memorial Drive so that South Australians can have great events and take part in wonderful physical activity.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): My question is to the Premier. If the Premier hasn't discussed the investigation with the Speaker, then why did the Premier state on ABC radio this morning in relation to other witnesses that his—

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: use of the word 'if' and seeking to insert some sort of transcript from an ABC radio interview is out of order under standing order 97.

The SPEAKER: Standing order 97, 'Such questions not to involve argument,' does say:

In putting any such question, a Member may not offer argument or opinion, nor may a Member offer any facts except by leave of the House...

I do believe respectfully, to the honourable Leader of the Opposition, that he is doing that, so I do uphold the point of order, but in the interests of fairness, as I try to be in this chair, I will offer the leader an opportunity to rephrase.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: Or you could seek leave.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Energy and Mining, helpful as usual, and you are called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! One is enough, member for Lee. Leader.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: My question is to the Premier. Why did the Premier state on ABC radio this morning in relation to other witnesses that his understanding is nobody has come forward and said—

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

Mr MALINAUSKAS: —we want to be included—

The SPEAKER: Leader—

Mr MALINAUSKAS: —considering he hasn't spoken to the Speaker about the investigation?

The SPEAKER: Leader, your predecessor would have done far worse to you than I am about to do to you if you were in that position. I ask that same question. You know better. I have made a point of order. I am going to ask you to leave. I know you are the Leader of the Opposition and I give you great credit for that. I am going to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Who wants to go?

The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell: I'll go.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mawson, you can leave for the remainder of question time, and the Leader of the Opposition can leave for half an hour under 137A, and you are lucky you are not named.

The honourable members for Croydon and Mawson having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: I have upheld the point of order. We will move to the member for Colton, and then I will come back to those on my left.

CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Environment. Can the minister update the house on the Marshall Liberal government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and creating a more resilient South Australia in the face of a changing climate?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Yes, yes. The member for Lee and I think it was the member for Kavel—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Right. This is your question time. The time is ticking.

Mr Brown: Apparently it's their question time.

The SPEAKER: This is your question time. The time is ticking. Quite frankly, I ask the temperature to dial down a bit. I am trying to give you as many questions as I can, and it's becoming more and more difficult. The time is still ticking. I would like to hear the question again, and if this behaviour, on my left especially, continues members will be leaving—and my right, quite frankly.

Mr COWDREY: My question again is for the Minister for Environment and Water. Can the minister update the house about the Marshall Liberal government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and creating a more resilient South Australia in the face of a changing climate?

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:43): I thank the member for Colton for that great question.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: There is no doubt that one of the central uplifting themes of the Governor's speech yesterday was our focus, this government's focus, on sustainability, on greening this state and of course securing the resilience of this state in the face of a changing climate. Central to that was our announcement that we want to put into place an interim target on greenhouse gas emissions.

We know that for several years South Australia has had an ambitious target to see net zero emissions by 2050. That was put in place in a bipartisan sense between both major sides of politics in this house, but we want to put in place an interim target to ensure that we have that stretch towards meaningful change when it comes to emissions reductions. The year 2050 is a long way away. We can't afford to sit back and rest on our laurels and hope that closer to that date technology will be in place that will see dramatic reductions in emissions.

Instead, we need to get that 2030 target in place. We announced through the Governor's speech yesterday that we now have a target in place to have a 50 per cent reduction on emissions on 2005 levels by 2030, a great stepping stone towards that net zero target in 2050 and an incredible opportunity for this state to not only lead the nation when it comes to climate action but lead the world, to take an international leadership role, which I believe we have had over many years in this state, and to turbocharge that and head on into the future.

The opportunities for this state are immense. I do not want to just put my hands up as Minister for Environment and say that this is all too hard. Instead, we need to look for opportunities that will create jobs, that will position this state and send a really significant market signal to draw private enterprise to this state. We have seen that already with the battery industry, we have seen it already with renewable energy and storage and we have seen it with our move towards a single-use plastic ban and other waste management initiatives. It is a powerful signal to the market that South Australia is the place to do business if we want to lead the world when it comes to emissions reductions. We can do that.

It was a great pleasure over the summer to be able to do the South Australian launch of Ross Garnaut's book, *Superpower: Australia's Low-Carbon Opportunity*, which puts forward the hypothesis that South Australia—or Australia as a nation, but I target it towards South Australia—really has that opportunity through our low-carbon community and our low-carbon business sector here to be able to provide products, to be able to provide services and to be able to provide the knowledge and understanding required to take that international leadership role.

Businesses from around the world, other jurisdictions, are looking for places in the world that are operating in that very low-carbon place. They want to buy our products, they want that stamp of

approval when it comes to low carbon. The opportunity is tremendous and we are working towards this. We hope that this will have bipartisan support. I know that the environmental NGO sector is supportive. We want to work alongside the business community. We are putting our hand up and saying South Australia has a low-carbon future and we are pushing the boundaries when it comes to achieving that.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:47): My question is to you, Mr Speaker. On what basis did the Speaker inform the house that no complaint had been made to the equal opportunity commissioner as of yesterday?

The SPEAKER (14:47): I thank the deputy leader for her question. I have now made a public advice to the media on 17 January. I made what I thought was quite a comprehensive statement to the house and I think the matter is covered in that statement, especially from yesterday. I appreciate the question by the deputy leader but, respectfully, I don't think I have anything further to add to that statement.

Ms Cook: Can't you answer it?

The SPEAKER: Member for Hurtle Vale, you can leave for the remainder of question time.

Ms Cook: Seriously?

The SPEAKER: Yes. I am well aware that I can name the member and I can always ratchet up these things.

Mr Brown: Is that a threat?

The SPEAKER: No, it's a fact.

The honourable member for Hurtle Vale having withdrawn from the chamber:

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:48): My question is to the Premier. Why did the Premier tell the media that 'there have already been consequences before this inquiry is known. He has resigned from the Economic and Finance Committee'?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:49): I think that has been in the public domain. The member for Waite was the Presiding Member of the Economic and Finance Committee and I think it's very well aware that he has resigned that position. That comes with a very significant financial penalty, which has now been put in place.

Mr Brown: That's not what you said.

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford, helpful as always, you are on two warnings.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:49): Supplementary: why then is the member for Waite still on the Economic and Finance Committee?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:49): My understanding is—and my statement is in the media—that he would resign as the Presiding Member of the Economic and Finance Committee.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Well, if I got that wrong, I am happy to clarify it now. He has resigned as the Chair or the Presiding Member of the Economic and Finance Committee, which comes with a very steep—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —financial penalty. That was put in place and made known in the public I think two or maybe three weeks ago.

The SPEAKER: Respectfully, members, I really don't want to eject any more members, but if I have to, to maintain order, I am quite happy to.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:50): My question is to the Premier. Is it ever acceptable for a man to slap or grab a woman on the backside uninvited?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:50): No, I don't think it is, and this is why we have called out the behaviour which has been reported as being completely and utterly unacceptable. I do note again for the record that the member for Waite also found his behaviour on that evening unacceptable and has issued a direct apology and a broader apology; and now, of course, as we all are more than aware, there is an investigation which is currently underway.

This process was put in place last year. My understanding is that it hasn't got too much longer to run and, once that information is known, we will have a much clearer picture of precisely what occurred on that evening.

ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTOR

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the South Australia-New South Wales interconnector and the benefits the project will have on the state's energy system?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:51): Thank you very much to the member for Hammond for his question. Yes, there has been significant progress recently, since parliament last sat.

Members would know that the interconnector is one of several key planks to our energy policy to make sure that South Australians receive more affordable, more reliable and cleaner electricity. There has not been a new interconnector built in South Australia for approximately 20 years, and one of the reasons for that is that there hasn't been an interconnector proposal that has passed the RIT-T process for approximately 20 years, the regulatory investment test for transmission which the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) requires any proposal to meet.

The AER receives an enormous amount of information from the proponents. In this case, technically the proponent is ElectraNet, the South Australian transmission company, doing that on behalf of ElectraNet and TransGrid, which is the New South Wales transmission company, for the interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales. ElectraNet put in their mid-range case with regard to benefits to the state, which was very attractive. The AER assessed it as thoroughly as they possibly could. They took an enormous amount of submissions, did an enormous amount of work and essentially stress tested it to the max.

They did everything they possibly could to provide as robust and thorough a test to this project as possible, and happily it passed the test. Happily, the Australian Energy Regulator has approved the proposal that has been put forward to it by ElectraNet. Even under the toughest conditions they say that this will be good for both South Australia and New South Wales. Of course, there is still work to be done. There is still now what is called the contingent project application, which is the last step required, where the proponent—in this case, on behalf of both transmission companies—puts forward their final costings to build this interconnector.

So we are not over the line yet. There is an enormous amount of work still to be done, but we have developed this project further than any other project that the Australian energy market has progressed for about 20 years—so it is very good news. It's good news because this will help deliver cheaper, more reliable and more affordable electricity for South Australians.

It is often said by those opposite that all this will be is an extension cord to New South Wales. While at times of course we will be very pleased to import cheaper electricity from New South Wales, we will export renewable energy, clean energy, from South Australia into New South Wales far more often than we will import their electricity. However, the reality is that these things don't work if it's not

good for both states. These things don't work if there isn't going to be two-way traffic. So, of course, we are going to have both, but we will export far more into New South Wales than we will import.

Interestingly at the moment, as members may know, the Heywood interconnector is down because of some difficulties in Victoria. This only highlights in even greater clarity why we need this new additional interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales. We have interconnection already with Victoria. We are very grateful to have it. It is an enormous help to South Australia, but the interconnector to New South Wales will be even more help. It will be more interconnection with another state, another market—spread the risk, grow the benefits.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:55): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise why the member for Waite publicly committed to resigning from all his committee positions when that hasn't happened?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:55): I don't have information on that—

Dr Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader has asked a question. She is interjecting. She is warned for a second time.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I don't have the specific transcript of what the deputy leader is referring to.

MEMBERS' BEHAVIOUR

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:55): My question is to the Premier. Should any parliamentarian who engages in sexual assault or sexual harassment immediately resign?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: this question is a hypothetical and offends standing order 97.

The SPEAKER: Point of order on the point order.

Mr BROWN: It is clearly not a hypothetical question asking for the Premier's views.

The SPEAKER: I am going to allow an answer. Would someone like to answer on my right?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:56): Sorry, can you repeat the question?

Dr CLOSE: Does the Premier accept that any parliamentarian who engages in sexual assault or harassment should immediately resign?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We need to ascertain what the facts are in each individual case that the deputy leader is referring to.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: There is a broad range of issues. Harassment—there were multiple accusations of harassment under the former government. We know that for a fact.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I think that those opposite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —when they were in government looked at the facts in the individual situations and then formed an opinion. We've got to get those facts on the table, and that is precisely what is happening at the moment.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Mrs POWER (Elder) (14:57): Can the Attorney update the house on the progress of the government's election commitment to deliver additional crisis beds for women and children experiencing domestic violence?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:57): I have pleasure to advise the house on this matter, and I thank the member for Elder, who is our Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence. For myself, I am very proud to work with her in this area, and again I place on the record my appreciation to the Premier for making this appointment.

It is a very strong statement of two things that are a priority for the Premier and this government, and that is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, and in addition to that we want to better support those who are victims of it. Perhaps even more important, we want to make sure that there are practical ways of providing that assistance, and here is what we have been doing, and I will give the house an update:

- the establishment of the 24/7 Women's Safety Crisis Hotline continues to be well received, and, of course, it is now 24/7;
- the extension of the safety hubs in regional South Australia. This is to provide information and referrals for women and their children so that they have access to local support in the communities in which they live. And whilst the members interject, I reiterate that this is an extension of that safety hub service;
- the establishment of the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service, now within the Legal Services Commission, which of course acts as another provision of services and which provides the victims with specialist legal support to apply for intervention orders and tenancy agreements and navigate the processes of magistrates courts. I would hope that the members who are busy interjecting might note that, because it is a very significant advance on the services that were previously provided;
- the creation of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme has now received 316 applications by 31 December last year. Members might recall that this is a disclosure scheme which really enables the police to provide information to parties to make decisions about whether or not they remain in a relationship. It is an important initiative for those persons and children in the families thereof;
- the introduction of new laws in relation to domestic violence giving authorities greater tools including that strangulation is now a standalone offence.

I have just read in the last few days updated information as to the numbers, which are now in the hundreds of cases, that have been charged in that regard. I am getting an update, and I am happy to advise the house in due course when I have particulars of the ultimate data, but I can say that at least one has already sustained a conviction. There are tougher penalties on repeated breaches of the intervention orders.

In relation to the 40-bed domestic violence crisis accommodation, the first of the eight, can I say, has opened in North Adelaide; another six in southern Adelaide will open next month; 17 beds in the Limestone Coast, Murray Mallee and Eyre Peninsula will be opened in the regional areas; and the remaining nine will provide accommodation for the perpetrator crisis intervention pilot, which removes the offender from the family home thus allowing the partners and families to remain in the home, obviously in circumstances where it is safe to do so. That is necessary to ensure that as much as we can we minimise the disruption to their lives at such a traumatic time.

To ensure the beds are available as soon as possible the SA Housing Authority will refurbish and fit public housing properties with security upgrades so women can live independently but safely. It is intended that all these beds will be available by the end of April. In addition to the crisis accommodation, clients will receive services including intensive outreach support, helping managing

safety issues and assistance into safe and sustainable accommodation. I commend the member for Elder. I thank her for her assistance and, indeed, her traversing the state to ensure that these amenities as they are introduced are fully operational and do provide this continued protection to women and children in our state.

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey, I respectfully call, member for Lee. I will come back to the opposition after that.

TAFE SA

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:01): My question is to the Minister for Education. In light of TAFE's reaccreditation for a further seven years, how do you respond to complaints I have received from those involved in the sector—that is, nursing home owners, residents and onsite workers—alleging classroom and practical requirements, particularly for the Certificate III in Individual Support, are not adequate and do not prepare students to work in residential aged care?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:02): I thank the member for the question. Obviously she has identified the reaccreditation by the national regulator, which took place last year, for seven years. They did that having had three audits in three years. They looked at 16 areas in 2017, again in 2018 and then for the reaccreditation audit in 2019. ASQA, the national regulator, determined which areas they were going to audit to determine that TAFE's offering was in line with the national training package and made their determination.

The member has identified concerns that she has been made aware of by people in relation to a particular field of study. I am not sure whether that was one of the ones that ASQA looked at last year or not. I will make inquiries and I will take the entirety of the member's question on notice and bring back an answer to the house and for the member.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary, then the member for Lee.

TAFE SA

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:03): Minister, what guarantees can you give that students actually complete courses and that lecturers are qualified and fully able to teach course content?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:03): I thank the member for the question. Obviously the organisation undertook an enormous body of work throughout 2018, in particular, and in 2019 leading up to the audit. That was focused on ensuring that the package itself and the assessment, in particular, of all those courses because TAFE doesn't know which courses ASQA is going to order ahead of the audit. So TAFE's improvement package was right across the board and intended to hit every single offering that TAFE was doing, and it was ensuring that the assessments and the training offering were indeed up to scratch, and so ASQA found it to be.

Part of that clearly is ensuring that all the TAFE lecturers are appropriate in their field, up to the relevant training standard and, indeed, also compliant with the new TAE requirements to ensure that they are appropriate people to be offering that training. That is what we expect of TAFE, that is what the national regulator expects of TAFE and, in the courses that they assessed, found TAFE to be compliant with. I have great confidence in the TAFE board—the new TAFE board, I should be clear, that has been appointed since the election—in their oversight of the organisation. I have already taken the first question on notice and, when I bring back an answer to that question, if there are any particular comments to make in relation to the second question I will include them in that first answer.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:04): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier now direct the member for Waite to resign all his committee roles, as the member pledged to do in early January?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:04): Well, no, I don't think there is any suggestion of that. We've got a process which is underway.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Elizabeth!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I think I addressed this in an answer only about two minutes ago, so it's difficult for people to—

Dr Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader is on two warnings.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I think I addressed this in an answer to the house only a few minutes ago. The member for Waite has resigned as the Presiding Member of the Economic and Finance Committee.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kaurana is on two warnings.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Certainly, the opposition hasn't presented the facts of any transcript here. If I did incorrectly state that there was a resignation from all committees, then I correct that now. The reality is that my understanding is that there has been a resignation as the Presiding Member of that. I think there has also been a resignation from the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:05): My question is again to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of the member's commitment to resign from all his committee roles?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:05): I don't have anything further to add to my previous answer.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the Report on Government Services in relation to skills and training?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (15:06): I thank the member for Heysen for his continued interest in vocational education here in South Australia. There's no doubt that the Marshall Liberal government is rebuilding the state's training system. It was left to go to rack and ruin under those opposite.

We are building through our increased targeted investment in vocational education and training, and already we have seen significant increases in the number of apprentices participating in VET. In fact, many of our improvements have been nation leading. The targeted spending of the Marshall government's \$200 million Skilling South Australia program is now starting to turn the system around.

The government has increased funding to both TAFE and non-government VET providers. Our key focus is delivering the skills that industry needs to create real, longstanding jobs here in South Australia. The latest data from the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services reports that the Marshall government has delivered the highest boost to skills funding in the nation in our first year in office. Our increased investment and our reforms have boosted non-government and TAFE training providers and delivered improved employment outcomes for students.

Highlights for South Australia include an additional \$54.3 million in state government recurrent funding (a 38.1 per cent increase) in 2018, our first year in government, compared to Labor's last year in office. Non-government providers were supported by an additional \$11 million (a 28 per cent increase) compared to Labor's last year in office—the largest increase in the nation in percentage terms spent on vocational education. We are leading the nation when it comes to investment in skills and training.

Seventy-four per cent of government-funded VET graduates between the ages of 20 and 64 improved their employment status after training in 2019. This is 10 per cent above the national figure. This is in stark contrast to the former Labor government's shocking legacy and record in skills training. VET commencements plunged by an unacceptable 66 per cent over a six-year period under

the Labor government—this is the last six years of government—and they had given up to such an extent that they didn't even take a skills policy to the last election.

We went into the last election with a sacked CE of TAFE, a sacked chair of TAFE and two investigations into the management of TAFE. Less than two years later, we are now seeing a revitalised TAFE: we are seeing more enrolments in TAFE, more enrolments in the private sector and more investment in vocational education. We are rebuilding the state's training system, as the industry has asked for. We are doing that by talking to industry, engaging with industry and asking them, 'Where are the needs? What are the skills you need to generate real, lasting careers here in South Australia for South Australians?' We are working with them to deliver those.

REGIONAL SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the review of the regional school bus policy? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I have been asking questions regarding this issue since September 2018 and on numerous occasions since then. I have been led to believe that the review of the school bus policy was completed in February last year. Here we are, February 2020, and we still haven't got an answer at this stage.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:10): I thank the member for Frome for the question. It's actually really reassuring to me to get questions from the members for Florey and Frome today. I feel like we haven't spent as much time together this week as I'm used to. It's good to be able to have this discussion here that we might have previously had on a Tuesday morning, so I'm grateful for the question.

Regarding the bus review, certainly I would have hoped upon coming to government that we would have had that matter finalised by now. It has not been. It has been certainly a very complex area for the reviewer to manage. This is a review that has been run out of Treasury, with support from my department and support from the Minister for Transport and his department.

It's important that we get this policy right because, of course, school bus transport policy, once put in place, has far-reaching consequences for many years. It's very hard to make an adjustment on an ad hoc basis, so we must make sure that we get this right. We must make sure that, if there are additional resources potentially to be included in this, they be applied in a way that will get the best possible outcome for young regional South Australians and not just create adverse or unintended consequences that would put significant budget pressures on the education department and/or the transport department without having a desirable uplift in opportunities and services for regional South Australians.

So, while I certainly take the member's point and accept the member's point that it would certainly have been desirable to have the outcome known by now, the fact is that we are considering the report, it having been received reasonably recently. The reviewers took many, many submissions. They had a significant number of written submissions, potentially in excess of what might have been anticipated, and they also took the opportunity to talk in person to a number of the stakeholders who are particularly interested.

We have some of that advice now. I'm not sure if we have received the final final version of the report or if it's just the draft one that we have, but either way the point is that I would like to see a final answer to that progressed this year so that families, schools and systems can have some clarity on what the rules are going to be going forward. I will certainly be endeavouring to have it in place so that, when we have the information finalised and the government has made those considerations, we will be making announcements. I appreciate the member for Frome's continued advocacy on behalf of his community and his continued interest in this topic.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:13): My question is to you, sir. Will the Speaker provide the Premier with a copy of the private investigator's report once concluded?

The SPEAKER (15:13): I think I have been very clear to the house and also the public in regard to this matter. Obviously, I did make a statement on Friday 17 January. I also provided an update to the house yesterday. I have nothing further to add than what I have said on the matter already. Leader, is there another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:13): Supplementary question: would the Speaker please refresh the house's memory regarding whether or not you intend to release—

Members interjecting:

Mr MALINAUSKAS: It's a genuine question, Mr Speaker.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: that question seeks to get you to answer in a repetitious manner information that's already on *Hansard*, and that is out of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order on the point of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: That is a bogus point of order, and you have set the standard to remove people from this chamber for raising bogus points of order, and I ask that you do the same.

The SPEAKER: I had a question and I had a point of order. We will deal with the Minister for Transport's point of order. Like any member, he is entitled to raise a point of order for tedious repetition. My view on that is that it didn't meet the requirement of that tedious repetition; the member for Lee is somewhat right. I warn the Minister for Transport that if he raises those sorts of bogus points of order I will have no other option but to potentially remove him from the chamber, because I have to be fair with these things.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Like I said, I made some advice, going to the media on Friday 17 January. I made a statement yesterday. I believe—

Ms Hildyard interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Reynell, you can leave for an hour under 137A because you are talking when I am trying to answer a question. When you leave I will continue.

The honourable member for Reynell having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: I remind the Leader of the Opposition of my previous responses in regard to this matter. Leader, do you have another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:16): I do, sir. My question is to the Premier. How can the Premier commit to South Australians to making a determination regarding the member for Waite's actions if he cannot be certain he will even receive a copy of the private investigator's report?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:16): With the process that is underway at the moment there will be a report and it will go to the Speaker. I will certainly be seeking from the Speaker a briefing on the material from that. I think that is in order. I am ultimately responsible for my side of the house, and if there are allegations over and above what have been provided in the public domain then I think that I should. It will be up to the Speaker to determine whether or not that is indeed what he would like to do. He is ultimately in charge of this chamber and he has the responsibility for this matter. Again, I repeat to this house that I think the Speaker has taken the appropriate action—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It may be a scoff from the Leader of the Opposition, but I make this point, and I make this point again, this is exactly—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left, order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and precisely the procedure that was put in place by those opposite. So how can those opposite actually condemn a process—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —which they actually used on numerous occasions when there were accusations of bullying and harassment against their own members?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Against their own members, sir. That is exactly and precisely what was put in place by the previous government—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We seem to have hit a bit of a nerve, sir, a bit of a raw nerve. Who were the people who were accused? What was the process?

The SPEAKER: The Premier—

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Did they actually table that investigation for everybody to have a look at—

The SPEAKER: The Premier will be seated.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I never once saw those opposite tabling—

The SPEAKER: The Premier—

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Not once did I see those opposite tabling a response to an investigation into one of their own members. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition, if he feels so strongly—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know you're doing your audition, but the reality is—

The SPEAKER: I ask the Premier to be seated. If that level of interjection continues members will be leaving and will potentially be named.

Grievance Debate

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:19): I rise today to talk to the complete farce of a process that is now bringing into question the very integrity of this chamber, of this government and this Speakership. The very idea that we can have an independent process that allows—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sir, by making a reflection on the Chair, the member has been disorderly. He can only do that by substantive motion.

The SPEAKER: Yes. I heavily caution the Leader of the Opposition. I am listening to him. Leader.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to speak about the process that is now being undertaken regarding the investigation into the member for Waite's actions. A very serious set of allegations has been made regarding the member for Waite and his conduct on 13 December last year. These are actions that we understand the Premier has been advised of. How do we know that? We know that because the Premier himself today in question time enunciated to the public that he had spoken to the member for Waite, established that his conduct was unacceptable and asked him to apologise.

Yet the Premier consistently refuses to explain to the people of South Australia exactly what it is that the member for Waite did. The member for Waite has sought forgiveness from the parliament regarding his actions on 13 December. A genuine act of contrition is something that we would all welcome. It is not, however, for me or anyone on this side of the house to offer the member for Waite forgiveness—only his victims are in a position to do that—but a genuine act of contrition is always matched through an actual confession of what has taken place. We are none the wiser. We only have a so-called independent investigator undertaking a report.

Let's examine just how independent that is, because this independent investigation, overseen by this Speaker, has a farcical situation—

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Point of order: again, the Leader of the Opposition is traversing the basis upon which the investigation is occurring and reflecting on you as the Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Am I allowed to speak?

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order. I will hear the point of order.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Should the Leader of the Opposition wish to make that assertion in relation to the process that you, as Speaker, are undertaking in your management of the house, then he may do so by a substantive motion, not discourse.

The SPEAKER: Yes, that is true. I am going to give the leader one last warning: criticise the process but if you criticise me, if you reflect on me and it is over the line, I will sit you down. Leader.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: I will endeavour to speak specifically regarding the nature of the process and the information that has been made available publicly without reflecting on you, sir. I will speak specifically to the process and the facts that are known in the public arena. The process that is being undertaken to establish the actions of the member for Waite is as follows: we have a private investigator that we understand is being paid for by this very parliament, and that private investigator is interviewing witnesses to the events of 13 December, but that witness list is being sighted by the Speaker before that investigation takes place.

We are aware from publicly stated information that there are witnesses who understand and saw exactly what took place on 13 December who are not being interviewed. Those people are ready, willing and able to provide evidence regarding the member for Waite's actions, but they will not be interviewed unless this Speaker signs off on it. That, in and of itself, undermines the integrity of the process—

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Point of order: this is the third time that the Leader of the Opposition has sought to criticise the process that you—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Apart from making all sorts of allegations—

The SPEAKER: I have the point of order. I am listening carefully to the leader. I will intervene if I need to.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Thank you, sir. We now also have a Premier who stated publicly and consistently that when he receives the report from the private investigator he will then be able to make a determination about what actions are appropriate to deal with the member for Waite, yet we do not even know if the Premier himself will actually get a copy of the report, because the Speaker has made it clear that he will make a determination, having received a copy of the report, about who will see it. So the South Australian public, the constituents of Waite, will not be able to formulate a judgement about what the member for Waite has done in the parliament of the state unless the Speaker approves it first. What we now know—

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: again, the submissions are being presented to you to argue that the process is in error. That is what is being alleged.

The SPEAKER: I have the point of order. I am listening to the leader. Thank you, Deputy Premier. I will intervene if I feel it necessary.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: It is very difficult for constituents and the public more broadly to be able to formulate judgements around how their own representatives in this place are performing their duties if they do not get access to the information about how they are performing them. There has been no legitimate explanation, in the opposition's view, as to why a robust, independent investigation by a public investigative authority, such as the equal opportunity commissioner, has not taken place.

We believe, quite legitimately, that the lack of leadership being shown by this Premier is consistent with his value system: not in the interests of the South Australian public, not transparent and not sincere about taking these actions and these allegations with the seriousness that they deserve.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Lee, member for Kurna, settle.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left and right, I have a duty to prevent quarrels and, if I need to, I will ask members to leave. If members cannot control themselves, I ask you respectfully to leave and get a glass of water. The Minister for Education.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:26): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity. During the last month, many people in my community have suffered grievously, and indeed other communities around South Australia—the member for Kavel's and the member for Mawson's in particular—and a range of other South Australians have suffered the trauma of being confronted with bushfires.

Yesterday in the house, I spoke a little bit about some of the things that the education department has been putting in place to play its role in supporting children who have been impacted by bushfires, and today I take the opportunity as the government spokesperson for the Minister for Health in the House of Assembly to put on the record some of the work that is being done by the Minister for Health and the health department in supporting communities that have suffered so much as a result of the bushfires, in the response, the relief and now the recovery phases.

The recent fires, from a health point of view, had a significant and potentially lasting impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of many people in our community and across South Australia. For those outside the bushfire-affected zones—everybody in the city, many people across South Australia—the smoke haze that was seen over Christmas and January had a real and genuine physical health impact. Thankfully, that dissipated. For those inside the bushfire-affected zones, there was the far greater physical danger from the fires themselves, which indeed saw three lives lost and many people injured. There is then also the mental trauma that accompanies such extreme events.

Recognising this, South Australia Health was an integral part of the government's response to the bushfires, initially through the Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network, which is the LHN responsible for both the Cudlee Creek and the Kangaroo Island fire areas, and more broadly through

the support given to the operations of this network and the Ambulance Service. SA Health provided 3,000 P2 masks to firefighters along with bottled water and hand sanitisation gel. Over 70 nursing staff from SA Health volunteered to support Kingscote hospital.

The South Australian Ambulance Service put extra teams on Kangaroo Island to support the local teams. Public health officers assisted the local councils in areas such as food safety, wastewater management, drinking water safety and infection control. As I have identified, in particular, the government is alert to the mental stress confronting those in bushfire-affected areas. This stress is a natural reaction to such extreme events. As the member for Kavel articulated so well this morning, there will be many people in our community who may not be used to asking for help when they need it, which of course we encourage them to do.

It is important that the responses from government ensure that resources are relevant to the community needs and as that acute mental health services are available where appropriate. In this regard, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing convened a mental health and wellbeing round table on 10 January. It brought together stakeholders from government and NGOs, including Red Cross, Disaster Ministries and Uniting Communities, to maximise services supporting mental health and wellbeing.

One of the key programs on the ground was psychological first aid. I know that I and the members for Kavel and Heysen, the Minister for Human Services, the Premier and other ministers who visited places like the Mount Barker relief centre and the Lobethal bushfire recovery centre, and the subsequent official Lobethal recovery centre, saw this in action on a very regular basis. Indeed, I know that the local councils also put in place some support to ensure that people who reflected trauma were also supported through this endeavour.

The Disaster Ministries and Red Cross were on the ground right from the start providing support to these communities, and I know many people were very appreciative. Dr Rob Gordon has been brought in by Alex Zimmerman, who is the local recovery coordinator, appointed by the Department of Human Services, in the Cudlee Creek area. He presented in Lobethal the other night, and I know that the member for Kavel was able to be there along with many people from the community to hear his work put forward.

Extra acute mental health services have also been made available, including support through the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. The government has also enabled pharmacists to dispense schedule 4 medicines to bushfire-affected people who might have lost their script or had it destroyed in the fires.

I also want to thank and congratulate all SA Health staff who supported those affected by the fires, whether directly or indirectly. On behalf of the Minister for Health, I particularly acknowledge the tragic death of Clayton Lang, an SA Health clinician who died in the Kangaroo Island fires along with his father. We pay tribute to his services to the health and wellbeing of the South Australian community throughout his outstanding professional life.

KANGAROO ISLAND BUSHFIRE

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:31): I rise today to talk a bit more about the Kangaroo Island fires of the past 50-odd days and the marvellous work that is being done by so many volunteers, including hundreds of volunteers from the mainland and Kangaroo Island, without excluding anyone else who was involved in this mammoth effort.

I want to talk about the May family of Parndana for a few moments. Terry May heads up the CFS in Parndana and did an amazing job captaining the troops and making sure that every possible effort could be put into fighting the fire, which, as we know, snaked around the western end of Kangaroo Island and burnt 48 per cent of this 4,500 square kilometre island. They had a very tough job and Terry, as always, provided great leadership.

His wife, Cheryl, is a CFS level 3 logistics officer and she also played a key role, as she always has in the community of Parndana. She is a former citizen of the year and I think she has had about 18 years on the progress association. Up until recently, she had been the president of the Parndana Progress Association, as well as being involved in the sports committee and many other organisations in the town of Parndana.

These fires started on 20 December. When I turned up on the 21st to see if I could lend a hand in any way, perhaps making sandwiches or ferrying home tired firefighters who had finished a shift, Cheryl took the time to explain what was happening. It is always hard in our positions as local members: we want to be there and we want to show our support, but we do not want to get in the way. Cheryl was terrific in taking me into the briefing so that I could listen to it and outlining exactly what was happening. She showed great patience and great leadership in the way she went about her job not just that night but for the next 40 or so nights. I met her daughter Kimberley that day.

Kimberley was down from Gladstone for what was meant to be a three-week Christmas holiday. She was put straight to work by Cheryl and was working in the command centre of the incident management centre and ended up staying for four weeks. It was no holiday, I can tell you; she was working as hard as anyone. Terry and Cheryl's other daughter, Rachelle, was also working in the incident control centre as well as being out on the fireground fighting the fire. Their son, Frank, was also fighting the fire.

As Cheryl said, at least they did not have to worry about what was happening at home with dinner because they were all in the same spot pretty much day and night offering a remarkable service to their community, as they always have. This is why we need sometimes to tell the stories of these families because around South Australia, in all our rural communities, we have people who go above and beyond in their service to their local community and to their fellow community members.

When shadow cabinet met in Parndana two weeks ago, I asked what had happened to Terry and Cheryl's business, Keilem Pty Ltd., an agricultural hardware store. They sell generators, plumbing supplies and all sorts of things you might need on a farm. As they had been dedicated pretty much 24/7 to fighting the fire and running logistics, they closed the doors of their store in Parndana for three weeks and economic activity was wound down to zero.

Cheryl explained that when somebody from the community came to the incident control centre to explain that something had broken, Cheryl would throw them the keys to the store, they would go into the store, take whatever they needed and write it in the book. That is a sign of a very trustworthy and secure local community where people can coexist in this trustful way. So to Cheryl, to Terry, to the entire May family: thank you very much for what you did for Parndana as it was evacuated three times in the past seven weeks. You have done an extraordinary job, and the people of Kangaroo Island are very grateful for your service.

STUART ELECTORATE

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:37): I follow the member for Mawson and before him the Minister for Education, both talking about the recent bushfire events, and I acknowledge them. The electorate of Stuart unfortunately experiences more bushfires than any other electorate in this state, but fortunately we have not had any significant bushfires just recently, and I do acknowledge the difficulties in other areas.

I also want to say, though, that an enormous part of our state has been suffering drought for a very long time. The bushfires are immediate. They are devastating quickly. They are visually impressive and terrifying. They have an extraordinary impact in a relatively short period of time. Then, of course, they can continue to drag on and on with highs and lows, whereas drought starts slowly and just gets deeper and deeper and grips more and more tightly for those who are affected by them.

In the electorate of Stuart, particularly people north and east of Eudunda, particularly people north and east of Orroroo and particularly people in the Flinders Ranges and the outback, have been dreadfully affected over many years. This drought, unlike others, gripped more quickly than most. It seemed that we went from higher rainfall to lower rainfall much more quickly than normal, and communities and families and people have been quite devastated. The bushfire is critically important, but I want this house to know that drought is also incredibly important. It should not be forgotten as another extraordinarily significant challenge our state faces at the moment.

The member for Flinders and I both approached the Premier and put this issue to him and explained to him that, yes, of course, we are dealing with the bushfires, but that we still do have this other issue and our communities need the government's support as much as ever. It is not one or

the other; unfortunately, now it is both these issues that we need to deal with. The Premier has responded by agreeing to come on a trip with the member for Flinders and me.

The member for Flinders, the Premier and I will be in Cleve at the member for Flinders' request on Tuesday morning next week, and the Premier and I will be in Marree, then Hawker and then Orroroo, in my part of the world, on Tuesday lunchtime through to late afternoon. I acknowledge that the Hawker township specifically is actually in the electorate of Giles, and I know that the member for Giles has turned his mind to these issues, but the broader district affected by this issue is also, and perhaps more so, in the electorate of Stuart.

This issue is incredibly important, and I would like to also highlight this set of visits, as quick as it is. The member for Flinders and I are in our electorates and in these communities very regularly, but it is only possible for the Premier to come on a fairly quick trip. However, he will make the very most of that time, as he did when he joined me and the member for Chaffey, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, in a similar trip very early last year. Issues such as the dog fence and financial support for drought, which were raised with us at that point in time, have been addressed by our government, so I am very optimistic that the issues that are raised with us this time will also be addressed by our government.

Finally, let me say that, while of course drought focus and support is primarily directed to primary producers—those cropping but more so those who are graziers and running livestock—it is also something that affects everybody. There is not a person in a country town or an outback town or a community who is not affected by drought even if they are not primary producers. Every child in every primary school is very aware of the stress and the challenge and the difficulty throughout his or her community. Businesses, whether they be tourism, a service station, a local pub, whatever they happen to be—families, communities, men and women, boys and girls—are affected by drought in country and outback South Australia.

SALISBURY COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:42): I rise today to speak with immense pride and incredible admiration for the men and women volunteers of my local CFS. They are based in Salisbury North, and the Salisbury CFS forms part of the Para Group, which also encompasses Dalkeith, One Tree Hill, Tea Tree Gully and Virginia. The Salisbury Country Fire Service was formed in 1943, and it currently has around 35 active volunteers.

In 2018-19, the crew attended more than 215 incidents, totalling more than 6,886 volunteer hours. These statistics do not include our most recent catastrophic bushfire events in South Australia. The Salisbury CFS crew assisted with the Yorketown, Edithburgh, Cudlee Creek and Kersbrook fires, and as soon as their commitments to these areas were complete, and following a request for help, the Salisbury CFS proceeded to send four volunteers to assist on Kangaroo Island.

I think we should all be in awe of these incredibly talented, brave and honourable individuals who volunteer their time. Sometimes they are paid by their employer and sometimes not. They leave their loved ones and families to fight to keep our communities and homes safe, and despite the devastating destruction of the recent Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek fires, including the tragic loss of life that occurred, we continue to hear stories of the family home or business that was saved as a result of the tireless efforts of the Country Fire Service.

Our Salisbury CFS are a humble and modest bunch, so when they came to me and we were talking, I said, 'How can we help?' And they said that maybe we could get some donations towards their ration packs. When they are out in the field it could be some hours before they can access a meal, so small packs of chips, lollies, muesli bars or sultanas and either some bottled water or some Powerade would be much appreciated.

The call to action was put out far and wide and residents from not only my patch in Salisbury but much further afield began to arrive at my electorate office. They came with packages of water, boxes of chips, lollies, biscuits, muesli bars, lollipops, gingerbread and much more. Mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, families, couples and groups of workers pooled their resources as the donations flooded in. We heard from many people that this was a small but practical form of local

assistance and it enabled many individuals who had also quite often donated to the bushfire appeal to feel that they could give something back to our local legends in their own way.

It was incredibly moving to see my community respond with such compassion and generosity. Once the floor of the collection room became covered with donations, my staff packed the donations into a tub and we awaited the collection from our #5108legends, our Salisbury postcode. They arrived in a truck on 10 January. Lieutenant Paul Clapp and other members of the Salisbury CFS loaded the truck with the donated goods, which they would share with other groups in the Para Group.

Following the collection for ration packs, our community also came together for a fundraiser in the Salisbury City Centre on Saturday 18 January to raise funds for upgraded equipment for our Salisbury CFS. Whilst the government provides essential equipment, most CFS crews are required to regularly fundraise to enable the purchase of upgraded equipment and support for volunteers. The fundraiser was the idea of a local business owner Mr Rik Carr, who launched his new food truck, Rik's Grill, at the event. Held in conjunction with the Salisbury Business Association, which provided face painting and a magician to entertain the children, the City of Salisbury, which promoted it, and Bickford's, who sold \$2 coffees, the event raised \$5,000 for our Salisbury CFS.

Time expired.

BRIGHTON AND SEACLIFF YACHT CLUB

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (15:47): It is great to be able to make a contribution today about the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club, a great community organisation which I am very fortunate to represent because it is found within the boundaries of my electorate. It is a club that has a reach much further than the local community in which it is located, and a club with a diverse and exceptionally interesting history.

It was great to head down to the club on the weekend, on Sunday afternoon, to be part of the launch of their anthology, which looks at the last 100 years of the club. The club has just turned 100 years old. It is amazing for a club to last 100 years in this day and age, never mind a whole century. The club published *Gold on Black*, a great book that covers their 100 years and goes through the stories and the many characters who have made up the club's phenomenal history.

I was joined at the event by the Mayor of the City of Holdfast Bay, Amanda Wilson, and federal member Nicolle Flint. The Minister for Innovation and Skills was there as well because his father-in-law, Jim Blake, had contributed towards writing *Gold on Black*. It was great to catch up with him. The club has a really rich history. This is knowledge that is shared by my parliamentary colleague Corey Wingard, who, in his role as Minister for Sport and also as someone with a neighbouring electorate, knows this club inside out.

As I mentioned, the club has just turned 100, and what better way to celebrate that 100th birthday than to have the first female commodore in its 100 years of history. It was great last year, in 2019, to be able to go along to the season opening. I was accompanied by the Premier on the day when Lisa Brock became the first female commodore to take on that position. She is bringing great leadership and enthusiasm to that position.

The club really has been an anchor point within our community for the last century. It is a club that has had rich characters make up its membership. I think of the Hardy family, the Higgins family, the Greenhalghs, and a whole range of significant people within our community. I also think of Pip Pearson, a legend in the sailing world in South Australia, with an international reputation as well, and Bruce Noble, a local Seacliff resident who was the previous commodore and who has quietly served that club with diligence and respect for many years.

They were all there on Sunday afternoon. It was great to catch up with people like Nancy Higgins and other members of the Higgins family and also to see Margaret Greenhalgh and Barbara Hardy AO, that great environmentalist and another Seacliff resident. They are a couple of people who are in their 90s and who are still significant members of the club.

The book itself, *Gold on Black*, which is so named because of the iconic colours of the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club, goes through 100 years of great history. Interestingly, it is a book of two parts. The updated edition builds on part 1, which was written by George Doughty and

published in 1984, covering the first 70 or so years of the club's history. It was actually published in the year I was born.

It has now been updated to include a whole range of stories from the eighties, the nineties and the noughties to the present day, covering some of the more recent trials, tribulations, challenges and many positive things that have happened to the club. It does not shy away from the challenges that the club has faced, both in financial terms and in membership terms. As we get to the end of the book, it positively celebrates the growth in membership, particularly among the juniors.

The book has been put together by Peter Gold, Jim Blake, Phil Scapens and John Gratton, who are longstanding members, and by more recent member, Rex Hunter. I look forward to presenting a copy of this book to the parliamentary library later this afternoon.

Matter of Privilege

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:53): I rise to bring to the attention of the house a matter of privilege. Yesterday, on the parliament's resumption, a statement was provided to the house by the Speaker about his reasoning for conducting an inquiry into the alleged conduct of the member for Waite. In the course of that statement, the Speaker made the following remarks:

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.

It has come to my attention that those remarks from the Speaker are incorrect. The Speaker has provided comments to a news outlet InDaily for an article published at the beginning of January. In those remarks, the Speaker advised that news outlet:

Near the end of December I was made aware of allegations concerning the conduct of a Member of the House of Assembly towards other people, including a Member of the Legislative Council, at a Christmas function held in Parliament House. On becoming aware of the allegations, I arranged for preliminary inquiries to be undertaken to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the alleged inappropriate behaviour.

It is clear from these two conflicting statements that the Speaker learnt of the allegations against the member for Waite, according to his own words as quoted in this news outlet's article, in late December. From what the Speaker told this house yesterday, he did not convene or procure an independent inquiry into the conduct of the member for Waite until several weeks later on 17 January.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the remarks by the Speaker yesterday in this place were clearly inaccurate, based on those two conflicting statements. It is an important point, as you can appreciate, because it is of great public concern and great interest, not just to the opposition but to the public more broadly, that we are given accurate information about what happened not just on 13 December but in the process following 13 December, particularly as it relates to the actions of the Speaker.

I ask that you, sir, consider this matter. I have the papers for you and I will provide them to you because it would be very difficult for the Speaker to consider a matter of privilege that concerns comments that he himself made to this place.

The SPEAKER: I obviously came in halfway through or towards the end of that statement, so one moment. I ask the member for Lee to provide all the relevant information and I may well, in fact, delegate that to the Deputy Speaker, if I caught the back of the statement correctly.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I am more than happy to provide the information. I have it here, but could I just, for my benefit and the house's benefit, understand who will be considering this matter. Will it be you or the Deputy Speaker?

The SPEAKER: As I said, I literally walked in towards the back end of the statement, but if it is a matter of privilege on something that allegedly I am responsible for, of course I will delegate that to the Deputy Speaker.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Thank you, sir.

*Address in Reply***ADDRESS IN REPLY**

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

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (15:57): I would like to resume my remarks in relation to the Governor's address yesterday. It has been almost two years since the election of the Marshall Liberal government and much has been achieved. Communities in regional and rural areas, such as Finniss, which I am so privileged to represent, have benefited from a renewed focus, and we have seen things progress in my electorate, not directly always from government either.

One of the big things that I am very proud that this government has committed to do is to invest in the causeway to Granite Island. It is certainly one of the most important structures in Finniss itself. It has enormous history and an enormous tourist benefit. It operates a horse-drawn tram, which is only one of two in the world that still operate, carrying people across to the island. It is a fantastic icon of the South Coast and Victor Harbor in particular, and very much part of the Victor Harbor community.

The community certainly embraced the government's commitment to invest in a new causeway. I am disappointed that the old causeway is not repairable, but certainly understand that the connection is the bit of the heritage that we need to keep, so I am very pleased that this is progressing. I am also very pleased with the local investment following that announcement.

The Anchorage Hotel, which operates on the foreshore near the bowling club, has been there for many years. The current owners have owned it for about 17 or 18 years and they feel now that, with the investments happening in Victor Harbor around the causeway, it is the right time to invest in their business as well. They are looking to build 4½ star accommodation alongside the hotel and expand tourist opportunities on the Fleurieu Peninsula by allowing people to come and stay in a beautiful hotel looking over the ocean and enjoying the scenery and ambience.

An amazing part of the development is that they are going to put a bridge across the top of the railway line to a car park. That will allow people to stand and watch the steam trains actually go under them as they travel through and have the smoke of the steam train coming up past the glass walkway. They will get a very different experience of watching a steam train travel through the area.

We have also seen other great bits of funding. An important piece of investment in the area is in the surf lifesaving clubs. We have seen the opening of the Chiton Rocks development and their surf club. They are a very passionate group of people who operate in that area and who look after the people who swim at Chiton Rocks. It is very important that we look after that investment and give them the facilities they need to look after those lives.

Late last year, we saw the opening of the Goolwa Surf Lifesaving Club, another great venue. I would have to say that it is probably one of the best, most spectacular views of a surf beach you could find around Australia from up in that clubhouse looking out over Goolwa Beach. It is absolutely amazing; sitting there watching the world go by, you feel like you are part of the sandhills. We are also looking to see further investment in the surf lifesaving area with the development of the Port Elliot club at Horseshoe Bay. Hopefully that will continue and they will get the club revitalised. The sad thing for me is that I actually remember the previous one being built, which makes me start to feel very old. It is a great investment in the community.

Recently, there was also the announcement of some expenditure at the Goolwa Ambulance Station, another amazing bit of volunteer work that goes on. Goolwa station is a volunteer station, run just by volunteers, but it does more work than a lot of the paid stations, so something I am advocating that we need to look at further is whether we can actually get some paid staff in there as well because of the workload. However, it is a credit to those who volunteer in that region.

We have also seen investment in road infrastructure. The Goolwa Road and Alexandrina Road railway crossings have made them significantly safer for both the trains and for vehicles travelling along those roads. There are much clearer sight lines and light signals to make those crossings safer.

We are also seeing very significant investment from both the federal and the state governments into the duplication of the Victor Harbor Road from Old Noarlunga to McLaren Vale. That is not in my electorate, but it benefits my electorate enormously, as it is the main route most of the people who live in the electorate of Finniss use to get to Adelaide. It is an important safety necessity, as well as dealing with the congestion that occurs in that section, particularly on long weekends, etc. It is very much needed in that area.

Another piece of work that was one of the election commitments I went out with in my campaign to be member for Finniss is the investment in the roundabout at the Torrens and Crozier roads corner. Some preliminary works have started, and we have seen some undergrounding of powerlines, etc., but we are looking towards major work starting shortly. It is an important piece of infrastructure for the town. Particularly over the summer periods, when traffic volumes are high, it is very difficult to traverse across the two sides of the town with the traffic movements. This will give another opportunity for people to get across the town in a safer manner.

Last year, I had the privilege of having the Minister for Emergency Services visit the Lower Inman Valley CFS station to look at the works being done to improve their facilities. There was \$30,000 put towards the apron at the front of their shed and other things to improve the facilities for the trucks and to make sure that they had safe ground to park vehicles on and work on them outside the sheds. It certainly improved it for those volunteers.

Another thing that I think was important in the area was the opening up of the reservoirs, as the member for Hammond mentioned in his remarks earlier. Opening Myponga for fishing and walking, which again is in a neighbouring electorate, is certainly part of the attraction for people to come and stay in areas around Finniss. To be able to enjoy time walking and fishing is certainly a great opportunity, and I think it is important that we have been able to make it available for those people.

Another piece of infrastructure investment I am extremely proud of is again one of my election commitments—that is, to help fund a Mount Compass recreation park. I was a student at the Mount Compass Area School in my primary school years, and when I was there the facilities in the town were very limited to enable children to enjoy playgrounds. The only playground in the town at that stage was at the school.

At that point, the school decided that it needed to invest, and it sought, through fundraising etc., and the local council and others, to invest in some very similar infrastructure to the Monash playground along the river. They put in a slippery dip and a few other very similar rides, and that gave, at least at the school, something for the children of the community to do. However, apart from that there has been very little in the Mount Compass area in the way of playgrounds available for the community. Mount Compass now has an amazing skate park, and I am very proud to have been part of getting it operational. I thank the Alexandrina Council for its investment in that park as well.

Going forward, I think there are many things that we need to keep working on. One that I am also very passionate about, and certainly have been a great advocate for in our party room, is the farm trespass laws and strengthening penalties for illegal invasions on farmers' properties. As a farmer, it certainly always worried me that someone might come onto my property, my home, and jeopardise my business and jeopardise my family just by protesting. They are there illegally.

I do everything I can as a farmer to make sure that I look after my livestock to the best of my ability and to make sure that their welfare is cared for at all times, but that does not stop them coming to protest because they do not necessarily agree with the farming practices of caring for animals. I think it is very important that we continue with that legislation.

Likewise, it is also important that we as a government continue to pursue rate capping and that as a government we continue to look at shop trading hours. Being a tourist destination, having deregulated trading hours in the township of Victor Harbor and through to Goolwa is something my community has enjoyed for probably 30 years plus. Shops can open when they like, and they do. Other shops choose to close when they like, and they do. It is up to local businesses to decide whether they want to open or not.

Another piece of important legislation is lifting the moratorium on GM crops. When I was in a dairy industry role as president of the South Australian Dairy Farmers Association, about 13 or 14 years ago, it came before us as an association: did we support GM or not? At that point in time, yes, we were very strongly supportive of it, and at that time we were subject to some very hostile reactions, including some very serious threats against comments that were made about GM crops.

Over that time, the science has very much come in favour of GM crops and how they can benefit the environment, the economy, the yields to farmers and the community generally. I think it is something we need to continue to pursue. I also think we have to continue with infrastructure projects that we have moved on. We need to keep spending on these projects to get our economy moving.

The Australian Space Agency is another great asset to our state. In working with the federal government in this space to see an improvement in what we can develop from this agency, there is so much we can learn from outside the atmosphere of the Earth. There are so many things we can achieve. I am very proud that South Australia hosts the Australian Space Agency.

Tourism is another sector that is essential to particularly the area of Finniss but South Australia generally. We have seen the importance of tourism highlighted with the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. The fires have put some businesses at risk of falling over due to the loss of business. It is very important that we remember it is not just the local businesses around KI and the Adelaide Hills that are affected but also businesses in other regions.

Businesses in Victor Harbor have had a downturn because international tourists would come to KI and then spend a few days in Victor as well. That has also been lost to a certain degree at this point in time. We need to make sure that we continue our focus on tourism, and I am very pleased that the Premier has taken tourism into his fold and is directing the importance of tourism to our state.

I also very much support the investment in drought support. As a farmer, it is very hard to manage the extremes of the climate and to suffer through those very dry years and get through to the other side. The beauty of getting through to the other side is you actually go from being in dust to being in mud. Going into mud is where farmers can make money. There is a saying, 'There is more money in mud than dust,' and that is very true. Hopefully, that is where we are heading this year and we have a great season moving forward, which will allow those farmers to rebuild their businesses with a great year.

We also need to make sure we keep an eye on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. In my national role as president of Australian Dairy Farmers, I was very conscious of the different views from one end of the river to the other. Certainly, when the plan came in, there was dissatisfaction from one end of the river to the other. They had totally different views of what they were unhappy about, but they were very unhappy about the plan generally. These were usually opposing views, which I felt meant that the plan was somewhere near where it needed to be, but I think we need to make sure that we keep everyone understanding that the plan is there to serve everyone along the river.

It is also important that we continue to work on biosecurity legislation reform in South Australia. We have seen it in other states, and I have certainly been involved in roles in the dairy industry with biosecurity reform and am pleased to assist the government in some of that space here as well to make sure that we get the right measures in place so that we do not put our industries at risk of biosecurity breakdowns.

Also important to the regional areas is the investment in the dog fence. It is a very historic fence that has worked well over many years protecting the sheep industry, particularly through the pastoral areas. It continues to do so, but it needs some reinvestment to make sure that it continues to achieve what it was originally built for.

There are many other things that I think are also important in the Governor's speech, such as the focus on the need to address environmental and renewable energy initiatives. The climate change strategy is to be released this year, which I think is an important part of where our government is heading. The Hydrogen Action Plan and electric vehicles are also important.

One of the stories in the media yesterday was about trying to reduce methane from livestock, which is equally important in making sure that we minimise our carbon footprint. There has been

some work and research done, and I have had some conversations with those involved, understanding where it might fit with the dairy industry in particular, around the use of a particular type of seaweed that will actually reduce the emissions of methane from cattle. Methane is a greenhouse gas, and if we can reduce those emissions it will certainly be a great thing and help us reach our target of reducing emissions by 50 per cent by 2030.

The Home Battery Scheme is another wonderful initiative by the Marshall Liberal government to support people putting batteries on their solar systems, etc. Another piece of important legislation that was passed late last year is the Landscape South Australia legislation and the reforms it will put in place around natural resources management to bring that back to local focus.

Farmers and other community members have always felt they are the best people to look after their local community. As a former farmer, I know that it was my responsibility to look after my patch, which included the roadsides and working on those to make sure that blackberries were minimised, that other noxious weeds were dealt with and that feral animals that caused issues for native species as well as livestock were managed.

There are many responsibilities of a landowner. Again, from a very local approach, the frustration is then having the neighbour who does nothing. When you have a centralised system, it is very hard to convince the system that that one neighbour is risking a very large proportion of the community. To bring it back to the local area is very important.

Another important part of the government's investment is the Heysen Trail from Deep Creek through to Granite Island. The money is going towards improving that trail and encouraging people to walk that beautiful coastline. I think that is another amazing investment in our tourism sector.

Education is also very important, and there are many things that can be done in education. As a former member of an independent school board that had R-12 under its management, one of the best things I have seen is the movement of year 7 into the secondary school right across the state. It is a fantastic move.

I saw the benefit at the school that I was on the board of, having done that prior to the state moving to that position. The benefit to those year 7s in moving into the secondary school structure and having access to the science labs, etc., is very important for their education. It is also wonderful to see the internet investment in schools in the partnership with Telstra. It has been very important in my community to see many schools go from very average connectivity to very good connectivity. Getting access to those schools is very important.

There are many other things that also have an effect on my community. Homelessness is not something that people see as part of the area of the South Coast. Homelessness is something that affects many regions, if not all regions, but you have to look a bit deeper sometimes to find it. The coastline from Goolwa to Victor, particularly during the winter months, is a very popular place for the homeless to come to because it has a slightly milder climate. They feel they can get a nicer place to stay out in the sheltered areas of parks, etc., in the areas of Victor to Goolwa during those months. It is something that we have to be very conscious of, and we need to work to minimise the number of people out there.

That is something I learnt back in the early 2000s when I was privileged enough to work on a course that I was doing on the homeless in Sydney. Talking to some of the homeless in Sydney, some were choosing to be there for many different reasons. One businessman was choosing to live in his car so that he could save for a deposit to buy a house. There were others who had been homeless in other parts of the world and felt that Sydney was one of the best places in the world to be homeless, which seems a very strange conversation to be having—that you could be a world traveller and still choose to be homeless. It is something we need to continue to work on.

We also need to look at some of the issues around health. We have certainly seen a focus in the city around health, but I very much would like to see renewed focus in the regions on some of the health challenges. The South Coast District Hospital is very dear to my heart. I was born there 51½ years ago, and my father was born there 70-odd years ago. I have seen it transform into a service with long queues, going from the days when the local GPs serviced that hospital and did a fantastic job in doing so. Sadly, we have lost that. We now have a very good service, but it takes a

lot longer to be seen. Sometimes it does not have the resources to see everyone in the community. For example, children are unable to be admitted into the South Coast District Hospital because of the qualifications of those on staff.

Our state is very much at the cusp of a remarkable transformation, and we see many things being invested in in our community. I am very proud to be part of the Marshall Liberal government working to make those changes. However, there are many challenges. We have seen the challenges of the bushfires. We see the challenges of many other events as well. Those challenges keep popping up. As a community, we do a wonderful job of coping with those challenges.

I would like to thank all those who have put up their hand to help with the bushfires and support the communities. It has certainly been part of our community all my lifetime and right through many other years in this great country of ours. No matter how big or small the fire is, there is always someone who will come to help. Likewise, floods or any other natural disaster just brings out that goodwill of our country. Thank you very much to those people, and I very much look forward to the opportunity and challenges that face the government and working for the next two years—and hopefully longer—to support a wonderful country and our beautiful state of South Australia.

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:24): I rise to make a reply to the Governor's speech of yesterday, but before I talk about my two portfolios I would like to talk about the importance of the conduct of members of parliament, and the importance of demonstrating leadership in that context.

We have in the last couple of days witnessed attempts by the opposition to understand clearly what occurred in December, what the investigation that is looking into those events looks like and what the leadership will be from the Premier, and none of those have been answered in any way satisfactorily. It is not the opposition that needs to know this alone: the opposition asks on behalf of the public of South Australia. That is what this chamber is for. That is what we all tell our school students when they come in and we do the school tours. We explain to them that one of the reasons we have this chamber and one of the reasons we have question time is that there must be accountability on the side of politics that is in government at the time, and that accountability thus far on this matter is completely absent.

What I want to say is that everyone in South Australia has some sense of what occurred because of the stream of media stories that have covered the stream of allegations, because there has been an apology made in public in this chamber and because there has been some action—although very patchy—to have the member be removed from some of the committees that he has been on.

What South Australia sees is that the behaviour that they are hearing described is okay—it is not great, they are not delighted by it on the other side, but they are not prepared to actually do anything about it. They are not prepared to name what it is that is so-called 'unacceptable' that was apologised for, and they are not prepared to say that that specific behaviour is unacceptable in the workplace and out of the workplace.

While we have politicians who are prepared to protect and cover up that kind of behaviour we do the entire public of South Australia a disservice, because they watch us, and they watch us already with suspicion and concern, and when they see this protection racket, when they see that absence of leadership, that absence of setting decent standards that they themselves in the public feel they have to stand up to, they are let down, and do not anyone in this chamber think that that is going to be forgotten in a hurry.

I want now to talk in response to the Governor's speech about the two portfolios for which I have responsibility. The first one is education, and it was in some ways quite delightful to hear how the projects that we started in government—some started when I was the minister, some started earlier, all supported by the full cabinet—are going, because the vast majority of the updates on the progress and the achievements two years in are ours.

It is great to hear that some of the physical infrastructure projects are coming along nicely. That is terrific. It would be nice if the local Labor members were allowed to attend and, perhaps, open some of the facilities that had been decided on, prioritised, by the previous Labor government, but

we accept that that might not be in the generous heart of the government, but it is good to hear that they are going well.

It was good to hear about the Phonics Assessment, which I initiated, not the government—the government followed, fantastic, good on you—and I did that despite the opposition of, I think, every other state if not nearly all the other states, but credit is not something that this government likes to share.

It is terrific to hear how the internet project is going, something that I think was announced at the end of 2017 or the beginning of 2018. It was set aside in the budget, knowing that there would be more money coming in from the federal government in the negotiations that were occurring over their very poor version of Gonski, and to have that be frequently updated for us by the Minister for Education in the government questions is terrific because I think it is a great idea because I was part of deciding that this state should do that. The lack of credit is something I am simply getting used to unfortunately.

The only real difference in what the government is doing on education in comparison with what the Labor government is doing on education—and I am very grateful that they are continuing those projects; even though they are claiming them for their own, I would rather they did that than cut them off for the sake of the schools—is, of course, the move of year 7. I have always been very clear that, while I did not see it as a priority because there is no educational advantage, there is absolutely no research that says there is any educational advantage, and it is expensive, I had always said if they want to do it and they win government then I certainly will not be disentangling it. I would not waste everybody's time and more money disentangling it.

I note that there is some worrying evidence that more disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, students from families where life is tougher, can struggle more going from a primary environment to a secondary environment that year earlier. There is some evidence that the rate of attendance for year 7s drops back a bit for those students as they become more enmeshed in the adolescent world earlier than they would otherwise have done. That troubles me and that will be my focus of attention when we return to government to make sure that those students are being supported in every way possible in this new regime.

I must say that I am concerned about the infrastructure associated and very concerned that the Institute of Architects had to come out and say that they thought these projects would not be ready in time and that therefore it might well be that we find year 7s sitting in libraries or gymnasiums having classes because their classrooms are not ready. I am concerned that transportables yet again are being seen as a solution to the problem.

I remain very disappointed that there are so many high schools that would have had money under the Building Better Schools arrangements for upgrading their facilities, for having new specialist facilities, that are now having that money diverted to build classrooms for 12 year olds who are currently in classrooms down the road. We will be watching very clearly what happens with the unfolding of the infrastructure for year 7.

The news this morning about the TAFE cuts came as no surprise; it is starting to go public. We had already seen the closures of campuses. What I have been hearing for the last year is the way that the TAFE cuts now are being managed is really going to do damage to the quality of the offering. There is an awful lot of rhetoric that comes from the other side and, again, an awful lot of taking credit for the result of actions taken towards the end of the last government to resolve quality difficulties in TAFE.

There is a lot of credit taken. The previous government is always blamed for things that happened after the election if they are not good but never credited for actions that get better as a result of decisions taken. I guess that is politics, but I will be watching very carefully as we start to see through the rhetoric to see the reality for TAFE, to see the reality of perhaps more campus closures, as was canvassed in the paper this morning.

But even more likely, even more certain, is the removal of swathes of lecturers, the replacement of permanent positions with people who simply turn up, teach for an hour and go away again and who are not there for the ongoing support and development of the students. I think this

will be a very serious concern as we see our economy tilt more and more to requiring young people to have finished high school and be able to go on to further education. If we undermine the public provider, if we residualise the public provider in our haste to make sure that private providers are accommodated, we will pay the price.

I suppose few people listen to these speeches, but I would like to put on record my absolute admiration for, and thanks to, the teachers in this state. As people would know, because each year I talk about my own children, we are drifting towards the end of the high school experience. We all have our own experiences with the education system, but, having gone through the public system from the beginning and now coming towards the end, I can say that our public schools are excellent.

My children are not at one of the public schools that people fight to get into or at one of the schools that are regarded as elite or as one of the privileged public schools. These also are excellent schools. They are at a suburban public school and it is excellent. The way my children are supported, the range of education that is offered to them, the quality of support and the quality of being stretched and stimulated have been superb. I want people to realise that they do not have to leave the public sector to have an excellent education.

I turn to the environment. There are so many overwhelming challenges that we face in the environment. I liked a lot of the rhetoric in the Governor's speech—I will say that. I liked the fact that the environment featured very prominently. I wish I had more confidence that the funding and the leadership would follow, but I did like that there was a recognition of the importance of the environment. Climate change is a big steam train coming down the tracks to get us all if we do not collectively, as a world, as a nation and as a community, do something.

That 'do something' has become highly complex because it must be about reducing emissions and it must be about engaging in the global effort to persuade everyone that they must reduce their emissions. They must do it in a way that allows development but that leapfrogs the old technology, the dirty technology, and leapfrogs into the technology that is cheap, that is green and that is renewable.

However, I wonder if this government in any way remonstrated with the Prime Minister when, in the middle of Australia burning, his government went to Madrid and did everything they could to dismantle a global agreement on increasing the emissions reduction. I would like to know if this government privately—and they could possibly never say it—at any point lifted up the phone and said, 'This is the wrong direction for this nation.' I wish I had any confidence that that could have happened.

I know what did happen in the first budget under this government: \$11 million was taken out of the Department for Environment and Water in the climate change area; \$11 million was just removed. While we hear the rhetoric about climate change, where is the action? Where is the on-ground policy work that needs to be done in that department to make sure that we respond?

In that context, which must be the context in which we think of almost everything now, we must be very concerned about the future of the River Murray—and I am desperately concerned. Yesterday, I did a grievance at top speed, which possibly needs some translation because I think I got faster as I kept talking. There is a pathway for us to get this 450 gigitalitres, but it is going to take some action, some pretty loud action.

This government must put pressure on the commonwealth to do a series of actions. First of all, it needs to lift the cap on buybacks so that it is possible for voluntary buybacks to occur. Barnaby Joyce, our old friend Barnaby Joyce, thinks that every drop of water that goes over the border to South Australia is a waste. I have heard the Premier and the minister, when the royal commission report first came out a year ago, be very dismissive of the power of buybacks. In fact, they did not seem to think that they were voluntary, which of course they are: that is what is in the Water Act and that is what was in the royal commission report.

More recently, the Minister for Environment has been starting to echo some of what I have been saying for the last two years and what the royal commission said a year ago, which is that we need to be able to use buybacks to make sure that we get the water we need down the river. One of the problems with the buybacks is that there is a cap and there are only 100 gigitalitres or 200 gigitalitres

left in that cap. That must be lifted. That is in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The commonwealth needs to change the way that Barnaby put it in in the first place.

The next thing they need to do is change the plan for the 450 gigalitres. At the moment, it can only be done with water efficiency projects. Bafflingly, the other states, particularly New South Wales, which has gone completely out into the public saying, 'We will not be doing that,' are refusing to put forward any water efficiency projects, even under the overly complex criteria that the minister agreed to more than a year ago.

We need to change the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to allow voluntary buybacks to be the way the 450 gigalitres is delivered because then you might not even have to do the buybacks because, by changing that, it changes the equation for New South Wales and Victoria. Rhetoric here means nothing. 'Maybe the commonwealth should do some buybacks,' I am hearing now. They cannot for the 450 gigalitres. Did that come up at the ministerial council meeting? Was that discussed? It is not in the communiqué. Was that discussed as being a reasonable response to New South Wales, saying before, during and after that meeting that it will not be contributing any of the 450 gigalitres?

Let's be really clear. I know they are in drought. I am not asking them to send water now. I am asking them to send entitlements to let the government put in water efficiency infrastructure for when the water returns after the drought and give up entitlements that then become the entitlements of the health of the River Murray. That can only be done with water efficiency projects at the moment. They do not want to do them.

Here is one way to put serious pressure on them. Do we ever hear about this from the government or from the federal government? Nothing. The federal government writes a strict letter to the minister in New South Wales about another issue. It is not about our issue but about the Northern Basin Plan and the water management plans. What about our issue? That 450 gigalitres is not discretionary. It is essential if we are to have a healthy river.

I wish to note in passing that I and the Labor Party support the intent of the waste strategy that the minister has been talking about and that was repeated in the Governor's speech yesterday. I am undertaking consultation. I trust that the minister will allow time before rushing the legislation through this chamber for me to do that, but I want to make sure that we have the right tone, the right response to this challenge in that legislation, the right provisions and the right punishment, should people and companies go against the legislation. But, in terms of intent, I am with the government on that, and I look forward to seeing it come into this chamber in due course.

I want to turn to the other really big issue we are facing that climate change is sitting over the top of and that is the state of our natural environment, which is in trouble even if climate change were not happening. It is in trouble because of the change of land use, the way in which for the last several generations our population—and I am not talking about our population alone but the world's population—has been growing and the way in which we are increasing demands on the natural environment.

Biodiversity was already under strain. Add climate change to that and add one of the consequences of climate change being what we saw on Kangaroo Island, in the Adelaide Hills, on Yorke Peninsula and what we are still seeing in the Eastern States—that is, fire destroying huge areas of land and at a temperature and at a ferocity that are almost unheralded. I find it hard to talk about this because the last two times I tried to talk about Kangaroo Island publicly I got very moved, so I will try to talk about this in a calm way.

What I saw on Kangaroo Island was utter devastation. When I spent time with ecologists who love that park, who care for that park and have done for years, they were very concerned that the rate of regeneration will be significantly less than any fire we have seen before because the temperature was so great and the speed was so great. Animals were unable to get out of the way. The fire burnt down into the earth where dunnart nests are, for example. The stench of death when you go to Flinders Chase now is horrifying, and I am sure that the Deputy Premier experienced this.

How that regeneration works is going to be closely watched by ecologists because, if those seeds are not able to germinate because the temperatures have killed what is inside, if those trees cannot sprout—and I saw some beautiful sprouting from the 20 December fire but not that January

fire—if there is a diminution of the rate of regeneration, then we are in significant trouble, and we are at only 1° of warming right now. This is a warning to us.

The reason I went down to Kangaroo Island in October last year and spent time with the same people, in different circumstances, I spent time with a couple of weeks ago was to walk the Wilderness Trail to look at the spots the government has deemed appropriate for development for accommodation sites for people to come in and spend up to \$1,000 a night. There will be clearance of native vegetation to facilitate accommodation sitting on top of bluffs, visible from very many points of the Wilderness Trail, near beaches where there are nesting hooded plovers, which are very sensitive animals.

My goodness, Australian fauna are one of the most specialised kinds of fauna, where they will only nest in a very narrow environment, where they will only feed from a narrow set of available feed. It makes them highly vulnerable to the kinds of disruptive changes we are seeing at the moment. When I walked around there, I was more convinced than ever that the Friends group was right to say, 'We are withdrawing our labour. We can't work on this park when what this park is doing is facilitating yet another hit to biodiversity for the sake of having some people come in and have a comfortable environment to sleep in, to eat and to have drinks with a beautiful view.' That is nice, but at what expense?

Those people are facing the burnout of that environment. The minister and his department are going to need every volunteer they can get so that collectively they are able to do all the restoration possible. The seed collection some of these environmentalists have been able to do over the last few years may be one of the most precious resources on the island for the regeneration of that natural environment. The labour they are capable of bringing, with knowledge and understanding of what should go where, of the interactions between different species, will be invaluable.

In exchange for understanding the importance of that local community to the restoration of that park, the government should take this opportunity to reconsider the support for that development. As I understand it, almost the first words out of the environment department—presumably on directive—were that the development is still going ahead. Well, the environment is very different now. The trail is burnt. We do not yet know, until there has been proper ecological assessment, which bits are more vulnerable, which bits have some chance of regeneration easily and which bits are fragile and will require more work.

All of that must come first. I am tired of the natural environment being seen as something that can be compromised for other interests. We cannot survive unless the natural environment is robust, sustainable and generating all the kinds of activities that every landholder knows are important. After my maiden speech, everyone was very lovely and very welcoming, but some of the people on the then opposition side who were landholders came over and thanked me because of the way I talked about the importance of the environment to landholders and the importance of landholders to the environment, that really good farming nowadays is environmental farming that understands the importance of the ecological systems being attacked enough to keep the system working.

We have to give that same respect to our national parks. We cannot assume that we can keep putting developments in Flinders Chase and making it pay the price. Now that we have one of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, which is what Flinders Chase was, desperate for help—and, incidentally, Kangaroo Island tourism is dependent in very large part on that natural experience that tourists crave and want—we must prioritise it. The minister must sit down with the Friends, talk to them, listen to them and understand what is possible in Flinders Chase.

They have never said they do not want any development. They have never said that. I suspect some of them probably do not, but they have made a decision that that is not what their position will be. They have made the decision that they will support development in Flinders Chase; they just want it to be in a place that does not do additional harm. I urge the minister to listen: they are very lovely people, very reasonable and they know a huge amount about the environment.

I was standing with a couple in the ruins of their house—again, the Deputy Premier amongst others will have seen these collapsed homes where all you can see is the roof and then bits of possessions peeking from underneath—but as we were standing and talking and feeling awful, they

were recognising the species of birds that were flitting by. Their knowledge and understanding of the ecology, and their care for it, is remarkable. If the minister would sit down and talk to them and understand why they have these objections, invite them to come back and help restore the park, but on the basis that the park will not be the plaything for development, that development will be consistent with the demands of the park, then I think we might see some progress.

I am happy to give full credit if that happens. I would rather see Flinders Chase looked after and the environment cared for as it slowly starts, we hope, to regenerate than continue to have the easy points, the easy wins every time I talk about the minister's record on Facebook and elsewhere.

There was some nice rhetoric in the speech, some nice updates on Labor projects—I appreciated those and am glad to see they are going well and would love to be invited to a few openings but do not expect it—some warning signals about year 7, some warning signals about the priority given to disadvantaged students, and a very big concern that we need to go beyond rhetoric with climate change and with the Murray River and our national parks, and start taking action.

Mr SZAKACS (Cheltenham) (16:52): It is my pleasure to rise to make a brief contribution to the Address in Reply. I took some time over the Christmas break, while this parliament was prorogued, to catch up on some bad movies. One of my favourite bad movies is *Groundhog Day* which is always—

The Hon. V.A. Chapman: It's a great movie.

Mr SZAKACS: It is a great movie and one of my favourites, in fact. It is my favourite Christmas movie, and I had the pleasure of watching it probably half a dozen times and am starting to introduce my four-year-old son to it. It is probably at about his level of humour as well. *Groundhog Day* is a bit of a joke that we make from time to time. We all suffer from a sense of *deja vu* from week to week, month to month, especially as we spend more time in this place.

However, I must say, having the privilege of listening to His Excellency address the joint sitting on the opening of this new session of parliament, Bill Murray and *Groundhog Day* came strikingly back to me because in merely the first few paragraphs of His Excellency's contribution on behalf of this Marshall Liberal government we heard about the bold new agenda that this parliament was prorogued to pursue: the inconvenience, the cost of what is not a usual course of action, to prorogue and open this new session.

We heard about the pledge, the pledge that is now effectively torn up, and the social contract that has been broken with the public of South Australia: more jobs, better services and lower costs. We heard in those first few paragraphs of the government's agenda for this new session of parliament that magic initiative, that magic new vision that we are about to see this year: shop trading hours, rate capping and abolishing and amending labour hire laws—something that this government attempted dismally to convince the public of throughout 2019. They failed to convince the public, they failed to convince South Australians, they failed to convince us in the Labor opposition and of course they failed to convince the honourable members of the other place.

So I ask: what is the purpose of us being here to launch this bold, new agenda when, front and centre, is rehashing the past, waking up to that alarm clock at 6am as Bill Murray did, morning after morning? We are here again. I am not sure what new arguments the government are going to proffer to the public in this regard.

I have met the Deputy Premier, both as a member of this place and also in my former role as the secretary of SA Unions, about labour hire for years now. To the Deputy Premier's credit, her views around this are clear, but she fails to articulate why we are back here again with a further attempt to scrap laws, to change laws that were instigated by the former Labor government with the sole purpose of protecting some of the most vulnerable workers in our community.

I now move to the pledge of more jobs, better services and lower costs. I was interested to hear His Excellency talk in a little bit more detail about this new initiative from this government. What was not discussed in His Excellency's contribution was GlobeLink. I have spoken with a number of my constituents, a number of business leaders, over the last couple of weeks since the Premier's backflip in respect of GlobeLink, and the response has been interesting. What strikes me is that most constituents I speak to never had a single expectation that this project was going to take place. The

opinion of industry leaders all the way from Adelaide Airport to freight and road, and peak councils, was very clear: this was a bad thing for the state.

The spin around this has been interesting, but the undeniable facts of this matter are clear. Either the Premier had no intention of proceeding with this project, it was political opportunism of the highest order and the intention was always, midterm, to inform the public, 'Nothing to see here,' and we can believe that, we can believe that this was all cooked, we can believe that this was all confected, or we can turn our mind to the only viable alternative, which is that the economic literacy of the Premier is so poor that, when announcing this project and intention around GlobeLink, the net impact on this state was not even considered.

He did not speak to peak bodies. He did not speak to freight and road councils. It was a great idea probably cooked up at a Liberal love-in somewhere and here we are a couple of years later. Frankly, this undermines the public's faith in politicians on both sides of this house. We have a duty to the state and we have a duty to the community to do what we say and say what we mean. When the government, this Marshall Liberal government, continually backflip and live in a world of post truth, we undermine the very integrity of this place to which we are elected to serve.

There is also a fundamental disconnect by the government when it comes to jobs and what is going to get us to an economy that is able to be futureproofed. There is also an utter lack of narrative around the nature of work. Our community is doing it really tough, and my community in Cheltenham is doing it as tough if not tougher than others. Wage growth continues to be at record lows, people are working longer hours for less pay and wage theft is now becoming a business practice for far too many dodgy enterprises that undercut the vast majority of legitimate, hardworking, lawful businesses around this state.

This government has failed to articulate their vision for work. Work is changing. Work has been changing for a decade or more now. To simply talk about jobs as a catchphrase fails to have regard for the stress and anxiety that are facing working people across this state. Where is their next job going to come from? How are they going to pay the bills at the end of the week? What is the future for their children who are currently in school or who are currently in training for the future?

We hear a lot of rhetoric from different talking heads about this concept that the job that many of our children may be doing one day does not even exist yet, and I even speak about that myself. My four-year-old son, who started school for the first time this year, is likely to be working in a job that looks entirely different from what it may look like today.

It is incumbent upon governments to take a broad and brave stand about what they believe work should look like. It is not enough just to talk about a job or employment or, sadly, as this government continues to have to talk about, unemployment as it continues to rise in this state. It is about taking a stand and articulating what work should look like in a vision that we as elected leaders will pursue. Of course, the nature of work, when you get it wrong, has a dramatic flow-on effect for the rest of the economy.

For the last two years, we have seen a net decline in the share of household income that is disposable. The amount of disposable income that a household has is declining. What I put is something that should worry us all—that is, the very real prospect that we will be the first generation to hand over workplaces, to hand over work and to hand over jobs that are worse, that are lower paid and that are less secure than those of the generation before us. That is not okay. Every person in this house, irrespective of our politics and our political persuasion, should be very concerned about that prospect.

When disposable income dips, it means quite simply that people have less to spend in our economy. Very few of the thousands, possibly tens of thousands, of working people with whom I have had the privilege to work and meet over my professional career are what we would determine as having high net wealth.

These are not people who have a Cayman Islands offshore bank account. These are not people who have a large share portfolio. Some of them are lucky enough, thanks to their trade union, to have industry superannuation. These are people who earn money, spend it to look after their family and do their best in whatever way they can to provide a better life for them than, potentially, the one they had when they were growing up.

As we see retail spending decline, as we see whole rafts of industry shut their doors and close up shop, we have to ask ourselves: is it simply enough anymore to sit back and watch wages decline and the security of work dampen whilst this government is simply asleep at the wheel? One thing we know that creates better work, more secure jobs and better economic security for people is access to education, training and skills.

There are many things that my colleagues have spoken about and will speak about during their contribution to this Address in Reply, but there are two issues that I want to speak about specifically. One is the art of failure by this government and the Minister for Innovation and Skills to draw a causal and cogent link between training and skills and better work. We have heard a lot, as we did in His Excellency's contribution in the joint sitting, about the increasing numbers projected and the targets of this government around apprenticeships.

What His Excellency, on advice from the Premier, failed to inform the joint sitting of was the fact that the 20,000 over five years that the minister continually trots out can count in those numbers a course as short as four weeks, two weeks or even one week. I have made my contribution on this previously, but those four-week, two-week, one-week pre-voc courses, introductory courses or foundation courses play a really important role in the training system. What they do not do is provide a pathway to a job. That is where this minister continues to fail this generation and upcoming generations of young South Australians.

The training in school system was and is set up to provide a pathway for good work, for meaningful jobs, for transferability and for economic security for young people. When I meet with businesses both in my electorate and around Adelaide to discuss what they need from young people entering training and skills, it is very clear and very stark. In the western suburbs of Adelaide in particular, I and my fellow western suburbs MPs, including the member for Port Adelaide and the member for Lee, are being asked: when is the western Adelaide technical college going to be delivered? I am sure the member for Colton is having the same question asked of him.

In February 2018, the then Liberal opposition announced its policy of a western Adelaide technical college, an initiative that, at the time and before I was even elected to this place, I thought was a net positive contribution to our city and to the emerging narrative around training and skills. In July 2019, here in estimates the Minister for Education, in response to a question from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said that the announcement was imminent.

Any of us who have worked in politics or in public life know that the wheels of the bureaucracy turn very slowly at times, but I think that by any reasonable measure an imminent announcement now some eight months later from that answer would indicate that the people of western Adelaide are rightfully cynical, and they are cynical about this government's utter contempt for our community. At the same time that buses are being cut, at the same time that major rail is at threat through the western suburbs of Adelaide, at the very same time that buses along Grange Road along my electorate and that of the member for Lee are being cut we are still awaiting a major pillar of this now government's election platform.

Further interrogation of the Minister for Education during the last session of parliament confirmed that the minister would not rule out this technical college being fee pay. We need to know more about this. The western suburbs of Adelaide, the young people, the young students who stand to benefit from this investment and contribution of a tailored, broad-based technical college, deserve the answers. Frankly, what is going to happen is that a young person is going to see their passage through high school, waiting, waiting, waiting for this technical college and it will pass them by. We need those answers and we need them now. Any relaunch of this government's agenda that does not include an announcement now about that fails those young jobseekers in the western suburbs of Adelaide.

One thing that I guess solidifies this for me, and the need for us to distil down exactly what it is that this government intends to do to improve the nature of work, to improve wages and to better secure employment for our young people is the graduation ceremonies that I attended throughout the end of 2019 for the number of schools in my electorate. As is often the case, and I am sure in schools in the areas of my colleagues, we are continually floored by how impressive our young

transitioning students into high school are. I think we all look back from time to time, and I feel that I never had my head switched on as a 12, 13 year old as kids do these days.

There are a few things that struck me and that really floored me. One that really did was the number of young female students who, when they addressed their assemblies and graduation ceremonies, spoke about what they wanted to do in the future. I lost count of how many of them said that they wanted to be AFL footballers. When I look back not all that long ago, I cannot imagine a young girl being able to get up and say, 'I want to be a footballer.' I am so proud of that, and I know that my colleagues in this place would be, too.

Another thing that was far more sobering was the number of students who got up as 12 and 13 year olds and spoke about what they wanted to do in the future—whilst their schoolmates were talking about being footy players, about being astronauts, about being YouTubers (I did not even know what a YouTuber was until I went to a couple of year 7 graduations)—and the number of graduating year 7 and year 6 students who spoke about their desire to get a job and look after their family.

It should sober us all because no 12 or 13 year old should be spending their time at school in year 6 or year 7 worried about where their job is going to come from when they need to enter the workforce—no-one. If that is what we are leaving this generation, then we have failed. This government needs now to step up and articulate what their vision is for when that young person who is 12 or 13 enters the workforce. No-one at that age should already suffer the anxieties of an adult when it comes to finding work—no-one.

Another thing that has really sobered me over this last period is reflecting on this government's commitment to better services and lower costs. Quietly, on 1 January, patients and families in my local area turned up at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woodville and saw hastily stuck corrections to parking fees, which dramatically increased parking fees for those families. Due to some family illness, my own family is spending a considerable amount of time at The QEH at the moment and it has given me pause to reflect on the difficulties that families that are seeing themselves in care or in treatment on a regular basis are facing when they attend a hospital.

The difficulties in finding a car park at The QEH are already well known. One of the excellent contributions that the former Labor government made to that hospital—the hospital that I was born at, I must also say, as were a number of people in this house—was the multistorey car park. That was an important initiative that was funded by the then Labor government. I drove through that car park just a couple of days ago and it was empty, while the secondary car park at The QEH was overflowing and had cars circling.

It is very clear that there is a need for additional car parking spaces, but the difference is that the increase in costs to that car park for families and patients is dramatic and people are voting with their feet. They are not parking there. This brand spanking new car park is effectively mothballed because of the excessive costs of parking for those western suburbs families.

I invite the Minister for Health in the other place to come down to the hospital with me sometime and spend a little bit of time there—not to walk around waiting for a press conference, not to stand out on the grassed area, but to see the stress on families' faces as that compounds as they are looking for a car park, as they then have to make the decision about the additional car parking costs and whether that day, whilst their loved one or family member is seeking care in the hospital, they can afford that coffee, or whether they can grab that sandwich for lunch. These are the very real considerations that members of my community make every day thanks to the broken promises of this Liberal government.

In closing, I think our communities watch us in this place far more than we give them credit for. They might not be sitting at home now watching this live stream but they look to us to uphold a standard of integrity and honesty. When a government of any political persuasion speaks so unequivocally of more jobs, better services and lower costs, they have every right to believe that, and every time a government breaks those promises, every time a government runs away from truth, honesty, integrity and accountability, it undermines the job that we are put here to do. I look forward to this year, and I expect and I hope from this bold new agenda that the government speaks about that we are going to see a little bit more than we have in the last couple of days.

Mr MURRAY (Davenport) (17:20): I rise to make some brief and rather poorly scripted comments in response to His Excellency the Governor's address to us collectively. The address made by the Governor essentially sets out the proposed legislative program for this coming session. I want to start by recapping from the perspective of my own electorate of Davenport some of the things that this government has delivered for my community. That is the litmus test in many respects for the people who elected me to represent them here. We made a series of promises and I want to give some consideration by way of looking back and then look forward at some of the developments that the legislative program so described will in fact generate for my constituents.

In my view, possibly one of the biggest single developments in my community has been the recent announcement at the end of last year of the Southern Health Expansion Plan, which constitutes an \$86 million spend, the employment of 45 full-time equivalent clinical specialists, nurses, doctors, etc., and the addition of 30 emergency treatment beds to Flinders, taking Flinders from 53 beds or treatment places to 83, and in so doing making the Flinders emergency department the biggest in South Australia. Today, we have had a lot of talk from the other side about promises, and I want to recap very clearly the situation with health services in the south of Adelaide.

There were unequivocal promises made prior to the advent of Transforming Health. Those promises included the fact that the Repat Hospital would never be closed. It is now history of course that it was closed, and that is and remains a major issue for the people in the south. Less widely known was the concurrent gutting of services and capacity at Noarlunga Hospital. Neither Noarlunga Hospital nor the Repat hospital are in my electorate. Their closure in the case of the Repat or their semi destruction in the case of the services and capabilities offered down at Noarlunga meant an inordinate load being placed on the Flinders hospital, in particular its emergency department, and in particular the people who work there. Many of the people who work at Flinders are my constituents.

The reality at Flinders as a result of these changes can be best summarised as follows: the Flinders emergency department experienced in 2011 some 60-odd thousand emergency admissions during the course of that year—60,000 in 2011. The current facility is designed to cater for 70,000. In 2011, there were 60,000 people going through a facility to handle 70,000, which is not a huge issue. Midway through 2019, the number of emergency presentations at Flinders was 92,000 in a facility designed to handle 70,000. I invite you to consider what may have caused that.

If you speak to the people who work there, they will tell you that the answer is the fact that the capacity previously provided by the Repat and, in particular, by Noarlunga meant that Flinders was inundated. This government has committed to start to address that problem with Flinders in particular, and it will start this year. This government will start to correct some of the impact on my community made by the changes to, and deleterious vandalism of, our health system under the auspices of Transforming Health, not to mention the complete, abject and unapologetic breach of the trust of the South Australian community that the closure of the Repat represents.

To recap, an enormous amount of money will be spent in my electorate of Davenport as part of this program. The program will first and foremost enable the recommitment and re-establishment of capacity at Noarlunga Hospital. This will mean, from a practical perspective, that people will be able to receive treatment at Noarlunga, as opposed to the current situation whereby patients have to be transported by ambulance from that area up to Flinders, thereby exacerbating the issues at the Flinders Medical Centre.

Having made those changes, a fundamental part of enabling those changes at Noarlunga will be the expenditure of more money on the Repat site, and enabling moving departments from Noarlunga, thereby freeing up space at Noarlunga. In turn, a 30-bed acute ward will be moved from Flinders to Noarlunga, thus freeing up those 30 extra places.

To put this into perspective, in terms of its effect, excluding the treatment of juveniles, this will double the size of the Flinders emergency department. This is a direct result of policies pursued by this government for the benefit of the people of the south and their health systems. Lest there be any doubt, it is a direct response to the disasters inflicted on us collectively in the south as a result of Transforming Health.

Another promise made as part of my election campaign was in relation to the rectification of the notorious Flagstaff Road, which is a three-lane road with the middle lane bidirectional. For the

record, this was opposed by many still in this place when given the opportunity to express a view. The Labor Party are against this, and have always been against the rectification of this temporary, 30-plus-year-old measure, which causes considerable safety issues. It has been the cause of many accidents and fatalities, not to mention the fact that 25,000 vehicles use that road each and every day.

It has been a longstanding issue in the south and there has been absolutely zero interest in getting it fixed by the government of the day until the election of this Marshall Liberal government. The end result is the commitment of \$32.9 million to the rectification of the road, turning it into a proper four-lane road, with two lanes either way, plus footpaths, etc. We are at the stage now where comprehensive design is being done as we speak. There has been significant community consultation, and the project itself is well underway and timed to mesh with the completion of the work at Darlington so that my community has only one lot of roadworks to navigate, assuming of course that they work in the city, which many of them do.

As we speak, another election commitment in my electorate is being delivered: the rectification of Candy Road, which for 30-odd years has been a left-turn-only road. It was changed quite some time ago for a variety of reasons, and that has in many respects isolated key parts of my community, not to mention the suburb of Hallett Cove on the other side of South Road. We undertook to transform that intersection so that it would be a four-way intersection, complete with right-hand turns, just like people in the north or elsewhere have. That work is well underway as I speak.

We made a commitment to the Flagstaff Community Centre to help them fund female-friendly change room facilities as well as build on an earlier commitment from the member for Boothby to enable a transformation of their clubroom facilities. We delivered on that money. We have spent a considerable amount of time with the local council, endeavouring to get their buy-in, and we remain optimistic that they will do so insofar as planning amendments, etc., are concerned.

Looking forward and addressing some of the measures, I have addressed the Southern Health Expansion Plan, but there are several other measures in train in my electorate that I think are worthy of commentary or consideration. One of the major ones is going to be the fulfilment of, and the continued investment in, Glenthorne National Park, a large chunk of which—the Happy Valley Reservoir—falls in my electorate. The upshot of this will be a considerable boon for not just my community but arguably for many others who will visit the area to do bushwalks, etc.

To be completely clear, the intention is that the reservoir and the wildlife therein will be protected and will be an integrated part of a national park. This will occur once further investment in the filtration plant at the reservoir has been undertaken, not just in day-to-day infrastructure but by a considerable investment to enable it to do two very separate things. One is part of a broader program with SA Water to enable the use of solar power to cut costs for the business unit; more particularly, the other, which is more relevant in terms of the ongoing use of the reservoir, will be the installation and use of upgraded, current state-of-the-art filtration works.

A further Davenport-specific item that was touched on by the Governor in his address is the advent of the rail system coming to the seat of Davenport by virtue of the Flinders Link station being built at Flinders University as we speak. This will not just radically transform Flinders and options for people who wish to travel to Flinders, be that for medical or for educational reasons, but it will also provide an opportunity for my community to access rail services, with the frequency and the efficiency that they bring as a means to travel to the CBD, in particular. So we are very much looking forward to getting trains coming to Davenport. I have mentioned that in the house earlier.

I do recall some comment from the member for Kaurana, who was absolutely shocked that I would actually point out the fact that my community has in my view very poor public transport options. The reality is it has been that way for many years. You only have to look at Flagstaff Road to see the complete lack of care that the previous government had for my community and its transport options. So getting access to the rail coming into Flinders and putting in place some smart ways of availing people of that capacity, of the ability to use that system to travel as a result, either directly to the Flinders precinct and/or to the CBD, will be, as it eventuates, greatly appreciated.

I want to move now to very briefly make some observations regarding the fires. We have had some very good contributions from both sides of the chamber insofar as their experience on or

around the fires, both on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills, with Cudlee Creek. I just want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by the CFS crews in my area, those of Cherry Gardens and of Happy Valley.

Cherry Gardens is an interesting CFS group in that they do not comprise simply the standard CFS station; they also comprise a separate airstrip, which is quite literally on the border of my electorate and that of the member for Heysen. Both parts of Cherry Gardens as well as Happy Valley played significant roles in fighting not just the fires we are talking about.

We have had three in our own community in very recent weeks, which have been very quickly extinguished before they became a major issue, primarily as a result of the prompt action of those CFS teams, not limited to but including the bomber crews. It would be remiss of me not to take a slightly indulgent detour and record a shout-out to those people who are maintaining those water bombers and ensuring that they are ready to perform the task that they have so brilliantly done for us, including my young nephew Jim.

As I said, the discussion about the impact of the fires, their immediate impact, the heroism and courage we saw, have all been very, very bipartisan, and that is as it should be. I would just invite consideration on the same basis of some of the observations that I have been privy to, having spoken not just to members of the CFS but also to members of the Indigenous community.

One of the ways forward—not the only one, but one mitigating method from a climate change perspective as well as treatment of fires, moving forward—is an embrace of what has been termed cultural burning. I have absolutely no doubt, based on what I have been told—and I have no reason to doubt the advice I have been given—that number one is that our Indigenous community have effectively managed the environment for thousands of years, and they understand how to manage it in order to mitigate the impact, not to prevent fires of this type but to mitigate the impact they have on the natural environment.

We should be embracing this, and I would suggest that it is something we can embrace, because if we do not the other evidence from the CFS is that in the absence of us doing that, the do-nothing approach insofar as cleaning areas up is instead embraced, it is embraced to the detriment of my community.

I have considerable issues. I am writing to councils all the time asking, on behalf of residents, for them to clean up specific areas. They remain loath to do so. In my view, the answer is for us collectively to not only embrace but also facilitate culturally appropriate and culturally inscribed, if you will, or driven, means of cleaning up those areas and, as I said, in so doing, mitigating some of the impacts.

I also want to make a point, insofar as the New South Wales interconnector is concerned, that it is something we undertook to do and it is something that, as the minister pointed out in the house today, we will in fact be doing. The expectation is that that will enable South Australia to sell more renewable power more easily into the eastern seaboard. The practical reality is that it will also enable an easier way to have the by-product of burning black coal—that is to say, deriving power that has been sourced from the use of black coal primarily coming from New South Wales and Queensland—being used to balance up the supply and demand equation here in South Australia.

I reiterate points I have made before. Again, this is a far longer term consideration, but in my considered view not only do we need a mix of renewable power but South Australia should, at the very least, embrace consideration of a long-term look at the use of nuclear technology to enable the generation of base load power because without that, should things continue as they are, we will, particularly in times of need, be continually reverting to the import of coal-sourced power. That is the practical economic reality today.

My challenge to all of us here is to not only acknowledge that but seek to at least consider the use of nuclear as a longer term component in our fuel mix. That does not mean that we have to necessarily implement it tomorrow, but in my view we should look to at least utilise it because it is not only base load, and it is not only stable but, more particularly, insofar as its greenhouse gas emissions are concerned, they are zero. In that respect, it is one of the cleanest forms of power available.

I will now make some observations on some of the contributions made earlier. The member for Port Adelaide talked about the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the need, in her view, for escalating or re-engaging the issue of buybacks. As someone who grew up on the river, I have a very strong view that buybacks mean you do not just buy back the water: you buy back the town, you buy back the community and you basically gut it and you hollow it out.

My strong view is that we should continue to advocate for what are very easily achievable means of deriving increased efficiencies. I made a speech in this house at the advent of the release of the royal commission report. The royal commission report actually detailed—and I cannot recall the percentages—that the South Australian part of the Murray-Darling Basin has, roughly speaking, 95 per cent of all the properties and all the water use on the river metered, so South Australia does the right thing in terms of measuring how much water is being taken.

A royal commission was established to address the theft of water. We have a situation in the northern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin where, according to the royal commission, well under 50 per cent of the properties taking water are doing so on a metered basis. If you wanted a quick efficiency, what you would do is go to the northern parts of the basin and say, 'Hey, listen, what we want you to do is put some meters in so that everybody is doing the right thing.' This is, in my view, a finding that has not been given sufficient import, and it is easy: put some meters in. If you want to drag water out, put some meters in.

Finally, I want to address the issue of jobs. The member for Cheltenham made some points in this regard. In my view, he rightly identified, and in fact personalised by reference to his family, the need for us to provide jobs as a primary requirement of us, not only as representatives of our community but as stewards of our economy as well. I have been somewhat surprised in that I have not heard quoted anywhere what I think is probably for me the most searing part of the most recent Deloitte Access Economics report.

I want to take the opportunity to read the part in question into *Hansard* and urge all of us to embrace the impact and commit ourselves to fixing it in a bipartisan fashion. They make the point that youth unemployment is the highest in Australia here in South Australia. They go on to make the point:

There are now fewer people under the age of 25 in South Australia than there were three decades ago—and fewer young people employed as well. At the same time, the overall population has risen by close to half a million.

Over the last 30 years—this is the bipartisan bit; it is governments of all political persuasions—there has been a fundamental shift in the demographics of South Australia. We have fewer people under the age of 25 now than we had 30 years ago and yet we have half a million more people. We are all responsible for doing what we can to address that.

The means by which we can address that—and it is up to all of us—is to look to exploit whatever competitive advantages South Australia has. By competitive advantage, I mean simply by what means South Australia can encourage investment and jobs and industry. By what means can South Australia and South Australians encourage other businesses and industries to establish themselves here?

At the entrance to this chamber there are busts of two of the most significant contributors to our state, premiers Playford and Dunstan. Dunstan, of course, was famous for his contributions particularly on social policy. Playford, in my view, was fundamentally responsible for the transformation of the South Australian economy, to the point where Adelaide was, in my memory as a very young man coming down from the bush, the number three sized city in the country. It is now number five.

The Playford lesson was, very simply, reduced to its essentials; he took the risk. He took a large deposit of brown coal at Leigh Creek and turned it into the cheapest energy available on the Australian mainland. As a consequence, this place was the best place to set up businesses. Not only were there factories building cars, washing machines, fridges and the rest of it, but as a consequence of that investment we saw the ancillary industries—lawyers, accountants, clerical work—and jobs for our children arose as a result.

That is the lesson. That is the practical lesson. That took considerable courage, in that the very first thing Playford needed to do was to nationalise the then private providers of power in South Australia. I am not necessarily advocating that we adopt that rap, but the point is that cheap energy means that there will be industry and jobs available, because that is one of the primary input costs for any business, regardless of the business type.

In closing, my point is a challenge to all of us, as we look forward and as the member for Cheltenham has pointed out, to actually ensure that, in his case, our children have the capacity to be provided with jobs and opportunities here in what is the best state in the best country in the world. In my case, and for many people of my age, it is an opportunity to provide the capacity for those of our children who have gone interstate or overseas looking for opportunities we can no longer provide. In making that point, I conclude my remarks.

The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (17:50): I rise to give my Address in Reply to His Excellency Hieu Van Le's speech outlining his government's plans for the future.

Since becoming the Minister for Child Protection many improvements have been made to the child protection system. We have met my electoral commitments of foster and kinship care repayments to age 21 in response to research showing that 30 per cent of children leaving care were homeless within their first 12 months. We have broadened the qualifications for front-line workers to fill longstanding front-line vacancies. We also conducted an audit of all children in residential care to ensure that no child is left behind.

We announced the expansion of permanency options, including open adoption, and we recently commenced a pilot program for family group conferencing to help build scaffolding within families to keep children safe. We are also working on intensive family support systems in the northern suburbs, which are showing good results that are very heartening, along with a western suburbs program due to start very soon with an Aboriginal-specific focus. We are focusing on early intervention and prevention, as members can see.

We also appointed the first ever Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in November 2018. We decommissioned Queenstown, the large residential care unit, in response to over a decade of recommendations by the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People. We also appointed a lead psychiatrist to oversee our most complex cases. We expanded the disability team to help fund and get packages for some of our children; up to 25 per cent to 30 per cent of children in care are eligible for the NDIS scheme.

We established an Aboriginal lead practitioner, and we now use the Winangay Kinship Carer Assessment Tool, a culturally appropriate kinship care placement tool. In 2019, we launched a reconciliation action plan, an Aboriginal action plan and an Aboriginal employment strategy, and I am very proud to say that DCP has one of the highest proportion of Aboriginal staff of all the government departments. We also partner with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, in fact doubling our contract expenditure with them.

We engaged in significant contract reform with our foster care agencies and residential care providers to ensure payments are made for active placements and not vacancies. The last quarter saw, for the first time ever, all agencies receiving growth payments in foster care. With the support of both the department and the non-government organisations, we have been able to continue growing the proportion of children and young people living in family-based care. In 2017, this was 83.1 per cent, and that has now risen to 86.5 per cent as at December 2019.

I met my target of a net increase of 50 foster carer households in the 2018-19 year, and I am on track to meet this again in the 2019-20 year. We have had a statewide effort to recruit and retain foster carers, working closely with the non-government sector. My department is better scoping for kinship care options, and there has been a significant increase in kinship care. We are growing our Long Term Guardianship (Specified Person) placements, which in the 2016-17 year were 19. In the 2018-19 year, 47 had guardianship transferred. We know that permanency and stability are vital for good outcomes for children.

Case plans are at 88.9 per cent of all children. This is higher than the national average and a rise over the last 12 months from 53.4 per cent, noting that the year before that they were not even reported because the figure was so low. We have released an in-care strategy called Every Effort for Every Child. We have reduced the overall cost of children and young people in care due to the growth in the proportion of children and young people in family-based care and the number of children who are now accessing an NDIS package negotiated by DCP staff.

We had our inaugural DCP staff recognition awards in 2019 and we are proud to be hosting this year in Adelaide the 2020 National Foster and Kinship Care Conference in September and in 2020 the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect international congress. Both will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

As we move into the second half of this term of government, I remain as enthusiastic and dedicated as I have always been to positively contribute to my constituents in the seat of Adelaide, to those in the broader community who have contact with the child protection system, to the children and young people in care and to the prosperity of the entire state as a cabinet minister. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Parliamentary Committees

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

At 17:57 the house adjourned until Tuesday 18 February 2020 at 11:00.