

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18 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.

Members

MEMBER FOR WAITE, SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The SPEAKER (11:01): Honourable members, before I call Mr Clerk, I wish to make a statement regarding the investigation into the alleged conduct of the member for Waite. I wish to provide the house with an update concerning the independent investigation into the alleged behaviour of the member for Waite on 13 December 2019.

I have been informed that South Australia Police have reported the member for Waite for basic assault. I have therefore suspended the independent investigation and directed the investigator to halt the process of undertaking any further interviews or sending any witness copies of their statements. I have suspended the independent investigation to avoid any potential interference with the police investigation.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 6 February 2020.)

The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (11:02): I rise to continue my remarks. The Liberal government has achieved so much already in our first two years in government, and there is a lot more on the horizon. I continue to work to represent those who live and work in the electorate of Adelaide, which incorporates the beautiful City of Adelaide, the heart of our state. In partnership with the federal government and local council, this government has released the Adelaide City Deal. This includes \$551 million centred around Lot Fourteen's innovation and cultural precinct.

Already, Lot Fourteen is adding economic opportunities and vibrancy to Adelaide. It is creating a job-generating, nation-leading innovation hub. I was there with minister David Pisoni on Friday and visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) team, which is part of the Stone and Chalk innovation hub. The work that is being done is amazing; most of the heritage buildings are being restored, and there is a really good vibe on Lot Fourteen.

The location will ultimately be home to the space industry; an international centre for food, hospitality and tourism studies; and an Aboriginal arts and culture centre. It is expected to attract lots of local and international visitors. Just yesterday, the Premier opened the Australian Institute for Machine Learning at Lot Fourteen.

Located in the same precinct is Adelaide Botanic High School, which opened its doors to students one year ago. In my maiden speech, delivered in this place in 2010, I referred to the Liberal Party policy, which was led by me with the help of minister Pisoni (then shadow minister for education), to build a second high school for the electorate of Adelaide.

It was discovered from doorknocking back in 2008 that there was a serious need for the residents of Walkerville and Prospect in particular for a local city school. I am so pleased to be part of the governing council at both Adelaide Botanic High and Adelaide High School and see both schools flourish and really provide an opportunity for children from Prospect, Walkerville, the city, North Adelaide, Ovingham, Gilberton and surrounding areas to attend such an amazing school.

Albeit a vision of another government, ABHS was opened under this government and it is a shining success.

Adelaide High School, also in my electorate, will benefit from an \$18 million announcement, which is to engage capital works in anticipation of the expansion of student numbers with the introduction of year 7 into high school, bringing South Australia in line with the rest of Australia. This is another election commitment that we are delivering on and that I think is well needed, as for a child moving from Victoria to South Australia in year 9 there were inconsistencies with some subjects running on and some repeated because of the year levels, so it is good to finally be in line with the rest of the country and working towards that.

A further \$500,000 was committed to a joint project with Adelaide city council in the precinct of Adelaide High School for the improvement of the West Terrace, Currie and Glover streets intersection. I was there this morning to check it out and see how it is working. It is almost finished. There will be a new pedestrian crossing, so children can cross in all directions now, and removal of the left-hand turn lanes, the slip lanes, which also increased the danger for people crossing the intersection. It will also now be Disability Discrimination Act compliant and is a great improvement that we have achieved very soon into our term of government.

This morning, I was also at the City South tram stop, which, as the member for Adelaide since 2010, was an issue that entire time that was ignored by the previous government. It was very narrow. It was very unsafe. It is now wide. It is compliant. It has shelter. It is disability access compliant and universally accessible, so I am very proud to be part of a government that is delivering on its commitments. I would also note that residents who generally are disrupted by roadworks such as these were so pleased with how swiftly this government worked on that project, particularly the City South tram stop. It worked to a tee. It was delivered on time, with as little disruption as possible to residents and businesses in the area.

We also saw the \$10 million investment in building a roof on the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre. This has generated interest from around the world. In January, we hosted world number one, Ash Barty, as part of the ATP and WTA tournaments. I am sure you would have heard that the Davis Cup tie against Brazil will take place in Adelaide next month. Squarely in my electorate, the upgrade to this facility will I hope inspire children and young people to follow in the footsteps of our local heroes, such as Lleyton Hewitt, who won our local event as a 17 year old and, as we all know, went on to be one of our most successful national tennis players.

Since 2015, skaters have been without a permanent location in the CBD to skate. Last year, minister Knoll announced a \$3 million commitment to a new skate park in the city to be built at the same intersection I visited this morning: the corner of West Terrace, adjacent to Adelaide High School. This will be a new city skate plaza, which is a new design, and I am really looking forward to work commencing soon. I believe that it is still in the development and design stage. Just this morning, I saw children with their skateboards, clearly coming into the city ready to skate, and soon they will have a permanent amazing place where they can skate. As I mentioned, we have also upgraded the City South tram stop. That was part of a \$17.5 million maintenance and upgrade project.

Coinciding with Chinese New Year last month, plans for a \$4 million revamp of Moonta Street in Chinatown were announced. This is a joint fifty-fifty investment with the government and the Adelaide city council. The works will include both revitalising and rejuvenating the iconic destination, as well as stimulating retail and shopfront investments. Wall art from artist Vans the Omega is already up. I saw about three or four that I have taken some photos of that are beautiful street art.

The revamp will improve safety through upgraded lighting, improve the streetscape, increase the number of trees, increase outdoor dining space and provide new paving. I was there a few weeks ago with the Lord Mayor and the Premier for the opening of the lighting section, but there is still more work to go ahead. Nearby, at the old bus station on Bowen Street west, the Cool Road Adelaide project is underway. I would encourage people to go to have a look and make their comments online at the YourSAy website.

I joined the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon. David Speirs, and saw firsthand the test sites for heat reflective treatments and learned how they work to reduce heat absorption and

cool the area. There was an up to 6° difference between the heat measured from the normal asphalt on our city roads and the roads that had the heat reflective surface on them. We all know about the difficulties or the problems in cities with the heat island effect. It is fantastic to have the Minister for Environment so engaged in climate change initiatives and improvements such as these.

The Women's and Children's Hospital also recently had a \$50 million upgrade announcement. This is a sustainment program that includes a new child and adolescent mental health ward, the upgrade of the paediatric emergency department and redevelopment of the neonatal areas and operating theatres. This will ensure that the Women's and Children's Hospital continues to have a world-class facility as we plan to build a new hospital.

The longstanding congestion in my electorate is being addressed with a \$19 million upgrade to Scotty's Corner, due to the traffic bottlenecks. Again, this has been an ongoing issue for years and years. Many people seek to avoid that intersection by rat-running through Collinswood and going in through near where Officeworks is. It does cause a lot of issues through the electorate. For those using Scotty's Corner there is a bottleneck because it goes from several lanes into one lane when you leave the intersection. We hope that this will be a project that will stimulate other rejuvenation in the area. I believe it will, so I am looking forward to the ongoing uplift to the economy from that project.

At a local level, I have worked to support my electorate in smaller projects, such as the North Adelaide Croquet Club, which received \$20,000 for new LED energy-efficient lighting. Local businesses in Prospect are benefiting from the \$38,000 that was secured to support the GigCity high-speed internet program with the Prospect council. We have included a pedestrian-activated crossing on Park Terrace for greater safety for the residents of Gilberton and North Adelaide who are crossing Park Terrace. There is also \$100,000 per annum being included in our budget to reduce the total build and removal time of the Superloop grandstand.

These are just some of the things that are being achieved by this Liberal government in my local area, with a lot more to come in the future.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kaurana, I would like to acknowledge Mr Robert Eudenberg and Mrs Sant Eudenberg, who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. They are guests of the member for Kavel. Congratulations, and welcome to Parliament House.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (11:13): I acknowledge the speech by His Excellency the Governor, and I also acknowledge all his hard work. I think the speechwriting could have used a bit of work, but that is certainly no fault of the Governor; it is certainly the fault of the Premier's office, which wrote the speech. I would like to add some contributions in terms of where this state is going, particularly in my portfolio of shadow minister for health but also in terms of my electorate.

First of all, I would like to make some comments in relation to the situation that has happened in regard to the member for Waite. Unfortunately, in this parliament we are now in the situation where the electorate of Waite is unrepresented. All 46 of us who are here are representing our electorates—representing the people whom we were elected to represent—but the people of Waite do not have a representative at the moment.

The government seems to think that this is an appropriate situation to be in. We have had a farcical process over the past two months, we have had weak leadership from the Premier on this issue, and it now means that the people of Waite—the people in the Mitcham Hills and on the Mitcham Plains—are unrepresented in this chamber. I think it is disgraceful and I hope that we will see proper action to ensure that somebody else is elected very soon to represent the people of Waite in this parliament.

In relation to the health area, this is an essential part of government. It is a third of the state's budget. It is one of the core services that people in our state rely on day in and day out, but it is needlessly suffering. Over the past almost two years we have seen that ambulance ramping has doubled. It has not increased by 10 per cent, it has not increased by 20 per cent, it has more than doubled. We saw significant ramping towards the end of last year, the worst ramping that our state has ever seen, and it was impacting on real patients. Real patients were being affected by this, real people, particularly elderly people, who are generally the ones stuck in ambulances outside emergency departments. They were stuck there for many hours waiting for the care they needed.

This government does not have a response to it. This government is supporting more and more cuts, which is making the situation much worse. It is not the fault of the paramedics who are trying to take people to hospital; in fact, it is not even the fault of the people in the emergency department who are working their guts out trying to help people as fast as they can. The issue is that people are stuck in the emergency department and unable to get out of the emergency department, to the point that on any given day now we are seeing significant numbers of patients stuck in emergency departments waiting to get a bed in the hospital.

Even this morning, I think 72 patients were stuck in emergency departments across our hospital system waiting for a bed in those hospitals. That number has been even higher in recent weeks, and this is generally a relatively quiet time of the year comparatively. Once we get to winter, if nothing changes, if the cuts continue, then that situation is going to get worse and worse. What is the government's response to this? It has not been to put in extra resources, and it has not been to open up extra beds or hire extra staff: they are cutting beds, they are cutting doctors and they are cutting nurses.

We had a situation in October last year when ramping was the worst it had ever been and the government announced the closure of 60 beds across central hospitals, across the Royal Adelaide, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hampstead and St Margaret's in the Central Adelaide region. That made a real difference because it then meant that there was significant additional pressure on the emergency departments over those coming months. The government said, 'Don't worry about this because these are going to be flex beds. These will open up when they are needed.'

That was not the case because every time there was ramping, which was almost every single day, those beds were not reopened. They sat there closed. We have photos of some big pin-up boards brought to close those beds in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, to try to stop people getting into them. It got to the point where, a month ago, there were reports that the cancer ward in the Royal Adelaide Hospital itself closed, so cancer patients, who were used to having a dedicated ward and dedicated cancer nurses looking after them, were shunted into other wards to save money.

We currently have three health regions across the state that are going through voluntary separation processes. These are not to cut bureaucrats, these are not to cut head office executives, these are to cut front-line staff in those hospitals. They include doctors, they include nurses and they include allied health professionals. That comes just after 100 staff were cut in SA Pathology, which means that SA Pathology are currently under the pump, particularly now they are dealing with the coronavirus cases. The particular warnings I am hearing is that if we see this level of activity combined with flu activity later in the year, then they are not going to be able to cope.

Cutting staff across some of our major hospitals in Adelaide and South Australia is only making the situation worse. It is only pouring diesel on the fire of already significant ramping, significant overcrowding and significant delays for patients who need the care that they need. What else was the government's response? 'We are not going to invest more money in patient services; we are going to invest more money in corporate liquidators to come and cut health services.' So we now have KordaMentha, which is being paid up to \$46 million over two years to go into central hospitals and cut funding from services—\$46 million is an outrageous amount of money.

These are staff who are getting paid some \$7,000 a day as part of their contracts. They have not released a second contract but we know from the first contract that some staff were getting paid \$7,000 a day to go in, all fly-in fly-out, because this government does not give a rat's about supporting economic development in South Australia. It wants to bring in people from Sydney and Melbourne,

none of whom were based here, fly in on the Monday morning, fly out on the Thursday afternoon and spend their time cutting staff, and the government is delighted with this.

In fact, we know that the Premier was out recently having drinks with KordaMentha in a swanky inner city bar, celebrating the fact that they have just got this contract extension for another \$20 million of taxpayers' money which is not going into health services, which is about them coming in to run health services privately and to cut staff in the process of doing it.

This combines with what we saw last year in the dramatic report from the ICAC commissioner. The ICAC commissioner delivered a report that raised very troubling issues about what was going on in SA Health—troubling issues in terms of conflicts of interest, procurement management, private practice arrangements, a whole range of different issues within the hospital system of people doing the wrong thing, abusing trust and abusing taxpayers' funding.

What is the government's response to this? It has been extraordinary, to say the least. Firstly, they failed to provide the ICAC commissioner with the funding he requested to go after these people. He requested a couple million dollars to investigate these people and to get to the bottom of these issues so he could make proper recommendations to try to fix these issues, and the government refused to do that. They refused to allow the ICAC commissioner to get the funding he requested.

Secondly, when the report was eventually released, the minister went out and responded to it with a bevy of public servants behind him announcing his task force response before he had even read the report. The minister announced to the public a response to a report he had not read. That just goes to show the level of incompetence we are dealing with here in the Marshall government. You have this very serious report into the biggest area of government expenditure and the minister does not even take the time to read it before he goes out and tries to manipulate the media into his preferred response.

Add to that, we then had, in spectacular fashion, the Premier going out and meeting with the ICAC commissioner, not to say, 'Thank you, ICAC commissioner, for your great work. What can we do to improve the situation?' but to get stuck into the ICAC commissioner for daring to produce this report revealing what was going on in SA Health. The ICAC commissioner has revealed that the Premier was angry, that the Premier was not happy and that he thought the work the commissioner had done to look into these issues in SA Health was counterproductive, despite the fact that the Premier stood up in this parliament and said that he thought it was helpful, he thought it was a good report and that it was going to help them out.

We know with the shifty Premier here that he will do one thing behind closed doors and another thing to the parliament. He cannot be trusted in any way, shape or form, and this ICAC response just goes to show that. What is the government's response? It is not to have a proper investigation, not to have any independent oversight, but to have five public servants, 40 per cent of whom are from SA Health, looking into these issues. They released a very underwhelming report last month, which basically highlights the fact that they are not going to do anything to go after and remove from the system those people who have done the wrong thing. Not one part of that task force report does that.

For instance, where you have issues with people wasting taxpayer funding in areas like private practice, research funding or procurement matters, the government's response is not to say, 'We will investigate, we will find those people and we will weed them out of the system,' it is to update policies that were already being breached. Their response to people breaching policies is to update those policies, presumably for them to be breached again. It is wholly not good enough. Everybody, except for this government and this Premier, believes that it is not good enough. Everybody in South Australia, except for the government, believes that there should be a proper investigation into these matters. You have to ask why.

Over the past couple of months, we also had the complete farce of the situation regarding the Chief Executive of SA Health, Chris McGowan. It was found that Chris McGowan, who is paid \$561,000 a year, was a member of a board of his previous company, Silverchain, while he was the Chief Executive of SA Health. That then led to a referral to the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.

The commissioner, despite the Premier saying, 'How dare you question whether she should do it,' decided that she had a conflict of interest in relation to this matter because she had been on the panel that appointed Chris McGowan to this position. She referred it to an independent investigator, Professor McMillan, a former commonwealth ombudsman, who has now delivered a report to the public, which the government tried to slip out at the start of the Australia Day long weekend.

That report says that Chris McGowan failed in a number of matters in relation to his duties and his responsibilities under both the law and various procedures. He did not inform the minister about various matters when he was meant to, he did not update his declarations of interest and he should have told people when he found out that he was the director of this company. He was told by his staff not to go to a meeting with Deloitte that was proposed to discuss partnerships between SA Health and Silverchain. He decided to do it anyway and ignore that advice, which the investigator also found was a problem.

In a whole range of different matters, this report reveals that Chris McGowan failed in his duties, and what the government has decided to do is basically give him a slap on the wrist. He has been given counselling from the Premier and he has been subjected to coaching from the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. What Chris McGowan recently revealed in the Budget and Finance Committee was that this counselling basically consisted of just a bit of a chat with the Premier, where the Premier said, 'This is how you should behave in relation to a politically charged environment.' That is not at all what the commissioner recommended the counselling should be.

Chris McGowan believed that his coaching from the commissioner was just going to be catching up for a coffee, which goes to show the lack of seriousness with which this government deals with these issues, particularly when these are the same issues that the ICAC commissioner is raising on a macro level in terms of conflict of interest and procurement matters within SA Health and the failure to adhere to standards in relation to them.

What does the government think is appropriate to do? This guy, who has just had this report saying he failed in relation to those matters, is now going to be sitting on the task force that is responding to those issues of procurement and conflict of interest within SA Health, even though he now has to be subject to coaching about how he should perform his responsibilities in relation to those matters. It is a complete farce.

Adding to that farce is the fact that Chris McGowan said to the Budget and Finance Committee that, basically, he has not learned this lesson that he needs to improve his standing; he is now going to go the other way. He told the Budget and Finance Committee that he is now going to sign off on tenders that relate to his former company, Silverchain, even though that was part of the agreed management of this issue that he had been at least applying previous to this report. His interpretation of this matter is not to go further, not to try to address this issue further but to retreat and to not even comply with what the agreed procedure was before this report into his conduct came out. It is a complete farce.

There are so many other issues in health. Take the new Women's and Children's Hospital. This is the biggest project the government has proposed in health. It is going to be a very significant and complex project. The government originally promised that this project would be open by 2024, which of course is only four years away and which would basically mean that construction would have to be started now.

They promised that a task force (they love a good task force) was going to investigate this, was going to lead the project, was going to determine the price, was going to determine how many beds there should be, was going to determine the service mix in there, and was going to report publicly a year ago. We are now a year on and that task force does not seem to exist anymore. That task force has never given a public report. The government is refusing to release the task force report.

We know that there was a report, perhaps even two reports, given to the government—a public and a private one—and the government is refusing to release those reports so we can actually see what is going on. Further to that, they have basically dismissed the entire task force and hired some consultants to now do the work instead. So they are redoing the work that was supposedly

already done. They have hired Deloitte and Aurecon to do this work, and the minister did not even know about it when they had been appointed.

You have the biggest project in the minister's portfolio, one of the biggest projects that this state will ever see, and the minister did not even know that the people who are leading the work to implement the government's policy had been appointed and did not know what the project was, basically because he does not know what is going on in his portfolio because his hands are completely off the wheel.

This is so disappointing. I think the people who were expecting this government to deliver on this hospital will be very let down, because it does not seem like anything is going to happen any time soon, and from what we are hearing there are serious doubts within the government as to whether they should go ahead with this project or not. I think the government should be honest with people about whether this project will happen, how many beds there will be, what services there will be, whether or not there will be car parking and when this project will actually happen.

This would have to be one of the only projects in the history of the state that the government are embarking on without actually having a budget for it. They have said that they have a bit over \$500 million in the budget over the forward estimates that Treasury is keeping in contingency, but that is not going to be nearly enough to deliver on this project. The estimate is that well in excess of \$1 billion is needed to do this project, and the government are starting it without even working out how much it is going to cost.

Nurses, cleaners, patients and other hospital staff all got a very rude shock on 1 January this year when this government decided to dramatically increase car parking prices. This is yet another broken promise from this government. This government, of course, promised and released a policy that says very clearly 'reducing car parking fees for patients and their families', and what they have done is the complete opposite. Patients are going to be stuck with paying 20 to 25 per cent more for car parking.

People at The QEH who are getting two hours of free car parking will have that removed whenever construction starts there, which is another issue—that that has been significantly delayed. In addition, and worst of all, is that nurses, cleaners and other hospital staff who have no option but to park their car at hospitals are this year facing an increased cost to them of 129 per cent. It is not 10 per cent, not 20 per cent, but it is a 129 per cent increase. There is no justification for this massive increase. It is none other than an attempt to claw back the wages of hardworking hospital staff.

These nurses, who every day go to work to save people's lives, who work in some horrid conditions and deal with some absolute rubbish, have to now pay \$725 extra every year just for the privilege of getting to work. It is a pay cut for those nurses, cleaners, orderlies and other allied health staff. It is a broken promise by this government. Of course, the minister gets driven around. His advisers all get car parks; they do not have to work late shifts.

Adding insult to injury are the government's cuts to so many bus routes late at night and early in the morning. If you are hoping to potentially do a late shift and maybe catch the bus home, that is now impossible because one minister has cut your bus line and the other minister is increasing your car parking fee. Each and every way, this government is attacking workers in those hospitals. Add to the fact that they refused to put a plan in place, which the nurses federation has been calling for, to address violence against nurses in our hospital system.

They are failing to address issues that people are calling out for, to address violence in country hospitals, let alone the issues in the city and the continuous assaults we are seeing in places like the Lyell McEwin Hospital, particularly as somebody was recently stabbed. None of those issues are being addressed. You are paying more for your car parking and your bus routes are being cut—thank you very much. That is this government's approach to our hardworking doctors and nurses—'and, by the way, we are going to cut the beds and we are going to cut the staff and make you do more work with fewer resources.' That is how this government approaches the health system and our health staff. It is absolutely disgraceful.

In my remaining time, I would like to talk a bit about what is going on in the electorate of Kaurua. Kaurua of course is such a special part of our state, with our beautiful southern beaches and

many great suburbs as well. One thing that is very significant to the people of Kaurna is our train services. They have always been important, ever since the train line was extended to Noarlunga—I think in the late seventies—but particularly over the past six years since the train line was extended to Seaford. It has opened up many more opportunities for people in my electorate. All of that is, sadly, under risk with this government's plan to privatise those services.

Since they were elected, we have seen them cut bus services. In my electorate, we now have bus stops that do not have any buses coming to them between 8am and 8pm. It is basically a zombie bus stop that does not really exist. If you went to it, you would be stuck there all day waiting for a bus. In addition to that, they are now privatising the trains that we rely on. We know what privatisation means: it means that people will have poorer services, that there will be staff cutbacks and that people will have to pay more in the end.

We have seen privatisation and its impact on other services in the past. We have seen the impact of privatisation on train services around the country—around the world, in fact—and we know what the impact will be here. We will be fighting very hard to stop that for my electorate and for the rest of the city. If we are re-elected, we will reverse that privatisation because of its importance to the people in Adelaide.

A number of key projects that the previous government committed to were set to significantly improve things for the people of Kaurna. Firstly, in relation to public schools there are significant projects the previous government put in place. In my electorate in particular, that has already delivered an upgrade to the STEM facilities at Seaford Secondary College and was slated to improve the facilities and deliver a much-needed performing arts centre for Seaford Secondary College in the second wave of works.

We are waiting to hear whether that will be delivered on time. We are waiting to hear that it will be delivered as it was fully intended. I will be keeping the government honest about that. Other schools around the area that service the electorate of Kaurna also had similar upgrades: Christies Beach, Wirreanda and Willunga high schools. I will continue to hold the government to account and ensure that the upgrades put in the budget by the previous government are delivered.

The biggest road project, on the edge of my electorate and going into the member for Mawson's electorate, is the duplication of Main South Road. This is an essential upgrade for the increasing population in the outer southern suburbs and all through the Fleurieu to Kangaroo Island. It is an essential project particularly because of the safety risks of that road.

We will be holding the government to account to make sure that road upgrade happens and also that it happens all the way to Sellicks, as this government put in its forward estimates in the Mid-Year Budget Review. This government seems to have slipped it out entirely with no commitment despite their pre-election promises for that upgrade to go all the way to Sellicks and be properly budgeted for. That is another key issue.

Particularly in relation to local council issues, I am delighted to report that something I have previously talked about in the house and delivered petitions on is in the works. Onkaparinga has now committed to fortnightly green waste collections, finally catching up with the rest of Adelaide. Despite our significant council rates, we were well behind everywhere else in the city. I congratulate the council and the leadership of Erin Thompson, the new mayor, on getting this important project done, which finally brings the services in Onkaparinga up to the scratch of services available for people in other councils. I also thank my colleagues the members for Hurtle Vale and Reynell and the federal member for Kingston for their support as we embarked upon that significant campaign.

Another key project, which we had committed to before the election but which has gone out the window now, is the coast path. There was a recent upgrade of the coast path, which the previous government completed, between Southport and Port Noarlunga, and which provides a massive upgrade for that area of the coast path. Little sections of the coast path here and there are complete, but two very significant sections are not complete. One is between Port Noarlunga and Christies Beach, which is known as the Witton Bluff Base Trail, and the other is from Moana down to Port Willunga and Aldinga, through Maslin Beach, which is not there whatsoever.

Both of those trails we committed to before the election. Both of those trails this government has no commitment to whatsoever, which is letting down the people who live in those areas and also

depriving people of significant tourism opportunities and significant recreation opportunities. Coming with the tourism opportunities are the potential benefits for businesses in the area. Particularly those businesses at Christies Beach are calling out for this because it will help them significantly. We will keep up the campaign on those coast path upgrade areas to make sure that this government delivers on what is needed to get that coast path finally finished.

In my remaining time, I would like to touch briefly on planning. Planning is a significant issue not just in the middle of the city but in outer areas as well. The government are embarking upon their planning reforms and have released and now delayed the planning code. This will have impacts on every suburb across Adelaide. We will be applying a fine-tooth comb to make sure that this is not going to worsen the situation for people in my electorate, who are already facing some pretty disgusting planning code issues in Onkaparinga. They need to be improved, not worsened, through this process. I will continue to work hard to make sure that the people in my area are represented in that regard.

Ms LUETHEN (King) (11:43): His Excellency the Governor delivered his opening speech for our Fifty-Fourth Parliament. On behalf of the constituents in King, I thank him for his speech, for his leadership role in our state and for taking the time in his speech to acknowledge the impact of the bushfire crisis on our state and on our country. The Governor said that we think particularly of those who have lost their lives, including those who have come from overseas to help us fight our fires. We extend our deepest sympathies to their loved ones and to all those who have suffered. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have been supporting the rescue, recovery and relief efforts. So many wonderful families have been involved.

I take this opportunity to applaud people living in King for supporting the various bushfire activities and appeals. We have been told there are two very valuable ways we can help right now. One is by giving financial donations, which will help disaster-affected communities recover, as people can buy exactly what they need and spend locally. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, makes a difference to those most affected by this tragedy. Every dollar donated directly to the SA Bushfire Appeal goes to those affected by the fires, with the South Australian government absorbing all administration costs.

Secondly, we can all help by spending some time and money in the SA areas where the fires have been, as this directly supports our families, employees and small businesses in these regions, which is why we have been promoting the #BookThemOut campaign. A drive to Yorke Peninsula, a coffee in the Adelaide Hills or a short trip to Kangaroo Island will all help. I have already spoken to a few local constituents in King who are off to KI, and I thank them, as this will mean a great deal to our local bushfire-impacted families and economies.

I was in KI recently with my colleagues and so much of the island is untouched. So many of the attractions are new—new wineries, new gin distilleries—and the same wonderful parks are untouched. They are supported by services provided by small family businesses and they need our support right now. I thank all South Australians for reaching out to those affected by the summer's bushfires. We have a wonderful sense of community in South Australia. This morning, the Nepalese community shared how 101 people just went over to KI to show their solidarity. Thank you.

I will now respond directly to the Governor's comments that were related to our state government's vision and achievements so far. I am so proud to be part of a government that is led by a Premier who works tirelessly and is a role model for keeping everyone focused on outcomes for South Australians. We are focused, we are disciplined and we are delivering. On their doorsteps, I often tell people living in King how seriously I take my role in representing them and how I will fight for my constituents and their needs to be realised in our state's plans.

As the Governor outlined, this government is delivering on its commitments made to the people of South Australia at the 2018 election. Costs to families and businesses are being lowered. Last week, we announced that two separate reports by the electricity regulator show that electricity prices in South Australia are going to fall further for households and businesses this year. The Australian Energy Regulator has determined that the default market offer for electricity will be cut by between 4.4 per cent and 7.1 per cent for households and small businesses respectively. As a result of the AER's ruling, more than 75,000 South Australian households and small businesses are set to

receive significant cuts in their electricity bills from 1 July this year. What a contrast to what we have seen under the Labor government.

Furthermore, I am proud to provide an update on our state's budget—that is, since the 2018 election it has delivered the funds needed to deliver the local King projects that my constituents told me mattered most to them. These include the Golden Grove upgrade, an upgrade that was ignored by the previous Labor government for over 16 years. The upgrade is finally underway, and anyone who lives in King can see it taking place. People locally are commenting to me on how much easier it is already to see the traffic now that some of the trees have been removed that were obscuring their vision. This is important to the tens of thousands of people who drive regularly on this section of road each day.

The construction of the Hancock Road roundabout is taking place right now, and the drainage is being built right alongside the road. People whose houses are adjacent to the side of the Golden Grove Road have told me they need adequate drainage to stop the stormwater from flowing into the sides of their homes. I have seen the stains on the retaining walls where the water flows right in and is only stopped by makeshift mounds put there by the local government.

These roadworks should be complete around the middle of this year, and I cannot wait to see the improvement in safety along this road for cars, trucks, buses, cyclists, commuters and pedestrians. I am looking forward to seeing locals walking safely and jogging safely down the new path alongside the Golden Grove Road, which residents have been waiting for for over 25 years. Like many locals, I am sad that there has been a loss of trees alongside the road. It is hard to watch these big trees go. I am glad the government has set aside significant funds for revegetation, and I am advocating to DPTI and to the Tea Tree Gully council for the community to have the opportunity to actively take part in the revegetation program.

My promises in 2017-18 have been and are being delivered. I have had great community feedback about the improvement in safety through the delivery of the Skyline Drive slip lane; great feedback about the delivery of the smooth resurface of Black Top Road, where there was previously a rollercoaster; the completion and delivery of new car parking for SADNA users, where more than 400,000 people attend each year; as well as a turning lane out onto Atlantis Drive. This traffic flow improvement will benefit users of the courts, the local park and local residents who are often blocked from getting back into their streets. Also, the exit onto The Golden Way will soon be delivered.

We are delivering much-needed local school upgrades. At the recent Golden Grove High School governing council AGM, the principal spoke positively about the upgrade and the new facilities occurring at our large local school—a high school from which my daughter successfully graduated and a school which is growing as we transition year 7 students to the high school. Finally, we are the last state in Australia to transition and deliver the best educational outcomes locally and across the state.

We have listened to local residents in King. The expansion of the Golden Grove park-and-ride is coming, and we will soon hear more about the North East Public Transport Study outcome, too, as we deliver further public transport reforms. I have actively been working with Housing SA tenants in my electorate to address and deliver maintenance upgrades that people have told me they waited for for many years under the former government.

For too many years people had waited to have their views heard and delivered upon by the previous government. Now we are listening. My constituents only have to drive past our two local hospitals, Modbury and Lyell McEwin, to see our huge multimillion dollar investments in health taking place. Modbury Hospital is an extremely important part of the north-eastern community, and the investment being made by this government is something the residents from across King have told me they are very passionate about. The \$96 million upgrade of the Modbury Hospital will see important services restored and expanded upon at the site, which is something the local community has been calling for.

Finally, they have a government who is listening to their priorities and putting health care at the forefront. Highlights of this fantastic investment include the expansion of the surgical floor to allow for more surgeries to occur in our local community, eight additional beds being created in the extended emergency care unit and the co-location of the EECU with an upgraded 26-bed, short stay

medical general unit. A new purpose-built 20-bed palliative care unit to ensure patients are cared for in a suitable environment will also be established, as will a four-bed high dependency unit. The most obvious change, which some residents are already noticing, is the much-needed upgrade to the outer facade of the facility. No longer will there be a risk of bricks falling on the head.

These improvements will help to modernise one of our local hospitals and repair the damage that was done to it through the former Labor government's destructive Transforming Health reforms. At the same time, these construction projects are creating local jobs. The expansion of parking is also underway at Lyell McEwin, which is a need of many of the nursing staff, volunteers and patients living in King.

I was heartened to hear the Governor say that two very important measures—important to people living in King—which were not passed by the Legislative Council during the first session of parliament, will also be revisited. I refer to bills to extend the hours shops can trade in the Greater Adelaide shopping district and proclaimed shopping districts, and, secondly, capping local government council rates, which will save our ratepayers money and make sure that ratepayers' money is spent on those projects which matter most to them—things like kerbing, guttering, local roads and paths, things that people are bringing to my attention all the time. Our government believes that very strong community support has been demonstrated for these bills, for these changes to take place in South Australia. Accordingly, they will be presented for the parliament's further consideration during this session.

Additionally, I am proud that our government has secured unprecedented cooperation from the commonwealth for the accelerated delivery of major productive infrastructure for our cities, our towns and our regions. South Australia has a fully funded pipeline of infrastructure works worth \$12.9 billion over four years. As I speak with my constituents, they tell me they are pleased that our government has a plan for ongoing infrastructure works rather than piecemeal projects that happen on an election cycle.

Our government is focused on long-term sustainable plans and proposals that will be identified in Infrastructure South Australia's first 20-year strategy, which is to be published soon. Targeted investment in priority infrastructure projects is creating jobs, a pipeline of jobs that will strengthen our economy and get people home sooner and safer. People in the north have told me that they are very pleased that we are finally delivering the electrification of the Gawler railway line. I have received positive feedback because we are upgrading seven major metropolitan intersections.

People are pleased that we are extending the Paradise and Golden Grove park-and-rides, and they tell me that they are pleased that our government is repairing more than 1,000 kilometres of regional roads, not to mention the local roads in King. When I was travelling up Black Top Road on the weekend, it was great to see the extra shoulders that have been bitumised and the road improvements we have promised. As well as improving our transport infrastructure, our government is also determined to deliver better and more customer-focused services. It is apparent that east-west connections across King must be improved in relation to public transport and I am advocating strongly for this.

People living in Salisbury Heights should be able to simply catch one bus to Salisbury, and people living in Salisbury East should be able to easily catch one bus to Golden Grove and Tea Tree Plaza. People in Salisbury Park should be able to catch one bus up to the Golden Grove Shopping Centre. It makes sense for commuters, it makes sense for businesses and we need to make this happen. People deserve modern, cost-effective transport solutions—something that was ignored for many years under the previous government—and I am glad I can say that we are focusing on this now.

The Governor spoke about a vision for our state to be dynamic, vibrant and enterprising with the confidence to embrace big thinking and bold change, a state where effort, planning and persistence are rewarded by success, where your future is not limited by the suburb, town, region or nation in which you were brought up, where you are just as likely to reach the top in a profession if your education has been at a state school rather than a private one, and apprentices and trainees, as well as university graduates, can look forward to satisfying, well-paid careers, a state where home owners can maintain their mortgages without constant worry about making ends meet and where

other cost-of-living pressures are eased. These are certainly our focus. We have made some progress but we have a lot more to do, and I am focused and energised—as I know my colleagues are—to keep delivering on our plan for South Australians.

In relation to our plan for families in this state, we have already made some progress as we continue to lower costs for South Australian families and businesses. Payroll tax on small businesses has been abolished and emergency services levy bills have been significantly reduced. From July, there will be lower water costs, and land tax reforms will benefit 92 per cent of smaller investors and 75 per cent of company groups. Further cost relief includes lower electricity bills for households, reductions in compulsory third-party insurance premiums, doubling the value of the sports vouchers for primary school-age children, and free screening checks for volunteers.

It was great to hear the Governor tell us that the government has received independent research which concludes that living in Adelaide is 16 per cent more affordable than Melbourne and 28 per cent more affordable than Sydney—just one more reason that South Australia is a great place to live and raise a family. This advice also shows that Adelaide has considerably lower office rental costs and other business outgoings. Our government will use this research to present a compelling business case for commonwealth government departments and private businesses with large white-collar support service functions to relocate to Adelaide.

People in the King electorate told me that more jobs were also one of the top state priorities for them, and we are making progress. Our state's economy is maintaining a solid level of employment and rising levels of business investment. With lower costs and a more efficient regulatory environment, all businesses will have the incentive to grow and employ more people.

I want to get some good news on jobs on the record today in response to the Governor's speech. The Marshall government took to the election a promise to deliver more jobs for South Australia, and since March 2018 the government has continually worked towards the goal of growing the state's economy and creating more opportunities for local people to secure jobs in South Australia.

Specifically, through Skilling South Australia we are focused on apprenticeships and traineeships. Skilling South Australia was set up by the Marshall government to promote apprenticeships and traineeships to skill up young people and create a more skilled workforce in South Australia. Since this initiative began, South Australia has experienced a significant increase in apprenticeships and traineeships across a number of sectors, with 13,000 commencements occurring in the first year of Skilling South Australia and more than 700 businesses taking on apprentices for the first time.

There is also the innovation at Lot Fourteen. The transformation of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site to Lot Fourteen has seen a number of high-tech companies set up offices and create jobs in South Australia. Adelaide was selected as the headquarters for the Australian Space Agency, with its premises to be located at Lot Fourteen, and international space and cyber companies Tyvak and Squad have committed to create a collective total of 70 jobs over the next three years. Other high-tech industries include Myriota, Inovor Technologies, Neumann Space and SmartSat CRC. I recently took Greenwith resident Katherina, who is interested in a career in space, on a tour of Inovor, and it was great to see up close the new workforce building satellites.

We are also becoming a leader in cybersecurity, with one of my own King constituents leading a growing workforce in cybersecurity. The Marshall government has established the first training centre at TAFE SA that is designed to provide hands-on experience for South Australia's next generation of cybersecurity professionals. A \$71,000 investment from the Skilling South Australia initiative has been greenlit to provide 140 people with industry skills in cybersecurity, IT and other high-tech sectors.

What does our plan for job creation mean for the north? The north of Adelaide was hit hard by the closure of the Holden manufacturing plant at Elizabeth in September 2017. But since the closure of Holden, there have been a number of positive stories coming out of the north which have helped us create confidence and certainty for the north. There has been Sonnen at Elizabeth. Following the closure of Holden, the Lionsgate Business Park was established with a view to creating

an innovative business park with a mix of construction, engineering, advanced manufacturing, automotive and industrial tenants.

German battery giant Sonnen has opened its assembly and manufacturing facility in Elizabeth at the site of the old Holden factory. Sonnen has created approximately 50 jobs in the north and is contributing batteries, manufactured right here in South Australia, towards the Marshall government's Home Battery Scheme. The battery stores clean energy and it makes it available to home owners around the clock. Sonnen's investment in South Australia is growing the industry, delivering work for those living in the north.

Then there is Bickford's. Bickford's bottle facility at Salisbury recently announced a \$20 million investment in new aseptic filling line technology, which is both world class and world leading. The new production line increases the capacity of the facility from 6,000 bottles an hour to 18,000 bottles and helps improve productivity, enhance capabilities, and allows new and innovative beverages to be manufactured in South Australia. The business is growing, creating jobs and investing in South Australia's bright future.

There is Drakes' distribution centre. The recently developed Drakes supermarket distribution centre at Edinburgh North has helped create a significant number of opportunities in the north. Around 150 new traineeships have been created, thanks to the Skilling South Australia initiative at the centre. Approximately 70 people will undertake warehouse traineeships while another 80 people will upskill through high-level retail management and through leadership traineeships.

Scania Australia and Precision Buses are also good news stories. Scania Australia won the contract to supply the Marshall government 340 new Adelaide Metro buses over the next 10 years. As part of the contract, a minimum of 29 of the 34 buses constructed annually will be built in the north by Precision Buses. This contract supports 100 local jobs and creates 40 new positions. Precision also has created an apprenticeship academy to skill new automotive manufacturing workers, with the support of Skilling South Australia.

Other job-creating projects include 65 construction jobs, created as part of the Golden Grove Road project; 78 full-time equivalent roles, created through construction of the Paradise park-and-ride; and the Gawler rail electrification project, which created 250 jobs. While checking up on the Modbury Hospital expansion at the end of last year, we were informed that there are approximately 70 people working on the project site and this will grow to approximately 200 by March.

Our government firmly believes South Australia has a future full of opportunity and prosperity and that our community is responding to this potential. A quality education for every student is a key focus for me and, last week, at Golden Grove High School, we celebrated and recognised the high completion rate in 2019 and those who excelled. I must say there were many girls and young women on the stage who excelled.

Our King families and students are aspirational and this is being reflected in the very high completion rates across the electorate of King. Looking across the state, the South Australian Certificate of Education completions are at their highest in nine years. Over the past year, 700 South Australian businesses have taken on an apprentice for the first time. What a great story! The loss of younger South Australians to other states and elsewhere to seek careers has reduced significantly. The Marshall Liberal government sees indicators like these as reflecting growing anticipation and confidence about South Australia's future.

I will continue to work hard, to listen and to deliver on the priorities which matter most to people and every person living in King. I am excited that we are now becoming the growth state. We are aspirational, just like the aspirational families living in King. I am so proud to be part of this government. My colleagues and I are securing a new economic future and new opportunities for South Australia. I look forward to delivering and continuing to communicate throughout this year our achievements, the progress we are making, and the good news as we deliver our real plan for change for South Australia. How good is South Australia? How good is King?

*Matter of Privilege***MATTER OF PRIVILEGE, DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (12:10): Before I call the member for Ramsay, I am rising in my place to make a statement with regard to the matter of privilege raised by the member for Lee in the house on 6 February, which was referred to me by the Speaker. However, before addressing that matter, I wish to outline the significance of privilege as it relates to this house and its members.

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

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

I refer to the matter of privilege raised by the member for Lee as it relates to a statement made to the house by the Speaker on 5 February concerning an independent investigation into the conduct of the Member for Waite, comments made by the Speaker in the house and comments attributed to the Speaker in the news outlet InDaily. The member for Lee refers to the Speaker's statement to the house on 5 February, and more specifically, the following words:

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.

The member for Lee contrasts those words with the following comments attributed to the Speaker from a newspaper article:

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.

The member for Lee asserts:

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.

I also refer to an answer provided to the house on 5 February by the Speaker to the following question asked by the Leader of the Opposition:

Why did it take more than four weeks from the events of Friday 13 December 2019 for the government to launch an investigation into the member for Waite's conduct?

To which, the Speaker answered:

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

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

I was in correspondence over the break, over the Christmas/new year period, so I do not accept that it has taken—

and then members interjected. The Speaker's statement that 'I have engaged an independent investigator' was general in nature and did not specify a time at which this engagement took place. The answer provided by the Speaker to the leader's question indicates that the Speaker learned of the allegations concerning the member for Waite towards the end of December and that some time

had passed between the Speaker becoming aware of the allegations and an independent investigation being launched.

Having had the benefit of reading the *Hansard* and referring to the material supplied to me, I cannot identify any inconsistencies or inaccuracies in the comments attributed to the Speaker. In the Chair's opinion, this is not a matter of privilege, for the reason I have stated above, therefore I also decline to give the matter the precedence that would allow the member for Lee to immediately pursue the matter. However, of course, my opinion does not prevent any member from pursuing the matter by way of substantive motion.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (12:15): As this is my Address in Reply to the Governor's speech, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful work His Excellency performs in the service of the people of South Australia. I express my delight that he was continued in the role of Governor.

During my previous time as minister for multicultural affairs and minister for communities, I met with him probably once a week at many events, and what really stayed with me about the Governor, supported by his wonderful wife, Lan, is how they made Government House the people's house. What that means to me is that they have gone out of their way to make sure that our diverse multicultural community has felt welcomed into Government House. Along with providing support for many volunteer groups, they have done a wonderful job of being very accessible and I am delighted that they have continued.

The prorogation of our parliament generally indicates a government seeking a reset and a fresh start to the parliamentary agenda. It seems very appropriate—indeed, it was undertaken by the previous Labor government—to prorogue and start a new conversation precisely halfway through the election cycle; therefore, it is with some reflection that I look back upon the Marshall Liberal team's entry into governance of our great state nearly two years ago.

Let me remind the house of Steven Marshall's election slogans: a strong plan for real change; and more jobs, lower costs, better services. There was going to be no talk, just action, and they were going to hit the ground running. So, two years later and not a new government anymore, where are they now? A strong plan for real change has the implication that things will happen. Implicit in the concept of change is action, but South Australia now holds the dubious honour of having the worst unemployment rate in the country: our youth unemployment rate has skyrocketed to 11.5 per cent.

If you are a South Australian who has lost their job, you are on your own, following the Marshall Liberal government's decision to cut 29 job-creating programs. Let's not forget the whack South Australian businesses and households have had with record hikes to fees, charges and taxes and of course how can we forget the investment paralysing and, for many, the deep stress of the damaging land tax debacle.

We know that there is a high degree of uncertainty in both local and global events and that the people of South Australia need a government that can provide leadership in these difficult times. We only have to look at the tourism industry. There are many headwinds that this industry is currently facing. It has been one of the most difficult summers experienced in many decades. First, there was the devastation of the bushfires on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills, and now we have had significant impacts from the coronavirus.

According to the latest data, total visitor expenditure in South Australia contributes \$7.8 billion to the economy, and any growth is great news for the industry. However, we have to make sure that these benefits are felt right around the state. We know that tourism is going to play an important part in the bushfire recovery. Whilst the #BookThemOut campaign, which we fully supported, has been a very worthwhile initiative, we need to have longer term commitments from this government to our tourism industry. It is all well and good for the Premier to stand here and say that he has launched a hashtag, but where will the support be in the medium and long term?

In its first budget, the Marshall Liberal government cut \$11 million from the South Australian Tourism Commission—\$11 million gone. It was a deep, savage cut on what is a dynamic industry employing more than 39,000 South Australians. We have more than 18,000 businesses involved in tourism, many of which are small businesses, micro businesses and mum-and-dad businesses. What is most important about tourism, and why I love to talk about it (and I know we have the member for Mawson here), is that it employs people throughout South Australia. In fact, more than 40 per cent of tourism dollars in the visitor economy is spent in the regions.

First of all, we had the \$11 million cut—shocking. Then we come to the second budget and we hear that there is another cut: this time \$12 million was announced. I cannot say it enough: the Marshall Liberal government must reverse its \$23 million cut to tourism. This is a fantastic industry, but it is facing these cuts, plus the recent events of the bushfires and now the coronavirus, and it is absolutely the worst time possible to keep cutting the tourism budget.

More than ever, we need to have a plan for our tourism industry, which is hurting. While the bushfires have been devastating, it is the global images—that all of Australia is on fire—that are having an impact across all of South Australia. While we welcomed international support and interest, and we have certainly seen the global community put their hand in their pocket and support our fundraising for people who have been impacted, at the same time, night after night, the global image was that Australia was on fire.

I have heard from people who have had cancellations of bookings three years into the future because tourists feel that Australia is not safe and they are concerned that they would not be able to participate in all the things they want to do. We know that people are hurting because of this. In a recent quarterly survey, the tourism industry of South Australia heard that eight out of 10 businesses were reporting a financial impact, the top three impacts being that 72 per cent had booking cancellations, 53 per cent were experiencing cash flow issues and 44 per cent had seen a reduction in the number of people walking through the door. They are doing it tough.

However, what was clear to me, and what they were incredibly clear about is what would assist them the most and that there needs to be increased promotion to encourage visitation and awareness. More than eight in 10 people in this survey said, 'That is what we need the most.' With the benefit of the doubt, I went along to the Governor's speech and expected, after a summer of bushfires and with coronavirus affecting us now, there to be a plan for tourism, but there was nothing in that speech. There were vague thoughts about things but there was no plan. It was outrageous, absolutely outrageous.

We know that this government has linked tourism and the visitor economy as part of the Growth State. We know that the Premier has taken the lead in this industry, but you have to have a plan for the future. There is a great opportunity here to support people through recovery and to build our tourism industry in South Australia and make it even better. Where is the update to the Regional Tourism Development Strategy? It could have gone there. Where is the long-term commitment to matching cooperative funding for regional organisations? Where is a year-long plan to support increased families to South Australia? Where is the opportunity to build on #BookThemOut with a real plan of value-added incentives: two for one dinner deals at the location? This is what the tourism industry, the visitor economy, was expecting from this speech.

What commitment do we have for our fair share of the \$76 million from the commonwealth? They have come out with a tourism package and we deserve our share in South Australia. I have not heard how much it will be. We know that there are going to be a lot of people in the rest of Australia wanting that money for themselves. What are we doing to make sure that we get our fair share? What commitment do we have to launch an intensive marketing campaign that does not feature 'old mate'? Most importantly, there was nothing about reversing the cuts. There was not one sentence about the deep cuts to tourism never before seen in this state. There was a complete absence in this reset speech.

Late last week we heard the news of the axing of the direct China Southern flights from Guangzhou to Adelaide until June this year and the cutting of Cathay Pacific flights, down from four flights a week to two flights a week, beginning in March. This is a big hit to visitors coming to South Australia from China. We know that China is our number one source of international tourists and international students.

Last week, I said that in light of this this government, led by the Premier, who has taken the mantle of tourism, must now invest in promoting South Australia to other areas unaffected by coronavirus: to Europe, the US, the UK and New Zealand. We must be agile and we must be able to pivot our marketing campaigns to these areas. We know that our top priority is protecting South Australians from coronavirus, but our challenge will be to make up for the loss of visitors from China and Hong Kong.

This government promised an export-led recovery of the South Australian economy, but so far in this term we have seen our national share of merchandise exports continually underperform. I am talking about wheat, wine, metals and meat. We are now at a 30-year low. Last month, we recorded only 2.9 per cent of the national share of exports. It is the lowest annual figure since current records began in 1988.

When Labor left government, our national share was more than 4 per cent. I acknowledge the impact that drought and dry conditions have had on our nation, but the facts speak for themselves. Other states have seen increases in their merchandise exports, but we are going backwards. Perhaps the slashing of the \$26.8 million from the South Australian trade department and constant machinery of government changes simply mean this Marshall Liberal government is not serious about trade. If we are to achieve 3 per cent growth every year, exports must be a key part of the story.

Just recently, we had some news about GlobeLink. The GlobeLink project was previously touted as the beckoning of a South Australian export renaissance. The Premier was featured in high-quality promotional videos espousing how a dedicated freight airport would ease the burden of trucks in key Liberal seats. When this government came to power, they hired consultants to look into the idea further and come up with a price tag. It turned out that this idea could potentially cost the taxpayer \$7 billion. All the major players in the freight industry said that this was a terrible idea right from the beginning.

With the GlobeLink failure what we have lost is time. This government knew it would not work but instead of acknowledging it up-front, we are two years down the track. The KPMG report clearly tells us that GlobeLink would not work, but it does provide us with important messaging about how to increase our exports. Most specifically, it talks about direct flight access. To quote from the report:

Adelaide has plenty of runway, with capacity for more planes.

Most international air freight is carried in the belly hold of passenger aircraft...South Australian air freight [is currently] 59,000 tonnes.

These are positive things. This is information for us—opportunity—but the reality is that Adelaide has the lowest number of direct international air connections of any Australian capital city. In fact, we have 40 per cent fewer than Perth. This is the opportunity. One of the challenges we have here is the significant shrinkage, with 47 per cent of South Australian exports being transported to Sydney or Melbourne before leaving Australia, although we have had some positive success with more than doubling of air freight since 2011 due to direct flights through Emirates and Qatar to the Middle East and China Southern to Guangzhou.

This is what the Labor government pursued and this is what we achieved. Since 2011, we have doubled our air freight. What was very clear in the GlobeLink report, clear in black and white, was a compelling case for air freight. We need to create freight capacity in the belly hold and generate new demand for very high-value airfreight exports using the existing infrastructure at Adelaide Airport. When it comes to airfreight and flight attraction, Adelaide Airport is quite literally doing the heavy lifting. I do not see how the South Australian government are helping the Airport. In fact, they were actively considering taking business opportunities away from them.

Exports and the visitor economy go hand in hand. It says very clearly in the GlobeLink report that limited cost and major benefits come from increased freight capacity. It gives suggestions that a key route with passenger air connections to Los Angeles three times a week in a tripartite agreement between the government, the Airport and an airline would be the place to start.

It is very clear, in black and white, yet no announcement in the Governor's speech—no announcement of where we could get the biggest benefits for us to aim for that 3 per cent growth,

no commentary whatsoever. It even goes on further to say what the role of government should be: to de-risk the ramp-up and to encourage a global airline to commit to the route through contingent revenue guarantee and agreements around marketing the route. This is very clear.

We know that Adelaide Airport are doing their bit. They are extending international arrivals and departures, they have added a hotel and, of course, their master plan was clear about the focus on the Airport East business park. They know that this is the future, so why is this government not supporting them? It is really interesting: when I looked into this, tourism and exports were linked, but I did not see the government anywhere. Where is the leadership? You have put it out there about Growth State, but we do not know what your plan is. When you heard in black and white the best way forward, we heard nothing.

Let's compare this with the WA government. In 2016, the Barnett Liberal government put \$14 million into capital works on their airport because they wanted to increase international exports. Then, in 2019—before the key headwinds that we are experiencing now, may I say—the McGowan Labor government announced an additional \$12 million for international tourism marketing on top of already allocating \$45 million a year. They get it. The WA government in all their colours know what they have to do. They were dedicated, they provided support and they provided leadership to increase their visitor economy and to increase their exports.

So what are we doing in South Australia? It has always been clear that we need to work together. We knew that in government. You have to have your hands on the wheel. You have to be there, supporting and collaborating. We know that people here in business are willing to invest. We know that they want to see an increase in exports. Why are you not showing the leadership to make this happen?

Yesterday, we had the Premier talk about a winter warmer, a wild and wacky winter event to spread out the calendar. It appeared to be quite the thought bubble—no detail, no funding, no plan to discuss it with people who already know this sector. We do great festivals in South Australia. We are known globally as a place for festivals. In the winter period, we already have the Guitar Festival, the Umbrella Festival and, my favourite, the Cabaret Festival. I was so disappointed that the Premier just said, 'We need a new festival.' I am all for that for interest and innovation, but not without paying tribute, without acknowledging those festivals that already exist.

Why were the next words out of his mouth not, 'And I will work with the people involved in the winter festivals and see if we can build on that. Maybe we can innovate'? Maybe they just needed the tourism budget to be reversed, because when you cut \$23 million out of that budget everyone is impacted. Throughout the whole of South Australia, all our festivals feel that change. So I say to the Premier that I am all for great ideas, I am all for innovation and I am all for talking about opportunities, but you just cannot use one line and walk away. Our festival community, our patrons and our loyal attendees deserve more. They want more. It is leadership, once again.

In the time that I have remaining I would like to touch briefly on my electorate of Ramsay. What a shock: we are going to privatise the train services. Let me tell you, when I am out there talking with my constituents they virtually run to me to sign the petition because they know they are not going to be better off. They rely on the train service, particularly that leaving from the Salisbury Interchange, to get them to work, to get them to study, and they know that any change, particularly privatisation, is actually not going to put them first. That remains a key issue for my electorate, and Labor is committed to overturning that privatisation.

Unemployment still remains a challenge in the northern suburbs, and particularly concerning is the recent increases in youth unemployment. We know that all the job-supporting programs have been cut, but the area that makes me absolutely outraged is the killing off of the Northern Economic Plan. The food park: gone, overnight. This was something that would support exports. This was a plan that supported jobs and investment in the north.

On Sunday, I attended the open day of the Northern Connector, a fantastic Labor project. It is an interesting use of technology—it is a concrete road—but, most importantly to me, the Northern Connector came at a time when we needed investment. What did we see? Leadership, leadership from the South Australian premier at the time, who said, 'We are going to work together in the north: bring this project forward.'

Let's remind ourselves of what the Northern Connector project was. It employed 500 South Australians. Ninety per cent of the people working on that project were from South Australia. More importantly, and incredibly important to me as someone who lives in Salisbury and supports her northern community, is that more 50 per cent of the jobs on the Northern Connector were for people from the northern suburbs, many of whom were ex-Holden workers.

That project has come to an end, and I have to say, 'What's next?' All we hear are these far-off potential transport projects, but do you know what I want to hear? What is the next project in the northern suburbs, because we are going to see a spike in unemployment. This project employed 500 people. I talked to people on that project who said it was a lifeline for them because they felt supported. They felt that the government did the right thing by bringing this project forward.

And there were fantastic opportunities there. We had more women working on that project than on any other construction project in previous times. We made sure that happened because it involved local participation for women and for people who lived locally. In fact, more vulnerable groups, like our Indigenous population, were supported with these job-support programs to work on the Northern Connector.

In the final minutes I want to talk about the schools in Ramsay. I have 13 schools in my electorate with a combination of private and public schools and primary and high schools. Let me just tell you that they are bursting at the seams. I was at Salisbury High School recently. They have a list of 80 people waiting to come to the school. Parafield Gardens High School, just outside my electorate, has more children enrolled than they ever expected.

We know that a new school has been announced for Angle Vale, but this will not assist families living in Ramsay. I put on notice now that we need your attention. We got the attention of the Labor government in their Building Better Schools. We know that they have invested in Salisbury High School, Parafield Gardens High School and Paralowie R-12. We have seen that through the STEM investment and Building Better Schools, but do not take your eyes off the ball for the northern suburbs. You killed off the Northern Economic Plan, and that will never be forgotten in the north.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:45): I am very pleased to rise in support of the member for Kavel's motion to support the Address in Reply. At the outset, it would be remiss of me not to refer to the very difficult summer that we have just experienced. There have been many thoughtful contributions in relation to the response to the fire emergency and the disasters that have been experienced by people throughout the state going all the way back to late November but particularly and most recently the devastation on Kangaroo Island.

I note the observations of members whose electorates have been most directly affected. The member for Mawson is present in the chamber now, and the member for Kavel and the member for Morialta have also referred in particular to some of the extraordinary efforts of our members of the local community in response as well as the devastation that has been experienced.

We are now switching to the process of recovery. That will happen rapidly in some parts of the state. I certainly hope and intend that to be the case, particularly in the Hills, and it will happen over a sustained period of time, particularly on Kangaroo Island. I endorse and support the entreaties of all members who have spoken of the importance of our getting behind the recovery process, encouraging people to support residents, businesses and communities in all of those fire-affected areas.

My reflections from the point of view of Heysen, I guess first and foremost, are to note how fortunate those in Heysen were left feeling in the days prior to Christmas and over the ensuing weeks. Heysen was very fortunate to have been spared significant damage, particularly in the Cudlee Creek fire as it developed and spread after 20 December.

There were, I hasten to add, a number of relatively significant outbreaks of fire in the period towards the end of the year and early January. In an ordinary year, they would have been regarded as relatively significant fires at Clarendon and Ironbank and others that were reasonably significant. They were put out by volunteers doing what we know our brigades are brilliant at doing and, business as usual, they passed unnoticed in the context of the broader fire emergency.

Therefore, I want to reflect on and acknowledge, from the point of view of Heysen, some of the efforts that have been made by members of my community to reach out and do what they can to make a difference for those affected. There have been many of a whole wide variety of kinds. We know there have been very large donations of cash, fodder and volunteer time to assist with fencing efforts, and there have been significant donations of goods.

I want to draw attention in particular to the efforts of my neighbours in Aldgate, Dave Strutton and his wife, Briar, who own Howards Storage World at Mile End. They were moved in the days after 20 December to think about what they could do to support those who were affected. As long-term Hills residents, they were aware that 'this is us; this is what can happen to us'. They felt it very personally, and they wanted to support those 85 families at that stage who we knew had lost everything in the Cudlee Creek fire.

They initially made arrangements to provide a voucher for each of those families to spend at their store but then took it a significant step further than that, putting a call out to all their suppliers asking for donations from within their network for useful and practical items that could be assembled and then taken to the Lobethal recovery centre. They managed to do that. The timing was about as unusual and inconvenient as it could be for suppliers with the usual course of closing around Christmas and new year, but the donations came in quickly and strongly, as we know they have all over the place.

We also know that half the battle in dealing with donated goods is that they not become a burden but be packaged and delivered in a way that is practical. So they got together, had a working bee and put together the donated items in what turned out to be 100 care packages. The extraordinary generosity that was shown by their network, as led by them, came in total to a donated value of goods in the order of \$50,000 plus about \$10,000 worth of vouchers for use when needed. They were taken to the Lobethal recovery centre and I understand were quickly deployed, well received and useful to those eligible families.

In the context of what could have been a more devastating impact on the close-knit district, those care packages hopefully will have found their way to good use and perhaps, as importantly, will have shown those people that the community has come together, that they are cared for and that there are resources available for them. The recovery will continue to take time, and the transition back to normal times is an effort that we are all very much engaged with.

I mention that particular effort by Dave and Briar to illustrate one of the very many responses of my constituents in Heysen to this very significant crisis over the summer. I am very pleased to see that the state government's response in turn to the fire emergency, and what it means in an existential sense to our state and nation and where we are heading, featured really very prominently in the Governor's speech.

I completely endorse the Governor's remarks when he said that South Australia's climate is changing, noting the government's belief that further change is inevitable and that the government is committed and is indeed insisting upon acting on this opportunity for South Australia to be a source of motivation for leadership in this state and not a cause for community division or despair.

On the contrary, we have an opportunity in this state to demonstrate that we can put together our resources by way of policy developments on the energy side and in the environment space so as to in a very genuine way ensure that in responding to the changing climate we do so in a way that provides opportunities for South Australia to grow in confidence and to embrace new ways of doing things. As the Governor observed, the best response to public concern is the implementation of practical measures that secure emissions abatement without increasing energy costs or reducing jobs.

It is in this regard that I am pleased to reflect in a little more detail on where we are at on our pledge to improve the reliability of our networks and to reduce the cost of energy for South Australians. It is good to have a sense of scorecard about this. We are two years in, and I remarked in April last year, in the context of debate in relation to legislation regarding the national electricity scheme and our cooperation with the National Energy Market, that it was a very good thing indeed to see that we are back on track as a state and embracing the National Energy Market and embracing

the need to network with the rest of the country, as opposed to the isolationist objectives that we had seen in the dying days of the previous government.

I had a bit to say about the political opportunism that was on display, particularly in those dying months of the former Labor government, when we heard from the member for West Torrens a case that was developed about how it might be better for South Australia if we were to go it alone, if we were to cut ourselves off and do our own thing on the energy side. For reasons that are clearly connected to the merits as opposed to the politics, we have seen an about-face by those opposite, and they are now wanting to get on board. Noting the time, I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Petitions

PATIENT ASSISTANCE TRANSPORT SCHEME

Mr HUGHES (Giles): Presented a petition signed by 62 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to revise and increase the fuel subsidy component of the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) from 16¢ per kilometre travelled in a private vehicle to a more reasonable rate that reflects the increase in fuel costs.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Capital City Committee—Annual Report 2018-19

Statutory Authorities Review Committee Inquiry into the State Procurement Board—
Government Response 2019

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Local Government Finance Authority—Prescribed Local Government Bodies

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

Electoral Commission South Australia—Election Report Cheltenham and Enfield
By-elections Report 2019

Summary Offences Act 1953—

Dangerous Area Declarations return pursuant to section 83B Report for
Period 1 October 2019—31 December 2019

Road Blocks return pursuant to section 74B Report for Period 1 October 2019—
31 December 2019

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Freedom of Information—Prescribed Agency

Independent Commissioner Against Corruption—Schedule 1 of Act
Ombudsman—General

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Local Government—Prescribed Body

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Planning, Development and Infrastructure—

Annual Reports

Planning Agreements—General

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to parliament today a delegation from Altavilla Irpina, province of Avellino, in Italy. I assume that the noise I just heard is somehow related. Welcome to parliament.

Parliamentary Committees

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:04): I bring up the third report of the committee, entitled 'Inquiry into workplace fatigue and bullying in South Australian hospitals and health services'.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

Mr Pederick: Throw him out.

The SPEAKER: I might. Member for Morphett.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (14:05): I bring up the 48th, 49th and 50th reports of the Public Works Committee, entitled Thomas Foods Facility Supporting Roadworks, Nuriootpa Primary School Redevelopment, and Loxton High School Redevelopment.

Reports received and ordered to be published.

Question Time

MEMBER FOR NARUNGGA

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06): My question is to the member for Narungga. Why didn't the member for Narungga support the Premier at the Waite Liberal branch meeting last night?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: standing order 96 is extremely clear, in that members are only responsible to the house for motions or other public business for which those members are—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: A public meeting about public business?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —in your opinion, Mr Speaker, responsible to the house, and this does not meet the threshold.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I would like the interjections on my left to please cease. I uphold the point of order. A minister can only be questioned on matters which he or she is responsible for or officially connected. Such matters must concern public affairs, administration and proceedings pending in the house.

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth is talking while I am talking. Let's not start question time this way. You are warned and called to order. The underlying principle is that ministers are required to answer questions only on matters for which they are responsible to the house. Speakers have ruled out of order questions in the past and parts of questions—for example, things like statements, activities, actions or decisions of the minister's own party, including party or party union activities. So there is much precedence there. I uphold the point of order. I will give the leader another go.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Treachery is okay, then.

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens shouts, 'Treachery is okay.' He is called to order and warned.

MEMBER FOR NARUNGA

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07): My question, then, is to the Premier. What action will the Premier take against the member for Narunga for openly defying the Premier by attending the Waite Liberal branch meeting in support of the member for Waite?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:08): I would like to answer this because the last time I checked I was living in Australia. I can't speak for the Leader of the Opposition on what planet he currently occupies—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —but the reality is we live in a free country and people are free to attend public meetings. I was fully informed that the member for Narunga had attended the last meeting and I support his decision to attend that meeting. It was a free and open meeting. This contrasts very distinctly from those opposite. There are one or two puppeteers who make all decisions for the Australian Labor Party, and I feel very proud to be leading a parliamentary party—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —which actually supports the freedom of all individuals.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know they hate it, they absolutely hate it! We adore it on this side of the chamber.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for West Torrens, I welcome the former Speaker of the house, Mr Michael Atkinson—welcome to you, sir; it's great to have you back in parliament—and Ms Rankine, former minister and member for Wright. I would also like to welcome to parliament today, on behalf of the member for Kavel, Sheree Reid, Michael Cruckshanck and Esther Cruckshanck. Welcome to parliament.

Question Time

The SPEAKER: I had better call some members to order, member for West Torrens, if you just bear with me: the members for Badcoe, the leader, the Deputy Premier and the member for Hammond for consistent and repeated interjections, which are unparliamentary. The member for West Torrens.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:09): My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier, his staff or any former staff members leak the member for Waite's drunken conduct to the media?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:10): Absolutely not. I have no evidence to suggest that what the member is suggesting to be the truth, and if he's got any evidence, I suggest he makes that abundantly clear.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:10): My question is to the member for Narunga. Was the member for Narunga with the member for Waite during his drunken conduct at Parliament House on Friday 13 December?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: 96 and 97.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I uphold the point of order. Member for West Torrens, you can have another go and then I am moving to the member for Morphett.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: May I ask for a point of clarification, sir?

The SPEAKER: You may.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Is it the responsibility of the house for the conduct of members in the parliament?

The SPEAKER: I would refer the member to what I just said earlier and standing order 96. I respectfully uphold my ruling. Member for West Torrens, you can have another go and then the member for Morphett.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:10): My question is to the member for Narungga. Did the member for Narungga witness the alleged sexual harassment, homophobia and racism by the member for Waite and, if so, what steps did he take to stop it, or were you too drunk?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: standing orders 96 and 97.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The member for West Torrens knows better. He is warned for a second and final time, and I am moving to the member for Morphett.

LOT FOURTEEN

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:11): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on how new developments at Lot Fourteen are supporting South Australia's growth?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:11): I thank the member for Morphett for his excellent question. He is very concerned about the opportunities that are being presented down at Lot Fourteen. You will recall, sir, that Lot Fourteen was the original—

Mr Boyer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Wright!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —name given to the space which has been, for much of the last 150 years, occupied by the former Royal Adelaide Hospital, and our colleagues on the opposite side of the chamber decided to move the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I do note that that was a decision made in 2007, and by the time they actually decided to move it in 2017 they still didn't have any plan whatsoever for Lot Fourteen. I am very proud to make it very clear that it is an exciting precinct. I think it is possibly the most exciting urban development precinct in the entire country.

Yesterday, I was down at Lot Fourteen at the opening of the new premises for the Australian Institute for Machine Learning. At this point, I would like to offer some congratulations to the former government because they were aware of the establishment of the Australian Institute for Machine Learning, and in fact they assisted with the establishment of the Australian Institute for Machine Learning, and of course their operations have now been relocated to Lot Fourteen—and don't they look fantastic!

Machine learning is an area of science that is being massively, massively invested into at the moment—not millions of dollars per year, not tens of millions of dollars per year, not billions, but tens of billions of dollars per year are going into this area. South Australia is right at the epicentre of development, especially around the area of vision systems, which is an important subset of machine learning.

The centre is headed up by Professor Anton van den Hengel, who himself is a graduate of the University of Adelaide. In fact, he studied and completed his PhD under the provost there, Professor Mike Brooks, so you see there is a long-term commitment to excellence in this area of machine learning, and of course this is one of the great sectors that is going to create jobs into the future.

Currently, there are 125 to 130 researchers on that site. This is significant—125 to 130. It is the largest institute of its type in the country. I was very interested earlier this year when I visited Washington and I met with Dan Rice, who is the global VP for Lockheed Martin, and also his boss, Keoki Jackson. They spoke about the incredible excellence that we have here in South Australia. In fact, they said that it was ranked amongst the top universities in the world for this type of research.

It is, of course, keeping many young researchers here in South Australia. Yesterday, I offered my grateful thanks to those researchers at the opening of the new premises of the Australian Institute for Machine Learning. These are researchers who could get jobs in any other city in this country, in any other city in our region and, quite frankly, in any other city globally because of their expertise, but they choose to stay here because they know that they are doing something very special.

We are also attracting some of the top academics in this area to South Australia. I was very pleased that Mark Jenkinson from the University of Oxford is now part of the faculty here in Adelaide. Very soon, Professor Simon Lucey from Carnegie Mellon will be taking up a role at the Australian Institute for Machine Learning.

If you haven't been down to Lot Fourteen recently, you should. It is an incredible precinct which not only has the Australian Institute for Machine Learning but the Space Agency, the SmartSat CRC and MIT with their Living Lab, and the Australian cyber collaboration centre will open later this year. It's time to get excited about the future industries and the future jobs that will emanate from it.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his public statement that he first became aware the member for Waite had allegedly slapped the Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC when he read about it in the paper?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:15): Yes.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his public statement that the Attorney-General immediately rang him following her conversation with the Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC about the events on Friday 13 December?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:16): My understanding is that the Hon. Connie Bonaros called the Deputy Premier late last year, in the week following the incident which occurred here on Friday 13 December. In that conversation, she conveyed to the Deputy Premier that there was an incident. It was an unacceptable incident. It wasn't a matter that she was, at that stage, looking to take further.

She said there may be other people who were present who would have been offended by the behaviour. The Deputy Premier conveyed to Ms Bonaros that if there was anything that we could do to assist, or if she did want to take it further, or if other people wanted to take it further, she would be available for that. The Deputy Premier then contacted me very soon thereafter.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question is to the Attorney-General. Did the Attorney-General inform the Premier that the member for Waite had slapped the Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:17): I thank the member for the question because it does give me the opportunity to confirm, in relation to this matter, that I had received a text message from the Hon. Connie Bonaros to contact her on 16 December last year. I did so. She conveyed to me particulars of some of the matters that she had experienced on the 13th. What was described was unwelcome and unacceptable.

Consistent with what the Premier has just indicated, I conveyed my concern that should any person who was involved and present and had been in a similar position at that event, she could provide them with my mobile phone number and I would be happy to provide whatever support they

would need. That is entirely consistent with what I have done, frankly, on a number of occasions in the time I have been in the parliament.

I have maintained a position of ensuring that the particulars of what is conveyed to me by anyone who has been aggrieved by conduct remains confidential. I don't propose to traverse what information was provided. I just indicate to the house that I was satisfied that the information was of the circumstances of that event—that there were unwelcome approaches and they were unacceptable.

Whilst that may be a subjective matter, in relation to whoever might be aggrieved by that, it was not for me to either inquire into or make a judgement on. What's important in these circumstances is that there is some follow-up, which is what I had offered to do and which was agreed to be done. It was done.

Dr CLOSE: Supplementary, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I will move to the member for Heysen and then I will come back to the deputy leader.

CYBERSECURITY

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:19): My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on how the state government is skilling South Australia's cybersecurity workforce?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (14:19): I thank the member for Heysen for his question. It's a very important question because it's a very, very—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: —modern problem in Australia and, as a matter of fact, across the world. There is a recognised global shortage of cybersecurity professionals. The Marshall Liberal government is working with business, universities and training providers to develop a cybersecurity ecosystem here in South Australia to ensure we make the most of opportunities to advance our digital economy. We are growing local cybersecurity industry skills, focused on training and skilling the future cybersecurity workforce.

Under our Skilling South Australia program, we worked directly with industry to establish a selection of cybersecurity traineeships. These three separate streams of cyber-related traineeships have been designed here in South Australia. They include an industry cybersecurity traineeship, Cert IV in Cyber Security, which has been developed through the Department for Innovation and Skills and is delivered by MEGT and TAFE SA; public sector cybersecurity traineeships, Certificate IV in Cyber Security, which is being developed by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, GTOs and TAFE SA; and the Flexible Cyber Security Traineeship Pilot, which is a Certificate III in ICT and two components of the cybersecurity certificate, which is coming through our flexible apprenticeships pathway and being managed by my good colleague the education minister through our new pathways in vocational education through the school system, being delivered of course through the Department for Education, Maxima and again TAFE SA.

These new traineeships support broader workforce and skills pipeline initiatives, which are being designed to be delivered through the new Australian cyber collaboration centre (A3C) within Lot Fourteen here in Adelaide. The South Australian government has committed \$8.9 million to develop the Australian cyber collaboration centre. The A3C will generate demand within the labour market for cybersecurity careers, develop innovative training to increase the numbers of trainees and graduates and improve employment outcomes for newly qualified and trained cybersecurity workers.

The state government also recently executed a memorandum of understanding with the MITRE Corporation in the US. The MITRE Corporation establishes public-private partnerships and operates federally funded research and development centres in the US, focusing on challenges to national security. The partnership between the A3C and MITRE will focus on protecting Australia's smart grid and advanced insider threat detection. The A3C will be launched in March and fully operational by July this year.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): My question is to the Attorney-General. Did the Attorney-General inform the Premier that there was an allegation of assault conveyed to her by the Hon. Connie Bonaros?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:22): Again, I indicate to the member that I won't be traversing any of the particulars that have been conveyed to me in relation to this incident or any other in the time I have been here in the parliament. I have conveyed to the Premier that the Hon. Ms Bonaros attended this event, on the information that she provided, and that there were approaches made to her that were unwelcome and clearly unacceptable. I won't be traversing what information she provided to me during that conversation, but I can tell the house that I undertook to her to refer that matter to the Premier, which I did, and that, as would be implicit from my previous answer, I had done so to previous premier, premier Rann.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): My question is again to the Attorney-General. Did the Attorney-General provide the Premier with all the details conveyed to her by the Hon. Connie Bonaros in that conversation?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:24): Again, I indicate what I have—

Dr Close: Yes or no?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: The member might demand a yes or no. I have made it very clear to the house—

Mr Brown: How about giving us one?

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

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: —that I have never traversed the particulars of what information is given to me in these circumstances in a public manner. I had undertaken to convey to the Premier, as I have done on other occasions, the concerns that were raised by the member. That is exactly what I did. And, secondly, to offer to her, as she indicated that there may be others attending that event who may be concerned, that she was at liberty, in fact I invited her, to give them my mobile phone number to contact me if they were in any way seeking some support.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): My question is again to the Attorney-General. In the conversation with the Premier in which the details were conveyed, did the Premier ask the Attorney-General for any further details about what occurred on that night, to the best of her knowledge?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:25): Not that I recall, in the sense of whether there had been any particular inquiry about that. I think it is fair to say that the incident has come to my attention. I have conveyed that to the Premier, with the knowledge of who the person is who is alleged to have undertaken this behaviour, but the details otherwise as to what questions were asked, as to the extent and the like, again are really a matter for Ms Bonaros. I can confirm to the house that I conveyed her request to the Premier that he be informed and that's exactly what I did.

AGTECH

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:26): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on how the state government is fostering collaboration and investment into agtech for South Australia?

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:26): Yes, I can, and I thank the member for Hammond for his very important question. For those on this side of the house, we understand the importance of agriculture to South

Australia's economy, a \$20.3 billion economy, and it needs to grow. If South Australia is going to be a part of the nation's target of \$100 billion—

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

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

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE: —by 2030, we do need to make advancements in agriculture and we do need to commercialise the R&D programs. To do that, this government is putting its best foot forward. Next Monday, we will have the Advance Ag forum here in Adelaide at the Wayville showground. It is an inaugural agtech event, designed to bring together farmers and entrepreneurs and the advancement within industry. To do that, we have to have the capacity to bring the collaboration of all the sectors together so that we can be leaders in this nation and we can be global leaders with the advancement of agriculture.

As I have said, it is an exciting event and we will have from Israel the start-up founder of Terra Venture Partners, Dr Astorre Modena, as a keynote speaker. He will be followed by one of the great South Australian entrepreneurs, Darren Thomas, from Thomas Foods International, and there will be more. What we as a government are demonstrating to agriculture and to our researchers is that we are open for business and we are using an open-door policy.

Just recently, I announced that open-door policy down at the Struan Research Centre and at Kybybolite in the South-East to make advancements particularly in the red meat sector. Our ag communicators down there are looking for that open-door policy so that they can walk into these research stations, because for such a long time they have seen the locked-door policy, that they can't get in there and look at the advancements in agriculture.

This government has opened the doors to the private sector as a partnership with government so that we can actually have the private-public partnerships that allow these great conversations to be had and allow our farmers, our food producers and our agriculturalists to come into these facilities and look at some of the commercialisation of agtech.

On the back of that, the government have also promoted agriculture over at evokeAG in Melbourne. We have a stand over there and that stand is headed up by no more expertise than our agtech advisory group. That group is headed up by Professor Leanna Reid, the former chief scientist. The eight members of that panel are over there not only promoting South Australia's advancement in agriculture but also promoting what South Australia has to offer to the commercial world, making sure that the commercial world understands the importance of that open-door policy.

The open-door policy is there for advancement to every farmer here in South Australia, but I think just as importantly it is about giving the global agriculture sector an understanding that South Australia wants to be the leader in advancement in agriculture. To do that, we are dealing with all sorts of vagaries: the headwinds of natural disasters that we have seen, the number of years that we have had drought here in South Australia, the recent bushfires, the vagaries of our commodity prices and dealing with new and emerging global markets.

It is critically important that we remain in front of the game and give our food producers, our agriculturalists, every tool in the toolbox to advance agriculture and that's why we will again pursue lifting the moratorium on GM. That's why we will continue to give any support we can to advancing agriculture here in South Australia because #RegionsMatter.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): My question is to the Attorney-General. Did the Hon. Connie Bonaros ask the Attorney-General to withhold any details of information she conveyed about the allegations of the behaviour by the member for Waite—to withhold that information, any of it, from the Premier?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:30): I certainly don't recall any request of that nature at all but, again, I won't be going into the detail of what she did convey to me.

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Ramsay!

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: I undertook to do as she requested, and that is report it to the Premier. That is entirely consistent with what I have done on other occasions and that is precisely what I did. That, as we now know as a matter of public record, is a matter the particulars of which are now being looked at by the South Australian police and so for obvious reasons it wouldn't be appropriate that I make any further comment in relation to the information that came to my attention. But, in any event, I assure the house that the process of what was undertaken in relation to that matter was entirely consistent with what I have done on previous occasions.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:31): My question is to the Premier. Given the Attorney-General's answer, do you stand by your statements to the house and publicly that the first you heard that the member for Waite struck the Legislative Council member the Hon. Connie Bonaros was in the paper?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:32): Yes.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier comfortable with the fact that his Attorney-General deliberately withheld information from you before making a judgement about what occurred with the member for Waite?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: that question offends standing order 97.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! 'Deliberately withheld', we are starting to get into the area where I can see a breach of standing order 97. I will give the leader an opportunity to have another go, and then I am moving on to those on my right.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier satisfied that he had available to him all the facts that he could reasonably have access to before he made a judgement that asking for an apology was a sufficient punishment to the member for Waite for the allegations regarding 13 December?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33): The answer to the first part is, yes, I think I was in receipt of all the information relevant to me to speak with the member for Waite and ask him to issue an immediate apology. That's exactly and precisely what I did.

DEMAND MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister update the house on how demand management technology is helping to lower prices for South Australians?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:33): Thank you to the member for King for this question too and, yes, I can. As everybody in this house knows, we took a very clear energy policy to the last election. We are determined—

Mr Picton: \$300.

The SPEAKER: The member for Kaurna is warned.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —to reduce the cost of electricity, make it more reliable, more resilient, and also make it cleaner for all South Australians. As you also know, we took a multipronged policy to the election. One of those key prongs is demand management—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —which the member for King asks about. This is cutting-edge technology around the world, and we are determined in South Australia to lead in every different aspect of the delivery of more affordable, more reliable and cleaner electricity for all South Australians.

Demand management is a relatively new aspect in world terms and even in South Australia, but we do now have five virtual power plant offerings from retailers in South Australia. They are actually being taken up because they are very complementary with our Home Battery Scheme, which is growing and gaining momentum all the time. But one of the things we announced before the election, and have delivered after the election, is a \$11 million fund to partner with industry and other organisations for the trial of new demand response technology, and we are doing that because we know this will be good for all South Australians.

Interestingly, people think of batteries as purely about storage, but it is actually about demand management. You are managing your demand, you are managing where you get it from. Do you get it from the grid or do you get it from your battery? The virtual power plants are very much about aggregating hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of consumers' demands so that consumers voluntarily surrender some of the control of their demand for electricity in return for a financial benefit, so it's a win-win.

But to extend that even further, what happens is when the aggregator connects hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of electricity consumers and is able to have access to use a thin slice of each of their demand, that aggregator then actually controls quite a lot of electricity. That aggregator then has a lot of electricity that can be supplied into the grid at times that it's needed, so then all other South Australian electricity consumers, not just those participating actively in a program like this, get a win as well. Reaching and being able to deliver peak electricity demand is one of the things that has pushed up the cost of electricity over the last 10 to 15 years.

So we are working on getting the cost of electricity down in the wholesale market. We are working on interconnection. We are working on large-scale batteries, small-scale batteries, and we are working on demand management as well. We have announced three programs so far, one with company Embertec, which will trial how existing air conditioners can be optimised to better manage peak demand; with company Enel X, which will look at how small commercial energy users can maximise their investment in backup generators while helping to make energy more secure and reliable for all consumers; and with company Amber Electric, which will trial permanent automated demand response aiming to show how customers can save on their power bills by having a large appliance in their home turn off, up or down based on real-time wholesale prices. We are delivering on the things that we said we would deliver on.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise the parliament what new information he received last Friday that prompted his decision to remove the member for Waite from the Liberal parliamentary party room?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:37): No.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier rule out the new information being criminal in nature?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:38): I will just refer to my previous answer. I am not going to make further comment regarding it. I made it very clear when I became aware of the behaviour that occurred on Friday 13 December here at Parliament House that it was completely and utterly unacceptable. On Friday, I learnt new information in the early afternoon on top of the fact that it was then clear that there was a police investigation. This led me to the conclusion that Mr Duluk's continuation in the Liberal party room was untenable and I conveyed that to him. He accepted that position.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: He is no longer a member of the Liberal party room. He is no longer a member of the Liberal Party.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier provided the new information he obtained on Friday afternoon to the police?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:39): I refer the honourable member to my previous answer.

Ms Stinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Badcoe is warned for a first time.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier, please. The member for West Torrens is on two warnings. The Premier is called to order. Leader, be quiet.

EMERGENCY SERVICES EQUIPMENT

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister explain to the house how remotely piloted—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Newland, please pause. Can I have that again, please.

Dr HARVEY: Sure. My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister explain to the house how remotely piloted aircraft systems are being utilised to support our emergency services and what is the future capability across South Australia?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:39): I thank the member for Newland for his very important question and his interest in technology and the future growth of the technology sector here in South Australia. As everyone knows, of course the emergency services have had a very busy start to 2020. While we have seen devastation across South Australia with the bushfires, I can say that at times the resources within our emergency services sector have been put to the test, but that's why it is very important that we do all we can to make sure that our emergency services have the best equipment and the best technology going forward.

Of course, the Marshall Liberal government did commit \$9.5 million to increasing the aerial capacity of the CFS aerial fleet, taking it from 17 planes up to 26; also \$5.5 million into improving our trucks and making them more roadworthy and making sure they comply with national standards; and \$5 million went into the CFS through Project Renew to make sure that the stations that emergency services crews use and work out of are up to scratch and improved, after being neglected for such a long period of time.

It is important that they also have the best safety equipment, and we want to do all we can to make sure that in a time of crisis our emergency services workers are kept as safe as possible. But there are other forms of technology as well that we want to keep an eye on. It was great to be working with the CFS, the SES, the MFS, Surf Life Saving South Australia and SAPOL to make sure that we can protect our volunteers and protect the public in as efficient a way as possible.

I am not talking about the large aerial tankers that we all would have seen on the news, which we got from New South Wales and gave us great support through the recent fires here in South Australia, or the Premier's great work with the federal government as well to make sure that we had some extra support. In fact, one of those large aerial tankers was based here, which was greatly appreciated. And I am not talking about the increased capability with new helmets and breathing apparatus that were provided for the MFS.

What I think is really exciting and where I think the member for Newland is going is that he wants to talk about drones, an amazing technology that has such a great opportunity to be expanded within our emergency services. That is why I was very pleased to be at the first emergency services Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems forum at Lot Fourteen. It was great to have, again, all the agencies there and others from the outside showcasing their current capability, future capabilities, and also to share experiences and collaborate between these agencies.

We know that we need the best technologies within our emergency services communities and we know that we want to do all we can to bring those groups together. The Air Force was also involved and the Army was there as well, and some of the capabilities that they showcased included one little example, where the Army was carrying packs on the side of their belts or their waists, if you like, with tiny little drones that they could flip out and, in the case of an emergency, pop these things into the air. They had two hours of flying time and they could actually feed back pictures and information to assess the situation and make sure that they knew what was going on on the ground. It was fantastic to see this sort of technology and capability.

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: As we look at this and we look at our emergency services—and Surf Life Saving SA, of course, have been doing a great job in this area as well—what we have been able to do is actually bring more people, people with big technical experiences, into our emergency services. It is a great way to attract more volunteers.

We know, of course, that at Lot Fourteen the Defence Science and Technology Group and the Australian Institute for Machine Learning, which the Premier has talked about, also spoke at this forum, and some of the things they have on offer are absolutely outstanding. They are looking at taking the remote capability out of drones and having them up in the air thinking for themselves. It is a bit scary to think about, but that's what is happening in South Australia: our emergency services working with these technology agencies—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I know those on the other side don't want to hear about it—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, minister.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —but we are improving technology here in South Australia and growing jobs for South Australians.

The SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

STATE LIBERAL PARTY

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:44): My question is to the Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Can the Premier inform the house which one of his MPs has publicly claimed that his party is in open warfare and there are open shows of defiance against the Premier to InDaily?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: the member is seeking to introduce facts and argument without the leave of the house.

The SPEAKER: That may be the case. I ask the minister that if you are going to call a point of order like that to please reserve the point of order towards the end of the answer. I've got to say, though, I was tending to form that opinion. Member for West Torrens, I will give you another go to rephrase.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: My question is to the Premier. Have any of the Liberal party room given public statements to InDaily criticising the Premier's leadership?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:45): I have no idea which article the member is referring to.

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Stinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Badcoe can leave for 22 minutes under 137A.

The honourable member for Badcoe having withdrawn from the chamber:

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Leader, be quiet. The deputy leader would like another question.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. When the Premier directed the member for Waite away from Liberal Party meetings last Friday, did that include attending Liberal branch meetings?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:46): As I was saying in terms of the first question, which was answered earlier this afternoon, these meetings are open meetings. He was, I presume, an observer to that meeting.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Well, there were plenty of people who weren't members of that SEC, the state electorate committee, who were present at that meeting. There's nothing unusual about that whatsoever.

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Elizabeth, you are on two warnings—I am just reminding you.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why, if the member for Waite was serving a period of self-suspension from the Liberal Party, he was addressing a local Liberal Party meeting last night?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:46): That would be something that you would be most welcome to take up with the member for Waite. It's not something which is—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Could the Premier please be seated for one moment. The member for Elizabeth is out for the remainder of question time under 137A, that brilliant standing order brought in by former Speaker Atkinson I believe.

The honourable member for Elizabeth having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call, then I'm moving to the member for Flinders and to the deputy leader after that.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I'm not sure why the opposition can't grab these two concepts: one is that we are an open and free society and people can attend as they wish and, secondly, you don't have to be a member of the SEC to attend a branch meeting. Put those two things together and I think you will get the answer to your dubious question.

SERVICE SA

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:47): My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister update the house on how key reforms are delivering better services at Service SA?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:47): I thank the member for Flinders for his question and note his very keen interest in how our government is innovating the way that we deliver services to improve service delivery for South Australians. Straight off the bat, I would like to point out that a lot of this innovation comes from deep within the vast resources and the well of good work that's done within our Public Service—none more so than in Service SA, an organisation that was left to rot under the former government and one that we are delivering a comprehensive reform package on.

A lot of this innovation is actually coming from the staff themselves, and I want to thank them for their hard work and especially the way that they have embraced this new concierge model that's being trialled and now being rolled out more generally at Service SA, which is a simple change, but strong innovation nonetheless that has delivered now a 30 per cent reduction in wait times for people lining up at Service SA.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Stop shouting!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: There are some who don't like good news. There are some whose information may be out of date, but the world is moving quickly. This government, working strongly in conjunction with the staff at Service SA, has been able to improve the way that we deliver services by doing some pretty simple things—that is, when you come in, having the concierge there to be able to help deal with people as they walk in. If somebody wants a simple bit of information they can get it straightaway and walk straight out the door. That person does not need to line up.

For those people who feel comfortable using an assisted service kiosk or a self-serve kiosk, they are able to undertake that transaction much more quickly than they used to be able to do. For those people who either have to or want to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —undertake a face-to-face transaction, we have the service there available for them. We have seen a 30 per cent reduction, and that is phenomenal, in delivering better services, which is what we as a government promised to South Australians before the election.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: We have also seen a strong trend around more people wanting to use online services. What we have done is to help provide the mechanism for people to be able to do that, to be able to, for instance, get an SMS or email notification about their motor rego. We have seen very strong take-up—some 10,000 people a month signing up to the online driver's licence. We now see 58 per cent of transactions being undertaken online. Again, for those people, they don't have to stand there and line up at a Service SA centre.

Dr Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Deputy leader!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: From the privacy of their own home, they are able to transact in the way that they want, the way that they choose, and we think that is a fantastic step forward.

The Hon. A. Piccolo: What about the ones who can't?

The SPEAKER: Member for Light!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: On 24 February, we are going to open our new Service SA centre at Currie Street. Again, there are those who don't like that announcement, even though the customers are the very ones who provided us with the feedback that the existing centre is in an out-of-the-way location, not friendly for people to get to and hence why people have chosen not to use that centre. We have moved it to a much more high-traffic location, right next to the tram, right next to where the majority of our bus services operate and right in the middle of the beating heart of our city, providing a modern new centre that is set up to deliver the services in a way that gets people in the door, seen or transacted, out the door and back on their way that much more quickly.

I also had the opportunity last week to go and visit Regency Park and have a look at the operations there. I want to say that I was so thoroughly impressed by the staff who work there, especially the manager, Col, who does a fantastic job with his team in sometimes pretty difficult circumstances dealing with some very difficult transactions.

Also, literally as we sit here speaking, I received a text message from somebody saying that they have just been in to the North Terrace centre and Zerina there provided them with phenomenal service, helping to register their car, their historic vehicle—again, another example of how people are embracing the reforms that we are undertaking and our push to provide better services for South Australians, which is precisely delivering on the commitments that we made to the people at the 2018 election.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: If the member for Playford wants to be a comedian, he can apply for next year's Fringe.

SERVICE SA

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:52): My question is also to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Further to the figures cited in your press release yesterday, reporting a decline of 100,000 face-to-face transactions per annum at Service SA over five years, or just on 4 per cent of the total transactions, how is this data collected and what has happened to the extra one million transactions your figures don't mention? Doesn't this really represent stable demand for face-to-face transactions at Service SA? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms BEDFORD: If online transactions now represent 57.6 per cent—which you said is nearly 58 per cent—of total transactions and there are 4.54 million online transactions, and face-to-face transactions now represent 29.7 per cent of total transactions, or about 2.34 million, there are 12.7 per cent or roughly one million transactions unaccounted for. Are these transaction statistics relying on EFT records, ticketed interactions on site or other staff records? If drawn from only one set of data, face-to-face transaction records may not include all interactions at service centres because some are not fully completed at the time, so what has happened to those one million transactions?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:53): There is the third way to transact, and that is for people to call the Service SA centre call centres. That's where the remaining transactions are—

Mr Malinauskas: You cut that, too.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —57.6—the member is very correct—online. We are now down to 29.7 per cent in face to face, but the balance of those are people choosing to use a call centre to be able transact another way, again, that people are able to avoid having to go in store to undertake face to face. Especially for those potentially more remote locations, or, again, those for whom getting to a Service SA centre is difficult, we have this ability for people to be able to undertake call centre operations.

These call centre staff are the very same staff that people see at a face-to-face centre. There is essentially a triage system within the various physical locations that provide the opportunity for

people call in to. That service is there, and that is where the balance is. However, we are seeing an undeniable trend to online. And, in fact, a lot of people want to see more and more transactions being able to be undertaken online, and that is something we are working on at the moment, especially in relation to the surrendering of licence plate numbers, which I know for a lot of dealers is a genuine issue in that they have to go in and surrender them physically every single time.

The other is for those people, especially older people, who have to continue to provide medical certificates to Service SA in relation to conditions that have been put on their licence, and the ability to be able to—as is done federally—provide those medical certificates without having to go in to a centre is something again that we are working on.

Mr Speaker, and member for Florey, there are a whole series of ways that we are helping to reform and innovate the way that we deliver better services in Service SA, and we will continue to do that because it is precisely what our customers are asking us to do, and that is precisely what we as a government should be doing.

SERVICE SA

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:55): Supplementary: why didn't you put this telephone business in your very concise press release yesterday, and is that figure stable? Is it going up and down, or is that decreasing or increasing?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:55): I am happy to take the balance of that question on notice, and I will also make inquiries as to why call centre figures weren't provided on there, but there is genuinely nothing to hide here. We are proud of the reforms that we are undertaking—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —and I am more than happy to get the information to the member for Florey.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): My question is to the Premier. Have the events of last night demonstrated that the Premier is losing control of his own party?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:56): No.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier established a protocol for ministers and Liberal party room members wanting to meet with the member for Waite?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:56): No.

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond is warned.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): My question is to the Premier. Is it acceptable for the people of the electorate of Waite to have no representation here in parliament?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker that question is reflecting on a member's presence or not within the house.

The SPEAKER: Yes, it could. I uphold the point of order. The deputy leader and then one on my right. Do you have another question?

MEMBER FOR WAITE

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier appointed another member of his Liberal team to act as duty member for the electorate of Waite because they do not currently have representation in parliament?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: That question under 97 contains fact and argument.

The SPEAKER: Yes, it's—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Saying that someone doesn't have representation might—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right, be quiet! I am going to uphold the point of order: it is similar to the previous one. The member for Colton, and then I will come back to those on my left.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:57): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on how the government is supporting innovation in schools?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:57): It is a great pleasure to have this question from the member for Colton, who I know cares passionately about his local schools and is regularly in touch about them and also about innovation in our schools. Innovation in the education system is tremendously important. It is tremendously important that we are constantly seeking—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —to innovate in the way that we provide services to schools, that we as a government support our schools and that, indeed, our schools support our students.

Indeed, further, it is important that we bring up our children, and that our schools support our students to be innovative thinkers, to be young people who are capable of taking on the challenges and the opportunities presented by the 21st century, especially this very exciting 21st century for the people of South Australia where industries such as defence, space, agtech, blockchain, machine learning, and indeed, as some have pointed out, cyber are going to be the drivers of massive job creation so long as we take the opportunity to ensure that our children and our students and our young people are prepared for those opportunities.

We are doing this in a number of ways. One program that is helping us not only support the way that we deliver work in schools better, supporting our schools better, and indeed helping to ensure that our schools can deliver enhanced curriculum for our students, is, of course, as I have mentioned to the house once or twice, the improvement in internet technologies through the laying of fibre optic cable right across South Australia. This includes to regions that had not had fibre optic cable before, directly to the schools which had, up until this government was elected, the slowest internet speeds in the country. We are now on track by the middle of this year to have the fastest.

Indeed, since announcing this partnership with Telstra worth \$80 million in the member for Morphett's electorate at Glenelg Primary School late in 2018, we are now 72 per cent complete. There are 389 sites connected, as of yesterday, out of our 500 or so schools—more than 160,000 students and nearly 19,000 educators.

This is transformative in the way that schools can do their work, and it's an innovation that is very important. It was one that the Labor Party recognised was important before the last election and that's why, after 16 years in government, had they been re-elected, they promised they would fix it—after 16 years. Going from the slowest to the fastest—we've done it and we're doing it.

We have also identified that there are indeed flexible and new innovative ways to deliver our students the opportunities to connect with job pathways. The Minister for Innovation and Skills earlier identified our flexible industry pathways, apprenticeships and traineeships which can start at the

school. Schools are working with local industries that have numbers of skills demands and helping our students get the training they need.

Substantial reform is required in vocational education and training. What we have had, through the work of the SACE Board, is an excellent secondary pathway to ensure that students are able to get the benefits of certificate and diploma training accredited to their SACE. What we're now doing is ensuring that when they do that it's actually leading to where there are jobs, and those are the transformations that we need. We're very pleased to be working with the SACE Board. Indeed, a \$5 million enhancement of the SACE was announced at the end of last year. Martin Westwell and his team are doing a great job to support the way that we're delivering flexible industry pathways in schools.

I'm very pleased that we are also ploughing ahead with our Entrepreneurial Learning Strategy. Five entrepreneurial specialist schools at Banksia Park, at Seaton, at Heathfield, at Mount Gambier and at Murray Bridge are doing great work, particularly in identifying SACE-relevant pathways, working with business and industry and working with universities for pathways where students can develop those entrepreneurial skills. This is so that whether they want to start a business or whether they want to work in a large organisation or be a social entrepreneur, they will have those skills, that flexibility and creativity, to do the best for their company that they may start or they may work for and to do their best for South Australia.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:01): Thank you, sir. My question is to you. Will you provide the detectives investigating the member for Waite with all witness statements and evidence collected by the private investigator in relation to the events of Friday 13 December in Parliament House last year?

The SPEAKER (15:02): I thank the member for West Torrens for his question. I refer to my earlier statement that I provided to the house.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:02): Sir, could you please expand on that answer and clarify—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER (15:02): Members on my left and right! Member, be seated. I can refer to the statement that I made earlier today. I did provide the house with an update concerning the independent investigation into the alleged behaviour of the member for Waite from 13 December. I have been informed that the police have reported Mr Duluk for basic assault; therefore, I suspended the independent investigation and directed the investigator to halt the process of undertaking any further interviews or sending any witness copies of their statements.

I will revisit the question of reinstating the independent investigation pending the outcome of SAPOL's processes and any court processes on the matter of the member for Waite's alleged behaviour. I really have nothing to add to that, member for West Torrens.

MEMBER FOR WAITE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:03): Sir, with all due respect, that's not the question that I asked. The question I asked you was: will you provide the detectives investigating the conduct of the member for Waite with all received witness statements and evidence collected by the private investigator—not if the investigation would be suspended.

The SPEAKER (15:03): And I refer the member to my earlier statements that I've made. At this point in time, I have not been contacted by any such investigator. We have had three on my left and we are moving to the member for Elder.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Mrs POWER (Elder) (15:04): My question is for the Minister for Environment and Water. Can the minister please update the house about the progress that the government is making towards the phase-out of single-use plastics in South Australia and how plastic-free precincts are leading the way?

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (15:04): I thank the member for Elder for her interest in this topic. It's always good to be able to update this place on our progress towards banning a whole range of single-use plastics in South Australia, which will occur in various tranches throughout the next couple of years. That is a policy that is progressing exceptionally well at the moment. We have received a huge amount of positive feedback from the conservation community, from the business community, which recognises that their customers are interested in seeing this, and from the broader community as well.

This really is a policy that it is time for and it is a policy laden with opportunity for our state. We know that this policy has sent a substantial market signal to South Australian businesses and businesses at a national level as well, a market signal that says to those businesses, 'Come to South Australia and be the place that is the manufacturing epicentre for alternatives to single-use plastics.' We know that is already happening. We know that businesses here in South Australia and businesses interstate are looking to South Australia because of that leadership.

They are looking to South Australia because of our cultural heritage in this area, extending back decades to when we first introduced our container deposit legislation, to when we banned the use of single-use plastic shopping bags at point of purchase and, in more recent times, the great progress we made towards driving down the amount of waste produced in this state and our recycling and re-use levels, particularly the composting side of things as well.

We know that this is a policy that has the capacity and the potential to stimulate innovation. We know that programs like the program we are running in partnership with Innovise, the start-up and entrepreneurial organisation, is identifying start-up businesses that are undertaking research and development and product development in this space and providing them with the support to create jobs and get alternatives to single-use plastics and alternatives to other forms of tricky and troublesome waste out of South Australia and finding ways to replace them in ways that create jobs here for South Australians.

We have Green Industries SA support sitting alongside industry in South Australia, particularly through the grants program. In December, \$3.3 million worth of recycling infrastructure grants were awarded to 20 projects. That will create 30.5 full-time equivalent jobs, and they won't be one-off jobs: they will be sustained into the future, and that is because of that \$3.3 million of grants that we provided to innovative organisations to come up with waste solutions.

We also know that that grant scheme will provide \$9.6 million across the total value of projects and will divert almost 19,000 tonnes per annum of waste from landfill. Our single-use plastic ban is leading the way. It's sending that strong market signal and it's providing case studies for organisations not just here in South Australia but right across the nation, and in fact the world, when it comes to dealing with our waste, creating a circular economy and creating jobs in the process.

*Grievance Debate***MEMBER FOR WAITE**

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:08): In an open act of defiance and treachery towards the Premier, members of the Liberal Party last night gathered and applauded Sam Duluk. They applauded the member for Waite. They applauded him because he is now a victim, according to some members of the Liberal Party, not the women he allegedly sexually harassed, not the women he allegedly assaulted and not the people he made homophobic remarks to or racist remarks to. Poor old member for Waite. He is the one who has carried the big cross here. He is the one who has paid the ultimate price.

Of course, he had his friends there alongside him. He had the member for Narungga there alongside him. He had Senator Alex Antic alongside him. He had his old sub-branch alongside him.

There was one member there who decided to raise the obvious: 'If this motion is carried, if this branch endorses what you are asking us to endorse, it will be open revolt against the Premier.' So what did they do? They voted for the motion.

They cannot claim ignorance: 'We didn't know it would be embarrassing for the Premier.' There was a former cabinet minister at that meeting who told that meeting, 'This would be a mistake. This will get out.' Dutifully, someone in the meeting leaked it and kindly and thankfully taped it.

Mr Brown: Patriot!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Patriot—someone who is not going to put up with what the member for Waite is doing. Importantly, the Premier now just exonerated that person, whoever that was, because it was in the public interest because Liberal Party meetings are open. They are an open forum for anyone to come along. Anyone can go. I can go to the next one. I will go along and just listen to talk about how it is okay to sexually harass women. It is only a tap on the bum. What is the big deal?

The real questions here that the member for Narungga would not answer are: was he with the member for Waite on Friday the 13th? Was he drinking with the member for Waite on Friday the 13th? Was he there with him when he made homophobic remarks? Was he there when he made racist remarks? Was he there when he sexually harassed women? Was he there when he allegedly assaulted someone? And what did he do about it when he saw all this?

What are two Liberal MPs doing being intoxicated in Parliament House during the day? What about that question? Since when is it okay on the taxpayers' dollars—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order: under standing order 127, I suspect that the member for West Torrens has gone over the mark.

The SPEAKER: He is starting to 'make personal reflections on any other Member'. I caution the member for West Torrens.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you, sir—and I will take the caution seriously. I feel for the staff, who are powerless in this building. There is legislation empowering the Equal Opportunity Commissioner to conduct investigations. The government hides behind privilege, not allowing independent investigations in the parliament, not even having the courage to use their numbers in the parliament to establish an inquiry, but instead, using the office of the Speaker to establish an inquiry.

This parliament is not a dictatorship. This parliament deserves to be the master of its own destiny, not having one person tell us how things will be investigated but the parliament as a whole. We are sovereign. We will decide how our members are to be treated. We will decide how laws are made and we will make sure that no member in this house is above those laws. What the Liberal Party is attempting to do is to make one person, because they need his vote, above those laws.

In any other workplace in Australia, the member for Waite would be out on his backside—out on his backside. Instead, we have a Premier saying, 'I have thrown him out of the party room. I have thrown him out of the Liberal Party.' Then, not within 24 hours of having made that proclamation, he is the guest speaker at a Liberal Party function, the guest speaker with applause from a senior member of this parliament and a senior member of the commonwealth parliament. He is chuffed.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you for calling me a senior member. In the remarks I heard from the members of the Liberal Party of the Waite sub-branch, not once did I hear any remorse for what happened to the Hon. Connie Bonaros. Not once did I hear any remorse for what happened to those staff. Not once did I hear any remorse for the racist remarks, for the homophobia. Not once did I hear any sort of contrition. It was all about what was happening to the poor old member for Waite.

I would have to say that if the Liberal Party are so bereft of resources that they cannot find any other venue to hold their SEC meeting at, what does that say about the Liberal Party in the suburbs of South Australia? I just wonder what members of the Liberal Party are thinking about the way the Premier has handled this. I have to say that he had a more deft touch with land tax, didn't

he? The idea that the Premier is prepared to accept racism, homophobia, sexual harassment and assault, but there is some other secret allegation that tips him—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order: that is quite a reflection on another member of the house and is disorderly.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Time expired.

MORIALTA CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:13): Every year, it is my pleasure as the member for Morialta to recognise the significant work of students in the Morialta electorate who have won Morialta Citizenship Awards. The award consists of a prize of \$100 per campus, either a book voucher or a cheque, and a certificate to a student identified by the school who has demonstrated outstanding service to their community and our community.

The Morialta Citizenship Award winners for 2019 from Athelstone School are Alexandra Noble and Luke Sherrah. Alexandra and Luke have responsibly carried out extracurricular duties through leadership, sport and organisational roles, benefiting both school and community. Basket Range Primary School nominated Brigitta Whibley, a self-motivated student with a positive mindset and responsible attitude, who has demonstrated her school's vision and values.

Birdwood High School's Charles Lord demonstrated resourcefulness and initiative in all aspects of his school life, making an important contribution to the school, and in business he continues to support the school. Jessica Holder from Birdwood Primary School has achieved academically and contributed to school life whilst being very involved in her local community. She has performed in amateur theatre as well as being involved with the Gumeracha CFS cadets.

At Charles Campbell College two awards were presented, one to senior student Merridy Hollitt and the other to middle school student Afton Penrith. Merridy has been an active student leader, organising a range of events, and is an advocate for student voice. Afton is an active community leader and sportsperson with a passion for football. She has played in the Indigenous women's development squad and SAASTA. Afton was also honoured by the Campbelltown council in their Australia Day awards this year.

Domino Servite College nominated Jeremy Jaeger, an enthusiastic student who has demonstrated on a regular basis outstanding service to his school and the wider community as a positive role model. Gumeracha Primary School split their award between two students, Mya Eglinton and Cooper Mugford. Mya is a talented musician, a keen soccer player and a most articulate student who cares deeply about current issues and who debates in a calm and thoughtful manner. Cooper has a tremendous skill and talent on the sporting field. He has reflected the school values in all his endeavours and is a great role model for younger students.

At Highbury Primary School, Ella Rooney and Peita Whitbread have shown leadership abilities as student voice representatives and by being involved in school sports. Ella was also a learning leader, supporting younger students with their reading, and made a significant contribution to the music program. Peita was a senior choir captain, a musician who entertained residents at aged-care facilities in the area, and a choreographer for the school concert.

Henry Green from Lenswood Primary School displayed excellent choices as a polite and considerate young man who is happy to give maximum effort in all his school endeavours and is respected and popular with his peers. At Lobethal Lutheran School, Luke Stevens is a student who epitomises the behaviour of a responsible school citizen, using the privileges of being a senior student responsibly and the voice of good conscience when needed.

Lobethal Primary nominated two students, Angus Fitzgerald and Cameron Tidd. Angus is a compassionate, well-mannered student who shares his musical talents with the Hills community. He also performed in the Adelaide production of the *Wizard of Oz*. Cameron is an elite athlete in trampoline gymnastics and is a great role model in terms of sportsmanship, commitment and humility. Last year, he represented Australia at the Trampoline Gymnastics World Age Championships.

Angus Riessen was nominated by Norton Summit Primary School as a self-motivated student who works cooperatively with others. He has displayed leadership as a house captain and in a number of extra-curricular events.

At Norwood Morialta High School, the senior winner was Elise Banks, who is an active participant in the performing arts, mock trials and community programs, a volunteer for Friends of Blackhill and Morialta, Melodies in the Park and tutoring year 9 students—and it goes on. Elise is also a Queen's Scout. Harrison Critchley was the middle school leader and a blue house leader and was very community minded, as is evidenced by his involvement in groups like the Pedal Prix and the rowing club.

Rostrevor College's Nathan McCarthy had strong participation in sport and social justice initiatives. A social justice prefect, Nathan worked as an assistant for the Special Olympics. From St Ignatius College, Jeremy Schell contributed to the school and his community through involvement in the school TV program, the Smith Family's Reading Buddy Program and as a student chapter representative. He has also acted as an altar server and reader during school mass, and a tour guide for new families and students.

Stradbroke School had four students, Isabella Di Marco, Mia Button, Hanna Rice and Christos Mavrotsoupakis. All were worthy winners who demonstrated leadership skills and kindness and who volunteered for a range of school activities, helping staff and students. Amira Pazios from Thorndon Park Primary School is a student leader who was involved in special events at the school, contributing to the year book and doing her best to collaborate with others, showing leadership and teamwork. From Uraidla Primary School, Sam Johansen has shown enthusiasm to volunteer for any task that would help his fellow students, always willing to serve his school and community. He is also a member of the Army Cadets.

These young men and women are deserving winners of the 2019 Morialta Citizenship Award. In all, 27 students received the award last year, and I am very pleased to pay tribute to them on this occasion. I commend them to the house.

HURTLE VALE ELECTORATE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:18): Today, I rise to congratulate the organisers and participants of many wonderful festive events held in Hurtle Vale in the lead-up to Christmas last year. The Old Reynella Christmas Pageant was a wonderful family event. Held on Friday 13 December, it kicked off three nights of local festivities. The parade had its biggest turnout yet. My team and I love being a part of it and use it as an opportunity to continue raising awareness in our community about the risk of feeding wild ducks bread, a good environmental program that we run in Hurtle Vale.

The parade ending nicely coincided with the Reynella Neighbourhood Centre Twilight Christmas Carols event, which I attended along with our federal member, Amanda Rishworth, and the member for Kaurna. Many locals then headed up to the Edge Church for a night of more carols and family activities.

Saturday night, 14 December, saw the annual Carols in the Park, hosted by our local Neighbourhood Watch at the Mount Hurtle Reserve, Woodcroft. It was another successful family night out, with dozens of popular carols led by the fabulous Onkaparinga Harmony Chorus, while being catered for by the Lions Club of Noarlunga and Morphett Vale, the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and many other local providers.

A special mention goes to Renae Garner, who has recently taken on the role of organising the carols on behalf of the carols committee for the Neighbourhood Watch Area 414. Thanks for your hard work, Renae. You are making a great contribution to the community through the organisation and through the association of this event. I would like to acknowledge the value of your growing involvement.

Finishing off the festive weekend were the Southern Community Christmas Carols, a fabulous event held at my beloved South Adelaide Football Club. A huge shout-out goes to Maxine McPherson, a club legend in the Panther club, as well as the extraordinary volunteers and stallholders; Luke Wagner for his wonderful hosting, singing and organising skills; and dear to my

heart, of course, the Sammy D Foundation team, who all come together each year to create a wonderful family event. The highlight of the night is some fantastic fireworks supported by the City of Onkaparinga.

We are lucky to have an abundance also of outstanding Christmas light displays in Hurtle Vale. They always bring a smile to the faces of both the children and the adults alike over summer nights in December. Some highlights I would like to mention include the impressive Christmas light displays on Emmerson Drive in Morphett Vale which include the Branson family, who use their display to raise money for the Cancer Council of South Australia—about \$5,000, I believe. Some may also remember the very funny 'Ditto' lights, also on Emmerson Drive. It was just 'Ditto' in lights on the letterbox next door to a very over-the-top display.

Woodcroft always spectacularly delivers festive spirit, with several immaculate displays. There is Dorrien Avenue and Partalunga Circuit, where the highlight is always the home of the Bradwell family—Natalie and Peter—who do a wonderful job, including a snow machine and a grinch in the drain. Their sister and brother-in-law, Bev and John Bradwell, who live on Rothschild Street in Woodcroft, not to be outdone, do an amazing job entertaining the kids. They go a bit further with their Christmas lights which includes a castle-like false frontage on their home with displays in the windows.

There is Simone Crescent/Buttercup Grove in Morphett Vale where Steve and Deb have raised over \$33,000 for the Flinders Foundation over the years. Of course, in Birchwood Green Estate in Happy Valley, nearly all of the houses participate in that. Thanks so much to the families who elevate the Christmas spirit in our area every year.

I would also like to use this opportunity to touch on the back-to-school transition that occurs at this time of the year. It is an intimidating, rough and often scary journey, not just for the kids but for us parents as well. It was heartwarming to see an abundance of inspiring and heartfelt messages written in chalk on the pavement of the school of Happy Valley Primary School that wished the best of luck for new arrivals at the school and also for kids returning after their holidays. The parents, the families, friends and staff members involved in this, on the day before school started, have truly made a difference to the kids heading off to school.

Some of the messages included 'Today is your day to shine', 'I believe in you', 'You are amazing' and 'Amazing things happen when you try'. There are many more positive messages and they can be found if you have a look at my Facebook page or the Happy Valley Primary School Facebook page. I am looking forward to a year of positive exchanges with the schools and furthering the growth of our young people through quality education being delivered by teachers, SSOs, family members, volunteers and other team members at schools in my electorate.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by thanking my new trainee, Tyler Marsh. She has helped me to compile the information for this, our very first speech together. I welcome her to my office. She is a truly valuable addition. Welcome to Team Hurtle Vale, Tyler Marsh—another local helping locals.

CHAFFEY ELECTORATE

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:23): I would like to rise to speak about the greatest electorate in South Australia, and that is the electorate of Chaffey, to talk about mobile phone blackspots. I am very happy to say that on Thursday two mobile blackspots in the electorate of Chaffey will be turned on, and it is great news for the people at Murtho on the Murtho Road in those surrounding areas at Murtho South. We will see that first tower have the switch flicked, as well as at Wunkar, which is one of the great grain growing areas on the border of the Riverland and Mallee.

These areas have long called out for digital connection, which is part of the state government's commitment, as part of the \$10 million Black Spot program, in collaboration with the commonwealth government. It is part of the commonwealth government's round 4. They, too, have collaborated with the telcos to be able to bring some of those regional areas into digital connection with a mobile phone service. This gives connectivity and it gives our primary producers the ability to be connected to their markets, to their brokers and to their logistics chain, making sure that they have the same advantages as many other regions around South Australia, which is great news.

Also, there is a third tower at Murtho North. For those of you who do not know where Murtho North is, you might know where the Woolshed Brewery is on Murtho Road. I can assure you it is just adjacent, which is great news for those horticulturalists in particular, as well as the ag and tourism sectors. When people come up to the ancient forest at Chowilla, they have connection. Those horticulturalists have connection not only to do business but also to run their telemetry and to make sure that they have those aspects of safety on farm. It is an absolute credit to the Marshall Liberal government for recognising what a previous government never recognised. We now have a backlog of more than 500 towers in South Australia, so it is great news for the Riverland.

I also want to mention the 2019 Riverland and Mallee Vocational Awards. The Riverland and Mallee have around 900 apprentices and trainees currently in training, which is great news. These awards were established by the Rotary Club in Berri about 35 years ago. The awards on 8 February saw strong attendance with the finalists. Proudly, Jessica Matulick, the trainee from my electorate office, was named the 2019 trainee of the year. Congratulations to Jess. She has been such a wonderful asset to my office over the last 12 months. She will be moving on and heading to university. I wish her well. I think she is headed to Flinders to do physiotherapy, and she will be an absolute asset.

The apprentice of the year and data and voice communications industry award went to Aidan Kenyon, which is great news. Aidan is an outstanding young fellow in the Riverland. The vocational education and training post school student of the year was Caitlin Polack, which was a great outcome. The school-based apprentice of the year was Charlie Holtham, sponsored by his father's business, Hotondo Homes, through general carpentry.

The vocational education and training student of the year was Jack Monaco, who did his training at TAFE SA at Berri. School-based trainee of the year was Emily Westley, from Glossop High School's governing council through business. The hairdressing industry award went to Chernoa Morrow. Cindy's Hair and Beauty is a great supporter of that award. Congratulations to Chernoa. The printing industry award was taken out by Teagan Nourse, with Tri State Graphics being the supporter. The automotive industry award went to Adam Schultz from Waikerie Crash. Kym Webber is the owner-proprietor down there at Waikerie Crash. Kym would be elated at having a star pupil.

The electrical/air conditioning industry award went to Craig Turner at SA Water. The engineering industry award went to Ty Wagenknecht at G.J. Dix and Sons. The food processing industry award went to Alex Rollbusch at none other than Rollbusch Quality Meats. Nigel, his father, is doing an outstanding job. The building and construction industry award went to Briley Gibbs at Ben's Constructions. They are all worthy winners in what is the nation's largest regional apprentice and trainee awards. Congratulations to all the winners, the runners up and the finalists; they should be very proud.

HAZARA COMMUNITY

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:29): I rise today to speak about the amazing work of the South Australian Hazara community. The capacity of new and emerging communities to dig deep and show their generosity and compassion for others in need never ceases to amaze.

The Hazaras are an ethnic group native to the Hazarajat region of Afghanistan, with an estimated global population of 4.3 million within Afghanistan and an estimated 50,000 people living in Australia. Just a touch over 6,000 Afghans are here in South Australia. The Hazaras are believed to be descendants of the Turko-Mongol tribes of Central Asia. Tracing their descendants, they can be found in Iran, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

On 9 February, along with the Hon. Jing Lee, I was invited to attend a ceremony at the Wali-E-Asr mosque in Edinburgh North. This opportunity was granted to us for an official handover of a fundraising cheque from the community for the South Australian Bushfire Appeal. The Australian Hazara Afghan community members in South Australia established a joint fundraising committee consisting of many organisations, including the Baba Mazari Foundation (BMF) and other men and women of the Wali-E-Asr Centre in South Australia, and also accepted donations online.

The donations were large and small, including that of 11-year-old Murtaza Hussain, who donated his piggy-bank savings, accumulated from the age of four, to the fundraising effort. He carried a bag containing \$204 in coins to the Wali-E-Asr Centre, where the community met to

fundraise for the state's bushfire appeal. The reason this young boy was so motivated to donate was that he saw the devastation suffered on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills. He himself in his very young life experienced significant loss and relocation. He wanted to give back and to give what he could to those who needed it.

The Hazara community members of South Australia have shown their solidarity with affected members of the Australian community through donation and recovery volunteering. As a result of a three-week campaign, they raised more than \$90,000. That is an amazing amount. I was absolutely astounded when they told me how this community had put their hand in their pocket and given back to the wider community in South Australia who are doing it tough. They also recruited more than 100 volunteers, in conjunction with Volunteering SA, to assist with the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

I would like to thank all the organisers, including Hussain Razaiat for his tremendous efforts and compassion. However, this is only one of two fundraising efforts by our inspiring Hazara community. Last Sunday, on 16 February, I was invited to attend a second handover ceremony at the Fatima Zahra Mosque and Hussainia in Green Fields. Members of this group ran a four-week campaign to raise funds to assist in response to the bushfires in South Australia. The community saw it as their duty to stand with their Australian brothers and sisters during such a difficult time.

Board members held a general meeting with all members of the mosque to discuss this tragic disaster and the damage that had occurred. They were able to raise more than \$30,000 for this bushfire appeal and put forward 50 young men and women for volunteering efforts. I would like to thank the members, board and organisers at the Fatima Zahra Mosque and Hussainia, including Mr Esaq Farhmand, for helping to coordinate the fundraising efforts and for providing me with information for my speech.

To our South Australian Hazara community, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your friendship and your commitment. At this time of devastation, you went out of your way to show how much you wanted to help. I thank our Hazara community for their great efforts.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (15:34): As I have earlier reflected in this place, Christmas was a time of fear in my community. On 20 December, at Hollands Creek Road a fire was ignited by a tree making contact with powerlines. The fire burned through Cudlee Creek, Lenswood, Lobethal, Woodside, Charleston, Kenton Valley, Mount Torrens, Birdwood, Brukunga, Harrogate and much of the country between and around those townships.

On the evening of 20 December, the sky was dark with smoke and ash. The fire was still burning and would burn for at least the next 11 days. Despite this, my community rallied. Wherever there was a practical need, people worked to meet it. I wish to acknowledge and formally record the many volunteers from Nairne who assisted my community. As you will know, Mr Speaker, Nairne is close to Brukunga and the Harrogate Ridge. The fire had moved through the ridge quickly, incinerating everything in its path. It was so hot that aluminium fittings, which melt at 660°, were easily destroyed.

Within the gallery today are Sheree Reid and Esther Cruckshanck, who worked to provide assistance through the Nairne Soldiers Memorial Hall and, of course, represent many others who also provided assistance at the Nairne Family Church through Nairne Fire Support. Nairne hall and the church became clearing stations for donations of bottled water, food, clothing, toiletries and other items. Rachel and Gary Barlow at Stroud Homes used their business as a clearing house to supply the fireground and worked closely with Nairne hall and Nairne Fire Support.

I want to specifically acknowledge Michelle Leverington and Tanya Little, who were closely involved in the Nairne hall and in organising what became an immense relief effort. I also want to acknowledge Tahniah Heal and volunteers from the Brukunga community, who worked incredibly hard and over long hours to assist at Brukunga Hall. I read these remarks from Michelle Leverington:

I can safely say I am no Celeste Barber, but what we started for the beautiful Adelaide Hills is something that will change me forever. From a small idea at 5pm on 21 December 2019 to what was achieved is the work of absolute love.

Many hundreds of people came to donate to Nairne hall and Nairne Fire Support and elsewhere through the district. They did not do this to be recognised, they did not do it because they were seeking for me to make these remarks, they did it because they wanted to help their neighbours and their friends and those people in need in our community, and they did it willingly and they did it immediately. It was practical and meaningful and very, very much appreciated help.

I have also earlier remarked that at a church hall in our community a local pastor, Father Thomas, set up an entire supermarket from donated items. I also recognise and record the assistance of the member for Heysen not only in working to ensure that that supermarket could be operational but also in providing direct, immediate and much appreciated assistance to me.

Members will know that 2,002 personal hardship grants were made in the Hills and 412 on Kangaroo Island. Eighty-three dwellings were destroyed. Of the 60 wineries in the fire scar, 43 are reporting losses. More than 292 vehicles have been destroyed and many other structures have been damaged. Well over 3,000 head of livestock and many animal lives have been lost.

At Charleston, Mr Speaker, as you know, a life was lost. Mr Ron Selth was deeply respected in our community, and I refer to and emphasise the remarks I placed on record in this place in the course of my Address in Reply. I remember, too, the lives lost on Kangaroo Island and acknowledge that the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mawson have memorialised their loss.

Parliamentary Committees

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:38): I move:

That Dr Harvey be appointed to the Economic and Finance Committee in place of Mr Duluk (resigned).

Motion carried.

Dr HARVEY: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

Bills

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS MANAGEMENT (DESIGNATED AREA) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:40): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004, to repeal the Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations (Postponement of Expiry) Act 2017 and to revoke the Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations 2008. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:40): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

I am very pleased to introduce the Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designated Area) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill will enable the government to pursue an important reform that will give South Australian farmers on the mainland the choice to take up the opportunities that genetically modified food crops can provide them now and in the future.

The Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004 provides for the designation of areas of the State for the purposes of preserving for marketing purposes the identity of certain food crops according to whether they are genetically modified crops or non-genetically modified crops.

The Act therefore is in place for marketing and trade purposes and has been used to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified food crops. This is commonly referred to as the moratorium on genetically modified food crops.

I would like to stress that this legislation is not in place for the protection of human health and the environment, as these matters are dealt with through the national regulatory schemes and are not grounds for retaining a moratorium.

This government came into power with a clear commitment to undertake an independent expert review to determine the true economic merits of retaining a moratorium and to enable evidence-based decisions to be made.

The government has undertaken an exhaustive process to fulfil this commitment which I have explained previously but would like to reiterate to demonstrate that we have been open and transparent and provided stakeholders with ample opportunity to provide their views.

An independent review was commissioned within six months of forming government. Public submissions were invited during the review which was completed in February 2019.

In summary, the review found no evidence that South Australia enjoys better access to the

European Union non-genetically modified grain market, that there has been no premium for South Australian non-genetically modified grain when compared with neighbouring states and importantly, the moratorium had cost South Australian grain growers at least \$33 million since 2004 and if extended to 2025 would cost the industry at least a further \$5 million. The review also found the moratorium had discouraged public and private investment in research.

The only exception that was identified by the review was Kangaroo Island where there are some canola producers who have a specialised market in Japan based on its non-genetically modified status.

In considering farmers that wish to continue to access non-genetically modified and organic markets, the review also found the experience in other states shows that segregation protocols ensure successful coexistence of genetically modified and non-genetically modified crops.

I released the finding of this review shortly after receiving it for public comment to assist the government to determine the next steps.

After considering this feedback and the findings of the review, the government decided to lift the moratorium across all of South Australia except Kangaroo Island. The government sought to implement this decision by following the process prescribed in section 5 of the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004. The government undertook the extensive statutory consultation process as required by section 5(3) of the Act on the proposal to amend the Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations 2008 to lift the moratorium in all of South Australia except Kangaroo Island.

This third round of public consultation included releasing draft regulations and providing for public notice to be given on the Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) website and public notice in the newspaper, as required by subsections 5(3)(a)(i) and 5(9) of the Act; inviting the public to make written submissions to the government over a six-week period, as required by subsection 5(3)(a)(ii) of the Act; and convening two public meetings in areas to be affected by the proposed regulations, one in Kingscote and one in Adelaide, as required by subsection 5(3)(a)(iii) of the Act.

The government also consulted the GM Crop Advisory Committee as required by subsection 5(8) of the Act.

The majority of views expressed in the statutory consultation supported the proposed regulations. A total of 218 submissions were received in response to this consultation, of which 128 submitters were in favour of the proposed regulations, one submitter being Livestock SA favoured lifting the moratorium across the whole of South Australia including Kangaroo Island, 75 submitters were opposed to the proposed regulations and a further 15 submitters were opposed to the proposed regulations referencing matters outside the scope of the Act.

The GM Crop Advisory Committee also supported the proposed regulations.

Lifting of the moratorium has been strongly supported by grain growers, their representative organisation Grain Producers South Australia, and the wider grains industry, as well as by Primary Producers South Australia, Livestock SA and the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association. Kangaroo Island farmers have supported the proposal to lift the moratorium on the mainland but retain it on the island, with some stressing the importance of having mechanisms to access any new pasture and crop varieties in future which may benefit local growing conditions.

Submissions from many of our state's highly regarded research institutions have also clearly highlighted the moratorium's negative impacts on research and development investment in South Australia.

The independent review findings, the feedback from the consultation undertaken following this review and the advice of the expert advisory committee do not provide economic grounds for retaining the moratorium. This process has instead shown the moratorium has resulted in costs to producers and the state, barriers to research and investment and if it continues will mean that our farmers do not have access to current and future important innovations in crops and pastures.

It is also clear that the experience of other mainland states demonstrates coexistence is possible and that the sale of non-genetically modified food crops can continue where there is no moratorium in place.

The government therefore progressed this reform and made the Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designation of Area) Variation Regulations 2019 which amended the area where genetically modified food crops were

prohibited to just Kangaroo Island. This simple amendment was intended to retain the structure of the Act which makes it clear that the area where the moratorium is to apply will be designated in the regulations.

As a disallowable instrument, Parliament had the opportunity to scrutinise, debate and vote on these regulations and this occurred on 27 November 2019 where the regulations were disallowed by resolution of the Legislative Council. During debate in the Legislative Council, Members expressed the view that the areas to which the moratorium applies should be designated in the Act not regulations. The government was invited to bring forward a bill to provide the Parliament an opportunity to consider and debate the merits of lifting or changing the moratorium.

To fulfil the wishes of the Parliament, I introduced a bill to enable this to happen in December 2019—the Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designated Area) Amendment Bill 2019. The bill not passed after unworkable amendments were proposed which would have imposed such a regulatory burden on our farmers that they would negate the benefits of lifting the moratorium in the first place.

Today, I introduce the Genetically Modified Crops Management (Designated Area) Amendment Bill 2020 to provide another opportunity for the Parliament to consider this issue.

This bill is identical to the 2019 bill other than its commencement being by Proclamation and the inclusion of a mandatory review clause which acknowledges the debate in the other place. This clause requires a review of the operation and impacts of this reform to be completed by 1 September 2024 and tabled in Parliament within 6 sitting days.

As was the case with the 2019 bill, this bill is not inconsistent with the recommendations of the recent Parliamentary Select Committee into genetically modified crops in South Australia with two of the Committee members stating that there was overwhelming evidence that lifting the moratorium on the mainland would benefit the farming sector.

The bill gives effect to the government's position that the moratorium should only apply to Kangaroo Island. It removes the powers of the governor to designate by regulation the area for which the moratorium on the cultivation of genetically modified food crops may apply.

The bill also respects the wishes of the 2017 Parliament in applying 1 September 2025 as a sunset date for the moratorium.

It is past time South Australian farmers are provided with the same choices as their neighbours in other Australian states to use new and improved crop varieties and agricultural technologies to tackle the challenges they face. South Australian farmers should have access to choice in crop varieties that build resilience both financially and in their production systems to drought, climate variability and change.

Farmers that do not choose to grow genetically modified crops will be able to continue to sell to non-genetically modified and organic markets as farmers have successfully done in other states using segregation protocols that have proven to be successful and reliable.

The Marshall Liberal government has a strong reform agenda to strengthen and grow the state's economy. This bill will be an enabler to growing our agriculture and food sector. We are committed to supporting the grains sector to be vibrant, productive and competitive.

I commend the bill to the house and look forward to further debate.

I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

2—Commencement

The measure commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

3—Amendment provisions

This clause is formal.

Part 2—Amendment of Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004

4—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This amendment is consequential.

5—Amendment of section 5—Designation of areas

The power to designate by regulation areas of the State in relation to the cultivation (and prohibition of the cultivation) of genetically modified food crops is repealed and substituted with the provision that Kangaroo Island is designated as an area in which no genetically modified food crops may be cultivated.

Provisions related to the making of regulations referred to above are also repealed.

6—Insertion of section 7A

New section 7A is inserted:

7A—Expiry of Part

This section provides that Part 2 of the Act expires on 1 September 2025.

7—Substitution of section 29

This section substitutes section 29 and provides that the Minister must cause a review of the operation and impact of the amendments made as a result of this measure and for the report on the review to be submitted to the Minister by no later than 1 September 2024.

8—Amendment of Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

These amendments are consequential. One of them provides a power to make transitional regulations connected to the measure. Such regulations may operate from the commencement of the measure, or a later day.

Schedule 1—Repeal and revocation

Part 1—Repeal

1—Repeal of Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations (Postponement of Expiry) Act 2017

The Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations (Postponement of Expiry) Act 2017 is repealed as a consequence of the amendment to section 5 of the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004.

Part 2—Revocation

2—Revocation of Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations 2008

The Genetically Modified Crops Management Regulations 2008 are revoked as a consequence of the amendment to section 5 of the Genetically Modified Crops Management Act 2004.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Hildyard.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:43): In continuing my remarks, I was drawing attention to what had been a most unfortunate parlous state of affairs in the dying days of the previous government and a situation where the member for West Torrens had flipped and flopped all over the place around the question of what sort of course South Australia should take with regard to its energy supply and energy security. As we also regrettably recall, in the lead-up to the election we had the previous government looking to go it alone—*island* South Australia standing apart from the rest of the national energy grid.

It brings to my mind the example of the fortress town of Palmanova, founded in 1593 by some well-meaning utopian Venetians who formed a view that they were going to be better off by putting a perimeter around this well-made town. It would be a fortress, and inside there would be a standalone community that would be able to separate itself from the broader world outside and that a utopian existence would continue.

It is so reminiscent that it makes me think that the former premier and the member for West Torrens might have, on a fitful night, found themselves reading the works of Thomas More and thinking, 'We could have this utopian society separated from the rest of the world.' Of course, as we know, Palmanova was all very well, except it turned out that nobody wanted to live there. The economy faltered and as an experiment it turned out to be a good example of the failure that comes when one endeavours to exclude oneself from the rest of society.

Thank goodness we were saved from that fate by the good electors of South Australia in March 2018, because they voted for a restoration of a modern, connected energy system based on

policies driven by merit rather than by politics and opportunism. As I said in my remarks in this place on 2 April last year, we were on track then to see increasing reliability and steadily reducing prices for electricity.

That is indeed what has transpired. As recently as in the past week, in matters to which others have referred in this debate, two separate reports by the electricity regulator have shown that South Australian electricity prices are again going to fall for households and businesses this year. They are not mere token numbers; they are substantial reductions in electricity bills. Households will be pleased to note that those on the default market will save \$85 per annum on their electricity bills, households with controlled loads will save \$138 per year, and small businesses will save approximately \$691 per year.

That is in contrast to what happened during state Labor's last two years in office, when the average bill rose, as we are so sadly familiar, by 26 per cent, or \$477 per household. I want to stress, as I have done over the course of two years, that in applying this modern energy policy, we are moving steadily away from an environment in which people, particularly in my area of the Adelaide Hills, had become very much acquainted with the idea that in summer you get blackouts for extended periods of time. It was a good idea to have a generator because you had to be ready for the unreliability of the supply. You also had the unfortunate expectation that prices were going to keep going up.

We have changed that around and, as we have seen in the second summer of the new Marshall government, power has remained reliable and prices have steadily reduced. It is a significant achievement; the trend must continue in that direction. We must restore the confidence that generations of South Australians in the 20th century became accustomed to: a place in which they know they can access abundant and cheap power in order to get on with their lives and their businesses.

It is a significant turnaround but, more than that, by applying good policy in this area, we can, as the Governor has so appositely referred lead the way in this state in showing how we can address the challenges that the changing climate brings. Indeed, we have abundant natural renewable sources of energy. Our challenge is to deploy those sources of energy in a way that enhances our access to power, rather than causes a disruption.

Key among the measures to address that question of continuity and reliability of supply is the establishment of an interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales. It is a key measure. People really should think on this as the means by which South Australia delivers on its enormous capacity to supply clean and renewable energy to the rest of the country and, at the same time, engage in the national market in a way that ensures we have smooth reducing pricing and continuity of supply. That is to go together with the already very strong take-up of the home battery storage scheme, the grid-scale storage scheme that is in place and the demand management policies that have been referred to as recently as in the course of question time this afternoon by the minister.

These are all measures to ensure that what we do in this space, when we address energy challenges and address the challenges that are presented to us by a changing climate, is more than simply virtue signal and more than simply recklessly chart a course down a path to wave some sort of banner. We need to make sure that, in the day-to-day lives of South Australians, they are having access to the sort of power they can be confident about and that we can as a state all feel that we are making a significant contribution in a way that is indeed sustainable.

It leads me to consider the very significant measures that are being taken in the environment space, in addition to the rollout of our energy policies, because the climate change strategy for South Australia, which is to be released this year, will be an overarching opportunity for this state to address questions of energy and resource utilisation in an overall climate strategy. It is one that we very much look forward to seeing in the course of this year. I note the Governor's remarks in relation to anticipating that strategy. It will, of course, build on the recently delivered Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia and will signal this government's leadership in this space.

Measures that are being taken to improve our natural environment are at the existential level. They are also at the very basic day-to-day practical level, in terms of ensuring that we have systems

in place to ensure the world's leading waste recovery, waste disposal and re-use possibilities for consumers.

Shortly, we are going to see legislation in regard to the phasing out of single-use plastics, and myriad practical initiatives are in place supporting the improving of our natural environment. I applaud the Minister for Environment and Water for his practical and outcomes-oriented approach to this area. Locally, I am very pleased to note that the initiative taken in my electorate at the Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre to provide a hazardous waste depot has been an early success. There has been a strong take-up of that facility in my area, again a practical measure that is being embraced by my local community.

Good government, as the Governor has observed, is about whole-of-government measures. It is, of course, an extraordinarily exciting time as we see the largest infrastructure rollout the state has seen—\$12.9 billion to be applied to much needed infrastructure projects over the coming four years. It would be remiss of me not to note the importance, in the delivery of that extraordinary infrastructure spend, of the strong relationship between a Liberal state government in South Australia and a Liberal and National Coalition government in Canberra.

The cooperation between the commonwealth and the State of South Australia has delivered already very strong outcomes for this state and promises the delivery of major productive infrastructure for our cities, towns and regions throughout the state. I am heartened daily by the focus that is now being applied to the regions, including mine and the Adelaide Hills.

As the Governor has observed, health and education comprise the vast bulk of the government's operating expenses, close to \$10 billion annually. Time does not permit me to expand on all the initiatives that are taking place in that space, but I do want to highlight the many millions of dollars that are being invested in the two high schools in Heysen. Eastern Fleurieu School and Heathfield High School are both undertaking significant capital works in readiness for year 7 to high school, work is well advanced for delivery, for building and completion in the course of this coming year.

In this regard, I also note the renewed focus on vocational education in schools and alternative career pathways. I note in particular the observations of the chair of the Eastern Fleurieu school governing council, Sue Miller, in a recent contribution to the editor of our local newspaper in drawing attention to those investments being welcomed at Eastern Fleurieu school. I take the opportunity to applaud her, the governing council and all the staff, and indeed the governing council at Heathfield High School also, as we navigate this exciting time.

As we get on with the day-to-day work of fixing the extraordinary mess we were left by the previous government, we know that the Marshall Liberal government has applied \$1.8 billion of additional resources in Health. Let's not be diverted in our attention to the extraordinary investment that is being made in Health coupled with the extraordinary job that goes on in fixing the mess that was left under Transforming Health. We are seeing the reactivation of the Repat. We are seeing the building of capacity at Flinders.

In particular, last week I was at Noarlunga Hospital with the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to see the application of additional resources to that hospital so that it can have the capacity to deal with emergency presentations, therefore taking the pressure off Flinders Medical Centre. They are necessary, sensible merits and evidence-driven measures addressing longstanding deficiencies. The South Australian health system was once renowned for the design and early adoption of innovation practices. I commend the minister and look forward to continuing to see improvements in this area among so many others.

Parliamentary Procedure

NOTICES OF MOTION

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (16:01): Before I call the member for Reynell, I need to make a statement to the house. I would like members to note that the two notices of motion given by the Attorney-General just prior to the resumption of the Address in Reply were out of order, unfortunately, as they contravene standing order 93, that is:

No notice of motion may be received after the House has proceeded to the business of the day as set down on the Notice Paper.

Notice can be given of these in routine business tomorrow; however, I wanted to clear up any confusion that may occur due to their not appearing on the *Notice Paper* for tomorrow. No doubt the Attorney-General will give notice at the appropriate time.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (16:01): I rise at the start of this new parliamentary year to provide my Address in Reply. In doing so, I again acknowledge the extraordinary people of Reynell whom I am blessed to have on a daily basis inspire, motivate and support me to continue to work with and for them, to represent them to make sure their voice is heard on what is important to them. I am humbled by their relentless desire to do the very best for their families, for our southern community and for our state.

Ours is a community characterised by strength, kindness, resilience and compassion, an ocean-loving, tight-knit community that is always willing to open its arms to those in need and always willing to speak up and fight for what is fair. We are a community that cares about each other, about people being enabled to equally and actively participate in community life, about our natural environment, our pristine coastline, one that knows the true meaning of equality, of fairness, of inclusion, of what it takes to support people to access secure and decent jobs that enable them to meet the cost of living and live a decent life, and why high levels of employment are so important.

It is a community that loyally supports local businesses and wants to see them grow and that values quality and accessible health services, education, public transport and community services being there when they are needed. Many in our community have a strong vision of what they want for their lives, the lives of their children and all children and families in the south and beyond, how they see our state thriving and surviving into the future, and their vision, their hopes and their aspirations.

Their vision and the hopes and aspirations of communities across South Australia are why it is utterly disappointing that those opposite, in purporting to reset this parliament, have outlined no vision, no goals, no hopes and no aspirations for our state. What we heard on Wednesday 5 February was a series of reannouncements, with words direct from government media releases, about things that have already happened, many which were initiated and progressed by our former Labor government; a series of statements about initiatives that those opposite have already tried to progress but failed to; and about some vague, possible, maybe planning for a stadium—possible planning that comes at a time when so many people are feeling angry and let down by this government in so many different ways for so many different reasons.

The people of Reynell, as do hundreds of thousands of people in communities across our state, connect with one another through local sporting clubs. They are clubs that give them a sense of belonging, that enable them to do and be their best on and off the playing field, that recognise the power of sport to include people as part of a community family to support them when times are tough to see them flourish, that are filled with volunteers who work tirelessly to make matches, games and events seamlessly run week after week. They are volunteers who identify the need for improved facilities and who put their heart and soul into writing and preparing grant applications for funds that will see their clubs upgraded so that they can better include people in their club's activities, so that they can see facilities come to life that enable girls and women to equally and actively participate.

This is why this tawdry 'sports rorts' scandal, enveloping the federal Liberal government, which closely follows the cruel cutting by the state Liberal government of so much of the funding which these local volunteers from local clubs all over our state relied upon, is utterly appalling, so bereft of principle and so demonstrative of the lack of understanding about that power of sport to include people, to bring them together, to look after people, to create an equal playing field.

This government cruelly and ruthlessly cut the \$24 million dedicated female facilities program in its first year. It cut \$20 million across the board from sports funding and, in its second budget,

slashed another \$3 million plus. It is a government that has absolutely no credibility in terms of its support for women in sport or, indeed, support for the advancement of women in any other aspects of life. It is utterly outrageous, unconscionable, that back-to-back SANFL women premiers, the South Adelaide Football Club, have more premierships than toilets and that this remains so because of those opposite and because of their dodgy mates in Canberra.

This club was so close to rightly being able to build change rooms for girls and women, but this Marshall Liberal government crushed their hopes when it cruelly cut the \$10 million final round of the female facilities program through which they had applied for funds and then cut the \$24 million program altogether. The minister pretends that their \$5 million fund somehow supports clubs like South Adelaide, other football clubs and clubs of other codes, but the harsh, cold reality is that their program is limited to three codes and requires a 50 per cent contribution from clubs or councils, something that is utterly impossible for many hardworking clubs across South Australia.

South Adelaide, like others across the country, then missed out entirely in the \$100 million federal Community Sport Infrastructure Grant Program that saw clubs with no women's teams receiving funding. These outstanding women kicked off their 2020 season campaign on Friday night with a great win against a valiant Eagles but, again, without appropriate facilities that provide safety, dignity and respect, and with local supporters and supporters from across town infuriated about the lack of support for these fine athletes from those opposite and their mates in Canberra.

This South Adelaide story is one characterised by unfairness and inequality, by margins triumphing merit, by genuine need being subservient to dishonest self-interest by a complete lack of care for or commitment to genuinely advancing the needs of girls and women in sport, and by an utter lack of understanding that it takes deliberate, targeted injections of funds to address inequity.

South's story, sadly, is a story that is replicated across South Australia to a degree that could fill a library. Whilst those opposite scramble to talk up their appalling lack of effort for women's sport, they utterly refuse to properly fund sport for women and girls in this state and, indeed, utterly refuse to fund sport across the board in a way that is fair and equitable and that responds to the needs of the hundreds of sporting clubs in desperate need of infrastructure and other upgrades. In their so-called big reset, those opposite failed to respond to that need.

The only news for sport and recreation was a vague reference, as I said before, to maybe possibly actively planning, whatever that may mean, for another city stadium—appalling but not surprising. They have let down again hardworking volunteers, players, parents, supporters and club officials in clubs across our state, and they have utterly failed again women in sport. Those opposite continue to demonstrate that they simply do not understand what it takes to achieve gender equality in sport or, frankly, anywhere else. They continue to have appallingly low representation of women in our parliament, lower than elsewhere in the country. It is hardly surprising that they fail to understand what it takes to achieve gender equality.

Diversity in decision-making does indeed make for better decisions, and the lack of women opposite participating in decision-making shows what happens when women are simply not at their decision-making table. This is evidenced by their lack of a plan or targeted strategy to achieve gender equality in their representation, and this is evidenced by their appalling handling of the ongoing saga involving the member for Waite, handling that has seen the Premier ignore every single best practice for expeditiously responding to complaints about alleged sexual harassment and alleged assault, handling that has seen the Premier utterly let down women and others impacted.

Their lack of understanding about what it takes to achieve gender equality is further evidenced by a very, very long list of failings: their refusal to support legislation to rid our roads of Wicked Campers with slogans that disrespect and promote violence against women; voting down legislation to insert the experience of domestic violence as a ground for discrimination into the Equal Opportunity Act; no money whatsoever being provided for domestic violence prevention, not one dollar; as I have said, the axing of the \$24 million dedicated female facilities program; the axing of the South Australian women in sport task force; the axing of female participation grants; cuts to CCTV camera grants; cuts to managed taxi ranks that helped keep women safe when out at night; cuts to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service; and cuts to the Equal Opportunity

Commission, limiting the commissioner's ability to deal with complaints about sex discrimination and sexual harassment, which together is one of the largest complaint groups.

There have been multiple inappropriate comments by the Premier and male ministers about women: the Premier's 'nasty face' comment; the Minister for Environment questioning the deputy leader's merit; the previous minister for trade, tourism and investment's comments about the appearance of a state government official on overseas trade work; and the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing's comment about his being more excited about the women's tennis than his wife would like him to be.

Mr BASHAM: Point of order: the member is reflecting on members of the house in a disrespectful way.

Ms HILDYARD: They said it. It is on *Hansard*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take the member's point of order—

Ms HILDYARD: I love the outrage about that. Where is the outrage about what they said?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Reynell, just be seated; I am speaking, please. I will take his point of order and I—

Ms Hildyard: Where is the outrage about the behaviour?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you listen to me, please. I will listen carefully to your speech and you will keep in mind that we should not reflect on other members of the house, but go ahead.

Ms HILDYARD: It is not lost on many, many people in our community that these failures to address gender inequality come as at the end of last year we proudly celebrated 125 years of suffrage here in South Australia. It has been 125 years since a group of fierce activist women successfully fought for the right to vote and to stand for parliament. We were the first place in Australia and the second in the world to achieve this. It was an incredible achievement that reshaped our democracy, that had significant consequences for our state and across the globe and that was brought about by clever women like Catherine Helen Spence and her cohort of fellow activists.

These were women who knew how to organise other women and our whole community around the progressing of an outstanding cause. This was a group of women who knew how to fight and how to win. These were women who continue to inspire us to make change—and continue to make change we must because there is so much that we need to deal with to achieve equality, and this government clearly have a long way to go before they understand that and before they take any meaningful action.

As well as failing South Australian women and communities across our state, this government has failed communities across our state in terms of a lack of commitment to building infrastructure, its selling off our trains and trams, its cutting bus routes and its lack of funding for important community places and initiatives. As people in the south struggle with cuts to bus routes and the threats to their train services as a result of this government selling them off, this government's unwillingness to invest in our communities is also highlighted by its failure to commit to fund a much-needed upgrade to the O'Sullivan Beach boat ramp.

Local emergency services, including the SA Sea Rescue Squadron and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, have repeatedly said that the current state of the O'Sullivan Beach boat ramp is impacting on their ability to quickly respond to incidents to ensure the safety of people in our waterways. Local recreational fishers, including the outstanding Mark Mills, founder of the OnkaStompa Fishing Comp—which raises thousands of dollars for the Childhood Cancer Association—and the Christies Sailing Club have raised serious concerns about the problems caused by delays on busy days, problems that particularly impact boat users who need a bit longer to launch. If it is not fixed, people will stop using this facility and ultimately stop visiting our beautiful area—a situation that would be completely unacceptable, as would a lack of commitment from this government for the completion of the Witton Bluff base track to connect our beautiful Port Noarlunga Beach and Christies Beach.

The Hopgood Theatre has for more than three decades been a much-loved, integral and crucial arts community and social hub that has brought local people and visitors together. It is a fully

equipped multipurpose arts centre and, year after year, it accommodates a diverse range of events. However, due to this Liberal government's refusal to fully commit to the ongoing funding for the long-term future of the Hopgood, it remains at risk of closing. This is despite the fact that it is home to more than 100 community groups every year and hosts tens of thousands of community members for events that have shaped individual memories.

It has developed the skills and confidence of our young people and it has added to the rich fabric of life in our southern community. Following more than 13,000 people signing a petition for the Hopgood to be funded forever, the government has again committed only a further six months of funding. But our community wants certainty for this place that is at the heart of our community that gives and enables so much.

Whilst women in the south who are in crisis as a result of domestic violence can rightly access emergency support service, those who are at risk of experiencing domestic violence often cannot access therapy, referral, counselling and other services and networks that could keep them safe. This lack of services means that, unacceptably, southern women often feel that they have nowhere to turn. Local community and other organisations report being able to advise a woman to contact a service at a time of crisis but literally not having anywhere to refer women before they reach that crisis point.

As mentioned, appallingly, the two most recent state budgets had no funds whatsoever allocated for domestic violence prevention. The lack of appropriate prevention and trauma recovery services presents a risk of increasing numbers of women falling into the acute crisis category, increasing pressure on already stretched crisis services. I urge those opposite to urgently and appropriately fund a domestic violence hub in the south that provides the services that southern women need, because southern women matter.

I also urge those opposite to immediately and fully reverse their cruel 25 per cent cut to mental health community services across our state. People experiencing mental illness and mental health issues are amongst those who need us the most. So many of these people cannot access the NDIS and so many rely on the support, contact and friendship that comes from attending local groups, the conversations they have with community services workers and the therapy they receive through those services—groups, conversations and services that keep them from isolation. They enable them to participate in community life.

This cut was a cruel decision that ruthlessly targeted people who should always be at the forefront of our hearts and minds when making decisions. Any funding cut in this area must be fully reversed to provide certainty to people in our community and to the outstanding workers who support and empower them.

We start this new parliamentary year in the wake of an unprecedented and deeply tragic bushfire season that has seen much of our beautiful country and state devastated by fire. I extend my deepest sympathy, love and support to those families who have lost a loved one and to those who continue to struggle in other ways through the loss of homes, community infrastructure, their jobs and their confidence and ability to start again. The mental and emotional impacts of these terrible fires will be confronted for many years to come.

I pay tribute to the member for Mawson for standing with the people of Kangaroo Island at this difficult time and indeed to other members who have worked so hard with their communities. I pay tribute to the many, many community members who, with perfect humanity and with such kindness, are reaching out to fellow community members in so many different ways. I offer my deepest gratitude to all the emergency services personnel who bravely risk their lives to protect others. I thank them for their incredible courage, generosity and willingness to put the needs of others ahead of their own. Their efforts are extraordinary, inspiring and to be commended.

These fires have taken a devastating toll on individuals and communities. They have also served to remind us of the importance of family, friends, of community and of the need for courage and kindness in the hardest of times. They remind us to always respect, cherish and enable what community is all about and what it can do.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:22): I also take this opportunity in parliament to respond to the speech by His Excellency the Governor Hieu Van Le, which opened the Second Session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament in South Australia. In that speech, the Governor acknowledged the impact of the bushfire crisis on Australia as a whole, but more specifically detailed the impact those fires have had in South Australia.

The member for Kavel also spoke about the fires at both Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island that have caused immense damage to both the Hills and Kangaroo Island communities and also, tragically, have resulted in the loss of life in both those communities. We certainly express our deep sorrow and condolences to their family and friends.

In the member for Kavel's speech, he outlined the conditions that firefighters faced in the Cudlee Creek fires, which started in December, in the week just before Christmas. The speed at which those fires moved up from the steep country and went up those gullies until they hit the ridge lines, where they were fanned by winds causing them to race along the top of the ridge line, was incredible. As it moved, the heat that was generated was very intense, melting road signs and also the copper telecommunications lines that were in the ground. The aluminium in those road signs melts at over 600° Celsius, which certainly gives an indication of how hot and intense these fires were.

We heard from the member for Kavel the harrowing stories of the volunteer CFS firefighters who drove through firestorms, where both sides of the road were surrounded by fire, with trees and the bush on fire. There was also the risk of falling trees, which was always present as they drove along. He told stories of heroism, courage and self-sacrifice with these brave volunteers continuing to defend their community whilst at the same time not knowing if their own property had been lost to the fires.

The member for Kavel described the extent of the Hills' communities that were impacted, including (but not encompassing all) Cudlee Creek, Lenswood, Mount Torrens, Gumeracha, Woodside, Harrogate, Birdwood and Lobethal. Overall, the Cudlee Creek fires burnt 22,295 hectares and resulted in 84 dwellings being lost, as well as 493 other structures destroyed and 292 vehicles. I certainly take this opportunity to express my sympathy to all those who have lost their homes and also for the trauma that comes with losing not only the physical home but also all the memories and photos that go with it that really make up a home for people.

In the aftermath of that, the state government set up state emergency relief centres in Mount Barker, Highbury and Lobethal to help those communities recover, and the member Kavel has outlined the thankful feedback that his office received from the community about the compassion on display from the staff from the Department of Human Services who were based at those emergency relief centres.

While the Cudlee Creek fire was being brought under some form of control, at the same time the Kangaroo Island fires were starting to get worse. Lightning strikes hit a remote ravine near the Cape Borda Lighthouse at the top of the Flinders Chase National Park early on 30 December, and over the course of the next week they built into a firestorm that could not be contained, speeding through the western third of the island and in its path destroying national park infrastructure and community infrastructure as well, such as the Western Districts football and netball clubs, the Stokes Bay community hall, numerous homes on farms, hundreds of paddocks and thousands of kilometres of fencing.

At the time on New Year's Day, I was on life-saving patrol at Glenelg beach, and the air was thick with the smoke from the Kangaroo Island fires. Normally, the views along the coastline are uninterrupted down to Kingston Park, but on that day they were totally obscured by the smoke from those fires. Similar to the previously described fires at Cudlee Creek, the volunteer CFS firefighters again displayed countless acts of bravery and self-sacrifice to save people's lives and defend their properties where possible.

Tragically two lives were lost. Dick and Clayton Lang were caught in a firestorm as they tried to get back to their property near Parndana after trying to save a neighbour's house. They were trapped on the drive back in intense heat—a heat that was so intense that it melted the alloy wheels of abandoned cars and vans. When I was growing up in Highbury as a child the Langs lived just up

the road from where we lived, and sometimes you could see the Desert-Trek emblazoned four-wheel drive that was parked out the front. Of course, when that four-wheel drive was not parked there it meant that Dick Lang was on one of his outback tours.

At the same time his son, one of four, was one of the state's leading plastic surgeons. At the time, he was good friends with my brother, and from an early age it was certainly very clear that Clayton was very intelligent and destined to achieve great things in South Australia. The deaths of those two outstanding individuals who were doing great things not only in this state but also for the state is significant, and I certainly express my deepest sympathies to the family of Dick and Clayton.

The scale of the bushfires on Kangaroo Island certainly was overwhelming, and at their peak on 6 January it led to the Army reservists being deployed as part of Operation Bushfire Assist at the request of the South Australian government. Major Trent Harron, who is a Morphett constituent, led the deployment from the start of the operation. Their mission was to provide assistance to the community's recovery efforts on Kangaroo Island. He describes the overwhelming gratitude of the Kangaroo Island community as the deployment arrived via the ferry at Penneshaw and then undertook the vital work that they did to help out and assist the local community.

Those efforts included relocating the emergency base camp from Parndana to be closer to Kingscote, also clearing roads from falling trees and creating firebreaks, helping recover and treat animals injured in the fire and also offering pastoral care for residents who were having to come to terms with the trauma of the fires and the loss of their homes and also stock. I remember back in 2007 when the fires ravaged the islands, the roads that were affected by those fires were closed for many weeks by fallen trees, whereas this time around, thanks to the Army, the roads were opened up much more quickly, which allowed access and recovery to occur so much more quickly than on that occasion.

Additionally, with water supplies becoming critical to the short-term survival of the island, the water purification and desalination system provided by the 6th Engineer Support Regiment quickly produced in excess of one million litres of water on Kangaroo Island to help overcome those critical water supply shortages. My Liberal parliamentary colleagues and I visited Kangaroo Island to see firsthand the impact of the fires on the Kangaroo Island community.

Many of the passengers catching the ferry to Penneshaw were Army personnel en route to relieve their fellow soldiers on the island. Compared to previous trips that I have taken to the island, rather than seeing tour buses as we drove into Kingscote we drove past Army trucks instead. It quickly became apparent that dedicated resources were being rolled out on the island to help with the recovery. The Army has undoubtedly left an impression that will live with the locals for many years, and we thank the Army reservists for their instrumental support in the recovery effort.

It is also important to mention the former member for Finniss and current Mayor of Kangaroo Island, Michael Pengilly. He has been instrumental in coordinating the recovery effort on the island, and he certainly deserves to be recognised for his ongoing efforts ever since the outbreak of the fires, including the establishment of the Mayoral Relief and Recovery Bushfire Fund. At the same time, the state government has also set up an emergency relief fund, and people, organisations and businesses throughout the state have been extremely generous in their support of these funds.

On behalf of the entire Morphett electorate, I express my heartfelt thanks to the commitment and courage of our firefighters and other emergency services workers, ranging from the MFS and the SES to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and all other emergency services and not-for-profit organisations who served tirelessly in all the fires the state has already faced this summer. We know that the fire season is not over yet. I also thank the volunteers who came from interstate and overseas to assist.

I will now get back to the Liberal parliamentary trip to the island. On the Friday, our visit took in a tour of some of the firegrounds in Flinders Chase. I went along with the environment minister and the members for Elder and Colton, and we were also accompanied by park rangers. We saw the devastation firsthand. Rain was falling at the time: over 50 millimetres of rain fell on that day. Amongst the ashen ground and blackened tree stumps the fire had created, we saw that green shoots were beginning to appear, which was certainly very encouraging. This growth has continued on since then.

Importantly, I think it is worth saying that many of the attractions are based on the eastern half of the island. Thankfully, the iconic Seal Bay was untouched, as was the magnificent scenic landscape along the Dudley Peninsula. They are still there to be enjoyed, along with many other attractions on the island. The aftermath of these fires now confronts us with an urgent challenge: to support the community, families, businesses, sporting clubs and organisations that have been devastated by these fires.

The government is allocating major resources from its agencies to support those individuals, communities, primary producers, businesses, wildlife and the environment. Notably, tourism is such an important part of the Kangaroo Island and Hills communities. For this reason, the government has launched the #BookThemOut campaign to encourage South Australians to holiday in these regions in order to help them recover. As I have mentioned, while some of Kangaroo Island is fire damaged, it is certainly a large island—in fact, it is the third largest island in Australia—and many locations on the island can still be enjoyed. I know that parochial South Australians will respond and help with that recovery.

So, yes, the bushfires do demand this government's attention, and as a government we will give the same energy to the recovery efforts that we have applied since our election in March 2018. It is a focus that has seen this government deliver on the commitments it made to South Australians at the 2018 election. Over the past two years, we have certainly been focusing on creating more jobs, reducing costs to families and businesses and making significant investments to provide better government services.

At the same time, gone are those fake fights with Canberra. They have been replaced by cooperation with the federal government, which importantly has gone into providing major productive infrastructure not only in Adelaide but also in our regions that have been neglected for so long. As a state, we now have a fully funded pipeline of infrastructure works worth \$12.9 billion over the next four years.

Major infrastructure projects that are envisaged include the north-south corridor along South Road. Part of this is the planning around making the decision on how the corridor between Tonsley and the River Torrens is to be completed. It is certainly the most difficult section, and a decision on that will guide how that project is developed and delivered over the coming years. It certainly will bust congestion when it is finally done.

We can see the benefits of that already in other sections, and there will certainly be other projects that will also bust congestion, including upgrading seven major metropolitan intersections and, in addition, extending the Tonsley line, the rail line to Flinders University. As you drive along Sturt Road, you can see the elevated section starting to happen. Right from the outset, money has been expended to ensure that there is grade separation not only over Sturt Road but also over South Road, which will deliver commuters directly into the Flinders University precinct, and that will really help to make that a well-functioning precinct.

While I talk about grade separations, it is also worth touching on two other congestion-busting grade separation projects. One of those on Torrens Road at Ovingham, and one certainly very important to the electorate of Morphett, is the \$171 million that is going to be put towards the Brighton Road, Hove, crossing that certainly causes traffic to build up in the afternoons right along Brighton Road, and even as far as Somerton Park and Glenelg, during peak times. This is going to be really important to help bust congestion along Brighton Road. At the same time as busting congestion and providing increased productivity, it will also create jobs, which will help grow our economy. It will also mean that workers will spend less time in their cars going to and from work and more time with their family.

But it is not just in road infrastructure that a beneficial relationship with the federal government is paying dividends to this state. In December 2018, I was delighted to be present when the Prime Minister, alongside the Premier, announced a new City Deal that will be supported by \$185 million of federal investment, at Lot Fourteen, the former Royal Adelaide Hospital site, which has now been transitioned into a high-tech hub.

At the same time, the Prime Minister also announced the establishment in Adelaide of the Australian Space Agency at Lot Fourteen. This was a fantastic announcement and very exciting

because establishing the Australian Space Agency in Adelaide is certainly a once in a lifetime opportunity that will position South Australia as a key player in the nation's space industry. The Space Agency will support the long-term development of space technologies, it will help grow our domestic space industry and it will allow businesses to enter new markets, which then means growing and creating jobs right here in South Australia.

Whilst getting the Australian Space Agency was a key plank, at the same time it allowed for a springboard to establish other like-minded facilities in Lot Fourteen. This includes the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre, which will also be established at Lot Fourteen and will attract \$245 million worth of research and jobs. The state Liberal government's efforts in supporting the space ecosystem in South Australia are certainly generating significant international interest.

Last year, the United States House Committee on Armed Services, which comprises eight members of the US Congress and is one of their most important committees, visited Adelaide to be briefed on what is going on here not only in our defence sector but also on the emergence of South Australia's space sector and what its capabilities would be. That certainly shows there is a worldwide focus on Adelaide because of that significant investment in Lot Fourteen.

Yesterday, the largest privately owned Italian space company, SITAEL, opened its new satellite design office at Lot Fourteen, which will design, build and manufacture 50-kilogram to 300-kilogram satellites. The General Manager of SITAEL Australia, Mark Ramsey, commented that the proximity to other space organisations, such as the Australian Space Agency, SmartSat CRC, Inovor Technologies, Myriota and Neumann Space, sealed the decision to locate in Lot Fourteen. He said, 'We are excited about expanding the company in such an environment.'

It is fantastic to see the biggest privately owned Italian space company basing themselves here in South Australia. That proved dividends straightaway when, at the same time as opening their office here at Lot Fourteen, SITAEL Australia also signed a contract with local company Inovor Technologies to formally support them in their \$2.5 million defence contract for the Buccaneer satellite bus. It is fantastic news and it is big news because present at the opening of SITAEL was the President of the Italian Space Agency, Mr Giorgio Saccoccia, and Her Excellency Ms Francesca Tardioli, Ambassador of Italy.

Just to give an idea of where space sits, the Italian government contributes over €2 billion to the European Space Agency. They make up approximately 16 per cent of that agency's budget and it is certainly significant that Mr Saccoccia is visiting Lot Fourteen and seeing what is going on. Speaking with him, he is keen to provide their experience to our Australian Space Agency and, importantly also to learn from us because where we are placed is really the transition in the space industry where it has gone from government led to now being privately led. That is where Australia has been able to move in, pick up and run with that. Italy is certainly keen to see what we are doing and they can see that, as the commercialisation of space grows, Australia can certainly be a key player.

Reflecting on these sorts of relationships and the transformation that will result they are very important and realistically have only come about because Australia has its own national Space Agency. The dialogue that is occurring is at an agency to agency level rather than government to government. What the Australian Space Agency has found is that all of a sudden, by having an Australian Space Agency, doors that were closed are starting to open up, and out of that is coming growth.

I touch again on the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre that is being headquartered at Lot Fourteen. Lot Fourteen is also going to be home to the mission control facility and the Space Discovery Centre. You can see those two facilities being built at the moment. The Mission Control Centre will be very important, as will the Space Discovery Centre. The SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre certainly is significant. It has seen a lot of funds flow into Adelaide. It is a research powerhouse that brings together around 85 international and national partners, and they are investing \$190 million of that \$245 million, with the remaining \$55 million coming from the federal government. That represents a research effort over the next seven years, with a lot of that money being spent in Adelaide.

Some examples of what that collaborative research centre will allow is a collaboration with NASA to investigate how to keep people safe during bushfires when they are out of wireless range, so the Internet of Things and constellations, what they can do in terms of downstream communications. Another example is that the CRC is working with the CSIRO to create a constellation of dedicated satellites to communicate with water sensors, named AquaWatch Australia Mission. That has the technology that will allow the monitoring of water going in and out of the River Murray. It can certainly track and monitor and find out if users are taking more out than they have been allocated. Those sorts of practical opportunities open up right here in Adelaide.

I touched on the Mission Control Centre based in Adelaide, which will be a focal point for space missions in Australia. It will certainly accelerate growth of the space sector and provide facilities for space start-ups, companies and researchers to control small satellite missions here in Adelaide, enabling them to have real-time control, testing and also accelerating the development of satellite capability in Australia.

The Space Discovery Centre, which will sit right alongside it, will be open to students and provide science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, engagement and inspiration to young South Australians and Australians. They will be able to look into the Mission Control Centre as they sit side by side. That will really help to inspire younger Australians and South Australians to see the opportunities they have before them.

I have talked a lot about space, but it is more than just space there at Lot Fourteen. Today during question time, the Premier spoke about some of the opportunities and the fact that Lot Fourteen is also home to the University of Adelaide's Australian Institute for Machine Learning. Lot Fourteen is also home to the Australian cyber collaboration centre, and all these work together and leverage off each other because you can use machine learning when you get the information from these constellations to make rapid decisions and for data analysis.

Yesterday, the Premier, the Minister for Skills and Innovation, the Minister for Education and I attended the opening of the Australian Institute for Machine Learning and we opened their new research and learning space. The Australian Institute for Machine Learning is the largest research group of its kind in Australia and is ranked in the top three of its kind in the world. At the opening, Professor Anton van den Hengel, Director of the AIML, stated:

The support of the South Australian Government in setting up our Institute has been instrumental to our growth and being recognised as one of the best Machine Learning research groups in the world.

That really puts a lens on the opportunities and the assistance they have received from the state government. Machine learning is a field of computer science that gives computers the ability to learn without having to be explicitly programmed, and that allows rapid learning to go on. This is not something that is going to happen in the future; it is something that touches our lives even as we speak.

Whenever we use Google, Google Maps, Facebook or Instagram, we are using apps that have machine learning built into them. The Australian Institute for Machine Learning researchers are applying this machine learning. Those are some examples. There are certainly terrific opportunities in Australia in agriculture and medical imaging. From the University of Adelaide's point of view, a lot of machine learning was based on using machine learning for vision, transport, cybersecurity, winemaking, mining operations, moviemaking and even advanced manufacturing.

In terms of estimates, Professor van den Hengel outlined that they are looking to create over 150,000 jobs in AI into the future, so it is certainly a growing area and something that will be very important to the South Australian economy. The fact that we have one of the top three institutions in the world in this field and discipline is fantastic for our state as we look to transition this economy.

Alongside these opportunities in high-tech, and complementary to these high-tech industries, is the \$90 billion shipbuilding program that will deliver sophisticated and high-end manufacturing here in South Australia. The shipbuilding program will build Future Frigates and Attack class submarines and, in the process, will support smaller companies in South Australia to establish themselves in the defence sector. These Future Frigates and submarines are advanced, sophisticated pieces of defence equipment and they are going to require South Australia and Australia to build our

knowledge base and skills. We really have to upskill ourselves, and I have every confidence that we can do that.

Throughout history, South Australians and Australians have shown that they can learn, and they certainly can punch above their weight in this regard. It is not going to happen by chance, and the Minister for Skills and Innovation has really been at the forefront in terms of rolling out skills and training programs that are going to be needed over the next 10 years to get us to that level. The Defence Teaming Centre is also working very hard to ensure this occurs to make sure that South Australian companies can maximise their chances of being involved and also create as many South Australian jobs as possible.

We do focus on shipbuilding but it is also worth talking about how shipbuilding is only one aspect of the armed services. I have spoken about the Army before, but the Air Force is also very important. Again, we are lucky in South Australia that RAAF Base Edinburgh is one of the two major Air Force bases in Australia and the centre for the electronic warfare of our country. Again, you have that electronic cyber high-tech aspect which is complementary to what is being rolled out in Lot Fourteen as well. Cybersecurity is definitely important going forward. That brings me back to the Australian cyber collaboration centre, which is looking to be set up in Lot Fourteen. It is anticipated to be operational by the middle of this year, and this is a big industry.

In shipbuilding, you talk about \$90 billion; a fair amount of that is just in the steel and the electronic warfare systems, whereas with cyber a lot of it is software based. You can see in terms of order of magnitude that cyber is going to be very important. There is a lot of work required, so there are plenty of jobs in that area. To supplement that, the cyber collaboration centre being set up in Lot Fourteen is going to be very important. One of those facets is the cyber test range that will provide a facility for organisations to test and security test their equipment and network configurations, knowing that they are in a production environment that is safe from interference.

I have touched on the work in the space and defence sectors and how exciting they are. I acknowledge that there are many other sectors where there are growth opportunities in South Australia, such as international education, energy and mining, food and wine, agribusiness, tourism, health and medical services. These are all exciting opportunities and part of our plan to create more jobs in South Australia.

The first two years of the Marshall Liberal government have shown us as being able to deliver on our election commitments. We are focused on lowering costs. We have created jobs. We are providing better services. I look forward to continuing this work, in Morphett and across South Australia, as we look to embrace the exciting opportunities that will transition South Australia to becoming a growth state.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (16:52): I also rise to give my Address in Reply speech and, in doing so, acknowledge the Governor's speech. It is always good to see the Governor in this place and elsewhere around the state, because he is an exemplar of something incredibly important, something that in some ways seems to be slipping away to a degree. I would like to think that it is not so in South Australia. I have said before that here is a man who turned up on our shores on a boat as a refugee and he was greeted with, 'G'day, mate!' and brought into our community. If he were to arrive today, he would spend years on some isolated island out in the Pacific. So the milk of human kindness, as I have said once before, does not flow as freely now as it did in those years, which I think is very unfortunate indeed.

I was going to start my Address in Reply by talking about the bushfires. A number of people have raised them in their opening, especially those people who have been members directly involved in the bushfires around our state, especially Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. But I thought I would start on a different note. Given the report that was very recently released, a very disturbing report in a number of ways, came just before the latest Closing the Gap update was released, there has been discussion in the parliament of the need to rejig and change the emphasis. Clearly, when it comes to Closing the Gap, nationally, I think of the seven measures; five are nowhere near on track.

In another report, Professor John Glover from the Public Health Information Development Unit, drawing upon ABS data, looked at the whole of Australia and he broke it down into suburbs and regions. The figures for this state were incredibly disturbing because, when it referred to the APY

lands, we know there is a gap when it comes to longevity, but this was not a gap: this was a gaping chasm. In the APY lands, the report indicated that the median life expectancy is 48 years. There was no mention of that in the Governor's speech, and these numbers came out before the Governor's speech. A number of things were mentioned in relation to Aboriginal people, but this was not touched upon. This is something that all of us in this place and all of us in this state need to deeply think about.

I do not pretend that the responses are simple; they are many and varied, and in a lot of ways they are complex, but some of it has to be about genuine empowerment of people. They need some significant degree of control over their lives. In an advanced country like Australia, one of the most affluent countries in the world, to see that there is part of our population where the median age is 48 I find really hard to comprehend. Obviously, the APY lands is in my electorate, but I think this would deeply concern, in a genuine way, everybody in this place, irrespective of which party they are in. I am not here to provide any simple answers or have a go at anybody, but it needs seriously deep reflection about where we are going and how we can improve. I know that some of that is about empowerment, a lot of it will be about on-the-ground measures and maybe some measures are symbolic.

Since being elected to this place in 2014, I have been on the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee. This might be speaking out of school a bit, but I have to say that my introduction to that committee at my first meeting was somewhat disturbing, in that one or two of the members on the committee, at public expense, wanted to go to New Zealand to look at governance methodologies there. I thought it had absolutely nothing to do with our communities here in South Australia. Another place to visit was also mentioned. I indicated at that stage that there was no way I was going to take part in any of those visits to overseas countries. I did not think it had any relevance.

I remember the first time I went up to the APY lands as the local member. I understand why we go up in a chartered flight. As a group of parliamentarians, time is scarce, so it is a practical thing to do, but what deeply disturbed me was that we flew in and out of those Aboriginal communities each night and stayed in a luxury resort at Uluru. I indicated that, if we did that again, I was not going to attend. I thought there was something deeply wrong with that.

As I said, a number of things were mentioned in the Governor's speech in relation to Aboriginal affairs, but I actually feel somewhat uncomfortable that, as a group of white European parliamentarians, with one exception on that committee now, we are the ones who go in and visit communities. It is my view that it should be Aboriginal people who go in and visit these communities and it should be Aboriginal people who report back to this parliament about what is needed. I say this just off the top of my head, but I think we need to really look at this. As I say, when you have a community of about 3,000 people in the APY lands where the median age is 48, we have to change our approach in one way or the other.

Earlier this year, along with other members from both sides, I went to visit communities down in the South-East and elsewhere in South Australia that had been affected by fire. Obviously, the most intense damage was at Cudlee Creek and on Kangaroo Island. I had the opportunity to go to the western part of Kangaroo Island to have a look at the devastation and to speak to people who were seriously on the front line—volunteers, farmers, small business owners and general members of the community—about what they lived through. The sheer voluntary community effort that went into tackling the fires and providing support subsequent to and during the fires was one of the incredibly good things to come out of an incredibly bad situation.

I visited some farms that had lost their farmhouses. Some had lost everything. One young farmer who was starting out, who came from a family of farmers, had his house and all his outbuildings destroyed. Another farming family had their property threatened. Some of their property did burn, but their house and some of their outbuildings were saved purely by the shift in the wind at the last minute. I spoke to one man who was a farmer, a professional fisherman and a charter operator. If not for a number of people coming together at his property with farm firefighting units, he would have lost his property. That was the difference between total loss and saving nearly all the major structures on his property. It shows the importance of the farm firefighting units, which is one of those things that used to be supported.

Subsidies were in place under the previous government that were removed. It might be time to reflect upon that given the difference it can make, because the volunteer firefighters and the CFS cannot be everywhere. These units can make a difference between saving a property, saving buildings and not saving buildings. I would call upon the government to look at the removal of that subsidy and reintroduce it, because I think it is one of those incredibly positive things that can be done. I do not say that in a way to have a go; it is just a sensible and pragmatic thing to do. This is the sort of thing we can do that makes a real difference.

When you speak to people on the ground, on Kangaroo Island especially, you get a number of different opinions on their take on the fire. There is always going to be that nuanced view of what needs to be done. Some farmers did lots of great work with native veg corridors. They said that we might have to relook at some of this, but not in a 'let's just get rid of it' sort of way. We need to be sensible about it. The issue of how we approach the need to provide an environment around properties that is less conducive to fire was mentioned. I was given an example of one property where there was a fairly slow bureaucratic response to addressing the issue of some clearance around the major buildings, though not a wholesale clearance. The slowness of that response was probably a contributing factor to the loss of that farmer's house.

We have to look with an open mind at some of those issues and sometimes the chain of command when responding to stuff on the ground. They might not always be perfect responses, but speedy responses can sometimes make a real difference. There are practical issues we need to look at when it comes to fire regimes around the nation. Global warming is not the direct cause. We do not need to have those really silly arguments about whether it is arsonists or it is this or it is that. Global warming is an amplifier: it amplifies the threat that we face.

When it comes to extended drought, intensity of drought, global warming is a factor, and it is obviously a factor in the drying out of forests and the drying out of scrub, which provides the medium for the fires to take place. We know from the experts in the field that the season within which we can do the prescribed burns is getting shorter and shorter. Globally, at the moment we are just on a 1° average increase in temperature rises induced by human activity leading to global warming. On the current trajectory, we know that we are on track to anywhere between 3° and 4°.

I have said many times before in this place, as have other people and obviously lots of commentators and lots of scientists: a world of an average global increase of 3° to 4° is a fundamentally different world from the one we are currently living in. The damage in Kangaroo Island, and the damage at Cudlee Creek and in parts of the Hills, was extensive and we need to do all we can, both as a government and as communities, to support those areas to rebuild because it is going to take time.

There is a linkage when it comes to mitigation, so I am going to talk about energy. I noted with interest the Address in Reply speeches from the member for Kavel and the member for Heysen. I know that a lot of people across the floor, unlike their federal colleagues, accept the science and believe that we should be doing something about it. Even though South Australia is just a very small part of the globe, there is absolutely no reason why a state like ours should not seriously mitigate, as we have a long history of innovation. There are opportunities associated with mitigation, and clearly adaptation is another part of that strategy. If we do not get mitigation right at a national level and at a global level, eventually it just outstrips our capacity to adapt and we end up in a far worse world.

The member for Heysen had a few interesting things to say about energy when he started talking about something I did not know about. He said that way back in 1593 Palmanova, a town in the north-east of Italy, wanted to isolate itself from the world and become a utopia. It was meant to be some sort of simile, if you like, for our approach to our energy system when we were in government. That is not just a long bow, is it? It is almost an infinite stretch because, of course, our approach was not an isolationist approach, and there have been various approaches on our side to an interconnector with the other states over an extended period of time. I have said here before that I think the principle of interconnection, especially as we shift to renewables and to variable energy systems, is sound and we do want to move around electrons from state to state at times.

You can say that is a good thing, and I do not think that any rational person who understands our electricity system would have an argument there. However, sometimes it is an argument about timing, and it is important to get the timing right. I think that there was absolutely nothing wrong with the strategy that we had, which was linked to building generation capacity in this state, and I think that is a good and positive thing to do.

We get into these debates here and we say, 'Well, at the end of the day, yes, interconnectors are right, but, yes, building generating capacity in this state is also right.' In a practical way, it takes into account the timing and takes into account what is happening interstate. Let's do this in a way that we do not lose generating capacity in this state and that we can continue to expand generating capacity in this state. It is not a fundamental disagreement by any means.

We commissioned the Green Grid study that looked at the 10,000 megawatts of wind capacity on Eyre Peninsula that has barely been tapped. In the context of that report, it was flagged that if we developed that capacity—or certainly if we focused on 2,000 megawatts of that capacity—it would be very worthwhile to have an interconnector or two additionally with the other states. I am sure that the member for Flinders would agree with me that we should revisit that study, as I think it was a good study, in terms of strengthening the grid on Eyre Peninsula while also capturing the massive resource over there.

The government mentioned in passing our primary industries, a \$20 billion industry in this state. Some of the rain we have had of late has been welcome, but some areas of the state are not out of the woods yet. I would say that, when it came to drought, the government was very slow to act. There is now a \$21 million program, but, as I said, it was very slow to act. We were the last state to provide direct assistance for primary producers and their drought-affected communities. I do not begrudge or denigrate the \$21 million, but it could have happened sooner.

However, there are still people in our state who are still experiencing difficulties. Certainly in pastoral properties people have raised a number of issues about accessing support. Given the nature of the pastoral properties, which are invariably very large landholdings, the value of those properties is such that those people are denied the opportunity to make use of the various federal government supports and the belated state government support. I think that that really does need to be looked at.

Even though there has been some rain in the Far North of the state, rebuilding is probably going to take a long time. A lot of those properties were heavily destocked, so it is going to take time to rebuild. They still are in need of assistance. Look at the dog fence levy. New South Wales provided direct assistance to primary producers when it came to the levy. The levy has increased. That is something that the government could look at. Could we provide some assistance there?

The freight subsidy comes up on a regular basis when you speak to pastoralists and others because it did disadvantage South Australia. I understand the abstract argument about how we do not want to get into a bidding war with the other states. This needs to be handled at a national level or maybe at a COAG level so that we do not have one state offering subsidies to the detriment of other states. While other states are doing so, I think we do have to provide assistance for our primary producers as well.

Going back to energy, hydrogen was mentioned in the Governor's speech. I have spoken about hydrogen a number of times in this house. Indeed, before I was elected, I worked with the Melbourne institute of energy, and I think we wrote to around 100 companies to ask whether they were interested in co-funding a study into the potential for green hydrogen in South Australia, and specifically in Whyalla.

I will always get back to the fact that the South Australian community with the strongest comparative advantage when it comes to producing green hydrogen and all the challenges that presents would be Whyalla. It is one of only two integrated steelworks in the country, the other one being in Port Kembla. If we are ever to green the steel industry, we have to find a substitute caulking coal, and that substitute is hydrogen.

The Swedes and Germans are going down that track. Rio Tinto is talking about scope 3 emissions, largely in China but also elsewhere. When they talk about scope 3 emissions, they are looking at hydrogen, and I think BHP will probably come on board with hydrogen as well.

Not only does Whyalla have the only steelworks in South Australia but, as I said, it is only one of two integrated steelworks in the country.

The other reason that Whyalla makes so much sense is that there is nothing at Cape Hardy, whereas there is already an export facility at Port Bonython near Whyalla. The last time I looked, that export facility was massively underutilised, so there is probably 70 per cent spare capacity at Port Bonython—well, there was a few years ago and I do not think it has changed all that much.

Whether you directly export hydrogen or you take it that step further to ammonia, which will have other benefits, these are all things that are really worth looking at for our state. I do not pretend that this is necessarily easy, but other countries are making the effort. Some other states will make the effort. When I mentioned the underutilised resource on Eyre Peninsula, that is cheek by jowl with a world-class solar resource. A lot of elements come together for South Australia when it comes to renewable-based hydrogen production and it needs to be treated very seriously with a strong commitment from the government.

I acknowledge that the previous government had its hydrogen road map. It funded a number of projects—one at Port Lincoln, one at Crystal Brook and down at Tonsley Park—and the current government have built on that with the report that they have provided. However, it does require support because we are in a race with other states and other countries. There are some major opportunities here, but it all gets back to doing it commercially at scale, and we need to take some of those early steps.

I go on about Whyalla not because I am the local member—obviously I do that—but because when I look objectively at the comparative advantage it lies in that community. Sanjeev Gupta has talked about hydrogen. When it comes to economic development in South Australia, I will say that this year is going to be the litmus test for what happens in Whyalla. That has benefits for the whole of the state if that journey starts in a pragmatic and practical sense this year.

We have the development application in for the new mill, but that does not have financial closure. The 280-megawatt solar plant has undergone yet more slippage, when it comes to some of the regulatory hoops that have to be jumped through, but this year will be the litmus test about what is going to be delivered in Whyalla. I always say there is a spectrum of possibilities, so let's keep tuned. I have no doubt he will be back to government to see what assistance might well be provided, but that can be done in a way that I think is sensible both for the state and for the national government, while generating what could be very significant benefits for Whyalla.

The Governor's speech also mentioned mining. It was good to see the reinstatement of the renamed PACE program because support for exploration is incredibly important. It is one of those areas in which you can invest a reasonably modest amount of money and get huge returns. That has been the case so far with mines such as Carrapateena. Certainly in this state, the potential for more discoveries, especially in the area of copper, is very strong. We know that in this state already there is over 10 billion tonnes of magnetite reserves, which is a form of iron ore, and that is another reason why it would be incredibly worthwhile for this state to take this approach to hydrogen seriously if we want to green up the steel industry. I say this independently of Sanjeev Gupta.

My view is that our state should continue to have an integrated steelworks and look at the opportunity of linking that 10 billion tonnes of magnetite reserve in this state to a far greener way of producing iron and steel in South Australia.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (17:22): I rise to make a contribution to this Address in Reply debate. It was an absolute privilege to again have the Governor deliver in the other place a stocktake at the halfway point of where the government has been and where the government is going and where our state has been and where our state is going.

The speech, which was a bit longer than average, provided us with a pretty comprehensive list of things that are going on. Using the Address in Reply speech as an opportunity to take stock of where we are at, it was really quite remarkable to see the amount of reform and the amount of change this government has already made and also what it will seek to undertake as we move forward.

The new year brings a new job and I am standing in a different place and have been given a new role. I thank the Premier for his confidence. I am happy to serve him in whatever way he sees fit. I did want to take the opportunity to be able to deal with a matter that has been ongoing in this house and one that I think we need to deal with. On the matter of pairing arrangements between the government and the opposition, last year the government and opposition entered into an arrangement to pair the member for Taylor due to illness.

The pairing arrangement was in writing and agreed to between the whips. The government did not honour the arrangement and that was an error. On behalf of the government, I apologise to the opposition, and in particular to the member for Taylor. I can assure the house that in future all pairing arrangements agreed by the whips or respective managers of government or opposition business will be honoured for all votes of the house, except of course on matters of conscience, which will remain a matter for members of the house to arrange between themselves.

With a renewed sense of goodwill, I think there is an opportunity for us to make sure that this house operates and maintains the conventions that allow us to run smoothly. I certainly see my role as upholding the traditions of the house and making sure that on all occasions we do our job properly to further the great institution that we in this house get to take part in. I think the conventions of this place are extremely important and ones that we need to maintain.

I look forward to working together with the manager of opposition business, as we work to make sure that this house functions and operates smoothly. As I have said, the Address in Reply speech is quite a comprehensive document on where South Australia is at. For my part and my ministry's part, we have done a huge amount and there is still a huge amount to do, especially over the course of the next year, to deliver for South Australians.

Local government reform is one that comes to mind extremely strongly, whether that be, over the course of this term, looking at how we cap council rates, how we bring back a mechanism that helps to put downward pressure on rates and also deals with some of the legitimate concerns that were raised by the sector. I look forward, in the not too distant future, to being able to discuss and ventilate the next steps that we want to take and what that means, especially in conjunction with the Productivity Commission's report and especially in conjunction with the broader reform package.

There are ideas that come from all over the place and we have taken and will take all those into account. After a good solid year of consulting with the sector and with the public, everybody is keen for us to now get on and start to deliver the reform that we need. There is also a huge amount happening in the infrastructure space that the Governor outlined. We are seeing the completion of a number of major projects that were started by the former government, one being the Torrens to Torrens.

Last year, the Northern Connector was only a few weeks away and various stages of the Darlington project opened, as well as some more sections, especially the final opening of the lower motorway, to happen over the coming months. Even now, we switch to a series of different projects, ones that were funded or initiated under this government. Certainly the electrification of the Gawler rail line, a project that spans many years, now has the final amount of money, the final \$220-odd million, to make sure that it is completed.

We have seen early works start on that corridor already and as we move out of the design phase we will see a significant quickening of that. Again, a joint project that spans governments, we are also finishing off the Flinders Link extension to Flinders University. It did need some extra money. When engineers come to you and say, 'We need to upgrade the viaduct structure and this will make it safe,' I do not think there are any bones about how we need to fund that, and fund that properly we did.

We did use our last budget to provide money for upgrading seven major metropolitan intersections as well as removing two level crossings. We are also getting on with delivering upgrades to 1,000 kilometres of regional road, using \$1.1 billion worth of taxpayers' money. We are upgrading some 10 per cent of regional roads in South Australia, a massive down payment on a part of South Australia that has needed more investment for a long period of time.

I think one of the most exciting things about the Governor's speech was the independent research that my department commissioned in relation to the fact that living in Adelaide is 16 per cent

more affordable than Melbourne and 28 per cent more affordable than Sydney. It shows that we have significantly lower office rental costs and other business outgoings.

What this report shows is that moving white-collar jobs to South Australia, to Adelaide, provides significant cost advantage to businesses. This is a message that we are going to take to the federal government. It is a message that the trade, tourism and investment office is going to take to private operators. But, basically, we have a cost advantage in Adelaide and we have a cost-of-living advantage in Adelaide, and it is a comparative advantage that we need to be driving home harder to be able to improve job opportunities here in South Australia. I look forward to working with minister Ridgway in the other place, as well as the Premier, on helping to deliver that.

The speech also goes on to talk about other initiatives within my portfolio area, specifically around the planning reforms. These planning reforms are ones that have been a long time coming. They were largely bipartisan through this place. There were some disagreements at the margins, but by and large we all realised we needed a planning system that was going to be able to deliver growth and really improve all decision-making in South Australia.

As we go over the course of this year, I am quite excited to be able to deliver this. I know that it is a reform measure that is not going to leave everybody happy. When it comes to planning, there are people with all sorts of different views, and the ability for us to essentially do what everybody wants is impossible, but that is why you have a planning system in the first place: to provide an orderly mechanism whereby we can make sure that everybody's views are heard, that everybody's views are taken into account and that we undertake the orderly growth of the development of our state.

We also have on-demand bus trials, which have commenced in Mount Barker and the Barossa, in the press over the weekend especially in relation to the Mount Barker trial. We were expecting 200 people a week to use this service over the first few weeks; we are now hitting over 1,000 people a week using this service and we think there is a lot more to come. We are also opening up options for e-scooter and ride-share options around South Australia and we look forward to helping to push those, especially into regional South Australia to help them be apprised of and provide for increased opportunities for new technology coming into regional areas, providing new transport options and delivering better services for South Australians.

This document, this blueprint for what is going to happen over the course of this year, is a pretty comprehensive document and a pretty full document, and it is going to take all the energies of government and South Australia to deliver on, but we are up to the task. By outlining this in a speech, we have put our flag in the sand and said, 'Well, this is who we are and this is what we are going to do,' and certainly South Australians will judge us on our ability to deliver just that.

With those remarks, I would like to conclude and say that I look forward to the second half of this first term of our government being a productive one that delivers for South Australians, that delivers on the commitments we made but, more importantly, that helps to drive our state forward in a way that is advantageous to the people who live here.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (17:31): I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes 23
 Noes 19
 Majority 4

AYES

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Basham, D.K.B. | Chapman, V.A. | Cowdrey, M.J. |
| Cregan, D. | Ellis, F.J. | Gardner, J.A.W. |
| Harvey, R.M. (teller) | Knoll, S.K. | Luethen, P. |
| Marshall, S.S. | McBride, N. | Murray, S. |
| Patterson, S.J.R. | Pederick, A.S. | Pisoni, D.G. |
| Power, C. | Sanderson, R. | Speirs, D.J. |

AYES

Teague, J.B.
Whetstone, T.J.

Treloar, P.A.
Wingard, C.L.

van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.

NOES

Bedford, F.E.
Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Hildyard, K.A.
Malinauskas, P.
Piccolo, A.
Wortley, D.

Bettison, Z.L.
Brock, G.G.
Cook, N.F.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Picton, C.J.

Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E.
Gee, J.P.
Koutsantonis, A. (teller)
Odenwalder, L.K.
Stinson, J.M.

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

*Parliamentary Committees***JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that, pursuant to section 5 of the Parliament (Joint Services) Act 1985, it had appointed the Hon. D.G.E. Hood to the committee and the Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins as the alternate member.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. D.G.E. Hood to the committee in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. D.G.E. Hood to the committee in place of the Hon. T.J. Stephens (resigned).

At 17:38 the house adjourned until Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 10:30.