

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

The **SPEAKER** (Hon. J.B. Teague) took the chair at 11:00 and read prayers.

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

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (11:01): I move:

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

The **SPEAKER**: As an absolute majority is present, I accept the motion. Is it seconded?

**Honourable members**: Yes, sir.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes ..... 24  
Noes ..... 22  
Majority ..... 2

#### AYES

Bedford, F.E.	Bell, T.S.	Bettison, Z.L.
Bignell, L.W.K.	Boyer, B.I.	Brock, G.G. (teller)
Brown, M.E.	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Duluk, S.	Ellis, F.J.	Gee, J.P.
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.	Szakacs, J.K.	Wortley, D.

#### NOES

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

Motion thus carried.

#### *Motions*

### MINING INDUSTRY, LAND ACCESS

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (11:08): I move:

That this house establish a select committee to inquire into and report upon—

- (a) land access regimes as they relate to mining and mining exploration under the Mining Act 1971, the Opal Mining Act 1995 and the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000;
- (b) such operations of the Department for Energy and Mining as may relate to, or be affected by, land access regimes;

- (c) the practices of interstate and overseas jurisdictions as they relate to balancing the rights of landowners and those seeking to access land in order to explore for or exploit minerals, precious stones or regulated substances;
- (d) administrative and legislative options that may help achieve a best practice model in South Australia that balances the rights of landowners and those seeking to access land to explore for or exploit minerals, precious stones or regulated substances;
- (e) measures that should be implemented to achieve a best practice model in South Australia that balances the rights of landowners and those seeking to access land to explore for or exploit minerals, precious stones or regulated substances (to the extent that such measures are not being addressed through existing programs or initiatives); and
- (f) any other related matter.

I have had this notice of motion on the *Notice Paper* for some months now. Previously, I had a bill to appoint an independent commission of inquiry into the same access that this notice of motion relates to.

As we all know, that bill for an independent commissioner who was to be away from politics was complete. It was not to be a retired politician but a retired judge or someone who has never been in politics before. As we all know, that bill was not successful getting through this house, which is why I put the notice of motion on the *Notice Paper* to have this independent select committee that could go out there and get all the related information and give us the best opportunities for true communication and information to come from landowners and also from industries themselves.

Whilst I understand and I appreciate that the Minister for Mining and Energy has put the bill through, I have had grave concerns from people across both the agricultural and mining sectors asking for an independent review of the procedures and things like that. By having this select committee, I am not indicating that there are 100 per cent issues out there, but we need to make certain that we do look at the best opportunities and practices.

This motion is not to relate to the bill that the minister put through some time ago but to make certain going forward that this state has untold potential for agricultural growth in South Australia and untold potential for resource and mineral opportunities to create royalties and for the exploration of our northern areas in particular.

All I am asking is for the select committee to be able to go out there, get all the facts and figures and then report back to the parliament at a later date. Certainly, I will allow for other people to have any discussions about the issue, but I feel very, very passionate about going out to the community itself.

I had the opportunity to look at the select committee into the grain industry many years ago and one of the things that was highlighted was that, no matter what we said as a parliament, there were other suggestions that came forth from people outside of the parliament itself, and this is what I am looking for at the moment to get the best opportunities out there and to explore and to make certain that everybody, including landowners, pastoral people and mining companies, has the opportunity to get the best result and to make certain that no-one is hard done by.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:13):** This is a pretty interesting sort of a stunt, Mr Speaker, and that has nothing to do with the substance of the proposal. But it is a pretty interesting stunt to want to move to suspend standing orders to deal with this now when exactly the same matter is listed as No. 1 on Thursday morning.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** It is a pretty extraordinary stunt to be thinking that we need to suspend standing orders to interfere—impede—the good work that this house has to do today so that this can be dealt with two days earlier than it would have been dealt with anyway. I say again that it has nothing to do—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** I say again, it has absolutely nothing to do with the substance of the motion by the member for Frome, but, with regard to the suspension, I do not understand why on earth he thinks that—

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens rises on a point of order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The minister is reflecting on a vote of the house—suspension of standing orders.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will resume his seat. On the point of order, the minister perhaps had not proceeded so far as to reflect directly on a vote of the house. I take the point of order and remind members of the importance of not doing so. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** I will just read out the motion listed for Thursday:

That this house establish a select committee to inquire into and report upon—

- (a) land access regimes as they relate to mining and mining exploration under the Mining Act 1971, the Opal Mining Act 1995 and the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000;
- (b) such operations of the Department for Energy and Mining as may relate to, or be affected by, land access regimes;
- (c) the practices of interstate and overseas jurisdictions...

It goes on and on. While I do not have a copy of what the member for Frome just read out, it seems to me that it is identical. To deal with those issues, and as the member for Frome just said—and I agree with this part of his contribution—the government did actually put through an amended Mining Act to change the Mining Act. It came into effect on 1 January this year and it was very good work. It was work that was started by the former government, completed by our government, and it was very important work.

The member for Frome says that there is more work still to be done, and he is 100 per cent right. There is more work still to be done, and our government has committed to do that work. We have just worked through the regulations that go with the amended Mining Act. We have actually made an enormous amount of improvement for landholders. This is something that the previous government started, and we have moved it on further from there.

We have put things in place for landholders so that they get additional money with regard to their legal fees and that there is vastly improved transparency with regard to information available for landholders as it relates to mining and exploration permissions. We have significantly increased the time frames that go with the processes of mining and/or exploration companies dealing with landholders.

We took the recommendation of Primary Producers SA and gave the Small Business Commissioner the right and, in fact, the responsibility to look after and help facilitate disagreements between small, agricultural often referred to as family farming businesses, and larger mining or exploration companies. We took the advice of Grain Producers SA and have put in a free service for landholders, funded by the Department for Energy and Mining so that landholders can go at any point in time and access information, exactly the sort of information they said they wanted.

We have done an enormous amount in this area and there is still more to do. I am very clearly on the public record saying there is more to do, but we want to do more as quickly and as efficiently as possible. We want both the agricultural and the resources sectors to benefit from the next wave of improvements that our government can put in place for both of them, things that are advantageous to both of them, taking away the conflict that sometimes occurs between them and actually finding ways that they can work together to the advantage of both of those sectors.

Establishing a select committee to do that is not going to help that happen in a quick, expedient and efficient way. It will not help that happen in the way that we want it to happen for landholders and for resources sector businesses. The last time we saw something like that with regard to the petroleum industry, it went on I think for about 2½ years—I cannot remember exactly—

and it was a very long, drawn-out process. We want better than that for landholders and for people in the resources industries. We want much better than that for them.

We want to have ever-improving opportunities for both of those sectors. We want them to get those opportunities as quickly as possible, and let me tell you, Mr Speaker, and I say to the chamber through you: a select committee is not the way to get the benefits that these sectors deserve as quickly and as expediently as possible, so we do not support this motion.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (11:19):** Can I just point out to the house that the opposition supports the establishment of a select committee and rejects the government's opposition to it. I also reject the assertion that this is not in the good order of the house. The house is the master of its own destiny, and to have the Manager of Government Business reflect on a vote of the house in that way is offensive to all members, especially regional members—regional members who ask for nothing more than a select committee to investigate what it means for mining companies to use an access regime decided in this parliament to enter their freehold land.

To have a Liberal government arguing against regional members who have had freehold land in their family for generations and arguing that a select committee is inappropriate because the government has settled this matter is the height of arrogance. The mining bill the minister passed only with the support of the opposition—he could not pass it on his own because government members crossed the floor, and without the support of this opposition it would have failed—is not the final line in the sand on land access. It is an ever-evolving debate.

People need constant assurance that the act is up to date, that the measures being taken are up to date. While the new reality of the house is dawning on the minister—that he no longer decides the fate of this house but the house does; the house will now decide what we debate, when we debate it and how long we debate it for—

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens will resume his seat. The Minister for Energy and Mining rises on a point of order.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Given that the member for West Torrens asked that I contain my remarks to the substance of the debate and not to the suspension of standing orders, I ask that he does exactly the same. His comment with regard to numbers and the state of the house, etc., is totally irrelevant.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order goes broadly to the topic of reflecting on votes of the house. I have reminded members this morning of the importance of not doing so. I note the point of order. There is no point of order for the moment. The member for West Torrens has the call.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also point out to the minister that the reason I suspect the member has taken the opportunity to suspend standing orders and has pulled this out of private members' business and done it now in what should be government time is that, from long, bitter, hard experience, that motion, after a brief debate in private members' business, would have been adjourned.

Indeed, there were parliamentary tactics last time, only last time that beginning debate on this motion was tried, to have it put to the bottom of the *Notice Paper* the following week. But the house has overruled the will of the minister because we believe—all 24 of us, that magic number of 24—that it is important that this select committee go ahead. I humbly ask that there be good representation from all members of the house on this committee and that this committee go forth and do its work and report before the next state election.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:23):** I rise to address this motion that has been brought forward by the member for Frome. I rise as someone who has been involved in agriculture all my life and also the minerals industry, when I worked in the Cooper Basin from March 1982 to March 1984. That by no means makes me an expert in mining, and I would never vouch to be an expert in agriculture, but I have been involved in both fields. Certainly, in regard to access regimes, yes, we do have to have best practice, and I applaud the work the Minister for Energy and Mining has been doing with his department in not only getting the mining bill—which we debated in this house

recently—through to an act but also working very hard on the regulations and especially around access.

Access in any realm can be an emotive topic, whether it be in relation to roadworks or commonwealth federal establishments, which are probably two of the main ones. There is a debate at the moment involving several sets of roadworks across Adelaide. I must commend what our government is doing with the South Road works. I think it works out to about \$8 billion plus of works to get that throughway all the way through on South Road, and we were left with the delicate process of dealing with the hard stuff, which we are—with two tunnels.

**The Hon. S.C. Mullighan:** You've got to be joking.

**Mr PEDERICK:** We are dealing with the hard stuff.

**The Hon. S.C. Mullighan:** You've got to be joking.

**Mr PEDERICK:** We are, and I am glad to see the amusement from the other side.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Lee! The member for Hammond has the call.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. Prior to my tenure as an MP, the member for Hammond—and I have been here nearly 15 years, as I was reflecting briefly before with the member for Mawson, who came in at the same time in 2006—in my run-ins on the campaign it became extremely obvious how important it is for constituents to have that right balance of land access.

I reflect on being at the Karoonda Farm Fair before I was elected. A landholder who was concerned about the progress of the Mindarie Zircon sand mine said to me, 'I need to talk to you out the back,' and I thought, 'This is serious.' I went out and had a talk to this gentleman and he said, 'You're going to be the next member,' and I thought, 'Well, you're very confident,' and we talked about the potential mining access on this farmer's property.

That went on until post when I got elected, and I had the Hon. Caroline Schaefer out there meeting landholders in the Mindarie district for that sand mine process. I remember when it was reopened again with Chinese investment that came in. At the time, the member for West Torrens was the mining minister, and he and the Premier, the former member for Cheltenham, Jay Weatherill, were out there announcing the reopening of that sand mine once there was a \$40 million injection.

Just prior to that, there was an issue I worked through with the previous mining minister, the Hon. Paul Holloway, around some rehabilitation protocols. I was very pleased that the minister listened to concerns that were echoed to me by landholders, and he went out there and addressed the issue, and I appreciated the cross-party work. Part of the issue was with the reinvestment deal into reopening that mine and making sure that everything was undertaken appropriately.

In light of access to the mine, reclaimed soils and topsoils were put aside, and once the sands were mined out the infill soil was put in, topsoil was put on and it was rehabilitated with PIRSA agronomists to bring it back to cropping stage.

My electorate also had the Terramin mine at Strathalbyn, which operated for about eight or nine years. This was a land access regime. A lot of it was on a quarry site very close to the outskirts of Strathalbyn, which was in my electorate when I was elected in 2006 and is coming back into Hammond with the redistribution this time.

I got involved directly in the Strathalbyn Community Consultative Committee with regard to that mine. I was there before I got elected and I am still on that consultative committee. There have been several members of parliament looking directly after the interests of Strathalbyn, including you in this term, Mr Speaker, doing excellent work in that area.

I find it excellent to be involved at that level because you can have discussions with the company and stakeholders about progress. There were some great outcomes, where it was essential to deal with some water coming into the mine, and deals were done with vigneron next door, and that water was cleaned up with reverse osmosis plants and used for agriculture, so it was a win-win. They were mining lead and zinc.

It created much-needed employment and it was a much-needed boon for the area during the drought. I know that for many companies I spoke to, locally through Strathalbyn across to the Murray Bridge area, this was a boon at a time when people were not buying equipment, tools or other needs because of the drought. Their money was constrained but they could spend their money there.

Along the way, the Hillgrove mine opened up an old mine site at Callington, with a big open-cut mine. This was a major project. They have ceased mining in an open-cut manner. They are doing some test drilling right now to do some deep mining underground, the old tunnelling style. They have been exemplary in their environmental offset work with regard to that mine.

It was very interesting, going out there with a group of people involved in the regions, and others, including some people from CMI Toyota, who sponsored the cars on the day to get there. When they saw the revegetation work that was happening above and beyond the demands of the regulatory process for Hillgrove, a gentleman said, 'I have completely turned my mind around 180° from what I thought of the mining industry until I saw the reality of what they are doing alongside the mine.'

I have been involved in three mines, either in or on the edge of my electorate. They have managed to operate. It is no different from agriculture. Yes, you come across problems. In mining and agriculture you come across problems, but you just work at a way to make sure it works and get on with it.

Certainly, there have been some great outcomes, with people having negotiations around access to their land, even land that has not been mined. Some of this was exempt land within 400 metres of a dwelling, where a vast amount of money has been paid out to the landholder over time, and that land will probably never be mined—and I am talking up in the Mallee at Mindarie—but it may be.

There are proposals right across the state. One thing we always have to be mindful of is the use of water and the impact on water and underground aquifers and that kind of thing. I must say, a lot of management goes into any mining operation, whether it is water management, soil management or air quality management. Even at Strathalbyn the mine has not operated for about eight years but they still have the wind and soil monitors in motion.

If there is an over-reading, it is usually because of agricultural dust blowing through, but they still have to declare that to the department and go through a process with the Department for Energy and Mining and the EPA; so it is strictly monitored for years and years after the mine has operated. The other fact—and I have mentioned it in this place before—is that the mining footprint in South Australia is smaller than the number of hotel car parks in South Australia. That is a fact.

Yes, we do have to get the access right and we do have to balance both industries, agriculture and mining, that contribute so much to this state, but look at the ingress of urban sprawl on land.

My father—who would have been 101 this year if he were still alive—could remember all the land between Adelaide and Gawler as open paddocks. He could remember the first land sold at Salisbury for housing development, and the second land. He knew the names of the farmers, and I wish he were here today so that I could still have those conversations about how that land was opened up over time.

It is a fact that urban infill has taken over far more agricultural land. I have nothing against solar energy, but it would be interesting to see the many thousands of acres of farmland going under solar panels. We do have to have a balanced approach, absolutely.

I heard the member for West Torrens talking about land that people have been involved in for generations and access to it. I have talked about access to different projects, whether they be federal projects or road projects, and that is at another level of compulsory acquisition. My family have been involved in that process three times since 1939—and before that, if you want to go back to 1840, when my family had a farm and boot shop at Plympton. Over time that naturally went under urban sprawl; naturally or not, that is just what happened.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** Plympton, absolutely. My family had very successful operations at Gawler River; in fact, the Gawler River church sits on Pederick land, and our first two generations are buried there. My grandfather and father had land at Angle Vale and in 1939, with the war effort stepping up—it is right near the Northern Expressway, you can see it, the old weapons dump there, that was on Pederick land—it was compulsorily acquired. I am assuming my grandfather got paid out appropriately for that.

Then 11 years later, in 1950, just up Heaslip Road there was another block in the corner of Edinburgh air base, and that was compulsorily acquired. These things happen, and that is the point. I know that compulsory acquisition does not happen with mining, but I am just reflecting on the discussion about land being taken up for other uses.

After these two events dad had diminishing land. He farmed in the Gawler area, Angle Vale, Penfield, and did a bit of share farming up at One Tree Hill. After a few years it all got a bit hard, travelling all over the place to these little blocks, so he went down to Coomandook in 1961. Guess what? In about 11 or 12 years the discussion started again with relocating the Dukes Highway, and 7½ acres were acquired then for the realignment of the road.

I can assure the house we were involved in another stark discussion—I was just a young boy—about what could have happened. A major bypass was being proposed at the time that would come around and bypass Coomandook, a dual-lane highway each way that would have cut between our shearing shed and house, which are less than 400 metres apart. The survey marks are still out there. It would have completely split the farm asunder. Thankfully, that did not happen and I hope it never does, but we will have to see what happens in the future.

What I am saying is land is taken up for various things and, yes, I agree that we need to have good land access regimes that are all undertaken with negotiations in good faith. I commend the minister and his department for the work they have done in the regulatory process from our side of government to always have these negotiations and make the way forward even better.

There is one thing we should not do, no matter what industry it is in: we should not try to be actively discouraging investment in this state, whether it is agriculture, whether it is mining, whether it is industry or whether it is the need to streamline our road access right around the state, not just in the urban areas. I commend the close on \$17 billion that we are spending with the federal government on roads and a lot of regional roads in that process across the state.

We have to be very careful about how we do this process. I know we are not talking about compulsory acquisition. It may be a subject that comes up if this select committee gets up. I definitely would not like to see compulsory acquisition involved in the mining process because it is a different process. These are private companies. The government obviously regulates the process but is not directly involved in any purchase or direct negotiation in buying the land.

Certainly, we always need to make things better, and I am a member who has had experience not just working in the oilfield. People say, 'The Cooper Basin is so far north.' Guess what happens in the Cooper Basin? People talk about the so-called risks to water aquifers and so on, but the people in the outback are completely reliant on those water resources—completely reliant. I was earthmoving there for 12 months operating scrapers, building pads for worksites, roads and airstrips. I worked for Gearhart Australia and I was involved in conventional fracturing processes—

**An honourable member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr PEDERICK:** —absolutely—to realise the full gas and condensate oil potential for this state so that the royalties can flow through to government coffers to help sustain the state.

I note that vital water source that is available for all those stations and the people who live in the outback is running as well as it was for the last 50 years when that fracturing occurred. I note that unconventional fracturing happens up there as well at the moment. It is interesting talking about that because the Greens had a bill for a while opposing fracturing, but they are quite happy to have some of the heaviest fracks in the country happen near Innamincka in regard to geothermal. Halliburton would have made a lot of money out of that.

We need to be careful about how we move forward because we do not want to get bad outcomes. I commend the minister and his team for their work, because we need to have both our major industries, agriculture and mining, thrive in this state. Yes, we always want to improve on how

we make that work, but I think the best way is with the mining minister and his team going ahead with the process and getting those regulations and other methods in place.

Time expired.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:43):** I also rise to add a few words to this debate. I strongly support the motion put by the member for Frome. Like the member for Frome, I come from a community that depends upon mining and resource processing. Port Pirie has a history going back over 100 years now when it comes to lead, silver and other minerals they have added value to.

My own community of Whyalla has played a proud part in the industrial history of this community. For many years, Iron Knob was the richest source of iron ore in this country and it led to the creation of the iron and steel industry in both Port Kembla and Newcastle and subsequently Whyalla, so it has an incredibly proud history.

In my electorate, I have the largest mines. Obviously, there are the mines in the Middleback Ranges for resource processing and producing finished products—a variety of structural steel and rail—and intermediate products that are sent interstate to Newcastle to have value added to them. Some of that steel is now exported overseas. That is all incredibly positive and all dependent upon the mining industry in and just outside of my community.

I am very proud to have Olympic Dam in my electorate. It is an amazing mine. Many years ago, I used to carry out worksite assessments at Olympic Dam on the ground, at the met plant and at the refinery in the days when it was still Western Mining. I do not need to be told about the importance of mining and resource processing. It is something that I have lived day after day in the communities that I represent.

It is always interesting to reflect upon the carpet in this place given the representation of our vineyards and grain industry as long-term major contributors to our state's wealth, especially the grain industry. When you look upon it, you realise the importance of agriculture. We meet in this particular chamber, which is as elaborate as it is because of the wealth that came from copper all those years ago. The upper house missed out on that. The copper boom had passed, and so they have a far more modest chamber compared with this one. Mining is incredibly important to the wealth of this state but, as I have already indicated, so is agriculture.

The potential for mining down the track in South Australia is huge. The exploration effort that is going on will throw up other deposits and, quite possibly, other major deposits. I speak to explorers on a regular basis, especially those who are doing work in my electorate, and there is enormous potential out there. We have BHP looking at Oak Dam, and that looks very promising. We have seen Carrapateena established, and it is going to be expanded still further.

There is Fremantle Doctor to the north of Carrapateena, and there are a number of other potentially significant contributions to our state when it comes to copper. We also have an enormous amount of magnetite in this state. We have over 10 billion tonnes of JORC reserves when it comes to magnetite in this state, which will give us the opportunity to value-add in the steel industry at Whyalla for years to come in addition to potentially establishing a magnetite export industry.

In some respects, it is easy for me to stand up and wax lyrical—or maybe not too lyrical—about mining in my part of the state because the source of conflict is not as great. It is a semi-arid area, a pastoral area. We are talking about vast areas of the state. As the member for Hammond indicated, the mining footprint, as an overall part of the landmass, is very small indeed. There can be processes associated with mining that have a wider impact, but the footprint itself is very small.

There are a few areas north of Goyder's line that are cropping country, but when we come down south of Goyder's line there is potential for significant conflict. I have met with farmers who have gone through the stress of having exploration companies come onto their land. Some companies have a history of doing it very well, but other companies have left a lot to be desired.

Even in some of the pastoral areas there has been conflict because of the way that some companies go about the work they do and the lack of respect. There was a review and there have been incremental changes, and that is important, but we still should be able to reflect upon whether we are doing the best we can. Can we get better? I do not think there is any doubt about that, that we can get it better.

It did disturb me when the minister referred to their approach—and I am not taking him out of context—by saying 'quick' and 'expedient'. I am all for efficiency, but 'quick' and 'expedient' are not the words I would have used. I acknowledge there was an ongoing process that was started by the previous government and took up a lot of time. Some worthwhile things came out of that process, but we can still improve. A select committee will give an opportunity to a whole range of people to come and have their say and feed into the select committee process.

I contrast the terms 'quick' and 'expedient' with what is in the motion. The member for Frome talks about jurisdictions both interstate and overseas. What is it that we can learn from those jurisdictions to improve what we do in this state? The member for Frome talks about best practice. What represents best practice? How do we reconcile the demands of our agricultural industries and our family farms—and they are predominantly family farms in this state—with the needs of our mining industry?

Irrespective of where we are when it comes to support for this motion, we all know that both of these industries make an enormous contribution to our state, and we need to do what we can to reconcile those interests. We can do that, and we have a history of doing that, but we can improve. That is what the member for Frome's motion is all about. Let's work through a process to improve things. I am sure that, as a result of this select committee, we will end up with a series of recommendations that should be seriously entertained in order to improve what we do.

In my part of the world, usually it is not so much a conflict between the pastoralists and the mining companies, even though there can be conflict. Once again, as the member for Hammond said, the demand on water, on aquifers, can be very significant, and that is something that companies like Olympic Dam do address and do work at. In my part of the world, it is often the need to reconcile the fundamental rights of the traditional owners and the mining industry.

I have to say that over the years the mining industry has had an incredibly bad reputation nationally when it came to legitimate demands of traditional owners. That has improved and continues to improve, notwithstanding some of the conflicts at the moment. Lake Torrens is probably the stand-out issue at the moment.

Indeed, I have spoken to explorers who were never willing to go near Lake Torrens because of some of those particular issues. We owe an incredibly significant debt to the traditional owners of this country, given the way they were treated and kicked off their land over all that extended period of European occupation. In my part of the world, it is usually issues around that.

I have visited some of the farming communities that have had conflicts—those areas well south of Goyder's line. There have been controversial proposals in the Adelaide Hills. Not only do I not mind occasionally drinking at Bird in Hand but I paid a visit to the owners there when the original Bird in Hand goldmine wanted to start up again.

You look at something like that and you think, 'Yes, maybe there is a real conflict here.' We have processes in place, but are those processes adequate to address some of those conflicts, given what would be a very short-lived mine in that area, compared to the richness of the horticultural and tourism activities that occur there?

I know that when we were in government there was the conflict over Arkaroola. You could have argued, as people did, that you should let the process play out. I was not part of the government at the time—I was just on the city council in Whyalla. I used to move motions in support of no mining at Arkaroola, and I think the right decision was made, because some places have a particular value and we should be looking after those values.

Exploration leases cover a lot of this state, and a lot of areas in this state can be developed when it comes to mining, and we should be supporting that. There are other areas where there is great sensitivity, and there are processes that put some families under great stress. You can have an exploration lease and be doing a lot of work to get a mine up and running, and it can go on for literally 10, 15 or 20 years, and the surrounding farms in that area, and all those families, are often put under great stress about uncertainty when it comes to the future.

I guess as a rough rule of thumb I would say, 'What is going to generate the greatest net benefit to the state?' If some people end up being damaged as a result of that, they should be generously looked after. There will be times when, given the overall net benefit of a proposed mine,

it is going to outstrip the other commercial values in that area, but maybe not some of those more intrinsic values, and certainly there are areas with some intrinsic values that should be just left alone.

I think the member's motion is a good one. The minister talked about transparency and the importance of transparency, but what is more transparent than having a select committee look at these issues? It is an open-air process that gives a lot of different people the opportunity to appear before the select committee. The select committee can travel throughout the state—hopefully, there will not be any overseas or interstate travel (I am a very frugal person)—but through a process like this we can learn a lot.

I would call upon those opposite, when it comes to this select committee, to support it, because it does indicate an approach that is about openness, about transparency and about looking at what we can do to incrementally improve the regime we have, or possibly some sort of step change with the regime we have, so that we look after the long-term interests of all South Australians.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (11:59):** First up, I thank everybody for their contributions. I assure the house that this is not a stunt on my part. This is an issue that has been on my radar for a long time. If, for argument's sake, it was put and the notice of motion went through on Thursday, it would then be debated, voted on and maybe lost down into hyperspace down the bottom.

What I wanted to do was be able to bring an issue to this chamber and to have a full debate and a conclusion today as to which way it goes. Too often, we have seen lots of issues being deferred and go down in the order on the list, and that is very frustrating, to be quite frank about it. The other issue is that no-one is trying to destroy any industry in this state. I would make that quite clear. We want to be able to get the best opportunities from our agriculture and also our resources.

I think the member for Giles hit the nail on the head a minute ago: a select committee can call witnesses from all areas and all avenues to get an unbiased opinion. The select committee will be able to ascertain what the views are from all sides regarding the concerns I have, for openness and transparency, and to bring that back to the parliament. I strongly urge members to consider that this is a very, very important issue.

Again, I thank everybody for their support and contributions today. I want to reassure this parliament that this is not a stunt on my part to get anything other than a result: if this vote goes through, a select committee will be formed; if it does not, then that is the way it will be.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** I move:

That a select committee be appointed, consisting of six members.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** I move:

That the select committee consist of Mr Ellis, Mr Murray, Mr Treloar, the Hon. A. Koutsantonis, Mr Hughes and the mover.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** I move:

That the select committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and to adjourn from place to place and that it report on 18 November 2021.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** I move:

That standing order 339 be and remain so far suspended as to enable the select committee to authorise the disclosure or publication as it sees fit of any evidence presented to the committee prior to such evidence being reported to the house.

**The SPEAKER:** I have counted the house and there being an absolute majority present I accept the motion. Is the motion seconded?

**Honourable members:** Yes, sir.

Motion carried.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (12:05):** I move:

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

**The SPEAKER:** There being an absolute majority of members present, I accept the motion. Is the motion seconded?

**Honourable members:** Yes, sir.

Motion carried.

**SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (12:06):** I move:

That for the remainder of the session, sessional orders be adopted so as to provide that unless otherwise ordered, the period for asking questions may not exceed one hour and 15 minutes and that crossbench members, those being not from the group led by the Leader of the Government or the group led by the Leader of the Opposition, be entitled to four questions during the period. If, however, the last question asked or begun to be asked before the expiration of that hour and 15 minutes has not been answered, the question may be answered even though the period of one hour and 15 minutes has expired.

**The SPEAKER:** Is the motion seconded?

**Honourable members:** Yes, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Does the member for Florey wish to speak further to the motion?

**Ms BEDFORD:** Only briefly, sir. This motion is intended to allow crossbench members to ask questions during question time or at the end of question time so that the questions from either the government or the opposition will not be impeded or interfered with in any way.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:07):** Unsurprisingly, the government does not support this proposal.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** One hour for question time seems to have worked very, very well in this chamber for a very, very long time. Both Liberal and Labor governments have been in exactly that situation. It seems to have served both and, importantly, served oppositions, including Independent members. So, no, the government does not support this. I have noticed, Mr Speaker, that you very regularly call Independent members when they rise to seek the call to ask a question. I have not been told of any dissatisfaction by any of them with the way that you acknowledge them and give them opportunities to ask their questions. I say again the government does not support this proposal.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (12:08):** I think this is an inspired decision by the crossbench. Accountability is exactly what this government needs, especially with its newfound minority status. Given that it is in minority, it is important that the house hold it truly to account, and the best way to hold ministers to account, while they are in minority but still holding executive office, is question time.

In question time, it is important that we have a diverse range of questions affecting a diverse range of people, and the crossbench are often overlooked with one or two questions, as best as the Speaker can, because the opposition, being the alternative government, offering an opposition to the government, often take up much of the time in question time.

This ensures that the crossbench get to represent their communities, given that they now truly hold the balance of power in this parliament, as our constitution holds. I think it is an inspired choice. As my friend the member for Lee, the shadow treasurer, says, often question time is consumed with the government asking questions of itself, which is high farce under any scenario and

something I was also embarrassed about myself. However, here we are. I look forward to supporting this motion moved by the member for Florey.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (12:10):** As I said, this motion is no reflection on either your good self, sir, or former Speaker Tarzia, who I am sure will recall this was brought to his attention very early in the first few days of this current session. This is not a new request and this is in no way designed to not favour either side of the house.

Members of the crossbench should not have to be held to the beck and call of the whims of question time and be overlooked if the whole thing gets completely out of hand, which it can often, sir, again despite your best efforts. I look forward to the support of the house in making sure this becomes a reality.

Motion carried.

### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (12:11):** I move:

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

**The SPEAKER:** As an absolute majority is present, I accept the motion. Is the motion seconded?

**Honourable members:** Yes, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Does the member for Florey wish to speak to the motion?

**Ms BEDFORD:** This is a very brief motion before the house to bring another matter from the crossbench to your attention, sir.

Motion carried.

### SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (12:11):** I move:

That for the remainder of the session, sessional orders be adopted so as to provide that, at the conclusion of the period for questions without notice, the Speaker may propose the question 'That the house note grievances'. Up to eight members, two of which must not be from the group led by the Leader of the Opposition or the group led by the Leader of the Government, may speak for a maximum of five minutes each before the Speaker puts the question. The Speaker may exercise discretion in determining when each period of five minutes has elapsed, but not so as to reduce the speaking time for any member to less than five minutes, and that discretion is not open to debate or dissent.

Again, this is an issue the crossbench brought to the attention of yourself, sir, and former Speaker Tarzia at the beginning of this session. This is an attempt by the crossbench not to impinge on either side of the house's time to speak but to allow us also to have time to speak on behalf of our constituents.

As I am sure you have noticed, sir, the crossbench is growing—I am not sure exactly why—and it is going to be important that each of us has an opportunity to represent our electorates fearlessly and fairly and have equal time to other members who are involved in political parties.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:14):** Again, unsurprisingly, the government does not support this proposal.

**The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell:** You should just get like Speirsy and capitulate.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Energy and Mining has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** We have some standards, we have some operations, we have some standing orders, we have ways of doing things in this chamber that have worked for a very long time. I am not aware of there being a great difficulty for members of the crossbench to access the opportunity to participate in grievance debates. I have heard many good contributions in grievance time from members of the crossbench and I—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —strongly support the right of every member here to represent his or her electorate in many different ways, including during grievance debates. However, the government believes that six grievance debates per sitting day is sufficient for all of us to have that opportunity, including Independent members, and that eight is not necessary and, by definition, could only slow down other work of the house, so the government does not support the proposal.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (12:15):** It seems that it is getting hard for some people in the house to realise the new reality that has dawned this morning about how the house operates. It is common amongst Westminster parliaments across the globe that there are parliaments with multichambers within the same house to allow private members to make contributions. Indeed, we have the Federation Chamber in the commonwealth. I understand that the House of Commons has adjoining rooms where there can be sittings of the house. This is a natural evolution of the house to allow more members to have a say about their local communities.

The government does not have a majority anymore. It is not a majority government. It is a minority government. It does not command the majority of the house, and the house has now willed that the crossbench will have more of a say in the parliament about how and when they speak. The government can object to it. This is not somehow usurping the government's administrative rights. The parliament is just expressing its will as the numbers constitute it now. The Attorney-General no longer enjoys a majority in the house, neither does the Manager of Government Business. No member in this house enjoys a majority.

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** No-one ever has.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, unfortunately—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —the Attorney-General is incorrect. When former Premier Jay Weatherill tendered his—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens will not respond to interjections and the Deputy Premier will cease interjecting.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** She is being helpful, as usual, sir.

*The Hon. V.A. Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens has the call.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, the government did enjoy a majority in the house and has slowly, over three years, lost it. That is—

**Mr Odenwalder:** Careless.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, to lose one could be considered careless. Regardless of all that, the house is entitled to give the people who control the balance between the opposition and the government more of a say, and it is being reflective. I also point out to the house that the committee structure should also reflect the house, as the other place does. The committee structure does not reflect the house. However, early steps, early days.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (12:17):** Sir, this again is not a reflection on either you or former Speaker Tarzia or the whips of either parties, but it is actually demeaning to have to go and beg for a grievance at the beginning of every week. Although the member for Hammond was extremely helpful, as has my colleague on this side been extremely helpful, it is not something that I or any of the other crossbench seek to do on a daily basis. As we have grown in this corner of the house, as it were, we feel it only fair the house reflects the current composition of the membership. I seek everyone's support on this motion.

Motion carried.

*Bills***FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (GOVERNANCE) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 December 2020.)

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:19):** It is a pleasure to rise to speak on this bill on behalf of the government. We have an excellent minister covering fire and emergency services in the member for Hartley. This is a very important bill and there has been very good work led by that minister.

Unfortunately, the bill came about because we had some dreadful bushfires at the start of 2020. As we all know—and I will not go into it all—2020 was a tough year in many different ways. We were in drought across most of the state at that stage, and we then had devastating bushfires on Kangaroo Island, in the Adelaide Hills, on Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and some at Keilira down in the South-East as well as some other places.

Out of that the minister took the very responsible step of saying, 'Well, what else can we do? What else can we do here in South Australia, as a government and in partnership with a whole range of organisations, not the least of which, of course, are the CFS, SES, SA Ambulance and other organisations that have a huge number of volunteers in them?' What the minister has done is seek an independent review to look into exactly what was done and what could have been done better—a warts and all look at this issue.

The independent review found that the response from our emergency services sector was quite remarkable; however, there are certainly things that could be improved. The independent review recommended that the state government consider amending the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 to enable the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services to appoint an independent chair to the SAFECOM board, and this is one of the key things proposed under the bill.

To be clear, I say again that the independent review found that the response to the bushfires at the beginning of 2020 was actually very good, but we do not back away from the fact that there is always room for improvement. Let me share with the house the improvements that have been made recently.

Building on our \$48.5 million package released earlier this year, the Marshall Liberal government has delivered a further \$49 million package to ensure that South Australia is as prepared as possible for bushfire emergencies. The conditions that gripped the state in the 2019-20 bushfire season were some of the worst on record, and this government has responded with a \$97.5 million package in total—as I just mentioned—to keep South Australia safe.

We are investing nearly \$110 million so that our emergency services staff and volunteers have the resources and support they need to protect lives and property. Importantly, we are boosting support for CFS volunteers by employing nine additional regional staff, who will reduce the administrative burden on volunteers. We know that emergency services staff and volunteers experience some of the most extreme and distressing circumstances, so we are increasing mental health support by employing an additional professionally qualified counsellor.

Key elements of our response, more broadly, include \$5 million for AVL, which is essentially vehicle tracking technology that has already been used successfully in trials this summer, as well as \$7.2 million for new CFS appliances, including 25 new trucks for the 2020-21 season. Let me say very clearly here, on the record, and on behalf of the Wilmington CFS brigade, of which I am a member—and I will briefly come back to that—that I would like to thank the minister very much for the brand-new truck.

It arrived 1½ weeks ago, I would say. I was not able to be there on the Monday night when it was brought around, but I did go to the shed to have a look and make myself familiar with it the following weekend. I know how pleased other CFS brigades around the state would be to receive one of the 25 new trucks that have been ordered.

There has also been \$2.7 million to retrofit 49 CFS vehicles with burnover protection, which is incredibly important, and there has been a rollout of thermal imaging cameras to all 55 CFS groups. These cameras are extraordinary. If you have ever had the opportunity to use one, they are absolutely extraordinary with regard to what they can do in terms of identifying hotspots, being able to avoid risks and dangers, and identifying further work that needs to be done. They are very impressive pieces of equipment.

There was \$11.5 million for the new MFS heavy appliances. While we typically think of bushfires being addressed by the CFS there are certainly times when the MFS will attend bushfires and everybody is very glad to have them there. They are most often used in regard to protecting houses and other structures, usually in townships that are under threat from fire.

I can tell you as a CFS volunteer that when you see the MFS roll into town for a fire, as has happened in my own home town of Wilmington, it does give you a great sense of comfort to know that you and your colleagues will be away, out and about fighting the fire and the MFS will be back in your town making sure that nothing untoward happens there.

There was \$4.7 million for nine additional FTEs, including the first permanent CFS staffing presence on Kangaroo Island, \$4 million to upgrade state incident management facilities and continue Project Renew, upgrading CFS stations so that CFS volunteers have modern and functional facilities, and \$2.1 million for four extra FTEs to provide more support to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee. There is funding for the additional counsellor to support mental health and wellbeing of volunteers and \$37 million for increased hazard reduction, including prescribed burns on public land.

That is an outstanding list and I thank the minister and I thank the agencies that report to the minister and all the people who work in those agencies for their effort in putting together this very large package of new expenditure, new tools, new equipment, new appliances, new or upgraded stations, more mental health support and on and on.

But we are not stopping there. Very importantly, what this bill is about is putting a new head of SAFECOM in place, which was a key recommendation from the independent review and that is exactly what we want to do. We certainly hope that all members in this chamber see fit to support this.

I mentioned that I am a member of the Wilmington CFS brigade and that is true. It is also very important that I put on the record that I used to be a very active member of the Wilmington CFS brigade and these days I am not an active member of the CFS brigade in Wilmington. As much as I would like to be, I am actually very rarely home. That has changed a few things in my life lately and I look forward immensely to a future, hopefully not too soon, when I can return to volunteering with the Wilmington CFS.

One of the reasons I support the bill so ardently is because I have seen that firsthand in our area the impact of bushfires. Our Southern Flinders-Upper Mid North area, which I suppose would be the two ways that people would refer to my home patch, is one of the most bushfire ravaged regions of the state. Thankfully, in the last few years we have been blessed in our area—while other areas have not been so fortunate—not to have been hit too hard in that regard at all.

In my time as a member of parliament, let alone as a CFS member before that, in our broader area we have seen two major fires in the Bundaleer Forest, we have seen two major fires in the Wirrabara Forest and we have seen the Woolundunga fire, which started on the western side of the Flinders Ranges, near Horrocks Pass, and decimated a massive amount of country.

We have seen the Bangor fire, which started near the Port Germein Gorge road, towards the bottom, again on the western side of the Southern Flinders Ranges. That was another incredibly devastating fire—in fact, the most devastating of all of them. We have also seen the Sampson Flat fire and the Pinery fire in the southern part of the electorate of Stuart, which I represent, a fair way away from Wilmington and the area I was talking about before. My electorate, including further north in the Flinders Ranges and other parts, has been incredibly hit by fires in the last several years.

Somebody could say that one fire was worse than another, or bigger, easier or better, but it is nearly impossible to try to come up with those types of descriptions. The Bangor fire was absolutely devastating with regard to the speed at which it damaged property and burned homes at times and

also with regard to the length. The fire burned for six weeks because there were parts of that region that just could not be accessed. I think it was six houses that were lost.

If I think about the Pinery fire, it started near Pinery, of course, and headed nearly to the edge of the Kapunda township. It did not last nearly as long. It started, it took off and it was a massively fast-moving fire in unreaped crops, something we do not normally see.

Usually, our bushfires start after reaping. Stubble paddocks are typically considered to be good places to fight a fire because you can get out and about on them. You can drive on them and get all your appliances onto them. Stubble can certainly burn ferociously enough and it is a serious fire, but a stubble paddock is typically considered a place you can stop a fire.

The Pinery fire was in unreaped crops. It was a massive, extraordinary fuel load. I do not want anyone to misunderstand my words here. While that fire, by bushfire standards, started and finished in a relatively short space of time, that is completely irrelevant compared to the enormous numbers of houses and sheds that were lost and, most importantly, the two lives that were lost.

That is how you really measure natural disasters: in loss of life. Even understanding the damage the Bangor fire did and the stress it put on local communities for six weeks, everybody would go through that again rather than have a fire that did not last long but took two lives.

There are many other examples that I could go into more depth on, but the reason I give them is that every member of this house knows, and I know personally—it is nothing to do with me, but I know by experience, participation and observation—how incredibly fortunate we are in South Australia to have approximately 12,000 or 13,000 CFS volunteers, to have SES volunteers and to have ambulance volunteers and a wide range of other volunteers who support us as well, but I am focusing on bushfires at the moment, who just give of themselves extraordinarily.

It is not only about fighting the fire. It is not only about fronting up when there is a job to be done or, in many cases, an emergency to be dealt with. It is about the thousands and thousands of hours of training that are put in across the state every year. People turn up, whether they are just helping with fundraising or whether it is an older member of the community who, for all the right reasons, prefers not to go out on a truck anymore so transitions across to running the radio or being one of the people running the radio back at the station.

People contribute in an enormously wide range of ways, and we can never, ever thank those people enough. Those people work within a system, a broad structure, and SAFECOM is at the very top of that structure. SAFECOM is an organisation overseeing, supporting, directing (depending on the occasion and the activity at the time) all the emergency services across our state, and then, of course, each of the streams—from surf lifesaving, even, to provide another example not bushfire related—through to the CFS, which has the largest number of members by volunteer base.

They all work within this broader SAFECOM structure. There are times when it is important that they work independently and run their own race within their own service, and there are times where they must work collaboratively and cooperatively. I know that there are times where there is a bit of frustration perhaps between two services on the ground, if, for example, there is just not quite enough space—different situations can arise.

There are niggles from time to time just as there are in any family, but on the ground the services want to work together, they want to cooperate, they want to support each other when that is appropriate, lead each other when that is appropriate. There are certain circumstances, such as a bushfire, or perhaps a motor vehicle accident where the CFS would take a leadership role with regard to helping use the jaws of life to extract a person trapped in that vehicle.

People understand that there is a system that works very well, and that is all the way through—brigade captains to group officers, up into the professional ranks—but it culminates at the top with SAFECOM, and SAFECOM has done an outstanding job. I have known a few of the SAFECOM CEOs who chair the SAFECOM board as it has been for quite a long time and as it is at the moment, and so this bill is absolutely no disrespect to those people whatsoever who have really done an outstanding job, as this independent review highlights with regard to the bushfires at the beginning of last year.

However, it does make sense to have an independent chair. It does make sense to have somebody who is going to lead that board which oversees all of the services and whose directions support, works its way through and trickles down to the lowest and currently inactive volunteer (such as myself) on the ground. It does make sense to have an independent person leading that group.

Our government has put \$60,000 per year—and very importantly indexed as well with inflation—into the 2021 state budget so that the appointment of this independent chair can be made. On any given day \$60,000 a year would not be nearly enough to remunerate properly the leader of that organisation, but we do believe that is an appropriate amount of money to spend. This is not expected to be a volunteer role. This is expected to be a role filled by a person with very high levels of experience and capacity in many ways.

We are funding this position. Make no mistake, we are very serious about making this work. I also know that volunteer members on the ground—and I do not exclude professionals in ambulance or MFS in any way whatsoever, but they are working professionals with a job to do and it puts them in a very different category to volunteers—and volunteers in the various different emergency services are very proud of their services. They do not want to think for a minute that services as were proposed under the previous government are going to be amalgamated and just brought in together.

A former minister for emergency services in the previous government put an enormous amount of work into heading that way. I think it is fair to say that, to his credit, and perhaps also to the credit of his colleagues back then, he realised that it was not the right way to go and so backtracked on that.

Let me be really clear: by having an independent chair of the SAFECOM board we are not intending to go down the path that the previous government contemplated. We want all streams of the emergency services to be able to have their identity, their operational responsibility, their culture and, in many or most ways, their own independence, but we do want them all to be led responsibly and professionally and as best as can be done from the top.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:39):** I rise to make a contribution to the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill, and I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition and perhaps the only speaker on this side today. These are relatively minor changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Act, but they are important changes and I think it is worth noting that.

I have spoken many times, as many of us have, about the bushfires of last summer and about the response to the bushfires last summer. The member for Stuart quite eloquently talked about the way in which the services did work together, and both Keelty and the subsequent royal commission into natural disasters bore out that in most cases the services did work well together.

The bushfire season did, of course, spark renewed interest in ways that the emergency services could be better resourced and also better governed. Again, the member for Stuart makes the observation about the way the MFS interact with the CFS, particularly in those peri-urban areas, the urban fringe, and in those large regional centres. The CFS clearly do the bulk of the rural firefighting, while the MFS serve the purpose of coming in and protecting major assets.

Both Keelty and the royal commission made it perfectly clear that that will be more and more the case as fire seasons get longer and as urban sprawl takes place, not just here but interstate. We are going to need more investment in our Metropolitan Fire Service, particularly in the way that they interface with the Country Fire Service, and SAFECOM is going to play a very important role in that going forward.

This bill does two things. The first, and probably the most important, is that it establishes an independent chair for SAFECOM. I thought it might be worth reading into *Hansard* the reasons for this and the comments in the Keelty review just for future reference so that people are very clear about what Keelty's view was and why this is necessary. In the review, he said:

The Review also highlights some anomalies with the role and function of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) and the overall planning process—most of the recommendations from this Review are SAFECOM's core business.

Adding to questions about governance, SAFECOM does not seem to have adopted its role of enabling the emergency service agencies to do their job. There were many complaints about SAFECOM attempting to assert itself beyond its legislative remit to a more operational role.

This does reflect what I heard on the ground. Despite my comments about the services working well together and SAFECOM performing a very important role, there has been a certain amount of dissatisfaction on the ground with the way SAFECOM has conducted itself. I think that is largely a result not of any individual, and I would not want to blame any individual, but partly of that governance structure which is very unusual. Keelty continues:

On examination of the legislation, there is a clear anomaly in having SAFECOM's Chief Executive (CE) preside over the SAFECOM Board which is akin to marking your own homework. This arrangement is not in line with normal Board/CEO relationships in either the private or public sectors. It would operate better under the normal conventions of a Board with an Independent Chair appointed by the Minister and the agency responding to the Board's direction in accordance with the Minister's intent.

Elsewhere, Keelty notes the role of the CE as chair of the board. I quote again:

This is a significant shift from the usual governance arrangements where a CE would normally report to the Board and the Board would be separately chaired.

Under the Corporations Act 2001 there are good reasons why this is normally the case—it is to avoid the organisation 'checking its own homework'. Both in ASX-listed companies and the public service, it is not recommended that the Managing Director or the Chief Executive also chair the Board. This Review may not have needed to highlight many of its findings—the lack of action on previous reviews, the lack of integration and interoperability of ICT systems, fleet suitability and management as well as the use of critical safety technology such as AVL—had SAFECOM been effectively performing its legislated role.

Keelty concludes (and I quote again for the last time):

[It was not a] specific term of reference to examine SAFECOM but given the issues raised during the Review about matters falling within the remit of SAFECOM to deliver, it was inescapable not to examine SAFECOM's role to a limited degree...The review takes the approach that a simple amendment of the legislation that results in the Minister appointing an Independent Chair is likely to deliver a better, and more conventional governance outcome.

Clearly that is what we have before us today. We have a move to establish an independent chair of SAFECOM—another member of the board, who is not an officer or a member or an employee of an emergency services organisation, who is to preside over SAFECOM. The hope is (and I join with the government in a bipartisan way) that this will provide better governance and avoid some of the problems Keelty identified in his review.

I do know that this is something that many in the sector absolutely support and have been calling for. This has been exacerbated in recent times, but it has been boiling away for quite a while, and I know that many of the agencies are very pleased to see this happen. There are some questions, very few questions but there are some questions, I will ask in the committee stage about how this will work, the appointment of the chair, but I will get to that in committee.

What the member for Stuart did not talk about was the other thing this bill does that is also very important. At the moment, the annual report of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee is handed to the CFS, essentially to the chief officer, and then there is no legislative requirement for it to go anywhere else. I assume that the chief officer reads it, acts upon it and shares that information with SAFECOM and any other relevant parties, but nothing is legislated to ensure that happens.

This bill makes the very important change to the reporting requirements of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee directly to the minister, who then in turn must report directly to parliament on an annual basis. This is a good move, a good move towards more transparent ways that we approach bushfire management in this state, and one that the opposition supports. With those few words, I look forward to the rest of the debate and to the committee stage.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:46):** I rise to support the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill. I say this as an active member of the Country Fire Service, and I applaud not only everything the Country Fire Service and all our emergency services do, particularly in this difficult time of COVID-19, but also all those people who choose to deploy in farm fire units. I want to discuss, as part of my contribution on this bill, some of the recent fires or mopping-up operations I have been involved in. One was on 19 November, the Yumali-Nethererton fire, which did not get a lot of media because there was something else in the news, a pause with COVID.

It was interesting because we were not supposed to be seeing anyone. Thankfully, we had gone home from estimates in this place and I rang my boys, because they were here for school and university, and said, 'Get home,' because they had harvest jobs. With COVID, we are never too sure

what is going on: you only have to look at what goes on at the Victorian border between our state and Victoria to know that things can change day by day or part way through the day.

We were home on the 19<sup>th</sup> and, as I have indicated in the house before, a powerline dropped into a crop a bit towards the south-east of us, not many kilometres down the road, so we attended that with our private unit. What I did not realise until well after the event was that a young lad, young Harrison Rowntree who was also out fighting the fire, took some excellent drone footage. If you go on Facebook, you can see the aftermath of that fire. He took a photo of me and Mack, my eldest son, and the Neumanns, Alistair and David, his father, when we were saving a house on the Leinert property, which used to be my friends Gary and Karen Sommerville's house.

I know that we are not supposed to have displays, but I have a picture showing graphic portrayal of fire coming down through the scrub, and the house is just over my shoulder up a bit above me. We are pumping water from one unit to the other to do our best as a private unit to save that house.

I have fought a few fires. I have had a few burn-offs go astray as well and have fought them to save the situation, but this was probably the toughest time, where I nearly made a decision to pull out from fighting the fire. With me, I had my 19-year-old lad, Mack, driving in his first big event, and I had young Angus, aged 16, on the back. They did a very commendable job, a fantastic job, in chasing that fire. When it got too rough to chase it out on the fire ground, we got out of there because of the radiant heat.

There were several burns injuries. Thankfully, Damian Heym is home, but he spent quite a lot of time in the Royal Adelaide burns unit. I cannot speak highly enough of the burns unit in the Royal Adelaide that was transferred from the old Royal Adelaide Hospital. Damian is home in a full-length bodysuit because he got burnt when he was caught outside a vehicle. He wears gloves as well, and I think he has to have them on for up to two years, but thankfully he is still alive.

I have mentioned in a grievance here before about two women who were caught in a utility. They could not get away to the east from the fire, and as the fire came at them from the west they kept the windows shut and the fire went over the top. They got out of the ute and were unscathed, which was almost a miracle. It was the best decision they made in the end: they got out of that utility and got onto burnt ground, and the ute burnt to the ground.

A lot of stock was lost—we shot a lot of stock the next day, hundreds of stock—and a lot of fences. The closest we got to losing a house in the 30-kilometre blaze that raged for four hours was that the fire blew the windows out of a house as it passed and then torched a shed, which had a New Holland harvester in it. From memory, I think it was a TR87—a pretty burnt New Holland that was never going to reap another crop, sadly, when I saw it later on at the Johnson property.

There was a time when we were between the fire, and it was only about 10 metres or so between a quite high scrub line of trees and the house. If we had not had rollout lines, hose reels, I would have pulled out, but we had the hose reels and we managed to tone the fire down—it was vicious. My brother got burnt and another lady and another lad were burnt. The other day, I saw my brother's hand that was burnt and it looks like it will come to a full recovery. He will have to wear a glove for probably most of this year, but he is certainly not too badly affected.

It was a great cooperative approach between the CFS units and the farm firefighter units. It is acknowledged that a lot of the farmers in my area, or several of them at least, now own ex-CFS units. They are still very capable fire trucks because they do not have a lot of kilometres on them when they come out of their time with the CFS, after maybe 20 years or so, and still can carry a lot of water.

This bill is a bit about the management of fires and the bureaucracy around it, but when it gets down to making sure the action hits the ground you have to put the wet stuff on the hot stuff. For everyone who is out there on the fire front, I commend them. I must again commend all those units that came in the strike teams, whether it was from the South-East, Port Augusta or from the Hills. I think the Salisbury brigade was down there, and I saw one fire truck from the south of Adelaide, but there were many I would not have seen because they would have been in different sectors of that 30-kilometre run of fire.

I also managed to assist with the mopping-up of Kangaroo Island last year. That was a horrendous fire. I would hate to think what it was like with the Kangaroo Island fire coming at you. It

was totally devastating, burning hundreds of thousands of acres of land—500,000 acres, I think it was. It was devastation across the board.

I must commend how it was managed and the mopping-up, with the controller at our base, which was quite a few kilometres outside Kingscote. At times there was a little bit of levity, which you need sometimes in these situations. We rescued a koala one day, and then other trucks realised we were going to the Parndana animal welfare centre, so next thing we had bags of possums on board, and for the rest of my time on Kangaroo Island, our truck, Swan Reach 14, was known as 'Swan Reach international rescue'. So there you go. It was interesting to get that banter from the controllers and just to have a little bit of lightheartedness in a delicate situation.

I must commend everyone, not only those on the island who were there fighting for their livelihoods and their land and houses and properties—and there were so many properties lost and lives lost, the Lang family with two lives gone; it is very sad—but all the people from the mainland who went over: the MFS, the CFS and there would have been private units. We had the plane boys in the area, Aerotech and others.

I have mentioned in this place before the help from the Defence Force. There were a lot of men and women from way up north. I cannot remember whether they were from Townsville or Darwin. They might have been from Darwin, I think. They always have bags ready to go to help out with tsunamis or cyclones, but they said, 'We've never been deployed for fire before.' Their work was absolutely commendable as we all got together to make sure we could help with the mopping-up.

We would go up separate roads at times, put out hotspots and come back the next day because this fire was sometimes burning up to 18 inches (45 centimetres) into the ground because there was so much litter, leaf litter and that sort of thing. You know there is a big event happening when the anchor chains come out, the old anchor chains that have not been used since about 1980 for scrub clearing, and the dozers knock down a whole strip next to the Vivonne Bay road as an emergency firebreak. You know it is happening. That is when, as they say—I was going to use another word, but it is unparliamentary—it is happening.

I ran into a local contractor on one side of the road and the Army D6 (a bulldozer) on the other knocking down some big gum trees for the emergency firebreak for Kingscote. That is how sensitive that matter was. We have certainly had fires through the Hills around that time as well, the Cudlee Creek fire. I have spoken here before about how everyone, private owners but the CFS mainly, saved Harrogate.

I still shake my head in disbelief that Harrogate was saved. Yes, there were considerable losses around the town, but have a look where the burn mark comes, right up to the edge of the town, right around the town, 360°. I am forever amazed at the challenges. I know some of the first trucks that went in were going down roads and they were just told, 'Get ahead of it. Yes, there will be losses behind you as you go past, but you have to get ahead of it and try to save what you can.'

That is the thing, that people can never think that the CFS will always be there to save you, because it is just impossible in these big events. Yes, I think a lot of the CFS personnel—in fact, virtually all of them—are superhuman people, but there is only so much you can do, as we found at the recent Yumali-Netherton fire, when it just gets too ridiculous out in the paddock trying to save crops, stubbles and fencing, so you just try to save sheds and houses.

We had the Cherry Gardens fire recently. It looks like that was, from all reports, lit by an arsonist, and I have all sorts of things to say about the way that person should be dealt with, but I will not mention them here. I must commend everyone who got involved in that fire, whether it is the people on the ground or in the planes. They were very commendable efforts. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (BUDGET MEASURES) BILL**

*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL***Assent*

His Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

*Parliament House Matters***CHAMBER PHOTOGRAPHY**

**The SPEAKER:** I indicate to members that I have granted permission to a photographer to take still photographs in the public gallery during the course of the afternoon.

*Petitions***BRIGHTON ROAD**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens):** Presented a petition signed by 114 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to provide the community with a comprehensive business case for proposed roadworks on Brighton Road.

**SOUTHERN WASTE RESOURCECO**

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson):** Presented a petition signed by 67 residents of McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat, Aldinga and greater South Australia requesting that the house urge the government to prevent the Southern Waste ResourceCo from receiving, storing, treating and disposing of waste contaminated with PFAS at their landfill site on Tatachilla Road in McLaren Vale.

*Parliamentary Procedure***ANSWERS TABLED**

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

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Auditor-General Report No. 5 of 2021—Adelaide Oval redevelopment for the designated period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 [Ordered to be published]  
Equal Opportunity Commission, South Australian—Review of Harassment in the South Australian Parliament Workplace Report

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Mutual Recognition (South Australia)—Single-use and Other Plastic Products—  
General

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Summary Offences—Custody Notification Service—No. 3  
Rules made under the following Acts—  
Legal Practitioners—Miscellaneous  
Supreme Court—  
Criminal—Amendment No. 10  
Uniform Civil—Amendment No. 4

By the Minister for Planning and Local Government (Hon. V.A. Chapman)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Planning, Development and Infrastructure—General—Planning and Development Fund—No. 4

By the Minister for Energy and Mining (Hon. D.C. Van Holst Pellekaan) on behalf of the Minister Environment and Water (Hon. D.J. Speirs)—

National Environment Protection Council—Annual Report 2018-19  
Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Environment Protection—Waste Depot Levy  
Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance)—Waste Avoidance—  
General

By the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Fire and Emergency Services—General

*Ministerial Statement*

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSIONER'S INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF HARASSMENT IN THE PARLIAMENT WORKPLACE**

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (14:05):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I rise in response to the announcement of the tabling of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity's Independent Review of Harassment in the Parliament Workplace. As members will recall, the objectives of the review were listed in the motion that was introduced by me and then passed in the House of Assembly on 12 November 2020. The same objectives were also agreed to in a concurrent motion in the Legislative Council. These were that the houses of parliament:

1. Note the prevalence and nature of harassment in the parliamentary workplace, including the perception of workplace culture, the impact of any harassment on individuals and the workplace culture and any contributing factors to the prevalence of harassment.
2. Request that the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity (the commissioner) consider the reporting of harassment in the parliamentary workplace, including existing complaint mechanisms and any cultural and structural barriers, including potential victimisation, to reporting.
3. Request that the commissioner undertake a review into the response to complaints made about harassment in the parliamentary workplace, including legal and policy mechanisms in place governing responses, any sanctions available where harassment is confirmed and the way incidents of harassment have been handled by the parliamentary workplace in the recent past.
4. Request that the commissioner provide recommendations as to:
  - (a) any action that should be taken to increase awareness as to the impact of harassment and improve culture, including training and the role of leadership in promoting a culture that prevents workplace harassment;
  - (b) any legislative, regulatory, administrative, legal or policy gaps that should be addressed in the interests of enhancing protection against and providing appropriate responses to harassment; and
  - (c) other action necessary to address harassment in the parliamentary workplace.

In order to refresh the memory of members for the purposes of the review 'parliamentary workplace' included Parliament House, electorate offices, ministerial offices and other places attended by persons who work in the parliamentary workplace in association with their duties—for example, work travel or social events.

I thank the Acting Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Ms Emily Strickland, for her efforts and for meeting the reasonably tight time frames imposed. She was due to complete the report by

26 February, and indeed she did. It is now for the government and/or the parliament of course to consider these recommendations ultimately to whomever they are directed and to provide a response. Any recommendations to the government's response will pertain to us, and I will be considering those for advice in the near future.

Everyone has the right to be safe and to be treated with respect in their workplace, whether it is in the parliament or on a building site. Allegations in recent weeks in Canberra have been profoundly disturbing. Allegations of what has occurred in this parliament are distressing to many. While this review and the government's response to the review cannot traverse these allegations, what we as a government and as a parliament can do is put in place measures to ensure the South Australian parliament is a safer workplace for everyone.

I reiterate that my door is always open to those who wish to confidentially discuss any matters of misbehaviour or misconduct in this parliament, and I am confident that there are many leaders in the opposition, and in leadership in this parliament, who would say the same. I encourage anyone in the parliamentary workplace who, in reading the content of this report, may feel upset, distressed or troubled in any way to seek support. This could be in the form of professional counsellors with expertise in dealing with victimisation.

I have prepared a list or table of appropriate services should anyone in the parliamentary workplace wish to access these confidential services, and that is appended to this statement. For the purpose of the record, I indicate they are with Relationships Australia, 1800RESPECT, the Working Women's Centre, ReachOut and MensLine, all of which have accompanying telephone numbers and details of electronic access to those services. I commend them to members should they feel the need.

I ask all members to not only carefully read the report, which I will do, but also carefully consider the recommendations for our consideration in due course. I am happy to table this list.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I draw honourable members' attention to visitors in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. Mary Howarth is the guest of the member for MacKillop. Mary is from Bowral in New South Wales and is a committed contributor to BlazeAid. She attended and made significant contribution, I am told, in response to the Keilira fire and more recently at Lucindale in response to that fire. She has contributed to 17 fire emergencies in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. I welcome her to this house.

Also present in the Speaker's gallery, and my guest, is Peter Wadewitz OAM. I welcome him to this house.

#### *Question Time*

#### **STATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier formally advised His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le, that his party no longer controls a majority in the House of Assembly?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I have spoken to His Excellency about the changed arrangements with regard to the size of our joint party room, yes.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Was the Premier unable to get the support of his own party room last night for his proposed changes to the Emergency Management Act?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13):** We certainly don't canvass issues in our joint party room here in the parliament—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** All I can say is that we had a full agenda last night. We had a comprehensive program that consisted of bringing forward policies and legislation here in the parliament.

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14):** My question is to the Premier. Have any members of the Premier's backbench reserved their right not to support the government's proposed changes to the Emergency Management Act?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:14):** We don't discuss those matters in this parliament.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

### STATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14):** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier now lost control of the Liberal party room as well as control of the House of Assembly?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:14):** I find this line of questioning from the Leader of the Opposition intriguing and instructive because I think it perfectly demonstrates what those opposite are interested in: politics and games. Let me tell you, sir, what we are focused on on this side of the house, and that is delivering for the people of South Australia. The people of South Australia elected a majority—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —Liberal reformist government—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —to fix the mess of 16 years of destruction that the previous government wrought on the people of our state. The simple fact is that they elected a government to deliver more jobs, lower costs and better services, and that is precisely what we are focused on—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The leader will cease interjecting.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —here in South Australia. When we look at the most recent ABS job statistics, we see South Australia doing well compared to just about any other place in the world. Now, those opposite hate this. They absolutely hate it. They hate—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** They are barracking for South Australia to fail, but South Australia will not fail. South Australia is united. Not only are we united in our focus—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —with the people of South Australia to take on this coronavirus from a health perspective but also, and most importantly, from an economic perspective, and that is where the partnership has come from: focused on keeping our state healthy but also keeping our economy strong and getting as many people back into employment as we possibly can. That is our focus.

We know those opposite have other areas that they focus on: games, intrigue, all sorts of political games. Not us. We are focused unequivocally on delivering for the people of South Australia. We were all elected—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —every, single member in this chamber, all 47 members—by our constituents to represent their interests here in this parliament, and we are charged with the responsibility every day of considering their interests. Well, their interests are about South Australia doing well with the coronavirus, making sure that we remain safe. We have done well to date.

There is no doubt about that whatsoever, but there will be some challenges this year as well, especially around the vaccination program, but we expect that cooperation, that partnership, that united focus that we have had in South Australia in the first part of the coronavirus—dealing with making sure that we get our testing up, our QR code adherence up in South Australia—will continue into the future. That's what the people of South Australia are focused on, and that is certainly what our government is focused on.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the leader, I call to order the member for Playford. I, call to order the member for Lee, I call to order the member for West Torrens and I call to order the leader.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** My question is, again, to the Premier. Does the Premier consider that his changes to the Emergency Management Act are draconian? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** FIVEaa presenter David Penberthy this morning said that sources inside the Liberal party room had told him there were tense exchanges about a proposal that was brought forward by the Attorney-General for an extension of emergency powers.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right! The leader has the call.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Quoting Mr Penberthy:

...it's been put to me that the extension that has been proposed is more open-ended. One source described it as even being draconian and handing too much power to the state.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:19):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for this question. I was chairing the joint party room yesterday and I was pretty observant as to who was in the room. David Penberthy was not in the room. He has not been elected, and we don't have people—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —who are not elected in that room. So David Penberthy was not in the joint party room yesterday. It is true that we consider making sure that we have the very best legislation and regulation around emergency management, and I think South Australia has done extraordinarily well in terms of managing the global pandemic so far.

It is an interesting situation that we have at the moment because our Emergency Management Act in South Australia generally relates to a very short emergency, usually, for example, something like a bushfire. This has now been an extended period of time. We have had some temporary arrangements in place, and we will continue to consider whether some of those need to be incorporated on a longer term basis.

We will do that in consultation with the joint party room, and ultimately we will bring government policy back to this house for their consideration. Ultimately, for that to prevail, we need

to have successful votes in this house and in the Legislative Council. Then, of course, according to the way we govern in South Australia, that ultimately goes to His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, and he may choose to assent to that bill and bring it into law.

### **BUSINESS CONFIDENCE**

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:20):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier please update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is building confidence in our state, particularly in light of the recent Infrastructure Australia priority list?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:20):** I can, and I thank the member for Flinders for his excellent question, which is really focused on two things: one is the confidence levels in South Australia and the second is the Infrastructure Australia priority list. They go hand in glove very well indeed. Can I just say that recently we have had another confidence survey, which has been released. This time it's the BankSA State Monitor.

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Not one new project.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for West Torrens!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** In the results for February, business confidence reached the highest level since—are you ready for this?—2005. Last time I looked, that was quite some time ago. The reality is business confidence is very high and it's surging, and this is completely and utterly at odds with what most people would have expected would be happening right around this time. We are dealing with a very difficult pandemic at the moment. This has made many people feel anxious and concerned about the future but, because of the way the pandemic has been handled in South Australia, people are actually feeling more confident.

Business confidence is up. Consumer confidence is up even further. Consumer confidence surged 9.2 per cent up to 124.9 points. This is the highest level in more than a decade. There is high business confidence, high consumer confidence and high investor confidence in South Australia, and that is going to continue into the future because the people of South Australia know they have a government that is focused on delivering for them.

The member in his question also referenced the Infrastructure Australia priority list. Can I tell you we had six projects that were listed as high priorities or priorities. This is the largest number of—

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Not one project.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —new proposals for South Australia in the list's five-year history. It is the highest level since this list was created, with six new projects for our state. This will give great confidence to those people in the business community in South Australia. The initiatives identified are consistent with Infrastructure SA's 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy, which I think highlights the value of Infrastructure SA, an election commitment that we took to the 2014 election and the 2018 election and that we have now implemented here in South Australia.

We were the last jurisdiction to develop an infrastructure body. It was a shameful situation. It was done at the national level and it was done in every other jurisdiction. Ultimately, it is here in South Australia now and delivering for our state. The two high-priority initiatives are really important for our state. The first is the Adelaide outer ring route capacity initiative, which will build what matters on our outer ring by improving safety and also travel times.

The second one is the South Australian road network initiatives, aiming to reduce the increasing backlog of maintenance on roads throughout the state, which was estimated to be more than \$750 million back in 2019. These projects, together with the other projects, will build on the \$16.7 billion worth of infrastructure and investment that is currently in train. It was announced in our budget last year. I know many members are feeling very positive about that. Most importantly, what we are seeing is business confidence sky-high. That's flowing through to consumer confidence.

Despite every single issue that has been thrown at South Australia in the last couple of years, whether it be dry or drought conditions for our farmers, whether it be devastating bushfires on Kangaroo Island, in the Adelaide Hills, down in the South-East, over on Eyre Peninsula or on Yorke

Peninsula or the coronavirus, we have been able to stand up, deliver for the people of South Australia and provide them with a government that is inspiring their confidence.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Kaurna, I call to order the member for Chaffey, I call to order the member for Cheltenham, and I call to order the member for Hurtle Vale. I warn the member for Lee and the member for West Torrens.

#### **AMBULANCE RAMPING**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:25):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier believe the government has met its own target to end ambulance ramping in the Central Adelaide LHN by 30 April 2020? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** It was announced by the government that the Central Adelaide Local Health Network would end ramping by April last year. The bulletin, titled 'Ramping is not right: it ends on April 30', was issued in March last year. The spokesperson said to *The Advertiser* at the time, 'We are seriously committed to stopping ramping by 30 April [2020].'

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:25):** I thank the member for his question. It is a very important question, and we have stated publicly, on numerous occasions recently, that the current level of ramping is unacceptable and needs to change, and that's exactly and precisely what we are doing in South Australia. We are putting very significant additional investments into the current system to make sure that we can improve this situation. This comes in various areas: first of all, of course, is the upgrading of various emergency departments right across South Australia. When we came to government, of course we had a very difficult situation that we inherited from those opposite. When we came here, we had a very difficult situation that we inherited from those opposite.

**Mr Malinauskas:** Why is it getting worse?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The leader will cease interjecting.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** They were downgrading emergency departments right across metropolitan Adelaide—more than downgrading emergency departments; they actually closed the Repat. They were putting massive additional pressure—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** What we now currently have is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will resume his seat for a moment. Interjections on my right and interjections on my left will cease. I am doing my best to listen to the Premier's answer. The Premier is entitled to be heard in silence. The Premier has the call.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Thank you, sir. I was just talking about the massive upgrade in terms of the emergency department capability and capacity that we are embarking upon at the moment in South Australia. This project, which is very significant for our state, is causing some additional capacity constraints, particularly in the southern system that flows through to the central system, because at the moment the Flinders Medical Centre, which is the busiest emergency department in South Australia, needs a massive expansion. That is underway at the moment, but there is actually a reduction in beds available during this construction. What will ultimately be delivered is the largest emergency department in this state.

We are doing an upgrade to Modbury. We are doing a massive expansion out at the Lyell McEwin Hospital at the moment. In fact, we are completely rebuilding the emergency department at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There are projects now in excess of \$100 million worth of upgrades and capacity increases for our emergency departments in South Australia.

We are also looking very closely at the patient flow through our hospitals, which is one of the issues that is causing some problems—making sure that people are in the right beds if they need to move into alternative care, whether that be aged care or some other facility. We are doing what we can to do that. There are a range of options that we are also considering.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Kurna—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Kurna, I call to order and warn the Minister for Education. I warn for a second time the member for West Torrens. I warn the member for Playford.

### **AMBULANCE RAMPING**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:28):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, is it correct that the ramping hours of December 2020 were more than double those of December 2017, before you were elected? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr PICTON:** In December 2017, before the last election, there were 661 hours of ambulances ramped. In the most recent figures released, in December 2020, there were 1,361, more than double the previous rate.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:29):** It's a pleasure to be able to take this question on behalf of the Minister for Health in the other place. Many things have of course changed since December 2017. In the health department, in particular, there have been many benefits to the people of South Australia as a result of the election of the Marshall Liberal government since 2017.

Coming into government, we were confronted with the devastation left by those who imposed Transforming Health on our state. The Transforming Health adviser, the member for Kurna, of course; the Transforming Health Treasurer, the member for West Torrens; and the Transforming Health Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, left the people—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —of South Australia with a series of circumstances from which this government has worked hard to improve our situation. We have identified, as the Premier just said, that ramping is unacceptable and we are working very hard to improve it. There is indeed a comprehensive plan that is being undertaken by the Department for Health to improve this. It covers issues like beds, patient flow, alternative treatments, ambulances, the delivery of an urgent mental healthcare facility in Adelaide, upgrades to the Lyell McEwin emergency departments, an upgrade to the Modbury Hospital emergency department, a brand-new emergency department at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a significant massive upgrade at the Flinders Medical Centre—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —all of which dramatically will enhance the capacity of the health department to deal with supporting the needs of the people of South Australia, including reducing ramping. Of course, there is a complexity that comes out of the massive upgrade at the Flinders Medical Centre.

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The leader will cease interjecting. The Minister for Education has the call. He is entitled to be heard in silence.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I'm grateful for the pause, sir, because it's important to note that this massive upgrade to the Flinders Medical Centre was not proposed or undertaken by the Labor Party when in government. They were busy closing hospitals. They closed the Repat, you will recall. They dramatically downgraded—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The leader is warned.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —the South Australian health system. While the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Health in the former government, while the member for West Torrens was the Treasurer for Transforming Health, while the shadow minister for health was the adviser for Transforming Health, they downgraded South Australia's health system. We are fixing it.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** We have a comprehensive plan to deal with ramping issues. Since coming to government, since the December 2017 date that the shadow minister for health identified, we have massively increased—significant increases—the budget of SA ambulances. We have refreshed the fleet and we have, of course, put a large number of additional paramedics and ambulance officers into the system.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The South Australian health department is dealing with a range of challenges across South Australia because there is a global pandemic that has devastated health systems around the world, that has put our health system around Australia under pressure, that has caused changes to practices and indeed has had impact on a range of things. Despite that, we have extraordinarily strong health outcomes in South Australia compared with any other state and compared with any other jurisdiction in the world.

There are challenges as we fix the health system left to us by those opposite. The South Australian health department and the Minister for Health are doing terrific work. They have a comprehensive plan, which we are delivering on, and I am confident that the people of South Australia understand what is improving and understand the hypocrisy of those who seek to talk it down.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Kaurana, I call to order the member for Hammond, I warn the member for Chaffey, I warn the member for Cheltenham, I call to order the member for Light, I call to order the member for Colton and I warn for a second time the member for Playford.

### **AMBULANCE RAMPING**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (14:34):** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier spoken to any paramedics about their current concerns regarding ambulance resourcing and, if so, what was the Premier told?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:34):** In fact, I actually had an opportunity while I was out with the member for Newland on the weekend. We were out in his electorate and I did meet some paramedics. They didn't raise concerns with regard to the issues that are raised by the member; in fact, they said that they were very much enjoying working within SA Health. In fact, it was a couple who had moved here from overseas.

There are issues that are associated with ramping at the moment. We are not sweeping this problem under the carpet; in fact, we are taking it head on with a comprehensive program. This is a problem from an entire system's perspective and so there are many things that need to be done to correct the situation we are currently experiencing here in South Australia. One of those things was announced today in fact, where we are expanding the Mental Health Co-Responder program which

started as a pilot in the Central Adelaide Local Health Network and is now going to go across other local health networks in South Australia.

As the Minister for Education updated the house only a few moments ago, the Urgent Mental Health Care Centre was proposed last year in response to very high-level presentations of mental health patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital experiencing delays. We went out to the market, we have now resourced that project and that will be opened in the coming days.

There are many things that need to be done to fix the mess that we inherited from those opposite: part of it is capital upgrades, part of it is new programs that divert patients from our emergency departments and put them into alternative care that is more appropriate. Some of it is patient flow through the hospitals and, of course, some of it is to do with the ambulances.

That's why we feel very proud on this side that we have had some very significant upgrades to our ambulances, the physical ambulances in South Australia, since coming into government. We have also put more money into the South Australian Ambulance Service budget and have had a very significant increase in the number of personnel who are in there. There is still much more work to be done, and that's precisely what we are focused on.

### SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:36):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with the Chief Executive of SA Ambulance, David Place, that the service is going 'backwards', is simply 'treading water' and is only 'getting harder'? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

*Members interjecting:*

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

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** Last week, on ABC 891 radio SA Ambulance Service chief executive, David Place, was asked if resourcing was going backwards, and he said, 'Yes, treading water is as best as you could put it.' When asked if the situation was deteriorating, he said, 'Yes, it is getting harder.'

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:37):** I didn't hear that interview and the context in which it was stated but, as I have just updated the house, we have very significantly increased the resources, both financial and physical resources, to the South Australian Ambulance Service since we have come into government. We are in a negotiation period at the moment for the new enterprise bargaining agreement. We are listening to what the South Australian Ambulance Service is putting forward.

We know that they do an outstanding job for our state, we know that they work very hard and we know that the current situation with regard to ramping is unacceptable in South Australia, but there is not one simple solution to the current situation that we inherited from those opposite on coming into government. There is a comprehensive program that is being implemented. If it was just one simple thing that needed to be changed, it would have already been done. The reality is there is much work to be done.

At the moment, there are some very large capital projects well in excess of a billion dollars going across our hospitals, both metropolitan and country, and more than a hundred million dollars of that is going into the capacity increases and the capability upgrades within our emergency departments in South Australia.

### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**Mrs POWER (Elder) (14:38):** My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government will grow confidence within the construction industry in the state through the record pipeline of current and future projects?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:38):** I will take that question, sir. What I can say is that the Hills are alive with the sound of confidence—in fact, so are the plains and so are the regions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** The community knows that our state is getting back on track after 16 years of rot from those opposite. Our \$16.7 billion infrastructure spend is far greater—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —than they would ever have seen on that side of the house.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister will resume his seat. Interjections on my left will cease. The member for West Torrens will leave for 20 minutes in accordance with standing order 137A.

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call to order the member for Elizabeth. I remind members that the minister, in answering the question, is entitled to be heard in silence. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** I know those opposite don't like to know about the confidence that is being built in the construction industry. It is outstanding and they are appreciative of the work we are doing. We are building, as I said, \$16.7 billion worth of infrastructure over the next four years. That's hospitals, it's schools, it's sporting infrastructure, it's road infrastructure, it's public transport infrastructure—hospitals, as I said—and also water infrastructure. We are delivering for the people of South Australia. That is supporting local businesses and it is growing jobs in South Australia, more than 19,000 jobs in that pipeline, which has confidence sky-high.

One of the great projects—I was out with the Premier just the other day, and the minister before me did a marvellous job in getting this one off the ground—is the Regency to Pym project. We were out having a look and speaking to the workers on the ground. Confidence has been instilled in that sector by delivering this project—and guess what? It's ahead of schedule and, guess what? It's under budget—a great project being delivered by this government which means we can invest in more projects in South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the Premier!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** We are doing the job and we are reaping the rewards. That will be open in the coming months and the South Australian commuters will reap the rewards when they get to save travel time, up to eight minutes in peak hours, as they have their daily commute reduced so that they can get home earlier and spend more time with their families. That's what we are going to be delivering for the people of South Australia. Of course, this funding, secured through the 2018 budget, is in partnership with the federal government. Some of the partnerships with the federal government have been outstanding for this state, and that's where this confidence is growing.

The Deputy Prime Minister was here just last week announcing \$100 million for tranche 1 of our road safety program. This is a great program. If you have been out into our regions over the past couple of months—and those opposite probably haven't but on this side I know we have—when you see some of the roads and the work that is happening in our regions, it is delivering confidence again.

Let me run through some of the roads and the projects that are underway: Barrier Highway, Tod Highway, Birdseye Highway, Horrocks Highway, Augusta Highway, Eyre Highway, Riddoch Highway, Ngarkat Highway, Stuart Highway, Military Road, Upper Yorke Road and the Karoonda Highway as well—all these projects will be improving safety, delivering jobs for South Australia and increasing confidence, filling the industry with confidence in South Australia.

When we came to government, of course, the cupboard was bare because they hadn't done the planning work over that side—

**An honourable member:** Sixteen years.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —a very poor government. Sixteen years, no projects on the go. Now we have them rolling out the door and, as we saw, six new initiatives onto the Infrastructure Australia priority list—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the leader!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —more than have ever gone on there before under the previous government. They did nothing, sat on their hands and we are rolling them out. The High Productivity Vehicle network is a very important project and rolling out, as the Premier mentioned; an outer ring route; a high-priority list; and clearing that road maintenance backlog. They left us a job there. We are tackling it, but we have more to do. The feds have identified this as well and they are going to work with us and, of course, we are removing level crossings as well. These are very key projects that they didn't deliver.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** We are getting on with it and we will be doing more of them as well, working with the feds to deliver those projects. For decades our roads were neglected by those opposite but we have these projects on the IA list. We are working with the federal government to deliver more, and that is what is putting confidence back into the sector across South Australia: more jobs, lower costs, better services and building what matters for South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Kurna, I call to order the member for Reynell. I call to order the member for Ramsay. I warn for a second time the member for Lee. The member for Playford can leave for 20 minutes in accordance with standing order 137A. And I call to order the Premier.

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

#### **SA AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:43):** My question is to the Premier. Why do the government's own budget papers reveal that this government is cutting funding to the SA Ambulance Service budget? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** The government's own budget papers show that SA Ambulance Service funding has declined by \$23 million in two years. In 2018-19, it was \$208.1 million. In 2019-20, it was down to \$195 million and, in the last year's state budget, it was down to \$184.5 million—a reduction of \$23.6 million in operating funding in just two years.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:44):** I am grateful for the opportunity to take this question on behalf of the Minister for Health. Obviously the member is aware—he was part of the cabinet for a brief period of time under the former government—of the way—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —the Treasury papers work in relation to a budget.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** If he's struggling to remember he can ask the member for West Torrens, who I think was Treasurer at the time and set in place a certain set of figures. Indeed, since coming to government, this government has invested further funds in ambulances, has supported the refreshing of the fleet, and has indeed ensured extra paramedics.

As we talked about before in the Premier's earlier answer and in my earlier answer, we have spent the last two years and 11 months working every day to enhance the position of the people of South Australia, to repair the degradation on the health system and the ambulance system left by

those opposite and, indeed, to restore the South Australian public's confidence in a health system that the member for West Torrens as the Treasurer—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Lee will cease interjecting.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —the member for Croydon as the health minister, and the member for Kaurana as the senior adviser—Chief of Staff I think—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The leader will cease interjecting.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —to the minister for Transforming Health, left in such a state of disrepair, left in a state where nobody in South Australia had any confidence in their capacity to deliver the health services that the people of South Australia expected, deserved and desired. The Minister for Health, the entirety of the SA Health workforce and the health department across South Australia have worked very hard over the last several years. We have been confronted, of course, with the most significant pandemic to confront our nation or the world in 100 years and they are working hard every day to pass the test that is expected of them by the people of South Australia to deliver great services.

We have a comprehensive plan, as we identified before, to enhance the capacity and to enhance the practice that is delivering for the people of South Australia that will seek to reduce ramping. When I think of the enhanced emergency departments at the Lyell McEwin and Modbury, when the enhanced emergency department—the brand-new emergency department—at The QEH—

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Point of order: standing order 98, sir, debate. The question was very specific about why there has been a \$23 million budget cut to the South Australian Ambulance Service.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Does the minister rise on the point of order?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I will wait until your ruling, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I have the point of order. I will deal with the point of order, Minister for Education. The question referred to budget allocations in successive years. The minister is addressing the question. The Minister for Education has the call.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The government will continue its strong investments in the SA Ambulance Service, its strong investments in improved emergency departments, which of course have a direct correlation with the impacts of the issue that the member is asking about. That is why we are improving the emergency department at the Lyell McEwin, that is why we are improving services at Modbury Hospital, so that residents in the north-east can have that improvement. It is why we are delivering a massive, massive upgrade to the emergency department at the Flinders Medical Centre, an upgrade that is currently underway that is impacting on capacity right now, but when complete it will see a dramatic improvement—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Lee!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —an upgrade that if it had been invented by those opposite when they were in government, we wouldn't need to be doing this work now, and we wouldn't be confronted by that problem now. But for 16 years those opposite were in government and for 16 years they failed the people of South Australia. They left us with a mess and we are getting on with fixing it.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Kaurana, I warn for a second time the leader. The member for Lee can leave for 20 minutes in accordance with standing order 137A.

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

### HEALTH BUDGET

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:48):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, why were there 112 fewer nurses working in our health system as of 30 June 2020 compared with 30 June 2019?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:49):** The member is obviously not putting an explanation to that question because he knows that there is a lack of confidence, I think, that the house has in his numbers as a general view. What the house does know is that since coming to government this government has indeed re-funded dramatic enhancements—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —to the health budget compared to the settings left by the member for West Torrens when he ceased to be the Treasurer of South Australia just three short years ago—just three short years ago—when we were denied that opportunity to have the settings left by the member for West Torrens as the Treasurer continuing in the budget. This government has restored funding to the health services. We continue to restore confidence in the health services and we will continue that work. The increased support for the health services in South Australia has run into the hundreds of millions of dollars, and we are delivering better outcomes for the people of South Australia.

### SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:50):** My question is to the Premier. Has the government boosted the Ambulance Service by even one single additional crew over its entire time in government? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** In December 2017, the previous government, under the previous minister, committed funding for another 112 extra paramedics in the system. The Premier has repeatedly claimed that their government has boosted the paramedic workforce, yet yesterday the Ambulance Employees Association responded to those comments with the following, quote:

There have been no additional ambulances deployed under the Marshall government...

Despite Government claims the last additional ambulances were deployed over 3 years ago back in 2018...funded by the previous...Government. The only staff hired since [then] have replaced ambos leaving the service and topped up additional rosters.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:51):** I thank the member for the question. He continues to talk about things that were described in 2017, in December, by the former Minister for Health, the Leader of the Opposition now, at the end of 16 long years of Labor rule, as it was then at the time, 15 years and nine months. After 15 years and nine months, they reached a point where so degraded was the South Australian health system that they felt, with an election coming up, they needed to say some things, and the member keeps returning to these matters.

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The record for the Labor Party is clearly written for the people of South Australia in the situation that was confronting the people of South Australia in March 2018 upon us coming to government. We have delivered since then dramatic improvements for the people of South Australia, for SA Health, which I have referred to in my earlier answer, which the Premier has referred to in his earlier answers and, for the member's benefit, the *Hansard* should be available on the current day's transcript any minute now.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Kaurna—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right, members on my left! Before I call the member for Kaurna, I call to order and warn the member for Mawson, who is interjecting and interjecting from a place other than in his seat.

### SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:52):** My question is to the Premier. What is the Premier's response to the account of frontline paramedic Jim Murchland, who has spoken publicly about being run off his feet with no ability to respond to an emergency? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** The Sunday before last, paramedic on the frontline Jim Murchland bravely recounted his last shift saying, and I quote:

I just went from job to job to job...

Towards the very end of the night myself, my partner and then another ambulance crew were all too fatigued and short on equipment to attend a life-threatening case.

I'm actually at risk of [just] crashing into a tree if I go.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:53):** I thank the member for his question. We take these concerns extraordinarily seriously. We thank our paramedics and those who work in the South Australian Ambulance Service for the outstanding job they do on behalf of the people of South Australia.

In response to questions the member asked most recently regarding the net costs or the cost of the South Australian Ambulance Service, it was asserted there was a reduction. I have just had a look at the budget paper, which is available to every single person here, and what we can actually see is not as suggested by the member but in fact quite the opposite. If we look at the budget for the SA Ambulance Service—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —in 2019-20, the budget was \$305 million. Then the expenses in—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —2020-21 actually go up from \$305 million—

*Mr Picton interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —to \$313 million.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hurtle Vale!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** So you can see that there has been an increase in the expenses. I don't want to assert improper motive, but I think the member was basically trying to look at the net cost, which included the income which comes into the area. I make the point that the expenses, the amount of money going in, are actually significantly higher. I also took the opportunity to check the assertion that was made by those opposite—

*Ms Cook interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hurtle Vale is warned.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —regarding the number of nurses in the system as well between the 2017-18 budget and the 2019-20 budget. In fact, I think members would be very interested to know that there was actually an increase of 286 in the number of nurses between those two areas. One of the great things about our parliament is that you can go and check the budget.

They are all just in the area out behind here. As I said, the budget for expenses within the South Australian Ambulance Service has actually increased from 2019-20 year through to the 2020-21 year by around \$8 million.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Schubert, I call to order the member for Kaurua, I warn the member for Hammond and I call to order the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

### **BAROSSA WINE INDUSTRY**

**Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (14:56):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on how the government is securing business and consumer confidence through investigating greater water security for the Barossa wine industry?

**The Hon. D.K.B. BASHAM (Finniss—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:56):** I thank the member for Schubert for this important question. It was great to be in his electorate last week, just as harvest starts in that area as well, to see the confidence of the grape and wine industries up there as they head into what they believe is going to be a wonderful vintage.

This region is of paramount importance to this state, and we must understand the importance of the water supply, in particular, into this region. We see the challenges that some areas, particularly the Eden Valley area, are facing through the lack of water availability, and it is important we investigate this space. We very much see it as one of the key things on the list of six infrastructure projects, and one of them is looking at getting water into this Barossa-Eden Valley region, and it is important that we continue work on that.

We have been working on this project, very much supported by the member for Schubert, and working with the Barossa Grape and Wine Association as well as Barossa Infrastructure Ltd, to try to achieve an outcome for this region. This initiative is so important, as it not only creates jobs but it is also about making sure we grow the sector.

To capture and treat effluent water and turn that into effective water available for grapegrowers in this region is an important initiative that will give them security beyond the vagaries of the weather. This security will enable growers to not only get their existing plantings producing well but also give them the ability for future plantings. This will lead to significant expansion in that region, with an estimated potential growth of up to nearly \$300 million being returned from this investment of a pipeline taking effluent into that region. That will also lead to a thousand new jobs in the region.

Not only is this important for the region itself but it is important for the state and important for us nationally as well. It is also important to understand that the state government have applied to the federal government to partner in this going forward. We have made an application to put some funding on the table to make sure we get a secure business case to be able to put this project together. Also, an application going forward has been made to the Morrison government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

It is important that we get this work done to make sure that we are able to design the appropriate project going forward and to make sure that we are able to deliver for that community, making sure that there is the opportunity for the investment that is required and a return for our state. This is a key part of the growth initiatives of this sector, making sure that they are able to deliver for us so that we can deliver a \$23 billion target by 2030 for the ag sector in this state.

It is important that we continue to work with this group, and I thank the member for Schubert for his advocacy in this space. This is a very important project for South Australia, very much recognising the fact that it is now on the infrastructure list. This project needs to be delivered.

**SA AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:00):** My question is to the Premier. How does the Premier respond to frontline paramedic Josh Cox's desperate plea for additional resourcing to prevent a catastrophe? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** Last Monday, frontline paramedic Josh Cox courageously fronted the media saying, quote:

People need to know that the community is at risk...[we're] one large scale motor vehicle accident away from a catastrophic event.

I firmly believe that.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:01):** I thank the member for the question. The government is very committed to supporting its community through enhanced ambulance services, through enhanced health services, and indeed anyone working in that system. We are working day and night to see the system be the best it can be, but the member in his question talks about lower resourcing, and as the Premier clearly outlined in his last answer and as are clearly outlined in the budget papers, the member misrepresents the facts if he says that there indeed is less expenditure on this service.

This government continues to support enhanced services, and I do encourage the member for Kaurna to read carefully the advice provided in my earlier answers and the earlier answers from the Premier.

**SA AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:01):** My question is to the Premier. Why has the government still not publicly released a report it commissioned over two years ago from Operational Research in Health (ORH) regarding what resources are needed in the SA Ambulance Service?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:02):** I thank the member for the question. As the minister responsible for the Minister for Health in this chamber, I will seek a response to that question from the Minister for Health and bring back an answer to the house.

**COMMUNITY FORUMS**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:02):** My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Minister, are all members of parliament able to hold community forums at metropolitan fire stations? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** The member for King held a crime forum at the Salisbury MFS command fire station on Saturday 27 February and will hold another forum on 9 March. Will the same access to MFS fire stations be made available to all other members of parliament?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:03):** I thank the member for Elizabeth for the question. The member for Elizabeth will note that I believe that, in recent times, the member for Mawson held a community forum. I believe a member of SAPOL was present at that forum.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** As I was saying, I think the member for Mawson held a community forum recently and there was a member of SAPOL there. I certainly didn't have a problem with that. I think it was a community forum. What I couldn't understand, sir—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** —is that given how long he had been in parliament when he took the Labor hacks that were there in the room why he could only get 30 people at the forum. That's what I couldn't understand personally.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** But from time to time—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right!

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** —as the minister I will get asked—

*Ms Cook interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Lots.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! The minister will not respond—

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I'm sure you sent a few as well.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will not respond to interjection. The minister has the call. He is entitled to be heard in silence.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** From time to time, my ministerial office might be asked if there are community forums in a member's electorate. I will certainly consider those and, if I think it's beneficial to the local community at the time, then it's not unusual for a member of SAPOL, for example, to be present, like at the member for Mawson's forum or—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** —in the member for King's electorate. For all I know, there might even be other requests that are made from Independents or other members of the house, and I as minister will certainly consider those and consider any protocols that exist.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I know that the member for Elizabeth, for example, has attended stations from time to time. I know that that certainly exists. I have reiterated to the house that—

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Elizabeth!

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** —from time to time these requests are made, and they are considered on a case-by-case basis.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Elizabeth, I call to order the member for Schubert. I warn for a second time the member for Chaffey. I warn for a second time the member for Cheltenham. I warn for a second time the member for Hurtle Vale. I call to order the member for Wright.

### COMMUNITY FORUMS

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:06):** My question is again to the Minister for Emergency Services. Who approved the use of the Salisbury Command Fire Station to host the member for King's crime forum?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:06):** I thank the member for Elizabeth for the question. I understand that the member may have arranged that by booking what is otherwise a publicly available room. I

know that particular station is a very good station, and I know from time to time there are requests made by members of the community to hire that room.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right and members on my left! Interjections will cease.

*The Hon. V.A. Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier is called to order.

### FRASER INSTITUTE ANNUAL SURVEY OF MINING COMPANIES

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:06):** My question—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hammond has the call.

**Mr PEDERICK:** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister update the house on recent results from the Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies?

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:07):** I thank the member for Hammond for the question and, yes, I can. We have heard a lot today about the confidence that the South Australian community has in our government. The Fraser Institute have a very important survey that they put out. The annual Fraser Institute survey assesses how mineral endowments and public policy factors affect mineral exploration and investment across the globe. It's a key tool used by the international resources industry to identify prospective jurisdictions and decide where they direct exploration investment. That's incredibly important because it goes directly to jobs, to employment, and much of that is in regional areas.

I am pleased to report to the house that of 77 jurisdictions ranked in 2020 South Australia has once again scored in the top 10 jurisdictions globally. South Australia ranked eighth globally in the Best Practices Mineral Potential Index, a great result. This signals to the international exploration community that SA is a strong place to do business. It means that we are predictable, methodical and reliable. It means that we don't pull surprises on our biggest growth sector without meaningful consultation and engagement first.

Importantly, South Australia ranked sixth in political stability, up from 18<sup>th</sup> in 2019. That's despite the efforts of the Labor opposition trying to turn our biggest growth industry into its own political plaything. The report shows that the Marshall government's improvements to the Mining Act and programs are amongst the best in the world. Our reforms to the Mining Act have provided greater protections for landholders, improved buffer zones—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —more time and financial support, access to free advice and new protections for farm biosecurity. There are also new programs, like the Accelerated Discovery Initiative, which is seeing explorers test new concepts and exploration plays in SA and looking for the next big project.

ExploreSA: The Gawler Challenge, phase 1, is a world-first initiative, bringing together geologists, mathematicians and data scientists to find new deposits. ExploreSA: The Gawler Challenge, phase 2, is seeking to advance these towards being drilling prospects. CORE Innovation is bringing together start-up hubs and high-tech industries to advance the sector.

The 2020 survey shows that, despite the stunts of SA Labor, we have been getting on with the job of governing the state. The 2020 survey has indicated that South Australia is one of the leading jurisdictions at the cutting edge of thinking and policy around resource development. The Leader of the Opposition should be ashamed of what his team is doing in this chamber, trying to make this industry—

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

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —just a political plaything of their own—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens rises on a point of order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** On debate, sir, and a reflection on a vote of the house.

**The SPEAKER:** I take on board the first part of the point of order, which goes to standing order 98. I am not so sure there is any point of order in relation to the second limb. I am conscious of the question. I draw the minister's attention to the question, which is quite specific and referred to the results of the Fraser Institute assessment, and the minister is addressing that. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We are proud of the Fraser Institute's assessment of South Australia. We accept that this is an achievement of the industry, with the support of our government, despite what the opposition is trying to do to play political games with this industry.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens rises on a point of order. The minister will resume his seat.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Standing order 98: the minister is implying a course of action by the opposition to make an argument. That is debate, sir, and it is inappropriate in answering a question.

**The SPEAKER:** In relation to the point of order, the minister is entitled to draw from the results of what I understand to be a Fraser Institute assessment and, in doing so, to put those results into some sort of context. I have the point of order as to debate. The minister will be responsive to the question. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Imagine how much better these results would be if we had bipartisan support for this industry across South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens on a point of order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** This is clearly now debate, sir. Implying motive again to the opposition is debate.

**The SPEAKER:** I uphold the point of order. Insofar as the minister departs from observations in relation to the Fraser Institute's assessment and makes broader observations as to an ideal world, the minister might have departed perhaps too far into an area that might contravene standing order 98, so I uphold the point of order. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Imagine how much better these results would be if things were different. We know exactly what we need to have changed. We are focused on making sure that our largest sector in South Australia, the agriculture sector, continues to thrive. We are focused on making sure that our largest growth sector in South Australia, the resources sector, continues to thrive.

We are putting policies in place, we are putting legislation in place and we are putting regulations in place. Despite the best efforts of those opposite, we are continuing down this path because it's what's best for South Australia: creating jobs, creating exports and creating secondary and third-tier industries that support these important sectors. The Fraser Institute recognises the good work that we are doing in South Australia.

#### **COVID-19 VACCINE**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:13):** My question is to the minister representing the Minister for Health. Can the minister explain to the house when the COVID vaccine will roll out in my electorate of Mount Gambier?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:14):** I thank the member for the question. The state government is working very closely with the federal government, who are of course the prime mover in this matter; they have purchased the vaccine. Indeed, along with all other states and territories, we are working on that rollout. In relation to what specific dates there may be that are relevant to Mount Gambier, I will seek information from the Minister for Health and bring back a response to the house.

#### COVID-19 VACCINE

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (15:14):** To the minister, a supplementary: can you bring back the timetable for the whole of regional South Australia? The member for Mount Gambier had the question I was going to ask also, but can you do that for the whole of regional South Australia please?

**Mr Knoll:** This counts as one of the four.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:15):** I thank the member for his question regarding the vaccine rollout in South Australia. Professor Brendan Murphy, who was the Chief Medical Officer—he is now the department secretary for the commonwealth Department of Health—has described this exercise as the largest peacetime logistical exercise in the history of Australia, and I think he's right. There is a combination—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Most people are quite interested in the vaccine rollout. This is—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —a massive logistical exercise for our country. A lot of thought has gone into, and continues to go into, this rollout. The commonwealth is of course responsible for the TGA approval for the vaccines, and so far we have the Pfizer vaccine and the AstraZeneca vaccine that are approved. They are also responsible for the procurement of those vaccines, and we have now seen the Pfizer vaccine arrive in Australia and the AstraZeneca.

In fact, we could be getting our shipments of the AstraZeneca vaccine later this week. That will really significantly reduce some of the complexity of the rollout of the vaccine because it doesn't have the same cold chain logistics requirements of the Pfizer vaccine, which is problematic in regional South Australia because you need to keep that cold chain in place at minus 70°. The AstraZeneca, which is very similar to the existing types of vaccines and shots used right across regional South Australia, can be maintained at below 5°, which will make life a lot easier.

We are doing well in terms of the rollout of phase 1a, which is really those people who are on the frontline, people who are in a situation where they could definitely come into contact with somebody who has the disease. They are people in our medi-hotels, people in the airports and people on the borders. Then of course we move in a graduated way through different risk categories, starting with older South Australians and people who have other pre-existing conditions that make them a priority for us.

We are going to be rolling this out for the remainder of the year. It is a combined effort, with the federal government responsible for aged-care facilities and disability facilities here in South Australia and then a joint responsibility in terms of the general vaccination, where we will be doing some within our hospitals and clinics and the federal government responsible for the vaccinations through the GP networks and also through pharmacies. The final detail of those arrangements is still being worked through.

There is a sort of co-commissioning arrangement between the federal government and the state government to make sure that we have good geographical coverage in South Australia. We don't want to have just a single number but having them all concentrated around one area. This is a big logistical exercise and so details of that are being worked through at the moment. We have a national cabinet meeting again this Friday. I will of course be attending that and I am quite sure that, as we get to that meeting and then beyond that meeting, there will be far greater detail.

It is a big task. It's a task that Nicola Spurrier, Chris McGowan and their team have been working on since last year. I know that we have all been very proud that in South Australia we have had amongst the highest testing rates in the world, and I'm quite sure that we will also ultimately have the best vaccination rates in the world as it rolls out.

### **HORROCKS HIGHWAY**

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (15:19):** My question is for the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Can the minister update the house on the total funds allocated to the Horrocks Highway in light of the media statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Michael McCormack, last Saturday. With your leave, Mr Speaker, I will enhance a bit further.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Last Saturday, there was a media conference by the Deputy Prime Minister about a \$100 million boost for regional South Australian roads. I have had several requests regarding the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister. They want to know what this statement was: was it an extra \$100 million, which included \$19.9 million for the upgrade of the Horrocks Highway between Templars and Wilmington? Is the statement by the Deputy Prime Minister in relation to additional funds for that section of the Horrocks Highway, or are funds being reallocated and reannounced?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:20):** I thank the member for his question and note the work that has been happening in this space. I did outline some of the details a few moments ago, and there are two tranches of work here: the initial tranche, which you talked about, and then the road safety tranche, which came in the last budget. That was a really great opportunity, as I mentioned before, to partner with the federal government because we know road safety is vitally important, especially across our regional roads.

The way that road safety funding was put forward with the federal government was an 80:20 split. We put in \$42 million and the federal government put in their share. We ended up spending another \$58 million on metro roads as well. Just sticking to the regional roads and where that ended up, I think it was \$210 million in the end—\$168 million from the feds and \$42 million from us—and that's going to be done across three tranches.

I mentioned before that this was done in what the Deputy Prime Minister described, when he put this proposal out, as a 'use it or lose it' scheme, and it was being done in three tranches across the next three months. We sent the department away to look at what projects we could get moving very quickly, and some more work on the Horrocks Highway was outlined in that, along with a number of other regional roads, again because we know that for 16 long years they were neglected and not looked after. That's happening, and it's happening in the three tranches.

One of the great things that the department did incredibly well—and I thank everyone for their tireless work on this—was they had projects that were ready to go and we were able to get them out. We put our applications in to the federal government through the process, as they had asked, and our tranche of works was the first one put in. Other states were actually slow to get moving and slow to get theirs in. That's all in the hope that if they don't use it they will lose it, and we can perhaps put some more offerings in, so we are watching that really closely.

The great thing was that our first tranche, the \$100 million, was accepted by the federal government and work is starting on that right now. The next tranche will come along, and again we've got those bodies of work in train, and we will look at that through tranche 2 and then some more work through tranche 3. What we know with road safety and a lot of the works—in fact, I was actually up on the Horrocks Highway just the other week.

I went up through Clare. From Clare, we went on to Crystal Brook and saw the great works happening at the footy club there. We went on to Melrose, up to Port Augusta and then came back through Port Pirie on the way home. It was a really good drive to have a look at a lot of those roads, and the work that's already rolling out on the Horrocks Highway is fantastic. That shoulder widening, we know, makes our roads safer. We had the audio tactile line marking, and then, where it's needed, we can put the barriers in place.

Again to the question, there was a body of work that was happening, that we identified that needed to happen, as you outline, and then the extra work that came along—the extra funding that has come along—is for those road safety mechanisms. Once again, we are really keen to partner with the federal government on this. We know our regional roads right across the board, whether it's going north, down into the South-East or across to Eyre Peninsula as well—anywhere where we can look to do these bodies of work to increase safety. That's become more prevalent through COVID.

A lot of people are travelling around South Australia, and more than ever I'm hearing reports from people from the city who have been out holidaying and spending their time in the regions, talking about our country roads. In the past, it would only be country people who would really see them and know them. You should go for a drive out and have a look at some stage—it's worthwhile doing. People have noted that that's what we need to be doing in our state.

It's great to be investing in that again. I talked about the neglect before and the road maintenance budget that grew up to three-quarters of a billion dollars under the previous Labor government. We are chipping away at that and we know more work needs to be done. So, when that opportunity came from the federal government, we were really clear that at the 80:20 offering we could get \$210 million for the regions and then we put \$58 million into metro.

Don't tell my metro friends about that because they will be disappointed that the regions got so much. We were really conscious of what needed to happen there because they needed that help and that support. It was a really great result. We are really happy with what's happening, and I think the people in your region will be ecstatic with the end results as well.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The time for answering the question has expired.

#### **SCHOOLS, SANITARY PRODUCTS**

**Mr DULUK (Waite) (15:24):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister please provide an update to the house on the rollout of the public schools sanitary products program, and how this will benefit my community of Waite?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:24):** I thank the member for the question. This is an important opportunity to talk about this valuable program, which was trialled last year across a number of schools (15, from memory) in the public education system. Of course, most if not all schools with girls and young women from about year 5 up—so that's all of our secondary schools and, indeed, the overwhelming majority of our primary and R-12 schools—had some sort of process in place previously. This was identified by the children's commissioner in her 2019 report on a range of matters.

One of the things she identified at that time, which was brought to her attention, was about those schools which may have had a process—or some may not have but those schools in particular which may have had a process—where products could be supplied upon request, if there was an emergency or if there was a student whose family for whatever reason was not helping the student have the product they needed. It wasn't necessarily always done in the most dignified manner or the manner that was most suitable for that student.

Some students identified that they didn't want to go to school if they thought they were going to have to ask a teacher or a receptionist, or indeed put it to the staff at the school, in an environment where others might be talking about it and their own personal lack of having tampons or pads might be brought to people's attention.

The children's commissioner, and it may have been described in this way earlier, described it particularly as period poverty. Indeed, in this parliament, we have had discussions about this matter over the last year and a half. At the beginning of last year, I worked with the education department to seek to improve the opportunities around South Australia, but we needed to understand what was the missing link. At some schools, the teachers and principals were identifying that they felt like they were offering a sufficient arrangement.

Indeed, many of our schools already engage with local shops which provide product free of charge. Some of our schools engage with non-government organisations, charities, which have supported those schools. A couple of our schools were trialling vending machines, for example, where students may be able to attend that vending machine and get the product.

But some of the feedback came that those even weren't necessarily appropriate either because, if they were in a public communal space, potentially in the reception area of a school, if a student had to go there to get the product from a vending machine, then that might not be what was their preferred way of doing it. Vending machines, of course, are also expensive at thousands of dollars and have a maintenance cost that then has to be borne by the school as well.

A lot of the schools provided us feedback. When we did this trial in particular, we encouraged them to talk to their student body, and that is one of the most important parts that is now rolling out across South Australia in the work that we are doing. Schools are being asked to take the resources they currently have, supplemented by a modest grant from the government to enable them to have a trigger to ensure that they can access extra supplies if needed, and have a conversation with their students.

Many of them now have committees, social action committees, or girls committees or young women's committees or whatever the situation is, SRCs, resupplying stock in bathrooms, which is often the safest and most dignified place to get it. But the key thing is that the school needs to have that discussion with their students. We will supplement them with a modest grant and we will be doing a survey of all of our schools in term 3 to identify how those conversations have gone, what extra supports are being provided and whether schools have all the support they need. If there are refinements to the policy, then we will be rolling them out before the end of the year.

This has been welcomed by schools, students, non-government organisations and the whole community. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering for girls and young women, indeed all students, in South Australia.

*Personal Explanation*

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:29):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** In response to the Minister for Education's commentary during question time, I inform him that while I was the member for Kaurna in this place I was not also the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Health, having finished in that role during 2009, some six years before Transforming Health came about.

**The Hon. S.C. Mullighan:** Basic facts.

**Mr PICTON:** Basic facts. I am happy to go on to a grievance, Mr Speaker.

**MEMBER FOR KAURNA**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:29):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I withdraw the scurrilous accusation that the member for Kaurna was in any way involved with the former Labor government's Transforming Health policies as the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Health. If he was still involved in the Labor Party at the time, he can explain that himself.

*Grievance Debate*

**SA AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:30):** While we have been meeting here in parliament, down the road at the Entertainment Centre hundreds of our frontline paramedics have been meeting to talk about the crisis that is crippling our health system, the crisis that is seeing lives being put at risk on a daily basis, the crisis that is forcing our frontline health heroes to speak out about the dangerous situation that they see for their patients.

Remember how last year we were all calling our frontline health workers heroes. That seems to have disappeared because now the government is threatening them with ICAC, now the

government is threatening to silence them, now the government is saying that they are playing industrial spaghetti. It is not listening to those frontline health heroes when they are speaking out on behalf of their patients about the absolute crisis that they are seeing day in, day out.

We are seeing it at every single level through the health system, but the Ambulance Service always cops the brunt because, whenever there is an issue in the community, they get that; when there is an issue in the hospitals, they get that. What we are seeing at the moment is overwhelming demand, under-resourcing and record levels of ramping, which means that when people call for an ambulance quite often there is not one to respond to them.

We saw this on Sunday night when over 130 priority cases across our community were not able to be responded to in time because of that crisis hitting our health system. We saw last night and yesterday huge queues of ambulances and paramedics but, importantly, patients stuck outside our major hospitals, unable to get the care that they need.

We saw this in a report that the government themselves produced, covering the end of last year, that was released only after action from the union in the Coroner's Court to make that available. This report shows in black and white the impact that this is having on patients. It showed that at the end of last year there were 38 patients potentially at risk of harm due to the fact that ambulances took so long to respond. Two of those patients sadly passed away.

This is causing the loss of South Australian lives—we know this from the government's own report—and this will continue to happen unless we see some action from the government to address it. While we have seen paramedics taking this action, going out to speak on behalf of their patients, here in the parliament we have had excuse after excuse and political bluster after political bluster from the government. There is no appreciation of the difficulties, no commitment to fix those difficulties, ramping is doubling and response time is getting worse.

The Productivity Commission report out last month showed a 14 per cent worsening in two years of response times in South Australia while we see ambulances in other states improving their response times. We have seen many leaked videos and audio clips of dispatchers desperately calling out for paramedics because there are no ambulances to respond to urgent cases, including people involved in car crashes, people who have had cardiac incidents and people who have had falls, who are waiting hours to get the care they need.

This week in hospitals we heard doctors speaking out on behalf of patients who have been stuck inside our emergency departments, one patient this week being stuck in an emergency department for 88 hours. That is almost four days stuck inside an emergency department waiting for a bed in a hospital. That cannot be acceptable by anyone's standard, but according to the Premier everything is going fine and everything is getting better despite all evidence to the contrary.

We heard a cavalcade of excuses. The one I like best is, 'Well, things are bad because we are doing this major, huge renovation of Flinders Medical Centre.' When we were in government we spent \$400 million redeveloping Flinders Medical Centre. How big is their major redevelopment at Flinders Medical Centre at the moment? \$8 million dollars. This is in the context of the state budget that we see the absolute chaos that is here.

We even have now the CEO of the SA Ambulance Service publicly saying very clearly that he does not think there is enough funding for his Ambulance Service. He said that the last funding they received in addition was back in 2018 after the commitment in December 2017 by the previous minister, the member for Croydon. After that, we have seen no additional spending.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Education rises on a point of order.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The convention of the house has been that members of the Labor Party ding their bells and say that time has expired when the time has expired—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! I will rule on the point of order. Does the member for Lee rise on the point of order?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** That is a wholly bogus point of order and, if anything, it only served to interrupt the business of the house. I ask that you call the member for Morialta on a point

of order for his behaviour, sir. That is appalling. The standard in this place is that there is a discretion the Speaker has, as set out in the standing orders—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —that people might go over time in their grievance. He knows that. He is merely seeking to interrupt the member for Kaurna.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Lee will resume his seat. There is no point of order. I have reminded members on perhaps a number of occasions of the discretion of the Speaker with respect to time. Members will observe that we have been experiencing some discrepancy in relation to the electronic monitors and, on occasion, I have had to resort to a secondary timer. In all of those circumstances, I remind members that an indication as to the expiry of time is no occasion to commence interjections of any kind. I will allow the member for Kaurna a short time in which to conclude his remarks, noting that the time for the member's contribution has otherwise expired.

**Mr PICTON:** Nothing sums up the problem more than the response we just heard from the Minister for Education. They do not care about these issues. They are fiddling while Rome burns. They should hang their heads in shame. They should fix these issues and they should listen—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr PICTON:** —to our frontline health heroes instead of being pedantic here in the parliament.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Kaurna's time has expired.

#### LOT FOURTEEN

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:38):** I am very proud to be part of a government that, after 16 years of a Labor government, during which time there was—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister will resume his seat. Those on my left will cease interjecting. The Minister for Education has the call. He is entitled to be heard in silence.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I am very pleased to be part of a government that has taken up the mantle and for the opportunity that has been given to us since March 2018 to improve services across health, transport, police and emergency services, mining and energy, indeed in education as well. After 16 years of a Labor government there was much to do and to confront the challenges that South Australia as a state now faces. We do not see that just as challenges but also as opportunities.

Since coming to government, we have taken the opportunity at Lot Fourteen, of course the site of the former Royal Adelaide Hospital, a site which, despite 10 years' notice that it was going to become vacant, the former government in that whole time failed to come up with anything better than the idea of flogging off this prime Parklands site for thousands of apartment dwellings on North Terrace for people to rent. This government had a greater ambition.

Lot Fourteen is the premier entrepreneurship and innovation centre in the nation. Indeed, in the whole world there are very few sites that bring together the opportunities of space industry, of the defence sector, of the cyber challenge and opportunity to create a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship like no other in Australia. It is very much to the Premier's credit that he had this vision and that it is coming into reality.

The space sector, the defence industries and the cyber sector worldwide are growing areas, and in South Australia they mean billions of dollars of investment, particularly in defence. They also mean billions of dollars in future investments and thousands and thousands of high-tech jobs, worthwhile and exciting jobs, for our children and our young people to take advantage of in the years ahead. Our education system is gearing up for these opportunities.

We know that across the world cybersecurity is a very high area of risk for businesses and for governments, and there is a workforce demand there that is absolutely massive. At the moment, for any of our students or young people who are interested in a career in cyber—whether they are school leavers with a certificate II or a certificate III they can get through school, someone who has undertaken a cyber traineeship such as the ones the Minister for Innovation and Skills has pursued through TAFE and Microsoft and now being funded and rolled out in South Australia, or other vocational pathways or, indeed, a bachelor or higher graduate degree—these cyber jobs are very exciting.

The Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre at Lot Fourteen is seeing the Australian effort in this space very much focused here in Adelaide and South Australia. The Australian Space Agency, SmartSat CRC, the Mission Control Centre and so many of the world's significant space companies now establishing their footprint in Lot Fourteen as well, combined with the tens of billions of dollars worth of investment in South Australia by the commonwealth government in our shipbuilding, means that if our students want a great job in tech industries, space, cyber or defence it is there.

One of the examples of where the South Australian education department is supporting them to get this is through our STEM focus, our work in our schools, our improvements to our facilities and even in some of the smaller things. For example, I am pleased to have brought the national VEX Robotics competition here to South Australia. It was in Adelaide at the beginning of last year, or the end of the year before, and was due to be in Adelaide again this week. We have the state championships instead and we are doing the interstate people remotely. I congratulate the people at VEX Robotics on their pivoting to deal with the challenges of the pandemic.

In particular, I congratulate and commend the staff and students at all the schools across South Australia who have seen this opportunity. It was a great pleasure to be with member for King, Paula Luethen, in her electorate last week when we visited Pedare Christian College. They were hosting a regional event with students from Gawler and District College B-12. The robotics workshop team from Gawler were having their first competition, and no doubt these students will go on to have great careers in STEM.

Students from Mark Oliphant College, Adelaide Botanic High School, Brighton Secondary School and Pembroke School were also there, including the last national winners. These students have so many opportunities ahead of them and, having met them and having seen their passion for STEM, I cannot wait to see what they are going to achieve in the years ahead. I know they now see a future in South Australia that perhaps they never saw before the investment in places like Lot Fourteen.

Students thinking about space industries and about being rocket engineers and people wanting to be the next Andy Thomas no longer need to think in terms of leaving Australia, leaving South Australia and going to Sydney or Melbourne or the United States or South-East Asia for those jobs. Now they see those jobs here in South Australia. This is tremendously exciting work, and I am very pleased to be part of a government that is working hard towards these outcomes and to be the Minister for Education in a system that is doing the work to prepare this workforce for those jobs.

Time expired.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! I note again that there is some difficulty from time to time with respect to the clock that is displayed. I am doing my best to monitor that by other means where necessary.

#### UPPER SPENCER GULF

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:44):** Today, I would like to talk about a five-day trip I did last week to the regions—to the Upper Spencer Gulf. It was an extraordinary visit, and one of several regional trips I have done. This one was made all the better because of the amazing staff in some of the electorate offices in the area. We had great support from Caitlin and Tracy from the member for Giles' office, and also Angela, Jeni and Yvonne from the member for Frome's office. All of them did a wonderful job helping to connect us with community services, local members of the community and a range of other locations for us to visit, meet and look around.

We started our trip in Whyalla, which has a very proud history, an industrial history and a manufacturing industry with support from its steel industry. It has had some rocky times in recent years, but it was evident driving around that it is built on the foundation of the provision of public housing and really good, solid, working-class South Australians.

Sadly, the public housing in the town of Whyalla leaves a bit to be desired. We had a look around and spoke to a number of residents to see what was going on, the difficulties they were having addressing maintenance issues and difficulties they were having mediating neighbourhood disputes. We have a bit of work to go on with supporting the member for Giles in achieving some good results there.

We were able to have some community forums. I would like to shout out to some of the really awesome volunteering groups that really do beat the heart of Whyalla: the Heartbeat SA volunteers, funnily enough; the Meals on Wheels volunteers; the Whyalla Men's Shed; and the Whyalla Hospital Ladies Auxiliary. We also met with the Probus ladies, the Whyalla Pink Spirits Breast Cancer Support Group, Neighbourhood Watch and the Parkinson's SA Support Group.

All of them had a lot to say about their communities and how proud they were to be supporting so many great organisations. Thank you for sharing with us the challenges and the joys of volunteering in regional South Australia. We also visited the Foodbank in Whyalla, which has a fantastic distribution centre and shopfront where they do meals and frozen goods, as well as fresh produce they give out. They also distribute to regional centres, and Jody and her team do a fantastic job up there.

It was a real pleasure to catch up with Mayor Clare McLaughlin and her team and to talk about the plans for the future from a City of Whyalla point of view and really listen to what they wanted to achieve in order to assist attracting people and families to the area with the promise of jobs and investment in the future. There is a really positive outlook, but something has to be done in terms of raising the standard of housing in the city, and we were keen to listen to what their views were around that.

The Plaza Youth Centre is a real joy in Whyalla. We spoke to Joe. The youth centres are under enormous stress in the regions. We travelled from Whyalla over to Port Augusta and, funnily enough, we went to another centre there where the manager, David, is actually on the board of the Whyalla one and the Whyalla manager is on the board of the Port Augusta one, so there is some really great interaction there, and we will help to leverage some improvements—I hope—in that area.

We visited Common Ground, which is a great initiative that has been around for 10 years now, and there are two in Port Augusta. It is not the first time I have been there. Lana Johnson from housing services within Community Housing did a great job showing us around. We attended their barbecue. It was great hospitality. At the Standpipe, thanks to Mahanbir Grewal and family we had a great time up there and, funnily enough, bumped into two Legislative Councillors, the Hon. Justin Hanson and the Hon. Clare Scriven. They were there by coincidence: it was not set up.

We visited Port Pirie with its wonderful local member. Honestly, if you are coming up against him, good luck, because everybody in the town knows Geoff Brock. You could not walk past anyone without them knowing Geoff and his story. We bumped into Kellie Martlew, who is a local superstar. We had a local community forum with Mayor Leon Stephens, and Uni Hub, Uniting Country, Red Cross, St Mark's, Orana, Business Port Pirie, the Australian Education Union, disability advocates, the autism support group and the dementia support group. We look forward to helping to connect them and really achieving great things in the region. Thank you to everyone who was so welcoming.

Time expired.

## COUNTRY ROADS

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:49):** It is a pleasure for me to rise today on behalf of the people of the electorate of Stuart, which I represent, to discuss country roads. There is a lot recorded in this place on *Hansard* from my time in opposition with regard to country roads and the need to do better. It is incredibly pleasing for me now, in a responsible government, to be able to identify some of the fantastic work we are doing in regard to country roads.

The work on Horrocks Highway, much of which is in the electorate of Stuart but is also in other electorates, is seeing some very significant upgrades. There is a bridge, the Spring Creek bridge between Wilmington and Melrose, that is an incredibly narrow bridge. It is hard enough for two four-wheel drives to pass each other on the bridge. Certainly, during grain carting season, if there are two trucks, they cannot pass each other on the bridge.

Fortunately, we have responsible, capable local truck drivers, many of them local farmers, in charge of that bridge upgrade. Down at Gladstone, the level crossing upgrade is incredibly important. There are numerous overtaking lanes and an enormous amount of shoulder sealing on the Horrocks Highway already installed, with some of it still being worked on. It is incredibly pleasing to see that, and I thank the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport very genuinely for his work in that area.

The Barrier Highway is getting significant upgrades. I think it is about \$52 million going to the Barrier Highway. That runs from Burra to the New South Wales border just this side of Broken Hill. The upgrades happening there are incredibly important as well. They are important for many reasons. They are important for freight, important for people who live in the district and important for emergency services. If we have safer roads, better shoulder sealing and overtaking lanes, they do not need to put themselves in harm's way, often in the middle of the night, to go out and look after people involved in motor vehicle accidents and other unfortunate circumstances. That is very important.

In regard to the duplication of the Augusta Highway, while the section that is being duplicated is not in the electorate of Stuart, I would say that the vast, overwhelming majority of people in the electorate of Stuart use the Augusta Highway and go through Port Wakefield. It is incredibly pleasing to see the duplication that our government is putting in place there. A less heralded section of the Augusta Highway, but perhaps for me the one I am most pleased about, is the section south of Red Hill. The section south of Red Hill has been a bumpy, cracked up, in parts too narrow section of national Highway 1.

I have worked incredibly hard with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to get his support and, through him, the support of the federal government. I know that federal member Mr Rowan Ramsey, the member for Grey, has also worked incredibly hard on this. This is something that the Liberal state government and the Liberal federal government have worked incredibly hard on to make happen.

It is perhaps less notorious than some of the other areas I have mentioned, but to local people in Port Augusta and Port Pirie that section of road is very well known and absolutely needs to have the upgrade for 20 kilometres, or perhaps more, south of Red Hill. The condition of that road is, to be quite blunt, unacceptable.

I thank the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport for his work in this area. I know that the people of Stuart, the people of Port Augusta, the people of Port Pirie and the people in the Southern Flinders Ranges, many of whom would travel down the Horrocks Highway but then jump across through Crystal Brook onto national Highway 1 or often down the cattle track to Red Hill and onto national Highway 1, will all be very grateful, as will the people of Crystal Brook and many others in our part of the world. I am very pleased that our government has been able to achieve this for them.

#### **RAMSAY ELECTORATE**

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:54):** I rise to talk about some great visits that I made last week in my electorate—or areas soon to be in my electorate—to significant businesses in the Salisbury area. With the highest unemployment in the nation, it is important that we recognise these local businesses that continue to grow their organisations and employ South Australians.

I went to visit Mayne Pharma in Salisbury South last Wednesday, accompanied by the shadow minister for health, Chris Picton. Mayne Pharma are somewhat of a quiet achiever. They employ 212 workers. They have people with PhDs in research and development and they hire a lot of graduates.

In fact, they are very involved with the universities in encouraging people to come to do some training for their third or fourth year of their degrees, and they are very connected in terms of providing students with that experience. They also do a lot of in-house training. One of the key things they left with me was the length of stay of some of their employees, who are very well supported. It is a great atmosphere.

The company manufactures medicines, which are sold here and used by patients here and also exported around the world. It is located on a 12-hectare site with 12,000 square metres of manufacturing space. The facility has comprehensive manufacturing capabilities that allow for commercial scale solid, oral and topical manufacturing and filling of a range of products, including pellet products, powders, tablets, capsules, liquids and creams.

Mayne Pharma are GMP accredited, which is short for good manufacturing practice. That accreditation covers every stage of the process, and I understand it is a global accreditation. It gives them accreditation to formulate the development of pharmaceuticals, to analyse and test the products and to manufacture product for distribution and export.

I asked them if there are some products we perhaps might know of. One of the things that they manufacture is Betadine; they do not own that, but they do contract manufacturing. They also do significant work in the area of Parkinson's medicines and export quite a few of those. That was really interesting to me. Mayne Pharma was established in 1845. The company name was known as F.H. Faulding & Co. until 2001, when it acquired Mayne Pharma Ltd.

Another Salisbury gem that I got to spend some time with is Mitani, famous for the Mitani chicken salt. It is a family-owned and operated South Australian business with 80 employees, based in Salisbury Plain.

The Mitani family story began in 1954, when Elia 'Loui' and Trianka Mitani arrived in Australia as migrants, with their young son, Tas, and the dream of a better life. Within a few years, they started a market garden and quickly progressed into food retailing and, ultimately, manufacturing. Mitani was passed to the next generation, with Loui transitioning the running of the business to his four sons, Tas, Con, Jim and Les. Today, it is the third generation who are taking over the reins, although I have to say that Tas is as active and engaged as ever.

Initially, they pioneered the commercial production of chicken salt, but it is their relationships with other food companies and their efficiency and responsiveness that enabled them to expand into areas of food production, including stuffings, dressings and seasonings. The company has grown to be one of Australia's most innovative food product developers, supplying some of the country's largest and best-known companies. Both of these businesses export products to the world: Mayne Pharma exports to the US and Korea, to name some; and Mitani exports to New Zealand.

Our state, let's remind ourselves, is founded on the success of exporting our meat, wine, wheat and metals. Today we also export our services, such as tourism and international education.

In fact, 76,000 jobs are dependent on exports here in South Australia. For the past 10 years, we have seen year-on-year growth in the value of our exports, but of course now we face a backlash against global trade. It is these trade wars and conflicts that benefit nobody but impact businesses and their employees. What we know is that merchandise and service exports are slowing and that means fewer jobs here in South Australia. I congratulate these local hero companies but recognise that we are in a very difficult time for exports and it needs this government's attention.

Time expired.

### FLINDERS ELECTORATE

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:59):** I rise today to talk about a number of things that have been occurring in the electorate of Flinders. I would like to start with COVID, particularly given that it is just 12 months now since COVID arrived on our doorstep and it is almost 12 months, coming up on 17 March, when a community meeting was called in my local football clubrooms. I chaired that meeting. Unfortunately, we discovered later that same day that one of the attendees had tested positive to COVID.

The repercussions were significant but not so significant that anyone contracted COVID. Of course, we were dealing with an unknown situation. On 17 March, it was very early days of COVID. As a precaution, all the 200 people who attended that meeting at the football club, including some who shared the microphone—and I take responsibility for that as I was chairing the meeting and the microphone went around—and their extended family members all self-isolated. I think a good portion of the Eyre Peninsula population needed to go into isolation after that, but, that said, no-one was infected with COVID.

I want to congratulate the Premier and the government in this state on the handling of the COVID situation. Through a lot of good management and a bit of good luck, we have managed to avoid the worst repercussions of this, not to say that it has not had an effect. Some of the effects have been positive in regional areas. What we have seen on Eyre Peninsula particularly is an increase in regional tourism.

Easter did not happen at all in many ways. Those tourist destinations and businesses that cater for tourists had a very lean Easter, but by the time the June long weekend came around they were looking at a very busy tourist season and that extended right through the rest of last year, over the Christmas holidays and my guess is that it will last right through until Easter. Towns such as Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay, Coffin Bay, Port Lincoln and others as well certainly saw an upsurge in regional tourism and that was good to see. It put a bit of a strain on some of the facilities and pressure on the capacity of communities to deal with that, but in the end it was for a short time only and we have learnt from that.

Some of the other repercussions of course during last year were the impacts on local events, and I want to talk particularly about the key sports in many country areas. Certainly, on Eyre Peninsula the key sports are football and netball. We all know and understand how critically important these competitive sports are—team-based sports, town-based sports—to our community life and our social activities in the country.

There are a number of leagues on Eyre Peninsula and all bar one chose not to play competitive sport last year. There was competitive sport in Port Lincoln. The Port Lincoln Football A League played almost a usual competition. One side elected not to field teams and that was Mallee Park. Throughout the rest of Eyre Peninsula, there was no football played. Some players chose to go down into Port Lincoln and play football, and of course the much-loved, long-running football competition, the Mortlock Shield, usually hosted on the June long weekend, did not eventuate.

My hope is that sport can return to some sort of normality this year. I will talk about this again in the future when some of the changes that are mooted really come to fruition, but there will be changes within the structure of Eyre Peninsula football and netball. By that I mean that there has certainly been an amalgamation of at least one side that I am aware of. That particular team has elected to move to a different league.

That will result in impacts on the league that they are leaving, and there are other exploratory conversations going on between other clubs about where they might be playing. We will see how that unfolds, but I am looking forward to sports returning to normal.

Very quickly, and on the back of the member for Stuart's contribution, we are really excited about the extra funding coming into roads. We have seen work on the Tod Highway, the Birdseye Highway—that is ongoing—the Eyre Highway is ongoing, and there has been an increase in funding from the feds. We are looking forward to getting passing lanes on the western approach road into Port Lincoln and the Lincoln Highway. I will keep the parliament posted.

Time expired.

#### **PORT MACDONNELL HARBOUR**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (16:05):** I rise to make a brief contribution on an issue that has been ongoing for quite some time down in my electorate, that is, the Port MacDonnell harbour and the urgent need for dredging in that area. I have given, two or three speeches in parliament on this and I have asked questions of the minister. Unfortunately, still no action has occurred. It is getting to a point where, in a season when our rock lobster industry are doing it pretty tough, this added issue is a safety concern now. It is certainly having a major impact on an industry that you would deem a safe workplace needs to be ensured.

Just to put it in perspective, I know that some people may not have much sympathy for the lobster industry but, when you get to know the industry and the individuals involved, the normal beach price for crayfish is anywhere between \$90 and \$110 a kilo. At the moment, the fishermen are getting about \$35 to \$40. The problem is that there are a number of people who have leased pots at \$55 a kilo, and the tonnage that is associated with that pot, so regardless of what they get in a beach price they have to make up the shortfall.

We now have people remortgaging houses, selling their house, and it is only a matter of time before a number of them go under and these licences will end up in corporate hands, and there will be fewer and fewer. If you compare that to the New Zealand rock lobster fishermen, they are getting about \$125 a kilo because China is taking their product and certainly not taking our product.

Port MacDonnell harbour is home to the largest fleets in the Southern Hemisphere of rock lobster boats. The season commenced on 1 October and, as I have noted, China and the COVID-19 conditions have meant that this has been one of the most difficult seasons that many can remember. Added to that, battling conditions and going out into open water, the build-up of sand and weed in that harbour is causing major problems for boats in terms of inlet filters being clogged up, boats hitting the bottom, and dangerous conditions, particularly when it comes to refuelling—getting in to where the refuelling is.

The fees that these guys pay to the government are in excess of \$100,000 a year, and we have had promises of rectification down there of some dredging. At the moment, they have only been short-term measures where they will try to take some seaweed out essentially by dragging their cage behind a boat, but it does not address the sand build-up, and a dredging operation needs to occur. Unfortunately, I did have a minister commit to me verbally that this was planned for. With a change of circumstances, we need to make sure that the new minister is on top of that commitment.

Quite honestly, it has been 15 years since the harbour was last dredged. If you look at about \$1 million to dredge the harbour, the fees that are paid that the state government has received are well over \$1.5 million in income and they have not spent anything back there to address this issue. So once again I bring this to the house's attention. I will start asking some questions of the minister in question time. It is something that needs to be taken seriously and addressed by the state government.

#### **FROME ELECTORATE, SPORTS AWARDS**

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (16:10):** Today, I take the opportunity to talk about The Sporting Association of Port Pirie's 2020 awards last Sunday. Baylin Crouch won for cricket. Baylin had a successful 2019-20 cricket season. Locally, Baylin captained Wandearah under 13s to a premiership, winning the Kevin Smith Medal for the best under 13 player across the season. Baylin played in the Mega Courts Indoor Courts-R66T Academy Super League Carnival in Adelaide and was selected in the team of the carnival. He was then picked to represent Mega Courts again in their under 13 team to compete in Brisbane in the 2020 Brisbane Grammar Cricket Carnival where he took seven wickets at nine runs per wicket.

Khaliah Anderson plays in the Port Pirie Darts Association and, in January, she competed in the Australian Darts Championships held in Perth. She played in the Roy Christopher Fours, which South Australia won undefeated. Then with her partner, Abbey Morrison, Khaliah won the girls' doubles, making them the girls' champions. They then played in the teams event and won that as well.

Patrick Weckert competed for South Australia in the under 15 cricket national championship held in Ballarat. He is a fast bowler and all-round cricketer who excels in his trade. Patrick was chosen in the under 15 All Australian Cricket Squad, the only South Australian representative. He was to go to Brisbane in July to attend a training camp with the potential to play in the under 15 Australian team to compete in the under 17 national championships later this year.

Deakin Murphy competed in the under 15 national cricket championships for South Australia in Ballarat. Deakin is a left-arm orthodox spinner and was sixth-highest wicket taker for the series. He was instrumental in all South Australia's wins during the carnival. Greg Player was awarded the South Australian Compound Archer of the Year at the recent archery awards dinner in Adelaide. He finished seventh in the Australian open mixed matchplay competition.

Neve Adams has had a fantastic start to 2020. She was awarded the most valuable player for her outstanding performance in the under 16 national softball championships in January in Melbourne in which her team won third place. Neve played in the under 18 national softball championships in Sydney and again put in another strong performance.

After two strong performances at the Australian nationals, Neve was selected in the Travelodge Junior Australian Spirit team, which is supposed to compete in the under 18 Softball World Cup in Lima, Peru, in August 2020. However, that was changed and has been deferred until next year. This is the highest team Neve has ever been selected for and to be selected as a bottom age player when she will still be eligible for the Worlds team in 2022 is a fantastic achievement. Neve is one of three players from South Australia who was picked in the 16-player side and is the only player who will return in 2022.

Wayne Forrest played in the men's Nyrstar North Western Golf Tournament with around 42 other golfers. He has always been a champion for Port Pirie. Kalan Caputo's achievements in Aussie Rules in the 2020 season are: Port under 15 captain; SGL under 15 medallist, winning the Nobbs Medal, with 15 votes out of a possible 18 votes; player of the carnival for the North Adelaide country zone under 15 carnival; and player of the carnival for the undefeated under 15 SGL team. Kalan is a very unassuming player who confidently goes about his business with very little fuss.

Campbell Coombe won honours for the SANFL's fairest and most brilliant individual player which was awarded to a North Adelaide player for the first time in 10 years. Campbell, playing in the midfield, received the 2020 Magarey Medal. A left footer, Campbell polled 19 umpire votes ahead of the runner up at 17 votes. Coombe is the first North Adelaide player to win the medal since James Allan won his third in 2011. From a farming family in Crystal Brook, Coombe first joined the league in 2014 where he played 12 senior games before going back to work on the farm the following year. He played for the Crystal Brook Roosters from 2016 to 2018, winning three consecutive Northern Areas Medal Association Mail medals before returning to Prospect in 2019.

Will Coombe, his brother, played across half forward for North Adelaide in the SANFL. Will averaged 15.6 disposals, four marks, three tackles, three inside 50s and kicked 18 goals. He played in all North Adelaide's league matches and was awarded SANFL's Powerade Breakthrough Player Award for best emerging talent. That award was introduced in 2017 to recognise the best emerging talent in the SANFL Statewide Super League.

In soccer, Daniel Cox is the skipper of the Northern Demons soccer team. He has played 250 games for the club and was named the player of the year and was awarded the Reds Best and Fairest. I congratulate the Port Pirie Sporting Association on the great work they do. It is great to see a lot of the young ones coming up who are competing not only statewide but also nationally.

#### *Members*

### **MEMBER FOR NARUNGGA**

**The SPEAKER (16:15):** I advise the house that the member for Narungga has advised me that he has resigned from the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, the Environment Resources and Development Committee and the Legislative Review Committee.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

### **ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:16):** By leave, I move:

That Mr Knoll be appointed to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee in place of Mr Ellis (resigned).

Motion carried.

### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:16):** By leave, I move:

That Mr Treloar be appointed to the Legislative Review Committee in place of Mr Ellis (resigned).

Motion carried.

*Bills***FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (GOVERNANCE) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:17):** I rise to resume my contribution to the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill. Previously, I was quoting the vital assistance of CFS volunteers and people with private units in combatting bushfires, and I now want to go to more detail on the bill.

Following the devastation of 2019-20 bushfire season in this state, our state government commissioned an independent review to identify how South Australia's response to bushfires can be improved. The independent review found that the response from our emergency services sector was remarkable. However, 68 findings and 15 recommendations were made as to how South Australia's emergency services capabilities could be improved.

To align the SAFECOM board operations with accepted governance standards, the independent review recommended that the state government consider amending the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 to enable the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services to appoint an independent chair to the SAFECOM board. Pursuant to section 11 of the act, the presiding member of the SAFECOM board is currently the Chief Executive of SAFECOM.

In its response to the independent review, our government accepted this recommendation and there was also broad stakeholder and sector support to appoint an independent chair, including from the current SAFECOM board, the CFS Volunteer Association, the SES Volunteer Association and the United Firefighters Union. Funding of \$60,000 per annum indexed was included in the 2020-21 state budget for the appointment of an independent chair. In line with the government response to the independent review, this bill also proposes to enable the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services to table reports from the State Bushfire Coordination Committee in the state parliament.

In relation to the independent review, building on our \$48.5 million package released earlier, the Marshall Liberal government has delivered a further \$49 million package to ensure that South Australia is as prepared as possible for bushfire emergencies. We only have to look at the last two summers to see the terrible havoc wreaked across this state from one end to the other.

The conditions that gripped the state in the 2019-20 bushfire season were some of the worst on record. The government has responded with a \$97.5 million package to keep South Australians safe. We are investing nearly \$100 million so that our emergency services staff and volunteers have the resources and support they need to protect lives and property. Importantly, we are boosting support for CFS volunteers by employing nine additional regional staff to reduce the administrative burden on volunteers. I think this is vital for volunteers throughout the community.

I know for a fact that administrative work can be an issue for some volunteers, and even some captains of brigades, who are just keen to fight the fires and not deal with the administrative burden. It all has to be done. There is a certain amount of administration, obviously, that has to be done: who is on the truck, who attends the scene, etc. However, it does put extra strain on volunteers who are making valiant efforts to serve and save their communities.

We know that emergency services staff and volunteers experience some of the most extreme and distressing circumstances, so we are increasing mental health support by employing an additional professionally qualified counsellor. This is vitally important, especially for brigades in my area—Taillem Bend or Coonalpyn, just down the road from Hammond—and road crash rescue on the Dukes Highway. They see some horrific scenes of carnage when severe accidents happen. I know for a fact that some members have had to take a year off just to rest their mind and get away from the terrible devastation they witness on our roads.

Key elements of our response include \$5 million for automatic vehicle location (AVL) technology, which has been successfully trialled this summer; \$7.2 million for new CFS appliances,

including 25 new trucks for the 2020-21 bushfire season; and \$2.7 million to retrofit 49 CFS vehicles with burnover protection. Burnover protection is absolutely vital in fighting fires and it is part of our training every year. Before you get on a truck you need to do your burnover drill so that you can survive a burnover; they can happen at any time. The trucks are fitted with Halo sprinkler systems, blinds on the inside and oxygen tanks and masks to keep you going in the event of a burnover, which would be one of the most horrifying things that firefighters can face.

There is also a rollout of thermal imaging cameras to all 55 CFS groups and \$11.5 million for new Metropolitan Fire Service heavy appliances. There is \$4.7 million for nine additional regional full-time equivalents, including the first permanent CFS staffing presence on Kangaroo Island. There is also \$4 million to upgrade state incident management facilities and continue Project Renew, which is the upgrading of CFS stations so that CFS volunteers have modern and functional facilities. I note that Tailem Bend is up and going; it is a new facility in my electorate.

There is also \$2.1 million allocated for four extra FTEs to provide more support to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee and funding for an additional counsellor to support the mental health and wellbeing of volunteers. Vitally important in regard to our preparedness for fighting fires is \$37 million for increased hazard reduction, including prescribed burns on public and private land. We have had both a federal review and a state review into firefighting in this state, and there have been some excellent recommendations in terms of moving forward.

I would like to acknowledge Moore Engineering and their work in my electorate. They are based in Murray Bridge and have about 25 employees. Whether it is CFS or MFS trucks or forest firefighting trucks, they either build or repair the trucks, and obviously there has been a lot of repair work having to be done with the amount of fire work that has happened in recent times—

*The Hon. V.A. Chapman interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** Or modify, absolutely; modify trucks—and some trucks come in heavily modified, and they have to be modified back to something resembling a firefighting unit when their mirrors have all melted and other carnage has happened to them.

I commend this legislation. It is definitely a step in the right direction. Let's see it roll out and let's hope we have no fires next fire season.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (16:26):** I rise to speak in support of the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill 2020. As members have outlined, this is a recommendation that came from the independent review into the 2019-20 South Australian bushfire season, known as the Keelty review. It was designed to identify how South Australia could better respond to bushfires, and came in the wake of some absolute shockers during that summer.

I am pleased to say that this last summer, whilst we have had a very distressing time for people up in Cherry Gardens and many, many fires, they have had a much less critical impact on those affected. We have now got through February which, certainly in my lifetime, has usually been the worst month for risk, damage and destruction by bushfires. As we now clean up and prepare for the inevitable autumn burns and the like, in our regional areas particularly, we need to have in place, as best we can, the recommendations from the Keelty review.

This bill specifically addresses the alignment of the SAFECOM board operations with accepted governance standards. When the Fire and Emergency Services Act was debated back in the early 2000s, new structures were developed and there was an allowance for the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services to appoint an independent chair to the SAFECOM board.

That was an amendment recommended; from the establishment under the act the chief executive of SAFECOM is the presiding member, and it was the clear recommendation of Mr Keelty that this should change. I cannot quite understand why it was ever allowed that a chief executive would be chair of the board, but I understand that the structure of SAFECOM, when it was established, was designed to have an overarching area of responsibility. It is fair to say that the histories of our Metropolitan Fire Service, our Country Fire Service and our State Emergency Service are quite interesting.

Today is not the time to go into that, but they have developed different areas of speciality and have come from very uncommon backgrounds. The population of those who work either in a paid or volunteer position in those agencies is also very different, but what is important is that there be a level of independence for the chair of that body, and I wholeheartedly commend the minister for recommending the government's acceptance of this, and indeed we are here as a result of that.

There are a lot of other things that need to be done, and Mr Keelty obviously outlined 68 findings and 15 recommendations, and as a government we are working through them. I am very pleased that our government has responded with a near \$100 million on the table to directly benefit the emergency services staff and the volunteer and, as a consequence, provide the resources to help support other people's lives and their property, pets, stock and the like. I am very proud to be part of a government that has made that commitment and that is now rolling it out.

There is also support for CFS volunteers by employing nine additional regional staff. That has been certainly greatly received on Kangaroo Island from where I come. There has been an additional professionally qualified counsellor to assist with mental health support. There is \$7.2 million for new CFS appliances, including 25 new trucks for the 2021 bushfire season, \$2.7 million to retrofit 49 CFS vehicles with burnover protection and \$37 million for increased hazard reduction, including prescribed burns on public and private land.

These are all important initiatives. They will all assist, I am sure, and I am immensely pleased that, in addition to these matters, there has also been an extraordinary amount of effort post the fires, in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island in particular, not only to address the upskilling and upgrading of those who are living in regional areas and how they themselves can best protect their property, loved ones and their families, but also to have the equipment on their own properties—to have mobile units, for example—to provide those protections.

It has been a very difficult time for the people on Kangaroo Island, no question. There was a massive loss of 211,000 hectares. I am still involved in family property that has a lot of fencing to go. We had a representative from BlazeAid here today, who I think was a guest of the member for MacKillop. She just demonstrated to me an enormous army of volunteers who came from all over Australia, lived on Kangaroo Island for nine months some of them and just worked every day. It was unbelievable, and I have to say that there is enormous appreciation over there.

There is still the legacy of losing two lives in this fire, and I think in the many times we have had big bushfires over there that has been a tragic circumstance. The last large one we had, over 10 years ago now, saw the loss of a young man's life in a jack-knifed semitrailer. Reading the coronial reports on these is just really very, very difficult.

However, the local community is responding. There is recovery for not only themselves but also the natural environment, and the stock numbers are back up. Fortunately, prices are reasonable and it was a really great season last winter, so there is an opportunity to come together for that. As a government we have put in about \$79 million, or more than that, in funding across the state.

The Parndana Recovery Centre will close later this month when the local recovery coordinator finishes up. That has been Mr Rob Manton, who has put in a stellar performance in keeping the services available and able to provide support to the community as they were healing through this. In addition, \$33 million has been committed to Kangaroo Island for a desalination plant at Penneshaw, which will be fantastic in its rollout not just for the employment of those 500-odd jobs with such a huge project over the next 15 years but also, of course, direct benefits to the communities in American River, Baudin Beach, Island Beach and Sapphire town townships and, of course, all the places in between where they will have the benefit from reticulated services.

I want to recognise the \$2.62 million that has gone into the Bushfire Mental Health and Resilience Package, co-designed community mental health, wellbeing and resilience programs for bushfire-affected communities. There has been a high demand for mental health services, and I am really pleased that that has occurred.

Just over a week ago, I went with the Premier to Kangaroo Island to announce a very significant package of support for local economic recovery projects. These included the establishment of a small-scale fibre mill for \$900,000. It was designated 'From fleece to woollen garment'. It will be able to process raw fibre, mostly wool, to quality yarn and some finished garments.

It is a great initiative. The industry rebuilding and resilience project is to strengthen the industry associations plus the Kangaroo Island brand initiatives that have been there. It is an approximately half a million dollar project, with some co-contribution of nearly \$200,000 and just over \$300,000 from the government.

There is workers accommodation at the Western KI Caravan Park. Obviously, when we have to rebuild sheds, support buildings, houses, you name it—all the rebuilding on properties where over 100 or so had lost homes—we need to locate people in the region to be able to do that work, so this is a great initiative. There is a co-contribution total of nearly \$2 million. The agriculture and land management package is to be a partnership between PIRSA, a number of other local agencies on the island and some other state instrumentalities. That is a nearly \$11 million package to be able to provide that support.

There is an SA apiary industry project of \$680,000, which is to help some of the short-term needs in relation to those who are in love with bees and produce honey for our state and across the country and also to support the massive industry that requires bees for cross-fertilisation in our horticulture industries. There are some rebuilding initiatives of close to another \$6 million to deal with grapevines, cherry orchards, olive groves and the like, some of which are on Kangaroo Island. Large numbers are in the Adelaide Hills.

For Kangaroo Island open access telecommunication \$2.6 million is being put in to increase the internet coverage and capacity on Kangaroo Island. I can tell you that it is loved, that project. There is Parndana workers accommodation to put up to 20 occupants in an existing caravan park footprint at Parndana, which will give \$800,000 of relief.

I think the star stand-out is the close to \$2 million that is going towards building the Parndana Early Childhood Education and Care Centre. It will be a childcare centre in the middle of the island to provide for the families in need of this service, and I cannot tell you what a joy it is to be able to speak to young families who have been waiting for this service. When the big fire went through in 2019-20 on Kangaroo Island, there was a need for emergency care. Children were dislocated. They could not get back to school and were living off bus routes.

The school assisted the community in setting up a temporary facility. It was soon found that there were about 40 children just in that western district who could access this service if it were there on a regular basis, and their parents, who are working on properties and in the towns, could then facilitate some work either at home or in other services and could provide for just such an enormous community benefit. As I have often said, it is very difficult for families to live in remoter parts of the state if they do not have basic services to go with it.

It is terribly important that health and education services are obvious. People in the country have always had to learn to live with not having tertiary or very specialised services. On Kangaroo Island, I cannot remember our ever having any languages available, for example. Over the years they have become available by Open Access education.

In a modern circumstance, where families want to have a new chance in a regional community, be productive, provide for the benefit of the community and have a family, they need to have basic services, and child care is something that really makes a huge difference to those communities. This will make a service available for some 25 children, from six months of age up to school age. As most of the members here from country regions will appreciate, you often do not have primary schools and high schools, but you might have R-12 schools that are area schools.

To have this service co-located with the school is another huge advantage. I want to personally thank the Minister for Education for working hard with his department to facilitate this. This is a school—the Parndana Area School is what it was known as when I was there for 11 years—that catered for close to 500 students and it now has fewer than 200, so there is plenty of room to provide this service where parents can drop off their children to go to school or perhaps for a half day or full day of child care.

It is so important to be able to listen to the community, to find out what they want and what suits them and to appreciate that distance is a challenge in the country. You cannot simply make it acceptable by saying, 'We will just add another facility over here,' because you make people have to drive a further distance if you do not have a co-location that can provide for a shared use of facilities.

Country people generally, in my experience, are very practical, and they understand the benefit of being able to have access to facilities that are multi-use.

I think it is a great credit to those in the community who have worked hard to bring this about. Stephanie Wurst, for example, is someone who has been very active in this area. I also think of young Ella Riggs. These are young women who are pioneering in motherhood and in the provision of service to their community, and I really do applaud them for the contribution that they have made. I am proud to be part of a government that has listened to those communities, understood the benefit of what they can have and ensured that we are not imposing things on them but asking them what they need, and we are now providing it.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Burnside CFS, which has some 40 volunteers. It operates from Glen Street in Burnside and is one of the very few Adelaide-based CFSs. It has been operating since 1934 and has a rural and urban fire response and a hazmat and a road crash rescue, because obviously we do a lot of work from that area to support the freeway, in terms of not just fire hazards but also motor vehicle accidents and the like. They have been extremely active in helping with other fires. I know most CFSs do step up to the mark when it is required for them to support this activity, and I would like to acknowledge those who are working in this area. The brigade is currently chaired by the Burnside CFS Captain, Mr Grant Davis. I thank all the volunteers who work there.

I want to say a special thank you to the Greenhill CFS, which is in a little settlement up on Yarrabee Road. Michael Blanksby is the head of that unit. It is really tiny and represents an area of probably the most fierce fires coming up from both sides of the hill. It is a little settlement along the top of probably about 100 dwellings. John and Trish Good have a water reserve there that they pump up. They get themselves ready—they have their own fire truck and they really are fantastic. In their way, they keep their people safe from what is a ferocious circumstance. In historical times, they have had fires up both sides of that cliff area that they sit on. They have been badly scorched, but they have worked hard to make sure that they get through that.

I thank all the volunteers, with a special thanks to all of the members here who are active in the area of the protection of our communities during fires and bushfires. Some have MFS connections. Some of course, such as the member for Hammond, who we have just heard from, are CFS volunteers. I have seen him in all sorts of situations. He usually has a very dirty face and dusty clothes. In different ways, that contribution has been made and we really do appreciate that.

I think it is important for the general community to know that members of our parliament, whether they are on our staff, whether they are working for us, whether they are here in the parliament or are elected members, are able to make that contribution. For those of you who have not, please get ready for next year's bushfire. Clean up all your rubbish and make sure that you have your fire equipment ready.

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (16:45):** Today, I rise in support of the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill 2020. The work of our emergency services has never had such a high profile, with the fires in our state and across the nation in 2019, 2020 and now January 2021 still front of mind.

In the MacKillop electorate, we remain grateful to the CFS and volunteers who fought our local fires bravely during some of our largest fires during this period. I reflect on the latest fire in our region of MacKillop at Blackford on Monday 11 January this year when a dormant fire that was maybe lit weeks, if not months, prior was still smouldering underground and reignited. It was very interesting to note that that fire was investigated and there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding that fire and the way it was still going or found it could have been going.

Another interesting impact was that when I was in the region only recently, at least a month after the fire and after 40 or 50 millimetres of rainfall in our region, which has really greened up that burnt section now so you can barely see the charred scar left by this fire, hotspots were still being found from the fire burning underground in native vegetation that needed to be put out. This is four to six weeks later and after nearly two inches of rain, so it is very interesting that that is still occurring. Probably one of those things we are going to be very much aware of in the future in any burning or burnoffs in what we consider our cold, wet months of the year is to make sure that there are no

impacts of those smouldering remnants of fire that can come back to haunt us on days like Monday 11 January.

Impacted by this Blackford fire was a lot of primary production. Obviously, it is a grazing area, with livestock production and mainly pastures. A little bit of cropping country was affected and also some forestry included. When we talk about grazing country and obviously livestock, it is interesting to note that this fire was nearly 14,000 hectares compared with the fire the year before at Keilira at 25,000 hectares, but the number of animals lost in the Blackford fire was greater than that of Keilira's. Why? I think the paddocks, for one, were smaller. I think the properties were also a lot smaller. From memory, I think the Keilira fire affected nearly 20 landowners. The Avenue, Blackford and Lucindale fire affected nearly 70 landowners. I repeat: it was a smaller fire.

Total direct agricultural production losses to industry as a result of the Blackford fire to date are estimated at \$3.1 million. In those sorts of losses, we are talking about fencing, outbuildings and sheds, the old Avenue Store, machinery and farm equipment. What is also interesting is that 70 primary production businesses were impacted and nearly 7,000 sheep in the Blackford fire, with an estimated value of \$1.25 million.

I believe that 532 cattle had to be euthanased on the spot, but that does not count the cattle that had and could be sold into the market and went straight to abattoirs before they suffered any more ill effects. This can be anything from a lot of intake of ash and smoke, which can damage their lungs, to having their udders slightly singed, which means the teats are sealed up and they are never to rear a calf again and cannot allow a calf to suckle. Those cows were damaged, and I believe those numbers nearly doubled those that were lost, so if you double the 532, over 1,000 head of cattle were affected.

Fourteen hectares of pine forests valued at a bit over \$300,000 and 1,700 tonnes of hay were also affected. I remember that on the Avenue Plains there is a bit of cropping taking place. A lot of the stubbles were baled up into straw for fodder purposes. All those smouldering mounds burnt for two or three days and were a constant glow on the night horizon as they burnt away for a good three days until they were put out or burnt out. Some 330 kilometres of fencing was destroyed and replacing that is now in play. That is just the Blackford fire.

Coming back to the Keilira fire, the Keilira fire started on 30 December 2020—very much a different year in 2020. The spring was not as good. We certainly had a hot, dry November in 2020. When lightning did strike there was not a lot of moisture around, and pastures were very dry and dead. There probably was not as much fuel as with the Avenue fire, but that did not mean that the fire was any less difficult to manage. I just think the year we have just been through has been greater for a bigger fire, and probably the Avenue fire might have been harder.

I can remember some intel talked about the way some fences were lost in some of the heat that was coming off the fire, and how high the Blackford fire was. The flames were running and twirling up nearly six to 12 feet. That is all to do with fuel loads. I know it possibly occurred at the Keilira fire but not as much as the Avenue fire.

The Keilira fire covered 25,000 hectares and one house was lost in the fire. We did lose a house in the Avenue fire. That was a really unfortunate story: CFS utilities saved the house, stopped the fire from burning down through to the front but, because no-one was home to put out the embers, embers got into the house after it had been saved and then burnt it down later. The house was actually lost at the front of the Keilira fire, and it was abandoned early by the owners because they thought they could not defend it.

Even in the one year from the Keilira fire to the Lucindale fire, efforts were huge and still great around the Keilira fire. I think that the management and the saving of the houses on the Lucindale fire was even better. Two things played a part in that: maybe there was a little bit more time to get ourselves organised with the Lucindale fire, which had a really interesting aspect to it.

The Jackie White drain actually restricted the fire in its path by at least half of what it could have been. If you think about a 14,000 hectare fire, it could have been a 28,000 to 30,000 hectare fire had it not been for the Jackie White drain. That enabled us to look after resources in a better time frame. I know that all houses were saved other than the one that was lost after the fire front had gone through.

One house that was saved in a huge effort was surrounded by a lot of trees. It had its own watering system on one side. I know that if it was not for the resources of the firefighting planes and the CFS units we would have lost a lot more homes were it not for those resources. The real problem for the victims and the people who suffered the Keilira fire was that we had two other major fires in the state on the same day.

We had the major fire on Kangaroo Island and we had the major fire up in the Adelaide Hills, so resources were stretched. I remember that with the Keilira fire they lost their planes at about 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning. We did not have that problem at Lucindale. They did over 100 water drops on the Lucindale fire, and that included saving those houses with aerial bombings. No doubt that would have played an integral role of having a better outcome at Lucindale this year than the one we had at Keilira.

This gives me an opportunity to then speak on both fires in regard to the BlazeAid volunteers. I know the BlazeAid volunteers were well taken up at Keilira a year ago; they had a large crowd there. There were a lot of BlazeAid volunteers in general right around the nation with all the fires that took place. Mary Howarth, who was here in this parliament today as a guest, looked after the camp in Kingston. I think there were at least 20 to 30 volunteers there most of the time after the fire for possibly six months after the Keilira fire last year. I know she has a good crew in there this year at Lucindale, but it is not as big or as strong.

The difficulty of getting around Australia at the moment with the COVID lockdowns is making people wary about going out and travelling interstate. Secondly, there has not been a massive catastrophe of fires as there was last year around Australia, particularly in the eastern states as well as in South Australia and Victoria; it just does not seem to be on the radar as much.

The point I want to make is that the BlazeAid volunteers have absolutely done a wonderful job. Last year, without doubt, a lot of landowners in the Keilira fire were wary of what they would get and how the help would work for them. By the time the BlazeAid volunteers had left, they were well appreciated. They had carried more than their weight, they were well respected, and I know that the Keilira farmers and landowners were very sorry to see them go.

One of the things I did point out to the Keilira landowners was that the Keilira fire was considered the forgotten fire. I continually said to the Keilira landowners that what matters most of all is that you get back on your feet as fast as you can. You get your fences back up, you get your pastures back up and going, and you put your livestock back in your paddocks and you get back to normality as fast as you can. I think they have done that. I think that Keilira has recovered faster than both Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills, and that is what is most important. I know that the BlazeAid volunteers played an integral part in that.

It is happening in Lucindale right now. They have a BlazeAid headquarters at Yakka Park, which is known as the Lucindale Field Days site. I know that the volunteers are a massive help to the landowners in the region. I had the privilege of spending one day at an Avenue farm with four or five BlazeAid volunteers. It was great working with them. They bring great morale to the work area and to the farmer they are trying to help.

One of the rules that BlazeAid has is that the farmer is the boss, it is his way or the highway, and we follow his instructions and then we try to make it enjoyable so that everyone is trying to work with him and for him. We are trying to get his job done as easily and as fast as we can so that he can get back on his feet and get back to business. That has played a really important role in mental wellness, looking out for people in the sense that it is not all a defeatist-type attitude. Again, I say this to the Lucindale fire victims, the number one medicine for this is to be back operational as fast as we can.

I note that, with the Keilira fire, the fencing damage was less than in the Avenue fire because the Avenue fire involved a lot of smaller farms and smaller paddocks. I think it was about 400 kilometres of fencing. Just to give a little bit of insight into that, it is hard rocky ground with a layer of limestone to get through. Most post holes have to have a percussion drilling rig. For those who do not know what that is, the old drilling mechanism of a post-hole borer drill is too slow for the hard rock, so they use a massive air compressor commonly used in machines which drill for water.

Basically, it has a blunt end and it wields its way with vibration and air through the limestone, which is effective. I heard a statistic that one of these drilling machines was doing about 700 metres a day because the going was quite slow. If you had a rock-boring machine with a drill, you would probably do only about 100 metres, so it is probably seven times faster than the old way of doing it. They used to blast a lot of holes in that area as well with gelignite back in the old days because it was so hard.

With all the fencing contractors down there, only putting in fence posts and drilling holes, it means that BlazeAid comes along with the landowners and helps run wires, if the landowner wishes, or at least comes and ties the poly battens on. It is a menial task, it is an easy task, it is an onerous task, but it is an important task to finish off the fencing to get these farms back to having livestock in them.

Following the devastation of the 2019-20 South Australian bushfires, the state government commissioned an independent review to identify how South Australia's response to bushfires can be improved. I appreciate the fact that we do have the tenacity to go out there and question how things have worked, how we have responded. There were 68 findings with 15 recommendations of how facilities and capabilities could be improved.

Just on that, I want to talk about two issues from the Lucindale fires. I heard there were five burnovers where the fire had gone over a CFS unit. All occupants in the CFS unit were safe and well for it, so this is the sort of technology that our CFS volunteers appreciate and need. It is a wonderful thing to see. The other thing I note is about the CFS volunteer units. We have spent a large amount of money, which I will come to in a minute, on replacing our old units which means the old units can go into the public auction system.

I give the example of an old CFS unit on the fireground at Lucindale that protected another house our CFS units could not cover. A landowner had his own ex-CFS unit that was part of our emergency services. It was bought up and was there as firefighting capability for a farmer protecting a house. He was only about five kilometres away. He could not even go to defend his own farm, but it did not matter much, because it only touched the boundary basically, and the locals recognised by how lucky they were that a larger landowner purchased one of these old units.

It is my understanding that the government has a replacement policy of 20 years or around that 20-year period, and I think it is great that these old fire units do see the auction system. It allows farmers to come along and pick them up and then they can be used in preventing further damage by fire and protecting houses when we do not have enough units on the ground.

The independent review also recommended that the state government consider amending the Fire and Emergency Services Act to enable the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to appoint an independent chair to the SAFECOM board. This was recommended to align with SAFECOM board operations and statutory governance standards. In its response to the independent review, the state government accepted the recommendation, which I think is great for ensuring that we have good leaders of volunteers in this area, that they have ownership of the volunteer organisation and that they feel they can work with a volunteer organisation.

One thing that came up is \$5 million for automatic vehicle location (AVL) technology. That is going to be wonderful for trying to get all the trucks and units into the right spaces and where we want them. One thing I noted about the fires at both Keilira and Avenue was that we had intel in the air: we had helicopters and aeroplanes and a CFS helicopter that could guide our units to where they were most needed. That was also a massive help.

Two things that provided a better outcome for Lucindale were that, firstly, we had more units on board at Lucindale because there were no other fires around and, secondly, we had intel in the air telling units where to go and be at the right places to protect assets. It was a really good fit.

In picking up on this, one of the opportunities in the future—and I have said this already, and it is really obvious to the wise old farmers like my father, who is now 70 plus and I took to the Blackford fire—is that when the fire front was coming across the Avenue Flats there was not a fire unit to be seen. He said, 'Where are all the CFS units?' I said, 'They will be into asset protection. They will be protecting the homesteads. They will be protecting the yards, the houses and the sheds.'

One of the reasons for that is that, when it is coming across some of the higher fuel loads, it is running with speed, it is running with heat and there is not much these units can do. I think there

is an opportunity there to look at larger firefighting machines—for example, those that Forestry has. Forestry has four-wheel drive machines that go anywhere and carry a lot of water with water cannons. I am sure if we had a couple of these types of devices out on the fire front they could be backed up by the CFS units and by the farm firefighting units as well, the volunteers—one, two, three in that order—and I am sure that we could have even better outcomes in the future.

I think this is a development in process in this regard—that is, we now have fire trucks that are more burnover proof and more protective of our volunteers than ever and have better firefighting capability. I think we now need to say, 'Right, they are great for asset protection and they are protecting the houses. Now how do we stop the fire in any circumstances in most types of fuel loads?'

This does not mean, though, that we should be sending them out into native forests—or any type of forest, be it native or pine or blue gum—but into grassland-type areas where there still could be high fuel loads, picking your places, picking the paddocks, picking the areas where the fuel load might be less than in other paddocks, I think there is an opportunity to see some firefighting technology in these areas that is not there not today. There was not any there earlier on in the fire at that stage, and this would have been at least one or two hours after this fire had started.

Some of the key elements of our response include \$7.2 million for new appliances—that is 25 new trucks, and I know that our volunteers really appreciate their infrastructure being modernised and that they are considered and looked after—and \$2.7 million to refit 49 CFS vehicles for burnover protection. Any CFS truck that does not have burnover protection poses a risk to our volunteers, and I am sure they will appreciate knowing that they are in the best technology out there.

Rollout thermal imaging cameras can determine the ferocity of a fire, the heat of the fire. For example, should a firefighting unit be in front of that or should it not—I think that is great intelligence. Bringing into that is something I have raised with the chief of the CFS, Dom Lane. They are talking about satellite imagery coming into this as well to help out. This can also come back and talk about fuel loads, where we are burning, where we can fight a fire, help out and start fighting a fire on the fire front.

In summing up, I think our government is paying its dues in all that is required in the CFS emergency area. It does very much value our CFS volunteers. I commend the changes to the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill to this house.

**Mr DULUK (Waite) (17:05):** I will be quite brief in my remarks. I just put on the record that I will be supporting the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill 2020. I note that some of the changes in this bill come from the many recommendations made in the Keelty review prepared in the wake of last year's devastating bushfires, commonly known as the Cudlee Creek fires. The member for MacKillop has been discussing at length some of the issues across his electorate. I know, sir, that through your electorate and my electorate these are significant issues that play on the mind of our communities.

One of the important recommendations in the Keelty review was the need for reporting to parliament and tabling reports. I think it is really important that parliament also has the opportunity to review, to scrutinise and to be involved in bushfire management and prevention. One of the really big aspects from of the Keelty review was what are we are doing to prevent and reduce bushfire risk. We all know that when a fire strikes the service of volunteers, especially our CFS and SES, obviously well supported by the MFS, in the battle to beat a fire goes above and beyond, and they do that all the time.

There has been a lot of discussion lately about appropriate resourcing for our CFS volunteers. It is good to see the government is moving in that direction, with investments in automatic vehicle location devices. That is something I talked about and I asked the minister questions about it. It is good to see it slowly starting to roll out across South Australia. Another issue is ensuring that our volunteers have the best equipment. Rollover protection for their vehicles is so important.

A lot of the Keelty review talks about prevention before bushfires start and how we deal with fuel load management. I am heartened that, in the lead-up to this year's bushfire season, there has been an increase in burning and fuel load reduction strategies in my community and across the

Adelaide Hills. It is so important around reporting mechanisms and the ability for parliament to have a role. This is an issue that my predecessors have discussed in committees.

A former committee looked into bushfire preparedness. It was chaired by the former member for Ashford, the Hon. Steph Key, and the former member for Enfield, the Hon. John Rau. These are issues that the parliament has ventilated for over a decade now. I would like to commend the government for bringing forward some of the measures. I think they will go some way to ensuring that there is responsibility. Information flow is so important, as is people having a say.

One of the big issues from the Cherry Gardens bushfires last month is how the community prepare themselves and deal with the information before them. There have always been teething issues with CFS bushfire apps. We know the former government experienced a huge number of issues with this and, I think, dropped the ball in this regard. During the Cudlee Creek fire, a lot of South Australians were left vulnerable because the CFS app was not working. It was a poor rollout by the former government.

We have seen improvements in the last year or two in the use of those apps. Holistic long-term thinking on how we prepare our communities, especially our peri-urban communities that are built up, right from the member for Light's electorate across the peri-urban landscape and all the way to mine, is how we move thousands of residents if they need to evacuate their homes. Where do they go?

Bushfire refuges, engagement with the CFS, knowing what to do—with some of these changes, if the government is to roll out all of Keelty I think we will be going a long way to ensuring that our communities are safer each and every bushfire season.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (17:10):** I indicate that the opposition will be supporting this bill, so I will be supporting the bill as well. I would like to make a few comments to indicate that this bill is worthy of our support.

Emergency services play an important role in the health and wellbeing of our communities, and it is appropriate that we have a legislative framework that supports all the people who work or volunteer in the sector to ensure they are able to do the best they can with the resources they have. This bill certainly does that.

In my own area, I have the Dalkeith CFS as well as the Gawler MFS located physically within my electorate, and they play a very important role in keeping my local community safe. The Dalkeith CFS, I have been told on a number of occasions, is probably the busiest CFS brigade in the state, and they do a really good job in keeping the community safe. They are only a kilometre from my house, so they have a very important role to make sure they do keep the community safe.

Having said that, though, there are a few boundary issues that the local CFS would like the government to resolve pretty quickly. They are an unnecessary distraction from the work they do. I know the volunteers are prepared to negotiate and come to a good arrangement, but that seems to be lost somewhere in the system. Perhaps the minister might make some inquiries to see if that could be sped up and put in place before our next bushfire season.

They are a highly committed bunch of volunteers at the Dalkeith CFS, well led by the current captain, Michael Mutch, and previously by their former captain Clint Marsh. If my memory serves me right, Justin Baxter was the previous captain. I have been very lucky to be able to work with these three gentlemen and all the volunteers at the brigade there.

In addition to the Dalkeith CFS, I also work closely with the Concordia CFS, which is just outside the other side of my boundary but which was previously in my electorate. They also do a really great job to support the rural areas around Gawler. Close by we also have the Roseworthy CFS, the Gawler River CFS, Shea-Oak Log CFS, Freeling CFS, and Wasleys CFS—which I was very fortunate to be the local MP for when I was first elected, but boundary changes put them in different electorates. It was Schubert and, after the next election, most of those will be in Frome.

As I said, we are well served by the Gawler MFS as well. One thing that the Gawler MFS members and the union have indicated to me is that they are looking forward to getting some turnover equipment retrofitted to their vehicles. They have indicated that is one of the things the union is really pushing for at the moment, to make sure their members are safe when they go into high-risk fire areas.

As has been mentioned, the MFS, CFS and SES work closely together. Whether it is an urban or rural setting, all the services out there are for the common good of the people, and that is why I support the MFS push to have turnover equipment for their vehicles as well.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, I am hoping the minister might take that on board and make sure that the Gawler CFS brigade get their turnover equipment.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You have made a note? Excellent, minister. I come now to the SES, the other important service in the minister's portfolio. They do not have a unit in Gawler yet—and I say 'yet', because there are a number of volunteers who have been agitating for a unit in Gawler to expand the coverage. At the moment Gawler is technically served by the Salisbury SES.

The volunteers do a really great job there and they are supported further by the Kapunda SES, which is the other one. As you can tell, they are quite a distance away. Gawler is a growing community, and I think it is right that Gawler has its own SES unit, and that is why I am proud to say that my party, if it wins government, has committed to building an SES unit in Gawler, which would boost not only the volunteers but also the response rates to various incidents. Given climate change, variability and now a number of crises, I think the more volunteers we have and the more services we have, the better it is for our community.

The Dalkeith CFS is also doing some fundraising at the moment to purchase a new thermal imaging camera—one that looks at structures. They are busy raising funds, and I am very keen to support them. Even though they are a country fire service, they still attend structural fires, and we need to give those volunteers the intelligence and the information they need to make sure that they can tackle the fire not only quickly but also safely for their members.

One of the things that has also been mentioned, and I think I would be remiss if I did not mention it because the previous government did support them, are the fire farm units, which are, if you like, our first responders in a lot of rural areas where the CFS may be some distance away, or sadly in some cases where there is not a CFS the farm fire unit plays a very important role.

It was very sad when in his first budget the previous minister—not the current minister but the previous minister—discontinued the program to financially support farm fire units. I think our party has a policy to support them. They play an important role. As I said, not only are they the first responders, but often they can get to a fire very quickly. Not only can they put the fire out before it becomes a major issue but also they are there to support the volunteers in the CFS.

When you hear reports about major fires, one of the things you always hear about is the enormous support provided by farm fire units on these occasions. I think it is important that we support those units and make sure that they also have the support of the volunteers and the CFS brigades. With those comments, I support the bill.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

## VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I draw the attention of honourable members to the presence in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon of Brett and Deborah Gabel, community leaders from Nairne and the guests of the member for Kavel. I welcome you to the house today.

*Bills*

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (GOVERNANCE) AMENDMENT BILL

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed.

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (17:17):** I rise to make a contribution to the Fire and Emergency Services (Governance) Amendment Bill 2020, of course on the back of the Keelty report, on the back of the devastating 2019-20 bushfire season here in South Australia, and also on the back of, I might

say, some experience in combating bushfires and grassfires over my previous life as an agriculture producer on Eyre Peninsula.

Following the devastation of the 2019-20 bushfires, the state government commissioned an independent review to identify how South Australia's response to bushfires can be improved. It was fair and reasonable that we asked questions of ourselves after each and every incident. Of course, it has been well canvassed today, but the season particularly saw fires through the Adelaide Hills, on Yorke Peninsula and at Keilira in the South-East, which the member for MacKillop referred to as the forgotten fire. I do not think it was. Member for MacKillop, I think that the forgotten fire was the one on the outskirts of Port Lincoln, which also occurred during that season.

That said, fires on the outskirts of Port Lincoln have occurred from time to time in the past. I remember the fires in close proximity in late 2008, early 2009 and onwards from there. As well as that, in my own patch on Eyre Peninsula, in the seat of Flinders, there were numerous much smaller fires that were able to be contained during that same summer. Interestingly, the summer that we are experiencing now has had nothing like the extended periods of heat that we saw in the previous summer. Of course, it all comes to influence the bushfire season we have.

The independent review found that the response from our emergency services sector was remarkable. However, there were 68 findings and 15 recommendations as to how South Australia's emergency services capabilities could be improved. The first recommendation relates to an administrative change, and that was the recommendation that the state government consider amending this act we are amending right now to enable the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services to appoint an independent chair to the SAFECOM board.

In its response to the review, the state government accepted this recommendation, and I understand there is also broad stakeholder and sector support for this independent chair. There will be indexed funding to support that independent chair. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services will be tabling reports in parliament.

As to the government's financial and more broad commitments, we will be building on our \$48½ million package that was released earlier this year. The Marshall Liberal government has delivered a further \$49 million package to ensure that South Australia is as prepared as possible for bushfire emergencies. I think it is a very specific phrase because we can never be totally prepared, but we need to be as prepared as possible. There is a whole range of parameters that defies that preparedness.

There is a \$97½ million package to keep South Australians safe. We are investing this nearly \$100 million so that our emergency services staff and volunteers have the resources and support they need to protect lives and property. Importantly, we are boosting support for the CFS by employing nine additional regional staff. Nine does not sound too many, but they will reduce the administrative burden on volunteers and particularly, for the first time, include a permanent CFS staffing presence on Kangaroo Island.

Interestingly, last year there was a trial on Eyre Peninsula of auto vehicle location (AVL). I understand that \$5 million was made available for that trial, and it has been successful. I was pleased that we were able to trial this equipment on Eyre Peninsula. While we are on Eyre Peninsula in the seat of Flinders, I was very pleased to welcome the Minister for Emergency Services there most recently about three weeks ago and again, not too long before that, just prior to Christmas. He has certainly shown commitment, particularly to our CFS volunteers in regional areas, there is no doubt about that.

He also took the opportunity to visit the SAPOL and MFS stations within Port Lincoln. You are very welcome, minister. I know the volunteers particularly appreciate your taking the time to speak with them and talk to them about what your plans are for the services. They were also very pleased to demonstrate to you their equipment, which for the most part is really impressive. I know there is always a bit of a wish list going on, but from what I can see the CFS groups were particularly well supported by the equipment provided.

As well as that, there is \$7.2 million for new CFS appliances, including 25 new trucks for the 2020-21 bushfire season, so there is an effort by government to continue to upgrade and renew this equipment so that it remains state-of-the-art and up to spec for the job at hand. There is also going

to be some retrofitting of CFS vehicles with burnover protection and a rollout of thermal imaging cameras. Of course, this is all in the quest to keep our volunteers safe.

The member for Light, who spoke just prior to this, made particular mention of farm fire units. We are nearing the end of the day, but I would particularly like to talk about farm fire units because I was and am a farmer and have seen how incredibly effective and responsive farm firefighting units can be. The example I will give you is the harvest period, when any part of South Australia's grain belt is wonderfully connected now with mobile phones and UHF radios.

Often, the farm firefighting units come from neighbouring properties or from the property where a fire might have started for whatever reason—it most likely is accidental—and the fire gets away. The response is immediate and quick from the existing and neighbouring properties, and often the fire is under control and out before the CFS is even there in attendance. That said, the CFS often come in, mop up and provide extra water and so on. These are the lesser events, of course, than we saw in the last bushfire season. The bigger fires in the past were beyond the capacity of farm firefighting units, but the units are incredibly important as a first assault on the fires.

It is a lot about fuel load management. I am pleased to see there is \$37 million for increased hazard reduction, including prescribed burns on public and private land. It is critical that property owners also make suitable management decisions around fuel load: it may be reducing the fuel load on their properties or installing firebreaks or extra water that could be required later.

My congratulations to the government on their adoption and implementation of the Keelty report. The amendment bill is an important bill. Fire is something that I have been exposed to firsthand. I understand I am still on the volunteer list at Edillilie, although I think it is a while since I have been out on the truck. Come next year, I might need to refresh my level 1 before I am allowed on the truck; I look forward to doing that.

I think the most significant fire I was ever involved with was the Wangary bushfire of 2005. I will not dwell in this place on how the day unfolded; the story is well known. Eighty thousand hectares across Lower Eyre Peninsula were burnt, essentially in a 12-hour period or maybe a little bit longer. From that, as devastating as it was and as critical as it was, we actually saw a change in the way the CFS, the government and the community responded to bushfire. I am going to say that the most significant change that came out of that was the introduction of aerial firefighting capability.

That capability was not there back in 2005 during the Wangary bushfire. Had it been available, I think there could have been a different outcome. It may not have helped us on the particular day of the bushfire, but it may have assisted the day before when the fire first ignited and was wandering around within a swamp. I think aerial capacity, which we did not have then, could have changed that situation. The upshot of it all is that we have had a significant boost in our capability through the introduction of aerial firebombing capability.

I am going to declare an interest here: my son-in-law actually flies for Aerotech. He is a crop duster during the winter-spring cropping season, and of course Aerotech has a contract with the state government to provide that support over the summer.

The plot thickens because one of my boys loads those planes. His ambition is to fly as a crop duster and a firebomber. He is well on the way: he has his low-level rating already, so it is a matter of getting the hours up and having the opportunity to fly. The risks they take, although they are calculated, are quite extraordinary, and the impact that firebombing has on our more general capacity to control fires is really quite remarkable.

With that, I commend the bill and look forward to chairing the committee stage, which I think will be coming up very soon.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (17:29):** I would like to thank all members who have contributed to the debate on the bill. I also thank the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission for their work in developing the bill. I would like to reflect back on the comments in the independent review into the 2019-20 bushfire season, which outline SAFECOM's enabling role to allocate resources effectively across the emergency services sector, ensure appropriate levels of strategic and admin support to the emergency services agencies, ensure appropriate risk management

systems and practices are in place, and ensure effective consultation with the community in relation to the FES Act.

As we heard, the bill intends to appoint an independent chair to the SAFECOM board. It also provides visibility to parliament on the activities of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee, which has an important role in the strategic oversight and coordination of bushfire management activities.

The government has acted quickly to introduce these amendments to the existing legislation to implement governance and capability improvements. This demonstrates our commitment and appreciation of emergency services volunteers and our commitment to create a safer and more bushfire-resilient community in the future. I thank members on both sides of the chamber for their comments and their support, and I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 passed.

Clause 5.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** I want to start with an apology to the minister's advisers for dragging them in for such a short committee stage. As we are all in furious agreement that these are pretty good ideas, my questioning will be pretty brief and pretty simple for the advisers to answer.

Minister, I will start with what might be a policy question, but given that there are very few other questions I hope you might indulge me. I will paraphrase Keelty's words back to you that, given the issues raised during the review about matters falling within the remit of SAFECOM to deliver were central to the issues examined by Keelty, why did SAFECOM and its governance and its structure not form part of the terms of reference given to Keelty in the first place?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I thank the member for the question. The terms of reference related to reducing risk across the board and better preparation, better recovery and also making sure that we establish safer communities. Keelty does touch on a number of issues. For example, they talk about a whole range of inaction from previous reviews. They talk about failure to provide automatic vehicle location, a type of technology that has been around for a long time—some say since 2012 but the particular page I am looking at says 2015.

**The CHAIR:** Any further questions on clause 5, member for Elizabeth?

**Mr ODENWALDER:** A baffling answer, but I will move on. Can you tell me what the current members of the board are paid individually and what the new chair will be paid?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Member for Elizabeth, whilst I do not have that information, I am happy to take that on notice and provide it to the member as soon as possible. I am advised it is in line with DPC guidelines and the new chair will, in fact, be paid.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** I thank the minister for that answer. Again, this is probably an easy one, and probably has a similar answer. Can you explain the process by which the chair will be appointed and will you, minister, have a role in that appointment directly?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I thank the member for the question. In terms of how the new chair will be appointed, certainly it is the view of the government to make sure that we seek the views of the board members and also key stakeholders because we think this is a very important decision. This will also include expert governance advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Whether it is by ministerial appointment or an advertised process, the government is certainly committed to securing—I am certainly committed to securing—the best possible candidate because this is a very critical role in providing stewardship of what is a very important emergency services sector.

Clause passed.

Clause 6.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** This clause is about who could be appointed in the absence of the new presiding member. For clarity, can the minister tell me who in the absence of the presiding member can and cannot be appointed to preside?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** As chair?

**Mr ODENWALDER:** As chair in the chair's absence, yes.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I thank the member for the question. I think the question is who will be chair of the board if the chair is not available. The amendment to the legislation allows for any member ex officio or otherwise to be voted to chair in the absence of the presiding member. This again is what I would call certainly an improvement to the current governance arrangements where the chair must be an ex officio member: one of the three chief officers.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Not the CE? Just to clarify then—

**The CHAIR:** Are you seeking clarification?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** No. Available—not there.

**The CHAIR:** Is that clear?

**Mr ODENWALDER:** No, sorry—I am trying to establish if, in the absence of the new presiding member that we are establishing today, can the current CE of SAFECOM, or indeed any CE of SAFECOM, take the chair?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Yes, any of the members.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Did the current CE or any other board member express any views or indeed oppose this change?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I think it is being supported across the board, to the best of my knowledge.

Clause passed.

Clause 7.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** This is an administrative question, having never been a member of the CFS administration. The current annual report that comes from the State Bushfire Coordination Committee under the current act simply goes to the CFS, as I understand it. Can you explain in practice what happens to that report? In the legislation I understand that it does not have to do anything but what happens in practice? Does the minister see it? Does it get distributed on the SAFECOM board, for instance?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** In practice, I am informed that it certainly would go to the SAFECOM Board and as a courtesy would also go to the minister for viewing as well.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Does it become a public document? Can members of the public access it?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I do not believe in the past it always had, but I anticipate that it certainly will in the future as part of this process.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Obviously, it will be tabled in parliament, so in that sense it will become a public document then. Given that in the past it has been a private document, essentially an administrative document, now it will become a public document tabled in parliament, was there any concern expressed during the framing of this legislation that that may influence the authors of such a report knowing that it will be a public document rather than a simple private document for the agency? Was that raised as a concern?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Not that I am aware of, member for Elizabeth.

**The CHAIR:** Last question for clause 7.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Was there any opposition either from within the CFS or elsewhere to this change at all?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Despite a variance of views on other issues, I think on this there was unanimous support, so I say let's lock it in.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Excellent. No further questions.

Clause passed.

Remaining clause (8) and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (17:43):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

### TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendments made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

### MOTOR VEHICLES (MOTOR BIKE DRIVER LICENSING) 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 7, page 3, after line 36—After subclause (1) insert:

(1a) Section 75A(2)(a)(v)—delete subparagraph (v) and substitute:

(v) has—

(A) in the case of an applicant for a learner's permit authorising the driving of a motor bike—completed the motor bike driver training prescribed by the regulations and complied any other requirements prescribed by the regulations; or

(B) in any other case—complied with any other requirements prescribed by the regulations in relation to the class of motor vehicle in respect of which the permit is sought; and

No. 2. Clause 10, page 8, line 19 [clause 10, inserted section 79A(3)(b)(ii)]—Delete 'examiner.' and substitute:

examiner; and

No. 3. Clause 10, page 8, after line 19 [clause 10, inserted section 79A(3)]—Insert:

(c) in the case of an applicant for a licence authorising the driving of a motor bike—the applicant has completed the motor bike driver training prescribed by the regulations.

Consideration in committee.

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

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

I thank members in the other place for their cooperation and advise that the government has agreed to Ms Bonaros's amendments. I thank her for those sensible amendments. These amendments effectively flag reforms the government is already pursuing in respect of training requirements for learner and returning riders.

I am grateful to Ms Bonaros for the constructive way in which she approached this important bill and I am grateful to all members for their support of these important reforms. We know that one life lost on our roads is one too many, and our government will continue to implement measures to

reduce lives lost on our roads and ensure that all road users stay as safe and as protected as possible.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** I have a question before I vote on this. In the last debate, minister, we talked about the review into the training regime that has been completed by KPMG. I think it is with cabinet or at least it is with you. Do you have any further information about when that will be released publicly?

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** I thank the member for the question. At present, member for Elizabeth, I am still awaiting advice from the department. It has not been provided to me yet. I will be sure to update the member if it is appropriate in due course, but I just do not have that information at the moment.

Motion carried.

At 17:48 the house adjourned until Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 10:30.

*Answers to Questions***COVID-19 HOTEL QUARANTINE**

In reply to **Mr PICTON (Kaurna)** (17 November 2020).

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education):** The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

1. As at 25 November 2020, five security guards have been terminated following investigations undertaken by MSS Security.

As at 25 November 2020, 94 security guards have been stood down, following investigation from MSS Security and are still employed with MSS Security or the sub-contractor, however, they no longer operate in medi-hotel operations or in the SA Health hospital portfolio.

2. MSS was awarded the across SA Health Security contract in April 2019 via an open market tender approach. The value of the procurement is \$29.7 million (excluding GST) per year and \$148.7 million (excluding GST) over a five-year contract term. A variation to the contract was executed in 27 April 2020 for the provision of additional service requirements at COVID-19 medi-hotels. A further three variations were executed to capture further medi-hotels sites and further services. The value of the four contract variations to support the delivery of medi-hotel services is \$25.5 million (ex GST).

3. The Department for Health and Wellbeing contract with the private security company requires the company to ensure that all security officers have all relevant and ongoing training for the provision of security services across all SA Health sites.

**MEDICAL CANNABIS**

In reply to **Mr DULUK (Waite)** (2 February 2021).

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education):** The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

SA Health is currently developing options to ensure the most appropriate delivery of a pilot program for access to medicinal cannabis for children with severe epilepsy, who are not responding to other treatments. This includes consideration of the outcomes of national assessment processes for cannabidiol pharmaceuticals.

**KANGAROO ISLAND BUSHFIRE RESPONSE**

In reply to **Ms BEDFORD (Florey)** (2 February 2021).

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services):** I have been advised by the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM):

1. Yes. There have been six reviews and investigations into the 2019-20 South Australian Bushfire season, including a review into burn over incidents. There is no agreement between SAFECOM and SafeWork SA negating any legislative requirements.

2. There is no such agreement. The Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) is applicable to all personnel in the Emergency Services Sector.

**POLICE, LEGAL COSTS REIMBURSEMENT**

In reply to **Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services):** South Australia Police (SAPOL) have advised:

Applications for the reimbursement of legal costs are managed by the Crown Solicitors Office. The Police Association did not receive legal reimbursement of legal costs from SAPOL in 2019-20.

**MULTI-AGENCY PROTECTION SERVICE**

In reply to **Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services):** South Australia Police (SAPOL) have advised:

For the reporting period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, and in the six months following, SAPOL's Multi-Agency Protection Service and Prosecution Services Branch staffing model was unchanged.

**HINDLEY STREET POLICE STATION**

In reply to **Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services):** South Australia Police (SAPOL) have advised:

The exact date is yet to be determined.

#### **POLICE, PANDEMIC LEAVE**

In reply to **Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services):** South Australia Police (SAPOL) have advised:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. Between 1 February 2020 and 9 February 2021, 16 applications for leave without pay were declined as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the last financial year and up to 9 February 2021, a total of 114 applications were received for leave without pay.
4. Fifty-seven employees separated from SAPOL in 2019-20 with 90 calendar days or more long service leave balance. This is in comparison to 84 employees in 2018-19 and 39 employees in 2017-18.

#### **ADELAIDE REMAND CENTRE**

In reply to **Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services):** The Department for Correctional Services (DCS) have advised that:

1. October 2018. Upgrading of facilities, including upgrade to safe cell standard and minor maintenance repair.
2. No.

#### **ECONOMIC INVESTMENT FUND**

In reply to **the Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Member of the Executive Council, Minister for Trade and Investment):** I have been advised the following:

The \$300,000 paid in 2019-20 under the Economic Investment Fund related to Mushroom Exchange Pty Ltd (subsidiary company of Costa Group Holdings Ltd).

#### **SOUTH EAST FORESTRY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM**

In reply to **the Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay)** (4 February 2021).

**The Hon. D.K.B. BASHAM (Finniss—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development):** The \$1.411 million forms part of the 2019-20 financial year payment of a \$2.1395 million grant from the South East Forestry Partnerships Program (SEFPP) for a sawmill upgrade. The project is now complete.