

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 13 May 2020

The **SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 10:30 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.

Bills

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (10:32): I seek leave to move Notice of Motion, Private Members Business No. 3 in an amended form.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and to make a related amendment to the Development Act 1993. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (10:33): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce this bill to protect the heritage of North Adelaide. Allowing encroaching, incremental developments may undermine the heritage of North Adelaide. That is what the Planning and Design Code currently allows. This bill is born out of the clumsy and poorly managed rollout of the Planning and Design Code by the Marshall Liberal government. This bill proposes to amend both the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and the Development Act 1993, which is applicable for development applications in metropolitan council areas until 1 July 2020.

The purpose of this bill specifically seeks to amend both acts so that development applications which propose to expand the footprint of large colleges and institutions in the North Adelaide Historic Conservation Zone would be categorised as restricted developments under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, and noncompliant developments under the Development Act 1993.

Both development assessment categories include extensive public notification requirements as well as public submission and appeal rights. The large colleges and institutions of major concern to residents include Calvary hospital, Helping Hand Aged Care, Lincoln College, St Ann's College, St Dominic's Priory College and St Mark's College.

In terms of background to this bill, these large colleges and institutions were incorrectly, in my opinion, granted this development potential through the policy contained in the North Adelaide Large Institutions and Colleges Development Plan (DPA) gazetted on 30 May 2017. The DPA explicitly granted large colleges and institutions inside this zone the ability to expand their premises to any other allotment also inside the zone, defined as 'directly associated', by applying an exception to the development applications which would otherwise be considered noncompliant developments, according to the City of Adelaide development plan.

The ability of large colleges and institutions to expand in this manner has raised significant concerns within the City of Adelaide and has led to the establishment of the local resident action group, known as Friends and Residents of North Adelaide. I would like to thank the members of FARONA, including Valdis Dunis, who have been most helpful in organising public meetings and increasing the understanding of the issues in this community. FARONA was formed in May 2018 in response to the first announced proposed demolition of 306 Ward Street, near Calvary Hospital,

which is a grand 1855 home set in beautiful gardens with huge trees. More than 750 people have signed a petition to save this particular home.

In terms of the Calvary Hospital example, the ongoing development application process, pursued by the Calvary Hospital to expand their premises to a non-abutting allotment on 306 Ward Street, North Adelaide, has focused council and community concern about this issue. The proposed development includes a single-storey hospital ward (27 beds) and a 112-space basement car park. This development application is before the State Commission Assessment Panel.

A special meeting of the City of Adelaide council held on 2 July 2019 resolved, in summary, that the administration recommends the following points are provided to SCAP as council's category 2 representation: expansion of institutional use beyond site boundaries and the council opposes the expansion of Calvary Hospital beyond its original site boundaries as depicted on the Calvary Hospital concept plan. The desired character for the Hill Street policy area acknowledges the presence of Calvary Hospital and its importance in meeting community needs. It also acknowledges that there will be future needs, but these should not be at the expense of 'reinforcing the heritage values and amenity of the policy area'.

The expansion of Calvary Hospital beyond its current boundaries will diminish the residential character of North Adelaide and run the risk of the predominantly residential character of North Adelaide being eroded, and this would set quite a significant precedent in that historical conservation zone area. Consultation with the City of Adelaide was actually undertaken. Consultation with the City of Adelaide revealed that in mid-2019, according to the City of Adelaide, there were 156 properties under threat from this footprint creep from 11 institutions. I will repeat that, Mr Speaker, because I think it is very important to note. There are 156 properties under threat from this footprint creep which can occur in this locality.

There is risk that the area may become a precinct dominated by a few large colleges and institutions. At the moment, there is essentially a residential area, an historic conservation zone, with a number of large institutions which should remain there. I should also emphasise that they are and should be allowed to inspire the development within the existing footprint. I have no—

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: Considering that they were there first.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: I have no issue with these—

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: I cannot believe you are going down this line.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Planning will be called to order if this heckling continues.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Mr Speaker, I have no issue with these institutions being able to develop within the existing footprint and nor does the City of Adelaide. In fact, both the City of Adelaide residents and the opposition agree that some further intensification plus height should be allowed. The Rt Hon. Sandy Verschoor, Lord Mayor of Adelaide, has advised, through consultation, that she is willing to support the expansion of the existing premises of these large colleges and institutions through increased building heights but not expanded footprints—up but not out. That is the message residents have out there; they are happy to go up but not out.

The City of Adelaide has sought to amend the DPA, but to date the Minister for Planning, the member for Schubert, has refused to pursue this option, arguing that a legal challenge to a section 29 ministerial revision of another DPA has prevented him from doing so.

At a 7 July 2019 meeting with the community organised by Labor, the Labor leader, the member for Croydon, and I were pleased to host about 60 people, including members of FARONA. I would like to thank everyone who attended this forum to express their views and those who have contacted me since to share their frustrations and concerns.

I would also like to mention the Protect our Heritage Alliance, led by Professor Warren Jones, which has been advocating for greater protections to be applied to heritage and character dwellings, including the transfer of contributory items in the Planning and Design Code.

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: Of which there are none in North Adelaide.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: Or Adelaide.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: I did not say that. If the minister actually listened, I didn't actually say that. The minister is not good at listening, so it is not that unusual. He should listen to the passengers on the Gawler line. I can tell you his name is very popular amongst the people on the Gawler line at the moment. I would also like to mention the Protect our Heritage Alliance, led by Professor Warren Jones, which has been advocating for greater protections to be applied to heritage and character dwellings, including the transfer of contributory items in the Planning and Design Code.

I also commend the Protect our Heritage Alliance for their petition delivered to Parliament House on 30 April. They obtained more than 14,000 signatures and it is the second biggest petition presented to parliament in terms of signatories. Thousands of South Australians are concerned about heritage protection, including in my own council area, the Town of Gawler, which has now embarked on a very expensive process to get some contributory items upgraded to local heritage places at the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars to ratepayers, which is a cost that has been put on this council and the ratepayers by the Marshall Liberal government. This cost would not have occurred for these ratepayers had it not been for a decision by the current government.

Once again, the Planning and Design Code is creating unforeseen consequences. Impacts have not been carefully thought through by the Marshall government and all the time the minister sits on his hands making excuses. He is ignoring the threats to heritage and the streetscape currently presented by the policy content of the Planning and Design Code. He says he needs to sit and wait for the outcome of a court case on section 26. There is no need to wait. There is no legal impediment to wait.

The draft code will replace the Adelaide (City) Development Plan and, by extension, the North Adelaide Large Institutions and Colleges Development Plan Amendment. The draft code includes provisions characterising development applications that seek to expand the footprint of large colleges and institutions into sites not abutting their character allotments as restricted developments under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

However, because the draft code does not propose to limit the expansion of large colleges and institutions beyond their existing footprints, the draft code does not restrict their expansion into abutting areas. The heritage of North Adelaide is at risk. The current character of North Adelaide in this historic conservation zone is essentially of residential character and amenity, with a number of institutions included in that. If we allow the Planning and Design Code to go ahead in its current form and if the minister continues to sit on his hands and take no action, then what will happen is that the character of the area will change to institutions with a few heritage character places.

It will be on this minister's head that the character of this area will change and, as I said, there is no legal impediment to acting now. Unfortunately, he chooses not to act and the member for Adelaide has also chosen not to act. She has followed her minister blindly down an alley that leads to nowhere except the destruction of the character of this locality. That is why Labor has prepared this bill, which better reflects the policy objectives of the City of Adelaide and protects the heritage of North Adelaide for residents.

The story that the minister and the member for Adelaide have peddled in the community regarding the current act is not actually bought by the residents in the community anymore. They understand that there is a way around this problem and that the minister is choosing not to act because he is acting for interests other than the interests of the residents in this locality.

We have listened to the people and, as a result of that, we have introduced a bill. We have consulted with the city and that is why we have introduced the bill. Labor now calls on the Marshall Liberal government to support the bill to protect the heritage and amenity of North Adelaide and its residents. With these comments, I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Dr Harvey.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY) (RATE RELIEF) AMENDMENT BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (10:45): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Local Government Act 1999. Read a first time.

Standing Orders Suspension

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (10:46): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable the bill to be taken through all stages without delay.

The SPEAKER: An absolute majority is not present. Please ring the bells.

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

The SPEAKER: As an absolute majority is present, I accept the motion. Member for Light, do you wish to speak in support of the proposed suspension motion?

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Mr Speaker, I would ask the house to support the suspension of standing orders because the urgency of this bill is more so today than it was two weeks ago when we last sat, and I put the case for having the suspension of the standing orders to enable that to take place. We have heard in the last few days that, as we move away from the health crisis, the next one is going to be a major economic crisis, and that economic crisis—

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

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Mr Speaker, I am just outlining why it is urgent.

The SPEAKER: One moment. Minister for Planning, what is it?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: I would ask that the member be confined to the substance of the motion rather than the substance of the bill he wishes to discuss.

The SPEAKER: I have the point of order. I am listening to the member for Light. There will also be an opportunity for the minister to make his alternative argument, if there is one. The member for Light has the call.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This does not deal with the substantive nature of the bill, but it is urgent because we have heard, over the past few days, that the federal government may bring forward the closure of the JobKeeper program, for example, and we have heard from businesses about the impending crisis to our economy if that were to occur.

That is why this bill is very important. We should have measures in place to enable us to reduce the costs to and burdens on small businesses, particularly those that need to start again, so that they can reopen as soon as possible and provide employment. In the next few days, we will hear about the statistics that underpin this impending crisis; however, we have the opportunity to do something about it today in the debate on this bill.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: A copy of the updated bill was only provided to me at 8.51 last night. It contains amendments on a bill that was provided at around the same time during the last sitting week. The government has not had any opportunity to consider the latest version of the bill, and as such will not be supporting the suspension of standing orders.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes 20
Noes 23
Majority 3

AYES

Bedford, F.E.
Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E. (teller)
Hildyard, K.A.
Malinauskas, P.

Bell, T.S.
Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.

Bettison, Z.L.
Brock, G.G.
Cook, N.F.
Koutsantonis, A.
Mullighan, S.C.

AYES

Odenwalder, L.K.
Stinson, J.M.

Piccolo, A.
Wortley, D.

Picton, C.J.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
Cregan, D.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Luethen, P.
Murray, S.
Power, C.
Teague, J.B.
Whetstone, T.J.

Chapman, V.A.
Duluk, S.
Harvey, R.M.
Marshall, S.S.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Sanderson, R.
Treloar, P.A.
Wingard, C.L.

Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)
Ellis, F.J.
Knoll, S.K.
McBride, N.
Pisoni, D.G.
Speirs, D.J.
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.

PAIRS

Szakacs, J.K.

Pederick, A.S.

Motion thus negatived.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (10:55): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill reflects what we have at the moment not only in this state but in this nation. We have a multiple crisis in the sense that we have clearly a health crisis, on which the health officials have been advising us how to act to make sure that we minimise death and injury in our nation. I think it is very important to note that. I notice the government make light of this, but if you are a passenger coming from Gawler into the city, for example, certainly the government has not heard the health message because they are forcing people onto trains like sardines.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: The government mocks, because all of them probably do not use public transport. 'We leave it to the other people to use public transport.'

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: I used it yesterday.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: So people who need public transport—

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Planning is called to order for interjecting out of his seat.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Those who require public transport to get to work are treated like second-class citizens by this government. It is quite clear. If you do not believe me, just look at social media—the comments coming from people in my electorate and other electorates between Gawler and the city of Adelaide and those electorates west of the city. I can tell you this government is not that popular at the moment, with the way it treats these people, forcing people to be—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members on my right.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: —treated like second-class citizens. That is the thing about this bill: this bill is about the haves and the have-nots. At the moment what we are seeking to do with the bill is to support those people who are the have-nots. I will explain why and why the government will oppose this bill. They look after the haves.

The Hon. T.J. Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development is cautioned.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: They have never looked after the have-nots. This bill is very important. It is not only the have-nots in terms of workers but the have-nots in terms of small business.

The second part of the crisis we have at the moment is an economic crisis. That is quite clear. Both at federal and state level, both governments and oppositions have said the same thing, regarding the impending economic crisis if we do not act and start reopening our economy. That is very important, but we need to do that in a very careful way to make sure we do not get a second wave of a health crisis through our nation.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Well, the government is not actually doing that. If you were doing that you would not force tens of thousands of people into carriages like sardines. You would actually do what you need to do to make sure that people are going to use public transport in a safe way. What this government has done is run our public transport system into the ground. In doing so, it also runs our economy into the ground because public transport is critical for a lot of our workers in this state and in fact our nation. When it comes to public transport, this government is probably performing the worst in the nation at the moment. That is very important.

When I was walking this morning to come to Parliament House, I bumped into a young man. We started chatting. I asked what job he was in. He said he was a waiter and a bartender. He is not working at the moment clearly because of the economy. It made me think about what this bill is really about. What this bill is really about is making sure that those small businesses that are part of the have-nots at the moment, that have closed or restricted their business by government direction to meet the common good in terms of our health interests—and rightly so; I understand that—get the support they require and that we actually think about them.

At the moment, all the criticism about this bill is coming from people who have 100 per cent of their income at the moment in some way. That is telling. The people who are criticising this bill at the moment all have a secure income; they go home to their families at night and put food on the table, but the government does not seem to care about those who do not. That is the reality. This bill is designed for those small businesses who have closed their doors or had their businesses restricted and who cannot make a profit or an income through earning to support themselves. The federal government has helped, and I acknowledge that. The state government has helped a bit in a lesser way, and I acknowledge that.

The one sector that has done very little at this stage is the local government sector. When I tried to introduce this bill last time, my quarterly rate notice from the council was sent to me on the same day. I was told by the local government sector that they are still in conversations. They are having conversations about this and what they can do to support small business, and I acknowledge that some local councils have. I think that Wakefield Regional Council was one of the first councils to act, and I commend them for doing that. They understand their community and the importance of small business in their community, and they acted.

I understand that the City of Prospect has done something, and I understand that since we have mooted our bill a couple of other councils have either gone that way or chosen to look at it as well. This is very important. That is what this bill has done if nothing else. Despite the mocking by the Minister for Local Government, it has started a conversation about how small businesses are hurting in our communities and the role of local government to provide a support in those local communities, which, as I said, has been done by the federal government and the state government to some extent.

What we need to understand is that JobKeeper goes so far and a whole range of other measures put in place by federal and state governments go so far, and that is important. They are keeping people in work and keeping some business doors open, but not all, and that is why local government has an important role to play. Some councils are saying that rate deferral is their role. Well, that is a bit like the banks at the moment. They are saying that you do not have to pay your mortgage; you can put it off. The banking association, when asked what that means, said that the

debt will still accumulate interest during this period. So you pay twice as much after, and the banks never lose.

That is how our banks are responding to this crisis. They are hurting the most those people who are the most vulnerable. To some extent, so is local government. They are saying that they will just defer the debt. The reality is that some small businesses will not be able to restart their business if they have accumulated debts that are really high. This is what this bill is designed to do: to reduce the debt levels for small businesses so that they can concentrate on starting their businesses again. By starting their businesses again, they create employment.

This is true throughout the whole state but particularly in regional South Australia, where there are fewer opportunities. It is particularly true in those areas. In my own town of Gawler, it is sad to see so many shopfronts closed. The morale of our community has declined, and I cannot wait for the day when they open their doors for business again. The closed doors represent people, human beings, both the business owners and those people who have previously worked for them. That is important to remember.

I will not be lectured by people who at the moment sit on a full income. Some have zero income at the moment and have accumulated debts. This bill goes a small way, and I acknowledge it is a small way, to reduce that accumulated debt so they can restart their businesses as soon as practicable and to also then increase employment.

The local government sector has an important role to play in the revival of small business in our state and it has to play its role. I do not expect its role to be as big as the state and federal governments' role because of its capacity, but it has capacity. The federal government, for example, has increased its expenditure and not stood down one public servant. The state government, from my understanding, has done reasonably and equally the same. It is local government's time to put its hand up and say what it will do to support small business.

The argument I have heard from people who are on full incomes at the moment is that, 'Well, local government can't afford it.' Like everything else, it is a question of priority. If councils can find hundreds of thousands of dollars that they have not budgeted for this year to do some pet project, they can find the money and the capacity to support small businesses. If it was true, you would not find a small council in terms of rate base, like Wakefield Regional Council or the City of Prospect, doing it.

It is interesting to note that those two councils—one is a small metro council and one is a large council geographically but with quite a small rate base—have found the resources to provide rate relief for their small businesses and not-for-profits. In fact, Wakefield Regional Council has gone further and given rate relief to residents as well, if I understand correctly. If these councils can do it with quite modest rate bases, other councils can do it as well. I have been told by a number of people that councils have that capacity now. That is certainly true: councils have the capacity now to do it, but of the 68 councils, maybe only four—

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: You mean 64.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Are you sure it's 64?

The Hon. S.K. Knoll: Sixty-four councils are providing some level of relief.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: The minister says 'some level of relief'. These are the weasel words that local government are using. I got a little note from the Town of Gawler about their relief package for local business: 'If you are in hardship, write to us. We'll consider it and then we may defer your rates.' That is their package of support. As I said, for those small businesses that have closed their doors and are earning no income at the moment, that is no support whatsoever. Because of that, some of those businesses will not open their doors again.

It is no relief whatsoever. If they really want to provide relief and support small businesses and get them going again, they will provide real relief, which means they will provide a rate rebate for the period of time that they are closed or restricting development. Then, we will see the recovery of these small businesses in our community.

This proposal supports NGOs as well because the NGO sector is so critical to our community. I think every member, even those on the government side, would acknowledge the important roles that NGOs play in our communities. Whether they are charities or whether they are sporting organisations, they play a critical role in our communities and they are also doing it tough at the moment.

My colleague the shadow minister for sport and recreation has brought this to my attention and has advocated on their behalf to make sure they are provided with support and rate relief and to make sure that they can reopen their doors for all those sporting and recreational activities in our community that are so vital for not only this generation but future generations to make sure we have healthy communities. We have healthy communities when we have healthy small businesses and we have healthy small businesses when they can actually afford to operate. It is as simple as that.

It is sad that we have so many businesses closing their doors at the moment because of government direction. I am not complaining about that government direction; I understand it. Our first priority is the health crisis and that is understandable. We need to keep people safe and we need to keep people alive. We have reached a point now, though, where economic crisis manifests itself not only in terms of loss of employment and businesses closing but also in terms of the health of people. We have a tsunami of mental health issues approaching us, and that is compounded by people who cannot see any light at the end of the tunnel or who are provided no hope. This bill is designed to provide both some light and some hope for those small businesses and individuals who rely on small businesses for their livelihood, whether as a business owner or as a worker.

I accept that this measure in itself is not the end of it. This measure should be the start of a broader conversation with all the stakeholders in the local government sector to see what else can be done and what role the state and federal governments have to play to support local government so that they can support their communities. I acknowledge that. However, it is interesting to note that we have started to have a real conversation about this issue since we have indicated our intentions. I think it is great that we have proposed something that a lot of people do not particularly like but which has actually started a real conversation in that sector because they now understand the gravity of this issue.

I am more than happy to work with all the stakeholders in the local government sector to work out what broader package could be brought in to support local government, our local communities, our small businesses in those communities and also the non-government sector in our communities. Only yesterday I was speaking with some people in the sporting sector in my community who are really concerned about their capacity to restart their various activities. For a lot of sports this is the time that they actually earn income to keep their activity alive for 12 months. They usually operate from one financial year to the next. There are not huge reserves of funds in those small sporting organisations.

It is for those reasons that I think this bill warrants support. It warrants to be debated today to make sure that we play our part for small business to recover from this economic crisis that is fast approaching.

Debate adjourned on motion of Dr Harvey.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS CHARACTER PROTECTION) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 April 2020.)

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (11:12): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes	19
Majority.....	3

AYES

Basham, D.K.B.	Chapman, V.A.	Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)
Cregan, D.	Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Harvey, R.M.	Knoll, S.K.	Luethen, P.
Marshall, S.S.	McBride, N.	Murray, S.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G.	Power, C.
Sanderson, R.	Speirs, D.J.	Teague, J.B.
Treloar, P.A.	van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.
Wingard, C.L.		

NOES

Bedford, F.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Boyer, B.I.	Brock, G.G.	Brown, M.E. (teller)
Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hughes, E.J.	Koutsantonis, A.	Malinauskas, P.
Michaels, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K.
Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.	Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.		

PAIRS

Pederick, A.S.	Szakacs, J.K.
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Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (LAND ACCESS IN THE MINING AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES)
BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 8 April 2020.)

The SPEAKER: Member for Newland.

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (11:22): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

Mr BROWN: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the member for Frome sought leave to continue his remarks; he gets the call.

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford knows what the standing orders are. I saw the member for Newland, I called the member for Newland and, if there's any further argument, I do not want to name members but I will. So the member for Newland has—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Point of order: did the house give leave to the member for Frome to continue his remarks or not?

The SPEAKER: I saw the member for Newland. He rose in his spot straightaway and he has moved to postpone. It has been moved and seconded, and I am going to put that now.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes	20
Majority	2

AYES

Basham, D.K.B.	Chapman, V.A.	Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)
Cregan, D.	Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Harvey, R.M.	Knoll, S.K.	Luethen, P.
Marshall, S.S.	McBride, N.	Murray, S.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G.	Power, C.
Sanderson, R.	Speirs, D.J.	Teague, J.B.
Treloar, P.A.	van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.
Wingard, C.L.		

NOES

Bedford, F.E.	Bell, T.S.	Bettison, Z.L.
Bignell, L.W.K.	Boyer, B.I.	Brock, G.G.
Brown, M.E. (teller)	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.	Hughes, E.J.	Koutsantonis, A.
Malinauskas, P.	Michaels, A.	Mullighan, S.C.
Odenwalder, L.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Stinson, J.M.	Wortley, D.	

PAIRS

Pederick, A.S.	Szakacs, J.K.
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Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (CONTRIBUTORY ITEMS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 25 March 2020.)

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (11:27): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes	20
Majority	2

AYES

Basham, D.K.B.	Chapman, V.A.	Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)
Cregan, D.	Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Harvey, R.M.	Knoll, S.K.	Luethen, P.
Marshall, S.S.	McBride, N.	Murray, S.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G.	Power, C.
Sanderson, R.	Speirs, D.J.	Teague, J.B.
Treloar, P.A.	van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.
Wingard, C.L.		

NOES

Bedford, F.E.	Bell, T.S.	Bettison, Z.L.
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NOES

Bignell, L.W.K.	Boyer, B.I.	Brock, G.G.
Brown, M.E. (teller)	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.	Hughes, E.J.	Koutsantonis, A.
Malinauskas, P.	Michaels, A.	Mullighan, S.C.
Odenwalder, L.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Stinson, J.M.	Wortley, D.	

PAIRS

Pederick, A.S.	Szakacs, J.K.
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Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Motions***INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY**

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:31): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes that 4 May is International Firefighters' Day;
- (b) expresses its gratitude to all of our paid and volunteer firefighters in South Australia for their contribution to the safety of our community; and
- (c) remembers the sacrifice of those firefighters who have lost their lives in service of their community.

Over the last two months the impact of the COVID-19 emergency has been so devastating and so near complete that it is easy for those of us who were not directly affected by the fires, in what has become known as 'black summer', to forget just how extreme and all consuming they were. Until the emergence of COVID-19, the fires were really the only story in town, and for good reason.

Last summer saw our firefighters tested as never before, and in the process all of us gained a renewed appreciation of the work they do. The events of our black summer brought home, if a reminder was needed, the bravery of our firefighters, both paid and unpaid, who go in where the rest of us might run. They go in because it is their job, it is their duty and because they are driven by the desire to protect their community.

As a police officer, on many occasions I had the honour of working alongside firefighters, both MFS and CFS, and while there is a good-natured rivalry between the services there is clearly also a deep, if often unspoken, mutual respect. More recently, as shadow minister, I have been given the extraordinary opportunity to meet many more firefighters and gain a much deeper understanding of the work they do and the dedication with which they do it.

So, while I might dwell here today on the recent bushfires, I want to pay tribute to all our firefighters, paid and unpaid, and I hope my work as shadow minister, or one day as minister, will serve to support their work and ensure that they are as well resourced and safe as they can be. It is one of those areas where there is broad consensus and bipartisanship. We may differ about how resources should be allocated, or what priorities different resources should take, but in general there is a bipartisanship and a belief that our firefighters should be supported, come what may.

The last bushfire season, as I said, tested our firefighters like never before. The season started earlier than ever, when the CFS sent 1,300 volunteers, including both on-the-ground firefighters and incident managers, across to the Eastern States. This was then interrupted and complicated by major fires here in Port Lincoln and Yorketown, and then the catastrophic fires we saw in the Hills and, most particularly, Kangaroo Island. On top of all this there were many fires in almost every region of South Australia, as well as continuing commitments interstate. It was in every way an unprecedented effort by our firefighters, and one that saw a level of community support that was also unprecedented.

Now, of course, these fires have become the subject of not only a state-based inquiry but a federal royal commission. I will save any direct commentary on those inquiries for a more appropriate forum, but I will say that I will be watching very closely to ensure that the voices of the on-the-ground firefighters above all are heard in any inquiry and acted upon when recommendations are made.

Despite the enormous and all-consuming distraction of COVID-19, we are still in the grip of an unfolding climate emergency. We need to make sure, on top of any other policy considerations, that our firefighters, who are on the front line of this emergency, are equipped, resourced and, most importantly, safe. This catastrophic fire season will not be our last and I fear that it really was just a taste of things to come. We need our firefighters to be ready and supported. We owe it to them.

There are others here, particularly the members for Mawson and Kavel, who have had a much closer experience than I have of the impact of these fires, but I did visit Kangaroo Island on several occasions and the Cudlee Creek/Lobethal area many times over the summer and I saw and heard enough from our firefighters to know that we owe them all an enormous and ongoing debt. They do an absolutely extraordinary job, they do it knowing the risks and knowing that many brave firefighters before them have lost their lives in service to the community.

So, to the men and women of the Metropolitan Fire Service, the Country Fire Service, the dedicated firefighters attached to the other agencies and bodies and to those who get on their farm units to protect their properties and the properties of their neighbours, on behalf of the state opposition and the wider community I say thank you.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (11:36): I rise to speak in support of this motion and to note also the great work that our firefighters do, be they MFS, CFS or anywhere in between, including our farm firefighters. It is remarkable to see how the role of firefighters has changed over the journey. Modern era firefighters do not just attend burning buildings, they do a whole lot more than that.

A big part of the job is to comfort victims, who have in some cases lost their world. They make us feel like we can live without fear because if the need arises, no matter the circumstances, we know they will be there to protect us. It is a bit of a selfish attitude I suppose, but it is confirmation of the great work that firefighters have done over such a long period of time that we have that level of comfort within our community, knowing that they can do that work.

As I said, be it the CFS or the MFS, that level of assurity within the South Australian community, focused on those two brigades and what they bring to our community, should be recognised with this motion. Of course, the most recent summer brought that all to the fore. It was one of the most dangerous summers that this state has ever seen. Before the dangers appeared here in South Australia, New South Wales was battling with their own catastrophe.

Having been to a number of regions and spoken to a number of people who went and then came back and having spoken to my interstate counterparts about the great service that South Australia gave, everyone in this chamber and in our state should be immensely proud of what the South Australian volunteers, in many cases, and professional firefighters did to go over and help in New South Wales.

As we headed towards Christmas, South Australia had provided more support to New South Wales than had any other state. When you think about that, per capita we are by no stretch one of the big states in this nation, but South Australia delivered so much support and I know because I got personal calls from New South Wales to say thank you: thank you for the great service and the great work that our volunteers and professional firefighters provided to them on the eastern seaboard.

To add to that, perhaps even a better response from New South Wales than a thankyou was that they said, 'Your people are of the highest calibre, the highest quality, and we have so much admiration for the way they go about their business.' All the people in our fire services should be incredibly proud of that. Of course, that all turned in December when we had our own issues in South Australia. It started in Yorketown and again the response from all over the state was immense. When we talk about our firefighting community, that incident and the response to that incident, really does showcase how well South Australia does step up and how well our firefighters in particular step up.

I was lucky enough to go to Yorke Peninsula, to the local football ground where everyone was stationed and stabled, and the efficiency and the logistics that were put in place are to be commended. I do not mean this flippantly, but it has become expected that these people will do great work. They do it with ease, without any fanfare and they put together a very good operation.

At this football ground, I spoke with the local mayor and the local chief executive of the council and they said how amazing it was to see all the fire trucks parked around the edge of the oval. The Salvation Army had set up their meal van and everyone was sitting in the grandstand eating their meals and that was the meeting point, if you like. They said it was so heartwarming to see all the trucks parked around the oval as if a game was being played, and trucks coming from brigades right across our state, and that really typifies our firefighting community here in South Australia.

Of course, Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island have been spoken about a lot. In the COVID-19 world that we are dealing with right now and the pandemic that is before us, perhaps some of that bushfire activity and the work that has been done there has fallen off the radar of the mainstream media a little bit. I can assure you it has not fallen off my radar and it has not fallen off this government's radar; it is very much at the forefront.

We want to make sure that we can enact some of the findings of the reviews that are going on—the Keelty review, with Mick Keelty leading that, of course, and we hope to have that handed down by the middle of the year—and make sure that we put those processes in place for the upcoming fire season. You would understand that, in putting that review together in the current time, travel around the state, face-to-face contact and face-to-face community meetings have been put under pressure and in some cases are not possible. I must commend the team behind this. I have had reports that indicate copious one-on-one meetings, phone call meetings, webinar meetings, etc., to make up for the fact that access to meetings right around the country is somewhat limited.

Again, I commend our firefighters. I have seen things firsthand through the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. Some quite phenomenal stories have been relayed to me about families and generations learning their craft and learning what to do—fathers standing with sons, mothers standing with daughters and every combination in between—and how communities came together to fight those fires.

In the case of communities in particular, that is not just fighting fires with hose in hand. When fires are fought in our regional areas—it is very evident to me having grown up in the regions and having close associations and seeing it again through what we experienced over the summer—it is the community that fights a fire in every way, shape or form. Again, it is the literal holding of the hose at one end, but it is also everyone pulling together, be it through operations, incident management, supplying food, feeding and watering people or checking on people's mental health. It is the whole community that comes behind these firefighters, and I commend them all because they are all part of this firefighting family.

Speaking of the COVID-19 crisis and firefighters, we know the obvious, we see the obvious, and we commend all our firefighters around International Firefighters' Day for what they do and, again, take it to the next step, the next level. Around this COVID-19 situation, we know that Health has been the lead agency and it has set up the state control centre. Having been in there and worked my way through the centre—again, without much fanfare, the great work that our emergency services do in that space is very evident to me, to this government, and to the Premier.

In this case we are referring to the CFS, our Country Fire Service, and our Metropolitan Fire Service as well, and what they did as far as logistics are concerned. Again, we talk about firefighting and what we understand and perceive to be firefighting in the general community, but I can tell you that the work that goes on behind it—the incident management teams and the logistics work—is world class here in South Australia. People who operate at those ends of the spectrum when it comes to firefighting do an outstanding job, and the way they stepped up and slotted into the Health incident control centre really needs to be commended as well. They do it with little fanfare, but I know the people in Health are so appreciative in particular of what our emergency services have done; and in this case we are referring to our firefighters. I commend everyone for their outstanding work and efforts.

Along the way, I have been out in the community and I have been very privileged in this job to do this up until the COVID situation, which has made it harder to get out into the communities to see people face to face. Having said that, we have had lots of phone calls and webinars in that period. Before that, in the two years that I have been privileged to be in this role, I visited well over 100 brigades and stations and attended events around the CFS and MFS. Everyone I have met gives so much back to the community. Whether they are in a paid position or a volunteer position, they give back over and above. Again, we should be incredibly proud of what they do and the way they go about their business.

Let us not forget that, every time they go to work, every time they go out to do a job, every time they pull on the uniform and go out to help their community, there is a large element of risk. We acknowledge and very much thank them for taking on this role, for doing this role in our community and accepting this responsibility. I cannot thank them enough and I cannot thank their families enough.

I might conclude on that matter, and that is that the people who do this work—and I touched on it previously—are supported by their families. Often, their call-outs will be late at night, early in the morning, on a weekend or when there is a birthday party or a family event. They selflessly get up and go out and do their job helping their community. So on this occasion, when we recognise wonderful firefighters we have in South Australia, we should also acknowledge their families and again thank them for their great service.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (11:46): I rise to support the motion today. In the final months of 2019, we watched with horror as one of the worst fire seasons in history unfolded across our country. Fires raged across Australia, their sheer scale coming so early in the driest spring on record. It resulted in a tragic loss of life, property and native wildlife and vegetation. Fire and the managing of fire have long been part of the Australian narrative. Each year, on 4 May, we celebrate St Florian's Day to honour the amazing work of the paid and unpaid emergency services workers, whose job it is to protect us.

This year, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge female firefighters for emerging in greater numbers in our CFS and MFS ranks. The MFS launched its first diversity in recruitment campaign in 2018, and has been reaping the rewards ever since, with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and female applicants. Successful recruit numbers are rising significantly. In 2016, about 2 per cent of all paid and volunteer firefighters in South Australia were female; by 2019, this number had almost doubled. There was also a split between male and female applicants at 49 per cent, owing in great part to the greater growth and diversity in what was once considered a male-only role.

Reaching out to underrepresented groups is key to encouraging firefighting as a career for everyone. An increase in women joining our firefighting ranks does not mean lowering standards—physically, mentally, financially—let alone preventing men from joining. Rather, the aim is to broaden the net as wide as possible, as embracing diversity will make our fire services greater and better reflect the country that they bravely serve. Last year, the MFS celebrated not one but two examples of firefighters making history, with fathers and daughters serving together. Graham Lynch welcomed daughter Samantha as a new colleague, as did Phil White and his daughter Carly.

There is also an all-female Indigenous fire crew in Lake Tyers, Victoria, protecting community, family and sacred land. This fire crew is the first of its kind in Australia. Added to the list is 18-year-old Mikaela Ryan, a second-generation firey who, when she and her crew experienced a burnover (when a fire literally burns over the top of a crew), quickly used her training skills to pull together the cruise vehicles to protect them from wind gusts and debris that was blowing over them.

Here in South Australia, I would personally like to express gratitude to our paid and volunteer female firefighters for their contributions to the safety of our community. We have the likes of Hayley Slater, Lou Street, Aimee O'Grady, Claudia Ienco, Amani O'Brien, Tanya Hunt, Rebecca Schultz, Kerrie Scroop-Edwards, Sue Johnson and Tamara Haley, who are from the Salisbury Country Fire Service. They recently bravely battled blazes in the fire season of 2019-20. You can see that bravery is not gendered but is ingrained in our spirit to come together.

Moving forward towards the next fire season, I echo the demands for more support for our fireys, reminding everyone that there is more that we can do to support them. We can make their jobs easier by maintaining our properties, creating fire response action plans and sticking to them. We can donate or volunteer with our local brigades and commit to action when lives are at stake. In the meantime, I leave you with a quote from Vivien Thompson:

...in spite of the swollen eyes, singed hair, coming home from shifts smelly, dirty, exhausted and sometimes heartbroken: 'We are all going to be back out there the next day because this is something we just inherently do, as Australians.'

I support the motion.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:51): Of course I support this motion and anybody who has heard me speak on this topic or similar topics over the last 10 years would know that. I thank the member for Elizabeth for bringing this. He and I have probably talked on this topic more often than anybody else over for the last 10 years since we were elected, and I note how important it is that his motion is actually about firefighters. It is not about MFS or CFS. It is not about professional or volunteer. It is about firefighters and, as other speakers have mentioned, it is about men and women as firefighters.

I would add to that that it is actually about bringing children through the ranks as well. The CFS, particularly, has a very positive cadet program, where children, with the permission of their parents of course, are allowed to participate in a cadet program. They love it, and many of them go on to be fully fledged members of local brigades.

Unfortunately, we have to highlight from time to time the very significant emergencies and natural disasters that firefighters battle on behalf of the community, but I think it is also very important to point out that there are many endless, not so notable jobs that firefighters do for us. In fact, from a CFS perspective, I think approximately 60 per cent of the call-outs for CFS brigades are actually to motor vehicle accidents across the state.

Quite appropriately, quite naturally, we think of firefighters and MFS and CFS being connected directly with fire, which of course they are, but it is not only fire. I know that in my brigade, the Wilmington brigade, we have dealt with a lot of fires. The Woolundunga fire and the Bangor fire have probably been the two biggest, but we have had a couple of others in the Wirrabara Forest and the Bundaleer Forest. We have had many crop fires over time, and even the Pinery fire and the Sampson Flat fire came into the bottom end of Stuart. As a country member, I am not alone in this, but I suspect the electorate of Stuart has had more serious fires in the last 10 years than any other individual electorate, although we have all, of course, had serious ones.

But it is not just about the fires. It is about all sorts of call-outs. I have been to very tragic motor vehicle accidents. I should say, just for accuracy, I used to be a relatively active member of our brigade, and it would be important to point out that at the moment I am a relatively inactive member of our brigade, purely by virtue of the fact that I am not home enough. There is a huge amount of work that is done by firefighters.

We can also think of the sort of stereotypical, old-style, slightly amusing picture of two or three fire trucks in an urban environment somewhere to rescue a cat out of a tree for a little old lady. That is a nice comical image that we would have all grown up with, but it does demonstrate the breadth of very important work that firefighters do on our behalf. They do it in collaboration with other emergency services. They do it in collaboration with the police. They do it in collaboration with the SES, another incredibly important emergency response group, and others.

Another thing I would like to say in regard to my support for this motion is that CFS and MFS firefighting is a team sport. It really is a team sport. If you are a member of a brigade, you are a member of a team—a close member of a close team. If you are in one of those services, you are also a member of a very important and very tight-knit broader team and that should not be forgotten. I mention that for two reasons: firstly, it is necessary for those brigades and those services to be able to operate as well as they possibly can. If you do not have good team members in a good team, you are not going to be a very effective firefighter or other emergency responder.

The other reason I mention this is that being part of a team is another very important thing that these services offer to their members. It is an indirect outcome. It is not why people join, but it is an incredibly valuable outcome. I know so many people who are in both the MFS and CFS whose lives have been changed not purely because of the work they are doing, whether volunteer or professional, but because they are part of a really positive, really proactive, really constructive team. That is a very significant contribution that firefighting services offer to their members, which often can go unnoticed not by the members but by the broader community.

There are about 15,000 firefighters across the state in both services. Many of those people would not have experienced that close bond of working together before joining that service and I suspect that is very important in regard to why people stay with their brigades and stay with those services and keep doing the really good work that they do. There is a very important and positive human strength that comes from being part of a good team and these firefighting services offer that.

As one member mentioned, it used to be overwhelmingly male-dominated. There are now an enormous number of women and girls as cadets in the CFS. It is not to the same extent, but there are certainly women in the MFS as well. The percentage is not as high in the MFS as it is in the CFS and that is for quite understandable reasons, but they are both growing. They are both getting better and they are both very welcoming organisations for men and women who have the capacity and the right approach and want to be among their ranks.

If somebody else was going to pick their dream truck crew, I do not believe I would be in it, but if I were to pick who I would want to go and fight a serious fire with from my Wilmington brigade there would be one or two women in my brigade out of the four people in that truck without a doubt, so I am fully sold on the fact that women can contribute in this area equally, and sometimes better, than their male counterparts.

Both firefighting services are fantastic services. They contribute an enormous amount to our community well beyond just fighting fires. They welcome a wide spread of people to be part of them. I thank the member for Elizabeth for bringing this motion to this house and I wholeheartedly support it on behalf of the people of Stuart.

Mr BOYER (Wright) (11:59): I, too, rise to support this motion to show my support for our paid and volunteer firefighters, noting that 4 May was International Firefighters' Day. I thank the member for Elizabeth and shadow minister for emergency services for bringing this very important motion to the house and for providing us all with an opportunity to give our collective thanks to our firefighters.

International Firefighters' Day is an important day and one that I have now marked with my own very small tradition—a tradition for which I thank the Minister for Emergency Services for quite powerfully highlighting and cementing in place back in 2018. On this day, I visit my two local Metropolitan Fire Service stations—the Salisbury and Golden Grove units. I sit down with the crew members, I thank them for their service and bring along some doughnuts for them to enjoy. I also usually take that opportunity to ask them what more I can do, as a parliamentary representative in their area, to support them.

In addition to the very important and life-threatening tasks they undertake on a regular basis, which members have covered significantly in their contributions this morning, they also perform a very important role of community awareness and education of our young people. My three daughters, who have been through child care and kindergarten and are just starting school out in the north-east, have all been fortunate enough to have, I think, either the Golden Grove or Salisbury MFS attend their school or childcare centre, show them a fire truck and talk to them about the basics of how to protect themselves around fire. I think that is equally important.

I would also like to thank Denny and Angus from European Gourmet—which is a fantastic small business in St Agnes, as I am sure the member for Newland would agree—who provide me with doughnuts to give to the MFS crews every year. We will never forget the summer of bushfires that communities across our state have just endured. From Eyre Peninsula to Yorke Peninsula and Cudlee Creek to the catastrophic Kangaroo Island blaze, not to mention the South-East too, it is fair to say that our whole state was affected by the most recent bushfire season.

There was, of course, loss of life, land and livestock, the effects of which are going to be felt for generations to come. There was also an incredible toll on our Country Fire Service volunteers, the Metropolitan Fire Service and environment department firefighters, as well as small firefighting units. They are the people driving out to those fronts. They are flying waterbombers into what looks like a midnight sky in the middle of the day. It is those men and women who are working in headquarters and regional officers are planning, mapping and working out how we tackle these enormous blazes.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the wonderful volunteers protecting us in the north and north-eastern suburbs in particular. To those volunteers from the Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully units based within the Para group headquartered out of the One Tree Hill station, we say thank you. To those units within the Gumeracha group, the Hermitage, Cudlee Creek, Paracombe and Birdwood units, headquartered out of the Gumeracha station, we say thank you.

Whilst it is important to recognise those who continue to protect us, International Firefighters' Day is also a day to remember those who did not make it home—those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit to keep their families, our families, friends and neighbours safe. There are families in South Australia and across the country forever changed and grieving because they lost a loved one who went to work and did not come home.

Growing up on a family farm surrounded by bushland made me acutely aware of the dangers of bushfires. I was used to the attention given to weather forecasts and the preparations for a quick escape should fire threaten. The checking of water pumps and water supplies and the shifting of stock to safe paddocks was practically a daily occurrence during periods of high fire danger. The importance of firefighters and the role they play in our community, and the commitment they make to keep as safe, is something that I have always valued.

I think it is interesting to note, in these days of significant climate change and catastrophic fire episodes, how fire has penetrated beyond the bush into the city fringe and into the consciousness and physical space of urban dwellers more than it has before. Worryingly, fire is no longer something to be faced in the bush; indeed, it is increasingly present in all our lives.

For that reason, I think I speak on behalf of every South Australian when I express my gratitude to those who put themselves in danger on a regular basis in order to keep us safe. I make this commitment: to do all that I can, as long as I remain a member of this place, to make sure that our firefighters, whether they be paid or volunteers, are as well equipped as possible as they go about providing this essential community service. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (12:04): I am really pleased to have the opportunity to rise today to speak in support of the motion that notes that 4 May is International Firefighters' Day. The motion goes on to express the gratitude of this house to all of our paid and volunteer firefighters in South Australia for their contribution to the safety of our community, and the motion concludes by remembering the sacrifice of those firefighters who have lost their lives in service of their community.

As others have done, I want to reflect on the summer that has just passed, the fires that have ravaged our communities and the extraordinary contribution that our firefighters—our paid firefighters, our volunteer firefighters and those farm firefighting units that have supported so many people through our state—have made to protecting life and to protecting property in our community, in our state and in our nation.

Of course, many firefighters over the years have lost their lives in that pursuit. The fact that our firefighters, whether volunteer or professional, know of the dangers they go into when they are performing their tasks I think only goes to underscore the importance and significance of their contribution. Through the opportunities provided by the house this year I have already spoken a couple of times about the Cudlee Creek fires, which were so traumatic for so many in my community in the seat of Morialta over the summer.

I believe that there is a motion where I will have the opportunity to provide a more fulsome description, but I did want to take the opportunity that this motion provides to reflect briefly on our firefighters. There are people who, on 20 December last year, woke up in the morning, went to work,

whether on their farm or in the city, as our peri-urban area allows them to, and through the course of that day had their lives irrevocably changed.

Everyone in the world at the moment, everyone in our state, has had their lives changed to some extent by COVID-19, but the extent of the Cudlee Creek fires, the most significant fire event in that community really since Ash Wednesday, was certainly for many people in those communities and many young people in our schools the most significant fire event of their lifetime. I do not think we can understate the significance of that. The fact that it has been compounded in the effect that it has had on people by the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be understated.

There is work that we are doing to support those communities now, but the work that was done in the immediate response by our CFS, our emergency services and the farm firefighting units was profound. There are people who to this day, in my community and the communities in the member for Kavel's electorate and the southern end of the member for Newland's electorate and the western end of the member for Hammond's electorate that were impacted by this fire, still have on their front fences and on their letterboxes signs thanking the CFS for what they did to protect their properties. There are people whose properties were thankfully not affected but who nevertheless worked their guts out for 36 hours and then in the weeks following, after they maybe got some sleep, continued to get on the backs of their farm firefighting units to go into harm's way to protect property and life.

One of many significant stories that came out of this was one told to me by a school principal in the Hills, who was reflecting on a 10-year-old child. The CFS volunteers got to the property knowing that the parents were quite concerned that they did not have their child with them and found their 10-year-old child holding a hose, working to protect a shed, firing water at the flames, protecting a shed in the backyard. The CFS were able to take over, and the child was safe and he is back at school.

Those are the sorts of experiences I did not have when I was 10 years old, and I suspect not too many in the chamber did, although I recognise particularly the service of people who have been paid firefighters in their past and indeed those who continue as volunteers in this house. We can only imagine the sorts of memories that will create for a 10 year old. I pay credit to all the young people who fought the fires and who are cadets in our CFS units. Hopefully, the community will continue as they have done so far to rally around those young people to mitigate the effects of the blazes.

The firefighters who put themselves in harm's way protected lives and they protected communities. They deserve our thanks, our credit and our recognition. After a summer like we have just had, I do not think that there is any member in this house who would doubt the importance of this motion today. I commend it to the house.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (12:10): I rise, too, to say a few words on the amazing efforts over the last firefighting season of both volunteers and professional firefighters. As has been said by others, the strong support offered in this place is universal. Clearly, some members have been impacted more than others by the fires on Kangaroo Island, with a loss of life; the fires in the South-East, where over 20,000 hectares were destroyed; the earlier fires on Yorke Peninsula; and of course Cudlee Creek, where there was also a loss of life and an extensive loss of people's homes and outbuildings. Those things can be rebuilt, which is not to say that the impact is not major when you lose everything you have, but it is the loss of life that really sticks out.

When you look at what happened nationally over that period, 33 people died and 10 million hectares of bush and farming properties were destroyed by fire. Over 3,000 homes and many thousands of outbuildings were lost nationally, not to mention the impact on native flora and fauna. Even though the Australian bush bounces back, given the intensity of the fires on this occasion there might well be a loss of species and habitats in areas that might be fundamentally transformed. It was a shocking summer.

In my electorate, there were a number of fires. I remember being in my backyard, which has a view over a long distance. There was a lot of dry lightning. I knew there were going to be fires in the area, and certainly there were beyond the Middleback Ranges in some of the pastoral areas of my electorate. It was once again the people from Cowell, Kimba, Whyalla and Cleve, which is outside my electorate, who worked together with emergency services and councils to contain those fires and

protect property. Fortunately, given the nature of the area, no properties were lost and no lives were lost. Certainly, in comparison with what was happening elsewhere, it was nowhere near on the same horrendous scale.

There are other areas in my electorate that are subject to fire. A few years ago in the member for Stuart's electorate, there were extensive fires in the southern Flinders Ranges, which went on for weeks with a lot of loss and a lot of impact. In my part of the area, the volunteers in places like Quorn and Hawker make a real contribution. We should never forget the fact that these people are volunteers. Clearly, the professional firefighters put their lives at risk and make an enormous contribution but, in regional South Australia and regional Australia, to a large extent we depend upon volunteers to do a lot of that work.

What is deeply concerning is that I know the federal government was warned that we were likely to have incredibly serious bushfires, the intensity of which we had not seen before. It is unfortunate that those warnings were ignored. All of those professional firefighters wanted to meet with the Prime Minister and others and that did not happen.

All the evidence indicates that fire seasons are growing in length and that the intensity and duration of drought is going to increase over time, especially in south-eastern Australia. That is going to have a major impact. It might give us pause to consider how we assist volunteers more fully when it comes to tackling some of these incredibly serious challenges that we have faced not just recently but are going to face in the future.

Our over-reliance on volunteers over what might well become very extensive periods of time needs to be examined. That is not to say that we move away from a volunteer approach, where people have those commitments to their communities and their regions—it is incredibly important and we cannot replace that—but there does need to be far more support than is provided currently.

I will conclude by saying that it is not just praise and support from this house and from other houses that our volunteers and our professional firefighters need; they need tangible support to do their job. One thing I should mention, and it is something that was cut and that I think the government should revisit, is the farm firefighting units. They were very important. In speaking to some of the people on Kangaroo Island who lost some of their outbuildings or some other parts of their property and others who did not lose these, they talked about the importance of farm firefighting units that saved their properties and saved lives.

I would call upon the government to look at what was being done under the previous government when it came to tangible support, and I would argue that that tangible support should be extended beyond what we did as a government, good though that was. It was a very worthwhile program. It is one of those practical things that we can do in terms of assistance to protect lives and properties and it is one way of assisting the volunteers who are doing the incredibly hard work, putting their lives on the line when it comes to fighting fires.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (12:18): I rise to speak in support of the motion brought to this house by the member for Elizabeth and thank him for his motion. International Firefighters' Day is a day the community honours those firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This important day has been commemorated since 4 May 1999, when International Firefighters' Day was first celebrated, and has been used to remember and honour our fallen firefighters since that time.

Internationally, the symbol for the day is a distinctive blue and red ribbon, the colour blue representing water and red representing fire, with the combined colours being recognised around the world as a symbol for the emergency services. This year, although it has not been possible to assemble to commemorate the day in person, people have been able to undertake their own commemorations. A focal point for commemorations in our state and in my electorate of MacKillop in recent years has been enabled by the vision of the South Australian Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum committee.

The vision of this group, along with a lot of hard work fundraising and in negotiations, has enabled a firefighter memorial to be built in Naracoorte, with the first service held in 2016. The memorial commemorates the loss of 15 registered volunteer firefighters from across the state who have died in the carriage of their duties. Each year, South Australian volunteer firefighters invite the

public to share in a memorial service to remember those who have lost their lives. Wreaths are laid at the memorial and a silent remembrance is observed. This year, the memorial service had to be cancelled, but a wreath was laid and flags flown at half-mast to remember those who have lost their lives.

The dedication to ensure the establishment of the memorial at Naracoorte was a long run effort, 18 years in the making. The memorial today is a testament to the fundraising and coordination of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum members. It is a local dedicated member, such as Rex Hall, a South Australian volunteer firefighter stalwart, along with the work of a dedicated team, who has seen the vision come into being. The South Australian Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum committee have continued their dedication to ensuring that our state remembers firefighters who have lost their lives, and are committed to ensuring that the history of our volunteer firefighters is preserved. The objective is to record, conserve and promote the history and equipment of the South Australian volunteer fire service.

I was also pleased to see the long run of efforts of this group come to fruition this year, on the anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fire, when I attended the opening of stage 1 of the museum by the member for Barker, Tony Pasin. Stage 1 of the museum has been made possible through the funding and support of the federal government. The museum, which includes a collection of memorabilia, including photos and many fire trucks, is a significant reminder to the community of the Limestone Coast and our state that the service of our volunteer firefighters is highly valued. I look forward to continuing to work with this group, and I hope to see stage 2 of the museum come to fruition.

The 2019-20 summer was a time that brought so much devastation to our nation, our state and our local communities. It has been a time that has brought the images and stories of our firefighters to the front of mind for our community. It is a time that impacted on so many directly, as well as on a great many others who saw the devastation from across the country—images which streamed for seemingly months on our televisions and social media feeds. I believe that, for many in our community who were not directly impacted, these images have helped to develop an appreciation of the difficult and frightening conditions that our firefighters face in seeking to protect life and property.

This period has seen our firefighters deservedly recognised for their skills, commitment and courage. The recent fire events have given our communities a new and profound appreciation of the work of our firefighters, both paid and volunteer, and exposed us all to the harsh realities and dangers faced by these people. These people have our gratitude. The fires across our state and in my electorate of MacKillop were fought by both paid firefighting professionals and a great many volunteers.

The role of volunteers and paid CFS crews in fighting a range of fires in our region is much appreciated. It helped to avoid substantially higher losses of property and livestock. I thank those who played their role on CFS trucks, those who managed logistics, the people who flew the aerial spotters and water bombers, right through to the farm fire units taking a role in mopping up. It was truly a collaborative effort.

We know from CFS modelling of the Keilira fire that, had the intensive efforts of the firefighting crews on 30 December not been effective, the fire may have travelled much further south; fanned by a howling northerly on that day, it had the potential to threaten the township of Lucindale. While there were significant stock and property losses sustained, significantly more losses were avoided through the work of those firefighters. Thankfully, no lives were lost.

The service of firefighters during the summer in many cases extended well beyond their own localities and saw firefighting crews deployed to other states and other regions. I am aware, just in my region, of crews being deployed to New South Wales to assist with their fires, only to return to be part of the fire response at Keilira and in no time at all being further deployed to assist in fighting the devastating Kangaroo Island fires. These people worked hard, long hours and sacrificed time with their families, friends, work and communities to play a role and use their skills to help quell the devastating fires. These people do their bit, supported by their employers and families, to take a front-line role in the protection of our communities, key assets, livestock and wildlife.

Sadly, this summer saw the loss of life of nine firefighters across Australia. Given the current unprecedented circumstances in which our country finds itself under the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we remember the sacrifices that have been made by these people and their families, for whom grief is still raw.

International Firefighters' Day on 4 May provided an opportunity to pause to reflect on the loss of firefighters and, more broadly, their value to our community. We are grateful for the work of all the paid and volunteer firefighters in South Australia in their contribution to the safety of our community. It is not just recent times that have highlighted the role of firefighters; for some, it is the ultimate price that they have paid for their work.

In his book, *Looking Back: History of CFS, SA Country Fire Service*, member of the firefighters volunteer association of Naracoorte, former CFS member, recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal and current SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum committee member Rex Hall has captured stories of some of the state's significant fires that devastated both lives and property. It is a couple of these local stories that I would briefly reflect on.

It is the very nature of Limestone Coast's natural assets, including its pine forests and native vegetation, that the threat of fire has always loomed as a significant danger. The Wandilo Forest tragedy was one of the worst ever losses of firefighters in our state. It is an event that is still remembered by many to this day. The forest fire occurred on 8 April 1958. A story told by CFS volunteer and historian Ron Telford in Rex Hall's book tells the devastating story about the Wandilo fire. I quote from this book:

The fire started at about 10.45 am in strong north-north westerly winds and it quickly entered pine plantations. Forest and EFS units were dispatched and were soon on the scene, where they entered a plantation break.

A firestorm developed, catching the fire crew and trucks by surprise and in their efforts to escape, two forestry units were bogged in soft sand, another damaged a gearbox and could not move. Two fire fighters escaped by crouching down in a truck cab, one other survived by lying in a wheel rut, but eight others tragically lost their lives.

Those who lost their lives were local men from Nangwarry, Tantanoola, Glencoe and Glencoe West. This history provides another reminder of the ultimate price that can be paid by our firefighters who readily step up to fight fires in dangerous circumstances. Today, a monument and plaque at the forest memorialise those men.

It is a testament to the growth in understanding of fire management, fire safety, our enhanced capacity to fight fires and protective measures for our firefighters that a similar fire more than 40 years later resulted in no lives being lost in the same pine forest at Wandilo in 2000. In that year, fire started in the Wandilo forest. The fire coincidentally involved a burnover in similar weather conditions to that of the 1958 fire, involving three vehicles with crew in a location only about half a kilometre from the 1958 burnover. Thankfully, this fire, despite difficult conditions, resulted in no lives being lost.

The Ash Wednesday fires of 16 February 1983 were also fought in dangerous conditions, with high temperatures, driving northerly winds and low humidity that followed a significant dry period that left our landscape tinder dry. The Ash Wednesday fires left a lasting legacy across our state. On this day in South Australia 28 people died, including three Country Fire Service volunteers. The damage to the community was significant, with 1,500 people injured, 388 homes lost and 200 buildings destroyed.

Fast-forward and our state's firefighters have played a key role in countless fires: the Sherwood fire, the South-East fire, the Bangor fire, the 2007 Kangaroo Island fire and the Sampson Flat and Pinery fires in 2015 to name a few. Unfortunately, with these fires come risks for our firefighters. It is fortunate that we have an enduring and skilled paid and volunteer firefighting force, which continues to build its knowledge in effective firefighting and fire management to assist our state to better plan for future fires.

At this time, the value and appreciation of the work and courage of firefighters has never been clearer, nor has the value of the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives. I commend the motion to the house.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:28): I rise to give my support to the motion moved by the shadow minister for emergency services:

That this house—

- (a) notes that 4 May is International Firefighters' Day;
- (b) expresses its gratitude to all of our paid and volunteer firefighters in South Australia for their contribution to the safety of our community; and
- (c) remembers the sacrifice of those firefighters who have lost their lives in service of their community.

The tireless, selfless work of our firefighters cannot be overstated. The Kangaroo Island bushfires of December and January were fiercer than anyone could have imagined. They brought normal life and business to a standstill for a month. They resulted in loss of life, they destroyed homes and businesses, they devastated wildlife and stock and they wiped out our iconic Australian tourist resort.

Fires also caused devastation to the Adelaide Hills, from Cudlee Creek to Lenswood, Lobethal, Woodside and as far as Mount Torrens, and all the time on the ground were our firefighters. The stories told of the eight Kangaroo Island bushfires that just kept gaining strength when they appeared to be under control and joining together at different points to become superbushfires are really terrifying.

We heard about the walls of flame, the unparalleled speed of these fires, heat that wiped out wild and domestic animals where they stood, and the frightening roar heard across the island. All the while firefighters, both volunteer and professional, were out there standing and defending for the people of those areas, for the people of South Australia and, in fact, right across Australia.

It was a heartwarming experience to visit Kangaroo Island and see all the signs that were made, particularly by local schoolchildren, saying thank you to our firefighters. They were right across the island—out the front of schools and businesses—and there were many of them. I know the people of Kelly Road, Cudlee Creek, certainly felt the need to express their gratitude, which was really beautifully demonstrated to anyone who was driving through after the fires were brought under control. They put a notice next to the road sign that said 'Thank you CFS. All our Kelly Road homes saved. Bloody legends.' That is what our firefighters are to people, particularly those having experienced those fires this past summer.

It is also really important to recognise that while the fires are occurring, while the flames are burning, there are families who are so worried about their firefighter family members who are out there in danger. The partners of firefighters, and their children, parents, brothers, sisters and friends, know that they are being confronted with the very real dangers of what can very often be a life and death situation.

Also, when the fires are finally out I know that a lot of these people, a lot of the emergency service workers and their families, have to live with the memories and the impact of those. So today I would also like to recognise that, while the flames are out, some of the consequences of those experiences live on. A tribute today to our firefighters, both professional and voluntary, is very worthwhile and I thank the member for putting it forward.

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (12:32): I would like to rise and speak on this motion. It is an important motion and it is important that we recognise our firefighters both locally, here in South Australia, and those who have come from far away, other states, other brigades who have come to help and to lighten the burden of what has been an horrific fire season. By and large, it has impacted on the majority of the regions around South Australia.

It would be hard to say where it all started, but last year it started earlier than usual, and we saw a number of fires—the Yorketown fires that impacted on that community and those farmers and the well-documented fires in Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. They were unprecedented. The fire continued to burn with the unprecedented wind shifts that were unfavourable to our firefighters, who rose above to give us protection as best they could. Sadly, there was significant impact and damage, and some people's lives changed forever. The fires down at Keilira in the South-East also had a major impact, as did other fires on Eyre Peninsula.

I was privileged to visit all those firegrounds and show a level of support to those families and the communities who had been impacted. But I must say that the majority of the impacted farms

and scrub, forests and parks that were severely burnt and impacted will take a considerable amount of time not only to regrow but to be rebuilt and managed once again.

We know that we have to learn from every fire, as do our firefighters. Our firefighters are passionate once they get out there. Not only are they protecting their community but they are out there risking their lives to protect our communities and our homes. There are none more documented than the unprecedented Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek fires.

That does not detract from any of the other fires that severely impacted other areas, but I do want to touch on some of the opportunities where I was able to offer support and give hope to some of those communities. Some of them were severely impacted and burnt, and they thought there would be no coming back. Some were insured, some were not insured, but the firefighters did not draw a line in the sand as to who they protected and who they did not. They went out there to do the best job they could in an unprecedented time.

I was able to be part of the Hahndorf meeting to address impacted businesses as part of the Cudlee Creek response, particularly the businesses, the vineyards and the cellar doors that were very heavily impacted up there. It was an outstanding community coming together and industry coming together. We listened to some of the experiences others had gone through with similar fires, and the Sampson Flat fires comes to mind. The stories they told really left an impression on those who had been freshly burnt that there was hope, that there were ways to better manage and ways to rebuild.

But, more importantly, sharing the stories gave people a target. They went home but did not say that their vineyard was destroyed; they went home, cut the vines down low to allow them to reshoot and regrow, and the vines need to be re-trellised. It gave them an opportunity to say that not all is lost. It was a very successful meeting, not only for giving people the information they needed but they also walked away with a level of confidence that they could rebuild their businesses, their vineyards and their cellar doors and start again.

These meetings were set up with PIRSA and animal organisations, and there was another very good community meeting at Woodside. It gave people a better understanding of how to look after their livestock, stocking rates and a very clear undertaking that they have to feed these animals, and whether they are sheep, cattle or domesticated pets, it all comes at a cost. We know that some of the feedstocks were at low levels, but it gave people an understanding. Firefighters attending the meeting also told very graphic stories of what they had had to undertake with PIRSA animal health officers in putting animals down that had been too badly impacted.

That is another part of what the firefighters and our emergency service dedicated teams had to do: not just fight the fires. They had to put their arms around people who had lost everything, they had to give advice and they had to help with the euthanasing of animals. It showed the importance of what the firefighters and those emergency service workers did. While we were at Woodside we were joined by Twiggy Forrest, a very wealthy Australian who is the chair of the Minderoo philanthropic arm of his organisation.

He has put \$70 million into a fire fund dealing with the rehabilitation of animals and making sure that we can show a level of care and consideration for animal welfare. He is a great Australian and he is working for the benefit of Australia to show the world that we have good animal welfare structures in place. He has a large amount of money to help with that—I must say it helped particularly with wildlife but, more importantly, it was about the amount of decimation to the koala population in South Australia—and I think that needs to be commended.

I would also like to pay tribute to the farmers and their communities for their firefighting efforts off the back of their utes, or coordinating with the firefighters, and the outstanding work they did in filling in gaps that our firefighters were not able to. Farmers were trying to protect their farms and look after their neighbours or their community farms. It was an outstanding commitment they gave, and they, too, risked life and limb to protect their farms, their communities, their neighbours and their friends. I pay tribute to them.

I will touch on the outstanding work done after the clean-up—the rebuilding and the fences that had to be replaced. BlazeAid, a volunteer organisation that came into the fray, have been here

in South Australia. Nationally, they have been rebuilding fences, talking to those communities and being a part of a community. They have come in and not only are they rebuilding but they are showing a significant amount of commitment to being a part of that community while they are there, to be interacting with barbeques and those community events that happened directly after the fires.

I would like to touch on some of the firefighting efforts, particularly in the electorate of Chaffey, and I applaud their courageous efforts as well. I thank all firefighters, past and present, as well as the emergency services. We know that all those fires were attended by a number of Riverland brigades to lend a hand. The many brigades in the electorate of Chaffey in South Australia meant that the Riverland local firefighters were also part of that firefighting effort right across country. I know that a number of them not only travelled South Australia but also moved their way interstate.

For the many fires that they continued to fight to protect those communities, there are a number of worthy mentions, some having done an outstanding job over a long period of time: David Shaw has given 15 years of service to the MFS; Steve Lynch (old Lynchy) has done 15 years of service to the MFS; Kevin and Alan Eckermann, collectively (this is an outstanding story) 100 years of service between the two brothers for the state's firefighting agencies, an outstanding effort; Michael Biele, 10 years of service; Nick Uren, 10 years of service; Monica Hawker, also 10 years of service; Cameron McNaughton, awarded the retained senior firefighter in 2020; Brian Gates, promoted to a senior firefighter this year; the Renmark MFS, first place in the 2019 operations command regional audit; and, the Berri MFS, placed second in the 2019 operations command regional audit. These are all outstanding organisations, backed up with volunteers.

Time expired.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:42): I look forward to speaking in support of this motion, and I also commend members on both sides of the chamber for their comments on this matter. I will not seek to repeat some of the great stories we have heard this morning about our firefighters and other emergency service workers. I would like to emphasise something perhaps a little bit different: 4 May is one of the most important days on the calendar for our emergency services as it marks the feast day of St Florian, the patron saint of firefighters and other emergency services workers.

In Gawler, on Monday 4 May an informal, impromptu ceremony was held in the morning in Pioneer Park to mark St Florian's Day. Representatives from the Concordia Country Fire Service brigade, represented by Brigade Captain Robert Borgo, senior firefighter Matthew Williamson from the Gawler Metropolitan Fire Service, John Lawrence from the State Emergency Services and South Australia Police inspector Shane Addison laid a wreath, along with me, to mark and honour the lives of those emergency service workers given in the course of their duty. The wreath also represented those people who have lost their lives during fire and other disasters.

It is very important to remember that lives are lost across a whole range of disasters in our community, and only yesterday another life, unfortunately, was lost due to a house fire in Adelaide. The Gawler RSL allowed the service to take place at the memorial, and they were represented by their Vice President, Mr Pat Adams. The service was only a very simple one to mark the occasion, because the COVID-19 health restrictions prevented any broad community-based event from taking place. The ceremony is both a thanksgiving and memorial event, held to thank those emergency services workers who help keep our community safe and a memorial to those who lost their lives in natural disasters such as fires and floods.

While it was initially a day of commemoration for firefighters, in more recent times it has included other emergency services workers. As we have seen over the last few decades, they work very closely together during times of crisis. Each emergency service might play a different role but all are critical to maintaining community safety.

St Florian's feast day is also celebrated as International Firefighters' Day, which was instituted in 1999 following the deaths of five firefighters in a wildfire in Linton, Victoria. While the commemoration services have been held at the national level for some years, no local ceremonies have taken place. This year was to mark the first community-based ceremony but unfortunately, as I said, the health crisis prevented that. However, a simple and respectful ceremony did take place at 7am on Monday 4 May in Pioneer Park. Plans for a community-based event had commenced earlier in the year but had to be shelved as the enormity of the coronavirus became evident.

I look forward, as do other community leaders, to soon working with all local emergency services to start planning for a much bigger community-based event in 2021. I believe that with a bit more time and the capacity of volunteers to participate with career workers in the emergency services—and I think we should also include other emergency services workers—we will have a very respectful event next year. I will put out this call: that services that wish to be involved in the planning and participation of the 2021 ceremony in my community are invited to contact my electoral office and we will work alongside them.

St Florian was born around 250 CE in present-day Austria and was responsible for the organisation and training of elite soldiers for the sole purpose of fighting fires. Florian himself rose through the military ranks to become commander of the imperial army in Noricum. He became a martyr after refusing to participate in the persecution and sacrifice of Christians under his authority, resulting in his execution at the hands of the Romans.

St Florian's feast day is also celebrated as International Firefighters' Day, which is the subject matter of this motion. I thank my colleague, the member for Elizabeth, for bringing this to parliament today. As I mentioned, International Firefighters' Day was instituted in 1999 following the deaths of firefighters in Victoria.

St Florian's death is particularly resonant with those in our firefighting community, as he stood by and ultimately lost his life for the same humane beliefs and values that are shared by firefighters today. The day is marked by the adornment of red and blue ribbons, symbolising the elements of fire and water, which firefighters and other emergency services workers work with.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made to our emergency services workers by their respective support organisations. I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Country Fire Service Volunteer Association, the State Emergency Service Volunteers Association, the United Fire Fighters Union, the Public Service Association and the Police Association for the support those associations provide to their volunteers and career workers. On behalf of my community, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our firefighters and other emergency services workers for their efforts in protecting us, our town, state and country from extreme weather and other disasters.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:49): I take the chance to rise very briefly and not to repeat the very important contributions that have been made by a number of members to this worthy motion but to further emphasise the importance of the motion in recognising, as it does, 4 May as International Firefighters' Day.

I want to draw particular attention to, recognise and thank the work of the CFS Chief Officer, Mark Jones, who perhaps in many ways might best personify the spirit of this day in the past season we have just seen. Let's not forget that Chief Officer Jones took up his role in October last year. It was to be a season that we have not seen for many decades in terms of the magnitude of fires, not just in our state but nationally. He took on the role at a time when 1,300 volunteer firefighters went to Queensland and New South Wales before our season had even started, and then he had the task to oversee the effort of both paid and volunteer firefighters responding to the worst fire season that we have experienced in decades.

As he acknowledged in his open letter to the community on 30 April, just a few days ago, we lost too many homes—179 homes lost—and we lost three lives in the course of all of that devastation. It was in the Adelaide Hills and it was devastating on Kangaroo Island, but let's not forget, it was also in the South-East of the state at Keilira, on Yorke Peninsula, as well as the emergency that affected Port Lincoln, so we have had a very difficult season this year and, in the course of the global pandemic that we are currently struggling with, we have moved from one devastating set of natural circumstances to another.

In addressing that period of time, perhaps one way to bring it home locally is that very early on in his tenure, Chief Officer Mark Jones attended and presided over celebrations of the Macclesfield Brigade's 80th anniversary at Macclesfield. That happened in early December, I think it was 8 December, at a time when we were recognising the very large number of members of that brigade who had already gone to volunteer interstate and, as we reflected on it, the way that brigade responded from 20 December onwards and then around the state. I want to draw particular attention to the important leadership of Chief Officer Mark Jones and all of his colleagues in leading the way

for a truly extraordinary, both volunteer and paid firefighting effort over the course of this last fire season.

Mr DULUK (Waite) (12:52): I would also like to say a few words regarding the motion before us, and I thank the member for Elizabeth for moving this most important motion. As so many members have touched on today and this morning, the 2019-20 fire season was devastating for South Australia. So many of our firefighters, paid and volunteered, put their lives on the line to serve our community, as they do every single day, year in, year out. In my own community, I put on the record my thanks to the Sturt CFS group led by the captain of the group, Dale Thompson, and the brigades that make up that group: Blackwood, Eden Hills, Belair, Coromandel Valley, Cherry Gardens and Upper Sturt, which is a brigade that the member for Heysen and I share as a common boundary.

Importantly, COVID-19 has changed so much in the world today. For the Blackwood CFS it certainly curtailed their celebration of 70 years of the brigade. I know that members of the brigade, led by Captain Jamie Emswiler, were really looking forward to celebrating 70 years of that wonderful brigade in the community, and to thank their members past and present for the work they have done and continue to do on behalf of our community. To the Blackwood CFS, apologies that we have not been able to officially celebrate the 70th birthday of the brigade but I thank all those members who serve in that unit.

Also, more broadly, I thank everyone who continues to look after us, particularly those who in historic times lost their lives in the line of duty and, importantly, those paid and volunteer members who sustained a workplace injury as a result of their firefighting efforts. We must always look after those emergency service personnel who look after our community so wonderfully well.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (12:54): I rise, too, to place on the record my thanks to the wonderful men and women of our firefighting units right around South Australia, whether they be in the MFS, the CFS or those very important farm firefighters, who do such a wonderful job in all parts of our state in getting onto fires early, getting out into terrain that sometimes the big vehicles cannot get to and really playing a major role.

As people have mentioned already, we had a catastrophic fire season during the last summer. There were so many fires right throughout the state, including the devastating ones on Kangaroo Island, where two farm firefighters, Dick and Clayton Lang, lost their lives on that terrible night when half the island was on fire and the other half of the island had been pretty much evacuated. When you are talking about an island of 4½ thousand square kilometres, those firefighters did an amazing job, both those based on the island, who live there, and those who came from as far away as Arkaroola and Roxby Downs.

I was out there at the base camp and talked to people from all around South Australia, including over at Tumby Bay and Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula and down in the South-East. They are people who have gone through their own difficulties over the years fighting fires in their own backyards. They got on their trucks, got on the ferry and came across to Kangaroo Island and really played a major role in helping put out those fires, which took weeks and weeks to put out. They were incredibly persistent fires. The wind changes kept flaring them up, putting people's lives and properties in danger week after week after week.

To all those people who came to fight the fires, thank you, and thanks to all the people who played support roles as well. It was incredible to see people pretty much close up their businesses, and get in and play roles as logistics officers. They are really important people, people who are locals, who know the lie of the land and know where to find a house for people to stay in. I want to mention Mary-Lou Corcoran, the General Manager of the Aurora Ozone Hotel in Kingscote, and also Shauna Black from KI Plantation Timbers.

These are people who put on the bibs that said 'liaison officer' or 'logistics officer' and played really important support roles to find beds and accommodation for these people. Thanks to the schoolteachers who went out in the middle of the night and opened up school halls so that sleeping bags and mattresses could be laid out so that the volunteers had somewhere to stay. It was so important that the firefighters had that level of support. I feel sorry for our volunteers at the moment because these people come together every week or every second week for their training and the

camaraderie that that brings all year round, not just when there is a fire on. They are missing this because they cannot gather in large groups at the moment.

I had an unfortunate experience on 4 May, International Firefighters' Day. I was at the Aldinga CFS fire station. Normally it is a good thing to be there, but I was there because someone had broken in and stolen \$10,000 worth of equipment from them. That is a really low act, a despicable act, hitting people who do so much for our community. Not only did they upset the volunteers, who give so much, but they also put people's lives in danger. They stole equipment that needed to go out on trucks to motor vehicle accidents and the like.

While we are talking about Aldinga CFS, I would like to pay my respects to Kevin Hutton, a long-term Aldinga CFS volunteer firefighter who did so much for the Aldinga community. He lost his life just two weeks ago, a very sad occasion for the Aldinga community. My condolences to his wife and family. Kevin did such a great job.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:59): I want to thank all members. I apologise to the member for Mawson, who I am sure has a lot more to say. I am sure we will find many more opportunities to say those things. I do have some observations to make, but I want to wrap it up now so that we can vote on this today, so that all firefighters can have no doubt that we are as one in this house in our thanks and gratitude for the work they do. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Child Protection (Hon. R. Sanderson)—

Snapshot of South Australian Aboriginal Children and Young People in Care and/or Detention from the Report on Government Services 2020

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:02): I bring up the fifth report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Question Time

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:02): My question is to the Premier. Why hasn't the government provided additional substitute bus services to alleviate the overcrowding on both the Outer Harbor and Gawler train lines?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:03): To lay out this issue for the house as it has unfolded, what we saw back in 2016 and 2017 was a contract to refit our existing 70 diesel train units to extend their life—essentially, an end-of-life refurbishment to extend their life well into the future. That contract was awarded, those works were done and they were completed last year.

What happened last Wednesday at about 1am on a train returning on the Gawler line was that we had a train come to a stop and taken back to the depot for investigation. During that investigation, it was found that a turbo part, which is part of the drive train (please don't ask me for more detail; that is as technical as I understand it), had failed.

Over the course of those investigations on Wednesday afternoon and into Thursday morning, the decision was taken on Thursday afternoon that, of our 70 DMUs, 50 would be taken offline

pending inspection and/or replacement of that turbo part. That meant that for the Thursday afternoon service into this week, we've been running what is ostensibly a modified Saturday timetable, where we have put substitute buses onto the Grange line but run a half-hour service for the Belair, Outer Harbor and Gawler lines. For the sake of members in the southern suburbs, the electrified Seaford line trains are not affected and so that service is running as per normal.

On Friday after a meeting of the various people involved, the maintenance contractors, a plan was put in place to replace the turbo units on those 50 trains, and in fact now what we will see is a replacement of that turbo unit across the entire diesel fleet. Over time, essentially what has happened is that that turbo unit has failed well before when the advice was that those units would fail, and for the sake of safety and reliability those units have been taken offline.

From Monday, we were able to put eight trains extra back into service, giving us 28 trains to be able to operate, and then that is the way that we have operated now over the course of this week, again on a sort of extended Saturday timetable. This morning we had officials from the Chief Public Health Officer's office ride with departmental staff on some of the peak services, and it is very clear that the Gawler line is the line that is taking most of the pressure at the moment.

As a result of that and a briefing I received about 15 minutes ago, the public health advice has not been for the transport department to do anything different from what it is doing. The observation from this morning is that—and it is what we see happen on train services—there is quite a density of passengers towards the front of the train, because when you get to the Adelaide Railway Station if you get off at the front of the train you have less to walk to get out of the train station, and less density on the back of the train.

As of tomorrow morning, we will see an extra two units being put back into service on the Gawler line, especially during those morning and afternoon peaks, and we will do as we have consistently done over the course of this pandemic; that is, if the advice from the public health officials changes, then we will follow that advice.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. When will the upgrade be completed to those diesel trains and all units fully operational?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:07): I thank the opposition leader for his question. It is an extremely pertinent one and one that we are getting a handle on ourselves. As I understand it, there are actually three parts that need to be replaced: there is the turbo unit itself, there is the fitting kit and then there is the gasket. The sourcing of those gasket parts is not standard. The turbo is quite a standard unit. Some of those turbo units come with the fitting kit and some do not, so we are sourcing those, but the gasket part is one that needs to be fabricated.

We have obviously some in stock but not enough to replace the entire fleet, and so that is being worked through at the moment. The latest advice I have is that by the end of the week we will have all the parts necessary, and then from there we will see trains coming back into service on a progressive basis over the course of the next few weeks. However, I would expect at this stage to see by Monday more services come on in the morning and afternoon peaks on those remaining train lines: Belair, Outer Harbor and Gawler.

We've also got a situation at the moment where train patronage is down to about 20 per cent to 25 per cent of its normal levels. We have seen bus patronage recover, especially with the advent of school going back, to about 45 per cent to 50 per cent of normal usage, with trams somewhere in between. But we are also working with public health officials in South Australia and also talking to public transport colleagues around the nation because the issue of social distancing on public transport is one that has become an immediate issue for us at the moment dealing with essentially what is 60 per cent of our train fleet being offline, but it is one that we are going to have to grapple with as we move forward and as the patronage levels come back to normal.

Again, we are working with Dr Spurrier and her office on that, and as always we will take their advice, but this is an issue that public transport systems around the country are dealing with

and one that we will be responding to, as we have done in relation to all aspects of dealing with this pandemic, and ensuring that people can go about their daily lives as safely as possible. As more information comes to hand, I am more than happy to update this house or update the public as that is appropriate.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:09): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee there will be no repeat of overcrowded trains and that passengers will be able to practise social distancing on future services?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:09): Again, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and repeat the fact that everything we have done as a government is based on the advice from public health officials. In fact, I think the strength of the response here in South Australia in reacting to this pandemic, instead of underreacting or overreacting, is to actually have listened wholeheartedly and completely to that public health advice.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: I think that has been in large part why we as a jurisdiction have been able to balance the health crisis and the economic impacts as well as we have, as seen in the low case numbers that we have had here in South Australia. In fact, I remark that the restrictions we have in South Australia are perhaps the most lenient in the country, yet we have also seen perhaps the longest stretches, apart from ACT, in terms of there being zero cases recorded.

Again, I think Dr Spurrier and her team have given the right advice to government. It has led to the result that we have now. These people are experts. They are providing live advice. As I said, they actually took the time this morning to experience themselves what it is like on the train services so that they could see firsthand what is happening on our trains. Again, we are in constant communication with them, as we have been for the entire time of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:11): My question is to the Minister for Planning. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is boosting the economy through targeted stimulus measures such as doubling the Planning and Development Fund?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:11): I thank the member for Morphett for his question. I note that the project in his electorate down at Wigley Reserve is actually already underway, which is pretty fantastic considering the council only got notification I think on Saturday afternoon that the project is going ahead. I think that is a fantastic result. We were the first jurisdiction in the nation to put together our first stimulus package, \$350 million to help provide stimulus into our economy as soon as possible.

As part of that, we wanted to partner with local government, knowing their ability to partner with us in terms of providing a funding contribution but also spreading out jobs and stimulus opportunities right across South Australia. A \$50 million bucket was put on the table, half from us and half from councils. The great news is that on the weekend it was announced that there were 37 successful projects. Better than just delivering \$50 million worth of stimulus into our community, it is actually \$65½ million that we are going to be able to deliver into the community, a fantastic result. I must pay big tribute to councils right across South Australia that have been willing to work with us to provide stimulus into our economy just when it needs it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is called to order, as is the member for Morphett.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: This year, together with the Minister for Environment and Water, we actually changed the criteria for the Planning and Development Fund. We wanted to focus more on projects that would help to improve livability but also tree canopy cover and public open spaces. We know that as our city evolves and develops our public spaces become more and more precious, so putting money back into planting things is an extremely important part of what we sought to do.

Again, councils responded, and the projects that we have been able to deliver have delivered on just that. Not only will it help to support green canopy cover, as well as the beautification of public spaces, but it will also help to drive tourism and regional development. As I said, there are 37 successful projects across 27 different council areas: 24 in Adelaide and 13 around South Australia. Four of the projects, I am sure the member for West Torrens is interested to know, will start within the next four weeks.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Four?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: There is the Adelaide city council's Whitmore Square upgrade project.

The SPEAKER: Order! Do not provoke the member for West Torrens.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: In the member's own electorate, in the City of West Torrens, is the Admella place park upgrade. There is \$170,000 from the state government from the P&D Fund. It will be started in the next four weeks in the member for West Torrens' electorate. In the member for Ramsay's electorate—

The Hon. C.L. Wingard interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Admella place.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: I will show you the map afterwards. We have the native forest Little Para catchment, which I was talking about yesterday with the member for Ramsay. It is a great, beautiful space, a linear park that needs care and attention and is getting it as part of this year's upgrades.

We are also seeing in the next two months in the District Council of Tumby Bay—I spoke to Mayor Sam Telfer yesterday; maybe the member for Light should try doing the same. He tells me that the interpretative mangrove boardwalk upgrade is starting as soon as possible. In the member for Narungga's electorate, the pines foreshore reserve also has a project commencing—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Where is he? Why isn't he here?

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens knows that is out of order.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —within the next month. It also gave me great pleasure—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —to continue the legacy that the former member in another place, Diana Laidlaw—

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

The SPEAKER: Minister for Education!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —put in place over 20 years ago and that is the next stage of finishing the coast path—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —along our metropolitan coastline. In the member for Reynell's electorate, the Witton Bluff Base Trail is a fantastic project and one that is going to bring us one step closer to having a completed coast path, delivering jobs into South Australia right when they are needed most.

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is warned and the Minister for Education is called to order. Leader.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier release the public health advice stating that social distancing is no longer necessary on our trains?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:16): Mr Speaker, that question is out of order under standing order 97 because it contains fact and/or argument.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: It was somewhat accusatory, but I am going to allow it today. Minister, I will give you an opportunity to answer it.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Sir, I will heed your advice. We have followed and complied with the public health advice all the way along this process. It is what has guided us. It has been our North Star and it has worked. Again, I should reiterate—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister, please be seated for one moment. If I upheld that point of order and prevented the question, I also would have prevented the minister an opportunity to refute the allegation that was perhaps in the question. I have allowed the question, I am allowing the answer and I just ask for a bit of understanding that I could have ruled it out of order; I didn't and I would like to hear the minister's answer.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: There is a range of factors that do weigh on the minds of public health officials when providing advice. It is a bit along the same lines that the Premier yesterday gave in his answer about the difference between sitting in a pub for a couple of hours and going to Bunnings. Again, there are nuances around that public health advice. It is also—

Mr Picton: An hour's trip from Gawler?

The SPEAKER: Member for Kaurna!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Playford is on the board.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Kaurna and Deputy Premier! Yes, I can hear him.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: There are a number of factors that weigh upon public health officials' advice. I wouldn't purport to understand all of them. It is up to us to listen to the experts. It is something that has stood South Australia in good stead so far and is something that we will continue to do.

COUNTRY HOSPITALS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. Have works started on fire safety upgrades at health and aged-care facilities at Eudunda, Loxton and Kapunda hospitals, as promised under the Premier's swift and decisive \$350 million stimulus package, announced on 11 May this year?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:18): I don't have that information. What I do know is that we did promise \$350 million worth of stimulus in our first package for stimulus related to COVID-19. An additional \$15 million was allocated to bring forward projects that were already in the forward estimates for important upgrades to country hospitals in South Australia. My

understanding is that the vast majority of those will go out to tender in the coming weeks. A lot of work is being done on the design work and then, of course, we will try to get as much work done as quickly as possible.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I do know for a fact that electrical distribution network upgrades are very high on the priority list, because that is very important work that needs to be done as soon as possible. They will be completed by the end of this year. I know that there are upgrades planned for the Waikerie hospital, Bordertown hospital, Clare, Peterborough and Coober Pedy. I know that there is also some work planned for the Gawler hospital with regard to backup power. In fact, the contract has already been awarded for the \$800,000 upgrade of the Gawler hospital's backup power capability—upgrade for a new generator and switchboard.

So there's a huge amount of work being done. This is \$15 million worth of work. It is work that we need to have done to improve the amenity and the safety at our country hospitals in South Australia. We are very pleased that this is a component of our \$350 million stimulus and support package here in South Australia.

COUNTRY HOSPITALS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Premier. Has any of the \$15 million referred to in the Premier's previous answer actually been spent?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:20): Just in answer to the previous question, I have received some advice that with regard to—was it Eudunda Hospital that you were referring to in your previous question?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: There is work being done. We believe that this won't be completed immediately, but there is a plan to upgrade fire services and compliance to the tune of about \$350,000 at Eudunda Hospital. We believe that this will begin later this year and is due to be completed—

Mr Picton: Later this year?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Picton interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Kaurna is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —in February 2021.

The Hon. V.A. Chapman: You did nothing for 16 years.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Premier!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It is due to be completed in February 2021, and this is significantly brought forward from when it was planned previously.

The Hon. T.J. Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development is called to order. I'm sorry, leader, I'm moving to the member for King; I will come back to you.

CORONAVIRUS, SCHOOLS

Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:21): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on the progress of schooling in South Australia in term 2.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:21): I am very pleased—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Specifically, Modbury TAFE.

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee is warned.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —to have the opportunity to answer this outstanding question from the member for King, who was talking to me about some of the things that she would like to see in her local schools only this morning, as she does most days. Can I say that I would rather be in South Australia than any other place in the world at any time but never more so than right now, and I think that parents, educators and students across South Australia are probably feeling that today as well.

We have in South Australia the benefit of some outstanding teachers, some outstanding leaders and some outstanding educational support staff whose value to our community has always been important but, again, potentially never more appreciated than they have been over the last couple of months. Particularly, those parents who have had the joy of participating in some home education potentially have an even better understanding of the value of the work that is done in our schools than they may have even had before.

They were able to professionally transition for what might have been seen as a necessary remote or online learning platform at the end of term 1, when 34 per cent of our students were at school, and prepare for the opportunity to do that if necessary in term 2. Then, as the public health advice became even more strongly and confidently reassured by our public health officers that schools were safe, the decision of the government to keep them open was wise and, indeed, parents could be encouraged to send their children back to school in term 2. That is a way that teachers, and indeed all those school staff, have shown themselves at the fore of their professionalism and the importance of the work they do.

I make note of the fact that this Saturday, 16 May, is Education Support Personnel Day. So for all the people who work in our schools—the business support officers, the SSOs, the groundsmen, the people who work in a whole wide range of activities that enable the important work of our schools to continue—we pay particular tribute to them this Saturday, and I encourage all members to engage with their schools in doing that.

Throughout this, as we have done in every other aspect of government, we have focused on the health advice. Professor Spurrier and her team have been consistent that schools are a low-risk environment. We have protocols in place for when school closures may be necessary, but otherwise they are a low-risk environment where students and staff should feel safe, particularly given the cleaning and hygiene upgrades and enhancements that we put in place. We have been consistent in that. Not everyone has, but I am really pleased to see that the opposition and other advocates around the public debate have also now come on board and are encouraging kids back to school.

Parents in South Australia, families and educators can be proud that as of yesterday we are now above 90 per cent attendance in our South Australian schools. In fact, yesterday, we tipped over 90.1 per cent, 3.2 per cent of students learning at home and 6.7 per cent absent. In terms of absenteeism, 6.7 per cent is actually significantly lower than usual. We believe there have been some health benefits from people practising good hygiene and social distancing.

Educators, parents and schools on the eastern seaboard, I think, look at us with a significant amount of envy. I acknowledge the great work that is being done in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, which have had, consistent with us, the same sort of advice. Western Australia is over 80 per cent, as I understand. I look forward to them reaching the 90 per cent goal that South Australia has set. Over the coming months, I am sure the Eastern States will catch up.

This is so important for our students' education, our students' welfare and our students' social development, being able to be in school where they can be in discussions with their teachers, their colleagues and take advantage of the facilities that are in our school environments. The students that the Premier and I spoke to at Parafield Gardens High School this morning certainly reinforced that. I am very confident—

Mr Brown interjecting:

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

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —that we will see in the months and indeed years ahead the benefits of the strong decisions this government has taken. I welcome the opposition's return to taking the scientific advice, as they have done in the last couple of weeks.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

COUNTRY HOSPITALS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My question is to the Premier. Has any one person actually got a job from the \$15 million stimulus to the country hospital package?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:26): I don't have the details of that. What I do know is that we had a program that was very clear to upgrade our—

Ms Stinson interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —country hospitals over the next 10 years. We put \$140 million on the table and I would have thought that the opposition would have been very excited about bringing forward the important—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett is warned. He has been doing it all day.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I would have thought that those opposite would have been quite excited about the upgrade of country hospitals in South Australia—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Go on, throw the dummy, sit down.

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know that many people in country SA have been very excited about the bringing forward of these projects, but we do need to always be mindful to look after the taxpayer's pocket, and so I think it is only reasonable that we make sure that we get a good deal. Some of the upgrades weren't planned for some time, and we want to make sure we do these in accordance with the latest building code and all the other electrical requirements that are out there. We are going to do it in a very considered way and make sure that we spend as much of that money as possible as soon as possible.

But \$15 million worth of additional spending will be put into the next financial year so that we can make sure we upgrade those hospitals. Where possible, with our \$350 million stimulus and support package we have created immediate jobs in South Australia. In our broader package of \$1 billion supporting the people of South Australia, we know that a huge amount of money—tens of millions of dollars—has already gone out to businesses that are doing it tough during this COVID pandemic.

We are very pleased to be supporting those businesses. We know that they are doing it hard. It is going to be a big burden on the taxpayers here in South Australia. I have already made it clear that this is going to be a particularly difficult budget for us, not only because we are increasing our support for businesses and individuals in South Australia but also because of falling revenue that is coming into South Australia, most particularly from GST revenue from the commonwealth.

It is going to be a tough period, but this is the period when we need to stand up and support those businesses and individuals in our state. Part of it is about spending money to create jobs. We are getting on with that work where it is important to do so. I know, for example, that the Minister for Human Services has put \$10 million immediately into upgrading public housing in South Australia. I know that all those contracts have already been—

Mr Brown: How much of that has been spent?

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A.

The honourable member for Playford having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know that all that money has already been allocated and work is already underway. In fact, I think \$6 million of the \$10 million will be spent this financial year. I commend the Minister for Human Services for the work that she is doing in that regard. It is important to upgrade our public housing and \$10 million has been put in place. It was quite easy to continue to roll out these programs because arrangements had already been made with contractors who were already doing maintenance work.

It was similar work across other properties in South Australia and easy to get in place as quickly as possible. It is not as easy to go back and look at programs of upgrades in country hospitals that might not have been scheduled for three, four, five, six or seven years and bring them forward and have all that design work, but I absolutely assure this house that we are moving as quickly as we can to upgrade those country hospitals and simultaneously—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —supply more jobs for our state.

The SPEAKER: We have the question. The member for Kurna, who is warned, has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Would the leader and the Deputy Premier like to do this outside at the bar? No? Okay.

SA PATHOLOGY

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:30): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier ever had a discussion with a representative from Clinpath or Sonic Healthcare at a function held by FutureSA or the SA Liberal Party?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:30): Not that I am aware of.

SA PATHOLOGY

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:30): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier or any minister ever had a discussion with Clinpath or Sonic Healthcare about the possible privatisation of SA Pathology?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:30): Not that I am aware.

The SPEAKER: I think that is 9-2. I am going to switch to the member for Elder then back to the member for Kurna.

TOURISM

Mrs POWER (Elder) (14:31): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is supporting recovery of the tourism industry from COVID-19?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:31): I thank the member for Elder for her excellent question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: This year has been particularly tough on the South Australian tourism sector, especially those people who are in regional South Australia.

Ms Hildyard: Then why did you cut the funding?

The SPEAKER: Member for Reynell!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Regional South Australia has been doing it tough. We know that they have had dry and drought conditions for a long period of time. Earlier this year, I travelled to some of those regions and I could see firsthand the results of some of those dry conditions, those drought conditions, over a long period of time. We know that there have also been very tough conditions in many parts of South Australia related to bushfires, and then COVID-19 has come along. I think the people of South Australia are well aware that this government is supporting businesses through this tough time with more than \$1 billion worth of support and stimulus into the South Australian economy.

In addition to this, individual agencies and departments are putting together their own support packages, and one of those areas is the area of tourism. The South Australian Tourism Commission has established a \$5.7 million financial support package to assist tourism operators to get through this COVID-19 pandemic and rebound strongly out the other side. That is our focus. I am advised that almost 500 applications were received for the small grants program, which is five grand or 10 grand, and I know that 364 of those have already been processed and the money has been received by people in that sector.

In addition to that, we have put together a Regional Events Grant Fund. We know that many regional events in South Australia have had to be cancelled. Sometimes they had already incurred costs associated with setting up these events, and so I know that these grants have been well received by regional communities that had events planned and cancelled through no fault of their own.

We also had \$10,000 grants which were available to regional tourism organisations so that they could start to do the planning for what they would do to support operators within their regions post COVID-19. One of the key issues that we want out of COVID-19 is not just to survive it, not to scrape across the line, but to come out stronger than before. These supports that we have put in place are supported also by the broader program, where we are providing \$10,000 cash grants to small businesses in South Australia, and many of them are going to businesses in regional South Australia.

To further support these businesses that are in the tourism sector, the government is rolling out a digital training program designed to upskill tourism businesses to market themselves online. In fact, talking about stronger than before, many regional tourism operators have told me that they have developed skills in terms of digital marketing which they didn't have before. They are using this time as best they possibly can to market their products and their services so that when we do come out of COVID-19 we will come out stronger than before.

As at 7 May, 597 businesses had registered for that digital transformation program, which is being delivered by three different providers. In addition to that, we have provided a program of business support for tourism operators. This is being delivered by Deloitte in South Australia. The first two webinars were held in April, with more than 500 participants on those webinars. The topics covered included employment and staff engagement, managing cash flows and business continuity.

On Friday, we announced South Australia's Roadmap for Easing the COVID-19 Restrictions, and I know many, many regional communities were delighted to know that we are encouraging people to get back to the regions, to take up some accommodation and to spend money in those regional economies as soon as possible.

LIBERAL PARTY FUNDRAISING

Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (14:35): My question is to the Premier. Has Clinpath or Sonic Healthcare ever been a member of the Liberal Party fundraising organisation FutureSA?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:35): I don't have detailed knowledge of that. That would be an issue for the party, but not to my knowledge.

LIBERAL PARTY FUNDRAISING

Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (14:35): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier or his office had any discussion with Mr Maurice Henderson, the Liberal fundraising director, about Clinpath, Sonic Healthcare or the possible privatisation of SA Pathology?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:36): Not that I am aware of. I really don't know where the opposition is going. If they've got something, it would be far easier and far more economic for their time here—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —in question time to tell us. We had the run-around yesterday in question time, which absolutely got nowhere. I think it's very sad that Kevin Naughton is no longer with the opposition. He used to write a good set of questions—occasionally he would mess up, but they've clearly got nobody at the moment.

Mr PICTON: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: The Premier has concluded his answer. I am going to switch to the member for Florey; she was patiently seeking the call.

FUEL PRICE MONITORING

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:36): My question is to the Attorney-General. Why has the government chosen to adopt the fuel price monitoring scheme preferred by some major retailers instead of a 24-hour price guarantee, which the Productivity Commission says is better for consumers and would likely result in lower costs for retailers? Sir, with your leave and that of the house I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms BEDFORD: The government today released the commissioned report of the SA Productivity Commission into fuel pricing. The report examines two different pricing monitoring models: a model based on 30-minute price reports, which is referred to as Fuel Check; and a 24-hour price guarantee, which is referred to as Fuel Watch. On page 31, in the table summarising the benefits of the two models, the report states that a 24-hour price guarantee, which is the Fuel Watch model, would give 'greater certainty to consumers' and imposes 'arguably lower regulatory, reporting and compliance costs on retailers'.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:37): I thank the member for the question. I thank the member for reading the report. I know it has only been published today, but I think it is a very important topic and it is a very well-received report from the Productivity Commission, now one of several since it has been established.

This was a really important topic, as the member knows, because after the election our government made a commitment to look into the real-time pricing option for fuel. We recognised that it is an important consumer cost, particularly as part of the family budget. It was at a time when the New South Wales government had established a fuel pricing mechanism with an app. There were reports coming out saying, 'Look, this could put prices up.' In fact, the Victorian Labor government, when they read about that option, said, 'Well, we're not going to be doing it at all,' and they haven't since—same with the ACT government.

Over in Western Australia, as the member would note in that report—and it has been a matter she has canvassed here in the parliament already and she is promoting a bill which she would see as some remedy to assist the dilemma for consumers in this area—the Western Australian model, as she described in the quote, is one which is a fuel fixed price. It is for a 24-hour period. In Western Australia, once you have fixed that price you can't change the price for 24 hours.

The Productivity Commission has identified the pros and cons of that in the report, and I urge all members to read it because it identifies the pros and cons of this proposal. One that is identified in Western Australia is that they have a weekly fixed cycle of pricing. It's unique in Australia. I don't

know why. I don't understand how fuel pricing works in that sense or how these cycles work. I think somebody out there in the world understands it. Western Australia has a peculiar system where everyone knows it's cheap on Tuesdays to buy fuel and that is what they try to do.

Ms Bedford: Mondays.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Mondays, is it? I'm guided by the member for Florey. One day a week is the day to go and get it. The bottom line is that it works there. It has been operating for I think nine or 10 years. It's actually the first in trying to deal with consumer protection in this fuel area, but it works for them. It hasn't been reported as something that is useful elsewhere and no other jurisdictions have taken it up, but, as I say, we have a bit of a mixed bag.

The Northern Territory offered their model, which is a little bit different, for free actually. We didn't end up taking that model, but the Productivity Commission has made that assessment. They have identified one of the disadvantages of having a price fixed for a 24-hour period is that, if a retailer wanted to put the price down, they couldn't even put it down. They can't put—

Ms Bedford: Shouldn't put it up to start with.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: I'm just making the point that there are pros and cons to these. We thank the Productivity Commission for doing that body of work. I urge members to all have a look at it, if they are of mind to do so, but importantly to put a recommendation as to effectively the Queensland model. That is the one the government, having considered that advice, is proposing to follow. I will be introducing a bill shortly.

FUEL PRICE MONITORING

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:41): Supplementary: just before I do that, I should remind the Attorney-General that there were no recommendations from the report. My question is: why does the Attorney-General believe compliance costs of a 24-hour price guarantee will be higher, given that the Productivity Commission states estimates provided by retailers are, and I quote, 'inherently imprecise and need to be treated with caution'?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:41): They are all perfectly valid comments in the context of which they are in the report. I'm sorry if I have not recorded it as options 1 and 2, rather than recommendations 1 and 2. For members' benefit, I am referring to the options that have been identified by the Productivity Commission. We have considered those and we think that as the Queensland Labor government have introduced and persisted with their model it is the one to follow.

Essentially, it will work on the basis that every retail outlet by the purposes of the proposed legislation will be required to provide to the government the price of their fuel and within 30 minutes of any change of that price. That then becomes in an aggregate. Obviously, it was proposed to go out to tender for an aggregate body, if it is the will of the parliament to pass this legislation. There are a number now operating, including in Queensland, who could tender for that. That data is then in a form that the consumer can be confident is accurate and timely and it's able to be provided for the base of any source, app, website or mechanism consumers then choose. I think, in Queensland at the moment, there are some 11 different apps that are available—processes by which a consumer can seek to have that.

It's the government's view that, supported by the data and work that has been done by the Productivity Commission, this option will provide an opportunity for cheaper fuel prices, choice to the consumer, and timely and accurate data that they can rely on to go and identify where they can buy fuel anywhere in South Australia—the nearest town, nearest suburb or nearest street—for their benefit.

LIBERAL PARTY FUNDRAISING

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:43): My question is to the Premier. Why does the Premier believe the SA Liberal Party Fundraising Director, Mr Maurice Henderson, was copied into correspondence to the Premier from Clinpath regarding the COVID-19 pandemic on 30 March, 20 April and 27 April?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: That question contained a whole heap of fact and argument—

The SPEAKER: The insertion of facts.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —in contravention of standing order 97.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The member for Kaurna knows better, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to move to the member for Finnis and then we might come back to those on my left.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (14:44): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is boosting the regional economy through targeted stimulus measures?

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:44): Well, I can, and I thank the member for Finnis for his important question. He knows only too well the importance of the regional economies, particularly going through a very uncertain time. As I said yesterday, the government is fast-forwarding a number of initiatives and stimuli, and none more important than the Regional Growth Fund, which has been brought forward. I can say that round 3 has received overwhelming response. It closed on Monday the 11th (this week) with 33 applications. So it is oversubscribed, seeking over \$19 million in funding for projects.

This is a brilliant result in the current economic circumstances because we know that these businesses are prepared and that they can come back stronger than before the COVID-19 crisis. What I would say is that it highlights the importance of our regional economy, and we have recognised the importance of the stimulus needed. What I can also say is that it also demonstrates to those businesses that they have the government's support in coming forward with those stimulus measures.

It is very, very important now that any of those regional businesses that are looking to engage with government or taxpayers' funds and support should do that and come forward as part of the process. Currently, the \$5 million is a competitive round, and that has to be matched with funding. We also have the \$10 million of the strategic round that can be used to leverage funds of larger proportion.

We have seen significant projects. In round 1 we saw nine very successful projects get up, and in round 2 we have seen 10, and those projects have highlighted the importance of businesses coming together, collaborating. I call it the three Cs: collaboration, clustering and community benefit. What it has done now is brought those regional businesses, regional centres, to work closer together so that they can work as a cluster or as a collaboration, and it has never been more important that they come together to do that. Previously, we saw the former government picking winners, and in small regional communities and towns there is nothing more divisive than 'some get it, some don't' for very, very good reasons.

The SPEAKER: Minister, would you be seated for one moment. There is a point of order, probably for debate?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That is debate, sir.

The SPEAKER: Whilst I have allowed some compare and contrast to a point, I would expect it not to go too far. The minister has the call. I will be listening.

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE: Thank you, sir. It really does just highlight the importance of what the regional economy means to the South Australian economy overall. I would also say that we have rolled out the South Australian Wine Industry Development Scheme, and 27 applications have been received for a benefit of \$8.5 million of value to those proposed projects. That really does just highlight that it is a \$1.8 million investment by the government to an industry that is of paramount importance.

What I can say is that the state government has rolled out many initiatives for the regional South Australian economy, and the regions of South Australia have not had the support in nearly two decades. It is important to understand that \$150 million of the Regional Growth Fund, again with the competitive rounds and the strategic rounds, is continuing to roll out, having now been fast-tracked.

Also, there is \$21 million of drought support, which is critically important for the longevity of our dryland sector, particularly going through extended drought. We have the \$24.5 million of support to the commercial marine scalefish reform sector, which is critically important in making sure that they come on board and be part of an economy and not of a retracting industry—as well as the \$16.57 million bushfire recovery support. These are measures that have been put in place to support regional South Australia. They are working. The regions of South Australia matter.

RURAL ROAD SPEED LIMITS

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (14:48): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Can the minister update the house on the traffic speed restrictions that are in place in both directions of the Augusta Highway from Virginia to Port Wakefield? With your leave, sir, I will further explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: There are several sections—in actual fact, four to six sections—of the highway that have been resurfaced, line marked and open to traffic for over two months with all traffic line marking and other requirements in place, which I would assume were passed okay to be open to traffic, yet there are several sections of the highway travelling north and south with speed restrictions down to 40 km/h.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:49): I thank the member for Frome for this question, potentially a source of frustration for him as he drove down here either Sunday night or Monday morning, and the same frustration that some members on my side of the house may have also expressed.

To refresh the house's memory, this is \$11.6 million worth of work that is being done at the moment. You are right: there are four sections northbound and four sections southbound to upgrade I think about 27 or 28 kilometres worth of road on the Port Wakefield highway.

For the member's benefit—and I have encountered this in my own electorate—the reason those big restrictions are in place in the way that they are is that it looks like the road is finished but the surface itself, with the new bitumen mixtures that they use, needs to settle before we go to higher speeds. Some of it is to do with the slip resistance and wearing of that road. Some of it is to do with loose gravel and things like that that are on the road. I had the same situation on the Sturt Highway, where a package of works was undertaken last year and speed limits were kept low for a period of time.

Essentially, it is to make sure that that wearing course has settled in and that it is safe to undertake at higher speeds. It is something that is a bit more recent with the way they now mix the bitumen together, which is all designed to make it last longer and survive better. For the member's benefit, as I understand it, it could be this Friday that some of those speed restrictions are removed. It depends on whether the member is going to go home on Thursday night or whether he stays for the weekend. It depends how long it takes.

Again, it is the same issue that we had on the Northern Connector, a source of frustration for many people, and the Sturt Highway, as I said. The great news is that the reason the speeds are restricted in the first place is that this government is now spending a record up to \$1½ billion fixing country roads in South Australia. The works package that we are talking about that the member had to drive on is part of a \$250 million commitment, 80 per cent from the federal government, to upgrade the Princes Highway. It is the biggest investment in country roads in South Australia in the state's history.

In the Infrastructure South Australia report that was released today, the first thing it said is that we need to do more to look after the assets we have, and that is precisely what this government is doing. It is doing its best to tackle the road maintenance backlog that was left by those opposite, who couldn't see votes in country South Australia and so ignored it. We are getting on with investing taxpayers' hard-earned money into these important projects because we know it is going to save lives. As much as it is frustrating in the short term to see speed restrictions along these roads, in the

longer term we are going to have a safer road that is going to keep more people alive and help to encourage more people to call regional South Australia home.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:52): My question is to the Premier. Why has the Premier or his ministers not replied to repeated offers from the CEO of Clinpath to assist with additional COVID-19 testing during the pandemic? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

The SPEAKER: Is leave granted?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order: the question before the seeking of leave contained argument and purported fact under 97. I don't think it's right to put in purported fact and then seek leave after the fact.

The SPEAKER: I have considered the point of order. Is leave granted?

Honourable members: Yes, sir.

Leave granted.

The SPEAKER: Leave is granted, so I am going to allow the question.

Mr PICTON: On 30 March, 20 April and 27 April, the CEO of Clinpath wrote to the Premier and ministers Stephen Wade and Rob Lucas offering to assist with COVID-19 testing through their laboratories. Liberal Party fundraising director, Maurice Henderson, was copied into this correspondence. The offer was to assist as a backup and redundancy to the SA Pathology laboratories, as is in place in all other states. Clinpath has had no correspondence back to these repeated written offers. The minister had promised a response, but none has been received.

The SPEAKER: I remind the member for Kaurna that facts can only be inserted per standing order 97 only so far as to explain the question. I have allowed it. I now allow the answer.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:54): My understanding is that the minister has responded to that request for information.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:54): My question is to the Premier. Why is the government investing resources in an aged-care testing response for COVID-19 when the commonwealth has funded an identical service? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: The federal government last month funded Sonic Healthcare, the owner of Clinpath, to provide dedicated pathology services for rapid COVID-19 testing in aged care. This week, the minister announced that SA Pathology had assembled a team for rapid aged-care testing of their own. The CEO of Clinpath yesterday in the media described the duplication as exactly the same thing, and it seems to me to be a waste of government funds.

The SPEAKER: There is a fair bit in that, member for Kaurna, so I am going to allow a broad answer. Premier.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:54): Thank you very much, sir. I will get a specific answer regarding this back to the member, but can I just say that we take our advice regarding public health very seriously. We have excellent public health advice in South Australia and a great part of that has been the testing regime that has been put in place.

I understand that as of today there have been 72,000 COVID-19 tests, which have been put in place in South Australia since February. This is extraordinarily high per capita in Australia and, quite frankly, extraordinarily high per capita in the rest of the world. This is one of the fundamental pillars of our strong response to COVID-19 and it is one of the best defences that we have had against this pandemic coming to South Australia in much greater numbers. We are very grateful for the methodology that was put in place by the head clinician at SA Pathology, Dr Tom Dodd, earlier in the year.

There has been innovation after innovation with regard to the methodology and the testing. One of the things that I know country members in this place, and in fact people right across the state, are very excited about is the rapid response COVID-19 test that is now available in I think up to 20 country hospitals in South Australia. This means that, rather than have a delay when somebody goes into the hospital, the result can be provided now within 45 to 60 minutes. This is an absolutely extraordinary turnaround from where we were in terms of testing earlier in the year.

We have had the incredible innovation of the drive-through COVID-19 testing, which was first pioneered here in South Australia, and I think was one of the first places in the world. Dr Tom Dodd said to me recently that he felt very chuffed when he received a request for information regarding our pathology in South Australia from Stanford University—one of the highest ranked universities in the world, ringing up and speaking to the pathology lead at SA Pathology. This is absolutely fantastic and we are very proud of that.

Of course, we cannot become complacent. This is one of the reasons why we are actively encouraging everybody who falls into the new and much expanded testing regime to go and get themselves tested. One of our real levels of concern was whether or not that daily testing would drop off. Last week, I think it averaged about 1,500 per day, which is more than acceptable. We are very pleased with that. I have just had a quick look at what it has been over the last 24 hours and I think it has been around 1,000. We don't want this number to drop off and we don't want people to become complacent.

We know unequivocally that people are relieved that we have, as of the update yesterday, just one person living with this illness in South Australia, but we don't want people to become complacent. We know that this is a deadly disease and we know that it is highly infectious. With great sadness, we read reports from places like the United Kingdom, where they have had more than 30,000 deaths in just the last five or six weeks. This is what happens if you don't have a really robust response to COVID-19 and it is going to be very difficult for them to recover from that point. We have one shot at getting this right in South Australia, and I think pathology has been an absolute pillar of our response and it will continue into the future.

MARINE PARKS, SANCTUARY ZONES

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Why has the minister ignored the EconSearch review findings on marine park sanctuary zones? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Dr CLOSE: The EconSearch review states, and I quote, 'Modifying the activities or zoning arrangements...will reduce the effectiveness of the marine park network in protecting and conserving marine biodiversity and habitats,' yet the minister is proposing to reduce three sanctuary zones.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is called to order and warned.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:59): The deputy leader is right to highlight the commentary from the EconSearch report. For members' information, this was part of an election commitment undertaken by our government from opposition that we would undertake a risk-based assessment of our sanctuary zones throughout South Australia.

Members would be aware that the creation of our marine parks and sanctuary zones was one of the most traumatic, difficult and divisive episodes of the former Labor government's time in office, really causing a huge amount of pain across particularly regional South Australia as communities were ridden roughshod over and ignored in their desire to get that balance right between economic development and the importance of conserving our unique marine life. The situation was such that we ended up with a range of sanctuary zones that really didn't have support across the state, and certainly not from the fishing community.

It was strongly felt by the fishing sector that there was a better way, that there was a better balance that could be achieved, and the Marshall Liberal government went into the last election

making a commitment that we would take a good look at this. We undertook the EconSearch report, and that report has a central conclusion that there is absolutely no doubt that the livelihoods of those involved in fishing across South Australia have been impacted by the presence of sanctuary zones. There is no doubt about that. That is why a range of compensation measures has been worked through over the last couple of years with the impact to fishers.

One of the great disappointments of the marine parks legislation brought in by the previous Labor administration was that it did not set up an appropriate compensation regime. It was completely bereft of that framework and required a huge amount of effort by legal advisers from the government side of things, and also from the fishing sector, to actually strike those agreements going forward. That added more pain, more suffering, more uncertainty and more economic suffering on the part of our regional communities across the state.

Over the last few months, the fishing sector and conservation sector have worked really well collaboratively. They have sat down without my involvement and worked very efficiently, carefully, methodically through our sanctuary zones and have come up with a range of suggestions. Many of these suggestions were codesigned by both the fishing sector and the conservation sector.

I was immensely proud to see those two sectors, where there has been a huge amount of bad blood in the past, come together, work together and come up with a range of suggestions. They agreed on most of the changes that we are taking forward. There were a few that we could not quite land. Notwithstanding that, the Marshall Liberal government is moving forward with reform of marine sanctuary zones, seeing a number of these change slightly.

Of course, overall, the area of protection in sanctuary zones across the state's waters is actually increased, so we are going to end up with more of our marine area protected within sanctuary zones than we had before. We have seen a couple of tweaks here and there, which will benefit fishers absolutely, but I strongly believe that fishers working together with conservationists have been able to come up with a range of suggestions that the government can move forward with which, combined with our marine scale fishery reform, will see a more sustainable environment and economy here in South Australia.

Grievance Debate

MARINE PARKS, SANCTUARY ZONES

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:03): I cannot wait to hear what the environment movement thinks of that last answer, being implied to be complicit with the dismantling of three significant sanctuary zones in the marine parks network. I am not surprised that the minister does not want to hear my grievance.

We understand how important the marine parks network is and we understand how important the oceans are. They are important to the environment, but they are important to the tourism industry, to the fishing industry, to recreational fishers and to local towns and people who live along our great coastline. And what has this government decided to do? It has decided to first of all get a review and then ignore that review. It has ignored that review by choosing to dismantle the very heart of the marine parks system, which is the sanctuary zones—and the minister has just implied that that was by the agreement of the environment movement. That is not true, and we will be hearing more about that, I have no doubt.

Why would you do that? Why would you dismantle the sanctuary zones? I have come up with six reasons that you might. Let's see what their review had to say about those reasons. Maybe you do not think that the sanctuary zones are adequately protecting the environment. I quote from their review:

[SZs] are considered to be the key zone type for protection and conservation of biodiversity within the marine parks network.

What about if the establishment process was wrong; we did not do this right in the first place? I quote from their review:

The establishment of SA marine parks, their management plans and zoning has been a 20-year process. This process followed a robust governance framework with a comprehensive consultation program.

The marine parks network has been developed...to contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems to maintain ecological processes and systems and to protect South Australia's marine biodiversity.

Is it because commercial fishing was more affected than had first been understood?

Analysis of individual fishery trends indicates there has been a continuation of existing trends with no obvious change since 2014...indicating that the Marine Park zoning has not been a contributing factor affecting the sustainability of these fisheries.

In fact (and I am not quoting now; this is my comment), largely you have to wait five to 10 years to see if marine park networks and sanctuary zones have had a positive impact on the environment. I quote:

...Changes in rock lobster populations were detected quite rapidly inside the Cape du Couedic SZ—

the one that four-fifths is being dismantled by this government. Is it because recreational fishing has been more affected than first thought?

As expected from the marine park policy commitments, recreational fishing has not been significantly affected...

Okay, not that reason. Is it because the socio-economic impact was too high, as the minister implied in his answer?

Comparative analysis of socio-economic trends...has not shown any discernible trend difference between adjacent and comparative towns, indicating that the Marine Park zoning has not been a contributing factor affecting the socio-economic performance of these towns.

Potentially reason No. 5, because South Australia's water environment is not that important, so you can mess around with it and it does not matter, quote:

The marine [park] waters off the southern coast of Australia contain an unusually high level of endemism—that means that the species come from that area uniquely—

as well as species richness and is recognised as a global biodiversity 'hotspot'.

Our waters matter. This government has run out of reasons. In fact, the three areas that are having their sanctuary zones dismantled are, and I am quoting from the report again, 'particularly high in biodiversity'.

So what are we seeing? The Neptune Islands, a three-quarters reduction in the sanctuary zones; Cape du Couedic, a four-fifths reduction; Clinton Wetlands, a four-fifths reduction. Yet, and I go back to quoting from the government's report that they hid for well over a year:

Modifying the...zoning arrangements...will reduce the effectiveness of the marine park network in protecting and conserving marine biodiversity habitats.

Why is this? Those six reasons are clearly not the reasons. You know what it is? My theory: this minister thinks he is smarter than everybody. This minister does not listen to experts. We saw it in the Murray-Darling Basin and now we are seeing it in marine parks. This minister thinks he knows more than the scientists he himself commissions.

FUEL PRICING

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:08): I rise today on behalf of the people of Stuart to talk about fuel pricing. I am particularly concerned about the fact that fuel prices in Port Augusta have for a long time now been consistently too much higher than those in other parts of the state. I make no bones about the fact that a long time ago I used to work in the fuel industry supplying fuel to mines, the fishing industry, the farming industry and roadhouses, etc., so I have some knowledge of this, although some of it is a bit out of date.

The reason I mention this is that I accept that there are cycles, I accept that retail prices need to be connected to wholesale prices, need to be connected to transport costs and need to be connected to a whole range of things. Of course, the further you are away from the source of the fuel, the more you will need to pay for it, and that is true of most commodities that we consume.

But in Port Augusta we have seen fuel prices 20¢ and 30¢ higher than in Adelaide and that is completely unacceptable. I believe strongly that fuel retailers need to make a fair profit, absolutely. We need them to make a profit so that they will continue supplying the fuel and the other products and services that they supply. If they do not make a good profit, they will not continue to supply the services and then the consumers do not have anything.

However, there is a big difference between a fair profit so that they can pay fair wages, etc. to local people who work there, and, in the Port Augusta area, this is sometimes in excess of 30¢ a litre but certainly regularly 20¢ to 30¢ a litre higher prices than those in metropolitan Adelaide. That is well in excess of the extra cost required to cover for freight, that is well in excess of the extra margin required to make up for often smaller volumes than metropolitan areas have and it is well in excess of any reason that I can think of that would be described as a fair, local margin. It should certainly be more expensive in Port Augusta but not 20¢ to 30¢ higher.

I note with great pleasure that today the Attorney-General introduced to parliament our fair pricing legislation. The government intends to make sure that all consumers across the entire state have access to free, real-time pricing information so they can make decisions and see exact fuel prices in the area where they are contemplating buying fuel. This will be an enormously powerful tool. It might be that very few people in this house realise that that information has been available for a long, long time but it has not been available for free. It has been provided by a company—quite fairly, they are entitled to do this—at a price which large organisations have taken up regularly and they have used those for their decision-making processes, but an individual motorist or any one of our constituents who wanted that information would have had to pay for it.

Our government is making sure that motorists around the state will have free and real-time access to pricing information. We will look at exactly what information is available at the time and, importantly, consumers can say, 'I am in Port Augusta,' or a suburb of Adelaide or Port Lincoln or Mount Gambier, wherever they happen to be, and say, 'I need to buy some fuel. What are the prices of the service stations around me? Petrol is this, diesel is that,' and make their choice. What is really important about that is that when consumers make their choice about where they buy their fuel, based on where fuel is cheapest, then the other service stations where the fuel is not as cheap will have to make adjustments if they want to win those customers back.

By providing this information we are putting power into the hands of the consumers, giving consumers the real-time, free information that they need so that they can vote with their feet, or vote with their wheels, however you might like to put it. They can use their power as consumers individually and in a united way to make their choices. When they make their choice in preference of the cheaper fuel suppliers, other fuel suppliers will then need to become cheaper also.

CORONAVIRUS

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:13): I rise today to thank the people of South Australia, in particular the people in our local area, for their response to the coronavirus that has changed the way we live and the way we work. In fact, it has changed so much in all of our lives right across the state. I want to congratulate the federal government and the state government. I think both sides of politics at both levels have worked very well together.

I want to thank the police commissioner in South Australia and Professor Nicola Spurrer, who I think has done a tremendous job as the Chief Public Health Officer in South Australia, but without the work of members of our local communities it would have all come to zilch. If people had ignored the directives, ignored the pleas of politicians, health experts and police, then we quite possibly would have been in a very bad way, instead of being in a world-leading position here in South Australia and, indeed, around Australia.

To all those people who have made changes to their lives, thank you. I do not think we are out of the woods yet, and I think we need to heed the advice and the warnings of our health professionals who say that there could well be a second wave if we relax things too much. So I just ask everyone to maintain that 1½ metres of distance between each other. I notice even in here people sort of coming up and whispering to each other and not actually following the 1½-metre rules. I think we should all set an example, whether it is in here or out in our community, for people to follow because we do not want that second wave.

We saw it with the Spanish flu back in 1919. It was the second and third waves that did more damage than the first one. To the people who have lost their jobs and those who have either lost their businesses or are tremendously worried about those businesses, we hope that the economic measures that are being put in place now and those that are still to come will help you through this. If we can keep people connected to the businesses that have employed them over many months or many years then, when things do become a little bit more normal than they have been in the past two months, everyone will be in a better position.

I think the federal package was extremely generous; it has done a good job in many respects. However, like any rescue plan that is put together in a hurry, there will be people and there will be businesses that fall through the cracks. I know that in my electorate office we have been working with individuals and businesses to work with the federal government and the state government to see if we can help them along so that they do not fall through the cracks. The more people who can be supported during this time, the quicker we will come out of it on the other side. I hope we can continue to work in that way.

My office, like I presume many other electorate offices, has not been operating the way we would normally operate. We closed our physical office but we are working from our individual homes in terms of emails and chasing things up, and we are as busy as ever. We plan to reopen, but it will not be business as usual because no-one can operate in the same way we operated in December. We need to maintain the 1.5-metre distances. We need to reduce the risk of us passing on the coronavirus to someone who might come into our electorate office and, by the same token, we need to protect the staff in our offices as well.

As I mentioned, the community has done a tremendous job in adapting and working within the new regime that we need to stay safe, to reduce the risk of the coronavirus getting away from us again. I want to thank all the members of my staff in the electorate office who have been doing a tremendous job in helping the people in our local area at a time when there is a lot of emotional stress on people. Particularly in our electorate, the people of Kangaroo Island who went through those horrendous bushfires are now unable to go out and participate in sport and get out and see each other. We need to be very aware of keeping an eye on the mental health of people over there.

I have not been to the island for seven weeks because of the restrictions on travel. I will be back over there this weekend and cannot wait to catch up with everyone on the island who has been doing it tough. But they are very stoic people and I look forward to seeing them all.

GIBSON ELECTORATE

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:18): I rise to speak about my community outreach program and how residents in my electorate have responded to the pandemic that we are facing. We know that everyone has felt the impact of COVID-19 in some way, great or small. We know that many upcoming and thriving businesses were forced to close and may still be closed. We know that people have lost their jobs overnight and we know that many residents in our community have been living a completely unfamiliar life.

To deal with self-isolation and social distancing and to shirk away from physical contact goes against human nature. We all crave social interaction. With that in mind, the team in my office has been doing an outstanding job diligently phoning residents in the community as part of our community outreach program over the past few months. This was a fantastic way to look out for residents and check on their welfare in the community, especially the welfare of the elderly and vulnerable.

During our outreach phone calls, we spoke with Ms Daphne Coventry. Ms Coventry is aged in her 80s. Like so many others, she stayed at home and avoided going out where she could when the COVID-19 outbreak occurred. Before the pandemic, Ms Coventry would frequently visit Coles at Westfield Marion and she enjoyed her trips there. Her daily rituals and habits, like all of ours, were altered by the pandemic.

As she tried to do the safe thing, Ms Coventry told us about some of her difficulties with grocery shopping. To help her out over the phone, we set up a Coles online account for Ms Coventry, who qualified for the Coles Online Priority Service as a My Aged Care user. We walked her through using the service, which offers home deliveries. We later learnt that she had successfully purchased

and received much-needed groceries, which were delivered to her door. It was great to be able to help out in some small way.

Another lady whose welfare we checked on was Mrs Elizabeth Bailey. I spoke to Mrs Bailey, who is aged in her 70s and lives with her husband, David. Over a number of weeks, we got in touch with her several times to check on her and her husband. At this difficult time, Mrs Bailey was also able to get the support of a volunteer from the council to do their grocery shopping.

Their news made us recognise once again the amazing work that volunteers do in our community, especially the work they have done over the past few months, and I want to thank volunteers everywhere for what they have done. Working quietly and diligently, they have helped provide the Baileys and countless others who may have been self-isolating or who are in a vulnerable or elderly group.

Staff and volunteers from Marion council's Positive Ageing and Inclusion service are to be commended. I congratulate the CEO of Marion Council, Adrian Skull, and his team on their good work. As at last week, they had delivered 436 meals to people over 65 or living with a disability over a five-week period. The hard work of everyone involved in this operation has been greatly beneficial to our community and I thank them for that.

Turning now to ANZAC Day, as we know it was unlike any other that we have experienced in our lifetime, yet regardless of our circumstance and regardless of social distancing and limits on gatherings, our local community found other ways to support each other and remember those who fought and died for their country. You may have heard of Sue Norman. Sue is an extremely skilled local artist whose works of art at Brighton Beach have drawn much attention and praise. For ANZAC Day this year, she drew a mandala in the sand. Her mandala commemorated the names of Australians who had fought and died in wartime. Her beautiful tribute moved those who saw it on the beach and those who later saw it online.

So much young and precious life lost in war is very heartbreaking, and Sue's artwork was a fitting way to commemorate this: there on the beach one moment and then gone, swallowed up by the ocean the next. At a time when it has been challenging for us to connect with each other, Sue's tribute was more important than ever and I am grateful to her for her wonderful artwork. Thank you on behalf of our community.

The last few months have certainly been hard and challenging, but we have seen many other qualities too. Community members have been resilient, looked out for one another and kept up their spirits and hope knowing full well that, with the passing of time and as long as we stay united and together, things will look better and brighter. As we begin to ease restrictions this week, things are looking better and brighter every day. It is no cause to be complacent and we must stress that point. Now is not a time for complacency, but instead let's keep working together as a strong community to help each other through these difficult times.

TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:23): I rise today to talk about the plight of our tourism and hospitality industry. Last week, the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia released their quarterly barometer and, unsurprisingly, the outcomes from the respondents were stark. They had their lowest ever recorded business confidence—lowest ever. Fifty-five per cent of respondents had seen a decrease in business activity, and what concerns me even more is the expectation in the next quarter that business activity will be even weaker.

I continue to have conversations with stakeholders in this area: the tour operators, the hotel managers, the people who are running the tours and the people who sell South Australia to the world. It is grim out there. It has been incredibly challenging that their businesses have had to close overnight. Many of them have been able access JobKeeper, and without that support their businesses would have closed.

JobKeeper is not a complete panacea. As many people have discovered, they had to put forward money to then be reimbursed, but they saw it as a lifeline for their businesses to survive. That is why I was so shocked when the Prime Minister yesterday put it out there that the JobKeeper

may not go until 27 of September, as he initially said it would, and that maybe things are well enough for that to be brought forward.

I can tell you that it is not okay for our tourism and hospitality industry. They are at the lowest ebb ever recorded. We now have our road map and South Australians cannot get wait to get on the road and out to our regional areas. However, we know that our national borders will be closed for some time and our state borders are closed for the foreseeable future. The only thing that is alive is domestic tourism.

While I think that will mean a renaissance for domestic tourism, which I welcome, let me be clear: this industry is on its knees. The tourism and hospitality sectors need your attention and will need your attention for some time. We know that the industry had already expressed some concerns. A slowing down in activity before the bushfires and before the cessation of international travel, particularly from China, hit the industry incredibly hard. As we start to open up within the state and regional tourism becomes available for South Australians, gaps are emerging. This government can act upon these gaps.

Throughout my conversations, I was approached by the bus and coach industry, and tour operators who take groups of people particularly through our wonderful regional areas. They might take them to see the silo art, to eat oysters in Coffin Bay or to go up to Hahndorf. Let me tell you this: the demand for tour operators and coach tours for domestic tourism is there and they are ready to get going. However, they need clarification on how they can implement social distancing. They have written to the Premier asking him to act. Now that regional travel is on the table, let's make sure that we support one of the safer ways for groups to go into regional areas and enjoy their time and spend their money at the local bakeries and cafes.

Outdoors SA recently applied for the Community and Jobs Support Fund and was promptly told, 'You are not that important; you are not core.' We pride ourselves on adventure tourism. We have talked about the activation of our national parks, which I welcome, but this peak group has been told that it is not that important. This is a mistake; they need your support. I will end my discussion on the support for tour operators focusing on international tourists. They now have zero people coming through. They need your attention and they need your support.

SCOTTISH RADIO IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:29): It was a great pleasure to be welcomed as a guest of honour at an anniversary lunch on Sunday 1 March—a lifetime ago since COVID-19 changed so much everywhere. I joined the gathering to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Scottish radio in South Australia—a very important milestone in this Year of Scotland in Australia, with celebrations now very different from those originally planned. I thank the organising committee for the invitation and vice-president, John Thornton, for much of the information in this contribution.

It all began for them in 1985. Bob Hawke was prime minister, John Bannon was premier, Ronald Reagan was the US president and the wreck of the *Titanic* had finally been found off the coast of Newfoundland. Here in South Australia, 5EBI FM, under the baton of Walter de Veer, was celebrating 10 years of broadcasting. On the same day, 5 March 1985, a new program was going to air for the first time at 12.30pm—the Scots had arrived. That first half-hour program, prerecorded on reel-to-reel tape, was introduced by Cath MacNaughton and featured contributions from Finella Topping, June Laws and operator Gavin Harper.

In its early days, the half-hour prerecorded Scottish program was broadcast only on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Some 18 months later, it went live and weekly. In 1996, Scottish radio took up the option of extending to 1.30pm and became the *Scottish Radio Hour*. There is now a second program on Saturdays at 5pm, which was inherited from the Irish and which tries to be as Celtic as it is Scottish.

In those early days, the program consolidated around the on-air skills and dulcet tones of Finella Topping, a native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Lewis off the west coast of Scotland. With Gaelic a prerequisite to getting the airtime at 5EBI, Finella was the mainstay of the program for 13 years until 1998, when she returned to live in Scotland. The show may be less Gaelic oriented these days, yet promotion of that culture still remains a central part of the mission.

In the early days, there were many planning meetings conducted over the phone, usually on a Friday evening before prerecording at 3pm on the Saturday prior to broadcast. It is easy to forget what things were like before the internet, mobile phones, emails, iTunes and electronic news from the internet. All the Scottish news came from cuttings from Gavin's father, mailed to him each week. In those days, tapes, cartridges and LPs were the go. Today, Scottish radio volunteers have moved on via MiniDiscs to CDs and now USBs. The technology is daunting, but it is being embraced by all.

Going live, as happened after 18 months, must have been a challenge because many presenters had daytime jobs. It was hard if they needed to rush from their workplace to do the 12.30 program, sometimes to find the prerecorded LPs were not waiting for them in the cupboard. I am told going live today can still get the pulses racing as the same thing can happen, with absent CDs if the cupboard is not checked beforehand.

Any community program relies on people to volunteer their time. It is important to pay tribute to the first committee: chair, Bill Anderson; vice-chair, June Laws; secretary, Finella Topping; treasurer, the now late Jean Lumsden; and the committee of Fraser Barclay, Arthur Littlejohn, Cath MacNaughton, Brett Tidswell and Gavin Harper. In that group are a couple of names that will, I am told, strike a chord. The late Jean Lumsden, who passed away only recently, and honorary Scot Arthur Littlejohn were there at the beginning. Arthur is still there today, though now as treasurer. Thank you all for all you have done.

To acknowledge the rest of today's team, there is president Des Ross, piper extraordinaire, whose portrait graces the front of the radio station. Des is a well-known identity outside the Scottish community, too, through just two of his associations to my knowledge: the RAR Association and the clipper ship *City of Adelaide*. I must mention here the late Barbara Medhurst, who was heavily involved with the clipper ship's research. The vice-president is John Thornton. The secretary is Margot Mernitz, whose exceptional contribution meant the program survived.

The membership secretary is Martin Campbell Colquhoun, a new member of the team, who worked with Margot to organise the anniversary lunch. Of course, the late Jean Lumsden and Arthur Littlejohn have already been mentioned—such great stalwarts both. Jim Hay is one of the longest standing members, a past president and regular continuity control panel operator. All best wishes go to Jim and to Freda. Sheila Castle is the newest member. It was great to get to know her at the lunch as I sat at her table.

Jill Maden is now holding the community radio fort in Coober Pedy. It is called Dusty Radio. It might be better called radio 'stoor', a Scottish word for 'dust'. Rachel Hay is mostly in Melbourne these days but is still with them all whenever she can be. My longstanding friend Rosemary Mackay has had to stand down because she has so much else on her plate. She is involved in many good causes, yet still finds time for the occasional program, particularly whenever there is the dreaded fifth Saturday in a month.

Also presenting regularly is Eric Ford, who does a Tuesday program once a month, and Malachi O'Reilly, who helps keep the Irish links alive. Past president and life member Gavin Harper has found a new life and love with Eleanor and alternates between the Gold Coast and Adelaide. Sadly, Eleanor has had some health challenges lately, and everyone wishes them both well. Also missing at the lunch was the late and sadly missed Gloria Gordon, a devoted listener and regular caller whenever the program was live.

Where to in the future? Scottish radio will only go ahead. In this Year of Scotland in Australia, I advise all members to keep their eye out for Scotland in Pooraka, which will hopefully go ahead at some stage. I look forward to welcoming you all to all things Scottish then.

Bills

GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS MANAGEMENT (DESIGNATED AREA) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

No. 1. Clause 5, page 3, lines 15 to 19 [clause 5, inserted subsection (1a)]—Delete inserted subsection (1a)

No. 2. Clause 6, page 4, lines 9 to 13 [clause 6, inserted section 5A(8)]—Delete subsection (8)

No. 3. Clause 7, page 4, line 33 [clause 7(2)]—Delete subclause (2)

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

The amendments from the other place negate three technical amendments that were introduced into the bill by the opposition. Those amendments provided the ability for licensed GM research to be undertaken in non-GM crop cultivation areas. With the amendments in the other place, the bill now retains the existing status quo in the act that licensed research can only be undertaken in non-GM crop cultivation areas where a minister has approved an application for a research exemption.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the debate on the bill in both chambers and those who have supported the passage of this bill, but I would like to especially acknowledge the grains industry, who have championed this reform. Many of you would recall the social media trending hashtag, #backtheGMbill. By the 2020-21 growing season, we will see commercial GM opportunities to grow GM crops in South Australia for the first time in over 16 years. That is what the grain growers have chosen to do.

Grain growers are finally on a level playing field with our interstate counterparts. Allowing GM crops in South Australia is a game changer. This is truly an historic day for our farmers and our grain growers, and we will look back on this time in many years to come, when we are a leader in GM research and commercial cultivation.

I would also like to briefly touch on the Kangaroo Island issues in response to comments made during the debate in the other place. I can give assurance to those farmers on Kangaroo Island that we will continue to work with them and listen to their needs and their wishes with regard to GM crops. There are GM pasture varieties being scientifically tested that would benefit the livestock industry on the island and across all South Australia.

I think it is also important to note that there was a difference and the government did move a bill. Obviously, we understand that politics has a level of negotiation to be successful. In this case, we worked very constructively with the opposition spokesperson for primary industries, whom I thank for his constructive dialogue. I also thank the opposition for coming to the negotiating table to get this very important piece of legislation through.

Prior to agreeing to these amendments, the Premier was documented as saying things and I was documented as saying certain things. The original bill was an opt-out option. It was about councils having the final say. We now have an opt-in option, where the application will be made to the minister and I would use the GM advisory committee as a reference panel in assessing whether councils have an opportunity to be part of an ongoing moratorium.

As I said to all the industry representatives who have given not only the government but the opposition support, the grain growers by and large have been a part of this journey for an extended period of time, and I thank them for their support but also their guidance because we know that they will be the beneficiaries. It is about dealing with the vagaries of climate. It is about dealing with the vagaries of being a primary producer. I can tell you with firsthand experience that the climatic conditions we deal with on an annual basis are variable, and we need every tool in the toolbox to give those growers those tools, those opportunities, to have that choice.

I would also like to thank Kym Anderson AC. He undertook the independent expert review, and I think his work was the foundation for what we have before us today. He did comprehensive consultation. His expertise in this field and his background have really given this a serious launching pad for a successful lifting of that moratorium, so I thank him. The scientists—whom I can almost hear from here—are extremely excited at the opportunities. They know that for too long South Australia has been locked out of discussions and negotiations in regard to trials, research and commercialisation of those trials, and it is almost implausible not to acknowledge how ecstatic our

grain growers are. They have now been given the opportunity to be on a level playing field so that they, too, can have the advantages that the other mainland states are enjoying.

Without further ado, I agree to these amendments. Again, I thank the opposition. I thank my colleagues on this side of the house for their support and guidance, particularly those who have a grain growing background. I know that the members for Flinders, Finnis and others have given me a level of confidence to continue to pursue the lifting of this moratorium. It is a great day for the primary sector, particularly for the grain growers, particularly for the scientists and particularly for the economy of South Australia.

Mr HUGHES: I also rise to support these amendments from the other place. To sum up the bill, I think it is a case of choice and voice. When we were meeting with our grain producers around the state it was clear that they, or at least the overwhelming majority, wanted that choice of whether to use GM crops or not; some of them said, 'We probably won't, but this tool should be available to us if we choose to use it.' Clearly, the process for approving a GM product on the market is a rigorous process. That is indicated by the number of GM crops that have been approved in Australia. They are very limited in number, and I think that is a reflection of the rigour that goes into that when it comes to environmental and health consequences.

Of course, at a state level we had power when it came to marketing opportunities for price premiums, and that is what the debate was about in this state. I know a lot of people tried to bring in a whole raft of peripheral issues, which were not within our capacity to decide upon. I know there were people who were strongly opposed to this bill in whatever form, and I acknowledge their passion, but it is my belief that their passion often went way beyond the evidence that was available in terms of health impacts, environmental impacts and price premiums and marketing.

As a latecomer to GM, this state had the benefit of looking at what happened in the other states. I would acknowledge that, early on in 2004, looking at whether, as a result of having a non-GM status, we could get a significant marketing advantage was a reasonable path to take. Time has shown that not to be the case.

We know that the other states have the lion's share of our non-GM exports when it comes to those places with GM sensitivities. We know that in the other states there are more certified organic farmers than in this state. We know that either lifting the moratoria in the other states or not having them in the first place did not cause the sky to fall in and no systemic issues were generated. The evidence was there and the evidence was clear.

People are given a voice. We have not been dismissive of those people who believe there might well be a price premium in having an area, albeit a council area, designated as a non-GM area. There is that opportunity to voice concerns. There is that opportunity for a council to marshal the arguments from their particular area and put that argument to the minister and to the advisory committee. I am sure the minister and the advisory committee will give that the due weight that is needed.

There is a voice there, but I think it is entirely reasonable that the power was not invested in 68 local councils around the state to determine whether they were going to be GM free or not. The state cannot abdicate responsibility in that area. It is entirely reasonable that at the end of the day the decision-making lies with the minister. The consequences of 68 councils having the power to make that decision, as the Greens would have wanted, I think would have been chaos, not to mention the potential for real litigation.

I guess this is an example of where a bipartisan approach, where there was open dialogue to work out a solution, has given us a good result. I acknowledge that the government accepted all the amendments that Labor put to them, and I have to say that on my part there might have been a degree of overreach that has been addressed in the upper house, and that was when it came to normalising research. That is fair enough. The minister is coming back at a state level into the picture on that particular issue. The government were willing to delete sections of their bill that we opposed.

The minister has flagged Kangaroo Island. I know there are mixed views on Kangaroo Island, given the correspondence that I have received from there. The sunset clause has been removed. Mark Parnell put a reasonable argument about that: changes should not necessarily be done on the

basis of a sunset clause, they should be done on the basis of whether a need exists and whether the parliament needs to have a look at that.

Just as the outcome here was an evolving process over an extended period of time—and it would not bother me if I never heard the term GM again—I am sure as time goes on, as South Australia becomes experienced with GM and hopefully some of the promising GM attributes in relation to drought, frost and a range of other factors come into play, they will be powerful tools in South Australia. I am sure the situation on Kangaroo Island will evolve over time as well.

The minister has indicated the importance of tools to farmers. One of the things that I found quite insulting in an implicit way in this debate was there was almost an implicit assumption that our farmers are not up to it when it comes to decision-making. Anyone who has been out onto some of the farms in this state, especially in the country that is more challenging, will know the intelligence that has to go in, the risk-taking that has to go in, in order to get a crop.

I think we have landed in a good place. Like everything, it has been a collective effort amongst a whole range of people: people in my party, people in the government and stakeholders outside. I could not fault the professionalism of Grain Producers SA in this process. Their role was commendable and I think there is absolutely nothing wrong with us as an opposition, based on the evidence, backing what is our largest export industry in this state. So it is a good result. Congratulations to all concerned.

Mr TRELOAR: I rise to make a contribution today to this committee and, as I always do when discussing this, I declare my interest that for 30 years I was an active grain grower and still have an interest in a grain growing property on Eyre Peninsula. I have been following this debate very closely for 20 years, and I am particularly pleased that we have reached this point today.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: What took you so long, mate?

Mr TRELOAR: Thank you, member for West Torrens. We are finally here. It was not for lack of trying, member for West Torrens. In fact, I do not disagree with the member for Giles that way back in 2004 it was reasonable to be cautious about such new technology; however, I was involved with the farmers' federation grains council come 2008 when the recommendation to government at the time very much was to lift the moratorium. The Labor government at that time chose not to, and I would say to the disappointment of the vast majority of broadacre farmers in South Australia.

So here we are 12 years on and I, too, join others in congratulating those who have been involved in getting us to this point. It is not a perfect solution, it is not perfect legislation, but now at least we are able to give our broadacre grain growers the opportunity to grow genetically engineered crops. There is another term, member for Giles. If GM is not so palatable, GE is one that can be more so.

I have been of the view that we have been at a disadvantage in this state, despite the fact that the loudest voices were talking about a price premium available to grain producers in South Australia. That was not necessarily proven to me to a point where I felt it necessary to protect the entire state for that reason because, as I said during this debate when it was first introduced into this place, profitability for a grain grower who is in business comes as a combination of yield times, price achieved, less the cost of production.

The member for Giles again talked about the capacity needed by our broadacre farmers to run a business, sometimes in challenging conditions, with very fine margins and at great risk. They do their sums. That is the formula that has to work for them, so this gives them those opportunities. Obviously here in South Australia we are talking very much about GM canola right at this point in time, but opportunities will open up for other crops as we go forward, depending on consumer sentiment, of course. As producers, we need to listen to that as well but, just at the moment, I think there is further opportunity for canola.

At the moment there is an opportunity to sow glyphosate-resistant canola, which lowers the use of chemicals in a canola paddock, reduces the cost of chemical inputs for a farmer and has a real advantage in timeliness for sowing. We are also very close to having the ability to insert omega-3 into our canola, which we all know has multiple health benefits for us as humans if we ingest that. One of the prime sources of omega-3 in the human diet at the moment is through seafood. That is

not always an option for people. It is sometimes expensive and sometimes not available, so to have omega-3 available in our diets through a simple additive to such things as margarine or canola oil will be a real benefit—and there will be other functional foods that come along as this technology develops. I am pleased that we are here today and are finally able to talk about lifting the GM moratorium. There will be environmental benefits, there will be health benefits, there will be benefits to our whole of landscape and, ultimately, there will be functional foods available to us as consumers.

We do need to remember that, as broadacre grain producers, we actually compete against the rest of the world. We export a commodity. It is all very well to talk about niche markets, but those things are very hard to achieve when you are talking about wheat, barley or canola. Kangaroo Island Pure Grain have identified themselves into a niche market, but for the vast majority we are competing head-to-head with the Canadians, with the Americans, with the Europeans and with the Argentinians, so we have to once again use that formula and ensure that our grain growers are profitable so we can compete on the world market, in a commodity market.

Kangaroo Island has retained its moratorium; that is their choice at the moment. We have agreed to continue with that. It will be interesting to hear the discussion on Kangaroo Island and throughout the rest of the state in years to come as this technology progresses, not just genetic modification but also gene editing, which is an exciting new technology that is not quite GM but involves the tweaking of individual genes. It is really exciting and I think absolutely we need to be a part of this.

For 150 years, South Australia has led the way in many areas in dryland agriculture; we have exported our technology, and I feel that in recent years that advantage has slipped. I am pleased that we have been able to agree to the amendments that have come back from the Legislative Council, and I look forward to giving our growers the opportunity that they deserve.

Mr DULUK: I would also like to make a small contribution on the bill. I welcome what will be passing finally through this parliament. My electorate is proudly home to the Waite campus, named in honour of Peter Waite, who I believe celebrates his birthday this week, member for Flinders, which today stands as the largest concentration of agricultural research and teaching expertise in the Southern Hemisphere. As South Australians, I think this is something we should be so proud of: the unique expertise, knowledge and creativity coming out of the Waite campus.

Established in 1924 and located at Urrbrae, the Waite is home to world-class research and development in plant, agriculture, food, wine and many other areas in the natural sciences, which many researchers over many years have been working on, looking forward to the passing of this type of legislation. It is important that we support the innovation and research endeavours in grain, soil and plant breeding by our scientists in South Australia, and that includes providing the commercialisation of new technology. A GM crop is no different.

If this state is to realise its economic potential and continue to lead the world in agricultural research, this parliament must do what it can to help those researchers. Although at times controversial, GM technology is highly regulated by the commonwealth and it is time to let the market decide whether or not GM-free crops find their place on our supermarket shelves. We have an abundance of food in Australia, but we also play an important role in feeding the world.

As an economic powerhouse to the South Australian economy, it is time to back our farmers in applying the science developed locally at the Waite campus. Like many in this place, I have been following this debate. Thank you to all those people who have contacted my office and my constituents, who are both pro and against GM and the passage of the bill. I thank Grain Producers SA for their work as an industry advocate and for their strong commitment to ensuring an evidence-based approach to this policy change. I commend the bill to the house.

Motion carried.

FAIR TRADING (FUEL PRICING INFORMATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:00): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Fair Trading Act 1987. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:00): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Fair Trading (Fuel Pricing Information) Amendment Bill 2020 seeks to introduce a scheme for real-time fuel pricing for greater price transparency. I am pleased to bring this bill to the house and know members are very interested in this proposal. The government committed to investigate the feasibility of introducing a mandatory fuel price disclosure scheme in South Australia to increase fuel price transparency for consumers.

In the face of conflicting evidence, which I have expressed to those in this house previously and again today, the Premier referred this matter to the Productivity Commission for its specific economic and competition policy expertise. The commission was asked to investigate and report on policy models that would enable consumers to make more informed choices when purchasing fuel. The commission delivered its report on 18 March.

Relevant factors considered by the commission include the net benefits of the policy models used in other states, the current South Australian regulatory environment and the cost-effectiveness of the models. The commission set itself four tests that needed to be met to justify government intervention in the market. The scheme must:

1. improve the scope, quantity and integrity of fuel price information available to consumers;
2. be taken up by consumers;
3. be acted on by consumers; and
4. provide benefits to consumers that exceed the costs of regulation to retailers and to the government.

The Productivity Commission considered two policy models for government intervention against the assessable criteria, in addition to the status quo. These models were the compilation and publication of real-time fuel pricing information, commonly known as Fuel Check, or the reporting and fixing of fuel prices for 24 hours, commonly known as Fuel Watch.

Whilst the Productivity Commission did not make formal recommendations, its analysis of these policy models greatly assisted the government. The report has been considered, and I advise the house that this bill will allow the implementation of a fuel price monitoring scheme consistent with the Fuel Check model.

The fuel pricing information scheme will require retailers to report prices, which will be made available to consumers to make informed choices about their purchases. The details of the scheme will be set out in regulation, which we will be consulting on shortly. Specifically, we will take feedback from industry and individual retailers in relation to the practical implementation of the policy model.

I would like to stress that the evidence regarding fuel pricing schemes' impact on pricing averages remains inconclusive. The aim of this scheme is, rather, to increase fuel price transparency overall and to provide more accurate and reliable information to consumers to better inform them when purchasing fuel. Providing consumers with a better understanding of the fuel price cycle will create a greater opportunity for consumers to take advantage of the lowest point of the cycle and in turn benefit from potential savings.

Subject to the bill's passage through this parliament, we will undertake a procurement process to engage a third-party data aggregator to collect fuel price information from retailers and a data matching service to help verify price information. Private app developers will be able to access this data via an API free of charge, consistent with the model implemented in Queensland.

To assist with compliance and enforcement, Queensland also contracts with another provider who can access fuel card data. This data shows the price paid in real-time transactions. The Queensland government pays for this organisation to match this against the prices provided to the data aggregator. A report is then provided to the government outlining any price mismatches that require investigation.

A similar approach will be taken here in South Australia to assist compliance and enforcement activities undertaken by Consumer and Business Services. The scheme will run initially for a two-year trial period to ensure its stated benefits are met. I thank the Productivity Commission for their work in this regard and for the options that they have outlined. I commend this bill to the house and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary 1—Short title 2—Amendment provisions

These clause are formal and the measure would commence on assent.

Part 2—Amendment of *Fair Trading Act 1987*

3—Insertion of Part 6B

This clause inserts a new Part 6B allowing for the establishment, by regulation, of a scheme for the dissemination of real-time information relating to fuel pricing by fuel retailers. The section also creates a series of offences (punishable by a maximum fine of \$10,000) to enforce compliance with the scheme by fuel retailers.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. A. Koutsantonis.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (ACCOUNTABILITY AND OTHER MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (16:05): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Correctional Services Act 1982 and to make a related amendment to the Public Sector Act 2009. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (16:06): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Correctional Services (Accountability and Other Measures) Amendment Bill 2020 will enable the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) to continue to provide the highest level of prisoner and offender management whilst building a strong rehabilitative culture. The bill proposes various amendments to the Correctional Services Act 1982 (the corrections act).

Targeted consultation was undertaken on the proposed amendments, and I would like to thank all the stakeholders who provided feedback. A number of changes have been made to the bill as a result of the consultation. In particular, I would like to thank the Commissioner for Victims' Rights for her contribution during the consultation phase. The commissioner always has the interests of victims at the forefront of her mind and has added to the bill in a number of ways, not least of all by increasing opportunities for the impact on victims to be considered when parole-related decisions are being made.

It is no surprise that the Presiding Member of the Parole Board was also integral to the consultation phase. She is always available to consider the government's views on how we can improve our justice system, and her experience and knowledge in this area are invaluable. This bill, or at least the early version, has had somewhat of a long life. I know that those on the other side attempted to get some of these changes made during their last period of government but never managed to get the bill through.

I am proud that our government will deliver this important reform. We have taken some of the early work done by those opposite and significantly beefed up the bill, giving more weight to victims, changing the process for re-release on parole of life-sentenced prisoners and expanding on the powers of the chief executive of the department. Of fundamental importance is the insertion of a new section at the beginning of the act which introduces for the first time, 'Objects and guiding principles'.

The objectives of the Correctional Services Act reflect best practice for achieving a balance between the requirement to safely and securely manage prisoners whilst promoting the rehabilitative and reintegration needs of prisoners and offenders. It also acknowledges the importance of respecting the rights of victims of crime and promotion of community safety.

Effective end-to-end case management is critical in order to provide prisoners and offenders with the tools to develop pro-social supports and reintegration into the community through access to appropriate support, programs and services. Improving case management has been a particular focus of this government when it comes to corrections, and we have invested significantly in both infrastructure and information technology to support these functions.

For the first time staff management will form a key part of the corrections act. The bill contains new provisions allowing the chief executive to compel staff to participate fully in post-incident reviews and investigation processes. It also provides a power for the CE to remove and reassign duties to an officer or employee working in a correctional facility in cases where the CE does not have confidence in an officer or employee's integrity, honesty or conduct.

Importantly, the bill will ensure that South Australia complies with the inspection requirements of places of detention under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984) and the associated Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which the commonwealth government ratified on 21 December 2017.

Significant amendments have been made to the provisions relating to the inspection of prisons. The current corrections act has very basic provisions enabling the appointment and visiting functions of independent inspectors to visit prisons. The bill proposes to introduce an 'official visitors' scheme, establishing a group of independent, appropriately skilled visitors that meet OPCAT while also meeting the contemporary needs of a prisoner population, including specialists in mental health and wellbeing and Aboriginal representatives. The bill provides detail on the role, function and reporting obligations of the new official visitors scheme.

In keeping with the principle of rehabilitation, and recognising the government's commitment to 10by20, the bill proposes to provide greater access to rehabilitation and vocational training for people on remand. Importantly, the bill will require the Parole Board to consider a structured day in setting conditions of release on parole. The Parole Board must consider imposing a condition of community service on a prisoner who does not have any employment or study obligations upon the commencement of the parole period.

As I mentioned earlier, in reforming the corrections act we have considered the views, expectations and impact of decisions on victims. A number of important changes have been made to ensure victim impact, and the impact on a victim's family is taken into consideration, particularly with respect to Parole Board decisions.

To further protect and promote the needs of victims of crime, prisoner mail will be limited in certain circumstances to prevent prisoners from contacting directly or indirectly any victim, alleged victim or persons associated with their offending. We have also tightened the provisions around the release of victims' details, protecting the release of details to prisoners by the Parole Board in its obligation to provide information when making decisions that are reviewable by the Parole Administrative Review Commissioner.

The Commissioner for Victims' Rights will be automatically advised when an award of damages is paid to a prisoner and subsequently quarantined for victims (and certain others) to make claim under part 7 of the corrections act. Should no specific victim make a claim against the compensation funds, 50 per cent of the remaining funds will be credited to the Victims of Crime Fund, with the remaining 50 per cent to be used by the prisoner for rehabilitation and reintegration at the conclusion of their sentence. This change acknowledges that, in many instances, there are multiple victims associated with a prisoner's offending (that is, drug trafficking offences) and the receipt of substantial compensation by a prisoner would be contrary to community expectations.

We are bringing the bill in line with current technological advances, as well as addressing future use of technology within our prisons by ensuring that monitored and recorded communications can be used in court, for intelligence, investigative or for evidentiary purposes by certain bodies. This

is an important change that will enhance community safety, allowing justice agencies greater ability to gather evidence and work together to prevent future offending. This includes recordings by correctional officers with body-worn cameras. Body-worn cameras have been trialled in other states' corrective services and are used by South Australia Police.

The bill will introduce 'prison buffer zones' for the purpose of possession of drugs under the Controlled Substances Act 1984. Penalties will also be increased for possession of unauthorised mobile telephones within a prison buffer zone. The intention is for these zones to be similar to school zones, in which the sale, supply or administration of a controlled drug is prohibited.

Other important reform includes preventing prisoners who are sentenced for offence of dealing or trafficking drugs from receiving automatic parole. Currently, prisoners who are sentenced to less than five years' imprisonment for these offences are eligible for automatic parole at the end of their non-parole period. Requiring these offenders to apply for parole will require their appearance before the Parole Board, who can then consider factors including their program participation while in custody and the safety of the community before granting release.

We will also expand the types of offences that are subject to review by the Parole Administrative Review Commissioner in relation to decisions for release on parole. Currently, only parole decisions for life-sentenced prisoners are subject to this review. The bill proposes to introduce a prescribed class of prisoner to capture those offences including conspiring, assisting or soliciting to commit murder, as well as offences of impeding investigations of offences or assisting offenders when the offence established by the principal offender is the offence of murder. This amendment will capture serious offenders, including Snowtown accomplice Mark Haydon, who is charged with seven counts of assisting with the disposal of the Snowtown bodies.

The bill proposes an additional review mechanism for the rerelease to parole of those prescribed class of prisoners who have been returned to custody on an alleged parole breach. In deciding whether to rerelease an offender onto parole, the Parole Board will be required to consider any submissions from the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Police or the Commissioner for Victims' Rights. This additional requirement will give victims of life sentence prisoners an added voice as well as allow the Attorney-General or police commissioner to raise concerns they may have on behalf of the community about a life sentence prisoner being released onto parole. Other amendments to enhance the efficiency of parole processes include:

- increasing the membership of the Parole Board from nine members to 11 members;
- enabling a suitable person appointed to be the deputy of any member of the board (other than the presiding member or either of the deputy presiding members) to act as a member of the board where a member is absent or unable to act;
- giving the Parole Board the ability to set the time line to assess the progress of life sentence prisoners or prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence whilst in custody;
- enabling prisoners to appear before the Parole Board via audiovisual link if possible and appropriate; and
- allowing for swift and certain community-based sanctions that will see a finite suspension of parole for technical breaches. This will allow a short sanction either in custody or in a place including premises declared to be a probation and parole hostel (if these were to be established in the future).

An emerging security issue is the use of remotely piloted aircraft (RPAs), also referred to as unmanned aircraft or drones. As technology advances and RPAs become more sophisticated, their accessibility to the public is also increasing. While the commonwealth regulates airspace, it is a matter for each state to decide how to deal with the RPAs in relation to prison security. Already we have seen several cases interstate where RPAs have flown over prisons.

RPAs present a significant risk to correctional institutions, particularly if they are used to introduce contraband into prisons. This bill therefore contains new provisions to safeguard prisons from the potential risks associated with the RPAs and other forms of aircraft to maintain the integrity of prison operations.

Other important changes in the bill include providing for the circumstances in which restraints may be applied to prisoners and introducing a new provision prohibiting prisoners to be involved in disrupting security or order of the prison by participating in a riot and/or unlawful assembly. There are new provisions for the protection of biometric data from misuse. Biometric data is used as a security measure to control access to some of the state's prisons and this is to ensure the proper safeguards are in place to maintain privacy and protection of individuals. I commend the bill to members and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without reading it.

Leave granted.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Part 1—Preliminary 1—Short title 2—Commencement 3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Correctional Services Act 1982*

4—Amendment of long title

The words 'to provide for certain powers relating to the management of correctional services officers and employees' are inserted into the long title.

5—Insertion of section 3

Proposed new section 3 sets out objects and guiding principles for the purposes of the Act.

3—Objects and guiding principles

The objects and guiding principles of the Act are set out.

6—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

Definitions are inserted and amended for the purposes of the measure.

7—Amendment of section 6—Criminal intelligence

Amendments are made to the criminal intelligence provisions in connection with proposed new section 85CB (which allows the CE to obtain certain information (which may include information in the nature of criminal intelligence) from the Commissioner of Police).

8—Amendment of section 7—Power of Minister and CE to delegate

One amendment allows for delegations by the CE without the Minister's approval. The other amendment adds the words 'officer or' before 'employee of the Department'.

9—Substitution of Part 3 Division 2

The existing provision relating to inspectors of correctional institutions is substituted with a new Division relating to official visitors:

Division 2—Official visitors

20—Official visitors

The Governor will appoint official visitors.

20A—Independence

Provision is made in relation to the independence of official visitors.

20B—Remuneration

Provision is made in relation to the remuneration of official visitors.

20C—Staff and resources

The Minister will provide official visitors with necessary resources.

20D—Functions of official visitors

The functions of official visitors are set out.

20E—Provision of information to official visitor

Certain powers to use and obtain information are set out for official visitors.

20F—Requests to contact official visitor

Provision is made in relation to prisoners contacting official visitors.

20G—Reporting obligations of official visitor

The reporting obligations of official visitors are set out.

20H—Confidentiality of information

The provision provides that information about individual cases disclosed to an official visitor is to be kept confidential and is not liable to disclosure under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.

10—Amendment of section 29—Work by prisoners

Distinctions in the current Act between remand prisoners and other prisoners relating to work are removed.

11—Amendment of section 33—Prisoners' mail

One amendment proposes that the regulations and the CE can prescribe that material is prohibited material for the purposes of the provisions relating to prisoners' mail.

Another amendment makes provision in relation to letters from prisoners to victims being in contravention of the section.

Other amendments are consequential on the new Division relating to official visitors.

Other amendments relate to prisoners nominating legal practitioners for the purposes of the provisions relating to prisoners' mail.

12—Amendment of section 35A—Power to monitor or record prisoner communication

Section 35A(2) is amended so that a party to a communication that may be monitored or recorded is not required to be informed of the fact that the communication may be monitored or recorded, unless the communication occurs in circumstances prescribed by the regulations.

The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption is added to the list of persons whose communications with prisoners cannot be recorded.

Another amendment is consequential on the new Division relating to official visitors.

A new subsection is inserted to authorised the provision of a communication recorded or monitored (or evidence or information revealed by such a communication) to law enforcement agencies, prosecution authorities, any other agencies prescribed by the regulations, as well as the ICAC and the OPI for certain purposes set out in the provision.

13—Amendment of section 36—Power to keep prisoner apart from other prisoners

Extensions to directions under section 36(2) are provided for.

14—Insertion of section 36A

Proposed new section 36A relates to the use of restraints:

36A—Restraints to be used on prisoners in certain circumstances

Officers and employees of the Department are authorised to use restraints in certain circumstances, provided that the CE's requirements are complied with

15—Amendment of section 37A—Release on home detention

This amendment is consequential.

16—Amendment of section 42A—Minor breach of prison regulations 17—Amendment of section 45—Procedure at inquiry

These amendments add the words 'officer or' before 'employee'.

18—Insertion of Part 5 Division 3

New offence provisions are proposed to be inserted:

Division 3—Criminal offences

49—Disrupting security or order

Offences relating to a prisoner taking part in an unlawful assembly, riot or mutiny are prescribed.

49A—Possession of certain items by prisoners

A prisoner commits an offence if the prisoner has possession of a controlled drug or a prohibited item in a correctional institution without the CE's permission.

19—Amendment of section 51—Offences by persons other than prisoners

Amendments are made to provide for an offence for persons to have possession of a prohibited item (which includes a controlled drug) in a correctional institution without the CE's permission. In addition, a similar offence is provided for in a correctional institution buffer zone. The latter offence is not committed if the person has a lawful excuse.

20—Amendment of section 52—Power of arrest

This amendment provides that an officer or employee of the Department or a police officer may, without warrant, apprehend a person who is subject to an order of a court or a warrant of commitment authorising their detention in custody and who the officer or employee of the Department or police officer suspects on reasonable grounds has been released from custody in error.

21—Amendment of section 55—Continuation of Parole Board

The number of members of the Parole Board is increased from 9 to 11. The other amendment is consequential.

22—Amendment of section 57—Allowances and expenses

The allowances and expenses of members of the Parole Board will be determined by the Remuneration Tribunal (currently, the Governor determines these).

23—Amendment of section 59—Deputies

Currently, a deputy may be appointed in respect of a particular member of the Board to act in that member's absence. The amendment would allow for a deputy to be appointed in respect of any member so that, in the absence of any member, the deputy could act.

24—Amendment of section 60—Proceedings of the Board

These amendments relate to the constitution of the Parole Board and the sitting of the Board in divisions.

25—Amendment of section 64—Reports by Board

The time period within which the Board must report on the progress of life prisoners is amended from 1 year to the period of time designated by the presiding member.

26—Amendment of section 66—Automatic release on parole for certain prisoners

Section 66(1) is amended so that the Board is to order that prisoners entitled to automatic release on parole are released on the day on which their non parole period expires.

Another amendment adds serious drug offenders to the list of those not entitled to automatic release on parole.

The other amendment is consequential.

27—Amendment of section 67—Release on parole by application to Board

The amendments relating to *prisoners of a prescribed class* are consequential on the amendments to Part 6 Division 4 (relating to reviews of the release on parole of certain prisoners).

The amendment to section 67(7ab) protects information relating to a victim (or a member of their family) of an offence of a prisoner from disclosure.

Another amendment expressly includes the impact of release of a prisoner on parole on any victim and their family as a matter that the Parole Board must take into account in determining an application for release.

Another amendment relates to inserting the words 'officer or' before 'employee'.

28—Amendment of section 68—Conditions of release on parole

Section 68(1aa)(b) is amended to provide that the release of a prisoner on parole automatically under section 66 is subject to the prescribed conditions (being conditions determined by the presiding member of the Board).

The deletion of section 68(2a) is technical.

Proposed new subsections (1ab) and (1ac) relate to the Board being required to consider imposing a condition on a prisoner's release on parole that the prisoner perform community service if the Board is satisfied that the prisoner will not (on their release on parole) be undertaking remunerative or voluntary work or a course of education, training or instruction.

Another amendment expressly includes the impact of release of a prisoner on parole on any victim and their family as a matter that the Parole Board must take into account in determining the conditions of release of a prisoner on parole.

Other amendments relate to the CE being given power to accept conditions of parole on behalf of a prisoner in certain circumstances.

29—Amendment of section 74—Board may take action for breach of parole conditions

This amendment is related to the insertion of new section 74AAA. It limits section 74 to breaches by persons released on parole who are serving sentences of life imprisonment and (for all other persons on parole) breaches involving offences or serious parole breaches. Other technical amendments are made relating to provisions that have had effect.

30—Insertion of section 74AAA

New section 74AAA is inserted:

74AAA—Board may suspend release on parole or take other action for certain breaches of parole conditions

The Board is empowered to make certain orders (including directing that a person serve a period of time in prison) where satisfied that the person (other than a person serving a sentence of life imprisonment) has breached a condition of their parole (other than a breach that is to be dealt with under section 74).

31—Amendment of section 74AA—Board may impose community service for breach of conditions

This amendment is consequential.

32—Amendment of section 76—Apprehension etc of parolees on Board warrant

These amendments allow the presiding member or deputy presiding member of the Board to issue a warrant for the arrest (or the arrest and return to prison) of a person whose release on parole has been cancelled (currently, only a magistrate may exercise this power).

33—Amendment of section 77—Proceedings before the Board

The provisions relating to proceedings before the Board are amended to provide that a prisoner is not entitled to be physically present in proceedings before the Board and that the Board can receive evidence or submissions from a prisoner not physically present by means of audio or visual link (or allow the prisoner to appear or be physically present before the Board).

Also, currently a registered victim may make submissions to the Board in proceedings. An amendment proposes that other victims also be empowered to do so.

Provision is made for the Attorney-General, Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner for Victims' Rights to be given notice of proceedings relating to an alleged breach of a parole condition by a person released on parole who is serving a sentence of life imprisonment and for the Board to take into account any submissions made by a person given notice of the proceedings.

Another amendment relates to inserting the words 'officer or' before 'employee'.

34—Amendment of heading to Part 6 Division 4

This amendment is consequential on the amendments relating to *prisoners of a prescribed class*.

35—Amendment of section 77A—Interpretation

Certain decisions of the Parole Board are reviewable by the Parole Administrative Review Commissioner. The current situation under section 77A is that the following decisions of the Board in relation to a prisoner serving a sentence of life imprisonment are reviewable decisions:

- a decision to order the release of the prisoner on parole;
- a decision as to the conditions to be imposed on the parole by the Board;
- a decision to vary or revoke a condition to which the parole is subject.

A *prisoner of a prescribed class* is defined to mean—

- a prisoner who is serving a sentence of life imprisonment for an offence; or
- a prisoner who is serving a sentence of imprisonment for an offence against section 12 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (Conspiring or soliciting to commit murder); or
- a prisoner who is serving a sentence of imprisonment for an offence against section 241(1) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* (Impeding investigation of offences or assisting offenders) as an

accessory if the offence established as having been committed by the principal offender is the offence of murder.

Accessory and principal offender are defined as having the same meanings as in section 241(1) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.

For the purposes of Part 6 Division 4, a reference to an *offence of murder* includes—

- an offence of conspiracy to murder; and
- an offence of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of murder.

36—Insertion of Part 6A

A new Part is inserted relating to the management of officers and employees of Department:

Part 6A—Management of officers, employees of Department etc

77Q—Preliminary

Part 6A applies in addition to, and does not limit the operation of, the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

77R—Investigative powers of CE

The CE is given investigative powers in relation to officers and employees of the Department

77S—Removal and reassignment of duties of officer or employee working in correctional institution

This proposed section provides that if the CE does not have confidence in the suitability of a prescribed employee to continue working in a correctional institution, having regard to the prescribed employee's integrity, honesty or conduct, the CE may cause the prescribed employee to be immediately removed from the correctional institution (if necessary) and assign other duties to the prescribed employee and determine the place or places at which the duties are to be performed.

37—Amendment of section 81E—Notice to victims to be published

This amendment requires the CE to forward a copy of a notice under the section to the Commissioner for Victims' Rights.

38—Amendment of section 81L—Payments out of fund where legal proceedings notified

This amendment provides that the remainder of any prisoner compensation quarantine fund (after payments in accordance with the scheme) are to be divided equally between the Victims of Crime Fund and the prisoner.

39—Amendment of section 81M—Payments out of fund where notice from creditor received

This amendment is substantially similar to the amendment to section 81L.

40—Amendment of section 81O—Payments out of fund where no notice given

This amendment is substantially similar to the amendment to section 81L.

41—Amendment of section 81T—Drug and alcohol testing of officers and employees

This amendment is technical.

42—Amendment of section 85C—Confidentiality

New subsections (a1) and (a2) provide that certain information must not be disclosed except with the authorisation of the CE. Other amendments relate to these new subsections.

43—Insertion of section 85CB

New section 85CB is proposed to be inserted:

85CB—Disclosure of information relating to criminal history

The CE may request the Commissioner of Police to provide certain information about relevant persons (who are defined). The CE may refuse certain applications relating to employment based on information provided under the section (without providing grounds or reasons for the refusal).

44—Amendment of section 85D—Release of information to eligible persons

The need for a written application for release of information is deleted. Another amendment changes the reference from [a prisoner's] 'family or a close associate of a prisoner' to [a prisoner's] 'immediate family' (which is a defined term).

45—Insertion of section 85E

A new section is inserted relating to biometric data:

85E—Confidentiality of biometric data

Provision is made relating to the use and disclosure of biometric data obtained from visitors to prisons.

46—Amendment of section 86B—Use of correctional services dogs

The provision clarifies that correctional services dogs may be used to search an officer or employee of the Department at a correctional institution or probation and parole hostel.

47—Insertion of sections 87A and 87B

New sections are inserted relating to the operation of unmanned aircraft around correctional institutions

87A—Operation of remotely piloted aircraft

It is an offence to operate an unmanned aircraft within 100 metres of a correctional institution without the permission of the CE.

87B—Remotely piloted aircraft—special powers

The CE is given powers relating to the seizure of unmanned aircraft in certain circumstances.

Schedule 1—Related amendment and transitional provisions Part 1—Amendment of *Public Sector Act 2009*

1—Amendment of section 59—Right of review

A decision by the CE under the *Correctional Services Act 1982* (relating to refusing an application to which the Commissioner of Police has objected) is prescribed as a decision not subject to review for the purposes of section 59 of the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

Part 2—Transitional provisions

2—Visiting inspectors

Existing visiting inspectors cease to hold office on the commencement of the new Part relating to official visitors.

3—Allowances and expenses of members of Parole Board to continue

The determination of the Governor relating to the allowances and expenses of members of the Parole Board continues until the Remuneration Tribunal has made a determination under the section as amended.

4—Review of release on parole relating to prisoners of a prescribed class

The amendments to the *Correctional Services Act 1982* in this measure relating to the review of the release on parole of *prisoners of a prescribed class* do not apply to a *prisoner of a prescribed class* if, prior to the commencement of this clause, the prisoner has been released on parole. However, if, after the commencement of this clause, the release on parole of a *prisoner of a prescribed class* is cancelled, the relevant amendments to the *Correctional Services Act 1982* made by this measure will apply to the prisoner (including any application for release on parole made by the prisoner after that commencement).

5—General

This is a general transitional provision relating to amendments to the Act effected by the measure.

6—Other matters

This provision relates to proposed new sections dealing with the management of officers and employees of Department.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. A Koutsantonis.

**RAIL SAFETY NATIONAL LAW (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (RAIL SAFETY WORK) AMENDMENT
BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 8 April 2020.)

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (16:19): The government have introduced legislation as a consequence of a COAG—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Harvey): Could you indicate whether you are the lead speaker.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, and probably the only speaker from the opposition. The government have introduced this legislation as a consequence of the national COAG. South Australia is in the unique position that we have been tasked by the nation to be the lead legislator in a number of areas: energy policy and rail safety law. Obviously, the minister has gone to the COAG and the COAG has decided, in consultation with the other jurisdictions, that there need to be amendments to the definition of 'rail worker'. The opposition accepts the argument from the government that this is as a consequence of the COAG.

There is a longstanding process in this parliament that this opposition will support national reforms. On the national body, I understand there are consultations with other national bodies, such as trade unions and other interested third parties, who seek consent or otherwise. My understanding is of course from the government that consent has been received by all relevant jurisdictions.

The government was kind enough to offer me a briefing. The briefing, which I will read into *Hansard* now, is fairly brief and I think descriptive of what it is the government is attempting to do. Obviously, the Rail Safety National Law is Australia's rail safety legislation that establishes a co-regulatory regime involving a process by which rail safety operators assess the risk associated with railway operations and then establish a safety management system to manage those risks. The briefing states:

The...Railway Association (ARA) raised concerns with the definition of [a rail safety worker] in the [Rail Safety National Law]. The ARA's primary concern was that the definition was open to broad interpretation, which resulted in workers who have no impact on safety being classified as 'rail safety workers'. As a consequence, there exists unnecessary overlap with work health and safety legislation...that results in increased costs and a regulatory burden for industry.

My understanding from the government's briefing is that the definition of a rail safety worker will be changed to align with the objectives of the Rail Safety National Law to capture only work that could pose a risk to railway operations, current or future, and clearly distinguish between the risks from the work and the risks to the person performing the work. I am advised by the government that the amendments also remove risk to workers who are not specific to railway operations and therefore are adequately addressed under other work health and safety laws. The opposition accepts the government's argument and will support these changes.

I understand that as the lead legislator, the South Australia government sought the advice of parliamentary counsel and drafted the amendment bill on behalf of the national Parliamentary Counsel's Committee. Obviously, cabinet has endorsed this position and the bill is before us now. I commend the bill to the house and wish its speedy passage through both houses of parliament.

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (16:23): I, too, rise to make a brief contribution on the Rail Safety National Law (South Australia)(Rail Safety Work) Amendment Bill. It is not a long bill or particularly complicated, but it is particularly relevant in relation to safety. The Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012 (RSNL) is Australia's rail safety legislation which establishes a co-regulatory system involving a process by which rail safety operators assess the risks associated with their railway operations and then establish a safety management system to manage those risks.

The Australasian Railway Association raised concerns with the definition of rail safety work in the RSNL. The association's primary concern was that the definition was to open up broad interpretation, which resulted in workers who have no impact on safety being classified as rail safety workers. As a consequence, there exists unnecessary overlap with work health and safety legislation that results in increased costs and regulatory burden for the industry.

The proposed amendments to the RSNL ensure that the definition of 'rail safety work' aligns with the objects of the RSNL and capture only work that could pose a risk to railway operations, current or future, and clearly distinguish between risks from the work and risks to the person performing the work. The amendments also remove risks to workers who are not specific to railway operations and therefore are adequately addressed under work health and safety laws.

It is intended that changes to the RSNL will reduce the rail safety work assessment burden for industry by removing risks to workers who are not specific to railway operations and therefore are adequately addressed under WHS laws.

In June 2019, officers of the National Transport Commission provided instructions for drafting by the Australasian Parliamentary Counsel's Committee. The responsible ministers of the Transport and Infrastructure Council unanimously recommended the making of the proposed legislation at its meeting on 22 November 2019. As South Australia is the lead legislator of the RSNL, parliamentary counsel has drafted the amendment bill on behalf of the national Parliamentary Counsel's Committee.

The proposed amendments are broadly supported by industry, jurisdictions, the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator and the Australasian Railway Association. It is intended that changes to the RSNL will reduce the rail safety work assessment burden for industry by removing risks to workers who are not specific to railway operations and therefore are adequately addressed under work health and safety laws. Pleasingly, there are no direct costs to jurisdictions that result from the proposed amendments to the RSNL.

As I said, it is not a complicated bill. It is amending an existing bill. There are just five clauses and the bulk of the changes are in part 2, clauses 4 and 5, and really talk about safety, work properly being done and the risk of exposure to moving rolling stock. The member for West Torrens wished it a speedy passage through the house and I am sure it will get that.

I would like to take a moment, if I may, to digress slightly, but still talk about trains. It is just 12 months since the grain train on Eyre Peninsula ceased to run after 102 years of hauling grain and, in recent years and at other times, all sorts of freight, livestock, machinery and people up and down Eyre Peninsula. Viterra, the grain handler with the majority of the work in this state, and Genesee & Wyoming, the rail operator on Eyre Peninsula, failed to reach agreement on their contract.

This was a sad day for many of us on Eyre Peninsula. We came to the realisation that it was no longer economically viable for the train to operate and that it could no longer compete with road transport. We understand that. However, despite that, many people are still nostalgic about the railway operation and what it meant to Eyre Peninsula for more than 100 years.

It began being built in 1906, reached my home town of Cummins in 1907, where it truncated. It continued on in 1909 and reached the mighty metropolis of Yeelanna and then over the ensuing two decades a spur line extended from Yeelanna to Mount Hope. The main central line extended to Penong in the west and the line branched from Cummins to go north-east through Kimba to Buckleboo. There were also at one stage plans to build a spur line out to Mangalo from the Rudall line and also an extension from Buckleboo on to the next siding, the name of which just escapes me at the moment, but obviously it was uneconomic at the time.

When it was first built, there were very few roads across Eyre Peninsula. Many of the hundreds were being surveyed and opened up for settlement at the very same time the railway was pushing north, so it really came with the first settlers and was the lifeblood of inland Eyre Peninsula, primarily bringing water in the early days for the settlers, who needed horses for the farm work at that time. It provided water for the trains themselves, being all steam trains, and moved freight, machinery and people up and down.

Slowly but surely, technology progressed. It probably reached its maximum extent in the immediate postwar years. The decline of the railways, although people do not remember it as such, began in the early fifties when the first of the many sidings on the Eyre Peninsula line began to close. In fact, the siding adjacent to the farm where I grew up, known as Yeltukka siding, was one of the very first to close in 1951. That meant that my grandfather and my father needed to take their grain to the next siding further east, which was Ningana, just one siding west of Yeelanna.

At its maximum extent, the railways employed 650 people on the Eyre Peninsula line—every town large or small had a resident railway gang, many towns had railway cottages and it was a vital part of the peninsula. The maintenance of the track and the operation of the locomotives and trains themselves, including drivers, firemen and guards, was a really important employer on Eyre Peninsula. Some changes began, particularly in the late fifties and through the 1960s.

Up until that point, all the grain harvest had been collected and transported in three-bushel bags or, in the very early days, four-bushel bags, but for most of the 20th century it was three-bushel

bags. The grain growers were required to stitch up the bags once the grain had been put into a three-bushel bag, put it onto their dray (in the early days; later, some had small trucks) and take it into their local siding, where it was unloaded from the truck and put into a stack.

Each bag was weighed individually, recorded, tested, graded, all that sort of thing, so traceability was paramount. Eventually, through the ensuing months trains would come north from Port Lincoln, or south from Thevenard if it was in the western division, and the bags were loaded from the stack onto the train and taken to the port. It was extremely time-consuming and required a lot of manpower.

In the late fifties/early sixties, South Australia was one of the last grain growing regions in the world to move to bulk handling. South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited was formed, under an act of parliament in this very chamber, I believe. That allowed for the first of the terminal port silos, and ultimately up-country silos, to be built, primarily using grain grower funds. Grain growers paid tolls on the grain they delivered, and through that mechanism capital was raised and silos were built.

Gradually, the grain industry transferred from bags to bulk handling. It was a lot of work. A bag of wheat was 180 pounds. Three bushels was about 87 kilograms, about what the member for Mawson is coming in at the moment—looking good, my friend. A bag of barley was a little bit lighter, at 150 pounds, and of course oats were only 120 pounds.

I mentioned Yeelanna earlier—and I remember there were many good Methodists around Yeelanna—and that was the first extension from Cummins up to Yeelanna. It was said that some of the farmers around Yeelanna did not grow oats because they fed it to racehorses and they would not grow barley because they made beer out of it. They only ever grew wheat. Whether or not that is a true story, I do not know, but it is certainly part of local folklore.

We moved to bulk handling, and the trains were critical in the transport of that. They moved from flat-top wagons, which carried bags, to bulk wagons, the most recent of which I have seen carry over 30 tonnes in each wagon. Still the trains were critical, but at the same time roads were improving. Roads were improving around Eyre Peninsula. The highways were being sealed and bitumen was laid, cars were getting better, people were more mobile, transport was easier and trucks were becoming larger, so there was competition for the rail, and motor transport had a flexibility that rail transport did not have. Slowly but surely, that competition ate away at the profitability of the rail on Eyre Peninsula.

Another point is that right from the very earliest times the railway was built on the cheap. It started way back in 1907, and in the ensuing two decades it was built almost entirely out of second-hand materials. The locomotives and the rolling stock were always brought from somewhere else to run on a narrow-gauge railway with, in the very first instance, sleepers laid directly onto the ground with no ballast whatsoever.

Rail safety was not a priority. I am sure they were careful, but there was no shortage of incidents, some accidents, some injuries and even some deaths, sadly. But it soldiered on and eventually they fitted some ballast. Slowly, they upgraded the weight of the rail and the rolling stock got bigger, but still, by the time the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s came around, it was struggling to compete with road transport. Diesel locomotives replaced the steam engines. I am not especially old, I do not believe, but I can just remember the last steam train in Cummins. I understand that the line from Yeelanna to Mount Hope was the last line in the entire state to run a steam engine.

Another interesting transport aspect of the Eyre Peninsula railway line was how we transported our passengers on our passenger line. In the early days, of course, they jumped on the train. There is a classic photograph—in fact, I have a copy of it in my office—of a railway picnic. People embarking from Port Lincoln were all sitting on open carriages, about six carriages, done up in their Sunday best to head out to the Warunda siding for a picnic. It would have been a hot and dusty trip, and they would not have been looking their best when they got home. Anyway, I am sure it was enjoyed by all.

Slowly but surely, conditions improved for passengers. Interestingly, in probably the last three decades of the passenger line operating—it closed in 1965—passengers were transported along the line by a converted bus. It was a petrol-driven fageol bus where the rubber-tyred wheels

were taken off and railway wheels were fitted. This bus would drive up and down the railway line, and it was driven just like a bus with a throttle, a clutch, gears and all the rest of it. That is how people got around.

Often people would go into Port Lincoln to do their shopping and come back out. Children who lived in far-flung places and had to go to boarding school would come home from Adelaide to Port Lincoln on the motor vessel, the *Minnipa*, dock in Port Lincoln, hop on the railcar and travel home. It often took three days to get home, which takes a big chunk out of your holidays when you are a week travelling just to get to another part of South Australia, but I am sure much fun was had by all.

Eventually, as more and more people had motor cars, motor cars were better and roads were much, much better, the demise of the railcar finally came about in 1965. The railway limped along. Viterra, through its various incarnations—SACBH first, and AusBulk was in there—did their best to upgrade the silo systems, but essentially it is a system that was built 50 years ago and did not have the capacity or flexibility to move a lot of grain quickly.

We are growing more and more grain each and every year despite climate variability, which is much talked about. It has always existed. Seasonal variability is one of the great challenges for South Australian grain farmers, but we are getting better at what we do. We passed a bill today in this house that will give us another tool in the toolbox, that being GM crops. We will continue to make better use of the water that is available to us, so we will grow more tonnes.

Up until last year, the train was in the end carrying about three-quarters of a million tonnes on the Eyre Peninsula railway. That was all into Port Lincoln because just a few years earlier the line had been truncated both at Wudinna and Kimba, which meant that no grain was being taken by train to Thevenard. All the grain travelling to Thevenard to be exported was taken there by truck already. That three-quarters of a million tonnes on average is going to have to go onto road transport and that current road freight task is more than adequate to do that.

The challenge will be when we have a bumper harvest, which we always know is just around the corner. Farmers are ever optimistic. We have had a reasonable start to the year. Although I am ever sceptical of the long-range weather forecast, if it proves to be correct then we should have bountiful rains this year and a bountiful harvest and that is when we will see our roads get busy on Eyre Peninsula.

Some still hope that the rail might come back. I can say now that that is not going to happen. It had reached a point where there had been so little investment into the rail over a long period of time that it had become quite dilapidated. The rolling stock was old. It was reliable and it did a great job, but it was old and competitive forces came into play.

I want to mention briefly the Eyre Peninsula Railway Preservation Society, which is probably an unusual name for a society for a railway that no longer exists. Essentially, they are an historical society and they have been active for a number of years and have situated themselves in the old Port Lincoln railway station, which is a beautiful old heritage-listed, duck pond stone building. What they have done over recent years is collect an enormous amount of memorabilia, an enormous number of photographs and stories from a hundred years of rail on Eyre Peninsula. There have been some great characters who have worked and been involved with the railways.

I think I have said in this place before that my maternal great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather arrived on Eyre Peninsula to work in the railways. There is barely a family on Eyre Peninsula now that does not have a link in some way to the railways. They are times past now. I was as sorry as anyone to see it go. Competitive forces come into play. As Margaret Carr famously said in *The History of the Karkoo District on Eyre Peninsula*, 'Life is never still.'

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Harvey): If the minister speaks, he closes debate.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (16:43): He does attempt to do so, Mr Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Harvey): Thank you.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: You have been elevated a number of times. Congratulations on all of your appointments and your new-found seat very close to the front. I would like to thank all members for their contributions on this bill, especially the member for Flinders. Together, we have been dealing with a difficult issue in his electorate around a very historic railway that no longer could stack up commercially. Certainly, dealing with that has been a difficult issue but one where we have to deal with the realities and the facts thereof.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I think rail is an important part of our freight task especially. Noting its continued value as a good interstate mover of freight, an efficient mover of freight, it has a very important part in South Australia's present and future. I am certainly also very supportive of the use of trains as a mass transit vehicle and system in metropolitan Adelaide.

Our train lines are workhorses that help move large numbers of people from A to B, especially from the outer extremes of our suburbs, whether all the way out to Gawler, all the way down south to Seaford or all the way out to Port Adelaide or Lefevre Peninsula and up into Blackwood. We know that trains are fantastic for that sort of longer haul of public transport. This government has shown its willingness to invest in rail in the form of the Gawler rail electrification project, as well as investing money to upgrade the Tonsley station and extend the Tonsley line out to Flinders University. We know that these projects are going to drive patronage and underpin the movement of people across our city.

This bill is extremely simplistic in its nature and is a small way to reduce red tape and regulation. I think that is why TIC jumped at the opportunity to support this. I look forward to its passage through this house and the other chamber.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

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

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

RADIATION PROTECTION AND CONTROL BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 30 April 2020.)

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:47): I indicate that I am the lead (and I suspect the only) speaker on this bill for this side of the chamber. I was contemplating the awesome responsibility that is implied by regulating radiation in South Australia and indeed anywhere. I indicate that we, as an opposition, at this stage support the bill and do not intend to go into committee stage for it.

In considering the importance of this legislation, it made me consider that radiation itself is in some ways a metaphor for the power and risks of human ingenuity and scientific endeavour. There is the extraordinary power to unleash energy and to be able to manipulate the internal body environment in order to improve human health. Yet there is another side of human ingenuity and scientific capabilities, which is to risk both short and long-term harm.

We know that the management of radiation has been enormously significant in several areas, such as in human health, in the creation of atomic power, and of course through war, as evidenced in the awesome and terrible tragedy of unleashing nuclear weaponry onto cities in Japan. This is not an area that ought to be regulated and considered lightly. It reminds us of our power and of the limits to our power in the almost inevitable occasional harm that we do to the planet and to each other.

It is also the case that human endeavour, human ingenuity—particularly our culture's version of that—is capable of being used in order to turn a profit rather than necessarily always only for the

greater good of humanity. While there is never anything wrong, in due course, with profits being made, that must be done in a way that does not compromise the greater good and indeed the planet.

That consideration is relevant to anything that we do. It is particularly relevant when we consider something that has the capacity to cause long-term harm such as radiation. We must show it the most utmost respect, and we do that through using our institutions as intelligently and wisely as we can. It is right and proper that there is a piece of legislation that regulates this. It is right and proper that the government has chosen to renew that legislation, to review whether it is sufficiently modern and whether it is sufficiently up to date with the requirements and our knowledge of radiation.

It is also important that we have an institution like the EPA that is not entirely beholden to the minister of the day, to the government of the day, but that it has its own act and its own obligations—an institution, the EPA, that employs scientists and listens to scientific advice. That is an important part of managing such an awesome responsibility as using the power of radiation. It is also important that we ensure that experts are able to have comment and views, experts who do not necessarily sit within the defined institutions of either parliament or the EPA.

I was pleased that there was an extensive consultation process undertaken in order to ensure that the expertise that sits outside these institutions had the possibility, the opportunity, to have an engagement in this discussion. I have worked tangentially with the EPA before, and I have the highest respect for it as an institution. I have carefully read not only the material it provided about the bill but also its consultation report, and I am pleased that it has done that diligently and appropriately, and on that basis I support this piece of legislation and do not intend to move amendments or, as I say, go into committee stage.

I do indicate, however, that there may be some amendments that come up in the Legislative Council. I have had a conversation with the Hon. Mark Parnell, as I believe the minister has also, and he has indicated that he may have some concerns that could be addressed through appropriate amendments. Without having seen those and without having any detail, I cannot indicate which side those on this side of the chamber may land. However, we will be taking those amendments, should they be forthcoming, seriously and with the full weight, as I have described, of the responsibility that this parliament has to appropriately and adequately regulate this extraordinary power that has been unleashed through scientific endeavour of being able to harness the atom.

I am particularly interested if there were to be amendments from the Hon. Mark Parnell that we might be persuaded to support if they are about ensuring that worker health is protected to the best possible capability of our institutions. We have workers who are more exposed to radiation than other workers, and we want to make sure that they are as protected as can be by the power of this legislation.

That said, I raise that only in order to be helpful to indicate that our acquiescence in support in this chamber does not necessarily imply that we will not be interested in amendments in the upper house. I indicate, again, the support of this side of the chamber, and I look forward to the interesting debate that may well occur in the upper house and then its return to this chamber.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:54): I rise to speak on the Radiation Protection and Control Bill 2019, and I start by commending the minister for supervising and initiating the enormous body of work that is necessary to undertake a review of legislation by the advance of this bill, which will significantly update and modernise the Radiation Protection and Control Act. It is an exercise that has not been undertaken since 1982, and clearly the world has changed; in fact, there are even a few people in our parliament who were born after that, including the minister. I think it is a commendable achievement. Even before he was a sparkle in his mother's eye, this project was being worked on. That is to be commended.

I would also like to say that because historically in South Australia we are a very significant miner, extractor and exporter of uranium, which is a very significant income-producing product for this state, the question of the protection, security and transportation regulations surrounding any radioactive product is one that we need to be acutely aware of. I think we have a responsibility to make sure that we are a voice in leadership in relation to the management of products stemming from a core product such as uranium.

We are a proud producer of this product. It serves in science, medicine and industry across the world. We should be proud of that, but we have a responsibility to be part of the regulation of it. In relation to the development of that industry, I am particularly aware of the transportation of uranium out of South Australia, which of course comes down to Port Adelaide and is exported. I do not think there is any uranium at present that goes out of Australia via Darwin, but I might be wrong. I think all of it goes through our own port. Again, we have a responsibility to make sure that whatever measures are in place are adequate and necessary to protect the interests of those who may be at risk.

Whilst my parents' era was in that category of watching the Hiroshima bomb and being afraid in relation to nuclear armament, warfare and human destruction as a result of it, I think most of us in this chamber are pleased that we live in a time when there has largely been disarmament around the world. That is not to say there has not been threat in our lifetime, but I think there has been a much more mature approach, particularly since Hiroshima. Full credit to the scientists who have learned how to split atoms but, at the end of the day, we need to responsibly manage it.

Nothing is more important than the safety of those who live in South Australia. We have come from an era when my mother would say that radioactive products caused her great concern and any kind of nuclear development would cause babies to be born disfigured and all sorts of things of that nature. My father used to go around saying that, for cattle that eat grass in these areas, it is likely to make their eyes glow in the dark. The point is that it is a different era. We understand the benefit of these products, properly secure and properly protected in those circumstances.

It brings me to the many hospital sites around South Australia, even in the metropolitan area, where there has been significant storage of radioactive waste. It is largely from very important medical procedures, X-rays and things of this nature, where there is an accumulated product that needs to be stored. For a long time, when I first came into the parliament, I asked the former government about their relocation of products, particularly as they had announced the build of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and the basement of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital was a major approved regulated repository of this waste. I asked what was going to happen to it.

For a long time, the former government promised that they were going to build a centre in South Australia for the storage of waste. Meanwhile, they were highly derisive and critical of the then federal government and their intention to look at a suitable radioactive waste repository for Australia's waste from the work that they were doing. It never transpired, they never did it—they promised it—but nevertheless it still needs to be managed. The repository has not been built. There is no single waste place. We still need to do this if we are going to have the benefits of medical advances. Of course, I am reminded in looking at you, sir, Acting Deputy Speaker—is that what you actually are?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Harvey): I think so.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Anyway, you are an important scientist in your other life, and you would understand probably more than most people in this chamber the significance of the advances from research and the benefits of these products. But they still need to be securely stored and they still need to be safely disposed of. So I again thank the minister for undertaking this review.

I do note there are significant offences, in our obligation under the national directory commitments, for a registered owner to cause, suffer or permit an unlicensed person to operate radiation apparatus, and an offence for a responsible person to cause, suffer or permit an unlicensed person to use or handle radioactive substances. As Attorney-General, obviously I take some interest when we are introducing new offences. There are obligations under this act that we will take note of and obviously need to supervise, to the extent that it may call upon the Crown Solicitor's Office to be involved in the prosecution, as they often are in relation to other environmental breaches.

I am also reminded in this legislation of the upgrade to the whistleblower law, as it was known, the public interest disclosure legislation we passed on coming into government. That needed some major repair and upgrade as well. I remind members that, although we have strengthened that very strongly to ensure that people who wish to report a breach of conduct, whether that is at the criminal level or otherwise, secure immunity in whistleblowing—in the sense of reporting it to the relevant body—that whole legislation, that whole level of protection, was born out of that need of a person who was going to speak up about an environmental or health circumstance that was going to create a public risk to others. That was really the trigger for establishing that legislation.

That is why it is so important that under public health we have a process to protect those who speak up, and that, in tandem with this type of legislation, is critical to being able to ensure that we are doing everything we can not only to enjoy the benefits of these products and processes but also to ensure that we deal with those—mostly by enforcement through civil penalties—in an appropriate and effective way; so I thank the minister for that upgrade.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (17:03): I rise in support of the bill, and I will have only a few words to say. I thought it was important that I do rise, given that I have the largest uranium mine in the country, and one of the largest in the world, in my electorate. It is essentially a copper mine that has uranium, plus gold, silver and the other stuff you do not actually exploit. The mine has made an enormous contribution to the South Australian economy over the years and it has employed thousands of people, and it is incredibly important that people who work in these industries are fully protected.

Many years ago, back in the 1990s, was the first time I went underground at Olympic Dam in order to carry out worksite assessments. I visited Olympic Dam on a number of occasions to do that in the job I was in at the time, and the mine was a Western Mining operation. The process you had to go through back in those days was that when you went underground or when you came back to the surface you had new gear on and you had on the tags that monitored radioactivity. When you came out of the mine, you put your clothing in a bin, you had a shower, you had the whole works and you had a Geiger counter run over you as well. It was a fairly rigorous process, as it should be.

The mine at Olympic Dam was unlike underground operations that existed back in the fifties and sixties in other parts of the world, where there was a fairly horrendous legacy of lung cancer and a few other illnesses when it came to exposure in those mines. Those underground mines in other parts of the world were incredibly poorly ventilated, unlike the operation at Olympic Dam, where all sorts of practices are put in place to ensure the safety of workers. However, we should always be mindful of the potential hazard and we should always be looking at the evidence and at how we can improve things.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, the mining of uranium, and the export of yellowcake from this country and from this state, has a range of benefits, that is, medical benefits and scientific benefits. For some countries that have sunk capital in that particular way, there were energy benefits, generating energy in years past. Of course, the military applications have been mentioned and they are certainly the most scary, given what happened at Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and thank God that has not been repeated.

It is worth reflecting that a number of those international agreements that were in place in relation to disarming or reducing nuclear weapons are coming to a close, which is concerning given the leadership of the United States, given the leadership of Russia and given the leadership of China. It is not a good combination of leadership when international treaties are coming up for renewal. Hopefully, wise heads will prevail, as they have in the past, even though we have come close on a number of occasions, but wise heads did prevail and there has not been a nuclear weapon incident, if that is not too light a word, in the years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I will touch on the waste being stored at hospitals and elsewhere because a lot has been made of that in relation to South Australia again being selected for a national repository. I have spoken on the national repository before. I think it was an absolutely appalling process that was entered into by the federal government. In fact, I have called it 'the sports rort process' applied to the selection of a nuclear repository. There are some deeply concerning things about the site selection process when the starting point for site selection is an individual landowner nominating the site and that then kicks off a process. In my view, that is deeply concerning. It was a recipe for division in communities in both the Flinders Ranges and Kimba.

There is something really bizarre about this process. We are taking long-lived intermediate waste from Lucas Heights, where it is surrounded by expertise and it has been looked after, and we are shipping it halfway across the country to another interim site until we come up with a proposal that will take care of that long-lived intermediate waste for the next 10,000-plus years.

It has been a very poor process, a very divisive process, and I have called upon the federal government to go back to the beginning—which might be quite frustrating—and get everyone in the tent nationally because we do have a responsibility to manage the more serious end of our domestic

nuclear waste, and we do have a responsibility to do that properly for the long term, and the process entered into is not the process you would use. Having said that, clearly we support the bill. It will be interesting to see whether the Greens' amendments are sensible and an improvement, or whether they do not improve things, but time will tell, so let's see. But it is an important bill, and anything that improves what we have in place should be supported.

In concluding, I do not just have the largest uranium mine in the country in my electorate but I also have what was the very disturbing legacy when we bent over to the English—I will not say the British; I will say the English, given my Irish and Scottish blood—and said, 'Of course you can let off some nuclear bombs in this country.' The legacy of the impact upon the Aboriginal communities in that country is still with them today both in an emotional sense and potentially in a physical sense.

The management of Maralinga is not exactly something that we can hang our hat on and say, 'That was a great job.' It was a very middling job, and when we look at what happened with the waste stored in Woomera, once again it was not a great job. We need to get this stuff right and we need to take time when it comes to establishing a national repository for the more serious end of the scale. A lot of the other stuff that people have been talking about is relatively innocuous. In a number of cases, it has a relatively short half-life and it does not need to come all the way into South Australia from all around the nation to a national repository. Let's look at that but, as I said, we support the bill.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (17:12): I believe that all the second reading contributions have been made to this important bill, and I would like to thank all members of both the government and the opposition for their contributions to the debate. I would also like to thank the deputy leader and the shadow minister for regional development for indicating that the opposition will provide support through the House of Assembly for the bill and will presumably support it in the upper house as well, notwithstanding their desire to consider amendments that may or may not come from Mr Parnell.

Amongst the contributions that have been made during this debate, there has been mention of various radiation matters, a strong community interest beyond what this bill is designed or able to regulate. It is important that I address these in my closing remarks to ensure that further stages of passage of this legislation in this place and the other place are suitably informed. Firstly, the bill does not and cannot have any application to the proposed national radioactive waste management facility. The national radioactive waste management facility is being established under commonwealth law that strictly prevents state laws from applying in every facet of its establishment and operation, including transport of waste to and from the site.

To be very clear, this bill has no application to the establishment or operation of the national radioactive waste management facility. Similarly, the radiation associated with telecommunications infrastructure, including the rollout of the new 5G network, is regulated by the Australian Communications and Media Authority under commonwealth legislation and subject to standards set by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). Commonwealth law prevails in the regulation of this technology.

Finally, nuclear power is something that is completely prohibited throughout Australia under commonwealth legislation. The establishment of a nuclear fuel fabrication plant, a nuclear power plant, an enrichment plant or a processing facility are all prohibited under the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998. This bill continues the prohibition in South Australia of the enrichment or conversion of uranium; the bill has no application to nuclear power.

The types of radiation sources and activities that this legislation does regulate provide benefits to all South Australians in one way or another. This may be through the jobs provided in the areas of mining, petroleum, industrial processing and analysis, and health care, or it may be through the improved health outcomes of having access to modern medical imagery, radiotherapy and other nuclear medicine therapies.

A variety of medical imaging technologies use radiation, such as X-rays, CT scans and PET scans. These are critical tools used in the diagnosis and treatment of a range of serious medical conditions. Improved treatments for many cancers have been made possible by advancements to diagnostic imaging, as well as advancements in radiotherapy technology. This legislation supports the safe and regulated introduction of these new technologies.

The legislation also supports the safe introduction of world-leading technologies into the state, which is putting South Australia at the forefront of medical treatment and research globally. One example of this is the cyclotron that was constructed in 2013 and is housed at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, commonly known as SAHMRI. The cyclotron produces radionuclides that are supplied to South Australian and interstate medical imaging facilities to aid in the identification and assessment of cancers and heart disease.

Other radionuclides produced at the facility are used for direct treatment of patients as part of nuclear medicine therapies. SAHMRI also uses the cyclotron to develop radioactive tracers that have shown promise in neurology in the early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The legislation will also support the safe construction of a proton therapy unit in South Australia, likely to be operational by 2022. This technology will be the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and will greatly enhance cancer treatment options for South Australians, as well as interstate patients. Currently, patients seeking this treatment must go overseas.

As you can see from the examples provided, there are exciting advancements in nuclear technology, and it is critical that our legislation is modern and agile to ensure that new technology is able to be adopted quickly and safely and, more generally, that the community remains protected from unnecessary radiation exposure. Again, I thank members for their contributions to the second reading debate. In particular, I would like to thank the officers within the Environment Protection Authority for their contribution to this important body of work.

I would like to reiterate the comments of the deputy leader in terms of discussing the value of the EPA in South Australia. I particularly note that the EPA has just celebrated its 25th anniversary as an authority in South Australia, having been instituted in 1995. Legislation for the EPA was initiated under the Arnold government in 1993 and then passed under the ministry of David Wotton as environment minister in 1995. The legislation had phenomenal bipartisan support at the time and I think we have seen, during the 25 years of the EPA, a significant level of bipartisan support, as indicated today with this legislation and the comments from both the deputy leader and the member for Giles.

I will have more to say in the house later in the week on the 25th anniversary of the EPA, but I would like to draw members' attention to the role that that authority has in keeping South Australia safe and ensuring that we have the laws and frameworks in place to govern a whole range of things. But for those laws and the existence of good government and the contribution of a skilled and insightful Public Service, South Australia would not be as safe as it otherwise is today.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (17:20): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (PARLIAMENT AND COURTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 April 2020.)

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (17:21): I rise to support the Equal Opportunity (Parliament) Amendment Bill 2020 and to indicate that I am the lead speaker for Labor on this bill. Labor will in principle support these improvements to the process by which members of parliament are dealt with if they engage in sexual harassment and by which members of parliament who are subject to sexual harassment can seek redress. We support these improvements in principle; however, I indicate that we will further consider them and may expand on them via amendment in the other place.

Whilst in principle we support this bill, we do note that this bill has come about following the terrible conduct of a member of this house, the deep distress for others that this conduct caused and the government's lack of quick action to effectively deal with that conduct. Sexual harassment is

experienced by way too many women in workplaces and in other arenas right across our state. It is very worrying that the Equal Opportunity Commission's 2019 annual report reported a rise in sexual harassment complaints compared with 2018.

At work, it is illegal and in some cases it can constitute a criminal offence. Sadly, sexual harassment persists in many different types of workplaces and in other settings and it is absolutely time that that changes. Sexual harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, an unwelcome sexual advance, an unwelcome request for sexual favours or other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.

Sexual harassment is awful. It is absolutely gross and utterly disrespectful. Having spent many years supporting and representing women who have had to deal with it, who have bravely spoken up about it and sometimes made complaints and confronted those who have perpetrated it, and having experienced it many years ago and having sadly seen way too many friends and colleagues deal with it, I know that the impact on those sexually harassed is terrible. Amongst other impacts, it can feel embarrassing, frightening and sickening and be debilitating, and in this place and everywhere else we should do all that we can to prevent and end it.

Sexual harassment can take away from one's sense of self-worth and sense of feeling safe. It can diminish financial and job security, impact people's relationships, make people feel ashamed and confused and lead to serious mental, emotional and physical health issues. It is something that no-one should ever have to deal with at work or indeed anywhere else. It is something that no-one in this place should ever have to deal with. Instead, those who have the power to deal with it, to help eradicate it and to appropriately hold to account those who engage in it must use that power to do so.

Whenever and wherever it happens, engaging in sexual harassment speaks to a perpetrator's lack of respect and regard for women—disrespect that can sometimes lead to even more harassment and violence. It also potentially speaks to a culture that permits such behaviour and can also speak to a lack of gender equality in a particular environment.

In environments where there is a lack of representation of women—and I acknowledge there is certainly a lack of women on the other side of this house—culture is often not inclusive. This can result in an inequality in the treatment of women and a lack of respect for them. Women in any workplace in South Australia and beyond have the right to be treated equally and respectfully, to attend their place of work in the knowledge that they will not be sexually harassed, assaulted or abused, and that they are safe.

Workplaces being safe and free from sexual harassment and disrespect must include ours. We should set the standard for other workplaces to be free from sexual harassment and abuse. We should help lead the way, and if any one of us, as members of parliament, are subject to the horror of sexual harassment perpetrated by another member of parliament, we should ensure that we can be heard, and that a complaint can be made, deeply heard and dealt with seriously and expeditiously. We should ensure that a member who sexually harasses another is absolutely held to account.

We know that violence, harassment and abuse of women starts with disrespect. I have heard many, many speeches in this place about the need to do all we can and whatever is in our power to take steps to prevent and end that disrespect. This bill does represent a step forward; again, we support it in principle and look forward to further deliberations on its content.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (17:27): I take this opportunity to rise and make some brief remarks to commend this bill to the house. It continues the fine record that was established in the early days of this Marshall Liberal government towards reforming areas in which we can promote equal opportunity in the workplace and throughout our community. I commend the work of the Attorney-General in adding to the considerable body of work that she has undertaken over the course of this and the previous session of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament.

The Marshall Liberal government (and the Attorney-General in particular) are leading the way. This government has demonstrated that by reforming the system of justice and introducing core pieces of legislation to ensure, as much as possible, we are advancing the rights of all people to be free and to be the best they can be in all aspects of life. It is truly a great credit to this government

and to the Attorney-General. I applaud it and I am proud to be a part of a government that is bringing this legislation to the parliament.

I will briefly address section 87. As it presently stands, this already section deals with the appropriate response to the conduct of members of parliament. It does so at some considerable length in section 87(6c), and the amendment that is the subject of this bill simply makes explicit that relevant conduct that may properly be the subject of a complaint within the jurisdiction of the commissioner includes expressly, in what will be a new subsection (ab), conduct of a member of parliament towards another member of parliament.

I note just in that regard that it is not as though we are coming at this against a background of a barren landscape. There are already provisions dealing with the consideration of conduct vis-a-vis a member and members of staff, those working in the parliament and so forth. What we see now is a very explicit reference to conduct of a particular kind and so, from my point of view, it is a 'for avoidance of doubt belts and braces' provision. It makes clear the commitment of the government to ensuring that wherever there is an opportunity to make these things clear we take it and we go forward.

The other important aspect that really the amendment of section 87 brings to bear is that the machinery that presently provides for the consideration of a complaint is put to work here, and that remains the subject of section 93AA, which itself, as the section would imply, is the result of reforms that occurred some years ago.

So the manner of dealing with complaints, the means by which the commissioner appropriately and necessarily will go about referring a complaint for consideration to the relevant presiding officer—whether that is of this place or the other place—with reference to matters that may be affected by privilege, and bearing in mind that is the privilege of the electors of all of us to this place, then those steps in the consideration are preserved, and both the question of matters of privilege and the complaints procedure are intact with the addition of the necessary, as I say, 'for avoidance of doubt' amendment to section 87.

With those words, I commend the bill, as I said at the outset of my remarks, advancing, as it does, the reforming agenda of this new Marshall Liberal government, and in particular the very substantial demonstrated commitment to that cause of the Attorney-General. I commend the bill.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (17:34): I would like to thank the honourable members for their contributions. I acknowledge and appreciate the opposition's indication of support. I note that there are anticipated discussions and contributions in the other place, and that they may be part of a debate on some amendments. We look forward to seeing those when received.

I particularly want to thank the member for Heysen for acknowledging the reformist nature of this legislation within the government's envelope of ensuring that we do deal with issues of reform, we do make things contemporary and we do take up the hard issues. We are prepared to do that. This is a bill that seeks to make amendments to reflect the community standards of today around sexual harassment and the expected conduct of members of parliament.

Although the opposition suggests that it is precipitated by a particular piece of behaviour, I do not ignore that. I am proud to be a member of a government that is prepared to take up this issue and to remedy what has probably needed to be remedied for some time. Although I will not traverse, for obvious reasons, the particular incident in December last year that has often been referred to, I make this point: during other governments, including the Rann and Weatherill governments—while I have been here as a member in the parliament, but I have been visiting this house since 1970—I saw a lot of events, and I have seen a lot of behaviour that in 2020 would not be acceptable in the precincts of this parliament.

All sorts of excuses can be made about the contemporary circumstances of those times, but even in the time I have been here in the last 20 years—which I consider to be a contemporary period—there has been unacceptable conduct, and it falls within this. It is a very unusual situation perhaps to traverse across party lines. It is not the only time. I think of a very famous federal foreign minister who ended up having a very long-term relationship with the head of the Democrat party at

the time, Ms Kernot. It then became a very public event. But it is not common, probably for obvious reasons.

The fact is that behaviour has occurred and it has not been dealt with. It might have been kept quieter than this later incident, but the reality is that it is still unacceptable. The difficulty in being able to support people you know are victims in that situation—sometimes they have even come to me or others, my colleagues—is that they have not wanted to speak up. That is something that we have to respect, but nothing is done about it. I am very proud to be standing here as part of a government that is prepared to say, 'If it's right, we will deal with it.' We are not going to be deterred by something that is just too hard.

I want to explain also that the amendment to section 87(6c), which extends the categories of persons to include other members of parliament, is not retrospective. Comment has been made about this publicly as well. The government identified the deficiency in the legislation, and this is a bill that will address the matter going forward. The government is of the view in line with the general proposition that criminal laws, even with a civil penalty such as for unlawful conduct of sexual harassment, cannot seek to sanction a person for conduct that was not contrary to a law at the time the conduct was undertaken. That is the basic principle, and we do not take any differing view in relation to this.

To those who advocate that we should, I pose this question: how far should we go back? Should we go back over the last 10 years, or the last 36 years back to the establishment of the act, or to the time we introduced sexual harassment into the act? Let me say that, if we did that, there would be a lot of people who have passed through this parliament who would become the subject of an inquiry. I do not think that serves anybody, nor do I think it is acceptable, given that it offends the principle that we would be introducing it to make it retrospective.

The amendment at clause 4 of the bill, I just want to explain, will support the current practice of the equal opportunity commissioner by making it mandatory for the commissioner to postpone any investigation, conciliation or other work where there is a criminal investigation or a person has been or is to be charged with a criminal offence in relation to a matter that is the subject of a complaint.

I am advised that the current practice of the commissioner is to postpone investigations, conciliations and any other work on a complaint if informed that there is a criminal investigation or criminal charge relating to the matter. I am advised that the process is postponed until confirmation is received from the complainant that the criminal process is finalised and that they wish to continue with their complaint under the Equal Opportunity Act 1984. I place that on the record. That is direct advice from the commissioner herself as to how she operates these matters, and I just wanted to make sure that was abundantly clear on the record.

I look forward to the passage of the bill to address the limitations of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 in respect of its protections against sexual harassment for members of parliament by other members of parliament, and I conclude by again thanking members for their contribution. I would like to especially acknowledge the advice given by the equal opportunity commissioner during this exercise in relation to the development of the reforms in this regard.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (17:41): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Parliamentary Committees

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The Legislative Council requested that the House of Assembly give permission for the member for Florey (Ms F.E. Bedford MP) to attend and give evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Effectiveness of the Current System of Parliamentary Committees.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (17:42): I move:

That Ms F.E. Bedford have leave to attend and give evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Effectiveness of the Current System of Parliamentary Committees, if she thinks fit.

Motion carried.

At 17:43 the house adjourned until Thursday 14 May 2020 at 11:00.