

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4 May 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 Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:01): I move:

That the Legislative Review Committee have leave to sit during the sitting of the house today.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (11:01): I move, without notice:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable a motion for an address of condolence to Her Majesty The Queen be moved forthwith.

The SPEAKER: An absolute majority is present. I accept the motion. Is it seconded?

An honourable member: Yes, sir.

Motion carried.

Condolence

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (11:01): I move:

That the following address of condolence to Her Majesty The Queen be adopted:

To Her Most Excellent Majesty Queen Elizabeth II—

We, the members of the House of Assembly of South Australia in Parliament assembled, received with great sorrow the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

On behalf of the people of South Australia, we convey sincere sympathy to Your Majesty and other members of the royal family and give thanks for a remarkable life dedicated to service, duty, support and commitment to the Commonwealth of Nations and his family.

Over the seven decades of his public life, the people of South Australia developed a great fondness for His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. The sadness at his passing from our corner of the world has been widespread and heartfelt. He visited our state on 13 occasions, between 1954 and 2002, as his public life spanned the terms of 14 South Australian premiers. On every one of his visits to our state he not only engaged actively with our citizens but he did so with an endearing informality for which he will always be remembered here and around the world.

As we mourn his passing, we also celebrate a life of dedication to his family and duty, to his adopted nation and the commonwealth, through it all showing his love and devotion to Her Majesty The Queen as the longest serving consort to a British sovereign. His character embodied the resilience and strength of a generation that lived through great adversity and emerged from it in great triumph. This was the generation prepared to sacrifice everything so future generations could live in peace.

He was born three years after the end of the First World War, so was old enough to serve in the second. He did so with bravery and distinction, joining the Royal Navy at 17 and being mentioned

in dispatches while a Sub-Lieutenant on HMS *Valiant*, posted to escort Anzac ships. Rising to First Lieutenant, he was present in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese signed the surrender.

Just before the Second World War, he met the future Queen Elizabeth II when she was 13. They married in 1947, and through their life together he became what Her Majesty called, with immense appreciation, 'my strength and stay'. It was to be a married life conducted in very public view and not without encountering some stormy waters, but through it all His Royal Highness continued to revere what was important about history while demonstrating an enthusiasm to adapt to existing and emerging circumstances: to television, the internet and, more recently, artificial intelligence. With his inquiring mind, he was not intimidated by the march of time and progress; rather, he enthusiastically embraced it and urged others to do the same.

From the mid-1950s, he spoke about the need for industry to modernise. For much of his life he was concerned about the natural environment. As early as the 1960s he was using an electric vehicle as he continued to demonstrate a deep interest in science and engineering. No doubt with his curiosity and talents he could have been highly successful in his own right in any number of endeavours, but he devoted himself to the success of others.

He was very strongly committed to encouraging young people to participate in new opportunities opening up to them. As a result, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme was inaugurated. Since 1959, more than 775,000 young Australians have completed the award, joining millions in other countries empowered to find a purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstances.

There are now 57 Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme centres across South Australia. One of the latest is the Adelaide Zoo. It becomes the first zoo in the world to be an accredited Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Centre. This followed the visit of the Duke's third son, Prince Edward, to the Zoo in April 2018.

Gabriella, at Saint Aloysius College, is a recent gold award recipient here in South Australia. In her words:

I was a very shy person when I first came to Saint Aloysius in year 8, but throughout my high school life, primarily because of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, I have become a lot more confident, independent and organised. Not only did I also learn a vast array of new skills, but I also learnt about who I am as a young adult, and have made memories that will last a lifetime.

Amber, at Concordia, has completed her silver award, describing it as 'an amazing opportunity and rewarding challenge', with 'perseverance and determination essential in the completion of both bronze and silver awards'. What a marvellous legacy the award scheme is to the Duke of Edinburgh's commitment to the betterment of the human race.

Her Majesty The Queen has also spoken publicly of the royal family owing him a much greater debt than he would ever have claimed. He never let his family down. Beyond his titles, he was a much-loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. The world will not forget the funeral of Princess Diana and the poignant walk the Duke of Edinburgh took with his grandsons Prince William, then aged 15, and Prince Harry, 12, on the streets of London behind the casket of their mother.

Out of concern that they should be the centre of the world's tribute to Princess Diana, he had said to his grandsons, 'I'll walk if you walk.' This is just one of many reasons why the Duke of Edinburgh was such an inspiration to his own family as well as to the wider world. His own funeral was conducted without fuss or extravagance. That is how he had wanted it, COVID notwithstanding.

He had stood back from public duties at the age of 96 and, on his retirement, Buckingham Palace advised that he had undertaken 22,291 solo engagements, made 635 overseas visits on his own account, and delivered 5,493 speeches. He was Colonel-in-Chief of eight regiments and patron, president or otherwise associated with 992 different organisations, many of them with a strong link to us here in Australia.

Almost to the end, he continued to indulge in his love of painting, reading and walking, not to mention solo carriage riding. He was a man the world could laugh along with and, at the same time, steadfast in his loyalty to the Crown—always there, a reassuring presence, as, selfless, he put others before himself. Strong, but also sensitive in his unwavering support as a husband and consort,

he made his central duty the support of his wife in her role as Queen, never seeking to eclipse her but doing his work and, more importantly, enabling the Queen to do hers. He was a man who maintained the dignity of the monarchy as he helped modernise, humanise and demystify it.

This has ensured the monarchy's enduring relevance as an institution above politics, enshrining the long and successful reign of Queen Elizabeth II. I know the house will join with me in extending our condolences to the Queen and to other members of her family as we mark a wonderful life that touched our state, our nation and many others.

He was the last person to want tributes, but few have deserved them as much. On one occasion he described himself as 'a discredited Balkan prince of no particular merit or distinction'. Later in life, he said he had become the world's most experienced plaque unveiler. Asked to sum up his contribution to public life, he responded:

I've just done what I think is my best. Some people think it's all right. Some don't. What can you do? I can't suddenly change my whole way of doing things...It's part of my style. It's just too bad, they'll have to lump it.

The world admired his irreverence, but its own judgement since his passing has been universally kinder. Put simply, he was a man who, with ceaseless optimism, encouraged the world to become a better place. Vale, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (11:10): I second the Premier's motion. On behalf of the opposition, I express my deepest sympathy to Her Majesty The Queen, who is grieving the loss of her husband of almost 74 years, and also to the Duke's children and to the wider royal family.

Prince Philip served his Crown, his country and the commonwealth for nearly 80 years. During his service, his deep affection for Australia saw him visit on more than 20 occasions and, as the Premier rightly identified, he visited South Australia on 13 occasions, with his first trip occurring in 1954. He accompanied the Queen on seven tours but visited South Australia independently on a further six occasions.

On his first visit to South Australia with Queen Elizabeth II, they arrived on Thursday 18 March 1954 and some 200,000 people lined the streets from Parafield Airport, where they were met by the Premier, Tom Playford, and taken to Government House. The Duke's last visit to South Australia was in 2002, where he officially opened the newly developed Hamilton Boulevard and Jubilee Pavilion extension at the Adelaide Showground. He also visited Ceduna and Port Lincoln on the same visit.

The death on Friday 9 April of His Royal Highness marks a significant loss, not just of a highly respected public figure but also of a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Born on the Greek island of Corfu in 1921, the Duke was the fifth child and only son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg, a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

He was a highly decorated serviceman before his marriage to the then Princess Elizabeth. Like so many of his generation, he served in the British Armed Forces during World War II. Aged just 21, Philip was appointed one of the youngest First Lieutenants in the Royal Navy. Philip saw plenty of action during World War II. He served as a midshipman on the battleship HMS *Ramillies*, which was tasked with escorting convoys in the Indian Ocean.

He was involved in the Battle of Cape Matapan, a naval battle during the Second World War between the Allies, represented by the navies of the United Kingdom and Australia, and the Royal Italian Navy. In 1943, his courage and quick thinking helped save HMS *Wallace* from attack in the Mediterranean. For these contributions alone he, like all veterans, is owed a significant debt of gratitude.

The Second World War was, however, just the beginning of the Duke of Edinburgh's life of public service. From 1947, he was the Queen's constant companion, and from 1952 he was her consort. He became the longest serving consort in British history. Prince Philip without doubt was a devoted consort to the Queen but, of course, he also carved out a distinctive individual role.

In 1956, as the Premier rightly identified, he founded the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme which now every year provides opportunity, hope and inspiration to more than one million young

people in more than 100 different countries around the world. Many South Australians have felt a strong personal affinity with Prince Philip because of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

This long-running program empowers young South Australians from different socio-economic groups, including disadvantaged, Indigenous and the disabled, to explore their full potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstance. Since it came to Australia in 1959, it has helped motivate more than 775,000 young Australians.

In South Australia, approximately 1,500 young people participate in the award each year, and the organisation works with over 60 local organisations, including schools, councils and youth organisations. The Duke of Edinburgh leaves behind a legacy that lives on in the millions of people who have pursued a Duke of Edinburgh's Award and bettered their lives and the lives of those around them.

We pay tribute to his remarkable life and extraordinary public service. Our thoughts are with the Queen and the members of the royal family, who have lost a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. May he rest in peace.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (11:14): It is with pleasure yet sadness that I rise today to make a contribution to this condolence motion recognising the life and contribution to Australia and to the world in many ways of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, the former Duke of Edinburgh.

Born on the island of Corfu in Greece on 10 June 1921, the Duke went on to have possibly one of the most interesting lives that anyone could have. It is a life that will be looked back on with intrigue, interest, amusement at times and, of course, gives us an opportunity to look at a life that we can respect for an immense contribution to public service and to service of the monarchy and, of course, service to his wife, Queen Elizabeth II.

Prince Philip had a chequered upbringing. He was exiled from his homeland, Greece, and ended up being educated in a range of countries throughout Europe—France, Germany and Great Britain—before joining the Royal Navy in 1939 at the age of 18. It was while in the Royal Navy that he met the future Queen Elizabeth II, at the time Princess Elizabeth the daughter of King George VI. There is no doubt it became a marriage founded on love, which was not always the case historically with the arranged marriages or the marriages that were agreed upon by the great royal houses of Europe to sustain their lineages across the European monarchies.

But this was more unique in terms of the way in which it was a marriage based on love and founded on a commitment to one another which, of course, as we know was sustained for 73 years—an immense amount of time. I think many of us only can imagine being married for such a long period of time; 73 years they were together. The marriage in itself was made even more unique by the Queen's ascension to the throne so soon after they entered married life. Her father died when she was 25 and she was crowned Queen at 26.

The Duke's contribution to public life is varied, as both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition highlighted. He was someone who had a great interest in engineering and innovation in the business community but, as environment minister, I have great respect for his boundary-pushing interest in conservation, particularly conservation in the United Kingdom, where of course I grew up, but also conservation efforts right across the globe. I suspect he handed some of that interest and passion on to Prince Charles, who has continued being a real progressive when it comes to conservation projects around the world.

For all my life really, Prince Philip has been an older person, and I often think we characterise him as someone of a bygone era and perhaps someone out of step with modern life. But if you look into his life and his contribution to public life, you see someone who was actually, at every stage of his life, an immense progressive following up and driving progressive policies, particularly in science and innovation but also in conservation. He was someone who was doubtless ahead of his time.

My great interest and respect for His Royal Highness Prince Philip, though, is grounded in his commitment to young people. That was epitomised through the foundation of the Duke of

Edinburgh's Award. He founded this award in the late 1950s. As the Premier mentioned, in Australia alone more than 775,000 young people have gone through that award.

It is a self-development award; it is not a competition against others but a competition with yourself, to improve yourself, to challenge yourself and to push your boundaries across a whole range of different areas, from skills development to volunteering to the component known as the Adventurous Journey, where, whether it is camping or an expedition of some sort, you really drive yourself to do something well beyond your comfort zone.

I had been aware growing up of the Duke and Edinburgh's Award, but I became much more aware of it when in 2006 I commenced working in the Office for Youth, a component of the state government's bureaucracy. That is where the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was managed in South Australia. I ended up doing my gold award and, between 2010 and 2014, I was very fortunate to be appointed as one of the directors for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia, serving in that role until I was elected to this place in March 2014.

I still maintain an involvement in the award today, sitting on one of the recognition advisory panels and attempting to assist with the award and the support of the award in any way that I can, because I think the model that the Duke of Edinburgh came up with in the late 1950s continues to be innovative today, continues to endure. The simplicity of that model around self-improvement and self-competition has affected and improved the lives of so many young people. I think it is the single biggest legacy that Prince Philip leaves to the world now that he is no longer with us.

I had the opportunity to meet Prince Philip in October 2011 at Government House in Canberra when he and the Queen were in Australia. I had the opportunity to travel over to the ACT to have afternoon tea as a director and as a gold award recipient. I had the opportunity to have a decent chat with him. I could tell very quickly, very early in the chat, that he was a little confused at how I was representing Australia at this event despite having an accent. He was 90 at the time and he turned to me and said, 'So I am a little confused: where are you a refugee from?' with his trademark political incorrectness.

That really was my one and only meeting with the Duke of Edinburgh, but I was very grateful that he managed in those couple of minutes to be terribly politically incorrect, as you would expect from him. I think that is something that was as endearing as it was potentially a little offensive to people along the way, but this was a man who has left an immense legacy, particularly when it comes to youth development across the commonwealth and across the world. I think that legacy will continue.

In the mid-2000s, he handed the baton for the management of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and chairing the international bodies to His Royal Highness Prince Edward, someone I have had occasion to meet several times during my association with the award, most recently in 2019, both here in Adelaide and at a lunch in Sydney. I fully expect that contribution, that legacy for young people and for those other causes that he was involved with, whether it be science and innovation, or whether it be conservation, his commitment and his efforts across myriad areas of interest were such that he has cemented a legacy that will last for many decades beyond his 99 years and 10 months on this earth.

So it is with a sense of gratitude, a sense of gratefulness and of course a sense of sadness that I make this contribution to this condolence motion. This is someone who was at the forefront of history as it unfolded, whether it was in 1920s and 1930s Europe as it recovered from World War I, something that is a world away from our lives here in 21st century Australia, whether it was as an active soldier in World War II, whether it was as the longest serving consort of any monarch in Britain's history or whether it was as an innovator at the cutting edge of youth development and youth empowerment.

We have an immense amount of gratitude, and we ought to have an immense amount of gratitude, for His Royal Highness Prince Philip. He was a great man. He will be missed and we pass on our condolences to his wife, Queen Elizabeth II; his children; grandchildren; extended family and friends. Vale, Prince Philip.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (11:26): I also rise to pass on my condolences to Her Majesty The Queen on the loss of her husband, Prince Philip, and to pass on my condolences to the royal family on the loss of an irreplaceable member of that family.

Prince Philip was born in Corfu, Greece, and was a member of the Greek royal family by birth. His father, Prince Andrew, commanded the Second Hellenic Corps in the Greco-Turkish war in Asia Minor, where my grandfather served under Prince Andrew directly. I first discovered this when I went back to my father's home in 1986 when my father had dreams of relocating us back to Greece. We went to my dad's village and in the family home there was a photograph of Prince Andrew. I inquired of my uncle who it was and he said, 'This is Prince Andrew, and your grandfather served in the Greco-Turkish war in his regiment.'

Of course, it is historical because that is the reason Prince Philip had to flee Greece hidden in a carton of oranges, as the myth goes. The royal family was widely blamed for the loss of the Greco-Turkish war in Asia Minor, which saw 353,000 Greek members of the population of Asia Minor murdered in a genocide after the genocide of the Assyrians, Pontians and Armenians, which was recently recognised by President Biden. Historically, of course, that broke Prince Andrew. He was tried for treason and fled the nation, never to return to Greece other than once.

Prince Philip was smuggled out of Greece and his family sent him to live in the United Kingdom, where he was educated and raised by the British family members of his mother, Princess Alice. Princess Alice returned to Greece and started an order of orthodox nuns to care for the Greek population, who were suffering under poverty. Obviously, they were affected quite dramatically by the Nazi occupation of World War II and then of course the communist royalist Greek Civil War. She stayed behind to assist in serving the Greek community, which she considered herself to be a princess of.

Prince Philip was a remarkable man. The minister was right in saying his focus was on young people and trying to instil in young people a sense of pride and dignity in their work, education, physical fitness and health, and I think a lot of people recognised that in Prince Philip.

He was an amazing assistant to Her Majesty The Queen, a very difficult job I imagine, despite everyone probably thinking of that as living a life of luxury and wealth. I think he retired at the age of 97, which is not bad. Despite what you think about the royals, whether you are a republican or otherwise—and I do declare that I am a republican—you do have to admire their work ethic. How difficult it must be to be funny, engaging and always turning up at all these events and how important that institution is to so many people across the commonwealth. I know it is very important to a number of people in my electorate, even to this day, and it is something that we should recognise and honour as we move forward.

Prince Philip served with dignity and distinguished himself. Yes, he was politically incorrect, but that was part of the charm. He said things he should not have said and sometimes he embarrassed the royal family and Her Majesty The Queen, but that showed that he was human and not some sort of deity: he made mistakes, he erred.

He was a great conservationist and he did a lot with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which I had a small role in when I was minister for youth. A great friend of members opposite, Mr Rob Gerard, was a great advocate of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as was our former Governor, who took a great deal of pleasure in being involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I think the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is one of Prince Philip's greatest legacies.

One beneficiary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was former Prime Minister Bob Hawke. Recently, a journalist (I think it was Troy Bramston) published letters out of the National Archives that Prince Philip sent to Bob Hawke when he was elected Prime Minister, congratulating him and taking credit for Bob Hawke's great political career, saying that it was all because of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

I think the Duke does deserve the credit and does deserve to be thanked for his service to his nation and also for the important role he played in many nations, excluding the commonwealth, and that of course is the Hellenic Republic, where his son attended recently to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence.

Regardless of the abdication and the controversy surrounding the Greek royal family, Prince Philip was held in high regard by Greek Australians all across this country. I know that if my mother were still alive she would have mourned his passing. She was a great royalist. It was the one

part of her conservatism that I could not break. Again, God rest Prince Philip and thank you for his service. My deepest condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Motion carried.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (11:33): I move:

That the Speaker transmit the address to His Excellency the Governor with the request that His Excellency cause the same to be forwarded for presentation to Her Majesty.

Motion carried.

Bills

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE (EXPIRY) (NO 2) AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (11:33): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable the introduction of a bill without notice.

The SPEAKER: An absolute majority of members not being present, ring the bells.

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

Motion carried.

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (11:36): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (11:36): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the COVID-19 Emergency Response (Expiry) (No. 2) Amendment Bill 2021. Measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have been fundamental to this state's ongoing successful response to the pandemic to keep the community safe. A declaration of major emergency, in place since 22 March 2020 (last year), provides the authorising context for the important social distancing and public health measures issued by the State Coordinator through directions.

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 amended South Australian legislation to temporarily adjust some legislative requirements that are difficult to satisfy during a pandemic. The COVID act came into effect in April 2020 last year and will expire on 31 May. This bill proposes to extend the operation of the COVID act to 28 days after the day on which all relevant declarations relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 within South Australia have ceased or 17 September 2021, whichever is the earlier.

While it is essential that the COVID act be extended, there are a number of measures that were implemented in the early days of the pandemic that are no longer necessary. As a result, I will be expiring the following provisions of the COVID act as of 31 May 2021:

- section 14, which allows for an extension of time limit and terms of appointment;
- schedule 1, which contains special provisions relating to the detention of certain protected persons during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- part A1 of schedule 2, which reverses the presumption of bail for certain offences;
- part B1 of schedule 2, which amends the Development Act 1993;
- clause 3(a) of part 3 of schedule 2, which modifies the process of the Public Works Committee; and

- part 3A of schedule 2, which amends the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

In short, all those matters will expire at 31 May. Sections 8, 9 and 10, which deal with residential tenancies, residential parks and supported residential facilities, will also expire on 30 June. This gives a reasonable notice period for those who are still using these provisions. It will also allow transitional regulations to be made for SACAT orders made under these provisions.

There is also a bill, I remind members, currently before the parliament which makes a number of provisions of the COVID act permanent. Once that bill passes through the parliament, indeed if it does, the respective provisions of the COVID act will also be expired. Once the provisions that are no longer necessary are expired, there will be just a few provisions left in the COVID act, and these include:

1. Amendments to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 to expand the offences against prescribed emergency workers, to include people working in pharmacies and providing pharmacy services;
2. Amendments to the Emergency Management Act 2004 to clarify the scope of directions given by the State Coordinator and authorised officers under section 25.

Extending these provisions is necessary for the ongoing management of the risk of COVID-19 in South Australia. Where the COVID act was first introduced, a number of initiatives were needed to support South Australians who were doing it tough and better protect the community. Things have changed significantly and there is now no need for many of these measures. However, we are not yet returned to a pre-pandemic way of life and it is necessary to have certain measures in place to assist in the management of the pandemic by the State Coordinator and to protect our emergency workers, especially those who are administering the vaccine.

I indicate to all members that there has been considerable consultation of course with a number of relevant parties in the health department and of course our State Coordinator, who is our police commissioner. Our emergency response to date has kept South Australians safe and strong, and I commend this bill to members and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*

3—Amendment of section 6—Expiry of Act

This clause amends section 6 of the principal Act to extend the date on which the Act expires to 17 September 2021.

Debated adjourned on motion of Mr Picton.

Motions

PFAS DISPOSAL

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. D.J. Speirs:

That this house requests that the Environment, Resources and Development Committee investigate and report on the appropriate and safe disposal of PFAS contaminated waste in South Australia, and in particular—

- (a) criteria for disposal of PFAS contaminated waste;
- (b) criteria for site selection (landfill engineering);
- (c) consequences of not having an appropriate pathway for PFAS contaminated waste disposal, including reference to case studies; and

(d) any other related matters.

(Continued from 17 March 2021.)

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:42): I rise as the lead speaker for this side of the chamber and indicate that this side of the chamber has absolutely no objection to supporting this referral. In so indicating, I would note that any suggestion that this might be the way to deal with the question of PFAS at this time would be incorrect. It is completely acceptable to send a thorny issue like this, which has come to prominence in recent times, to a parliamentary committee for consideration about the way in which the state might actively manage and deal with the contamination caused by this material.

That does not in any way preclude opportunity to take a different position through legislation on where it is not safe to place the material. It in no way suggests that we do not have an active obligation so to do in order to make sure that one-off applications by companies seeking to take this material, entitled to want to do that to make a dollar, but that those one-off applications ought not then precipitate concern in the community and a desire for that community to have to protect its own soil, the crops and the land in which they live. That is an entirely reasonable approach being undertaken by a separate piece of legislation and is not in any way incompatible with sending this referral to the committee. On that basis, the opposition will support the referral.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (11:44): I also rise today to support the referral of this matter, in particular the provision for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, to the ERD Committee. Essentially, the committee will look at and report on the appropriate and safe disposal of PFAS contaminated waste in South Australia and, in particular, criteria for site selection (landfill engineering), criteria for disposal of PFAS contaminated waste and the consequences of not having an appropriate pathway for PFAS contaminated waste disposal, including reference to case studies, and any other related matter.

I agree with the deputy leader that it is appropriate that our parliament, through the committee, consider these matters. That is not to say there has not been considerable work done at a national and state level over recent years. One of the reasons we need to keep up with what is happening and also be participatory in decisions on site selection for the safe disposal of PFAS is that the approval of construction for any new landfill site is the responsibility of the relevant planning authority under the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. It is a piece of legislation for which I have responsibility and obviously will be closely involved in if the relevant planning authority is a local council or other bodies such as the state commission.

In short, there is a history of the development of what has happened so far once it was identified that there was contamination and aspects in relation to the management of this. It is a bit like what we are dealing with at the moment in regard to silicosis, which relates to dust from the carving up of stone benches for kitchens and whether that is going to have some adverse health effects and potential compensation claims. These are the sorts of contemporary things we have to deal with once a problem has been identified. In short, it seems that PFAS has a long life and of course the capacity to contaminate over a sustained period, so the careful management, disposal and storage of this material is critical.

I think for the record it is important to note that the Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination, which is a national agreement between commonwealth, state and territories, was established. The IGA was originally signed in February 2018 by the former Premier of South Australia the Hon. Jay Weatherill. That must have been one of the last acts of the government of the day. I think that is an important step in the states signing up to how this matter is to be dealt with.

There are a number of appendices to the IGA. The PFAS National Environment Management Plan was also developed by the heads of the EPAs in Australia and New Zealand. It gives some nationally agreed guidance on the management of legacy PFAS contamination in the environment. The actions to be considered here are to prevent or minimise the potential environmental harm from PFAS, ensuring that PFAS contaminated waste materials and products are effectively stored and/or remediated to prevent release, also ensuring, as I said, the proper disposal of PFAS contaminated waste—for example, by properly characterising waste and then sending it to a facility licensed to

accept it—and undertaking appropriate monitoring to check the effectiveness of the management measures implemented.

There is quite a significant amount of material, if members want to be informed, on what is currently being undertaken in relation to the development of landfill disposal criteria for PFAS contaminated waste. Significantly, the minister who is proposing this referral to the committee has undertaken a considerable role since we came into government to ensure that we develop landfill disposal criteria. For the benefit of members, they are set out in guidelines dated March last year. I thank the minister, who covers both the EPA and of course environmental matters in the government, for making all of that available online. I think it is important that the public be aware of what we are dealing with here and what is underway to protect the situation.

This is a product that has been used in consumer and industrial products since the 1950s. It is a bit like asbestos: it was a great building material at the time, thought to be very cheap, light and available for construction and utilised in public and private buildings across the country, and of course we ended up with a massive piece of litigation against James Hardie in relation to claims as a result of the mesothelioma that has developed from it.

In a circumstance where they have a life, they have a resistance to water, heat, fire, stain and weather, but they also have some downsides, and we need to think carefully about how we do this, so I thank the minister for working with that. I note also that the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy of 2015, obviously a development of the previous government, has kept this moving.

It has a national stage. It is underpinned by an agreement. We have a management plan. There is continuing work going on with this. EPAs all around Australia and New Zealand are working at keeping this up to date. We do not have a site for storage in South Australia. This referral will assist everyone to have a say and will also assist us as a government to make decisions about how this be dealt with. Then agencies that I might have responsibility for in the planning areas will be able to proceed to implement that.

Members may be aware that there are, of course, some sites interstate. I think Western Australia has three. At this stage, one can imagine, of course, that trying to separate and store them safely for the purpose of transport and the cost of sending that to Western Australia would be very prohibitive. I am not sure whether we have any of this waste around Australia. Irrespective of whether we have Labor or Liberal governments around the country, we are not seeing truckloads of this being shipped across the borders, but it is still a matter we need to deal with. Even in the landfill disposal sector, these are other aspects that need to be considered.

I thank the minister for progressing this, keeping the state parliament fully informed and giving people an opportunity to have a say about how we progress this while at a national level that continues to progress. I acknowledge the work of the previous government, of the commonwealth government and of our current minister, who has really taken the lion's share of responsibility in ensuring this is progressed. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (11:52): I support the referral and the establishment of an inquiry by the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, but I do not want to see this being used as some sort of answer to the prospect of PFAS being dumped in South Australia around the metropolitan area where people live, in close proximity to towns and regional cities and also near our primary production lands.

I think it is good to have an inquiry, because what we heard during the debate about whether PFAS should be dumped in the McLaren Vale wine region, where the dump site sits above aquifers, was that, because it is in an old sand quarry, if there were any leaching or leaking of the PFAS poisons into the watertable they would wick them straight over to Willunga, down into Maslin Beach, and down to Port Willunga and Aldinga. This would have the potential, in 20 to 30 years' time, when people start dying of cancer or having other health problems, that they would ask, 'Why do we have this in our area?' They would go back and they would say, 'Because a decision was taken in 2021 to allow this to be dumped.'

I think what we have been able to do in the past 10 or 11 months is raise awareness about the dangers of PFAS and the dangers of dumping it in areas. We can forgive people who unwittingly sprayed PFAS over RAAF bases and other firefighting grounds around Australia because they did

not know the dangers. However, it is 2021, and we now know the dangers of PFAS materials. What we are talking about here is not necessarily the pizza boxes, the scotchguarded materials of clothing and things like that, it is more the wholesale disposal of soils that are being scraped up at RAAF bases around Australia.

What I think needs to happen is that the pressure gets put back on the commonwealth, because it is really the commonwealth that has the biggest problem here in how to dispose of PFAS. I hope this inquiry looks at that because I would look at South Australia as a state with a million square kilometres and, like most reasonable South Australians I have spoken to during this debate over the past 10 months, if we have a million square kilometres and it is largely a commonwealth problem—and we have an area called the Woomera restricted zone that is run by the commonwealth—why would we not be asking the commonwealth to look at whether some sort of above-ground disposal apparatus could be built to store the PFAS materials there?

I do not know whether that is the answer, but that is perhaps something that this committee could look at. I would also love to see victims of PFAS poisoning called before this committee. As I have mentioned in this place before, my son suffered from PFAS poisoning through eggs he ate that came from the Largs Bay Fire Station. My ex-wife has very high levels of PFAS poisoning as well, as does her partner, a firefighter, who was bringing home eggs and vegetables grown at the Largs Bay Fire Station. They were eating them thinking that they were doing the right thing and eating very organic and healthy foods.

I hope that all these different things are looked at. I also hope that the committee would look at the new technologies available. What the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) kept saying during the discussion over whether this should or should not be dumped in the McLaren Vale wine region was that to put it in landfill—even with these two linings, which other experts have said will fail—would mean that we will see the leaching and the leaking of these PFAS poisons into our watertable and into our soils around the McLaren Vale area.

The EPA kept coming back to the point that this is Australia's best technology, but it is actually not the best technology used in the world. The rest of the world does not put PFAS in landfill anymore. They have other ways of dealing with it. Interestingly enough, in Europe they are using a system that was devised by Australia's CSIRO. I have spoken to some scientists at the Adelaide University who are looking at techniques of rendering PFAS neutral—so taking away the dangers and the health repercussions that PFAS in its current form poses for all the people in South Australia where this could be dumped. I think the committee needs to look at that.

I have spoken to some members of the committee who say that they have a very full list of inquiries at the moment, so I hope this is not just a move by the government to say, 'Well, we're dealing with it because we are going to have this inquiry,' because people around Australia have been very disappointed in a series of inquiries that have been set up by the federal parliament to look into PFAS. They never actually report. They just have meetings and hearings and there are never any recommendations put forward.

While I welcome this, I would urge the parliament to put in a baseline to say that no PFAS should be dumped anywhere in South Australia until this inquiry has reached the point where it can make its recommendations to the parliament and to the people of South Australia. I do have a bill that will come back to the lower house that aims to do that, which would ban the dumping of PFAS within the Greater Adelaide metropolitan area, within 50 kilometres of primary production land in South Australia and within five kilometres, I think, of towns and cities in regional South Australia.

I think that should be, at the very least, the safeguard that we put in place until we have had the opportunity for this inquiry into PFAS and how we might better dispose of it in South Australia, or indeed if the technology is available to render it neutral and safe. I want to thank the minister for proposing this referral. I welcome it. I hope it is a wideranging inquiry, and I hope that we do hear from the victims of PFAS poisoning.

I hope we hear from people who are working on the technologies that are available. I hope we hear from people in industries like agriculture who face the very real risk of having their entire regions wiped out because of not just the reputational danger and damage that could be done to the produce they are trying to get out on the state, national and global markets but also the real health implications that could follow.

I know the level of angst in places like McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat, Willunga, Maslin Beach, Aldinga and Sellicks, and up to Seaford as well, about the prospect of this dump going ahead on the corner of Tatchilla Road and Main South Road at McLaren Vale. It was very real, and I am sure if a similar proposal were put up in any of the 47 electorates in South Australia there would be similar concerns if it were around people or a primary production area.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (12:00): I simply wish to take the opportunity to thank the various speakers for their contribution to this brief debate. I look forward to the committee undertaking this inquiry, digging into what is a very tricky issue, interviewing and hearing from hopefully many, if not all, of the stakeholders identified by the member for Mawson and giving this inquiry the prominence on its schedule of inquiries that it ought to have.

Motion carried.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2021

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 31 March 2021.)

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (12:04): I am grateful to other members rushing down to hear my contribution. I rise to speak in support of the Supply Bill. I indicate that the opposition will be supporting the Supply Bill and also that I am lead speaker on behalf of the opposition.

This year's Supply Bill reverts to somewhat more normal circumstances, where the government seeks supply only for a certain period in order to give both chambers time to pass the budget and for it to be assented to, that period being four months and just over \$6 billion being sought in supply. This is of course quite different from the circumstances of last year relatively early on in the COVID pandemic, when the government sought effectively a year-long blank cheque for \$15 billion in order to continue superintending the affairs of government in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

The budget that is due to be handed down in only a few weeks' time will be important for this state government and for the state. It will be important for the state government because it will be a last ditch attempt by this government to try to reset the state's economic fortunes before the next state election. The problem we have is that we have entered into the coronavirus pandemic with the worst performing economy in the nation.

In the 2019-20 financial year, our state's gross state product growth, our key measure of economic growth, was the worst in the nation, the worst of all the states and territories by a substantial margin. Our economy contracted by 1.4 per cent, a very significant contraction, a very significant recession, and like the rest of Australia, the first recession our state has entered into for nearly 30 years.

We started battling the coronavirus in an economic sense behind the eight ball. We see ourselves now in South Australia the third month in a row with the highest unemployment rate in the nation. We have the highest youth unemployment rate in the nation. Alarming, and almost in unprecedented fashion, not only does South Australia have the highest unemployment rate in the nation but we have it at a time when we have the lowest participation rate in the nation as well.

Usually you would expect a state or territory's unemployment rate to increase as its participation rate increases, the participation rate being a measure of those adult South Australians of working age who are either working or seeking work. If more people are working or seeking work, the participation rate increases and that usually is correlated with an increase in the unemployment rate.

What we see here in South Australia is the frightening scenario where fewer people are participating in the labour market, fewer people are working and fewer people are looking for work, yet we still record the highest unemployment rate in the nation. That is clearly an indictment of how this government has sought to support the economy of South Australia.

Remember that it was only a little while ago that, in delivering their first budget in 2018, the Treasurer and the Premier, echoing soon after, thumped their chests about how proud they were to cut 29 job creation and job sustainment programs previously funded by the former state Labor government, and now we have the results, the fruits of that labour. Now we have more South Australians who are either in work or seeking work, the lowest participation rate in the labour force.

We have the highest unemployment rate and, troublingly, those people who are first embarking on their careers or first embarking on paid employment, young South Australians, are also suffering the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Even worse than that, we are the only state to have lost jobs since the coronavirus pandemic commenced here in Australia.

We are the only state in the nation that has gone backwards in the number of people employed since the last Labour Force Survey before the pandemic, since March 2020. This is a dreadful record that our state has on jobs thanks to this Marshall Liberal government. It is now taking South Australians the longest median time to find a job when they are able to find a job. It is now 26 weeks (or six months). That is the median wait for a South Australian to find a job when they are looking for it. We are now down to fifth place in the CommSec State of the States report, which is released on a regular basis.

Government cannot be expected to do all the heavy lifting when it comes to employing South Australians. Usually, we would have somewhere in the order of 840,000 or 850,000-odd South Australians employed. As you would be aware, Mr Speaker, approximately 100,000 of those in part-time and full-time roles are engaged within the public sector. That, of course, means that the balance of those people—some three-quarters of a million South Australians—find their employment in private business. It is the business community that we will all be looking to to try to add jobs as quickly as possible to try to drag our state out of recession and drag us out of the unwanted achievement of having the highest unemployment rate in the nation and the only state to have lost jobs since the COVID pandemic began.

However, it is the business community here in South Australia which, against the grain, despite the trend around the rest of the country, is recording falling business investment levels. Business investment in recent months has taken off around the country. Businesses are feeling more confident around the country, and they are backing that confidence with investment decisions—decisions to spend their own capital to improve, expand or make their operations more productive.

That is the way that we can most quickly add jobs here in South Australia: by the business community choosing to employ more South Australians, adding more capacity to their businesses. But the reverse is happening. Not only is our state going backwards in the overall statistics but the main sector of the state's economy, the business community, is choosing to withdraw its investment in adding capacity and hence adding jobs. No wonder there has been significant pressure on the Premier and this government to try to provide some support for the state's economy.

I just mentioned that in its first budget it was thumping its chest about cutting 29 job creation and job sustainment programs across South Australia, the majority of those programs put in place to deal with what was expected to be the economic shock of the closure of Holden's manufacturing operations. Those programs put in place from 2015, 2016 and 2017 onwards were hundreds of millions of dollars of state government support to try to support employment across the state's economy. Did it work? The annual employment growth rate in the last financial year that you could attribute to the previous Labor government, in 2017-18, was 2.4 per cent. It has been falling each financial year since.

It is no coincidence that when those cuts were made in the first quarter of the 2018-19 financial year—that is, from the middle of 2018 onwards, when that first Liberal state budget was handed down; that is when those job creation and support programs were cut—that is the point in time when our jobs growth across the South Australian economy started going backwards.

That is the record that this state Liberal government have on our economy and in particular on creating jobs in the South Australian economy. They have proudly cut support to the South

Australian economy, and they have done so in a way that has massively throttled back our jobs growth to the point where we are now, in the most recent financial year, not only experiencing a recession but also we are the only state government to have lost jobs since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government would have you believe that they are doing above and beyond what is necessary when it comes to stimulating the state's economy. The Premier was quick to boast in March of last year that his government was the first government to release an economic stimulus package. He told us at the time that there would be \$350 million of stimulus funding, funding specifically designed, decided and attributed to those efforts to stimulate the economy. The only problem was that it was not stimulus funding at all.

The vast majority of it, in fact nearly all of it to a dollar, was existing funding already committed by the Liberal government across various government portfolios spread out across the next four years, which had been hastily rebadged as an economic stimulus package in order to answer calls from the opposition and the business community about what the government was going to do to support the South Australian community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The examples, of course, were obvious. Moneys that had already been announced and allocated towards the rehabilitation of Flinders Chase on Kangaroo Island to recover from the bushfires was money that was suddenly packaged up as being economic stimulus. Money that was already going to be spent, which had already been factored in by this government and was already part of their forward fiscal and economic forecasts, was suddenly being rebadged as economic stimulus.

They highlighted a range of road projects, in particular road maintenance and rehabilitation projects, which they claimed were economic stimulus. We were told these projects would be fast-tracked. Remember, this is late March last year. It is now early May the following year and the vast majority of those road maintenance projects have not even started. South Australians in the north-western suburbs would like to know what happened to the full resealing of Port Road.

It was bad enough that the former transport minister, the transport minister who had to resign from his position, delayed the delivery of the upgrade of the West Lakes Boulevard, Cheltenham Parade and Port Road intersection by more than two years after it had been not only committed to but funded in the state budget by the former Labor government. We were given a commitment that Port Road would be resurfaced and here we are 14 months on from that commitment and there has not been any progress.

This is something ringing true across all those funding lines of that claimed \$350 million. There was some routine capital maintenance money for country hospitals already factored in, already budgeted for, by the state Liberal government that was suddenly repackaged and repurposed as being economic stimulus. If money was already going to be spent, if it was already being counted on by the government as being spent in both their fiscal forecasts and their economic forecasts, and if the business community had already been made aware of that money being spent some months or even years previously, how can it possibly be economic stimulus?

Of course, the obscuring of what a real economic stimulus effort would be continued in May. The government then told us that there would be a further \$650 million to add to the initial \$350 million of economic stimulus, and in this regard I will pay the government some credit. After further calls, following delays from the state government about what they could do to directly help small business in South Australia, finally they acceded to calls from the business community and again the opposition and started to provide some direct assistance to the small business community.

I remember standing with the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Croydon, in the foyer of the Kings Head Hotel on King William Street in the city, saying, 'If the government doesn't start helping small businesses, particularly those small businesses that have been forced to shut their doors to patrons, such as those in the hospitality industry, there will be closures.'

We called on the government to set aside \$200 million specifically for the hospitality and tourism industries. That call was ignored, and what have we seen since? Dozens of small businesses, if not many more, particularly hospitality and tourism businesses, have closed their doors and many small business operators have not continued operating.

Perhaps those premises, like the Kings Head Hotel, have managed as a premises to be rebirthed by new owners, but that is cold comfort to those people who lost their livelihoods and those employees who lost their jobs in the meantime. However, in that \$650 million, the state government did provide some small business grants.

I want to spend a little time talking about the government's Small Business Grant Program because it came in two doses. The first dose was for those businesses that were eligible for the federal government's JobKeeper program. Think about that: we have small businesses that had already qualified for the federal government's wage subsidy scheme, a scheme where the federal government, up to limits, would pay the wages of a business's employees—a huge lifeline and something I have recognised in this place and also outside this place many times, saying that it was a good decision by Josh Frydenberg and the federal Coalition government.

But the state government chose, in providing assistance to small business, to double-down on those businesses that were already in that position. They did not choose to allocate their resources to those businesses that were not eligible for JobKeeper. I am not talking about those businesses that did not need JobKeeper, that did not have a 30 per cent reduction in their turnover; I am talking about those businesses that for other reasons were unable to qualify for JobKeeper. Their businesses were suffering, they did not meet the JobKeeper criteria and hence they were not entitled to any support.

Those small businesses in South Australia that were able to get access to JobKeeper could now have additional support from the state government. In the meantime, tens of thousands of sole operator businesses here in South Australia missed out on any support—not eligible for JobKeeper, not eligible for the state government's Small Business Grant. Immediately, of course, the small business community here in South Australia cried out for support from the state government and a rethink about how its Small Business Grants were to be allocated.

Of course, as is the way in which this Premier and Treasurer treat people who raise questions with their decisions, they were given short shrift and the cold shoulder. Eventually, it became clear, if you read the daily newspaper or listened to talkback radio and call after call after call from those people in financial dire straits, small businesses and small business operators, that they needed better targeted support from the state government.

The state government's second round of Small Business Grants sought to achieve this, not only by continuing an additional round of \$10,000 grants, including grants to those businesses that already successfully received a grant in the first round so they can have up to \$20,000, but by extending a smaller grant of \$4,000, I think it was, to sole operators. Of course, I am not going to say that was not a worthwhile decision—obviously, any support is better than nothing—but it was support that came several months after the initial announcement and allocation of the first round of Small Business Grants.

I just want to say a couple of things about the Small Business Grants and their accessibility, particularly as they relate to small businesses in my electorate. I was contacted by a number of people who for various credible and easily defensible reasons were unable to access those Small Business Grants. They were otherwise eligible, but they were perhaps confronted by circumstances which prevented them from applying for the grants in time, or they successfully applied for the grants in time but were unable to furnish perhaps some paperwork that was required of the Treasury and RevenueSA in assessing the grants.

Several of these businesses contacted me and said that they had been denied these grants. It seemed clear to me on the face of it that there was a role for government to play in providing some discretion in extending this grant scheme insofar as it would allow some of these businesses—and we are not talking thousands of businesses; we are talking a much, much smaller number—access to this financial support.

The response they got back from the Treasurer and the Premier was clearly a form letter written to them without much sympathy or empathy for the position that these small business operators found themselves in. It was basically a form letter which said, 'Unfortunately, we've got to apply the rules evenly, and if we do it for you we will have to do it for others. That's why we won't be exercising any discretion.' That was the basic flavour of the letters that went to those small business operators.

If the Small Business Grant scheme had been fully expended, perhaps you could understand that. But, as the most recent budget papers show, funds have been established by the state government ostensibly to respond to the economic needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic that remain not only unspent but also uncommitted. I find it extraordinary that either the Premier or Rob Lucas in the other place would not allow themselves some discretion in order to meet the reasonable requests of members of the community who were doing it tough during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I am sure other members who have been put in similar situations by government ministers would know, it is heartbreaking to have to sit with constituents after making their representations for them, after helping them in every way that is possible for a member of parliament, and still you are unable to achieve for them the support they need in order to continue their businesses. It is a really regrettable footnote in this saga of how the state government has managed the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I said, there are still substantial funds—more than tens of millions of dollars—available to this government that remain both unallocated towards a specific purpose let alone unspent out in the community. When those funds are languishing, committed for economic stimulus but gathering dust in Treasury, then I think small business owners, like those constituents of mine who have contacted me, have every right to feel aggrieved and angry about how they have been treated, particularly by the Treasurer.

In response to the economic circumstances that our state finds itself in, we have the repeated line of the government, the Premier and the Treasurer that there is nothing to see here, that there is in fact nothing wrong at all. In particular, the Premier and the Treasurer have been leaning on a set of statistics that have only recently been produced by the ABS, described by the ABS itself as experimental, and these are the weekly payroll jobs and wages data published each fortnight. They are able to be published because of the new initiative of the Australian Taxation Office of a single-touch payroll system.

It is important to remember that not all businesses, let alone small businesses, have registered with the single-touch payroll system. Unlike the Labour Force Survey, which surveys a sample of the entire electorate about who was employed and the nature of their employment or otherwise, here we have a select group of businesses that have registered for a particular tax office system from which the ABS is able to produce data that this Premier and Treasurer rely on.

It is a concern that when you log into the ABS website and you click on the weekly payroll jobs and wages data and scroll down on the first page that you come to, there is a disclaimer from the ABS that this data is experimental and that it should only be read in conjunction with the more comprehensive—in the ABS's words, not mine—labour force data. So we have the Premier and the Treasurer ignoring the labour force data and instead choosing to rely on an experimental dataset, which even the ABS itself distances itself from, as being rigorous and covering a representative sample of the economy.

The problem here is that, if the Premier refuses to believe that there is a problem with our jobs market, if he refuses to believe that there is a problem in the state's economy, then of course he will not set about the task of doing something about it, he will not be focused on recognising the problem, considering how best to address the problem and getting on with the job of doing something about this problem. That is the thing I found most concerning about the Premier's response to the economic crisis our state is in at the moment.

I will give an example. One of South Australia's proudest brands, the West End Brewery, owned by a large beer conglomerate Lion Nathan, announced late last year that they will be closing the brewery at Thebarton. That will have not quite the same economic impact as the closure of Holden, but to the state's collective psyche, perhaps it is not too far out of the same league. This is one of our state's proudest brands; this is a company that has provided jobs for South Australians for many, many decades—more than 100 years—in a similar way to which Holden has.

Yes, admittedly, given over recent years and decades, and perhaps also because of the successful refurbishment of the brewery in 2013 (you only have to drive past it on Port Road to see the vast copper vats that have been erected behind deliberately see-through panes of glass so that

people can see the beer actually being made), and perhaps because of those efforts, the brewery has become more efficient, more productive, more automated and has fewer people working there.

Nonetheless, when Lion Nathan and its subsidiary West End announces that it is going to cease operations here in South Australia, the response from the Premier and the Liberal government was a shrug of the shoulders: 'Oh well, it's a shame, but what can you do?' When business closed under the previous Labor government—and of course I give the example of Holden announcing that it was closing its manufacturing operations, and of course many of its suppliers then having to close their manufacturing operations here in South Australia—it was usual that those companies and their executive teams reached out to the government of the day to let them know what is coming, to let them know of an impending decision that is to be announced.

Of course, the usual response, at least from the former Labor government, is, 'What can we do; is this decision avoidable; is there some support that the government could provide in order to help you maintain your manufacturing operations, your manufacturing operations that are of course so important to the employment of so many South Australians and such a large contribution to the state's economy?'

I am pleased to say that, in some instances under the former Labor government, some of those conversations were productive. Some of those automotive component suppliers were able to repurpose their manufacturing operations to the extent where one of them, for example, a company that was producing rear axle subframe assemblies for cars being built at Holden's plant at Elizabeth, are now gearing themselves up to manufacture buses for use in the state's public transport fleet, and perhaps one day hopefully beyond that for private buyers as well.

I wonder, did the Premier ask that question of Lion Nathan? If we have a brewery here in South Australia, a modern, refurbished brewery, one that had undergone a significant improvement in its capital equipment and operations less than 10 years ago, is operating well under capacity, rather than choose to close it and move the brewing of West End beer and other products from Adelaide to another Lion Nathan-owned brewery interstate, could there be any consideration of, instead, moving the brewing of some of those interstate beers here to South Australia to West End's underutilised brewing?

I know what the answer is, of course, because my understanding is that that question was put by members of the media to the Premier and there was, as is his way, a vague and noncommittal answer. I find that really disappointing. It may not be a source of pride for South Australians, perhaps at one point in the future, to be the brewers of beers like XXXX. Nonetheless, if it employed South Australians, if it meant that there would be not only direct jobs at the brewery but also jobs elsewhere in the supply chain, that could only be a good thing.

The fact that news like that is greeted with a shrug of the shoulders from this government rather than some level of effort to either try to stave off the decision or perhaps provide some support so that such a company could modernise, gear up its operations, employ people in the future, I find gobsmacking.

It was not long afterwards that we heard effectively the same announcement from Schneider Electric, which used to be known as Clipsal in South Australia, that they had made the decision not to retool part of their manufacturing operations in Adelaide's northern suburbs, would no longer be making several hundred different types of plastic products and instead would be moving the production of those products interstate or overseas.

If a company like Schneider Electric—which as I mentioned used to be called Clipsal, and of course we all know Clipsal used to be owned by a prominent South Australian, one with close relationships to the political class in South Australia—is going through a decision-making process about whether or not they go to the effort of retooling and there is a marginal decision being made that it is not in the company's interest and the government of the day is told about that decision and that it would impact many jobs in South Australia, would you not think, as a government, to get around the table with this company to see how, once again, we could try to stop the increasing decline of the manufacturing sector in the state's economy?

Apparently not, which I find, as I say, not only gobsmacking but also galling. If you look at the state budget figures, now is the time when governments of any persuasion have effectively a licence from their communities to spend up big to protect jobs, to use government resources to spend

taxpayers' money to try to keep people in jobs, to try to support businesses that can provide employment—sustainable, well-paid jobs preferably—and help communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recession that it has caused.

Indeed, in this financial year alone the government was expecting—and I say 'was'—to record a net operating deficit of in excess of \$2.5 billion, an unprecedented deficit at any time in the state's history. The previous net operating deficit record of nearly \$1.5 billion was only recorded in the immediate financial year before. In the ordinary course of events in more ordinary times, the South Australian community—any community around Australia—would be aghast at such deficits, but there is a recognition that we are in unusual times. We are facing a health crisis, which of course needs to be combated, and as a result of that health crisis we now have an economic crisis.

So the permission is there from the community for the government to spend in order to support the economy, in order to, in this way, support jobs. I find it surprising that we have a Premier, who, with an announcement for a media event one year out to the day of the next state election, can announce an uncosted, unbudgeted and allegedly somewhere in the order of \$700 million basketball stadium but cannot find those funds to continue supporting manufacturing operations in South Australia.

Perhaps that is a segue to talk about some of this state government's record when it comes to budget management and budget priorities. Those deficits—the 2019-20 deficit of nearly \$1.5 billion and the current deficit, most recently forecast at over \$2.5 billion—follow what we know as the 'manufactured surplus' of the 2018-19 year, the only financial year in which this state government looks like they will achieve a surplus, and the only financial year in which Rob Lucas as Treasurer, either before the former Labor government or since the former Labor government, will have recorded a surplus.

What did he have to do in order to record that surplus? He had to do a significant amount of money shuffling, both deliberately retiming revenues to be received by government and also moving around expenditures to be made by government in an effort to record, for the first and only time in his political career, a budget surplus.

In the current context, of course, you may find that to be uncharitable. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the federal government is running deficits of hundreds of billions of dollars and state governments are running deficits in the billions of dollars, you may find that to be uncharitable.

Of course it is, and I do not say that the state government should have recorded a surplus last financial year, given that the last three months, or maybe even a little more, of that financial year were impacted by the pandemic, that within the course of six weeks we had lost in the order of 50,000 jobs and that we had had the forced closure of tens of thousands of businesses across the state. In that context, I do not say that we should be running a surplus and, in the context of wanting to provide a level of economic stimulus as we recover from the pandemic, I do not say that the government should have run a surplus in the current financial year.

However, in Budget Paper 3—handed down each year in the state government's budget papers—in the appendices towards the back are the tables that outline the historic budget metrics going all the way back, conveniently, to 1997. In 1997, not only did John Olsen make the best fist of trying to lose the unlosable election in state politics but they formed government for a second term and Rob Lucas moved from being education minister to being Treasurer.

It was the time, of course, when, after saying, to quote John Olsen, that they would 'never, ever privatise ETSA', immediately after the election they set about the task of privatising ETSA. They also said at the 1997 election—those in the chamber a little older than me might recall—that they would never, ever introduce a mandatory fire services levy. Of course, straight after the election, Iain Evans, the minister then responsible, set about introducing what we now know as the emergency services levy.

Despite that little digression, those first four years of Rob Lucas's time as Treasurer recorded four deficits. Imagine going through the process of selling ETSA for \$3.4 billion and over the same period recording net operating deficits of \$1.3 billion and increasing state debt by approximately a little over a third of what you had just sold ETSA for in order to pay that debt down, net operating

deficits as well of \$1.1 billion. So that 2018-19 year will be not only the year that Rob confected a surplus but the only year he made a surplus as state Treasurer.

The thing that has a lot of people scratching their heads, if not directly worried, is the extraordinary escalation in the state government's net debt position. At the end of June 2018, perhaps where you could best draw the line between the former Labor government and the new Liberal government in financial terms, the state's general government sector debt was \$5.4 billion. Remarkably, within a period of only two years that debt escalated to \$10.5 billion, an increase of almost 100 per cent, and even further an increase in debt expected by June this year to \$15.2 billion.

If you walked down Rundle Mall or another fairly busy street anywhere in South Australia and you told a member of the community that that debt had been increased in pretty much the blink of an eye by \$10 billion in the general government sector of the state's budget, I am sure they would express surprise—an increase of 200 per cent in the state's level of indebtedness of course would cause surprise.

However, perhaps that surprise could be ameliorated if you could then point to all the things that debt had been incurred for, if you could point to all the acquisitions that money had been borrowed for and if you could point to all the projects that money had been borrowed for in order to deliver. And the problem that the government has is that they cannot really point to any projects of any substance that have caused in two years' time debt not only to double but in three years' time for it to triple.

Think about this: the major infrastructure projects that have been delivered in the last three years are projects that were substantially completed by the former Labor government, and I am talking about projects like the Torrens to Torrens project, the Northern Connector project and, before it started encountering difficulties under the new leadership of the transport department, the Darlington project. The vast majority of funds across those three projects had already been expended by the time these financial years kick in and debt starts escalating.

The other major projects that you might cast your eye about around South Australia are the Regency Road to Pym Street, South Road upgrade, the duplication of the Joy Baluch Bridge and the Gawler electrification project, which are all projects that were committed to and money was allocated for in the state budget by the former Labor government. So then it really becomes curious, doesn't it? How on earth could debt have tripled in three years and on what has it been tripled for?

In fact, on the drive in here this morning I was listening to talkback radio and I heard one prominent Adelaide media and political commentator make that exact point. It is very difficult to know why the state government have racked up so much debt, and remember I am talking about in the period before COVID, before the period of time when the government tell us that they are spending what they claim to be \$4 billion worth of stimulus money to go into the South Australian community.

It is a difficult question and one which has been asked of the government and one which they have not been able to answer. The only answer that the Premier has been able to provide to this place is a wave of the hand, an ostentatious, 'Go and get a briefing,' as he is wont to do when, of course, it is he actually who needs the briefing.

We have a massive escalation in this state's level of indebtedness. Of course, it does not stop there. If you look across the most recent budget's forward estimates, that level of debt will continue to increase by roughly a similar quantum across the remainder of the forward estimates until we are told that, at the end of June 2024, the general government sector debt will reach \$24½ billion, and across all areas of government, including those publicly owned trading corporations, the level of indebtedness will be \$33.1 billion.

The government says, 'It doesn't matter. Money's cheap,' and that is true: it is cheap now. In fact, it is extraordinary that the level of government borrowing has increased so substantially yet the interest costs, the debt-servicing costs, on the state budget have actually gone down. It is a remarkable circumstance where debt can be increased by so much but the cost of servicing that debt can actually fall in nominal terms, which means that there is less of a burden on the budget now to service a higher level of debt than there was previously to service a lower level of debt.

Of course, the assumption in all of this from the government is that interest rates are low, government borrowing rates are low as a result of the long-term bond rate, and so we should borrow and we should get while the getting is good. The question you have to ask is: for how long will it

remain good? We all hope, do we not, that there will be a strong economic recovery? We have seen areas of extraordinary recent economic activity in, for example, the mining sector, particularly in Western Australia and Queensland, and in the housing sector across the country stimulated by the federal government's HomeBuilder scheme, and we all hope, of course, that that huge increase in activity in those two sectors is something we will see across other sectors and that we have a general economic recovery.

In a general economic recovery, what do we expect to see? We expect to see movements in official interest rates and hence movements in borrowing rates, both for governments and consumers, and increased borrowing costs. Maybe the most recent advice from the Reserve Bank of Australia is correct, that we can pretty much bank on (pardon the pun) interest rates to remain low for the next three years. If that is the case, then the forecasts in the most recent state budget should pretty much hold firm over the next three years, because that is how far they go out. They go out from now, in May 2021, for another three years until June 2024.

The question we have to ask ourselves is: what happens after that? Do we expect a general economic recovery and, if we do, do we think that there might be in any realm of possibility an increase in interest rates? Do we expect that, if there is a strong economic recovery, the increase in the interest rates might not be singular but plural? Rather than an increase of a one-off of 15 or 25 basis points, maybe over a period of time over the medium term, maybe over the period of a number of years, interest rates might increase by 50 basis points or 100 basis points, say three or four increases of 25 basis points spread over a few years. Because, if that is the case, then we should be aware of what the impact on the state budget will be.

You only need to look at the risk statement included, again in each year's state budget, to know what that risk is: an increase of 1 per cent or 1 percentage point would have the impact of increasing our debt costs by about \$250 million a year. That is a lot of money. That is \$250 million that will be required to be taken from other areas of government expenditure or from growth in revenues from the state government and, rather than be put into frontline services or other cost pressures across government, be put into debt repayment costs.

That is something that we should all be worried about because, if you will consider that scenario, where over the medium term—perhaps beyond three years, perhaps over the next five years that we do start to see interest costs and hence those debt servicing costs in the state budget increase—you would hope, would you not, that there is not anything else that goes wrong with the state's finances?

But there is something that is going to go wrong in the state's finances, and that will happen from 2026 onwards. Even as I say it, 2026 sounds like a long time away, but it is not really. It is only five years away. After the next year and the March 2022 state election, it is only the end of the next parliamentary term. It is only really in a couple of budgets' time that we will start to see the figures represented in the budget's forward estimates.

From 2026 onwards something quite significant happens to the state government's revenues. That is when the short-term guarantee—which was put in place when the Premier and Rob Lucas signed away our robust, defensible and important GST deal in favour of a much lesser guarantee of GST revenues in favour of South Australia—from the federal government that no state will be worse off under those changed GST arrangements expires.

Our GST guarantee expires from 2026 onwards. That is important because it means we will no longer be getting the fair share of GST revenues that we have enjoyed now for 20 years. It means that there will no longer be an equitable sharing of the GST pie, based on both population relativities and the needs of providing a reasonable level of services across the country.

That fundamental basis of distributing the GST pie has now been removed, or I should say it has been watered down. In fact, I will not say watered down; I will say it has been hosed down and, rather than taking the assessment which we used to take, we will now make the entire GST system based on a relativity which places the performance of the Victorian and the New South Wales economies and budgets paramount. That means our GST share will go down from then on.

So we hope that, with a strong economic recovery across the country, we will see here an increase in our debt servicing costs and at the same time will see a reduction in our GST levels. You

do not have to take my word for it, that is the official Treasury advice, the Treasury advice that I have previously read into *Hansard*, the advice that was provided to the current Treasurer, Rob Lucas, and presumably to the Premier before they signed up to that deal. That is deeply regrettable. We all know that Rob is retiring at the next election and, regardless of the result, the Premier will not be far behind, but for those of us who remain, it will be up to us to deal with the consequences of this. It will be up to the rest of us to deal with it.

You only have to read today's paper or listen to today's morning radio to understand that services in South Australia are under pressure. It is reasonable to assume that, just as we have increased the health budget over the last 15 or so years from less than \$2.5 billion a year to more than \$6.5 billion a year, that trend is going to continue, that there will be a need to continue to pump more and more resources into those frontline services which South Australians expect from their state government, regardless of which political persuasion they hold.

When we have an increasing cost burden elsewhere to service debt and a threat to our ongoing revenues, that does not augur well for the state going forward. I am very concerned that we have a budget now that we are told will be this government's response to the current challenges ahead for our state and that we do it, as I mentioned, not only from the economic perspective but from the fiscal perspective so far behind the eight ball.

When we are running such significant surpluses, ostensibly we are told by the government to try to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic challenges that it has created, it does not provide much capacity going forward to meet the challenges of tomorrow, unless the government makes a decision that there will not be a path back to surplus and that there will not be an attempt over the medium term to start trying to reduce government's debt burden.

If we are taking that decision, if we are perhaps going to enter into a post-1990s era of US-style budgeting where we have no heed of surpluses—I seek leave to continue my comments at another time.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

**CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (CAUSING DEATH BY USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Assent

His Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (ACCOUNTABILITY AND OTHER MEASURES) AMENDMENT
BILL**

Assent

His Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the Premier, I acknowledge and draw members' attention to the presence in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon of family and friends of Mr Terry Groom: family members, Anthony, Zoe and Wayne; former members of parliament, the Hon. J. Weatherill, former Premier; Martyn Evans, former member for Elizabeth and former member for Bonython; Grace Portolesi, former member for Hartley; Mr Joe Scalzi, former member for Hartley; the Hon. Mario Feleppa OAM, former member of the Legislative Council; and friend and colleague Franco Camatta. You are all welcome and acknowledged on this special and sad occasion.

Condolence

GROOM, MR T.R.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:03): By leave, I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Mr Terence Robert Groom, former member of the House of Assembly and minister of the Crown, and places on record its appreciation of his long and

meritorious service and that, as a mark of respect to his memory, the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Terry Groom served the parliament and the people of South Australia for a total of 13 years. As a member of the House of Assembly, he represented the electorate of Morphett between 1977 and 1979 and then switched from the western to the eastern suburbs to represent Hartley between 1982 and 1993. His initial election to the house was hard earned. The result in Morphett was the closest in the state. It was not declared until more than a full week after the poll. The final margin after the distribution of preferences was a very slender 112 votes.

Terry Groom was magnanimous in his win. In his maiden speech to the house, he congratulated his Liberal and Australian Democrat opponents on their hard work during the campaign. He also revealed that the Liberal campaign in Morphett had been so intense that the party canvassed at his own front door knowing that he would not be home and asked his wife not to vote for him. Showing the humour for which he would be known across the parliament, he confided, 'Unlike members opposite, I do not know how my wife votes.'

In that maiden speech, Terry also showed he had a depth of knowledge across many issues. For example, despite being a city lawyer, he was able to explain to the house why hydatid disease is widespread in sheep and cattle and causes considerable loss to graziers in the meat industry. It was therefore not surprising that Terry was able to conclude his parliamentary career as the minister for primary industries.

During his ministerial service, he impressed members of my party with his dedication to the role and his willingness to listen. He had also served on the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation, the Public Accounts Committee, and as Chair of the Economic and Finance Committee. By the time Terry became a minister, he was an independent member of this house, having been unable to secure his party's support for an alternative seat following a redistribution that eroded his majority in Hartley. During his brief stint in cabinet, he showed his Labor colleagues what they had missed by not elevating him to cabinet long before.

After leaving parliament at the 1993 election, Terry continued to make important contributions to public service. At different times over the following 2½ decades, he served on the boards of the Repatriation General Hospital, the Motor Accident Commission, the Environment Protection Authority and the Parole Board and only ended his membership of the board of Renewal SA less than two years ago as he approached his mid-70s. His busy professional life also included being a lecturer in taxation law at the Adelaide and Panorama institutes of TAFE in their accountancy courses and, more recently, a consultant to the corporate and commercial team at Camatta Lempens law firm.

We thank Terry for his long life of public service and professional service and express our sincere condolences following his passing to his wife, Kay, and their children Anthony, Tristram and Zoe.

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06): I rise to second the motion from the Premier and to honour the very substantial and significant contribution to the people of South Australia through the life of the late Terry Groom. Terry passed away suddenly last week, aged 76. On behalf of the parliamentary Labor Party, I would like to extend my sympathies to his immediate and extended family. They deserve to feel very proud of Terry's contribution to this state.

Terence Robert Groom will be remembered as a hardworking and devoted member of parliament who represented the interests of the people of Morphett and Hartley with diligence and integrity. Terry first ran for parliament in 1975 in the seat of Hanson and was defeated by a highly respected member of this place, Mr Heini Becker. He did not have to wait too long, though, before he had another shot at entering into state parliament when Premier Don Dunstan called an election in September 1977.

In the 1977 state election, Terry contested the newly created seat of Morphett and, as the Premier articulated, that result was incredibly close, coming down to just 112 votes. You do not win a seat the nature of Morphett by 112 votes unless you work incredibly hard. It was always going to be a difficult seat to hold and in the 1979 election Labor was facing the challenge of having won the

past four elections and Don Dunstan had resigned earlier that year, not to mention the fact that of course Terry had such a slim margin.

As a result, Labor lost the 1979 election and lost the seat of Morphett with it. As yet, no doubt much to the relief of the current member, we have not yet been able to hold it since. To date, of course, Terry is the only Labor member to have held the seat of Morphett. That loss could not deter someone of Terry's nature, and in 1982 he ran for the seat of Hartley after the retirement of Des Corcoran. He went on to win that seat with a very impressive margin of 10 per cent. He was elected again in 1985, increasing his margin, and re-elected again in 1989.

During his significant 13-year career, Terry held a number of significant positions, including Chairperson of the Economic and Finance Committee and also a member of the Public Accounts Committee, and the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation. Following the 1991 redistribution, the seat of Hartley was made unwinnable in the lead-up to the 1993 state election, and Terry sought preselection for the seat of Napier. He was unsuccessful in that preselection and decided to leave the Labor Party.

While Terry could have retired from politics in 1991, which would have resulted in a by-election that almost certainly would have brought down a Labor government, it was something that he was not prepared to do. While Terry had left the Labor Party, it is also true that he never left the Labor cause. Terry always remained loyal to the cause of Labor and working men and women. In 1992, Premier Lynn Arnold appointed Terry as Minister for Primary Industries and Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs in that government.

Terry thrived in those portfolios, and after the 1993 state election he later said that these were the best two years of his political life. In that election, Terry unsuccessfully contested the seat of Napier as a Labor candidate, but while he served as an Independent between 1991 and 1993 and ran as an Independent in that election, Terry returned to the Labor family formally in the year 2000, and over the years he has provided valuable advice and support to premiers of this state, to ministers of this state and to countless MPs.

Former Premier Jay Weatherill, whose presence I acknowledge today, says that Terry was his mentor and certainly gave him the opportunity of his first job. In 2006, his advice and support were also given to Grace Portolesi, which undoubtedly helped Grace win that seat for Labor, and I, too, would like to acknowledge Grace being here today.

His continued support to Hartley campaigns continued right up until the most recent state election. That was on the back of Terry's profound connection with the Italian community, and that was demonstrated in a number of ways, including learning to speak Italian, and he was much loved by that community. He continued to attend Italian events well after he left parliament, and I certainly witnessed that myself. Terry loved the Italian people of South Australia. In paying tribute to Terry Groom, former Premier Mike Rann said that Terry was a tireless worker for and a strong friend of Adelaide's Italian community.

Terence Robert Groom was born in Adelaide on 28 November 1944. Before and after his parliamentary career, he had a varied working life, including practising law. He was admitted as a lawyer in 1972. He held a Master of Laws in corporate and commercial law, had an associate diploma in accounting and was a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants. He was a lecturer in taxation law at the Adelaide and Panorama institutes of TAFE in their accounting course. He served as a board member of the Repatriation Hospital, the Roseworthy Agricultural College Council, the Flinders University Council, the Motor Accident Commission and the Environment Protection Authority, and became the deputy presiding member of the Parole Board and Renewal SA.

A glimpse of Terry's first speech in 1977 showed him to be thoughtful and conscientious. The issues he raised in that speech were close to his heart and many of them are still relevant today. He spoke proudly about the Dunstan Labor government's unparalleled era of social progress and reform. He also spoke passionately about physical education and the quantity and quality of physical education programs offered to children in our schools. Healthy eating and encouraging greater participation in sport and recreation programs were passions for Terry.

After his 1993 election loss he spoke to then *Advertiser* journalist David Penberthy saying, 'This win is enough for the Liberals to win another four years, another four years and another four years after that.' I suspect he was not the only person to think that, and I think the few Labor MPs we

had and many Labor members thought the same thing. Thankfully, this is one prediction that Terry had that did not entirely come true.

Terry's family can feel very proud of the many decades he worked to carry out the work of others in the name of others. Terry was committed to serving the community and was passionate about the issues that were important to South Australians. He was a man who stood firm to his beliefs and his conscience, and pursued whatever he believed was in the best interests of the state. Former Premier Mike Rann said that Terry's sense of mischief and humour lit up the corridors of parliament.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Terry's family, some of whom have joined us in the gallery today: to Kay, his partner, to his children, Anthony and Zoe, who are with us here today, his son Tristram from the United States, to Wayne his brother, who is also in the gallery, and to all his extended family, friends and former colleagues. Our thoughts are with them at this time.

It is fair to say that any person who has a familiarity with the machinations of politics in any major political party would well understand that getting preselected is a difficult task, but getting preselected after an election loss is almost unheard of. Terry, of course, managed to achieve that. Although I cannot attest to knowing Terry well personally, I did get a flavour of his passion, commitment and drive in the time that I have been leader.

Terry's advocacy in and around prominent issues of public policy throughout the course of calendar year 2019 was certainly of great benefit to me. His depth of knowledge in terms of taxation policy, mixed with the law, and the impact that would have on migrant communities in South Australia was instrumental in our arriving at some of the positions that we have recently.

Terry's extraordinary persuasiveness in numerous phone calls I had with him over the last couple of years made it feel like he was reaching out from the other end of the phone begging me to arrive at his point of view. That infectious persuasiveness was done with sincerity and was backed up by knowledge. It demonstrated to me how effective he could be at pursuing a career in this place which led to him having those multiple preselections in an unorthodox set of circumstances, going from the seat of Morphett to the seat of Hartley, as the Premier identified, and just narrowly missing out on preselection for the seat of Napier.

Terry's contribution will last for a long time through the legacy of the work and the mentorship that he provided other MPs. I mentioned Grace earlier and Jay Weatherill. To his family, you have every reason to be incredibly proud of Terry's contribution. We are very grateful to have you here today and we wish you all the very best in the coming months. Certainly, on this side of the house, we desperately hope that Terry lives on and rests in peace.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Hartley and the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, I wish to acknowledge also in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon Amanda Wilson, Mayor of the City of Holdfast Bay. Welcome to this place.

Condolence

GROOM, MR T.R.

Condolence motion resumed.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:17): I also rise today to pay tribute to a predecessor of mine in the seat of Hartley, Terence Robert Groom, better known as Terry. I first met Terry while I did my GDLP placement at Camatta Lempens in about 2009. I acknowledge many of the lawyers who spent a fair bit of time at that particular firm where I certainly learnt a lot. I really enjoyed Terry's company during my time there.

Although on the opposite side to me, I always found Terry to be charming, charismatic, extremely hardworking and as sharp as a tack. Initially, as we have heard, he won the seat of Morphett in the western suburbs for a term ranging from 1977 to 1979, but he lost it when the Tonkin Liberal government came to power in 1979. He was then nominated for and won the seat of Hartley

at the 1982 state election, as we have heard, which he then held for 11 years. I acknowledge in the gallery today former members for Hartley Grace Portolesi and Joe Scalzi, and also current Hartley resident former Labor MLC Mario Feleppa, who I know was a dear friend of his.

Terry remained the Labor member before moving to the crossbench as an Independent after losing his preselection attempt to switch seats. He served as primary industries minister and Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs in the early 1990s from the crossbench. I remember seeing Terry at many Italian events in the seat of Hartley, and many Italian people would refer to Terry and their long friendship with him over an extended period of time.

After politics, he continued with law firm Camatta Lempens and, after rejoining the Labor Party, assisted Grace in her campaigns in Hartley. He was certainly a great asset to the Australian Labor Party. Like everyone, I was very saddened to hear of his passing last week and I, too, would like to pass on my sincere condolences to Kay and his three adult children, as well to his extended family, and also to my predecessor, Grace Portolesi, who I know has lost a dear friend and mentor. He will be sorely missed.

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): I did not know Terry Groom very well, but I did know him, and I think that is a mark of the continued engagement Terry chose to have with my generation of Labor members of the party and, most particularly, Labor members of parliament. Having had a good career in politics, and having left well before I came in, he nonetheless was very much a present personality and intellect in our party. He was present, he was helpful and he was engaged.

As has been said, I know that he was of particular use and extended very strong friendship to Grace Portolesi and to Jay Weatherill. I also know that he was a very dear friend of Mario Feleppa, who was the first person I worked for in parliament back in 1995 and through whom I first met Terry Groom. All three of you have my very dear and great sympathy alongside Terry's family.

The fact that Terry chose to remain engaged I think is a mark of his motivations for being in politics in the first place and his motivation to do right by the labour movement and by his community, which very much came to be the Italian-Australian community. Both the labour movement and the Italian community are good people to work for and to represent, and he did that well and he did not stop doing that long after he left parliament. I am very sorry that he has passed away, and I extend all my sympathy to those who will miss him very greatly. Vale, Terry.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:21): I am going to deeply miss Terry Groom in the community in the eastern suburbs, which he served as the member for Hartley. The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy leader have said he served it with distinction and particularly with a level of engagement long after the end of his parliamentary service, and I think that is testimony to the authenticity of that service. The member for Hartley, the Minister for Police, described him just then as 'charming, charismatic, extremely hardworking and sharp as a tack', and I thought that was an excellent way to summarise him.

I engaged with Terry on a number of occasions from 2008, when I became candidate for Morialta. Of course, the suburbs of Newton, Rostrevor and Athelstone are rich with the diverse Italian community particularly in its multicultural make-up as are the suburbs of Paradise, Campbelltown and Hectorville in particular, which have potentially up to 30 per cent of households where a language other than English is being spoken at home—certainly in the period when Terry was representing those areas and the first generation of Italians were bringing up their children.

The significant connection that was necessary for somebody to run for a seat like Hartley to have with that Italian community was tremendously important. Terry Groom, as was said, learnt how to speak fluent Italian. The former member for Hartley Joe Scalzi reflected to me that when he first met Terry (who he would then run against at the 1989 election), it was at Joe's uncle's house, not in Hectorville or Paradise but in Zoli in Campania, Italy, where Terry was visiting and Joe met him.

Subsequently, Joe ran against him at the 1989 election—it was no reflection on that meeting, I understand—and Joe of course was representing the Liberal Party. He described it as a robust campaign, one in which Terry was successful. But after the campaign Terry invited Joe and his family to Terry's house to share a pizza and a chat. Indeed, I understand that after the 1993 election, when Terry did not run for Hartley but Joe became the new member for Hartley, Terry continued to engage with his constituents and put many in touch with Joe as their new local MP to provide assistance.

The significant Italian community in the seat, and indeed the broader community in the seat of Hartley, continued to have Terry's interest. In support of Grace and the Labor Party, he continued to attend multicultural events, including the Montevergine Festa, the San Giorgio La Molara Festa, the San Pellegrino Festa and others. Members who regularly attend these festas, the processions and the masses—the Premier, the member for Hartley, myself and others—would regularly see Terry at these events. He was incredibly engaging and would always have interesting sage life advice—never political advice—because he was there in support usually of Grace or other Labor candidates or members. He would take the time to get to know us and give us advice.

It was only more recently I realised—and I think the Leader of the Opposition described his tremendous sense of mischief—that it was of course the natural thing for him to do at the lunch, after the San Giorgio La Molara Festa, to spend three-quarters of an hour talking to me as the new Liberal candidate while his friend Grace was off talking to everybody in the room and winning votes for her side. Thankfully, I caught on eventually!

He had a passion for his community, for politics, eventually again for the Australian Labor Party—although particularly I think for certain people in the Australian Labor Party—for business and the law, for the State of South Australia, for education and, can I say, as I understand it, most of all for his family by whom he will be dearly missed and frankly by everybody who knew him. Vale.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:25): On election night in 1993 there was a live cross to Frank Blevins in Whyalla and the ABC journalist at the time (I think David Bevan) might have said, 'Deputy Premier, Treasurer, this is a disaster.' He said, 'What are you talking about? We won 10 seats. This is a great victory,' because in 1993 the tide had gone out on Labor and we were looking at widespread devastation, Western Australian style devastation.

Terry Groom was right to contest the seat of Napier because people like Terry Groom needed to be in the parliament for the survival of Labor as a political force. We were also right to put up Annette Hurley, but such was the movement against Labor that we could not keep all the good people we needed to in the parliament and some just had to go. Terry Groom was never bitter—never. He could have been. He could rightly have been bitter, but he never was.

He put his shoulder to the wheel again, always keeping his values in place, working towards the cause that he had always believed in. He stuck true to himself. Labor might have moved left or right but Terry stayed true. When we needed him, he was there. When we had a Premier who needed his advice, he was there. When we had a candidate who needed his help, he was there. He was always there to help a movement, a movement that he believed in. Whether he was in it, alongside it, watching it or participating in it, he was in the contest and he was in the contest for the right reasons: because of the values he held.

I was part of that campaign in Napier, along with the member for Playford, trying to get Annette Hurley elected. I remember receiving the first polling back showing the Liberals coming first in Napier, Terry Groom coming second and the Labor Party coming last. I cannot tell you the shockwave that that sent through the SDA at the time when we only had two members of parliament in the house, one who was facing a loss in the seat of Mitchell (Paul Holloway) and Michael Atkinson in the seat of Spence. We desperately needed to keep representation in the parliament because we were looking at holding only three or four seats in 1993 and, as Frank Blevins said, we were able to hold 10, which was a great victory.

It would have been good for Terry to have continued on in the parliament after 1993, to be completely frank, because we needed his sage wisdom, his advice and his tactical brain, but unfortunately there were not enough places—there just were not—and we had to fight for survival. I do not want to talk about his career because his career speaks for itself and, quite frankly, winning the seat of Morphett is enough to enshrine him in Labor history forever because Morphett is, unfortunately, a safe Liberal seat and, despite the current member, will remain a safe Liberal seat.

An honourable member: Outrageous!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I know; it is outrageous. However, his greatest contribution to the movement has been his advice behind the scenes. I cannot tell you the value that elder statesmen have in our movement—the sage advice, the tapping on the shoulder, the corporate memory, the knowledge they pass on from generation to generation, not for a fee, not for influence,

but for love, for love of the movement, to make sure that we continue, that we carry on, that the flame that was sparked so long ago never goes out.

Terry, along with the people who are in this room today to celebrate his life, wanted to see that movement continue ongoing for those who cannot speak for themselves, for those who rely on us and who do not realise the work that is done on their behalf to fight for better wages and conditions and for laws that protect equity and fairness. That is why he was in the labour movement. That is why he fought for Labor candidates. That is why he fought for Grace. That is why he supported Premier Weatherill. That is why he supported us for so long.

Even after we could not find a place for him in the parliament, he stuck by us. He remained true. You can tell his calibre by the people who are here today to honour his memory—political friends and political foes. I think that is a great tribute to the man and his career. God rest Terry Groom, comfort those who loved him and have comfort in the knowledge that he made this state a better place and cared for those who could not speak for themselves.

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:30):

I also take the opportunity to speak on the sad occasion of the passing of a former member for Morphett, Terry Groom; in fact, he was the first member for Morphett, holding the seat back in 1977 through to 1979. Of course, the seat then was quite similar to what it is now, taking in the suburbs of Camden Park, Glenelg North, Glenelg East, Glengowrie, part of Morphettville west of Sturt Creek and a small part of Oaklands Park.

Ultimately, as has been said, Terry lost that seat in 1979 to the Hon. John Oswald. He then went on to represent the electorate of Hartley from 1982 until 1993. During that time, he served as Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs as well as Minister for Primary Industries. Additionally, Terry served as Chairperson of the Economic and Finance Committee and also served on the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Public Accounts Committee. He certainly was dedicated to his community both in Morphett and Hartley and, as we have heard, he taught himself Italian in order to better connect with the constituents of Hartley.

He was also a notable lawyer in Adelaide society and represented members on both sides of this house and, as a result, was respected for his intellectual acumen. He was also a member of a number of boards in South Australia, including the Repatriation General Hospital, the Motor Accident Commission, the Environment Protection Authority, the Parole Board and Renewal SA. Terry was also a close friend of the current Mayor of Holdfast Bay, Amanda Wilson, who is here today and who described Terry as 'fiercely intelligent, with an incredible memory, lighting up the room whenever he walked in, with a great sense of humour, sometimes a little bit Benny Hill but always professional'.

I would like to thank Terry for his life of service and note that he is survived by his partner, Kay, and his three children: Anthony, who is also a lawyer in Adelaide; Tristram, who is living in New Orleans in the US; and Zoe. I pass on my condolences to his family and friends. Vale.

The SPEAKER: Members, please rise so that the motion can be carried in the customary manner.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

Sitting suspended from 14.34 to 14.44

Petitions

BRIGHTON ROAD

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens): Presented a petition signed by 115 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.

GLENELG POLICE STATION

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Minister for Trade and Investment): Presented a petition signed by 1,786 residents and visitors to the City of Holdfast Bay requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate action to increase the operating hours of the Glenelg Police Station and increase police presence in Glenelg during the summer months.

SOUTHERN WASTE RESOURCECO

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson): Presented a petition signed by 129 residents of McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat, Aldinga and greater South Australia requesting the house to 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 be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call for presentation of papers, notices of motion and ministerial statements, I acknowledge the presence earlier this afternoon in the Speaker's gallery of Mayor Erika Vickery of Naracoorte Lucindale Council and Mayor Kay Rasheed of Kingston District Council, guests of the Premier and of the member for MacKillop.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Minutes of the Assembly of Members of the two houses for the election of a member to fill a vacancy in the Legislative Council caused by the resignation of the Hon. Mark Charles Parnell

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Remuneration Tribunal—

No. 4 of 2021—Auditor-General, Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner—Determination

No. 4 of 2021—Review of the Remuneration of the Auditor-General, Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner—Report

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

Attorney-General's Department—Review of Undetermined Natural Causes of Death—section 29 of the Coroners Act 2003 (as amended by Coroners (Undetermined Natural Causes) Amendment Act 2020)

Equal Opportunity Commission, South Australian—Review of Harassment in the South Australian Legal Profession

Regulations made under the following Acts -

Legal Practitioners—Fee Notice—No. 3

Liquor Licensing—General—Emodka Prohibition

Retail and Commercial Leases—Prescribed Lessee

Spent Convictions—Decriminalised Offences

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

Regulation made under the following act—

Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance)—Plastic Spoon Exemption

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

Regulation made under the following act—

Firearms—Gel Blasters

*Ministerial Statement***COVID-19 INDIA**

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:47): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I rise today to talk about the human tragedy that is currently unfolding in India. As members are aware, the Australian government's National Security Committee has made the decision to temporarily suspend direct flights between India and Australia due to the unfolding COVID-19 situation. I understand that this difficult decision was made to protect Australians from the risks of contracting COVID-19 from people returning to Australia from India.

I know this decision is distressing for many South Australians who are experiencing delays in family reunions, and we are all hearing stories of vulnerable Australians wanting to return home. Unfortunately, the current surge in COVID-19 cases and related deaths in India have reached unprecedented levels since the pandemic began some 18 months ago.

The situation has brought India to a crisis point, with potentially devastating impacts and serious ramifications for the global fight against this insidious disease. In recent weeks, we have watched and listened to reports of overcrowded hospitals, overwhelmed doctors and nurses, as well as oxygen supplies and other medical supplies diminishing to dangerously low levels.

Sadly, we have also learned that countries adjoining India and others in the subcontinent are also experiencing surges in COVID cases. India's health system is experiencing significant challenges. For the Indian community in South Australia, these tragic events have been deeply upsetting and personal. Some have lost relatives, friends and loved ones, while others are anxious about the health, safety and wellbeing of family.

On behalf of the government of South Australia, I offer our heartfelt sympathies and sincere condolences to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people of the Republic of India and our friends in South Australia's Indian diaspora.

During the pandemic, local Indian leaders and their respective organisations have displayed outstanding resilience and provided leadership within their own community and in the wider community. They have played a critical role in sharing COVID-related information to their members at the grassroots to help ensure our state remains safe and strong. I thank them for their continuing efforts and their willingness to partner with the government.

In that same spirit of partnership and collaboration, I take pride in saying that the government of South Australia stands shoulder to shoulder with the Indian community during this incredibly difficult time and is ready to provide support, assistance and advocacy where appropriate. My department is working with SA Health to see how we can best support efforts to address the crisis in India.

We are looking at our stocks and supplies of oxygen consumables and of PPE to identify suitable products that we can donate, and we are talking to the Australian government to work out the most efficient way to get them there. I am also pleased that the Australian government will be sending an initial humanitarian support package to India. This package includes 500 ventilators and other medical supplies, such as masks, goggles, gloves and face shields, with more aid to follow.

The events in India are a sobering reminder of the human suffering this pandemic can cause and is causing. To date, Australia, and in particular South Australia, has remained safe and strong. However, as I have stated many times, this pandemic is far from being over. I call on all South Australians to remain vigilant in their own daily lives and get vaccinated when the opportunity arises.

Finally, I want to assure the Indian community that the South Australian government is closely monitoring the situation in India and will continue to support the Indian community during this sad and troubling time.

REVIEW OF HARASSMENT IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LEGAL PROFESSION

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (14:52): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: I rise today to table the report of the Review of Harassment in the South Australian Legal Profession and to inform the house about the important action the government has already taken and will continue to take to ensure legal work practices are safe and free from bullying and harassment.

In response to a motion passed by the South Australian Legislative Council on 14 October 2020, Acting Commissioner Steph Halliday presented the report on the Review of Harassment in the South Australian Legal Profession to me on 9 April 2021. The findings of the report highlighted the prevalence of sexual and discriminatory harassment in the legal profession, finding that 42 per cent of survey respondents reported they had experienced sexual or discriminatory harassment. Of this 42 per cent who experienced harassment, one-third experienced it more than once and 43 per cent of survey respondents reported having experienced offensive comments or jokes made about a personal attribute protected by the Equal Opportunity Act.

The report further identified features exacerbating workplace harassment in the legal profession, specifically:

- a patriarchal and hierarchical culture characterised by intense competition
- a lack of cultural diversity...
- deeply entrenched gender bias that underpins discriminatory behaviour
- a 'culture of silence' whereby instances of harassment are minimised, normalised and kept quiet.

None of this is acceptable and we will be taking action. The report made several recommendations which this government is currently considering, primarily relating to legislative reform, workplace policies and education.

In accordance with recommendation 15, I have made the report publicly available and distributed it to key legal stakeholders identified. Further, I wrote to the South Australian Employment Tribunal and the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, as well as to heads of jurisdiction, to ensure the important information in the report was widely disseminated amongst the judiciary. While the recommendations set out in the report will require significant consideration, I am pleased to announce that work has already commenced.

Recommendation 2 asks all persons conducting a business or undertaking of a legal nature to review and, where necessary, update their policies, procedures and processes to address the risk of harm arising from sexual and discriminatory harassment. Accordingly, I have written to the Crown Solicitor, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of the Legal Services Commission seeking formal feedback on a proposal making it a condition that externally engaged legal practitioners have undertaken the work recommended by the acting commissioner in recommendation 2. All three have verbally indicated their support for this measure; in other words, if you have not signed up, you will not get the brief.

Given these bodies brief out a significant amount of legal work, it will make an important difference in shifting cultural attitudes. In support of this, I have requested the Law Society and Bar Association to consider supporting the implementation of recommendation 2 by developing a suite of model policies and procedures that can be used by legal workplaces. I am aware that the Law Society will be commencing their own CPD mandatory training to cover this area in July this year and I commend them for doing so.

I have additionally written to SafeWork SA; the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner, Mr Greg May; and the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity about recommendation 13, seeking their support to enter into an agreement that would allow these officers to share information relating to reports, complaints and other information about harassment by a member of the legal profession.

The recommendations relating to legislative reform are the subject of advice from my department and I will respond to those in due course.

As the largest employer of lawyers in the state—that is, the Attorney-General's Department—it is important that this department lead by example. I confirm that the Attorney-General's Department is working towards reaccreditation as a White Ribbon workplace and, as part of this process:

- has reviewed our HR policies in line with recommendation 2;
- continues to implement its Gender Equality and Respect Action Plans consistent with the Our Watch standards in line with recommendation 1;
- is ensuring our leadership programs and opportunities are accessible and are accessed by women; and
- is reporting on workplace equality and respect activities in our annual report.

I can confirm that the chief executive, Ms Caroline Mealor, is already working with other departments to ensure that that standard is reached in other private agencies, such as the Law Society.

Within the last six months, 100 per cent of the department's executive leadership group and 80 per cent of managers have undertaken online White Ribbon and domestic violence awareness training. I have requested that the Crown Solicitor's office and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions implement recommendation 4 relating to internal continuing professional development (CPD) programs.

I also advise the house that funding arrangements entered into with the community legal centres under the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25 include respectful behaviour clauses that confirm the department's zero tolerance towards men's violence against women in the workplace and the broader community.

In respect of the courts, I have recently met with the Chief Justice to discuss the report and the courts' commitment to address the issue of bullying and sexual harassment in the legal profession, with the development of practical solutions such as compulsory CPD on harassment for this year onwards. A presentation I will shortly be attending, as I have indicated, will commence in July. I am also advised that the Courts Administration Authority is developing a range of broader measures to improve workplace behaviour and complaints processes within the courts.

I look forward to formally updating the house in due course regarding the government's response to Acting Commissioner Halliday's recommendations and I now table the Review of Harassment in the South Australian Legal Profession, dated April 2021.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (14:59): I seek leave to make a further ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Have you got copies of it?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: South Australia was shocked and mortified by the tragic death of baby Kobi Shepherdson at the Whispering Wall. That same week, the burned body of young mother, Kelly Wilkinson, was found in her Gold Coast backyard. These crimes scandalised the country and once again forced Australians to think about respect for women and the importance we place on women's safety in the community. As legislators and public leaders more broadly, we can say: not one more.

I rise today to inform the house not only about what this government has already done but, most importantly, what this government continues to do and will do to address domestic and family violence. Let me start with the legislative reform. We have already introduced several legislative reforms aimed to prevent DV and strengthen penalties against perpetrators. The Statutes Amendment (Domestic Violence) Act 2018 came into effect in 2019 and made a number of

amendments to prevent and punish domestic and family violence and abuse. This included an expanded definition of 'abuse' and increased penalties for repeated or violent breaches of intervention orders.

The impact of these reforms was immediate. The number of charges for intervention order breaches reduced by 13 per cent in the first 12 months of operation of the new laws. Between 31 January 2019 and 30 January 2020, 44 per cent of defendants whose most serious charge was a second or subsequent breach of an intervention order received a custodial penalty.

This act also made two other important changes to the law. Firstly, it allowed police-recorded interviews with victims to be admissible evidence in court and introduced a standalone criminal offence of non-fatal strangulation. There is an increased recognition of non-fatal strangulation as a precursor to homicide and an increased awareness of this behaviour, with recorded strangulation charges, whether proven or not, disclosable under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

The government introduced amendments to the Sentencing Act 2017 to lower the available discount for various serious offences against a person, including those who are often experienced in a domestic violence situation. These amendments ensure the penalty given to perpetrators of domestic and family violence reflects the seriousness of their crime. We also amended the Victims of Crime Act 2001 to remove the requirement for all victims, including victims of domestic and family violence, to have any contact with the perpetrator when accessing compensation.

Finally, the government's legislation abolishing the defence of provocation contained family violence-specific provisions to ensure that evidence of family violence and the circumstances surrounding it can be taken into account both at trial, particularly in the context of self-defence and duress defences, and in sentencing.

In terms of administrative measures and programs, we have briefly outlined just this week a \$200,000 commitment that was made to the Women's and Children's Health Network to deliver an early intervention program, providing one-to-one intensive engagement and support to young people aged between 12 and 25 years who are pregnant or parenting and who perpetrate or have experienced domestic and family violence. The program aims to reduce the risk of children being exposed to domestic and family violence and, crucially, to lessen the risk of intergenerational transmission of violence.

In October 2018, the Marshall government also commenced a long overdue statewide trial of a domestic violence disclosure scheme. The scheme allows a person at risk of domestic and family violence to seek information from South Australia Police about a current or former partner's violent offending history, enabling them to make informed decisions about their relationship.

The scheme provides for a specialist domestic violence support worker to be present at all disclosures, regardless of whether the information is disclosed or not. All disclosures are conducted face to face to ensure that the person is provided with appropriate levels of support and safety planning. Disclosures are fast-tracked where the applicant is assessed to be at a high risk.

As at March 2021, 774 applications have been received, with more than 538 meeting the criteria for disclosure. Of the applications made, 492 related to a person with children in their care. As the member for Elder has said, this vital measure is not only protecting and supporting women, it is also protecting their children from potential harm and abuse.

The government has also implemented our election promise to keep victims of domestic violence informed about their perpetrator's custody status and parole conditions. We have funded the Department for Correctional Services to proactively provide this information to high-risk victims of domestic and family violence. This vitally important measure, which will be fully operational by 1 July this year, will also ensure that victims are supported to undertake safety planning for themselves and their children.

Along with the development and implementation of the new measures, we have improved some others: 802 victims of crime have received counselling through the Relationships Australia South Australia's Rebuild program since the program's inception in July last year. Of the 802 clients, 20 per cent have received counselling in relation to domestic and family violence.

We have also allocated an additional \$250,000 to the Office of the Commissioner for Victims' Rights. This funding has allowed the commissioner to take on additional responsibilities, including providing measures to support victims throughout the court process and to ensure that victims have adequate support to prepare victim impact statements.

We have continued to provide funds to the Department of Human Services and the Office for Women to deliver the Family Safety Framework, which basically is information sharing and safety planning for high-risk victims of DV. We have also extended the Domestic Violence and Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway Service, which now operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, because we all know that DV does not happen just between nine and five.

We have also continued to fund the services and given certainty in funding to Yarrow Place, the sexual assault and rape victim support service. Instead of it being 12-monthly funding, it now enjoys provision of specialist counselling and health funding to deal with rape and sexual assault.

In 2019, after an open tender process, the Legal Services Commission was selected to deliver the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service. Accordingly, this service continues. It provides support to women victims of domestic family violence by assisting women in navigating the court system, including helping women to apply for intervention orders and ending lease agreements. The service operates on a statewide basis at no cost to clients, and will receive over \$2 million in funding between July 2019 and 30 July 2023.

Since its inception, this service has supported 1,376 women, successfully obtained 51 final intervention orders for the benefit of the service's clients and is currently working on a further 40 matters in which interim intervention orders have been granted.

It is also important to understand that all these measures are funded via the Victims of Crime Fund. Despite statements to the contrary, payments from the Victims of Crime Fund have increased significantly under this government. Compensation payments for victims have increased from \$13.3 million in 2016-17 to \$19.9 million in 2019-20, and total payments have increased from \$25.7 million in 2016-17 to \$35 million in 2019-20. This is what the fund is for, and I advise the house that 4 per cent of total payments went to victims of domestic violence.

This government has also worked with the commonwealth to fund legal aid assistance, and in 2020 we negotiated a new National Legal Assistance Partnership, which now provides South Australia with \$149 million in funding over five years, and of that amount community legal centres are allocated \$7.2 million to provide legal assistance services directly to family law and family violence matters.

Under that partnership agreement, we have also secured commonwealth funding to maintain domestic violence units in the northern and southern suburbs, which are specialist legal and social support services run by the Legal Services Commission and Women's Legal Service (SA).

The Legal Services Commission Domestic Violence Unit is combined with a Health Justice Partnership at the Lyell McEwin Hospital which provides education and training for medical professionals to identify and assist victims of domestic violence who present at healthcare facilities. Last year, we worked with the commonwealth to deliver additional COVID-19 legal assistance funding to the Legal Services Commission, the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and the community legal centres.

Why? We needed to ensure that we addressed and anticipated an increase in demand for advice and representation regarding family violence as a consequence of the pandemic. We were right and it has been applied. What next? I have instructed my department to commence exploratory work on a number of potential reforms, including an expansion of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme to mandate proactive disclosures to those deemed to be at risk of domestic and family violence. I commend the police. I am aware that SAPOL in an informal way has already acted on some of these occasions.

Consideration is also being given to further amendments to the South Australian intervention order scheme. Why? Because we want to investigate the possibility of the current act—that is, the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009—allowing for intervention orders to include supervision and reporting requirements. We are also exploring the development of a domestic violence offenders register with a requirement for perpetrators to disclose this in certain circumstances. These reforms would be the first of their kind in Australia.

Furthermore, I have written to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Commissioner of Police seeking their views formally on the policy in the Australian Capital Territory to proceed with a prosecution, even when a victim has asked to withdraw the victim's statement to police, and the Safe at Home Tasmanian scheme, which includes a pro-arrest pro-prosecution policy to address domestic and family violence.

Again, I think it is appropriate that I confirm I think South Australia Police should be commended. I think they have already established a pro-arrest action in this regard but we have to deal with that nuggetty issue of pro-prosecution. We are also working with the commonwealth to ensure that their family law act amendments to enable for federal family violence orders both prevail and are introduced. Finally, we are awaiting the outcome of the New South Wales Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control which will deliver its report on 30 June this year.

We are committed as a government to considering and investigating every possible initiative which will reduce the prevalence of domestic and family violence in this state. Tomorrow morning until 11.30am there is a women's safety meeting comprising all attorneys-general across the country, ministers for women and the police ministers regarding intervention order reform and the next step. I flag publicly that I have sought a pair from the opposition and I certainly hope to receive favourable consideration of that to ensure that we are at the table.

I wish to thank the newly minted federal Minister for Women's Safety, Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston, for convening this important meeting. I look forward to updating the house in due course about what action is taken to reduce domestic violence to realise not one more. All these initiatives are on the table. Every initiative that comes forward to us that we think is meritorious of presenting, we will present. If we are the first in the country, great. If there are other jurisdictions that have other proposals, we will listen carefully to them and I will report to the parliament in due course.

Question Time

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:14): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise how many times Adelaide public hospitals have been placed on Code Yellow over the past six months? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: This morning on ABC radio, Dr Mark Morphet, who is the Chair of the South Australian Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, said in response to a question about how many times Adelaide hospitals have been placed on Code Yellow in the past six or 12 months, and I quote:

...in the past six to 12 months we've been in Code Yellow more than I've ever known. I hesitate to say weekly, but it must be getting close to that...prior to...the beginning of last year...it was unheard of and now it's relatively a regular occurrence.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:15): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I don't have the exact detail that he requires—it's quite a specific question—but I'm happy to make inquiries with regard to that. I think we have been very clear that the current level is completely unacceptable. We are experiencing quite a significant surge at the moment, and this is actually commonplace around the entire country. South Australia is not the only jurisdiction that is currently experiencing a very much higher presentation rate within emergency departments and within hospitals.

Different jurisdictions have their theories on why it is higher. Some people are saying that because the focus on our primary health care at the moment is on vaccination this could be driving more people to emergency departments. Some people say it's because last year we had a lower level of presentation, and chronic diseases and chronic illnesses weren't being addressed as promptly and so this is causing a lag effect. Whatever the case is, the current levels are higher than we have experienced. Also, the delays that people are receiving are unacceptable.

What we are doing as the new government is very significantly investing in our health services at the moment. We are unwinding the mess that we inherited, which was Transforming Health. We are very significantly investing in the health budget. In fact, we have reinvested more

than \$2.2 billion of new money into the budget since we came to government just three years ago. In addition to that, we are very significantly upgrading the facilities right across South Australia. We are putting more doctors, more nurses, more beds—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —into our system, more ambulance officers, trying to unwind the mess. Those opposite, as you would be more than aware, sir, were downgrading hospitals right across South Australia. In fact, they closed the Repatriation Hospital and they left South Australia in a very vulnerable position. We know who the health minister was at the time that that government came to a conclusion, and we know who was responsible for the situation that we currently have at the moment.

I give this house my assurance that we are working extraordinarily hard to look at a range of ways that we can expand our capacity, whether that be an expansion to our emergency department beds. We see that at the moment down at the Flinders Medical Centre, which is of course the busiest emergency department in South Australia; very soon it will be the largest emergency department in South Australia. We are expanding the capacity out at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, at the Modbury Hospital and we are building a brand-new emergency department at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

As you would be aware, sir, the Repat hospital closed under the previous minister, the previous government, is now a growing and thriving genuine health precinct for our entire state. We are very proud of the work that is being done, but there is much more work to be done going forward. In particular, we are seeing a very elevated level of mental health presentation at the moment. This is one of the reasons why on coming into government we put a high priority on developing a new mental health strategy for our state.

Those opposite should hang their heads in shame. When we came to government there hadn't been a mental health strategy in South Australia since 2013. Since that time, we have put that strategy in place. We have resourced the development of various facilities—

Members interjecting:

Mr MALINAUSKAS: —across South Australia. Of course, we continue to do that going forward, and I look forward to receiving further investment in the upcoming budget.

Those opposite continue to shout, 'Why isn't further progress being made?' As I stated at the beginning of my contribution, we are seeing elevated levels across South Australia—in fact, we are seeing elevated levels across the country—and we are working as hard as we possibly can to address this.

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

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:19): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier take any responsibility for the fact that life-threatening priority 1 cases are now at risk of having no ambulance available to respond? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: The Ambulance Employees Association have reported that on Sunday a life-threatening priority 1 case involving a 10-year-old child had no local ambulance available to respond. It took 23 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. As a priority 1 case, an ambulance should have arrived within 8 minutes rather than the 23 minutes it took.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:20): I do have a contribution to make on this because I know that the Ambulance Employees Association made several claims on radio this morning. There was a patient who was triaged as a priority 1 patient and an ambulance and a solo extended care paramedic were immediately—immediately—dispatched. The extended paramedic arrived, with the patient in a difficult location in a conservation park, within 10 minutes of the call to the South Australian Ambulance Service. Extended care paramedics are highly trained intensive care paramedics who play a key role in delivering life-saving treatment.

Since coming to government, we have very, very significantly increased the budget for the South Australian Ambulance Service over and above the budget that was in place when we came to government.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Very significantly increased the budget for the South Australian Ambulance Service since coming to government. In our first two years, we increased the number of ambulance officers in South Australia by 187.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Then, in addition to that, you would notice, sir, that in the current budget we provide for a further 76 ambulance officers in South Australia. I know those opposite claim that the sun rises and sets because of policies that they put in place when they were in government. They didn't actually hand down last year's budget. This is a further investment that we are making.

The South Australian ambulance officers in South Australia do an extremely, extremely good job. They have been provided with increased resources since we came to government—also an upgrade of their fleet, with 50 of the ambulances in South Australia being replaced since we came to government. We are negotiating with them and their representatives at the moment. Those negotiations are continuing and I hope that they can reach a conclusion soon.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, I call the leader to order.

NURSE REDUNDANCIES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:22): My question is to the Premier. Why has the Premier's government approved redundancies for frontline nurses in vital positions such as emergency departments across the health system? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: One hundred and twenty nursing positions have been made redundant by the government in the past two years, including emergency department nurses, intensive care nurses, cardiology nurses, general medicine nurses, cardiology and neurosurgery. The Auditor-General has confirmed that in the past 12 months there was a reduction in nurses overall across the health system of 112 nurses.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:23): I am not familiar with the statistics that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. He quite often looks at very narrow statistics and doesn't look at the broader picture. When I look at the number of nurses and medical staff in South Australia since the 2018 election, which it occurs to me was the last time that he was in government—in fact, he was the health minister. So, if we look—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —thank you, sir—and compare our position now to when the Leader of the Opposition was the health minister in South Australia, the Auditor-General's statistics are the ones that we need to look at. Since then—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I am not familiar with the narrow statistics that the Leader of the Opposition has provided to the house, but I am familiar with what the situation was since we came to government and that is confirmed by the Auditor-General: an extra 286 nurses and midwife jobs in South Australia and an additional 247 medical jobs. We are significantly addressing the capital requirements that are required both here and in metropolitan Adelaide and of course across country SA, with \$150 million being invested into urgent upgrades and maintenance which are required across the state. So whilst those opposite want to talk down our health system, while those opposite want to undermine public confidence—

Mr Brown: You're running it down, not talking it down.

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —in an excellent system here in South Australia, a health system which has actually supported South Australia during a global pandemic, a health system which, quite frankly, can stand up against any other health system in the world at the moment, while they want to talk that system down, we are backing it. We are backing it with additional resources: \$2.2 billion worth of new money since the Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Health—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —more than \$1 billion going into capital upgrades for hospitals right across the state. We appreciate that there is a surge going on at the moment. The system that we inherited when we came to government was not suitable—was not suitable—and those opposite know it. I thought I would read to the parliament a little extract from a book I have in my bedside reading. I thought it was really interesting; in fact, I think the member for Kaurna was the assistant to the former minister, and it was very interesting. I quote, sir:

During my term the Flinders ED was considerably refurbished and its capacity expanded. During this reconstruction I expressed the view that issues of ambulance-to-hospital transfers would be fixed once the development was completed. Unfortunately, the design (strongly influenced by ED clinicians) included a relatively small waiting space—forcing the de facto implementation of a policy to ramp patients in ambulances once the waiting room was full.

They are the words of the former health minister. We know his assistant, the member for Kaurna, was advising him at the time. We know that the person who followed after him was the Leader of the Opposition. They knew while they were in government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: They had created an emergency department that was not fit for purpose. I'm not going to complain about it—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —we are just going to get on and fix it. This is the busiest emergency department in the state. It's now being invested in by our government to make—

Dr Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the deputy leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —it the largest emergency department in this state. And whilst there is some inconvenience during that very, very significant expansion—

Mr Brown: Some inconvenience—people are dying!

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —once it's finished it will be a very good emergency department, supporting not only the people of the southern suburbs but of course it would take the pressure off those ambulances currently being diverted to the Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Elder, I call to order and warn the member for Chaffey. I warn for a second time the member for Playford. I call to order the member for Kaurana and the deputy leader. I call to order the Deputy Premier. I warn the member for Lee.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Mrs POWER (Elder) (15:27): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is working with the construction industry to create more jobs and deliver important projects?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:27): I thank the member for Elder for her question and her interest in jobs and growing jobs here in South Australia, especially in the construction industry. Mr Speaker, what I can tell you is that confidence is booming in the construction industry at the minute because of the Marshall government's investment and our infrastructure spend. I have mentioned the figure before, but just to refresh your memory: \$16.7 billion—\$16.7 billion—is our infrastructure spend over the next four years. That's in hospitals, it's in education, it's in social housing and in water infrastructure, but \$7.6 million is of course going into roads and transport infrastructure as well.

Those on the other side have never seen numbers this size. This is a significant investment, and what it's doing for South Australia is creating jobs, creating jobs at a particular time when COVID-19 is hitting hard, and it is providing—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —certainty for the industry. There are two ways we are working with industry: one is on the procurement side of things and the other—and I will talk about both—is on delivery. When we came to office, we had a look at the pipeline of works and what was in place, what the Labor government had left us, and there was nothing. There was nothing, and you know it.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: Get the smirk of your face—you know it. We spoke with key industry groups and they were appalled, appalled at what was sitting there and the fact that the Labor government had provided them with no certainty. Without certainty, they will not employ people.

So the construction companies had this issue: they didn't know how to keep their workforce going and they didn't know how to keep this pipeline happening, so we came along and we put this money in place. Of course, without that pipeline they can't hire, they can't have that certainty of work, so we sat down with the Civil Contractors Federation and other industry groups and we worked through this dialogue of how we could improve procurement for South Australia.

We held our usual industry briefings in about August, but had a number of other stakeholder conversations and discussions as well, so that we can keep construction companies confident and focused on that pipeline of work. After the procurement phase and having that conversation, we also worked with the construction industry on delivering. I have lost count of the number of sod turns we've done over the past few months—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —and they hate it. They hate it when we start projects. They loathe it over that side. I thought that would come. Here we are, delivering projects and delivering jobs—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —and those on the other side hate it. They don't want to hear about it. But let's talk about the Victor Harbor causeway, a great project; the Flagstaff Road—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —upgrade, another wonderful project; the Ovingham level crossing; and the Portrush-Magill upgrade. Just this morning, I was at the Springbank/Goodwood/Daws upgrade and that's progressing wonderfully well, creating jobs and decluttering our road network—and the Gawler line electrification as well. These projects are creating a thousand jobs.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: They hate it when we talk about jobs—it fascinates me—a thousand jobs from those projects alone and, of course, it's giving assurity to our construction companies. I was at Flagstaff Road too, it was great, and I spoke with a young engineer out of the University of Adelaide, a guy called Janson. He was so pumped to be having this project and knowing there's a pipeline of projects for his future and working here in South Australia. He couldn't get the smile off his face. That's all because of our government delivering a pipeline of work—

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Mawson!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —over the next four years, delivering, as opposed to that side of the house when they were in government, who talked and didn't deliver. We are delivering in the medium and long term and that means jobs, and that's what's important. Of course, we had the north-south corridor—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson is warned.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —\$8.9 billion. The early works on that project alone, some \$350 million, are creating jobs for the people of South Australia. But added to that, of course, we put \$10 million into planning studies, some 30 planning studies again to focus on that pipeline of works, so when we get more money from the federal government, we partner with them and we will have more projects to roll out. It is wonderful to be delivering these projects for South Australia. It is wonderful to be—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —creating jobs for South Australian people and building what matters.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Kurna, I warn the member for Mawson for a second time, I warn the member for Lee for a second time and I warn the leader. I remind all members that the member asking a question is entitled to be heard in silence, and members on my right and members on my left will afford the minister answering the question the opportunity to be heard in silence.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:32): My question is to the Premier. Why are there today significant numbers of unoccupied beds in our major hospitals while many people languish in emergency departments waiting for a bed? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: At 2pm today, only 719 people occupied beds in the Royal Adelaide Hospital out of 812 beds in that hospital—93 unoccupied beds. At The QEH, there were only 310 out of 355 beds occupied, some 45 unoccupied beds according to the state government SA Health dashboards. At the same time, there were 44 patients in those hospital emergency departments stuck in emergency waiting for a bed; of those, 15 had been there for over 24 hours waiting.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:33): I thank the member for the question. There is quite a lot of detail in that about operational matters which I will take on notice—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is warned.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —and seek an answer in relation to both the nature of those numbers and the context in which they are provided. If there is further information that is relevant in that context to the house, then I will bring that back to the house.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:33): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier get advised when a hospital reaches a Code Yellow internal disaster level; if not, why not?

The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell: Come on. You've got to answer that. He just works here, the Premier. He doesn't get involved in making decisions.

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson will leave for 20 minutes in accordance with standing order 137A.

The honourable member for Mawson having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education has the call.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:34): I thank the member for the question. In relation to the process of what takes place when there is a Code Yellow, I will seek information about that process and what the protocols are from the Minister for Health and bring back advice to the house. In doing so, I also feel like I have an apology to make to the member for Kurna. In a previous question time I understand that I referred to the member for Kurna as the adviser for Transforming Health, and he took offence at the time. I apologise for that mistake. On checking the record, it turns out he was indeed the assistant minister for health during the end of the last government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Premier!

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:35): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain how a tow truck and the media were able to arrive at the scene of a car crash at Burton on Friday night before an ambulance was able to arrive? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: On Friday night, a tow truck and the media both beat an ambulance to the scene of a car crash with a four-car pile-up at Burton. The ambulance took over an hour to dispatch. A recording from the MFS was revealed saying, 'We've got a casualty that's still in the car. Awaiting SAAS, but we are being told it's an hour wait for SAAS.'

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:36): I thank the member for the question. Obviously there's a great deal of detail in relation to a specific incident that the member has identified. We will check those details and I will seek further advice from the Minister for Health.

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:36): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier think it's acceptable for a schoolgirl with cardiac issues to wait four hours for an ambulance? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: It was reported by *9news* on Saturday night that on Friday afternoon a schoolgirl was taken to Flinders Medical Centre in an ambulance crew car after staff were told it would take four hours for an ambulance to arrive. This schoolgirl had collapsed with heart issues.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:36): I thank the member for the question. Obviously, in relation to any incident where there have been clinical decisions made or any other decisions made, there's a level of operational to the question. In that context, and representing the Minister for Health, I will seek further advice and bring back an answer for the house.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:37): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why a 93 year old was left ramped for six hours at the Flinders Medical Centre? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: On Thursday 15 April, the Ambulance Employees Association reported that a 93-year-old patient was taken to Flinders Medical Centre after a fall. Noarlunga Hospital had previously refused to accept the patient. The elderly patient was ramped for over six hours. They were kept lying completely flat in spinal precautions on a hard ambulance stretcher, which is not designed for long-term use by elderly patients who are at high risk of pressure injuries. The patient could not drink or toilet properly over those over six hours.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members on my left!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford will leave for 20 minutes in accordance with standing order 137A.

The honourable member for Playford having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education has the call.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:38): I thank the member for the question. Obviously he has asked a question in relation to a serious incident and I will seek further information. I do note that in relation to the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department waiting room, when the member was indeed the adviser for health, a series of events took place described in the former minister's book, which I am sure the member has—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members on my left!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Kurna!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Education will resume his seat for a moment. Members on my left and members on my right, I am endeavouring to listen to the answer by the Minister for Education. The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: We do take this very seriously, sir, and indeed the crocodile tears of those opposite when they start laughing and shouting at a serious answer—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: At you.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: At me? Yes, indeed, that is incredibly—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —grown-up behaviour by members of parliament pretending to serve communities. The fact is that former Minister for Health John Hill described in the book in the words that were read by the Premier earlier today the flawed approach of the former Labor government of which the member was indeed the adviser for the health minister before I think he was the Chief of Staff for the health minister before he was the assistant minister for health, who was involved in Transforming Health, who delivered Transforming Health, and also delivered—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —a health facility that was designed in such a way that it required infrastructure improvements that are indeed being invested in by this government, which is fixing the problems that were created under the former government. If, in addition to the structural failures of the building, as was designed by those opposite, there are further contexts and matters that are relevant to this particular case, I will bring back further information to the house.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Chaffey, I call to order the member for Cheltenham. I call to order the member for Ramsay.

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:40): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is working with the South Australian wine industry to create jobs here in South Australia?

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Minister for Trade and Investment) (15:41): I thank the member for Chaffey. Of course, his electorate takes in the Riverland, which is a very important wine region in South Australia. It helps contribute over \$1.9 billion to our economy, so his region is very important. That wine industry has been impacted of late, whether it's the bushfires or COVID with international travel restrictions or market access issues into some of our key markets, principally into China, where just recently tariffs of over 200 per cent were announced for a period of five years, which of course causes major concern. We as a government are taking this very seriously.

Since becoming minister, I have worked closely with the industry because we know that we have to work with the industry to solve these challenges. We have to work with the federal government to partner with them to assist them moving forward because they know the solutions better than the government does.

As I said, in recent months I have been holding industry round tables with not only regional associations but also state bodies and national bodies to understand what the response should look like and what the support requirements are that they have. I would like to thank them for their input. There was a lot of time spent there and they gave some great insights. One of their key messages was that what will be extremely difficult, the only real solution when there are market access issues and challenges, is to expand into other markets. It will not be easy of course, but we are ready to work hand in glove with them to help them achieve that.

Previously, I have spoken in parliament about how we can assist with local domestic sales. We have run the I Choose SA wine campaign, which was very successful, and also our trade offices in our key markets are doing fantastic work. As I said, helping these winemakers expand into other markets and diversify is hugely important, and that is why it was fantastic when very recently at McLaren Vale, one of our key wine regions, the Premier announced the Marshall government's Wine Export Recovery and Expansion Program. That is a \$5.4 million commitment from the government over the next four years to help support our South Australian wine exporters. It will help support them because we know that will grow local jobs in those areas and, more principally, South Australia.

Of course, we are going to do that by aggressively going into existing markets, principally, and the message is that there are existing markets that we need to expand into. Some of those, the US and the UK, are worth around \$400 million each and there is capacity for them to absorb some volume into those markets and also Canada, which has a single desk system: the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. It's key and fundamental that we work with them.

There are huge opportunities in developing markets as well, especially in the Asian middle class. They are getting an appetite for South Australian wines, whether that is Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia or even of course New Zealand, our near neighbours. There are some great opportunities there and in emerging markets, where they are just getting a taste for it, such as the United Arab Emirates, Western Europe and India.

How do we do that? We have to cater for all SA wineries, whether they are large, medium or small, going into existing platforms, whether that's in the US, wine.com, a massive e-commerce platform; Vivino, the number one wine app in the world; or whether it is in the United Kingdom through Majestic Wine e-commerce and retail there. Sales have certainly picked up into markets. The program starts on 1 July. It is a fantastic program and I recommend wineries get involved. It is just one way the Marshall government is working to support the wine industry here in SA and help support jobs.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:45): My question is to the Premier. Premier, why, as of 2pm today, have there been 19 patients who have been stuck in emergency departments for over 24 hours waiting for a bed, and what is being done to help these people get the care they need right now?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:45): I thank the member for the question. Obviously, there is an extraordinary investment that has been going on in our health system since coming to government: a more than \$2 billion investment in the health system over and above what was in the budget papers previously, and more than \$1 billion in infrastructure. Imagine for a moment the circumstances we would face were the Labor Party still in power and the former Treasurer's (the member for West Torrens) budget settings allowed to continue.

In relation to the circumstances that are confronting the hospital system today, the Premier answered at great length in the first three answers in question time today the circumstances we are facing, not just as a state but as a country, in the wake of the extraordinary disruption to the health system through the COVID-19 pandemic, with the dramatic drop in people's engagement with primary health care last year and indeed the work that our GPs are doing as part of the vaccination program around Australia.

Whether or not there is also a contribution of the situation with people with chronic disease who did not necessarily take steps as they usually would to engage with our health system last year, that is now presenting extra challenges. The member identifies a particular time on a particular day—

Mr Picton: Right now. Now.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The member has identified a particular point in time on a particular day—yes, right now.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Usually, what happens in a chamber like this is that if somebody interested in a topic asks a question and somebody seeks to provide an answer—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call and will direct his response to the question.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —and if the person is genuinely interested, usually they allow the answer to complete rather than try to score political points by shouting across the chamber. That tends to only happen when somebody is only interested in politics and not actually interested in advancing the health care—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjection on my left will cease. The minister will not respond to interjections. The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, sir. I'm not upset; I'm just disappointed. The fact is that if there is further information that is necessary or relevant to the particular point in time which the member is asking about, then I will bring back further information to the house. Should there not be any further specific information relevant to that point in time, then I refer the member to the range of previous answers that have already been given, which clearly address this situation.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:48): My question is to the Premier. How many hours were ambulances ramped—otherwise known as 'transfer of care delays'—in each of the months of January, February, March and April of this year?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:48): As the minister representing the Minister for Health in the House of Assembly, I will take that question on notice and bring back an answer to the house.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:48): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister please update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is working with the agricultural sector to create jobs for South Australia?

The Hon. D.K.B. BASHAM (Finniss—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:48): I thank the member for MacKillop for his question and I also thank him for representing me at the AgTech Field Day at Struan recently, such an important investment the Marshall Liberal government is making into technology that farmers can actually adopt and get to see in operation at these field days. I am sure the member for MacKillop understands the importance of this investment, which goes to underpinning the viability of these farming businesses and seeing this new technology that is out there that enables them to grow their businesses and invest in their businesses.

Also, I want to bring to the attention of the house the investment that the commonwealth has recently announced in the \$11½ million Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub in South Australia. The Marshall Liberal government, alongside the federal government, is contributing \$4.4 million over four years into this very important project.

The hub will be headquartered at Roseworthy, which is a great place for this hub. It's part of the Adelaide University's campus. Adelaide University is the lead agency going forward with this investment and injection into drought resilience. It's very much preparing farmers for the next drought, and we know there is another drought coming. We need to prepare our farmers for these droughts.

Five nodes will be associated with this drought hub. They will be based around the state. One of them is at Minnipa, which will be very much looking at the circumstances of growing grain and livestock on Eyre Peninsula. There will be another one at Port Augusta in the Far North, which will be very much focused on the pastoral industry. Orroroo in the Upper North is another, as well as Loxton in the Riverland, which will be working with the farmers around Loxton with respect to horticulture. We have another at Struan in the South-East, which will be dealing with drought issues in a high rainfall environment. A drought is not the same in every region, so it is very important that we have these hubs around the areas.

As I said, the drought hub is a project led by the Adelaide University. Flinders and UniSA are also part of this project, so this is very much a collaborative approach. We are working with the farming systems groups, we are working with other government agencies, we are working with the advocacy bodies themselves and we are working with local growers and relevant community groups.

The project is not only creating jobs but also supporting agriculture long term. It is so important that we help these farmers make sure that they are prepared for the next drought. The challenges are immense when droughts hit, and if we can prepare them, get them set up and make their business more resilient we will protect these jobs going forward. This is a great example of

collaboration between government, industry, research and education, and it is building that drought resilience.

Certainly, as a farmer I very much understand the pressures of drought. The cost of feed can be enormous to those high input industries—like dairy, pork and others—that take that feed directly, or it can be devastating for those people who have to destock their properties because they have no feed on those properties. This is a huge challenge for our agriculture community. This is a great initiative by the federal government. The Marshall government supports it immensely, and we are working with our farmers to make sure that we deliver for them.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:52): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier now met with representatives from the Ambulance Employees Association about the ambulance and ramping crisis crippling our health system; if not, why not?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:52): I thank the member for the question. The member would be aware that there is an industrial negotiation continuing, and that is being done respectfully by the government through the appropriate minister and representatives.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:52): My question is to the Premier. When was the last time the Premier met with the Ambulance Employees Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Association, the Salaried Medical Officers Association, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists or the Australian College of Emergency Medicine?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:53): I refer the honourable member to my previous answer. I speak with members of those organisations on a very regular basis. I think the nurses and the midwives in South Australia do an extraordinary job, and I speak to many nurses and midwives on a very regular basis, as well as the ambulance officers and our hardworking doctors.

Can I just say that the health professionals in South Australia have stood South Australia in such extremely good stead compared to just about any other jurisdiction in the world. They have been simultaneously dealing with a global pandemic, which has challenged many other countries around the world, while at the same time very significantly transforming the health services in South Australia and investing in fixing the mess that we inherited from the previous government.

I will always continue to meet with our health professionals in South Australia. As the minister replied to an earlier question, we are in the middle of an enterprise bargaining agreement negotiation at the moment. The responsibility for that, of course, is with the Treasurer, who takes responsibility for industrial relations in our government.

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:54): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the house whether the cuts to homelessness services, to Catherine House, the Hutt St Centre and other providers were made by the minister or by the cabinet?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (15:54): As the representative in this house answering to human services matters, can I inform the house that this government has made a decision to advance a new homelessness strategy to ensure that we do a lot better than has happened in the past. I am not going to talk about what happened under what government, but clearly homelessness was a continuing problem.

There was a difficulty in the previous government's approach at least to selling off 7,500 affordable homes. But even leaving that aside, what had to happen was that there needed to be a much more comprehensive approach, so we did make a commitment as a new government to firstly put on the table \$550 million for the housing and homeless strategy. There was another \$70 million annually for homelessness services to be spent and some further budgeting for maintenance.

But, in addition to that, the work was done to establish a new alliance process. There are five alliances to be made up of 23 different organisations. They relate to Adelaide South, Adelaide North,

Country South, Country North, but there is also a very specific statewide service for domestic and family violence. The alliance that has been developed for that statewide service includes Women's Safety Services SA, Yarredi Services Incorporated, Junction Australia, Uniting Country SA, Centacare Catholic Country SA, Centacare Catholic Family Services, the Salvation Army and Nunga Mi:Minar Incorporated.

To specifically answer in relation to Catherine House, which is an excellent service which will continue to operate in relation to what it does have funding for, there is no impediment to them—the same as the Hutt St Centre—to enter into arrangements with the alliance to be able to subcontract that work. All at-risk Australians, including women experiencing domestic violence, will continue to receive support and access to emergency and crisis accommodation.

The new alliance model is designed to be able to wrap around everything. So when you hear that Hutt St Centre has lost its case management funding, they have a lot of other money that they do other projects with and they will continue to do them very well, I am sure. But when their case management funding is gone and given in another model to someone else and more money is on the table overall, then it is not reasonable for the opposition to be critical of an individual agency about what they would or wouldn't have in what program they deliver.

It's reasonable for any agency to say, 'We are going to have to look at the reallocation of our workforce and our staff.' They are quite reasonable in relation to government funding programs. What is unreasonable is to undermine Hutt St Centre and others coming out and saying, 'We are happy to work with the alliance. We are happy to provide these services. We are happy to subcontract for those and work with them.' So let's keep this in perspective. This government is committed to building more houses, maintaining what we have, having a structure that actually works and putting more money into it, and that's precisely what we are doing.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, KAVEL ELECTORATE

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (15:58): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall government is supporting schools across South Australia but particularly in my community?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:58): It's a great privilege to be able to share with the house some of the information about the important work underway in supporting school communities in the member for Kavel's electorate, in the Adelaide Hills more broadly and across South Australia as part of a \$1.3 billion investment in public school infrastructure—a record investment indeed.

That's alongside investments that this government has made in the non-government sector as well and in the member for Kavel's own electorate. We were there last week as King's Baptist were able to turn the sod on their first movement of soil in the development they are doing in Mount Barker to provide further choice in that community as well. Particularly in the public schooling system, the students, young people and children in Mount Barker and the broader Kavel area in the Adelaide Hills are going to be very much the recipients and beneficiaries of some of the work that's going on.

The member for Kavel and I were greatly appreciative of the principal, Warren Symonds, and his team at Mount Barker High School, who took the time to share with us last week some of the extraordinary growth that is anticipated at that school in the coming years—not just as a result of year 7 coming into high school, but also the population growth as we are seeing in many schools across metropolitan and regional South Australia. We will see growth in the need for public schooling. Currently, the 700 or 800 students at Mount Barker High School will grow to 1,200 students in the next couple of years.

Indeed, the investments of \$6 million to start with and then a further \$1½ million at Mount Barker High, in addition to their other infrastructure project to also expand the special options offering, is going very well. Construction on the major project is due to be completed by August. A complete renovation of the upstairs and most significant building there, and the realisation of that space for modern learning facilities, 21st century facilities, will rapidly enhance the learning that is able to be done. Teaching can be done in the style to which the curriculum is now supposed to be delivered.

It was also a pleasure with the member for Kavel to see some of the areas that have already been completed and are already in use. Indeed, right around South Australia dozens of the programs within schools, the subprograms—the separable portions, if you like, of programs within schools that are underway—have been completed and are already being enjoyed by those students. The flexible classrooms that were created particularly with an eye to being available for performing arts as part of that program at Mount Barker High really add quite a lot to the built environment at Mount Barker High School and enable the students to achieve that benefit, as well as catering for the expanded capacity that is going to be needed in the future. But there is more.

At Mount Barker Primary School, there is an \$11 million project. At Oakbank Area School, we had two grants last year of nearly \$700,000 for the bitumen replacement and the roof replacement, alongside a \$100,000 grant that came to the school as part of the government's commitment to give every single public school and preschool in this state a maintenance grant last year that they could spend on their local priority projects. So Oakbank Area School did very well out of that. Nairne School and Woodside Primary School also had longstanding maintenance requests, so the bitumen court replacement at Nairne and the gym floor replacement at Woodside were able to benefit.

The member for Kavel will be pleased that the Hahndorf preschool and preschools in Littlehampton, Mount Barker, Nairne, Oakbank, Willow Close and Woodside, alongside the schools of Hahndorf Primary, Littlehampton Primary, Mount Barker High, Mount Barker Primary and Mount Barker South Primary, Nairne School, Oakbank Area School and Woodside Primary School have each and every one received grants between \$20,000 and \$100,000 last year to support those urgent projects.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Tradies, small businesses, suppliers, small businesses right across Kavel will be the beneficiaries—jobs now and a legacy of improved facilities for the future.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Hurtle Vale, I warn the member for West Torrens for a second time and I call to order the member for Hammond and the member for Kavel.

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (16:03): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Can the Minister for Child Protection explain to the house what measures she has taken to advocate for the Hutt St Centre and Catherine House to retain their funding in the homelessness sector?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (16:03): The member has been apprised already of the circumstances in which the complete restructure as to homeless funding is to apply, and that has been outlined.

As the member herself would have seen in media coverage on these matters, even the Hutt St Centre themselves acknowledge their willingness to work with the alliance to ensure that they are actually able to undertake some subcontracting. Obviously, they have significant other projects and they provide an excellent service. In fact, quite often we do city walks early in the morning and go and have a cup of coffee across from them.

I have seen them develop their \$2 million expansion. It's excellent. Members who haven't gone down to see that facility and the work they do should go down to see it. We have a number of residents in our parkland areas who come from interstate or from the north, and there is a large pull on services that are provided by Hutt St, so they do an outstanding job. The case management part of the project in relation to the alliance program that has been introduced under this model will still be provided. The other services of the Hutt St Centre, though, will continue to be provided by themselves.

This is the first time there has been a wholesale review of how we deal with homelessness, ensuring that these agencies, some who provide shelter, some who provide support and transition to other accommodation, some who provide food, counselling and the like—Catherine House, for example, is an excellent program, which I expect will continue to provide and when people are utilising their services they are dynamic.

In fact, I think they were the first service in South Australia to introduce a program of ensuring that a person who was homeless or was in a dire situation in relation to their shelter who wanted to get employment would be able to have assistance with the preparation of a CV for job applications and even be provided with suitable clothing, a suit or whatever, to be able to go to a job interview and support to assist them as to how they might conduct an interview to secure employment. These are all important initiatives. There is no question about that.

The model of how this is to apply and who subcontracts with whom is a matter that I think needs to be employed. What we had before wasn't working adequately. This is a major transformation of the modelling. More money is required to employ that new model and commitment from the government to make sure the transition occurs. That's exactly what we have done, in addition to dealing with the fact that there had been a diminishing pool of properties available under the affordable housing market and enabling them to be accommodated from crisis care into affordable accommodation. Those are matters that are all significant and we suggest under this new program, in addition to the extra money, will actually make this a better outcome for those homeless people.

CYBERSECURITY

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (16:06): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the house when he was first advised about the major cyber attack on the state government's IT systems? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: On Saturday, *The Advertiser's* Editor at Large, Paul Starick, reported that there was a major cyber attack on government computer networks in November last year requiring the activation of the State Crisis Centre.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (16:07): I thank the member for his question. As he would be aware, and as I think all members in this parliament are aware, there is an increased cyber incident activity going on around the world. This is nothing new. In fact, on coming to government I was informed, as the chair of the Emergency Management Council, of the sheer volume and the increasing volume of cyber incidents that are occurring here in South Australia and more specifically those that are occurring against government agencies. That is one of the reasons why in the most recent budget we made a very significant investment of \$24.7 million into strengthening our cyber resilience and preparedness here in South Australia.

We also made a very significant additional investment into developing our workforce because, as members may or may not be aware, there is a very significant global shortage of suitably trained cyber qualified personnel. This is an issue that we recognised very early on on coming to government. I want to commend the Minister for Innovation and Skills for working with my department on creating a cyber traineeship for South Australia. We have committed an additional \$2.6 million for that.

At the moment, I can inform the house that in 2020 there were approximately 1,600 cybersecurity incidents that were reported to the Office for Cyber Security by various SA government agencies. We don't routinely comment on any of those incidents unless it is in the public interest to do so. We take this matter extraordinarily seriously.

In recent years, we as a state have appointed a Chief Information Security Officer in this state. We have very significantly invested in our own preparedness. But, more than that, as a government we recognise that this is not problem peculiar to government: it's a problem for every business, every individual, and that's one of the reasons why at Lot Fourteen we have established the Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre, which is independent of the government. We have funded the capital and also the operating budgets for the first three years of that organisation, but that is designed to improve the overall cyber preparedness and resilience of South Australian businesses.

I've got to say, the interest in this area is only increasing. Pretty much on a daily basis now we are hearing about organisations who are experiencing cyber incidents. Some of those can be absolutely damaging and catastrophic on their business. We haven't had that situation in South

Australia, but we have had cyber incidents and, as I said, we don't respond or make public any specific information on those unless it's in the public interest to do so.

CYBERSECURITY

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (16:10): My question is to the Premier. Why did the Premier not reveal to South Australians the fact that the cyber attacks were so serious that the State Crisis Centre had to be deployed?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (16:10): I just refer—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —the member to my previous answer. I will say that in 2019, as a new government, not only have we made a significant investment in terms of the budget but we have also developed a new cybersecurity policy framework, which is called the South Australian Cyber Security Framework. This directs and guides agencies through an approach for establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving their cybersecurity posture.

We have learnt the lessons that have occurred in other jurisdictions. We have monitored the way that their data has been attacked, their response, and I've got to say we have a very proactive stance here in South Australia. We are not going to be able to avoid future cyber incidents in this state and in this government, but what we need to be doing is making sure that we are as prepared as we possibly can be, and that's precisely what we are doing.

There was \$24.7 million in last year's budget. Undoubtedly, there will be more in future budgets here in South Australia, a very, very significant investment to developing workforce. As I said twice in my previous answer, and I am happy to repeat it again, we don't routinely comment on individual incidents. That's the policy of the government—in fact, I think that's a policy of most governments—unless there is a public interest outcome that would be served.

There is nothing further that I can provide to the house, save to re-emphasise just how seriously we are taking this. I am quite sure that as a world we will get through this global pandemic. I think the next major global disruption will be a cyber disruption. That's one of the reasons why we are investing to protect our own systems, upgrading our own resilience, and also making sure that we can take businesses and individuals in South Australia along with us.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for King, I call to order the Minister for Innovation and Skills and I call to order the Minister for Energy and Mining.

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

Ms LUETHEN (King) (16:13): My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is working with industry and the training sector to create jobs for South Australians?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (16:13): I thank the member for King for her interest, her strong advocacy for her constituents in King and her particular interest in small business and jobs. It's a big small business electorate, and she is out there all the time knocking on doors of small businesses and feeding back to me what is important to them, and we are acting on that. One of those things we are acting on is ensuring we have the skills that South Australian businesses need to grow.

We are leading a skills-led job recovery here in South Australia. We are working directly with industry and employers to grow South Australia's skilled workforce. South Australia continues to lead the nation in 'earn as you learn' training. These are paid traineeships and apprenticeships, something they completely forgot about when they were in office.

Some recent Skilling South Australia projects include the Naval Shipbuilding College designer traineeship, \$510,000 in skills investment supporting a collaboration between the Naval Shipbuilding College, the Naval Group Australia, BAE Systems and several South Australian SMEs to develop a customised traineeship program designed for the South Australian naval shipbuilding industry.

Trainees will undertake a Diploma of Engineering—Technical, specially contextualised for shipbuilding and delivered by TAFE SA, while undertaking work placements with industry primes and their supply chain companies. Of course, Naval Group aren't cutting steel right now, but those skills are being developed to design that work through the use of their supply chains because we can't wait until the physical work starts for this training to start. It needs to start now, so we are working with Naval Group to that.

This investment with Naval Group means that these jobs are filled by South Australians because currently that skill doesn't exist in South Australia. The alternative was to do nothing—the common practice of those opposite—and then those skills would have to be brought in from interstate or overseas, but we want those skills delivered by South Australians and that's why we have made that investment.

Another partnership is the Apprentice Today, Chef for Life project supporting 100 new apprentices to undertake Certificate III in Commercial Cookery and Certificate III in Hospitality delivered by Quality Training and Hospitality College. Valued at \$480,000, the project is addressing skills shortages in the food, wine, tourism and hospitality sectors.

That has certainly come to light with the interest that South Australians and other Australians have in visiting our regional hospitality businesses in particular and the demand for those skills in regional South Australia and even, of course, in metropolitan Adelaide. This is assisting businesses to meet their skills needs and to promote their business growth post the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of course, we are also working with those who are delivering the training to ensure that they have the skills they need to deliver quality training here in South Australia. Friday 16 April was the launch of the Ignite Series, an eight-day program that commenced with the networking and collaboration event, Ideas Exchange. The discussion explored opportunities in building capability, funded activity agreements, JobTrainer, microcredentials and new accredited courses, national skills reform, Skilling South Australia, the Skills Commission, Training Priority projects and VET for School Students, another very exciting project from the Minister for Education.

COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (16:17): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house when the residents of the South-East will receive a COVID-19 vaccination hub similar to the one established at the Adelaide Showground and the ones planned for Elizabeth and Noarlunga in June this year?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (16:17): I thank the member for Mount Gambier for his question. As he would be aware, the Mount Gambier hospital has a Pfizer clinic at the moment and that was set up to administer people through phases 1a and 1b. To date, just having a look on the dashboard at the moment, there have been 2,339 first doses administered and 1,414 second doses administered.

By mid-May, a new community clinic will be set up, and I am advised that that will be at the Mount Gambier shopping centre, 21 Helen Street. That will ultimately replace the clinic at the hospital so that they can go back to their primary responsibility and will vaccinate up to 1,000 per week using the Pfizer vaccine, and of course GPs will be there to administer the AstraZeneca vaccine.

South Australia continues to do extraordinarily well in terms of the vaccine rollout. In fact, in terms of the statistics that were published yesterday by the commonwealth, South Australia has the highest mainland state run rate in terms of vaccination. You wouldn't know it if you listened to those opposite trying to undermine the very successful vaccine rollout. This is what we have become used to from the opposition—always trying to massively undermine the great work that the people in SA Health are doing in South Australia.

Mr Picton interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Kaurna!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Not content with trying to essentially sabotage the entire health system in South Australia when they were in government, now that they are in opposition they want

to undermine those hardworking men and women who are on the frontline protecting the people of our state.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: What I can say is we are very proud that we have that highest vaccination run rate of any mainland state in the country, but there is more to come. We know that we now have the first mass vaccination clinic, which has been set up at the Wayville showground. It started its first administration of doses last week, then of course there's a further one down south and then one out north.

But Mount Gambier will begin in mid-May. It will be administering the Pfizer vaccine. What I can say is that, despite the very significant curve ball that was dealt to us here in Australia recently with the ATAGI advice—they are the expert advice, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation—the AstraZeneca vaccine remains safe and effective for those over the age of 50. Because of the availability of both the AstraZeneca and the Pfizer vaccine in Australia, they provided the advice that those under 50 should have the Pfizer vaccine. That's the reason we will be setting up this clinic down in Mount Gambier of a thousand per week. That will be ready from the middle of May.

My strong message to the members in this house and to the people of South Australia is that the vaccination program is the next phase in our fight against the coronavirus. It's safe, it's effective, it's free and it's voluntary, but the simple fact of the matter is that, by taking this vaccine when you are eligible to have it, you will be protecting yourself, your family, your community, your workplace—in fact, you will be doing your part in keeping our entire state safe and therefore, of course, our economy strong.

MODBURY HOSPITAL

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (16:21): My question is to the Minister for Education in his capacity representing the Minister for Health. How many staff, and under what job titles or categories, are employed in the emergency department of Modbury Hospital, and are there any vacant or unfilled positions at the Modbury Hospital emergency department at the moment?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (16:21): I thank the member for Florey for this question. It was indeed a pleasure to see her, along with the members for Newland and King, a couple of weeks ago at Modbury Hospital as we celebrated—along with the member for Hartley, actually, and the Minister for Health—the new public entrance for the Modbury Hospital. It is a dramatic improvement.

For those of us who are thinking about the times when we might take our children there, I am sure the member for Florey would agree with me and other members that the paediatric focus in that waiting room will make it very welcoming for children and a very welcome addition to Modbury Hospital. Of course, it is part of a \$98 million capital upgrade for the hospital which the government is investing in, with dramatic improvements to the Modbury Hospital like the reinstatement of the High Dependency Unit and the restoration of 72-hour surgery to Modbury Hospital, making sure that its future is as one of the key hospitals in our health network in South Australia, supporting health services for people in the north-east, people in communities like Newland, Florey, Morialta, Hartley, King and the broader north-east, close to their homes.

The member had some specific details that she sought in her question. I will ask the Minister for Health for those details and bring back those finer points of detail for the house.

MODBURY HOSPITAL

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (16:23): Supplementary, again to the Minister for Education in his capacity representing the Minister for Health: was the emergency department at Modbury Hospital fully staffed on the evenings of Wednesday 31 March and Thursday 1 April and, if not, how many positions were vacant during each shift on those days?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (16:23): I thank the member for the question. I will seek further information from the minister and bring it back for the member.

PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING

Mr DULUK (Waite) (16:23): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee that public libraries won't lose any state government funding in the June budget? Sir, with your leave and that of the house, I will further explain.

Leave granted.

Mr DULUK: As reported in the media last week, a longstanding agreement between the government and the LGA expires in June. Local libraries are an integral part of my community, with many users of the Blackwood and Mitcham libraries contacting my office concerned over the future of this funding agreement. Does the government plan to continue to provide the same level of funding to our libraries as it has historically?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government) (16:24): As the Minister for Local Government, I addressed this question last week at the meeting of the Local Government Association with many of the mayors from across the state. As probably most members would appreciate, libraries are very core to the provision of services in most of the electorates we represent and I couldn't imagine that anyone in this parliament hasn't been—

The Hon. S.S. Marshall: That's where I got my book.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Is that where you got the book?

The Hon. S.S. Marshall: That's where I got my book from.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: Libraries provide a very valuable service. Certainly, we love libraries and I'm sure the member for Waite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: —also is very keen to support local libraries. The LGA are currently negotiating with the Premier's department in relation to the normal renegotiation of the agreements on these things, and I think Treasury officials are involved in that. As I indicated to the mayor who asked the question last week—and I certainly wouldn't move to interfere with those arrangements because they are still negotiating them—it is up to the LGA whether they want to make any public comment in relation to how and where they are going with that and what they had secured and what they hadn't, but that's the normal part of the negotiations for that agreement.

I am sure it will be resolved in the near future, but realistically we are not in a position to make that and I certainly wouldn't be disrespectful of the LGA's recommendations. The LGA president, or anyone on her behalf, also didn't provide any further information to the meeting.

As local members, I think we all appreciate the significance of what libraries do. They are very often a meeting place and the only place where some of our people can actually get access to the internet and other services, in addition to the usual books and magazines and so on that are important. They are critical. We love them on this side of the house. I am sure the member for Waite also recognises their significance, but it would be disrespectful and pre-emptive of me to make statements about how those negotiations are going or where they are at until they are concluded and I am sure they will be shortly.

HORROCKS HIGHWAY

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (16:26): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Can the minister advise the house what he would say to a constituent in Tarlee who has copied a letter to me that was sent to the minister last week regarding the disastrous condition of the Horrocks Highway from Tarlee to Roseworthy. With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I will quote from the letter that was written to me. It states:

I have lived in Tarlee and travel the Horrocks Highway from Tarlee to Port Adelaide on a regular basis and the outlying suburbs for my casual employment. The company for whom I work for has just had to outlay \$14,000 in costs on having to replace front and rear suspension due to the absolute disastrous condition of the highway. This resulted in a steering problem and if I had not been an experienced driver this would have had catastrophic repercussions, possibly even a fatality, and DPTI would have to take culpability for the abominable and undulating state of this highway. On my working days, I cannot safely drive any more than 70 kms per hour without being bounced around and incurring repetitive back soreness for which I seek chiropractic relief on a regular basis.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (16:27): I thank the member for that question. I am sure a response will be coming for that member of his community, but the first thing I would say to him is that he would be disgusted, as we were when we came into government, that the previous government, which I think you were a minister of, left a \$750 million road maintenance backlog—a \$750 million road maintenance backlog. That is why we have situations such as the member for Frome is talking about.

On that side of the house they arc up, having left a \$750 million road maintenance backlog. I still can't believe it. I can't believe it and they are complaining about it. We are getting on with that job. In fact, you would be well aware that we have actually put that on the Infrastructure Australia priority list as one of the initiatives. We are having a look at that, along with a number of other projects. Of course, we have put \$210 million into regional roads. We have money going into the Horrocks Highway, more than \$50 million from memory, but I will get that detail back to the member.

We know the Horrocks Highway has been neglected for a long, long period of time and, as minister for the regions when you were in government, I know that that would gnaw away at you because clearly you couldn't cut through to get those on the other side to help fund that road and improve that road, but we are doing them right across the board: the Stuart Highway, the Sturt Highway, the Eyre Highway and the Birdseye Highway as well. There are a number of regional roads that we are investing in heavily to improve the infrastructure out there for regional South Australia.

I mentioned \$210 million in partnership with the federal government. This was part of the stimulus money and this is coming in three tranches. The first tranche was our \$100 million investment and this was the 'use it or lose it' funding. I am very proud of our investment in this because we had these projects on the table ready to go to make sure that we would use the money the federal government put forward.

Unfortunately, some other states actually didn't have their projects ready to go when the deadline was called, but we were one of the two states that were there and were ready. Some of the other states have not actually got their act together and they haven't been part of this 'use it or lose it' program. We have more projects that we are talking with the federal government about to try to activate and, again, inject more money into this.

The projects that we are really keen on are the road maintenance projects, and again I stress that \$750 million road maintenance backlog that was a disgrace to have left our roads go to such a poor state of affairs. What we will do—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: The member for Mawson arcs up—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: What happened—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: That actually just triggers me. I have outlined—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —a number of the projects that we are investing in, but again the—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Where is the resurfacing of Port Road you promised a year ago? Where is it? Where is the Hove level crossing?

The SPEAKER: 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:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: The former minister in this space is actually arcing up because he is the one to blame for this \$750 million road maintenance backlog. I will just refer back to what was his method of fixing this. I know there are a number of roads out there and he looked at that and they were in such a poor state of disrepair—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: That's right—he reduced the speed limit. That's the way he fixed it: 'If we get enough walking on these roads, that will fix the problem. That will get it going.' That's the way they dealt with the road maintenance backlog. I would pass it on to your constituent as well, member for Frome. I would let him know that's the way the previous government dealt with it, but it's not how we dealt with it. We are getting on with it, we are investing in these road projects and we are creating jobs in the process.

We know, of course, shoulder widening is really important, and we are doing that on a number of those projects, as well as audio tactile line markings to make our roads safer—really important. Then the barriers, where we can put barriers in to make our roads safer, that is really important to get them up to a much higher standard because unfortunately too many lives are lost on our roads every year and in particular in our regional areas. We know that a big part of road safety is investing in safer roads. We are getting on with it and we are doing that.

For a lot of those members on the other side who don't go outside the metropolitan boundaries, I can tell you the people in the regions are very happy with the work we are doing because it has been neglected for far too long. We are getting on and delivering for the people of South Australia.

Grievance Debate

NORTH EAST PUBLIC TRANSPORT STUDY

Mr BOYER (Wright) (16:32): If there was any doubt at all that this government might be a bit fearful of their re-election prospects next year, I can tell you that has been well and truly put to bed now. The panic has set in and, as we know, when governments panic they overreach—and, boy, have they overreached in the north-eastern suburbs. I have waited seven months for an opportunity to speak on this matter, seven long months to respond to one of the most spurious and desperate attacks you will ever see hit a letterbox.

On 23 October last year, I was on FIVEaa talking about the government's highly anticipated and much-lauded North East Public Transport Study. The previous minister for transport told *The Advertiser* way back in September 2019 that the North East Public Transport Study 'recommended extending the O-Bahn to Golden Grove'. That is what he said. At that stage, the study was complete but not yet publicly released.

Fast-forward 13 months to October last year, when I gave my interview on FIVEaa, the study was still secret. And that was the topic of my discussion with Tony Pilkington: where is this highly anticipated study, this panacea for all the traffic woes in the north-eastern suburbs, and will it mean an extension of the O-Bahn? My comments were as follows:

I would like to see it extended to the Village if that were possible. The question of how much it costs is the big concern and I'd very much like to see...some of the detail from this public transport study released so we can see precisely what the costs—

and then I went on to say, '[But] ...the opposition is not...committing to do it.' Lo and behold, a few weeks later we saw flyers in letterboxes across the seats of King and Wright and paid Facebook advertising that said:

Labor has a plan to demolish DOZENS of properties—will your home be one of them?

Then on the reverse side it said:

Under Labor's plan to extend the O-Bahn, dozens of properties will need to be demolished.

Don't let Peter Malinauskas and Blair Boyer Destroy Your Home.

It goes without saying that we were confused about where the basis of this claim came from. By way of background, in October 2019 we put in an FOI application seeking access to the study. That was denied. We applied again in July 2020. Denied again. We applied for a third time in October 2020 and were denied for a third time. In December 2020, we applied to the Ombudsman for access, and finally on 25 March this year we received a copy of the North East Public Transport Study. Lo and behold, the plan for extending the O-Bahn, which would actually result in the demolition of homes, came from the Liberal government's own study. Its own study was the only place that has recommended that.

Well, five days later the Electoral Commissioner handed down his findings in respect of that flyer. The commissioner did not find just one statement to be misleading, he found seven—seven statements on the Liberal flyer were misleading or inaccurate. Just one day after that finding was handed down, the member for King delivered a speech in this place, which now appears to be a pre-emptive move to shield herself from the finding of distributing misleading and inaccurate material. On 31 March, the member for King said, and I quote:

My experience has been that they will do anything to win. They lie constantly, and why do they do this? Why not rely on winning seats and debates based on good policy that could win support from their community?

The member for King said this most likely knowing full well that the Electoral Commissioner was investigating the flyer and that her Liberal Party was going to be caught out for its lies. The Electoral Commissioner has now directed the Liberal Party to letterbox homes withdrawing their statements and admitting that they made misleading and inaccurate claims.

Have they done this? I can tell you that there were many thousands of people in the north-eastern suburbs who received this flyer. When you get the North East Public Transport Study and have a look at the proposed route that is included in that study, it included people who live nowhere near the proposed route. These people got a flyer from the Liberal Party saying, 'Your home could be demolished by the Labor Party.' There was absolutely no basis for saying that, and understandably people were very, very upset.

None of these people yet have their retraction from the party, so there are many people in the north-eastern suburbs who are still concerned that the abject lies included in this paraphernalia from the Liberal Party might still be accurate.

Mr Malinauskas: Everyone's going to know about the lies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The leader is called to order.

Mr BOYER: And how does the member for King defend this grossly misleading flyer, especially after her statements in parliament that we should rely on winning seats and debates based on good policy and not lying? This was a blatant attempt by the Liberal Party—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BOYER: —to frighten people into believing that their home could be demolished—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Wright—

Mr BOYER: —and it does not get more disgraceful than that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Wright's time has expired.

Mr BOYER: Thankfully, the independent umpire, the Electoral Commissioner—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Wright's—

Mr BOYER: —has called the Liberal Party out for its lies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: —time has expired.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I am calling the leader to order. Minister, do you have a point of order?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: No, I am waiting for my opportunity to speak, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Wright has completed his contribution.

COPLEY COMMUNITY

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:37): It is my pleasure to rise on a very positive topic today. Last Friday evening, I had the pleasure of being at Copley for the local community's celebration around the refurbishment and renovation of Copley Town Hall.

For people who may not have been to Copley, it is about 270 ks north of Adelaide, about six ks north of Leigh Creek and is a very important town in the Northern Flinders. Of course, it is closely connected with the town of Leigh Creek, but Copley is a terrific town on its own. Quite a wide range of people live in Copley: there are a lot of Aboriginal people, a lot of non-Aboriginal people, people who have grown up in the district, people who have come there from other parts of South Australia and indeed Australia and people who are connected to the pastoral industry.

There is a very strong art culture in Copley. There are some businesses there: a terrific caravan park, a terrific pub and a terrific bakery. The Copley Quandong Cafe is a place that people may well be familiar with. It used to be in a premise of its own but is now domiciled with the caravan park, and they do a fantastic job.

I have many friends in the town of Copley who live and work there, so it was a real pleasure to be there on Friday night celebrating with people. Not only townspeople but pastoralists, too, came in for this celebration. People from Leigh Creek and other places came in for this celebration as well.

The local progress association has led the redevelopment of this hall. They have been supported with state government funding and some funding from outback communities as well, which has made a big difference, but essentially the progress association has done the work. The president of the progress association, Mr Peter Banfield, and secretary of the progress association, Ms Theres Bertram, have led the project but many other people have supported them by doing the hands-on work.

We had a fantastic roast meal. I am sure she was well supported by others, but Ms Helen McLeod was the main person I saw in the kitchen absolutely nonstop while others came and went. I do not want to miss out giving credit to anyone else because I am sure there are others who deserve it. Helen put on a roast for about 80 people. Everybody was very well fed and there were delicious desserts as well.

There was a darts competition. There was a quiz night that was led by the quiz mistress—I think that is an appropriate thing to say—who was a woman named Pip who is a teacher at the Marree Aboriginal School. I apologise to Pip that I cannot remember her last name. It was a fantastic community achievement to get the hall renovated. It was a fantastic community night for everybody to come together, have a few drinks, have a few beers or soft drinks, whatever people preferred, tea, coffee, enjoy a roast and enjoy some tremendous camaraderie.

There are some things that still need to be done to the Copley Hall. One of the things that struck me as an opportunity to still contribute to is lighting outside under the new verandah and some lighting in the car park because that lighting is not there at the moment. I will certainly strive on behalf of the state government to see what we can do to try to help with that. There are new playgrounds and I think there is still coming—I do not think I saw it there—some outdoor exercise equipment.

This is a hall which is genuinely owned in the hearts of all people in Copley. It is used for celebrations, it is used for government meetings, drawing people together for public consultation. Sadly but necessarily, it is used for funerals from time to time. It is used for a wide range of things. As I said, when I had the opportunity to say a few words on Friday night when there were a few young kids running around who might have been five or six, wouldn't it be lovely if some of them got married in the Copley Hall in decades to come. It is a fantastic community, it was a fantastic event and it was a pleasure to be there with the community.

YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (16:42): This week is National Youth Week, so I would like to take the opportunity to talk about some of the young people in our community and some of the views they are expressing and some of their concerns they are sharing with me and other community leaders.

Last week I was able to convene one of my Youth Advisory Panel meetings. The Youth Advisory Panel is made up of young people from the local schools and also the local youth advisory committees. The Youth Advisory Panel, which I chair, comprises students from St Patrick's Technical College, Northern Adelaide Senior College, Mark Oliphant College, St Columba College, Trinity College, Gawler and District College, and Xavier College. It also has nominees from the Gawler and Playford youth advisory committees.

Nuriootpa High is also considering joining the panel. I am also hoping to extend an invitation to young people who are carers in the community because they have a range of different interests from other young people. Hopefully, the Barossa Carers and Disability Link group will be able to provide a young person to the panel.

Being of school age, of course, the students are accompanied by a teacher from their respective schools. Our first meeting, held last week, was essentially to set up an agenda for this year regarding issues they wish to discuss and also any activities they wish to be involved in.

Some of the issues they have raised will be discussed over the coming months. The first issue that young people raised as a priority was about respectful relationships. They are very keen to have a discussion about what it means to have a respectful relationship and also what they can do in their school communities and the community at large to change behaviour so that we do see more respectful relationships between individuals—and this is right across the board—in other words, treating the next person alongside you with the appropriate dignity. It deals with things like sexual harassment, homophobia, racism and bullying—the whole gamut of behaviours which generally should be considered as unacceptable and which diminish the dignity of others in our community.

More importantly, young people are really keen to understand the values behind these behaviours. What actually causes the behaviour? You can call behaviour out, but you do not change it until you understand why people behave like that. We will be inviting a guest speaker to our next meeting to talk about what sort of values lead to this sort of behaviour and what do we do in our schools and our community to change that. They are very keen to tackle that issue. Also, at a future meeting we will be tackling the very important issue around mental health and young people.

Certainly young people express a great deal of concern about their peers who are dealing with a lot of mental health issues in the community, and certainly it has been made worse by COVID, but those underlying trends were already there. The one issue that comes up time and again is getting access to mental health services. That is a huge issue in our community.

We have a local resident doctor who also specialises in mental health who has gone out to campaign strongly to get more mental health services available in our community. When you are told that a psychologist or a doctor is not available for four or five months before you can see them once, that is like a lifetime. It can be the difference between life and death for some young people—not only young people but also people who need help.

Young people are also keen to look at sustainability and how they can address sustainability and reduce waste in their schools as their contribution towards climate change. I am looking forward to that discussion as well. There was discussion also about particular mental health issues that defence families deal with. That is a particular issue that hopefully will be addressed by a royal commission.

Today is also St Florian's Day or International Firefighters' Day, and I would like to acknowledge those young cadets who recently joined the Country Fire Service in the Dalkeith brigade. Last night, I had the pleasure of meeting these young cadets. They are very keen young people, all are of school age and most of them are still at school. They put up their hand to say that they will be part of their community and part of the effort in our community to keep our community safe, so I would like to say a big thank you to these young people who are actually serving the

community and keeping it safe through their work as a CFS volunteer. I would also like to thank those students who are part of my Youth Advisory Panel.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (16:48): I take the opportunity today to update the house and the community about some of the information in relation to the way that the Department for Education and the Marshall Liberal government are supporting students with disability in the South Australian public school system. This is a very important task of government to ensure that all our students, our children and our young people are given the best possible opportunity throughout their education to access a world-class education to set them on a pathway towards success in life, towards being able to be their best selves.

Of course, there are many contexts in which we support our children in the government school system: in mainstream schools in the classrooms, with funding allocated to provide additional support in the classroom; in special schools; in disability units; and special classes. I can advise the house that in the term 1 census this year 82.6 per cent of students with a disability attend mainstream schools and 17.4 per cent attend a special option. That is 1,022 in special schools in South Australia, 872 in disability units and 1,383 in special classes.

To help people understand the difference between those three terms, special classes are located in mainstream schools and cater for junior primary, primary or secondary students who require substantial adjustments to the curriculum. Students are provided with a high level of support and opportunities to learn in conjunction with their age-appropriate peers and are included as much as possible. It is certainly reasonably normal that from time to time students might move from a special class to a mainstream setting in certain circumstances or, indeed, back the other way.

Disability units in special schools are a bit different, although in certain circumstances sometimes students move between them as well. Disability units are located within some primary and secondary schools. They cater for students who require extensive adjustments to access the curriculum, extensive adjustments being individualised, comprehensive and ongoing, and in addition to accessing curriculum students often need support with their personal care. Our special schools are mostly co-located within mainstream schools, although a couple are standalone. They provide extensive adjustments to curriculum, high levels of personal care, and students enrolled in disability units in special schools often have a similar profile.

In relation to the supports available for students in the mainstream settings, I am pleased to advise the house that in 2020 in excess of \$305 million was expended in support for children with disability, including specialised education options, individual funding, including the Inclusive Education Support Program (IESP) and the Resource Allocation Adjustment Panel. That site-based funding compares with \$241 million in 2018. It is a 26 per cent increase in funding in the first 2½ to three years of the Marshall Liberal government.

That additional funding has supported more children and students than ever before. As at the term 3 census last year, that was 21,115.7 FTE students supported under the IESP and represents an increase of 10.5 per cent from the previous year, when it was 19,111. The largest increase has occurred in areas of autism and complex social and emotional behaviour. Changes have been made to the current IESP funding allocation process to reduce the workload pressure associated with the submission of reviews while making sure our schools and preschools are equipped to provide the support needed to children and students with functional needs.

These changes have included in recent weeks an announcement that we are pausing IESP reviews for at least two years but with funding to continue. That has been significantly welcomed by a range of educators. We have provided additional funding for children in care at key transition points in our schools and preschools, noting the additional challenges that can present, and we have also provided one-off funding to support children in care already enrolled at schools to help those schools provide the service that is needed.

Individual funding applications under the IESP consider the functional needs and adjustments required for the child or student. Thanks to the introduction of this new model, students are now funded according to their functional need rather than their disability diagnosis or label, as such a diagnosis or final assessment is not anymore always a prerequisite for requesting additional

funding. Schools still have access to IESP funding while students are waiting to be assessed, including by way of up-front grants provided to schools and preschools. During this time, schools are able to provide learning support to these students to continue their education.

This is a tremendously important body of work and it is a body of work that I thank our educators right across South Australia for undertaking. There is always more to do and every year I believe we are getting better at doing this work. The commitment that I make and the commitment that the Marshall Liberal government has made is that the funding in this area will continue to increase to support the level of demand that is needed in our system and to support the best interests, wellbeing, welfare and the education of these very important children and young people.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICES

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (16:53): Today is the first day we have been back here sitting since ANZAC Day and I just wanted to recap on some wonderful things that happened in the electorate of Mawson on ANZAC Day.

We remember that last year we were all in the midst of a lockdown because of COVID-19 and that we stood at the end of our driveways and joined with our neighbours in the dark and had our own solemn services, which was a little bit different from what we were all used to, where the community generally comes together at the local memorial with the RSL.

This year, we saw things almost return to normal, but for some it was a little bit hard. I know that McLaren Vale were a little bit worried because about 4,000 people come along to their dawn service and trying to put it on in a COVID-safe environment was a little bit beyond them, so they said, 'Rather than have that angst, we won't have one now.' Neighbours in my street came out and did what we did last year.

I went down to Willunga, where their dawn service was bigger than they have ever had before. They took it out on the football oval, but normally it is around the memorial, which is out on the main road. As the popularity has grown over the years, it is not that good to have people assembling on a road as the sun is coming up, so they moved it to the oval. I want to congratulate everyone at the Willunga RSL on putting on a fantastic dawn service.

I then went to McLaren Vale, where I laid a wreath as well, and dropped into the RSL, where they were having a breakfast with just RSL members. What a great team they have there. It was good to have a chat. Of course, any local member who goes to an RSL always knows there is plenty of ribbing for the local member, and you better dig deep and put some folding notes into the can while you are there to support the great work they do. Then I went down to McLaren Vale Oval, where McLaren were playing Willunga in the junior footy. That started at about 9.30 and went right through that night, with a night game between these two arch rivals, the Willunga Demons and the McLaren Eagles. It was a fantastic turnout.

At 12, I caught the ferry across to Kangaroo Island and went out to the Western Districts Football Club. That was one of the most special days I can remember having on ANZAC Day. This is a community on Kangaroo Island whose Western Districts Football Club was flattened by the fires in the summer of 2019-20. Of course, that was 16 months ago; 19 months ago was when they had their last game of footy, in mid-September 2019, the grand final of the Kangaroo Island Football League. Last year, because of COVID, no senior footy was played on the island, or netball for that matter. ANZAC Day was the first footy or netball game at senior level since the 2019 season, and what a great occasion it was.

Kingscote and Western Districts came together and the Wonks, or Western Districts, won the A-grade and the B-grade. We saw a 15 year old, who turned 15 on ANZAC Day, make his A-grade debut, and his younger brother, a 13 year old, played in the B-grade that day for the first time. On Kangaroo Island, the footballers play 16 a side because they do not have the numbers for five clubs to field A-grade, B-grade and Colts with 18 out on the field at any one time. It is a little bit modified over there, but it has great spirit.

When we go back to the bushfires, the Western Districts, as I said, were wiped out. Parndana was hit really hard. When the authorities went out to give updates to the community, they held them at the Parndana football and sporting club. Who was in the kitchen cooking all the food? It was the people from the Dudley United football and netball clubs who had come from the other end of the

island to help out their traditional rivals and make sure they had the freedom to listen to what was being said while they took over the kitchen and provided the barbecue.

The winner of best on field in the football on ANZAC Day wins the Jamie Larcombe Medal. Jamie was a young fellow, a 21 year old, who played in the 2000 Colts premiership team for Western Districts. He was tragically killed in Afghanistan while serving his country. Jamie's three sisters presented the Jamie Larcombe Medal, which was shared between a player from Kingscote, the Hounds, and Western Districts, the Wonks.

In the netball, they have the Jean Griffith Medal, named after Jean Griffith, who in 1941 signed up to join the Australian Army on her 21st birthday. It was a tremendous ANZAC Day in the electorate of Mawson, and there were some great traditions there that will carry on for years to come.

ROBE 2 RECOVERY

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (16:58): I rise to highlight and pay tribute to the organisers of the trailblazing Veteran Respite Program called Robe 2 Recovery and in particular a long weekend of events for ANZAC Day 2021. Robe 2 Recovery was started in 2015 by local Robe farmer and photographer Jacqui Bateman after she had a chance meeting with returned veteran Justin Brown. During an informal chat, Justin told Jacqui about the struggles being faced by many veterans who were trying to re-adapt to civilian life. These stories prompted Jacqui to think about what she could do to help and, not long after, Robe 2 Recovery was born.

The concept is simple: offer holiday accommodation in Robe for free to veterans and his or her family who need a break, fill the house with vouchers for local food and activities, leave personalised notes thanking the veteran for their service and give them as much space and time to recharge.

Six years on and approximately 15 veterans per year are supported through the Robe 2 Recovery program and 40 accommodation options have been donated. It has now expanded to Phillip Island, Cobden, Port Lincoln and hopefully soon Albany in Western Australia. Robe 2 Recovery has also fostered a new referral relationship with the Wounded Heroes initiative who made it possible for three veteran families to come from Queensland and be guests at the ANZAC Day event.

On Thursday night, the football and netball clubs had their guernsey and dress presentations ahead of Saturday's match of the round between arch rivals Robe Roosters and the Hatherleigh football clubs. These had been specially designed with the ANZAC theme and were presented to players by visiting and local veterans. The guest speaker was Afghanistan veteran Nathan Bolton, who spoke about his service, his struggles with mental health and the road to recovery and how he is now helping others.

On Friday, the golf club hosted the Veterans Ambrose Golf Day when 27 teams of four signed up for a hit on the Robe Golf Course. The club says the event was the most successful they had ever hosted and they were keen to make it a feature on their calendar and attract more veteran involvement.

Saturday's Mid South Eastern Football League and Netball Association match of the round was a huge success. Around 1,300 people turned up to watch. The club says the crowd and atmosphere was better than they expected for a grand final game. The Robe Roosters Facebook page summed it up when it said, 'Occasionally there are moments in your life when you stop for a second and remind yourself to take a good look around because you know that moment is special.'

I was honoured to be asked to be an umpire for the A-grade football game on that day. I was also privileged because one of the South Eastern umpires, a fellow called Darren, was a veteran and, as it is an umpire's prerogative, we opted for him to be the umpire officiating the start of the first quarter and throw the ball up at the beginning of the game, and he was honoured that he was allowed to do that. There was also the spectacle of the football being delivered by four or five parachutists on the day. The Light Horse Brigade was also there and the atmosphere was absolutely terrific.

On Sunday, ANZAC Day, the day dawned clear and fine and around 400 to 500 people attended the march and service organised by the Robe RSL sub-branch. Plenty of guests and visiting

veterans joined the march down Robe's main street, including members of the Veterans Motorcycle Club. Guest speaker and veteran, Nathan Bolton, spoke remembering not only the fallen but those who have returned, a key point that resonated with all who attended.

Members of the Robe 2 Recovery committee, president and co-founder, Jacqui Bateman; secretary, Mick Trevitt; treasurer Lonny Peel; and others, Scott Fennell, An Tran, John Fenton, Kristina Alexander, Kerry Boyd and co-founder Justin Brown are buoyed by the success of the 2021 event. They say it would not have been possible without the generosity of the community of Robe. When they asked for help, no-one said no.

The success of the event has created an even greater awareness of veteran mental health. It has shone a light on what a small town with such a big heart can do and what it can achieve. Two things stood out to me on that day. The first was that one of the footballers in the first minute of the first quarter collided with a knee, got concussed and broke his jaw. One of the first things he said when he got to hospital was, 'You're not allowed to cut my jumper off,' because he wanted the jumper preserved. The second thing was that I learnt on the day that veterans really do enjoy and need that time to recover after serving our country, and it does take a long time to heal and reconnect with community. I wish Robe 2 Recovery continued success and thank them for giving their support to veterans now and into the future.

COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (17:03): I rise to talk about a vaccination hub as a priority for Mount Gambier. and first I want to thank Dr Chris Moy for the very informative session he presented yesterday to the Independents, and also the Premier's response today indicating that a new hub will be established in mid-May and it will be vaccinating up to 1,000 of my local residents per week in the electorate of Mount Gambier.

I guess this stemmed from conversations I have had with many members of my community who are getting frustrated and a little bit concerned that they have not been able to book in for a COVID-19 vaccination, pretty much because the clinics are only receiving 50 doses per week. What has happened in the past is that that shipment or supply of 50 doses sometimes has not arrived, so a clinic has a complete booking list for the following week with no vaccines actually in their premises.

This has led to great uncertainty and also wasted time and concern from the clinics in terms of having to ring people and say, 'The vaccines aren't here. Your appointment is now pushed out.' Of course, if they have booked people for the week after, they cannot push them into that week, so they are leapfrogging them over other people who have booked in. The clinic I spoke to is now only booking one week ahead, so a fortnight ahead, and they only do that once they have the vaccines on their premises.

We have a large number of people who are over 50 years of age—I am heading there myself pretty quickly—and their concern is that they ring in two weeks' time for the clinic and the bookings are already taken up, so they cannot actually get the vaccine that they need to keep them safe, as a high-risk group. To hear today that the Premier is taking action and establishing this hub in Helen Street, vaccinating up to a thousand people per week on top of what the clinic is already doing, is certainly welcome news. I always try to give credit where credit is due.

That will be greatly received in my electorate, because people are coming to me and saying that their doctors were actually giving the advice, 'We don't know when we can book you in. However, if you go to Adelaide you will be able to be seen in the next couple of days and receive your vaccination.' Of course, that is not satisfactory. It is not good enough for the state's second largest city, and I am pleased that the Premier has made that commitment.

The very informative information given to us on the vaccine rollout by Dr Chris Moy yesterday certainly gave me great comfort that we are on track and that the program is rolling out as intended. People not needing to travel from my electorate up to Adelaide to receive the vaccine is welcome news. With those words, a bit of my speech is redundant because we received the answer I was looking for in today's question time.

CALISTHENICS

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (17:07): COVID has meant it has been quite a while since I have been able to report to the house on perhaps one of the most unsung mass participation sports,

particularly for girls, and one for which South Australia has a magnificent tradition and record, and that is calisthenics.

A highlight of each calisthenics year is the graceful comps, known for many years as the graceful girl solos. So much work goes into the presentation of participants: years of training with family support, amazing coaches who create sensational routines to music, with IT supporting with great lighting and visuals to complete the picture, breathtaking costumes sewn by diligent mums—I do not think there are many dads who sew sequins—backstage crew who make it all happen, and of course the adjudicators and writers who have the toughest job of all. One of the writers this year was our own Jane Johnston, who is at the Davenport EO.

Add to this the CASA committee and volunteers who make the Royalty Theatre, home to calisthenics in this state, a fitting venue for such a prestigious competition—well, almost fitting, as my thoughts on the Royalty Theatre are well known and on record. I ask again that the Premier and also the Leader of the Opposition in the run-up to the election in 2022 remember that all girls' sports need better change rooms and facilities, not just girls playing in the major sports of soccer, AFL and cricket.

Digressing a little further, I must add that, if Her Majesty's Theatre is now rightly the jewel of Adelaide's theatre life, then the middle-sized theatres like Royalty must also be given attention so the vibrant arts community in South Australia can continue to thrive and present wonderful Festival and Fringe programs. The Royalty is used by calisthenics clubs all over the state nearly all year long, and this year hosted graceful solos between 17 April and 1 May.

As a proud CASA life member and patron, I attended two afternoon sessions on Saturday 1 May. The competition was excellent, and I would like to put on record the names of the winners, while recognising the wonderful performance of each and every girl who participated in the sections.

The Intermediate 14/15 year champion final saw a highly commended to Ayanna Burgan-Minniecon from the Marden club, coached by Rachel Burgan. An honourable mention went to Alyssa Millard from the Reynella Braeview club, coached by Natalie Fleming, third was Ava Arnold and second was Jessie Benwell, both from Marden and both coached by Kristin McFarlane. The winner of that section and the Debbie White Memorial Trophy was Chloe Chandler from Burnside, who was coached by Rebecca Norsworthy.

I also watched the Intermediate 16/17 years final. Highly commended was Jaslyn Walter from the Marden club, coached by Angela Eagleton. An honourable mention went to Charli Horn from one of my local clubs, Athelstone Valley View, coached by cali legend Lisa Vettese. I can only say that her work has been amazing for years. Third place went to Mackenzie van de Water from Innovation Club, coached by Kate Loveridge, and second was Bella Faulkner from the Reynella Braeview club, coached by Toni-Louise Barnes and Melissa and Lisa Barnes Daysh.

I must mention their mum, the late Bev Daysh, a great cali stalwart and friend. Her trophy, the Bev Daysh Memorial Trophy, was for the subjunior final for 10-year-old girls. The winner of the 16/17 years section and my Frances Bedford Perpetual Trophy was Erin Domingo from the Marden club, coached by Kristin McFarlane.

During the afternoon, there was a break between sessions and Australian Calisthenics Federation president, Liz Kratzel, made sure she was in town to present the 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award, which was held over until now due to COVID. The more than worthy winner was Adelaide's own John Maguire. Apart from being a former CASA president for four years, on committee for many other years and a proud cali dad for more than 20 years, John's Men in Black are the backstage crew for Australian Calisthenics Federation nationals and made that important job seamless, meaning all the important props have been in position for each and every item on the program for years. John's humility and service to calisthenics is something we are all truly grateful for.

In the last minute, I would like to name the winners of the 18 years and over champion final. Third place was Sophie Hamden from Marden, coached by Kristin McFarlane; second was Emily Gray from Athelstone Valley View, coached by Carmel Margaritis; and first was Elyse Pavan from the Marden club, coached by Melissa Lydyard.

An honourable mention in that section went to a Ridgehaven cali girl Brittiny Emes, coached by Anita Greco, Lisa Savaris and Tracey Emes, her mum. Tracey's husband, Darren, was president of calisthenics for many years. They have been great CASA people and friends to me and indeed calisthenics girls in the state. I commend everyone involved with CASA and urge all members to get involved with their local clubs whenever they are able.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2021

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (17:12): Before I paused my remarks, I was making a contribution about some of the substantial impacts on the state's budget likely to hit South Australia in the coming years, particularly the combination of an increase of debt servicing costs from the record debt that this state government is in the process of racking up and also the threat to our ongoing GST revenues.

More immediately, it is worth reflecting on some of the difficulties that the small business community continues to encounter here in South Australia. Many in the small business community have still not recovered from the impacts of the pandemic, and when I say the 'impacts of the pandemic' specifically what I mean is the requirements on them is either to close their businesses, to cease their operations temporarily, or, when they are able to reopen, to severely limit their capacity to operate. As we now well know, this is best exemplified by the hospitality industry.

Most in the hospitality industry have a liquor licence, and a liquor licence usually is granted on a basis of how many people can be present in a premises at the one time. That is usually granted on the square metreage of the usable premises. If you have 100 square metres, it is not unusual to get a licence for 100 people.

When the restrictions have been imposed on businesses, it is worth bearing in mind that the government initially only allowed licensed premises to operate at 25 per cent capacity—that is one person per four square metres. For us to think about it in terms of one person per four square metres, we think that means we will be sitting spatially apart at tables that are further apart from each other, for example, than we are used to.

What it means for the small business operator is that when they have worked at how they are going to run their business, when they have worked out how they need to operate in order to turn a profit, in order to put food on their own tables and employ other South Australians, they now have a new ceiling of only being able to trade at a maximum capacity of 25 per cent. That is a massive limitation, a crippling limitation on just about any business.

It is worth bearing in mind that as time went on, yes, restrictions did improve for some of these businesses. We did move from one person per four square metres to one person per two square metres. We went from 25 per cent capacity to 50 per cent capacity, bearing in mind, though, there were also many other restrictions that were imposed in addition to those person per square metre requirements.

There were restrictors on how people could consume alcohol on premises—whether it could be consumed outside, whether people could be seated or standing, whether food or alcohol could be consumed at a service bar setting, bearing in mind that many businesses, particularly some of the new small bars and small restaurants, have been established where people are seated at the service bar for meals. When chefs are preparing meals or when service staff are preparing drinks just on the other side of that bar, that area can no longer be used.

For a small premises that might have been licensed if not for 100 people, given the example I used before, but for, say, 50 people, to first be reduced to only 12 or 13 people and then be told that they can have up to 25 people and that there are restrictions on that—people cannot sit outside, or people cannot stand up outside, or people cannot sit in an area that had previously been designated as a bar service area—you could see why many small businesses were crying out for one of two things: either they wanted an easing of restrictions or, if those restrictions were not going to be eased, then they needed more financial support to help them maintain their livelihoods through these difficult times.

As the Leader of the Opposition has said on many occasions, and as other members of the Labor opposition have continued to repeat since March of last year, we have provided, will provide and will continue to provide bipartisan support for the government's health response to the pandemic. If the government, the Chief Public Health Officer, the police commissioner and others make determinations that restrictions have to be imposed on the community in order to safeguard public health, then we will lend our support to those restrictions.

The last thing any community needs in the middle of a global pandemic is political nitpicking about how the pandemic and the health response should be managed. I am really proud to say that in South Australia we have not seen that at all. There has not been any distance between the government and the opposition on the health response to the pandemic. I am pleased to say—and I think in no small part this is as a result of that overt bipartisanship and public support the Labor opposition has lent to the government and to the health response—that South Australia, I think in many of our views, including my own, has had the best health response to COVID in the nation.

We have had a response where the restrictions on the community have been backed in and there have been large levels of community compliance with those restrictions. That is not to say that we have supported everything the government has done over the last 14 months. We have continued to raise issues with the level and nature of the support that the government has been providing the community in order to deal with those restrictions, the financial support to small businesses being one example.

However, it is worth bearing in mind that right now, today, we are here on the Tuesday of what we have come to know for nearly 25 years here in South Australia as Showdown Week, and there was much excitement across many quarters of the community, including from the government itself, with the announcement that Adelaide Oval will be back to full capacity. More than 50,000 people will be able to attend the Showdown at Adelaide Oval this weekend—great news for footy fans, in particular for the Port fans, of course. It is a home game for them, and of course we know how the result is going to go on the weekend.

It was great news for the football fans and great news for those people who are employed in all the services responsible for bringing that football game to reality. However, you can imagine the frustration for the tens of thousands of small businesses across South Australia that still find themselves subject to restrictions. Why is it okay for 50,000 people to gather together in a relatively close-packed environment, like a football stadium, like Adelaide Oval, but it is not okay for one person per square metre in a hospitality business? That is a common refrain from people who operate restaurants, cafes, hotels, bars, clubs, and so on.

It is worth remembering that that sector of the economy usually employs in the order of 30,000 people. That sector of the economy, along with the tourism industry, has been impacted the hardest by the pandemic and the restrictions that have resulted. The continuation of those restrictions even now at three people per four square metres—or basically 75 per cent of regular capacity in these hospitality venues—is making it very difficult for venues to operate profitably.

It is making it very difficult for businesses to maintain their livelihoods, and it is important to remember that during the course of last year when these businesses did not have three people per four square metres; they had one person per four square metres for an extended period of time, and then they had two people per four square metres for another extended period of time. It was also during the quieter months of the year, during the winter period.

In order for these businesses to stay afloat, in order for them to meet their ongoing rental obligations and to meet their other obligations to their suppliers, and so on, many of them took on tens—if not hundreds—of thousands of dollars of additional debt just to make sure that finally when our state emerged through the other side of the pandemic they still had their small business, they still had their livelihoods.

Some business owners took on that extra debt because perhaps they had not quite qualified for JobKeeper. They took on extra debt so that they could continue paying their staff for whom they were not getting support from the federal government. These are very, very significant financial imposts on people, and, yes, perhaps in those circumstances we might make the same reflection,

like it is for the government, that borrowing money is relatively cheap at the moment, but it still comes at a cost. That money still needs to be paid back.

One of the concerns that many people contacted me about after the federal government announced its business short-term loans scheme—and you will probably recall this, Deputy Speaker—was the fact that the federal government was making money available to the banks so that the banks could then make loans of up to \$250,000 to small businesses. That money had to be paid back over a three-year period.

Paying back \$250,000 over a three-year period is no mean feat. That is a significant additional monthly repayment over a 36-month period to pay that sum back on top of the ongoing obligations of that business, on top of a restricted capacity to operate in the first place, and, again, on top of trading conditions during a time of year that is naturally quieter.

So small business has done it extremely tough in South Australia and, while the state government can say that, yes, they have committed \$4 billion allegedly of financial stimulus to the South Australian community, there still remains a need for many small businesses to receive support. The Deputy Premier has advised the house that she will be introducing a bill to extend some of the temporary COVID legislative arrangements first imposed early last year, including a moratorium against rental increases on tenants.

Of course, that makes sense. Why would we want to see rent increases? While we are in the environment where there is a very hot housing market at the moment and many people who have the capacity to are seeking to take advantage of that, you can see the temptation from some landlords to increase rents in that context. But there is something else going on at the same time which will be pushing landlords to consider quite significant rental increases. That is, over the last few weeks and continuing through this week and coming weeks, the government finally—months behind schedule—has got around to sending out its land tax bills to individual property owners.

You might recall, Deputy Speaker, that it is this cycle of land tax bills going out to property owners which contains the beginnings of the \$87 million per year increase in land tax for thousands of private individual property owners as well as companies owning property. Nearly all of them are landlords, nearly all of them with commercial tenants or residential tenants. We understand from the very little information that this government is willing to make available to the community about these land tax increases that there are something in the order of nearly 10,000 people who will be paying this \$87 million of land tax extra per year thanks to the changes that this government introduced to change aggregation and land held in trust arrangements.

On average, that is a very significant tax increase for a property. On average, that equates to a tax increase of many thousands of dollars per land tax payee. Let's assume it goes to something in the order of 10,000 properties. I think their figure is actually 7,800, but you can see how the average increase in land tax bills is going to be something in the order of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year. Spread across the 52 weeks of the year to a tenant, that is a significant increase, particularly in the current context when many of these tenants may be those South Australians who have either lost work completely, because of our shocking record at the moment in our labour market, or businesses that have lost custom or are struggling to operate under the continuation of these restrictions.

We welcome a plan from the government to continue its moratorium on rent increases, but how can the government possibly impose a moratorium on rent increases on landlords while at the same time sending these same landlords thousands of dollars in high land tax bills? Is somebody in the government thinking this through? Has somebody considered the impact on these landlords who are going to be hit with these higher land tax bills?

Even today, tabled in this place, I got an answer from the Premier, in his role representing the Treasurer who resides in the other place, about how many people are going to be impacted by these land tax increases. Once again, the government refuses to release this information. The government laughably says, 'We do not know how many people are going to be paying more land tax and we do not know how much more money is going to be collected in land tax until people pay their bills.' I would have thought in order to send a bill out a government would need to have a reasonable idea of what that land tax liability should be and how many people would be getting a land tax bill with a higher liability than last year.

If RevenueSA cannot furnish that information to a minister so that they can provide that information to the house, either RevenueSA continues its record on this matter of seeming to be—I do not want to use the term 'incompetent' in managing this scheme of land tax increases—perhaps completely detached from the reality of how the imposition of this new regime is going to impact South Australians. First of all, it was RevenueSA and the Treasury that held up a licked thumb to the wind-type estimate about how much more revenue was going to come in from this land tax aggregation model and they said \$40 million a year. That is no small beer across the land tax base. Of course, that turned out to be wrong by a factor of more than 100 per cent.

So it is clear that RevenueSA and Treasury had bowled up a revenue estimate to the government without actually doing any homework. They just came up with a tax increase to fold into the 2019-20 budget without actually knowing how many people it was going to impact and how much it was going to impact them by. They had done no modelling. Indeed, it took the government some months—until September, I think, after the June release of the budget in 2019—to finally admit to the community how much more money was going to be raised from these changes, and that figure was \$87 million.

You can imagine how landlords and property owners felt having been misled by the government, unknowingly I must say. They were not to know that the information given to them by RevenueSA and Treasury was so wildly inaccurate, but you would have thought they would have asked. You would have thought that a treasurer or a cabinet minister sitting around the table would have perhaps asked, '\$40 million seems an awfully round figure. Are you sure that's the amount? How many people are we hitting? Are they businesses? Are they commercial landlords? Are they residential landlords? How many businesses is this going to impact? How many residential tenants is this going to impact?'

Perhaps even a politically savvy minister might have asked, 'Do we know where these tenants are? Are they in metropolitan South Australia? Are they in regional South Australia? If they are in regional South Australia, where are they? If they are in metropolitan South Australia, where are they?' None of these questions were asked. Still to this day—fast-forward from June 2019 to May 2021, nearly 24 months later—the Premier provides a response to the house that he still does not know how many people are going to be impacted by higher land tax bills and what the increases are likely to be for them. It is just extraordinary. These bills are months late going out to property owners.

Remember that in an effort to try to work out how many people were going to be affected, and even in an effort to try to find out who owned what property, we had for the first time since just before Christ's birth a broadscale census of property owners here in South Australia the likes of which we had not seen since Emperor Augustus apparently. A census we had from RevenueSA because apparently there was not the wit to go over and look through the titling information to see who owned what property.

It makes you wonder how they send out all the other bills, does it not, such as the emergency services levy. They sent out these letters of demand—and they were letters of demand. I still have copies of the ones sent to me by my constituents: 'You must fill in this information. Information must be provided by.' All these people were ringing up and saying, 'Why do I have to do this? I have never had to do this before. What's the penalty if I don't do this?' It was all this extraordinary effort of belatedly trying to find out who was going to be impacted by this extraordinary tax increase.

So now we have as its latest measure in March 2021—nearly two years later from the announcement of these land tax increases—the announcement that the government continues the moratorium on rent increases. I can say the opposition supports that. That is a good thing. What we do not support is at the same time the government sending out an extra \$87 million in land tax bills to South Australians. Many of those people are going to be constricted by this moratorium and that needs to be resolved by this government.

I have made comments before in this place about the extraordinary efforts that business owners not just in hospitality but across the board have made in an effort to continue their operations. They were told that in a world first, let alone in an Australian first, that all business owners would have to become COVID marshals, that they would have to be trained and become expert and capable of enforcing the government's coronavirus restrictions on the community.

Once again, I am pleased to say that, in many cases through gritted teeth, the community in South Australia complied. People signed up for the COVID online training, which I recall was only made available on the same day as the requirement to be a COVID marshal was introduced, but nonetheless we all complied and we all became COVID marshals.

It is not much fun if you are a young entrepreneur, you have started your own cafe, you have started your own restaurant, you might have started a small bar or maybe a brewery or a distillery, and you invite people into your premises, you encourage them to buy coffees, to buy food, to buy beer, gin or spirits or whatever else is the main selling point of that business, and you have to wear a bright yellow vest with COVID Marshal written on it and run around for the entire time your guests are there reminding them not to talk in such close proximity to their friends or not to stand up while they are drinking or not to sit at that table but instead get up and sit over there and just yell a bit louder so they can talk to their friends.

That is the position that South Australian business owners were placed in. They did it because they felt they had a shared responsibility with the rest of the state to try to keep us safe and they did it because not only did they feel that shared responsibility but, of course, they wanted to continue to operate. They did that, and they did that on top of having to massively reconfigure their businesses so that they could operate under some of those restrictions, whether at 25 per cent capacity, 50 per cent capacity or 75 per cent capacity.

If you were a larger venue owner that could, in the normal course of things, accommodate perhaps several hundred people and you had to impose those restrictions, that quite often meant closing or completely restructuring some parts of your business at quite significant expense, so spending more money of scarce financial resources in the middle of a pandemic in order to be able to stay open and trade at a restricted capacity. That has been a very significant financial impact on many thousands of South Australian businesses.

Many of those businesses were able to receive the federal government's JobKeeper support, which for many of them made all the difference in the world. It was the difference between being able to keep their heads above water and maintaining their businesses or simply having to close and basically hand back the keys. Also, perhaps some of them received the state government's Small Business Grant. Both JobKeeper and the state's Small Business Grant scheme have now finished and businesses are still subject to these restrictions.

Some of these businesses are not only subject to these restrictions but also now subject to what has been a fundamental change in consumer behaviour. The proportion of people shopping for retail goods online has increased from below or about 6 per cent, I think, to more than 12 per cent, a doubling of retail sales. That, of course, comes directly off those retail sales that were otherwise being done in person in a store.

It does not take too much to understand why a group of friends, deciding that they want to get together for some drinks, rather than go down to whatever the current status of restrictions are at the local pub, club, small bar or other venue, will just think, 'You know what? We might just go to Dan Murphy's, pick up a bottle of something and just sit around and have some drinks at home.' That has been a fundamental shift over the last 12 months, and it has been a real challenge for many venue operators to try to encourage people to come back into the venues.

There have been very significant structural changes in consumer behaviour, but there have not been commensurate structural changes in how these businesses have to manage their own finances. Yes, there has been some temporary relief from landlords and there has been some temporary relief for those landlords for some of their land tax liabilities going back many months, but that is largely over now as well. Their cost base is basically back to normal, their revenue base is still heavily restricted and their customer base is now possibly permanently changed as well. These are really, really significant shifts that our state and other states around the country are going to have to grapple with in the coming months—hopefully not years but in the coming months.

I saw a report in today's media about the concern of a really significant drop-off in the number of people coming into the CBD each day for work. There are still many people working from home, and many probably will not go back to working in the workplace. My wife, who works at a bank, is one of them. She has been working from home since March last year. I could count on one hand how many days she has been into the office. She is one of 900 staff in that bank who was previously working in the CBD, and the vast majority of them continue to work at home. That is just one corporate

in a CBD which usually accommodates up to 200,000 workers on a normal working day. Structurally, that is likely to not come back to pre-COVID trends.

Remarkably, just as an aside, those people who are required to commute into the city in the morning might have noticed that, despite fewer people coming into the city to work or for other purposes, despite a really significant drop-off, traffic is actually worse, and that is because another structural shift has occurred, and that is that people do not feel confident using public transport anymore. I will not digress to the fact that there are lots of public transport services not being run at the moment for various reasons but, even when those services are operating, there is a proportion of the community that previously caught public transport that just do not feel comfortable catching it anymore. These are all really significant issues which we as a community will need to grapple with.

There are some nice perhaps unforeseen or unintended consequences of COVID, like those people who have managed to make their way back to South Australia to be with the broader families away from whatever they were doing interstate or overseas. That is wonderful for those people and their families. Of course, you do not have to look too far to hear stories about people who are still stuck overseas. It is nice that there are nice economic silver linings in some areas like the housing construction industry, but we are confronted with very significant challenges in this state in order to try to return our economy, our labour market and our way of maintaining small businesses' viability here in South Australia on an ongoing basis. That requires some leadership.

Industries that are organised and have leadership voices have a responsibility to provide not only some insight into what their industries are going through but also some suggestions about how best we can address these problems. It is not good enough for the Property Council in South Australia to say, 'Every employer must send all their employees back to work in the city because it's good for my members and it's good for those commercial landlords.' Well, sorry, breaking news: that ain't going to happen. If there is any expectation that that is suddenly going to flip back to what it was like in February 2020, or even times earlier, that is just simply not the case.

Why would a large corporate that has spent the last 12 to 14 months successfully dealing with all the challenges of migrating a large proportion of its workforce to be able to successfully work from home and maintain their productivity seek to upend that and try to bring everyone back into the city? Why would they not try to take advantage of perhaps the reduced rents that might come with the lower need for floor space? That challenge, along with the others I spoke of, will need to be addressed by this government. There will need to be some leadership shown by this government to support it.

I have mentioned a couple of times now the HomeBuilder scheme, which has seen a terrific boost in the number of people who are looking at building a new home or who are looking at extending their home. The state government here were first to tout that it was signing up to the HomeBuilder scheme. Of course they would. This is a scheme which enables the state government to disburse funds which have exclusively come from the federal government and try to take some ownership of them.

It is worth bearing in mind that South Australia is one of the only states not to have provided any additional support to its housing construction industry at the same time as the HomeBuilder scheme. Other states have provided support, for example, for first-home buyers for stamp duty relief and so on. This state government have done none of that. All they have done is continue the First Home Owner Grant which was put in place by the former Labor government and which gives a first-home buyer up to \$15,000 if they are building a new home or purchasing a new home off the plan and so on. There has been no additional effort and I think that it is regrettable.

I suspect what we will see is that the first-home buyers who have taken up that \$25,000 grant from the HomeBuilder scheme is a very small proportion. I suspect that, even though that money has been on the table, it has meant that the vast majority of people are people who already own a home—people already in a financial position of owning a home who are able to build another one or very significantly renovate or extend their existing home. That is terrific for the economy, it is good for tradies, it is great for those home owners, but it is not great for what we see confronting young South Australians, and that is the dream of home ownership increasingly becoming more and more difficult.

Last month, property prices increased in South Australia. Last month—not last quarter or last year but last month—they increased by 2 per cent. Over the last 10 years, South Australia usually has been lucky to record an annual increase in property values of 2 per cent, and now that is occurring in a month. You can imagine just how much harder it is getting if you are a young South Australian or a young couple saving up for a home deposit.

The median house price is knocking on the door of half a million dollars, and that means that most banks will require a deposit of at least 20 per cent, now \$100,000. It is not easy in the current day and age to save up \$100,000, particularly since the global financial crisis where wage growth in real terms has basically been flat for the best part of 10 years. It is not easy to save up these funds.

It is worth bearing in mind, though, that the state government has been doing very nicely out of this HomeBuilder scheme, and the state government has been doing very nicely out of the current boom in the housing market. In the six months to December 2020, so the first six months of this financial year, stamp duty receipts into the state government were up \$115 million above budget—in just six months. That is before the last three or four months of frantic activity in the housing market, with houses selling for record prices after only being listed for days. So you can imagine after 12 months how much stamp duty receipts are likely to increase in this current financial year. If it has gone up \$115 million in six months—and, yes, activity was pretty warm in the first six months of this year—it does not take much to guess that it is likely to be up something like \$200 million over the course of 12 months.

At the same time, when we have had such a bounce-back in retail spending across the country, particularly from those people who would have otherwise been spending money overseas through overseas travel, for example, retail sales have continued their strong growth across the country. Retail sales across the country are great for South Australia because under our current GST arrangement it means that we get a big boost in GST revenues. GST revenues for South Australia, according to the latest budget figures released by the federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, this financial year are up \$300 million so far.

Together, stamp duty and GST were up more than \$400 million already. There have also been some increases, perhaps in more discrete parts of the economy. Of course, anyone who has tried to buy a new car in recent times or even a used car would have noticed not only the extraordinary demand in turnover occurring in the car market but also the very strong prices being demanded, particularly for used cars and for some new cars as well. This is leading to increased stamp duty receipts for vehicles purchased here in South Australia as well.

The government is hundreds of millions of dollars ahead of budget this year. That deficit of \$2.49 billion, which was estimated in the state budget papers in November last year, is more likely going to look like something under \$2 billion because of that influx of revenue. It depends on your perspective, I guess, but you might think that that is sweet relief from what was otherwise looking like very, very dire budget outcomes. You might think that the best thing to do with that money is just to pocket it, to take that money to the budget bottom line, to not borrow so much money in the current financial year and to improve the state's finances now and in the future commensurately.

You might also take the view that the community is facing a lot of pressures at the moment. Small business in South Australia is calling out for a lot more support and you might take the view that it is worthy of providing some support to those small businesses or actually investing some money very quickly in order to combat the extraordinary ramping that we are seeing throughout the community.

It is worth perhaps reflecting on the fact that, even though you might think that Catherine House and the Hutt St Centre are no longer appropriate bodies to receive government funding for the provision of important services they provide, you might just continue with that anyway because we have an extra \$500 million in the Treasury coffers and we think now is not the time to be starving those organisations of important government funding that allows them to literally take people off the streets and care for them when they are in their direst need.

Of course, it may not end there. There may be a lot more money that is available in the state budget when we see it released on 22 June. This government's record on the delivery of infrastructure projects is appalling. I am expecting to see a very large carryover of capital funds which were allocated against projects and which continue to remain unspent. You only need to come down to the western suburbs and look at how slow—glacial even—the progress has been on the

stage 3 development of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital upgrade, which was funded by the former Labor government, with construction due to start in the 2018-19 financial year.

It is now more than two years after construction was due to commence on the upgrade of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and still not a sod has been turned. Perhaps I should get half a ute-load of soil, dump it in an alleyway in the CBD, get a golden shovel and some high-vis vests and invite the Premier. Maybe that will motivate him to get this project underway. It seems to be the only way we can draw the Premier's attention towards the benefits of infrastructure investment.

The government has little to show for their first, and hopefully only, term in government when it comes to infrastructure spending. The Regency to Pym Street project, as I mentioned previously, was budgeted for and committed to by the former Labor government, as was the duplication of the Joy Baluch Bridge. Also, the contract was signed, let alone the funding made available, for the electrification of the Gawler line.

The electrification of the Gawler line is a project that I have to say—yes, with its long chequered history—is one that for a few reasons continues to cause an extraordinary amount of frustration for commuters along the whole length of that line. One is that the project is late. It has been delayed. The project is being delivered in a way that it seems has been designed to create the greatest amount of impact on commuters. It is absolutely extraordinary that the government and its contractor would not devise a way in order to minimise the closure of these rail services.

A great comparison is the grade separation of the Outer Harbor line underneath both Park Terrace and the ARTC freight line, which was delivered in the years 2016 and 2017 under the former Labor government. By making sure that people were on site and literally working around the clock, the closure of that line was minimised to a maximum in total of several closures of only four months. We have closures extending on the Gawler line until November of this year, a further seven months away, after we have already had months of closures.

When we imposed those closures on Outer Harbor line commuters, we provided them with free substitute bus services in recognition of the inconvenience that they would suffer from having to catch a bus that stopped at proxy train stations along the way into the city. No such provision was made with this project. Commuters still have to pay full tote odds for their public transport services for a vastly inferior service. That is not the way you treat commuters when you are delivering a project like this. It goes to show that nobody really is paying close attention to the infrastructure program of this government.

There are lots of announcements and lots of claims about how big the infrastructure spend is in total, but when it comes to the actual management of a project that is when the wheels fall off. Look at what is happening with the rail crossing at Brighton Road, Hove. We have a minister who refuses to engage with the community that he himself as a member of parliament is responsible for representing in this place. He will not speak to his own constituents about a project. It may be difficult, but it is necessary.

I had to do this for the O-Bahn City Access Project. Believe me, nobody liked the idea of carving a 400-metre-long tunnel through the eastern Parklands of this city, but if you are going to come up with a plan like that you should at least have the courage to go and front it, to go and talk to those people who are concerned about it, and to be honest about what the impacts are going to be and how the project is going to be delivered.

This government is paralysed on this project. It cannot seem to make a decision about what the solution is going to be, let alone front up and own this project and the decisions necessary to deliver it, and go and speak to people out there about the impacts of it. It is emblematic of a range of other projects, which perhaps I can speak at some length about after the coming break.

Sitting suspended from 17:59 to 19:30.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I was talking about the delivery of infrastructure under this government, and one of the things that remains a concern about the current budget settings is the burden that will fall on the state balance sheet, after the end of the forward estimates, for those large infrastructure projects that have been committed to by this government but not yet funded.

Of the two most obvious examples, the first I will start with is the upgrade to the north-south corridor, the delivery of tunnels promised by this government. A presentation drafted for cabinet and leaked to the opposition outlined the total cost of tunnelling the remaining sections of the north-south corridor at \$8.9 billion. That is an extraordinary figure by any stretch. It would comfortably, by some margin, by some order of magnitude in fact, exceed the most expensive infrastructure project that has previously been delivered in South Australia and would make it one of the most expensive infrastructure projects to be contemplated nationally.

Before the release of the 2018-19 state budget, the government caused a story to be placed in the *Adelaide Advertiser* claiming that there would be \$1.4 billion for the next stages of South Road, for that section of South Road between the River Torrens and the nearly complete Darlington upgrade project. As a matter of fact, the state budget papers revealed a little later that only \$144 million was included in the state budget, only a tenth of what had been promised. In the next year's budget, the 2019-20 budget, again a story was placed in the *Adelaide Advertiser* claiming that a further \$1.5 billion would be included in the state budget. In fact, only \$250 million was included in the state budget.

Now what we have in total, we are told, is funding that has been allocated over the forward estimates from the 2020-21 federal budget of \$2.4 billion—half of that from the federal government and half of that from the state government, all of it sitting unallocated towards a specific part of the north-south corridor and sitting within the contingencies line of the capital program outlined in Budget Paper 3 of the budget papers. That, of course, leaves the remainder, the balance of nearly \$6½ billion, yet to be found for the remainder of the north-south corridor.

On the basis that it is to be funded on a fifty-fifty basis between the federal government and the state government, it means that not only does the federal government have to find a further \$3 billion in order to deliver the Liberal government's claimed \$9 billion tunnelling program but the state government has to find that money as well. The total government debt figure of \$33 billion, across both the general government sector and the non-financial public sector, by the end of the forward estimates will further increase by at least a further \$3 billion in order to accommodate the remainder of the north-south corridor project.

It does not end there. We know that the state government has maintained its commitment to a new Women's and Children's Hospital, despite having had a business case for this new hospital provided to the government nearly two full years ago. The government will not release either that business case or, more to the point, the estimated costs of a new Women's and Children's Hospital. A document released to the opposition under freedom of information indicated that the likely cost was to be \$1.9 billion. That was \$1.9 billion in 2018 costs.

The response from the government is, 'We are pretty confident we can deliver a hospital for less than what that quoted figure was.' I do not claim to be the most experienced person in government, but I do have some experience in government, and there are two projects that you can absolutely bank on will never reduce in cost but will always increase. One is an ICT project and the other is a hospital project.

For the government to be sitting on a project that we know will cost at least \$1.9 billion, for which it has only allocated \$685 million across the forward estimates, means that at least another \$1.2 billion—at least—will be required from taxpayers beyond the forward estimates to provide for this project. Of course, once you factor in that the forward estimates end in a little over three years' time or when we get the new budget in four years' time, with the cost escalation that we see in infrastructure projects on a year-on-year basis, changes in scope, latent conditions in the site, etc., it is easy to see how that figure will easily exceed \$2 billion.

On top of that, we were told, remarkably, that the Premier's vision to complete the Riverbank Precinct is a new basketball stadium. Apparently the case is so persuasive for the Adelaide 36ers that it justifies \$700 million being spent on a basketball stadium. We are told as well that this is not just a basketball stadium. This will be used for all those international conferences that South Australia is currently missing out on that require more floor space.

I agree that there is a case to be made for public investment in conference facilities to attract major conferences. They do provide a very substantial economic boost, a very substantial boost in tourism visitation and, of course, the spend that comes with each of those conference delegates while they are here in Adelaide. It was a robust business case prepared by Ernst and Young which

informed the commitment for the 2010 election for the former Labor government to commit \$394 million to the next two stages of extension to the Adelaide Convention Centre facilities.

You might remember that Adelaide had the first convention centre in Australia, built and opened, I think, in 1987, and then extended by the Olsen government. I think Joan Hall, if I remember rightly, was the tourism minister at the time. It gave us the first stage of the Convention Centre expansion, the one that many of us would recognise as having the large glass facade overlooking the River Torrens.

That business case that was used to inform the 2010 election commitment for the next two stages, alongside the Morphett Street bridge and then also at the end of the new footbridge, was based on South Australia having the capacity to attract conferences with up to 3,500 delegates able to sit together in a plenary style seating forum and the idea that such an investment of \$394 million would pay back taxpayers and then some as an investment.

The problem with this \$700 million basketball stadium-cum-conference facility is that there is no business case. No formal document has been provided or even drafted by the government that sets out what justifies this investment. Without that business case, South Australians will continue to scratch their heads and think, 'Why on earth would the government commit a further \$700 million to a project without a basis while there are other areas of public expenditure so direly needed, such as additional investment in the health system to try to ease hospital ramping and the pressures on our emergency departments, the mental health crisis, homelessness funding and so on?'

When you think that a further \$3 billion, at least, is required from the state government for the north-south corridor, a further \$1.2 billion, at least, is needed for the new Women's and Children's Hospital and now a further \$700 million is required for this new basketball stadium, South Australians rightly would ask, 'If we already have an amount of debt on the state balance sheet that has rapidly escalated towards \$33 billion by the end of the current forward estimates, why would we consider a further \$5 billion worth of projects, particularly when those projects do not have robust business cases that have been provided to the community?' These are all very salient questions which the government cannot answer.

In the meantime, its management of existing infrastructure projects continues—pardon the pun—to go off the rails. The more than two-year delay of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has led to a budget blowout again caused by that delay and the escalation in construction costs over time of \$50 million, the government again unable to articulate that there is additional resources or additional spaces or additional facilities provided for this funding, because they cannot articulate that. We know it is a budget blowout.

There has also been a blowout in the costs of the Gawler electrification project and a blowout in the costs of the delayed Festival Plaza redevelopment. As to the Festival Plaza redevelopment, finally after years of wrangling and negotiation between Walker Corporation and the former Labor government an agreement is in place, a design is in place, a scope of works is in place. Construction can commence, with the demolition of the old car park, the construction of the new car park and the new plaza to go on top of it, eventually linking up towards the new footbridge and the new opening to the recently redeveloped Adelaide Casino precinct. Yet it was delayed for 18 months, between April 2018 and nearly the beginning of 2020, because the developer thought, 'Here's a new government. Here's a new minister. I might just try it on one more time to see if I can convince them to put more multistorey buildings on the plaza precinct than had been agreed with the former government.'

It took 18 months of navel-gazing, of fingernail chewing, of delay and indecision before this government was embarrassed into saying no when the media found out not only about the delay but about what the request was from Walker Corporation, and finally we have some progress some 18 months—nearly two years—late on the Festival Plaza project because the former minister for infrastructure, the member for Schubert, could not get on with the project.

The Main South Road project—the duplication of Main South Road—was due to start in 2019; well, here we are in 2021, two years later. Again a project that has been delayed. Why can the government not just tell the community what its design will be for this road duplication and what the treatment of intersections will be?

If the Minister for Transport likes to stand in here and mock intersections that have previously been installed in the form of roundabouts, well, it is simple: he can make his commitment to the communities of the outer southern suburbs that he will grade-separate Main South Road. If he is not prepared to do that, then he should tell them, finally, what the final design will be for this road duplication. But most importantly he should just get on and start building it—award the contract, get people employed and start battling South Australia's unwanted mantle of having the worst unemployment rate in the nation.

The Hove crossing is another example of how a transport department is leading a minister by the nose into what is going to be a disastrous outcome for that community. The community is well aware what the options are. The community is well aware of what those impacts will be, but what they are not aware of is what the minister is going to decide as the outcome. In my view I think building bridges in the middle of residential areas to take either road traffic or rail traffic over intersections is a disastrous outcome. If that is the solution which is pursued by this government, if that is what this transport minister is going to impose on his own constituents in his own electorate, well, then I think his own electorate will treat him very harshly and rightly so.

These large bridges, these large overpasses, may be suitable solutions for non-residential and industrial areas such as where the South Road Superway has been built around Wingfield, but they are not suitable for residential areas. As somebody who uses either Port Road or Torrens Road to come into the city in the morning, I think the prospect of an enormous road bridge over the suburbs of Ovingham and Brompton will be a blight on that landscape for decades to come and, even worse, a completely avoidable blight as well.

I agree in one respect with the minister in that it is not easy dealing with that rail corridor where you have shared passenger rail and freight rail and delivering major infrastructure projects around it. I know what it is like. The Torrens Junction project, which took the Outer Harbor line underneath Park Terrace at Bowden and also underneath that freight line in the western Parklands, was a very difficult project to deliver. It was expensive.

It not only required the closure of the Outer Harbor line but it required the temporary and nightly closure of the freight line every day for months, and doing so dealing with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), who were deliberately difficult to deal with in those negotiations because their only concern, of course, was to continue their freight services. They are not beholden to the wishes of the South Australian community, let alone the South Australian government, and they will make terms as difficult as possible for the state government. That was certainly my experience in delivering that Torrens Junction project.

As difficult as it may be, whether it is a few months of inconvenience or whether it is some pointed negotiations with a difficult to deal with institution like ARTC, that is a much more preferable outcome than elevating a road traffic bridge through the suburbs of Ovingham and Brompton, heading down towards Renown Park, that will stay there for decades. That will be an eyesore, and that is also the solution that the transport minister is proposing for his own constituents in Hove when it comes to the Brighton Road crossing.

I think it is terrific that the Liberal government has picked up a proposal from the former Labor government to proceed with rail crossing grade separations. It is a very good initiative. It is not only good for transport times, both for passenger rail and for road transport, but it is great for safety. Rail crossings are the most dangerous intersections that we have on our road network, and the more we can eliminate by grade separation the better. However, I reiterate that there are good ways of doing this and there are ways which create a blight on the landscape, and I am very concerned that this minister is certainly providing us with the latter.

Of course, it is not easy to fund major infrastructure projects. They are expensive by their nature, hundreds of millions of dollars and sometimes in the billions of dollars, but that should not be a licence for this government to continue its form of remorselessly increasing taxes on the South Australian community.

We had a big promise from the Premier, the then member for Dunstan, leading into the last state election that he would deliver more jobs, lower costs and better services. Of course, what we have seen is that South Australia is the only state to have lost jobs since the pandemic. As far as the better services promise goes, we only have to watch the news to see how ramping is spiralling out

of control or that other government services are being privatised, and when it comes to lower costs, that promise has been completely blown out of the water.

Whatever relief this government tells you is being delivered to South Australians is absolutely washed away in the tsunami of higher taxes, fees and charges that are continually being jacked up by this government. It was remarkable that the Liberal Party went to the last state election with clear commitments about reducing the ESL, for example, but actually had no way of funding it.

They were blessed that in the lead-up to the release of the 2018-19 budget the state budget enjoyed a revenue boom of more than \$300 million a year, providing them the capacity to deliver all of their unfunded unbudgeted election commitments, including that tax reduction. But of course what happened in the lead-up to the next year's budget, to the 2019-20 budget, was that the tide started to run out on the government again.

Economic activity slowed, no doubt partially in response to this government's withdrawal of support for the state's economy and those job creation and support programs, and the government faced the choice between trying to maintain relief to households and businesses or they could increase taxes. This government chose the latter. In the 2019-20 budget, released in June 2019, we had a \$500 million assault on the hip pockets of households and businesses in South Australia. Virtually no area of tax was left alone when it came to increasing the burden on South Australians.

Motorists were hit particularly hard. Driver's licence fees were increased, registration costs were increased by 10 per cent or \$48 million over four years. The administration fee—that fee that everybody asks, 'What on earth am I paying this for?' when they get their car registration renewal notice—was increased by 30 per cent. You might think the increase of a \$7 fee to a \$10 fee or a \$21 fee to a \$30 fee or a \$30 fee to a \$40 fee is small beer. That increase alone raised the government \$90 million extra in revenue.

Those motorists who had their residences in Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs or Kangaroo Island had their out-of-areas motor vehicle registration concession removed, so their registration costs doubled. That was an extra \$10 million raised by the government over four years. Speeding fines were increased, mobile phone fines increased by \$200 or 60 per cent. But unbelievably, regarding fines to small businesses running car fleets with vans, utes, light trucks and so on, the corporate fee payable by a business whose vehicle is caught committing a traffic infringement suffered a 500 per cent increase to a \$1,800 fee—just extraordinary. It was all designed to raise nearly an extra \$100 million over four years.

Perhaps the most egregious activity by this government was to introduce the Premier's bin tax—a 40 per cent increase to the solid waste levy. Who pays the solid waste levy? It is perhaps a levy most South Australians have not heard of before. The main payer of the solid waste levy is councils, which pick up the rubbish each week from South Australian households. A 40 per cent increase in the solid waste levy raises an extra \$25 million a year. Who pays that extra \$25 million a year? People who pay council rates.

As a result, you saw council after council across metropolitan and regional South Australia have to redo their budgets at the last minute to increase council rates to South Australians. This government said that they would cut council rates. Not only did they abandon their attempts to cut council rates through their rate capping legislation—they dumped that—in the next breath they increased council rates by increasing the solid waste levy.

Government businesses themselves were slugged, including HomeStart, the government lending agency designed to help those people who cannot get finance for a house within the traditional banking sector. They slugged businesses like HomeStart, businesses like SA Water, an extra \$25 million a year. Every dollar they make in net profit each year is now retained by Treasury, rather than the previous policy of allowing these businesses to retain some of their earned profits to reinvest in their operations.

Public transport fares were up, including the removal of the two-section fare, perhaps the most small-minded, short-sighted public transport fee increase. The last thing we want to do is encourage those people who live in the inner suburbs surrounding metropolitan Adelaide to choose not to take public transport anymore because their fares have gone up and to drive themselves in and increase inner-city congestion, but that has been the result of removing the two-section fare, and

charging people \$5 once more to even buy a public transport ticket—\$5 for a Metrocard. Egregiously, in the context of a pandemic, hospital car parking fees are up with \$2 million a year raised from visitors and \$8 million a year being raised from cleaners, nurses, orderlies and other staff working in our hospitals.

I spoke at length about the land tax increases introduced by the Premier and his Treasurer, but the remarkable thing about the budget handed down last year was the introduction of an electric vehicle tax. Once again, just like the proposed aggregation and land surcharge for land owned in trusts in the 2019-20 budget, last year's budget introduced a new tax for electric vehicles. The government could not and to this day still cannot even articulate how that tax is to be implemented. They do not even know what activity they will be taxing. All they have seen is something that is capable of moving without the government's input—an electric vehicle—and thought, 'We had better tax that.'

It was dressed up in the most egregious lie to the people of South Australia, the most bogus rhetoric, about why electric vehicles should be taxed in a way that vehicles powered by internal combustion engines are taxed. The assertion was made that electric vehicles do not pay their fair share of fuel excise, which funds the maintenance of the road network. That is just a lie. It is not a mistake, and it is not a minor indiscretion or something that is the result of an oversight; it is a carefully designed lie about the rationale of a new tax.

People who run electric vehicles pay two things: they pay their driver's licence fee and they pay the same level of registration as the owner of a four-cylinder vehicle pays. There are two sources of revenue that the government can raise that are by law hypothecated into the upkeep of our roads: driver's licence fees and motor vehicle registration costs. Electric vehicle owners pay that and electric vehicles, in order to be registered, are subject to those registration costs—tick and tick.

Do you know what revenue a level of government receives that is not hypothecated into the upkeep of the road network? Fuel excise. There is no link whatsoever, in any way, shape or form, between the amount of fuel excise that is raised by the commonwealth government and how much the commonwealth government spends on the roads—no link whatsoever. It is a completely bogus argument.

Having worked with many of them over many years, I like to think that the good people who work in the Treasury department would be aware of that, and I also like to think that they would have advised their minister of that. This cannot have been based on advice coming from the Public Service. This can only be some short-sighted, ill-informed, deliberately misleading spin that has been provided by ministers to this place and to the people of South Australia.

As soon as they were caught out by this, as soon as people who actually know how roads are funded and how taxes are levied on motorists and their vehicles made their voices heard, as soon as this all came out, where is the tax? Where is the legislation? It was not in the budget bill. We were promised it would be placed before this house before the delivery of this coming budget and we are still yet to see it.

That is because this, just like the land tax aggregation measures, was all designed to raise revenue. This was not designed to deliver a public policy outcome. This was not designed to right some wrong currently occurring throughout the community of South Australia. This was merely to fleece South Australians in a new way.

Could we be thinking of anything worse when it comes to the greening of our motor vehicle fleet? South Australia already has the oldest car fleet in the nation currently on our roads. An old fleet, of course, means a relatively unsafe fleet. It also means a fleet that uses more petrol per capita than a newer fleet. Rather than fostering ways to encourage South Australians to buy new vehicles, whether they are hybrids, plug-in hybrids or fully electric vehicles, this government sets about creating new ways to disincentivise the take-up of these cars—a truly remarkable effort. I bet we will see this government walk away from this very, very quickly.

It is also fair to say that the land tax increase, the handling of the electric vehicle tax and its purported introduction find their stewardship in the hands of the Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas of the other place. The Hon. Mr Lucas has his hands full at the moment not just with the preparation of the next state budget but with a series of disputes of his own making. One is with the Ambulance Employees Association, who, quite rightly, are defending their members' rights and the members'

wishes about employment conditions in their line of work, and also one is with those hospital staff who are employed to make sure that our hospitals are kept clean and, in the current context of a global pandemic, kept safe.

They both have been in dispute with the government in excess of 12 months, so prior to a pandemic. This Treasurer, unlike any other Treasurer before him, has pursued a policy where not only will enterprise bargaining negotiations be delayed for as long as possible and we will not reach agreements with various enterprise groups but, when agreements are finally reached, any pay increase in the subject of that new agreement is not backdated to the expiry of the former agreement. That is absolutely outrageous.

It is a tactic designed not only to frustrate public sector workers but to prop up the state budget. That might be desirable if you are a bean counter, but it is a figurative slap in the face for those public sector staff, who in many cases are charged with keeping South Australians safe. I cannot believe that once again we have the Treasurer embarking on yet another political frolic like the land tax, like the electric vehicles tax and now the dispute with the Ambulance Employees Association and the dispute with hospital cleaners. We do not have a Premier who is pulling on the reins, calling him to heel, making sure that these employees who work so hard to protect the people of South Australia, to respond to their needs when they are at their greatest, are being looked after. I just find that absolutely extraordinary.

The results speak for themselves. Every time we hear the Minister for Health or the Treasurer go on radio and make a claim about how, in their view, these ambulance employees have never had it so good, that the government have added so many more new crews, that there are so many more ambulances, what do the ambulance employees themselves say? They call in talkback radio and say that is completely wrong. That is absolutely wrong.

Even today, the Premier in question time was trying to take credit for additional ambulance crews that were funded and committed to by the former Labor government in the previous enterprise bargaining negotiations, which were concluded before the last state election. That is all they have to lean on. They have not done anything themselves. They are trying to take credit for things that the former Labor government was responsible for.

What is the end result of this? It is not, 'Who is at fault? Is it Labor? Is it Liberal? Is the Treasurer being outrageous? Is the Premier not calling him to heel?' In the midst of all this, the people are missing out on a decent ambulance service. The member for Kaurana in question time today revealed case after case of South Australians in absolute dire need of paramedic services not getting them because of the crisis that is enveloping the Ambulance Service because of its dispute with the government and, more broadly, the health crisis.

It was telling today to watch the performance of the Premier and the performance of the member for Morialta grasping at straws, trying to read into *Hansard* excerpts from a former health minister's memoirs—the health minister four ministers ago, maybe five—claiming that that was the source of all their problems. How many more years will the Premier, his Treasurer and his health minister lean on the political excuse of, 'Don't blame us, we're only a new government. It was all the former government's fault.'?

That does not wash with the 93 year old left on an ambulance gurney for more than six hours. That does not wash with the children who are having cardiac issues who are not being attended to by ambulance responders. It does not wash for their parents. It does not wash for the tens of thousands of people who are watching these incidents unfold on the nightly news or, of course, the hundreds of thousands of South Australians who will be casting their ballots accordingly in less than a year's time. I have to say it is emblematic of this government's approach to providing what they claimed was going to be better services for South Australians.

The approach by this government has been to identify crucial public services and immediately decide to privatise them. One of the first decisions this government made was, 'Unless SA Pathology can save over \$100 million, we are going to privatise it.' South Australians were aghast. Pretty much anyone who has had a blood test or a similar test in the state would have ended up using the services of SA Pathology. Why on earth would you put that in private hands? It took the emergence of a global pandemic and the crucial role that SA Pathology played in providing timely

accurate testing services for the government to be badgered while on morning talkback radio into backing down from that threat to privatise SA Pathology.

But, of course, it does not end with SA Pathology. We have the remarkable performance of the transport department under its new chief executive who, upon assuming the role, seems to have convinced his ministers—first, the member for Schubert and now the member for Gibson—that it is in their best interests to divest themselves of any responsibility of providing any transport services directly, or any related transport infrastructure services while they are in government.

Of course, the former Liberal government under the former transport minister, Diana Laidlaw, outsourced the buses. What an absolute debacle that was at not only outsourcing them, but having to massively increase the amount of funding going to the private companies so that they could at least match the previously existing level of bus services. They thought, 'We will have another couple of doses of that. We'll do the trams and we'll do the trains.' The trains is perhaps the most egregious. It went to a company that had never run a train service in the country before.

They claimed they ran a tram service. It is a little bit different running a train service. Trams do not get the benefit of running red lights. Trams do not get the benefit of crossing over a busy arterial road with an unfettered right of way. Trams are a far different beast entirely from running a train network. This is a company that did not even get its train accreditation from the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator until less than two weeks before they were meant to start running services.

What was the first thing they did? They identified a couple of infrastructure projects, which as I have previously mentioned were running behind time and over budget and used those as an excuse to stop providing as many services as possible, particularly on the Gawler line and also on the Outer Harbor line, ostensibly to save both the contractor and the state government as much money in the current context as possible.

They privatised regional road maintenance. Those road gangs based at Port Augusta, Murray Bridge and in other regional locations, who would literally spend their days driving around the state's arterial road network in trucks with equipment, looking for problems, and could immediately respond to them are gone. They are gone now.

Now we have a private provider out in regional South Australia, so that when somebody has the wherewithal to contact the transport department because they noticed a pothole, a crumbling shoulder, a fallen road sign or perhaps something even more serious out on the road network, they can raise it as an issue with the new private contractor, who they will try to summon a crew and that crew will go out and attend to it. How is that as efficient or as timely as having state government employed, directly employed, road crews going out and traversing the roads on a continual basis looking for these faults so that they can be immediately repaired?

They are the actions of a transport department clearly not interested in being directly involved in the maintenance of our road network. It is not only regional road maintenance, because of course the metropolitan road maintenance was outsourced by the previous Liberal government in the 1990s as well but it is field services, a division of the transport department so euphemistically named that nobody would be able to accurately pinpoint what it does.

I can tell you what it does: it maintains all our traffic lights throughout metropolitan Adelaide. It maintains all our traffic cameras and it maintains all our ITC systems, which connect all the travel advisory signs and information-gathering systems together and makes them available to both the Traffic Management Centre and road users on time travel signs, which were erected in 2015 and 2016 under the former Labor government. That has been outsourced as well.

Loath as some of us might be to talk about the statewide blackout, but what was one of the major findings about it? That the traffic lights did not work at the end of the working day on a weekday, so people could not get home safely in their cars. Now what does this government do? Outsource it! Do not take responsibility for making sure that it is going to be run effectively, do not make sure that you have your own people on it—outsource it, save a buck wherever you can.

The Walkley Heights facility, which housed the field services division of the transport department, has been wound down and is now being sold. This government is completely disinterested in providing not just better services but any services. They want to get rid of Service SA. Not only did they try to get rid of it from three key locations around metropolitan Adelaide—out near

the member for King's electorate, out at the Northfield Shopping Centre and out at Mitcham—and it was only after a sustained community campaign that they were forced to backtrack on it, but it did not stop them getting rid of the Adelaide Metro information centre on the corner of Currie Street and King William Street.

We have a government here that complains about falling transport patronage, so what do they do? They remove one of the two major sources of public transport information available to South Australians—just shut it down. They did not replace it, did not move it, did not scale it down. They just shut it completely. The only place that somebody who is using the tram or a bus service can go to get information in person is to the train station. It is almost like they are setting out to stop people using our transport networks.

Then we hear revealed in the media only last week that the BASS ticketing service at the festival theatre is now to be privatised. Presumably, the reason it is to be privatised is that, unlike Ticketek, it actually provided a personal service. It actually helped people in real time with the issues they were having. It perhaps provided some recognition that some people who buy tickets through BASS—perhaps to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the opera, the theatre or musicals being staged at the festival theatre or in the recently refurbished Her Majesty's Theatre—may be in need of a more personal service than a purely online service can provide, which Ticketek provides. It is absolutely extraordinary.

If all this was being done because there was an outcome in mind, because the government was telling us, 'There's a reason behind this. We need to save a certain amount of money. We need to drag the budget back into a particular position that we committed to. We have a fiscal target that we are committed to meeting. This is what the target is and all these measures are going to help us meet it,' perhaps you could conceivably understand that there is a method to this madness.

But there is no fiscal target. There is no fiscal discipline in all this. With all the privatisations, all the tax increases, all the additional pain on South Australian taxpayers or South Australian commuters or other South Australian service users in our health system and so on, there is no rationale for this. The Auditor-General himself explains that the government does not have a fiscal target. It does not have a fiscal target when it comes to debt.

It talks about debt as a sustainable level of debt, but no-one in Treasury, no-one in government is able to provide the Auditor-General with a definition of what a sustainable level of debt is. A sustainable level of debt, apparently, is a figure that is capable of being published in the budget papers. As long as it is in a font small enough and short enough to be published on a roughly A4-sized budget paper, then it is small enough for this government.

The last thing I want to talk about is the fact that this government has spent more than \$200 million in two years paying 2½ thousand public sector workers to leave the Public Service through its targeted voluntary separation scheme. TVSPs, as they are known, are not new. Targeted voluntary separation packages have been used in the past, including by the former Labor government. Indeed, in the 2017-18 financial year, just over \$33 million was paid in TVSPs to several hundred staff, but that is entirely different from spending \$200 million in two years to separate 2½ thousand people.

We were paying public servants tens of thousands of dollars to leave the Department for Child Protection while the Department for Child Protection was out in the market trying to recruit workers. How does that make sense? The Department of Human Services spent tens of millions of dollars paying 480 public servants to leave over the course of those two years. The numbers in the health and education departments are similarly frightening.

Perhaps if it were designed to reduce the overall size of the public sector you might forgive that. You might think, 'Well, we are better off paying up-front that \$200 million so that we can reduce the size of the public sector and that will generate savings over the remainder of the forward estimates and into the future.' But at the same time as the \$200 million was being spent to separate 2½ thousand public servants, the government had blown its own FTE recruitment targets by 3½ thousand people. So they paid 2½ thousand people to go and they have recruited 3½ thousand people over budget. How is that solid public management?

How can the Treasurer as minister responsible for the public sector, let alone as Treasurer, show his face when these figures are revealed? This is just sloppy, poor budget management. This is money that is being wasted. Why would you spend tens of millions of dollars paying people to leave a department when that same department is desperately trying to hire new workers? It beggars belief. But that is the record of this government.

I will conclude my remarks on the second reading of the Supply Bill here and indicate that I look forward to making a brief grievance contribution on matters more relevant to my electorate.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (20:19): I rise to make a few comments in regard to the Supply Bill 2021 and note that the amount of money we are authorising so we can write the cheques for the Public Service and others is \$6,161,000,000. That gives assent for enough finance to get us through until we have the Appropriation Bill debate and all the debate around it. We have based this figure on the actual appropriations that were required for the first four months of the 2020-21 financial year. The passage of the bill is essential to enable the operations of government to be paid for the period 1 July 2021 until the Appropriation Bill is approved.

I am really proud to be part of the Marshall Liberal government, looking at the funding we are spending right across the state, right throughout our regions and also through the urban areas. What makes me really proud is that we are spending money in areas that those on the other side absolutely neglect, and that is the regions. Some would say that in some ways we are not particularly tactical, I guess, but I think it is tactical because we spend it whether it is in a Liberal electorate, whether it is in a Labor electorate, whether it is in a marginal electorate, whether it is in a crossbencher's seat or whether it is in a safe electorate, and it is all up to perception whether you think a seat is safe or not. I never take that view.

I reflect on the \$1.3 billion we are spending on the year 7 upgrade into secondary school, coming into next year, and I look at where we are spending \$100 million on a new school in Whyalla—a seat we will probably never win, to be frank, but the new school is needed there. I also want to acknowledge the \$20 million we are spending at Murray Bridge High School, a great boon for doing major upgrades to some of the tech facilities, upgrading the gym and getting in those extra classrooms in so that we can have year 7 come in for secondary classes.

We will soon be spending \$5 million at the Murray Bridge North primary school, and when I went to Meningie on Sunday for a meeting it was good to see the work that has been done in previous years to the Meningie school. With the member for MacKillop, I assisted in getting the funding to get that project finished; it was about \$700,000 short.

One project in education and I am really proud of, one that took a lot of work, because the Mallee has swung in and out of Hammond and into Chaffey in the past, was the at least six-year battle to get a swimming pool built for the Karoonda school—and not just for the school but for the community. That was a long, drawn-out process, and I want to acknowledge the work the member for Chaffey, Tim Whetstone, did in this regard as well in lobbying for that new four-lane swimming pool. There were swimming lessons conducted at the pool, and they are just fixing up some of the fencing around it. Hopefully, we can have the official launch of that very soon.

I want to acknowledge the work we have been doing in health, spending money on health. We have the proposed Women's and Children's Hospital, the new build that will come, but in the meantime we are spending \$50 million on the current Women's and Children's Hospital to keep it up to speed for the years we need to keep it in really good working order to look after the women and children of this state.

I also want to talk about something else we have done in health that I am really proud of, and that is reactivating the Repatriation Hospital at Daw Park. Labor made a decision to close that hospital. What a faux pas that was. It was gifted to the state by the commonwealth, and that is exactly what it was: a repatriation hospital for returned service men and women.

My brother is a returned serviceman. He served for 23 years in Rwanda, which is a difficult action. He was peacekeeping with the Hutus and Tutsis and he witnessed some terrible massacres. He was peacekeeping and was upgraded to war service 13 years later, and then he served in Iraq in 2005 and 2006. So I feel it keenly, along with many of my family, including uncles and a great uncle who served in World War I and World War II. My father served home here in the Citizens Military Forces. With regard to reactivating the Repat, some of the things we have done include:

- step-down transitional accommodation to support people with brain injury and spinal cord injury transition from acute rehabilitation back into the community;
- a dementia care village in partnership with HammondCare;
- an 18-bed neurobehavioural unit for people whose behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia mean their needs cannot be met in mainstream residential care;
- a 12-bed specialist advanced dementia unit for people living with advanced dementia;
- a 26-bed care transition facility for people transitioning to home or an aged-care facility following acute care treatment;
- a 24-bed brain injury rehabilitation and a 24-bed spinal cord injury rehabilitation facility;
- a veterans' wellbeing centre to provide services and support for veterans and their families;
- a town square community hub and an open outdoor flexible space, including a new wheelchair sports stadium;
- a new home for the Southern Older Persons Community Mental Health Service;
- a new facility for the Statewide Eating Disorder Service, including a residential facility;
- reopened the hydrotherapy pool; and
- the securing of 40 beds already operating—20 beds in the rehabilitation building (to be relocated to a new 26-bed transition care facility) and 20 beds in the ViTA precinct.

We are also making sure that the chapel, the remembrance gardens, the museum and the SPF Hall will be protected and preserved as community assets for future generations. I think that is a real win for the people of South Australia and certainly for the veterans of South Australia and the community.

We are also doing things in health. I was really proud to team up with the health minister before Christmas to open the new emergency department in Murray Bridge. This is a \$7 million promise we took to the election. It has opened up a whole new way to deal with emergency in Murray Bridge, where the old facilities had not been updated for about 40 years. There were beds with just a curtain between them. Of course, the real issue was security if patients were having some sort of psychological episode. We have many more treatment rooms. We have rooms for families and rooms for doctors to meet with patients and families. There are also resuscitation rooms.

This is a great bonus not just for Murray Bridge but also for the surrounding area right out to the Victorian border and down into the South-East and north of Murray Bridge and even towards the Hills and Mount Barker. I am really proud of that. Alongside that, \$3 million was spent on new X-ray facilities at the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to see the upgrades at the aged-care facility in Strathalbyn. With the redistribution, Strathalbyn is coming into Hammond. I looked after Strathalbyn in the 2006-2010 period when I was first elected. I am very much hoping that I get the privilege to look after Strathalbyn again after the next election on 19 March next year. It is fantastic to see close on \$20 million being spent there on aged-care work, where there will be 12 new dementia beds.

Certainly in the planning it was really good to see that the new catering, kitchen and dining facility could be factored in because that needed to go in underneath the upstairs rooms. It would have been more than a problem to try and backfill that space and that build would have cost a lot more, so it was good to see that happening.

I note the Kalimna Hostel site—which is on land that was donated by the community and the building was donated by the community—is going out for expressions of interest soon to ensure that we get the best use for the community. Toward the end of its previous life, it was used for aged care and sadly the former Labor government decided to shut it down and farm people out all over the Hills and Fleurieu. These were people in their homes, in the last months and days of their lives and their lives were totally disrupted. It was shameful what happened, so we will see a great outcome there in the Strathalbyn area.

In other work that we are doing with the \$16.7 billion infrastructure build right across the state, there are the South Road roadworks that are going on, with billions of dollars being spent there, and as we get towards the really sticky bit of that with the combination of a couple of tunnels and aboveground works to help complete that.

I acknowledge Bow Hill Engineering for the work they keep doing with overpasses. They built half the overpasses at Darlington. They are a little company that employs up to 40 people out there at Bow Hill and they keep expanding their working area so they can build these great sections up over 60 metres long to transport through to Adelaide, or anywhere else for that matter, for those projects.

A couple of roads that link my electorate through to Chaffey and MacKillop, the Browns Well Highway which goes from Pinnaroo to Loxton, and the Ngarkat Highway which goes from Pinnaroo down to Bordertown were two of the eight roads we promised to bring back to 110 km/h at the last election. As was pointed out earlier today, as the surfaces got worse or road widening needed to be done, the previous Labor government decided that it was easier just to pull the signs back to 100 km/h and not worry about it.

I am so proud to see that out of the \$72 million for those eight roads, \$37 million was attributed to those two roads. They are each about 100 kilometres long, and shoulder sealing was done each side all the way. There were certainly sections of pavement rehabilitation which meant the road was obviously ripped up and relaid over several kilometres on each road. Some barrier work was done with safety barriers put in as well. It is a real game changer out there.

I know the Browns Well Highway is not far off being reposted back to 110 km/h. This is absolutely vital in the freight route work that has happened in recent years where these roads are now road train rated, that is two trailer road train rated, and so the B-triples, the B-quads, the road trains and the AB-doubles can go up these roads.

Alongside that initial \$37 million for these two roads, \$5 million more had to be found with some of the work on this road rehabilitation process and I am really glad that happened. This will be a real boon for the Mallee where we see Parilla potatoes. We helped them with a regional grant, putting in \$2 million for their \$35 million build, building their new packing shed.

Parilla potatoes and the Pye family—Mark and Fiona and Renee and the team—are going through the process of putting houses into Lameroo and Pinnaroo so they can relocate workers and hire other workers and really invigorate the Mallee towns and the community, and save that freight to Virginia then back again. They can utilise those two roads I previously mentioned to get their product out to market, whether it is heading to Sydney, Melbourne or elsewhere.

Certainly, there has been a lot of discussion about roadworks, and I acknowledge the work we have been doing on the Dukes Highway, the Princes Highway and the entrance coming into Adelaide as you come down the freeway. Since it was opened up as a three-lane road about 20 years ago, coming down past Mount Osmond to the lights at Cross Road and Portrush Road, it has not been repaved. We have seen it is getting repaved. There is still some work to be done there.

Sadly, there have been some hold-ups with some accidents and people get a bit excited. I live on the Dukes Highway and, sadly, we have fatal accidents out there and it can shut down a road for 12 hours. You wake up and you cannot hear the semitrailers going past and you think that something has happened. Trucks get rerouted and that kind of thing.

I want to pay my respects to David Diprose, who sadly was the motorcyclist killed on the freeway the other night. He was a mentor for my son, Mack, at Peats Soil, working for Peter Wadewitz. I pay my condolences to the family. It was a bit of a freak accident. We do not know the full story, but I pay my condolences to everyone who knew David and his family.

People talk about access to Adelaide with freight. We have to acknowledge that there is a freight route around Adelaide around Portrush Road. We did some work with GlobeLink. It did not add up financially. Some people quoted it at \$7 billion to put four lanes of roads around Adelaide to the north and a railway line and then an airport out at Monarto. It is all good on paper, but it needs to be funded.

Because we now have these new freight combinations and we are getting more heavy freight, as I indicated earlier, anything above a B-double, such as a B-triple or a B-quad or a road

train or an AB-double, has to go around the Sturt Highway. There is a turn-off north of Sedan, the Halfway House Road. We put money in there with the federal government—I think it was \$12 million or \$14 million—to get that bypass back down towards Sedan, Mannum and Murray Bridge through the overdimension route and get them on their way heading south, because legally they cannot go down the freeway. That is alleviating some of the freight task with that heavy freight coming down the hill into Adelaide.

I acknowledge that more work needs to be done, but we must acknowledge that thousands and thousands of tonnes of freight gets transported around this state all the time. I must admit it is record road funding that we are spending in this state. I also look at what we are spending at the Port Wakefield overpass: about \$120 million. We have the Joy Baluch second bridge being built at Port Augusta and other roadworks are being contributed to right across the state. The Horrocks Highway is getting some work on the way to Clare. That is certainly good to see and is certainly much needed after years of inaction.

I want to commend what we are doing as a government in the regions. More work needs to be done and we are certainly getting some massive funding boosts around the place. I see the spin-offs with that billion dollars worth of infrastructure that is being built close to Murray Bridge. We have Thomas Foods, with their \$300 million to \$400 million meatworks, which is getting underway, and we have helped contribute to that with some community road funding. We have a \$300 million solar farm waiting in the wings. We have the Bridgeport Hotel, a \$45 million development. Ingham's keeps spending millions of dollars on top of their \$50 million feed mill. Costa have doubled their mushroom plant at \$90 million.

It is so good to see so much investment in the regions. One thing we need to tackle is the housing issue, but we will get to that. I commend the Supply Bill and wish its speedy passage through the house.

Ms LUETHEN (King) (20:39): A supply bill is necessary until the budget has passed through the parliamentary stages and the Appropriation Bill 2021 receives assent. I could easily use up this 20 minutes just speaking to the investments being made in the King community.

My local community have told me that they have never seen so much construction work happening in our local area at one time, and I am grateful to the Marshall Liberal government for helping me to deliver on promises made in the King electorate. Today, I will use this opportunity to highlight just a few of the important projects and the funding committed to the King community. This is a \$254.5 million investment in infrastructure, just these few projects that I am going to talk about today, which will be delivering better services for people living in the electorate of King.

On 10 November 2020, the state government announced an additional \$25 million in funding over two years for the Golden Grove park-and-ride, bringing the total funding for the project to \$33 million. The aim of the project is to meet demand for park-and-ride commuters and to increase public transport usage. The existing Golden Grove park-and-ride was located on The Grove Way and consisted of 177 ground level off-street parking spaces for commuters accessing the O-Bahn bus services. This capacity was not enough; it meant commuters had to park in local streets, causing congestion, or had to drive to other locations, including the Tea Tree Plaza and Paradise park-and-rides.

Excitingly, the new Golden Grove park-and-ride will comprise three levels of parking—a ground floor plus two upper levels—and when complete will provide 450 car parking spaces, which will include 10 disability discrimination compliant car parks and provision for secure bicycle storage. The new park-and-ride will be constructed on the site of the existing car park and its surrounds. The new park-and-ride will also provide seven kiss-and-drop parks for the Golden Grove High School community, helping us manage the growth in the local school community and helping to improve traffic flow around our three outstanding schools at this site.

Importantly, the project is also supporting 150 full-time equivalent jobs over the course of the construction. Works for the Golden Grove park-and-ride project commenced Wednesday 17 February 2021, with project completion expected in early 2022, weather permitting. Upcoming works include mobilisation of a piling rig to undertake drilling and installation of piles, installation of new retaining walls to the southern end of the site and around the new building footprint, pouring of

concrete foundation footings and installation of new service connections for communications, power and water.

Temporary car parking was made available from Tuesday 27 April for park-and-ride commuters. The location is adjacent to the South Australia Districts Netball Association. It can be accessed via Atlantis Drive, Golden Grove, or by entering through The Golden Way and driving around to the new spot. I want to thank the City of Tea Tree Gully and SADNA for allowing us to use this space and setting it up to keep people safe in this new park.

From the temporary car park, it is around a 400-metre walk to bus stop 62A on both the east and west sides of The Grove Way. There is also an additional accessible parking set-up available at The Grove Shopping Centre. PTP Alliance are keeping registered community members informed and up to date through a website, letterbox drops and emails.

I did my own letterbox drops this week as well, and under windscreen wipers, just to let everyone know that the new park is ready. Constituents can also contact the project team directly with questions. As I have been on site, checking out the Golden Grove park-and-ride, it has also been exciting to see at the same time, adjacent to this, the roof going on the Golden Grove High School for its upgrade.

The Marshall Liberal government's \$1.3 billion capital works program is expected to support thousands of jobs across the state and forms part of the biggest investment in education by any state government in South Australia's history. Our King promise is to deliver a \$15.5 million investment in our local Golden Grove High School, creating 38 jobs per year. A great deal of work has already been completed on both capital works buildings, and the upgrade is well on track to be completed and handed over to the school by the end of November.

The capital works project continues to build on the already outstanding facilities available at the school. This will enable Golden Grove High to expand by a large cohort of year 7 students, who will be taught in high school from term 1 in 2022. This means that from 2022 year 6 will be the last year of primary school and year 7 will be the first year of high school. This is a big change for our public education system. Some locals have asked me why we are moving the year 7s to high school. Year 7 is already part of high school across the country, so we are bringing South Australia into line with the rest of Australia and with other education systems in our state.

The high school upgrade includes a new two-storey contemporary learning centre, a new two-storey performing arts centre, a year 12 study centre, landscaped courtyards and outdoor spaces at Golden Grove High School. Just down the road from this, we have the Golden Grove Road upgrade project, which is being delivered in two stages. Stage 1—One Tree Hill Road to the north side (Kunzea Way) of the signalised intersection of Golden Grove Road, the Grove Way and Yatala Vale Road—is complete. Under construction right now is stage 2, Park Lake Drive to the north side of the signalised intersection of Golden Grove Road, the Grove Way and Yatala Vale Road.

The Marshall Liberal South Australian government committed \$20 million towards delivering stage 1, which included a roundabout at the junction of Golden Grove Road and Hancock Road; shouldered right-turn lanes at most unsignalised junctions; indented bus bays; on-road bike lanes in each direction; improved pedestrian facilities, including a new footpath on the western side and pedestrian crossing facilities; kerb, gutter and drainage; targeted road resurfacing; and new and upgraded road lighting. Stage 1 supported around 65 full-time equivalent jobs over the life of the project and also a South Australian business won the project, which was fabulous.

The stage 2 construction is underway and roads are expected to be open to traffic by late 2021, weather permitting. The South Australian government committed \$30 million towards delivering this stage 2, which includes an upgrade of the Golden Grove Road, the Grove Way and Yatala Vale Road signalised intersection, with a second right-turn lane from the Grove Way approach and second through lanes on Golden Grove Road approaches.

It also includes a protected right-turn lane at the Highgrove Road junction; on-road bike lanes in each direction; kerb, gutter and drainage; road resurfacing; new and upgraded road lighting; improved pedestrian facilities, including new footpath and pedestrian crossing facilities; and indented bus bays. Key intersection upgrades are included as well at Grenfell Road-Golden Grove Road, Milne Road-Golden Grove Road and North-East Road/Modbury Avenue/Golden Grove Road.

Stage 2 will support around 70 full-time equivalent jobs per year over the life of the project. The Golden Grove Road upgrade project team is working in collaboration with the City of Tea Tree Gully to deliver local government infrastructure, including footpaths, as part of this project. To ask any questions or provide feedback, or to register for project updates, the project team can also be contacted directly.

Lastly, I am so pleased to be able to highlight the investment into returning our local health services locally for people living in King. Modbury Hospital is undergoing a \$98 million redevelopment. We have listened to the feedback. We are easing pressure on our emergency departments, providing access to a higher level of care closer to home, growing and strengthening surgical services, providing more privacy and a homelike environment for palliative care patients, upgrading facilities and enhancing the experience for patients, visitors and staff.

This major upgrade of Modbury Hospital will provide facilities that meet the needs of patients, staff and visitors now and into the future. This is an exciting period in the history of the hospital, as the investment into world-class infrastructure will ensure that our staff can provide the very best patient care closer to home for residents in the north and north-east.

Construction on Modbury Hospital's new 20-bed palliative care unit has begun as the Marshall Liberal government's job-creating hospital redevelopment has passed its halfway mark. The redevelopment has so far used 100 tonnes of reinforced steel, processed and manufactured locally, in Cavan, as well as well as 1,100 cubic metres of concrete sourced from companies across the state. I also met our local manufacturer of flooring products who said he won the contract to provide the new flooring in the hospital, and he was incredibly happy about that.

Almost 200 construction workers are currently on site at the hospital daily, and 1,378 people have had jobs and been involved in the construction so far, working more than 375,000 hours between them. The new 20-bed palliative care unit will be located on the ground floor of the hospital, providing patients and families with direct access to private gardens, natural light and private ensembles.

The extensive upgrading and enhancing of Modbury Hospital is part of our landmark billion-dollar health infrastructure build across the state. While Labor downgraded services at Modbury as part of their failed Transforming Health plan, the Marshall Liberal government is investing in world-class infrastructure to deliver better patient care closer to home for the residents in the north and the north-east.

The expansion will ease pressure on our busy emergency departments and modernise the ageing facility, increasing capabilities and improving facilities for patients and staff. Completed redevelopment milestones include an eight-bed emergency extended care unit, an upgraded hospital facade and a refurbishment of the administration area on level 5.

The reinstatement of the high dependency unit at Modbury Hospital officially opened on 31 March and will provide many benefits to the local community, including enabling patients who require a higher level of monitoring and management of their clinical condition to be cared for at Modbury Hospital; easing pressure on our emergency department and increasing the complexity of patients admitted to Modbury Hospital; supporting the increase of low to medium complex surgeries in the new surgical suite, which will enable more patients to be treated closer to home; and increasing the ability to manage unwell patients at Modbury Hospital both medically and post surgery.

We know that providing health care to patients in their local area and in their homes leads to better health outcomes for our patients and alleviates stress and inconvenience and travel time for their families. I have been encouraging my local constituents to consider having a coffee in the new cafe at Modbury Hospital so they can check out for themselves how great the new building facilities are.

At Lyell McEwin Hospital, \$58 million is being invested to expand and revitalise the emergency department and build an eight-bed mental health short stay unit. The redevelopment, set to almost double the current capacity of the ED, is critical to meeting the increased demand and future need of our growing local population. To be built over three storeys, the ED, when complete, will include 72 treatment spaces, additional resuscitation and triage capabilities as well as a dedicated paediatric assessment and treatment space.

The new mental health short stay unit will provide a purpose-built facility with a more suitable care environment for mental health patients requiring short stays. The unit will ensure that patients have access to specialised care by staff 24/7 after being seen in the ED.

Milestone 2, which is the construction of the three levels of the ED and the mental health short stay unit, commenced recently, following the decommissioning and demolition of the previous existing structures, which was completed late last year. Milestone 2 is expected to be completed by March 2022. The existing ED continues to operate while construction is taking place. The extension of the Lyell McEwin multideck car park, part of the redevelopment project, was completed in June last year, and construction of a private car park opposite the hospital has commenced.

These are just some of the bigger projects which have been funded in King and are under construction right now. The projects that I have mentioned today alone add up to \$254.5 million being invested in better services for people living in my electorate of King, benefiting our local community. I will continue to fight for and work hard for further investment to benefit the families and businesses in King. I encourage every person living in King to keep talking to me and to keep me informed of what matters most to them.

Mr DULUK (Waite) (20:55): I also rise to say a few words about the Supply Bill 2021 and naturally indicate my support for this appropriation from the Consolidated Account for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Like all of us, I believe South Australia is indeed in a prime situation for strong economic performance moving forward if we can use the upcoming state budget to invest in our local communities and facilitate the creation of jobs. We always have to remember that it is the private sector and the private businesses and, indeed, the small business sector in South Australia that is the facilitator of job creation but, most importantly, the role of state government and any government is to instill confidence in our economy, in its people and in its communities. As Deloitte Access Economics wrote in their March Business Outlook:

After a fast start out of the blocks, South Australia's economy is now coming back to the pack...a sign of success. Make no mistake, the state handled COVID superbly. With the virus in check, South Australia's economy sprung back to life, getting a lead on its counterparts. So, whereas most other states still have more catching up to do, South Australia has already done that.

It goes on to state:

Yet that also means that the state has spent many of its tickets. Having begun its recovery earlier, SA has relatively less capacity for catch up growth through the remainder of 2021. That's a key reason why state income rose just a smidgen in the closing months of 2020, comfortably slower than every other state or territory.

The willingness of business to take a punt on expanding capacity was the key culprit. Business investment went backwards despite a growth in the national figure.

One of the key factors that I think can drive that renewed business investment is, of course, looking at some of the COVID restrictions that still exist in terms of capacity for business growth. One good example is around the hospitality industry, where we are still seeing venues capped at 75 per cent capacity, which I know is having a big impact on many hoteliers, on our restaurants and, indeed, our hospitality sector.

As South Australians look to go out and to spend their dollars in South Australia as opposed to interstate or overseas, having changes to those COVID restrictions I think will go a long way to ensuring that South Australian businesses are once again reinvesting into their businesses to ensure that South Australians can spend, invest, create local jobs and support the whole supply economy.

There are one or two key economic indicators and metrics where South Australia is still struggling. Of course, I think some of these metrics, especially around unemployment and underemployment, have been key metrics that we have been failing in now for decades—in fact, since the State Bank. A lot of those measures have to do with many of the structural issues in our economy, the ageing of our population, our demographics and the way our suburbs are configured. We have pockets of greater underprivilege and need which also create cyclical and long-term economic disadvantage. This lack of investment in new public transport and our planning system that we have seen for decades actually fits into longer issues around unemployment.

That is why still, right now—even though we have had some good news out of COVID compared to the rest of the nation—we still have higher unemployment rates, we still have

high youth unemployment rate, we still have a low participation rate, the total number of people in jobs in South Australia dropped in March from 847,400 to 846,800, and that's a figure of 10,000 lower than March 2020.

Of course, one of the big issues that is always raised by many in the community is around long-term intergenerational unemployment. People always ask the questions: why does South Australia need to bring in workers from the Pacific Islands to pick the very important citrus crop in the Riverland when we have intergenerational unemployment in some parts of our society? What can we do as a community, a government and a parliament to ensure that we can arrest that issue of intergenerational unemployment that is so crippling to those individuals involved and many of the associated socio-economic problems that come with that?

I think they are very important questions that need to be asked and tackled by government. If the government can do that, I think we could go a long way to breaking the back of the long-term unemployment rate in South Australia. That is why it is so important that, through this Supply Bill, the appropriation and the state budget coming up, we can set the framework as we transition through this COVID period and hopefully return to a South Australian economic environment that is a lot freer and not restricted by COVID regulations.

We can all nitpick the different economic statistics, and different sources paint their own pictures. But for me, the focus with this supply bill should be around investment in our local communities, as I said, using the tool of creating jobs and delivering confidence for South Australians. I, for one, know that it is not all bad news. The Governor of the Reserve Bank was in the paper today indicating that he does not expect household interest rates to lift for several years, sitting beyond historic low rates as they are at the moment.

But we know that if we could have all tiers of government looking to collaborate on infrastructure projects it would create a perfect storm for investment in large nation-building infrastructure projects. This is reiterated by programs such as the Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program and bodies such as Infrastructure Australia and Infrastructure South Australia. Infrastructure Australia recently released its latest priority list which had the largest number of new proposals for South Australia in the list's five-year history.

Of the priorities listed in the February 2021 report, there were several which have a direct impact on my community. They included the discussion around Adelaide's outer ring route capacity, level crossing congestion and looking to deal with that issue, and South Australia's road network maintenance program.

On the issue of freight, Deputy Speaker, I know it is an issue that is very important to your community. One thing I have spoken to many times in this chamber is the matter of freight in the Adelaide and Mitcham hills, not only rail freight but road freight, and how that road freight connects to the South Eastern Freeway and finding long-term solutions. It is not just an issue of freight capacity and how important it is to get economically viable freight moving for South Australia but the way that integration of freight also fits in for commuters.

Once again, we have seen debate in the paper and the press on the back of some awful tragedies on the South Eastern Freeway and the devastating impact that those fatalities have and the congestion that it leads to. As was discussed on radio recently—I think it was mentioned by the federal member for Mayo in her contribution to this debate on ABC radio just last week—what would happen if there were an unholy perfect storm of an absolute tragedy on the South Eastern Freeway in a bushfire season? We could see the huge issue of commuters being stuck and trapped in that road corridor with nowhere to go. It is incumbent on the state government to start the planning process for alternative bypasses for road and rail freight through the South Eastern Freeway, through the rail freight network through my community and the growing residential communities of Mount Barker and beyond.

The Infrastructure Australia report from February outlined the initiative for Adelaide's outer ring route capacity in initiative 6: to improve the safety and productivity of Adelaide's outer ring route, which is heavily congested during peak and nonpeak times resulting in inefficient and costly freight movements, reduced performance of public transport systems, longer travel times and decreased

safety for commuters and pedestrians. Currently, road freight from our regions and interstate comes hurtling down the South Eastern Freeway and disrupts our communities.

The RAA and the freight councils continue to advocate for alternative freight routes to encourage truck operators to avoid suburban roads and provide more cost-effective and safer solutions for industry. Infrastructure Australia suggests roads along Adelaide's outer ring route, such as Cross Road, are inefficient, stating:

This results in inefficient and less productive freight movements, reduced performance, longer travel times, and decreased safety for commuters and pedestrians.

Cross-city traffic patterns, increasing land use densities and the location of schools create conflicts at several intersections along the route...

There are also roads that are constrained by property and heritage considerations that restrict expansion of the road corridor—

such as the Waite Gatehouse. An alternative to Cross Road freight movement should be investigated, such as some of those proposed in last year's KPMG study into freight movements in South Australia.

One alternative that is constantly discussed as part of that and that was mentioned in the KPMG report is the redirection of rail freight. The current rail freight route creates road traffic congestion in my community, poses a danger of increased bushfire risk for communities, creates noise and air pollution, is a costly, slow and ineffective route for industry and impairs providing better public transport services. I know that if we could find a solution to this, as the members for Heysen and Kavel know in their communities, it would be to run an efficient public transport bus and train service up to Mount Barker through the Adelaide Hills and Mitcham Hills.

Looking at the current economic climate, it is an ideal time for investment in these types of nation-building projects. A northern freight bypass would deliver end-to-end supply chain efficiencies for local industries, increase the capacity of the rail network and result in a shift from bulk road freight to rail freight. This is a very big issue through the Mallee at the moment, as we are seeing more and more road trains on our roads, increasing not only wear and tear of the roads but safety issues as well.

This would ensure that South Australia plays a key role in future freight movements across the Australian continent and would deliver significant environmental, economic and social benefits for South Australians. These are nation-building projects that we can deliver right now not only to provide local jobs for our communities and distribute an array of intangible benefits but, most importantly, to stimulate the economy, which is crying out for this type of long-term, sensible, public investment.

Some of the other issues mentioned in the Infrastructure Australia report are around level crossing congestion. In my community, this is a really big issue. Previously, 31 level crossings have been identified as posing the highest risk to users and creating the most disruptions to the road network. Three notorious boom gate crossings that are of concern to me and the residents of my community are: Glenalta Railway Station, level crossing on Main Road; Blackwood Railway Station, level crossing on Main Road, Blackwood; and Unley Park Railway Station, level crossing on Cross Road, Hawthorn. Infrastructure Australia has identified all three of these at-grade level crossings in their 2021 priority list, and I believe the Unley Park crossing is the most serious safety crossing. The report goes on to state:

Some of these level crossings are closed to road traffic for up to 25% of peak traffic periods. Level crossings can lead to delays and safety problems as trains, cars, buses, trucks, cyclists and pedestrians cross paths.

Longer boom-gate closures can also create barriers between different parts of the community and reduce amenity to urban areas.

These problems are expected to worsen as road traffic and the frequency of rail services increase with population growth in South Australia.

My community is always appreciative of investment in the road network. Since I have been a member in this place, we have seen significant investment in the road network in the communities of Mitcham, Belair and Blackwood. Right now, we are looking at a \$40 million federal and state investment in the Mitcham Hills road corridor as an example of this. We will also be able to see some road improvements along Fullarton Road and I know there are projected improvements on Shepherds Hill

Road. I welcome further resealing and widening projects underway around Belair Road and Old Belair Road and around Main Road at Coromandel Valley.

I think that, most importantly, if we are looking at these investments we need and linking those into the rail infrastructure issues, then we really need to look at some of the congestion busting intersections at Laffers Road and Main Road in Belair, Northcote Road and Shepherds Hill Road in Eden Hills, Fullarton Road, Kitchener Street and Claremont Avenue in Netherby, Waite Road onto Cross Road in Urrbrae and many others situated in my community.

Improving the conditions of our roads leads to reduced vehicle operation costs, improved travel times, improved safety risks and reduces potential reliance issues for traffic. As outlined by the government, the South Australian road network aims to reduce the increased backlog of road maintenance on our road network throughout the state, which was estimated to be more than \$750 million in 2019. Going back to earlier years, 2017, 2016 and 2015, I know it was sitting at about a billion dollars.

While roads and intersections are an important aspect in connecting communities, of course it is not all about roads. In my community, we are blessed with an abundance of natural beauties and rich heritage. We have the fantastic, historic national park at Belair, botanic gardens and many other important environmental assets. Investing in our environment and in our open spaces is actually fundamental to the growth of our state not only from a protection point of view for the environment but also for what it means to be as a community. Recently, I wrote to the Treasurer ahead of the state budget, asking for significant investments to improve Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, Belair National Park, Sturt Gorge Recreation Park and Frank Smith Reserve, as well as greening initiatives throughout the whole electorate.

With changes to the planning and development code, a common concern in my community is a reduction in tree canopy throughout community, as we are seeing urban density creep through our suburbs. A fund or grant program dedicated to councils and community organisations for restoration and greening projects would assist in improving our local tree canopy and promote the cooling of our suburbs, which is so important as we deal with a changing climate.

Alternatively, another idea I have suggested to the Treasurer and Minister for Environment is a scheme similar to the Great State travel voucher scheme for purchasing of native vegetation. This program would encourage individuals to purchase, plant and green our suburbs through a co-investment scheme from the general public and government. Think of it as a bond scheme—a very long-term but important bond scheme. A combination of new funding methods and allocations from the state government's Park Renewal Investment program will encourage people to be active in our environment and ensure that we have a green and vibrant urban canopy to keep us cool.

Spending time in nature has both mental and physical benefits, which can lead to better health outcomes within individuals and may lend a hand to reduce the current demands on our healthcare system—something very topical at the moment. With those words, I commend the Supply Bill but really seek and implore the government to use the Supply Bill and the upcoming state budget to invest in infrastructure, to invest in our roads and to invest in our communities.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (21:12): I would like to make a contribution to this debate. Of course our party has indicated we will be supporting the Supply Bill. It is important that we keep the government moving, but it is also important that we highlight some of the issues and also the context in which this Supply Bill is framed.

First of all, I would just like to provide an overall economic context in which this Supply Bill is being presented to this parliament and some of the concerning trends in our economy, which I think we need to be alert about. Sadly, at the moment we have the highest unemployment rate in this state at 6.3 per cent. We have also the highest youth unemployment rate at 16.4 per cent. Added to that, if that is not bad enough, our participation rate is also declining. It is 61.9 per cent, which is equal lowest in the nation alongside Tasmania, which has surged to 66.3 per cent. We are also the only state to lose jobs coming out of the pandemic. Overall, 10,000 jobs have been lost since March 2020, when other states have actually gained positions.

Sadly also for those people who are seeking employment, we have the longest median wait to find a job at six months—the highest in the nation. Combined with that, economic growth is lowest

in the nation. Our economy contracted by 1.4 per cent during 2019-20. In the CommSec State of the States report, we are now in fifth place, trailing the national average on almost every key economic indicator. Our budget debt will reach \$33.1 billion by 2023-24.

It is also important to note that, while the government has sought to explain the increase in debt in terms of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have to remember that the debt started bleeding out at the very first budget of this government and has continued at trend. So that is the context in which we are coming out of this pandemic and it does not bode well for those people seeking employment, particularly young people seeking employment to start their working lives at the end of the pandemic.

In terms of some other local issues, it is worth putting on the record some of the ongoing issues that this government has failed to address in my electorate and also in nearby electorates. The first one that is a major issue for people, and for me and my colleague the member for Taylor, is Curtis Road. The congestion on Curtis Road is abysmal, and I notice the member across saying the same thing. It is horrendous, and I understand that the local council has been in discussion with the state government over the transfer of the road to the state government as a way of actually injecting some funds to get this important piece of infrastructure upgraded.

It is important for two reasons. Firstly, it is obviously an important safety issue. Secondly, a lot of people who live in that area travel long distances to work. Generally speaking, the further you live out from the centre of a city the longer you travel to work every day, and it pains me to see that people who travel a long distance also have to spend a lot of time on the roads because of congestion. Curtis Road needs to be upgraded. It is not unusual during peak times to have people tell me that it takes up to half an hour to get from Main North Road to the expressway.

The cause of the congestion is quite clear. There are two reasons: obviously, growth in the area in Munno Para West and Munno Para in terms of the Playford Alive project has been very successful. At the moment, with the home grants houses are popping up everywhere. That is good news for that region, but it is not good news if you want to use the roads. If you want to get from Munno Para West to Mark Oliphant College to drop off your kids, it is a nightmare.

Apart from that issue, what is really sad about this is that this matter was actually raised in the Budget and Finance Committee in the upper house. The CEO of the department was asked what the government was going to do about this issue, was he aware of it, etc., and he said he was unaware of any issues with Curtis Road or any discussions that have been taking place for the transfer of the road from council to the state government. I find that extraordinary given that discussions have been taking place for some years. It is a major infrastructure issue in the north of Adelaide affecting both the electorate of Taylor and my own electorate.

Curtis Road is bad enough, but there are some quick and simple solutions to assist, not to resolve the problem, and that is the extension of Newton Boulevard from the existing Munno Para development to Munno Para West. This is where we had the old handball trick where the government said it was the council's responsibility, and the council said it was the state government's responsibility.

Clearly, it is a state government development. It is part of the Playford Alive project. Renewal SA are the owners of the land, they are the developers, and clearly they should be making sure that Newton Boulevard is built as soon as possible to assist connecting Munno Para and all the services at Munno Para, including the schools and shopping centre, to those people who live at Munno Para West.

Closer to home, the Gawler East Link Road is a road that the previous government committed just over \$50 million to fund. This government added another \$4 million to \$5 million to that project in some agreement with local council. The Gawler East Link Road was supposed to be one of those roads that would help reduce congestion on Adelaide Road, Murray Street and Carlton Road. It was designed to link the east parts of Gawler to the southern parts of Gawler so that people would not have to travel through the central parts of Gawler to get from one end to the other. It is a worthwhile and important project that has been funded not only by the state government but also by council and the developers involved.

But, unfortunately, this project turned out to be a bit like the last Liberal government's Southern Expressway—one way only. The problem with this link road is that it has been built to a

standard of 50 kilometres maximum, and as soon as the road opened with a maximum of a 50 km/h speed limit the complaints came pouring in. People are not using it because it is too slow to use, and people are concerned about getting caught speeding. In fact, other roads that go through Gawler have a higher speed limit, so people are avoiding this new road and we have invested about \$55 million in a road that has become a white elephant.

Quite rightly, the council responded and said, 'Let's try to make it higher—60 kilometres is a reasonable speed, not unreasonable for a link road.' The council had to do some studies. Now we find that the road is not built to a standard that enables it to increase from 50 to 60 kilometres, which I find astonishing. I have seen road speed limits go up and down by 10km/h in the blink of an eye, but now we are told that it must remain at 50 kilometres. So, you have a road that was supposed to carry 12,000 cars a day that is carrying about 2,000 cars a day because people are boycotting it.

It is a major issue in the east part of Gawler. The government has made very clear that the council has to foot the bill for any upgrade. To add insult to injury, when the CEO of the department was asked at the recent Budget and Finance Committee meeting about community concerns on the speed limit he stated: 'I am not aware of any community dissatisfaction with low speed limits.' I can tell members that it is probably one of the key issues in that part of Gawler at the moment. He went on to try to explain why it is 50 kilometres, and he stated, verbatim:

Generally, when a new road is built, there is a period of time required for the wearing in of the final surface to reach its specified coefficient of friction—that's an engineering thing; so it's the skid resistance—and during that period of time temporary lowered speed limits do apply.

It is interesting to note that 'period of time temporary lowered speed limits do apply', but sadly the temporary speed limit will be the final speed limit—it ain't increasing, according to the government or the council. We now have a \$55 million investment that is operating at about 20 per cent of what was intended.

Another hot issue in my community, and something which could have been avoided, was the substitute buses to be used while the rail to Gawler is being electrified, which it is a great project. Substitute buses are necessary. A number of people use public transport to get to work and to shop or to get to hospital, and I must say that the government has responded to some feedback and put on some express bus services from Gawler to the city, which has helped, but it has limited services. Clearly the message I am getting from the community is that people do not work from just nine to five; people work from 11 to four, from three to nine—people work at different hours, so having an express bus service from Gawler just at peak times does not work for that community.

The result is that we have a lot more cars on the road, and people are incurring huge costs. I had a couple in my office this week who do not use the substitute services—they need to go to the hospital as they are not well and there are no express services. The off-peak services can take up to an hour and a half, which means that it is a three to four-hour trip. When you are unwell, spending three or four hours on a bus is not a good experience, going down Main North Road, etc.

It is incumbent upon the government, given that the rail services will be out now until at least November this year, to extend those express services right throughout the day. I am not suggesting they run at the same times that they do in the morning, but at least every hour there should be a substitute bus service running at an express rate through to Adelaide. One thing we know about the rail electrification project from the minister's own statements is that it has blown out by \$100 million, and obviously the contractor is trying to save every dollar on the project. That is not unreasonable, but it is unreasonable when they are doing things that actually impact on the safety of people in my community.

Another thing they have done at various times is close the pedestrian crossings near roadways and railway stations obviously to do work, but they created no alternatives. So people are now walking along the roadways, people are pushing their prams along the roadways and people with disabilities with their gophers, etc., are on the roadways and obviously it is not a safe thing. It is certainly a concern to people, particularly near schools, where young children are walking along the roadways because the proper safe crossings have been closed off and nothing was put in their place.

An issue I have also been addressing in my capacity as a duty member for the electorate of Schubert is a particular intersection at Greenock, Moppa South and Samuel roads. Both the previous

minister and the current minister have indicated that this is a safe intersection, but there have been four serious crashes at that intersection in the last six months. It is a major bypass route for heavy traffic throughout the region and this particular intersection is not well designed, so improvements are required there. It is interesting to note that every crash has been quite serious and we are fortunate that no-one has been killed. Another crash happened only last week where a car rolled over. The intersection does require some major investment for improvement.

Another issue of concern to the community is when is our hospital going to be upgraded. Last year, the government announced that it was going to spend \$50 million on upgrading the emergency services department of the hospital. That is good news. It was a welcome announcement. We assumed, because of the announcement, that things were happening, but nothing was happening. Last week, six months after the announcement, there was an announcement that they have actually selected someone to do some design work. I am not sure where they got the \$50 million budget from when there was no design work done at all.

It is interesting that when I put in a freedom of information request to find out where the project is at, etc., the government refused to release any documents—blank, no documents. There is a veil of secrecy around when this project will be delivered. There is not only the secrecy around that but also the issue around the standard of care now provided at the hospital. I have received a number of complaints in relation to food, etc. This is not a reflection at all on the staff who work at the hospital. They can only work with the resources available. Clearly, the hospital has been starved of funds as the government calls in the bean counters from Victoria and pays them over \$50 million to cut services in our hospitals.

We only have one ambulance unit in Gawler for a growing community. Almost every week I get a complaint about people having to wait an inordinate amount of time for ambulances. Only this week, I was walking along Murray Street and a lady stopped me to talk about the situation with her husband, who was having a heart attack as it turned out, and they had to wait a long time to get an ambulance service. When they got to the hospital they were told that was the standard at the moment. You cannot get an ambulance service within the specified time that has been set out. A growing community certainly needs more staffing and also ideally a second ambulance unit for the area.

Another thing the government promised at the last election in the seat of Schubert was to deliver on a new Barossa hospital. Apparently they were supposed to deliver a fully costed business case. We now know from the release of Infrastructure SA's report that a full business case has not actually been undertaken but that it has caused some sort of preliminary business case. I have no idea what a preliminary business case is compared with a full business case. It will be interesting to see whether this government actually delivers on its commitment to advance this project to a stage where it can actually start to be built. Certainly, there is a lot of cynicism in the Barossa community as to whether this project will be delivered.

In terms of complaints I have received around my schools, it was interesting to note the comment made by the minister today about funding for disability services in our schools. If there is one complaint I have received strongly from public school communities throughout my electorate—school after school after school, governing council after governing council—it is funding for disability services. In fact, I understand the IESP program the minister referred to has now been suspended and is under review because it was so cumbersome and difficult to get funding that most schools actually gave up trying to get funding for their students.

We had students in our schools who needed funding but who were not getting the funding support they required. One school told me it could take up to two days of a staff member's time to do one application for one student to get funding. To make things worse, once that was done it went into a process where it was considered by some committee and often the funding request was disallowed, with no reasons given. Our children with disabilities and their families deserve better than this. We should be making sure that every child has the sort of funding that ensures they reach their full potential in our public school system.

Like most MPs, I visit my schools on a regular basis. In a recent visit to Munno Para Primary School I did a walk around with the principal to see what the facilities were like, and we came across one of the buildings that had a whole range of fencing around it. I asked, 'Is that building scheduled for redevelopment?' The principal looked a little embarrassed and said, 'No, the fences are around

there because the verandahs on this building are not safe. They are structurally unsafe and the kids can't go anywhere near this building.' But it is being used; it is a classroom, and it is being used. It has fencing around the outside because the building is partially unsafe. Looking around this school, this is a school that has been neglected by this government. There are inadequate facilities for the students, and this school community deserves better.

Mark Oliphant College has been expanded to provide places for students in the growing area. There are two things here: one is that the school will probably be full by the time the actual redevelopment finishes, so students will again be crammed into non-classroom areas and, secondly, the traffic in the area will be even more chaotic than it is now. The school was never designed properly in terms of providing parking or drop-off areas for students, and it is very unsafe. These are some of the issues my community has asked me to raise and put in this context. Hopefully this Supply Bill will address some of those; if not this Supply Bill, then future budgets.

Time expired.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (21:33): I am delighted to stand today to talk about the Supply Bill. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on what an unexpected year we have faced. Of course, we have had a great health response in South Australia led by Grant Stevens and Nicola Spurrier, but the numbers clearly show that our economic response, led by Steven Marshall and Rob Lucas, is the worst in the nation.

South Australians responded to the global pandemic by listening to what we needed to do: wash our hands, keep our distance, work from home, get tested if we were sick, wear a mask when required, and of course continue to check in with the QR code. These measures have enabled South Australians to be able to live life as normally as possible, and as soon as it was safe we were given the opportunities to make these decisions.

However, we have an opportunity before us with the vaccine rollout. It has had several false starts, much confusion and much information. Obviously, on this side of the house we have been very critical about how slow South Australia has been compared with the rest of the states to make this vaccination available to South Australians. It is simply not good enough.

As soon as I can I will get the vaccination for my age group. However, only this morning on talkback radio I heard a couple, who are in the relevant age group to be vaccinated, say they were advised to wait until September. This is just unacceptable. We have an opportunity. Not everyone in the world is getting this vaccination. Not everyone has an opportunity to be personally covered from COVID as much as possible, yet the delays, the confusion and supply issues are making access to this vaccination unclear, unclear because people are unsure about if and when they will receive it.

My concern in particular is about the lack of a robust education program telling South Australians what is out there and available to them. We speak today about the health outcomes we have had during this very difficult time. We must be clear to South Australians about when the vaccines are available, for what age, for which group and how to do it. I particularly have concerns about vulnerable communities and migrant groups who are feeling very unsure about whether they should get the vaccine at all.

I am going to go out there and talk about getting vaccinated. A concern for each and every person here should be what the mixed messages are, the lack of clarity and the people who are concerned about whether or not it is safe. We must have a robust education campaign and get out there and tell South Australians why we want them to get vaccinated, how to get vaccinated and make it easy and simple for them to do.

We have lived through an unprecedented time in our history, as we have fought and continue to fight this world pandemic. We asked businesses to close their doors. We asked businesses to limit the number of people on their premises. In fact, we continue to do so with the restrictions. We closed national and state borders to limit the movement of people. These decisions were deemed necessary to keep us safe. But now our attention turns to the economic recovery. We need a stimulus to restart our economy.

Let's make no mistake: South Australia may have a solid record on the health front, but economically we are at the bottom of the pack. Our current economic position is nothing short of

alarming. South Australia is the only state to lose jobs since the COVID pandemic. Let that sink in: the only state to lose jobs. What is going on here? We just have to look at the statistics of the State of the States report.

South Australia has slumped to fifth overall and we are trailing the national average in key growth indicators, including employment, where we are negative 1.2 per cent versus the national 0.6 per cent. In retail trade, we are up 4.8 per cent but nationally it is up 6.4 per cent. Construction works decreased 8.8 per cent, national decreased 2.4 per cent. In equipment investment, South Australia is down 7 per cent, national down 5.2 per cent. Dwelling commencements in South Australia are up 6.4 per cent versus nationally up by 19.4 per cent. Even COVID-ravaged Victoria is ranked higher than South Australia on these economic indicators.

To add more pain to South Australians, South Australia now has the worst unemployment rate in Australia. South Australia has the worst youth unemployment rate in Australia, and South Australia has the equal lowest participation rate in Australia. There are currently 134,600 South Australians who are unemployed or underemployed. How is it that we managed to keep South Australians safe but we cannot stimulate our economy? This is embarrassing and this lands squarely on this Liberal government. What are you doing to stimulate our economy? Why are we at the back of the pack? It is simply not good enough. Deloitte Access Economics Business Outlook showed South Australia had the lowest business investment figures in the country. In fact, they warned of dark times ahead, and I quote, 'South Australia's economy is running out of catch-up runway,' and its bump is becoming a grind. This should be a wake-up call. Where is our response? Where is our stimulus?

The facts speak for themselves. When we look at investment and we look at the December 2019 quarter to the December 2020 quarter, investment in our state has decreased by 11.7 per cent. What is the plan here to transition to new investment projects? How are we proactively promoting South Australia as a place to invest? We are a standout in the world for our livability, and kudos for being effectively COVID free, and yet where is the direct investment strategy? Everyone is talking about Australia and our great response to COVID, and our investment is going backwards here in South Australia. There appears to be no plan.

Let me talk about trade. In the same period, the annual goods export figure is down 5.7 per cent. We saw declines in refined copper, petroleum products, lead and wool but of course the absolute incredible blow to the South Australian economy has been dealt via the trade tariffs on wine, barley, timber and lobster from the Chinese government.

These figures were from before we saw the full impact of those trade tariffs, so I expect more negative figures to come. Before COVID, 79,000 South Australians were employed directly or indirectly in our export sector—79,000—that is a significant portion of people in our state, already down 5.7 per cent. What happens when we fully realise the impact of these trade tariffs on our exports?

There are about 8,000 South Australians involved in the grape and wine industry alone, and at its peak we exported \$800 million worth of wine to China each year, making up the majority of the \$1.2 billion of wine exports to China. So as well as producing 42 per cent of Australian wine grapes, we also produced 78 per cent of Australia's highest quality grapes. What that means is that we are exceptionally impacted by these tariffs and what this means is job losses for South Australians. While the federal government pursues appeals with the World Trade Organization, a process that will take some time to play out, at a state level we urgently need leadership. As we diversify our exports away from China, there is now a rush for us to look at other destinations like the US, the UK and the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Recently, there was an announcement about the wine export recovery and expansion program, and I welcome that this government is finally paying attention to our wine industry, but this is not going to be enough. It is only barely going to touch the sides. What we must be doing is furiously lobbying the federal government for more intense support. Let me remind you that 8,000 South Australians are employed in wine production and grapes and this tariff has impacted massively on that industry.

The Marshall Liberal government ripped up the previous government's regional trade plans and they have scaled back their trade missions over time. There has been a focus on trade offices, but it is not going to generate the short-term intensive support that local exporters need to increase

their share in existing and emerging markets. We need to be innovative and do things differently, knowing that international travel is unlikely in the near future, but we cannot afford to wait.

This is an opportunity for us to think outside the square. We have the post-Brexit free trade agreement coming up with the UK. What is it that South Australia could do to maximise our exports in goods and services over there? Is this an opportunity to look at some of the red tape that exporters constantly talk to me about that stop them from exporting? We should be active while we wait for our borders to open and we should continue that dialogue and support those businesses.

Many times in this house I have talked about tourism and of course our tourism economy, our tourism and hospitality industry, has been massively impacted by COVID and the truth of that impact has just been revealed. In December 2019, we were at a high, with our visitor economy being \$8.1 billion. The latest figures have it at \$4.7 billion—not quite half, but getting there very fast. It is expected that that decrease will continue throughout the year.

Prior to COVID, 18,000 businesses were engaged in the visitor economy and of course we know jobs have been hit even harder with the outrageous decision to axe the Adelaide 500, an event that South Australians love that brought 15,000 interstate tourists here every single year. People are still really angry about this decision. I am sure the people of King have raised it with their local member because they have certainly raised with me the decision without any real understanding to axe the Adelaide 500. We lost \$3.4 billion out of our visitor economy and we just made a decision to axe a much-loved event. What is going to happen next? We know that it is likely that the Tour Down Under will go ahead but be much limited as it was this year, so what is going to fill our hotel rooms in 2022?

Recently, Steven Marshall, the Premier, had the opportunity to announce the Events Advisory Group with much hoo-ha and much celebration. This group was going to come up with events and festivals to fill out the calendar, but what have we heard? We have heard nothing. There is absolutely no plan. You just decide one day to cut the Adelaide 500, a really successful event that brings lots of people into South Australia and employs more than 450 South Australians, but have nothing to fill it and there is still nothing from the Events Advisory Group. When are we going to hear what their great ideas are? What are you waiting for? Things are going to take time to develop. We need to know what these events and festivals are going to be. What is holding you up because people want to know? People want to know how you are going to build up tourism and hospitality as we go forward.

Yesterday, the federal government declared the establishment of the reimagining of the visitor economy expert panel. It was great to see that they appointed a former Labor tourism minister, Martin Ferguson, to chair this—a bit of bipartisanship there—because the federal government knows how important tourism and hospitality is to Australia. It is a huge employer of South Australians, and it is a key part of our economy. Where is our South Australian equivalent? What is our plan to recover tourism? We have heard a lot about the renaissance in regional domestic tourism. There are increased numbers of South Australians holidaying in their own backyard; however, there is a two-speed economy in tourism. I am particularly concerned about those people who are focused on the international market, because they are fighting for their survival.

I expect that as soon as the borders open up we will have an absolute boom in international tourism. It will take some time for aviation to get back on its feet, but Australia will be seen as clean, green and safe. However, with the end of JobKeeper, an expected 29 per cent of tourism businesses are either letting staff go or closing. What keeps me awake at night is thinking about what international experience operators will actually survive this time. Who is actually going to be here to support international tourists when they start to come back?

In the short time I have remaining, let me touch on a few local issues that are of concern. The delayed and delayed Gawler electrification project is a contentious issue in my electorate, and there is much frustration about the very, very slow substitute bus. We have called time and time again to make those substitute buses free. There is an issue about youth unemployment, because we now have the great title of the highest youth unemployment in Australia. Whatever happened to some of the employment opportunities like the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme? Where is that investment? How are we going to grow those jobs in the north?

There are a few perennial issues. I need Commercial Road to be resurfaced. I have written to the former Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the current Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. This is a key road in Salisbury, used by a lot of trucks and cars every single day. Please resurface Commercial Road. There is the issue we have with Nurlutta, which is used by many people who go to Bedford industries every day. One side of the Nurlutta train station is disability compliant and the other side is not. There was a very nasty accident involving one of my constituents. I ask the minister to please fix this up.

It would be remiss of me not to raise the perennial issue of the Park Terrace railway crossing. It is something that holds up a lot of traffic in the area of Salisbury. It is one of those things that adds to congestion every single day. I ask that it continue to be advanced on the Infrastructure Australia list and be supported. Finally, there is my concern about no workforce support programs with the closure of SA Structural and the ending of 200 jobs in the north. How is this government supporting workforces that have been shattered and closed?

Time expired.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (21:53): I thank all those speakers who have made a contribution to this stage of the debate. There will be an opportunity for 10-minute grieves for all speakers on this same topic, so anybody who has chosen not to speak up until this point will have another opportunity to make a contribution. I have certainly made sure that all opposition members, including Labor and Independent members of the opposition, were aware that their chance for a 20-minute contribution was tonight but also that their chance for a 10-minute contribution will come tomorrow. I thank all members who have made a contribution.

Bill read a second time.

Supply Grievances

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (21:55): I move:

That the house note grievances.

Debate adjourned on motion of Dr Harvey.

At 21:56 the house adjourned until Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 10:30.

*Answers to Questions***GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME**

415 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). Why were accommodation providers not included in the third round of the Great State Voucher scheme?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Feedback from the wider tourism industry was that tours and hosted experiences were in need of assistance due to the downturn in international and interstate visitors. Accommodation providers were included in two large-scale previous rounds with more than 62,000 stays booked and therefore round 3 is focusing on tours and hosted experiences.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

416 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). Was the government advised by the South Australian Tourism Commission that accommodation providers did not require support of a third round of the Great State Voucher scheme?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The South Australian Tourism Commission determined that the third round needed to focus on tours and hosted experiences as feedback from the industry was these operators were in need of assistance. Round 1 and round 2 were successful for the accommodation providers, providing near record levels of occupancy.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

417 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). How much investment has the government made in each of the two rounds to date and further investment in the third round of the Great State Voucher scheme?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Round 1 had a budget allocation of \$2 million.

Round 2 had a budget allocation of \$2.5 million.

Round 3 has a budget allocation of \$2 million.

The actual spend for round 1 and round 2 has not yet been determined as the voucher schemes are still active.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

418 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). What is the total number of vouchers in round 1 and round 2 of the Great State Voucher scheme that went to interstate visitors? What is this figure as a percentage of total vouchers redeemed?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Round 1 vouchers were only available to South Australian residents.

In round 2, a total of 2,646 interstate residents received a Great State Voucher with 35 per cent redeemed.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

419 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). How many accommodation providers registered with the Great State Voucher scheme were also receiving JobKeeper support?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The South Australian Tourism Commission does not administer the JobKeeper program and does not have a comprehensive list of which businesses received it.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

420 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). Will there be a fourth round of the Great State Voucher scheme, and if so, will accommodation providers be included?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The fourth round for the Great State Voucher scheme will be focused on accommodation providers exclusively.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

421 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). Is funding for the Great State Voucher scheme sourced from the existing budget of the South Australian Tourism Commission? If not, which budget area is the funding from?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Funding for the Great State Voucher scheme is allocated from the South Australian Tourism Commission's existing budget.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

422 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). Why does the government wait to pay until after the entire travel period has passed?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Accommodation providers receive payment once a consumer redeems their voucher and completes their stay. Some accommodation providers issue bulk invoices (covering all consumers who stayed at their accommodation during specific periods) for payment. Other accommodation providers are choosing to wait until the travel period has finished as they prefer to send one invoice for payment.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

423 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). In round 2 of the Great State Voucher scheme, how many \$100 vouchers and how many \$50 vouchers were allocated and how many were redeemed?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

In round 2 the following vouchers were allocated and redeemed:

\$100 vouchers	
Allocated	47,883
Redeemed	26,536

\$50 vouchers	
Allocated	29,827
Redeemed	8,493

This is not a final figure as some accommodation providers are still in the process of issuing final invoices.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

424 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). In each round, how many eligible tourism providers participated in rounds 1, 2 and 3 of the Great State Voucher scheme?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

In round 1, a total of 235 accommodation providers participated.

In round 2, a total of 314 accommodation providers participated.

In round 3, a total of 242 experience providers have registered to participate.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

425 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). When were eligible providers offered the opportunity to take part in rounds 2 and 3 of the Great State Voucher scheme?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Expressions for Interest for operators opened on 30 November 2020 for Round 2, and on 29 March 2021 for Round 3.

GREAT STATE VOUCHER SCHEME

426 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). What was the total rebate amount in rounds 1, 2 and of the Great State Voucher scheme?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The travel period for both rounds 1 and 2 concluded on 31 March 2021. Final invoices continue to be reconciled therefore a final rebate amount has not yet been determined.

SUPERLOOP ADELAIDE 500

427 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). What events has the Events Advisory Group proposed to replace the Adelaide 500?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The government is committed to growing our events calendar throughout the year in South Australia to deliver additional visitation expenditure and create jobs.

The Events Advisory Group has met a number of times and is working closely with the SATC to explore new event opportunities. The Events Advisory Group will announce new events as opportunities arise.

JOBKEEPER PAYMENT

428 The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (1 April 2021). What economic modelling has the government done in relation to possible job losses to the visitor economy when JobKeeper ends?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The commonwealth Treasury secretary, Dr Steven Kennedy, indicated to a Senate estimates committee on 24 March that there may be between 100,000 and 150,000 JobKeeper recipients nationally who might lose their job, once the JobKeeper subsidy ends, although there is a 'wide band of uncertainty around this estimate'. We are not aware of any modelling on this that is specific to the visitor economy or tourism sector.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

429 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (3 May 2021). What is the total cost of agency staff being used by the SA Housing Authority for the financial years:

- (a) 2018-19?
- (b) 2019-20?
- (c) 2020-31 March 2021?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Local Government): The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

The total cost of agency staff used by SA Housing Authority is as follows:

- (a) 2018-19—\$1.3 million
- (b) 2019-20—\$1.7 million
- (c) 2020-21 (to 31 March)—\$1.8 million

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

433 Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (3 May 2021). What was the percentage of ambulances that responded to category 3 cases within the recommended 16 minutes (response time performance) during each of the following months:

- (a) January 2021?
- (b) February 2021?
- (c) March 2021?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Priority 3 incidents are no longer a part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between SA Ambulance Service and the Department for Health and Wellbeing. Response time alone is not considered an appropriate measure for lower acuity cases; clinical indicators are the preferred method of measuring performance of these types of cases.

COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT

435 Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (3 May 2021). For the most recent data available, how many of the following categories of phase 1a workers had not received their first COVID-19 vaccination—both as numbers and percentages:

- (a) Hotel quarantine/medi-hotel workers (including but not limited to private security guards, hotel staff, nurses, police etc)?
- (b) Frontline SA Health healthcare employees classified as 1a?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

(a) 1,220 medi-hotel workers were identified for phase 1a vaccination. This includes SAPOL officers stationed purely at hotels, ADF personnel at hotels, security staff at hotels, nursing staff at hotels, administrative staff at hotels, medi-hotel risk teams, hotel staff and cleaning contractors. As at 14 April 2021, 161 individuals (13 per cent) had not received their first vaccination.

(b) 7,863 frontline healthcare workers were identified as eligible for phase 1a vaccination. As at 16 April 2021, 11,133 frontline healthcare workers had presented and received their first vaccine. This higher number partly reflects the opportunistic nature of the vaccine program, as well as the inclusion of individuals with more than one role in their workplace. As phase 1b has commenced, all healthcare workers are now eligible for vaccination.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

436 Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (3 May 2021). For each individual month over the past year, how many mental health patients have waited in emergency departments for longer than 24 hours for a bed (broken down in totals by month)?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

For each individual month over the past year the number of mental health patients waiting in emergency departments for longer than 24 hours for an appropriate bed are as follows:

Month	Total
Mar-20	139
Apr-20	78
May-20	145
Jun-20	141
Jul-20	197
Aug-20	161
Sep-20	119
Oct-20	102
Nov-20	54
Dec-20	53
Jan-21	121
Feb-21	136

LAND TAX

441 The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (4 May 2021). How many property owners have seen an increase in their land tax bill due to:

- (a) aggregation changes?
- (b) the application of the trust surcharge?

1. What is the average increase to property owners who have seen an increase in their land tax bill due to aggregation changes?

2. What is the average increase to property owners who have seen an increase in their land tax bill due to the trust surcharge?

3. What is the highest land tax increase experienced by a property owner as a result of aggregation changes?

4. What is the highest land tax increase experienced by a property owner as a result of aggregation changes?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Land tax billing for the 2020-21 financial year is still in progress, with assessments yet to be issued for all landowners. Until the billing process is completed, it is not possible to determine the number of taxpayers and land tax collected by value thresholds, including any changes in these as a result of the government's land tax changes. Additionally, taxpayers have 60 days from receiving a notice of assessment to object to an assessment if they believe it is incorrect, which may result in reassessments.

When the government's land tax reform package was announced, it was estimated that 92 per cent of individuals would pay less land tax and 8 per cent of individuals would pay more land tax. It was also estimated that 75 per cent of company groups would pay less land tax and 25 per cent of company groups would pay more land tax.

The government has increased relief available under the land tax transition fund from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of the relevant increase in a land tax bill above \$2,500 and up to \$102,500 in 2020-21 due to the changes in aggregation of land (all other criteria remain unchanged). This increased the total value of estimated relief for private landowners under the reform package to over \$200 million over the three years to 2022-23.

STATE BUDGET

444 The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (4 May 2021). What data does the Department of Treasury and Finance use to formulate employment forecasts for the state budget?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

In formulating employment forecasts, a number of data sources are taken into consideration, including:

- Global and national economic trends.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey.

- Population Projections (ABS and SA Planning).
- Participation rate projections (Federal Treasury).
- Forward indicators of labour demand including: the Internet Vacancy Index published monthly by the commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE); ANZ job advertisement series; ABS job vacancies data.
- Policies that have been introduced by either the federal or the South Australian governments that impact employment.
- Capital works programs of the federal and South Australian governments that have potential to influence labour demand.

FIRST HOME OWNERS GRANT

447 The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (4 May 2021). How many homebuyers received the \$15,000 first-home buyer state grant in:

- 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2021-22, as at 31 March 2021?
- How many of these grants were whole grants, and how many were partial grants in each of these years?
- What was the cost of the grants in each of these years?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Statistics for First Home Owner Grant payments by month and financial year are included on RevenueSA's website. All grants are whole grants and, as at 31 March 2021, the total number of grants paid and the total amount paid for the 2017-18 to 2020-21 financial years is as follows:

Financial Year	Total number paid	Total amount paid
2020-21*	2,826	\$42,380,000
2019-20	3,128	\$46,840,000
2018-19	2,828	\$42,254,000
2017-18	2,927	\$43,815,000

*at 31 March 2021

HOMESTART FINANCE

452 The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (4 May 2021). How many starter loans have been provided by HomeStart under the expanded eligibility criteria announced in the state budget?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

As a result of the government's decision to expand the eligibility criteria for the Starter Loan, an additional 60 households now own their own home. This change has delivered a 43 per cent increase in the number of loans provided under the Starter Loan scheme. The eligibility criteria for the Starter Loan were expanded in the state budget by increasing the income brackets for eligible applicants as follows:

- Couples increased from \$60,000 to \$90,000
- Singles increased from \$52,000 to \$65,000

The change was implemented from 8 September 2020. The following table shows the additional Starter Loans provided under the expanded criteria through to 31 March 2021:

	Number of settled Starter Loans [8/9/2020-31/3/2021]
Original Income Criteria	139
Expanded Income Criteria	60
Total settlements	199

REPAT HEALTH PRECINCT

In reply to **Mr DULUK (Waite)** (18 February 2021).

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

Yes, the government is committed to the delivery of surgical activity at the Repat Health Precinct. Discussions between the preferred proponent, local health networks and the Department for Health and Wellbeing are progressing.

COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT

In reply to **Mr BELL (Mount Gambier)** (2 March 2021).

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

Mount Gambier and Districts Health Services started vaccinations for the phase 1a cohort in the week commencing 8 March 2021.

SAFETY LEARNING SYSTEM INCIDENT REVIEW, AMBULANCE DELAYS

In reply to **Mr PICTON (Karna)** (3 March 2021).

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

The South Australian Ambulance Service is progressing all recommendations of the review. Implementation is being impacted by industrial proceedings.

COVID-19 CLINICS

In reply to **Mr SZAKACS (Cheltenham)** (3 March 2021).

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

A number of sites in close proximity to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital were assessed prior to the establishment of the approved site. All were unsuitable for a number of reasons, which varied between sites.

The Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) COVID-19 testing clinic closed on 7 March 2021 due to low testing numbers and the establishment of the vaccination clinic at the hospital.

The Victoria Park testing site has been identified as the preferred site to test children due to a number of WCH staff who are currently working at this site.

No further closures of testing sites in the metropolitan area are planned at this stage.

DRIVER'S LICENCE DISQUALIFICATION

In reply to **Ms BEDFORD (Florey)** (16 March 2021).

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): A response to this matter was provided directly to the member for Florey in correspondence dated 19 March 2021.

ALTUS RENEWABLES

In reply to **Mr BELL (Mount Gambier)** (16 March 2021).

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Minister for Trade and Investment): I have been advised the following:

Representatives from the Department for Trade and Investment have been actively working with Altus Renewables for many months as it has moved to implement its proposed pellet plant investment in South Australia.

The Department for Trade and Investment has facilitated introductions to relevant local and state government agencies and is coordinating discussions of the company's proposal to assist progression of its project plans. This has provided Altus Renewables the opportunity for effective government engagement to identify and discuss site, access or development application considerations prior to formal lodgement of its development application.

The proposed Altus pellet plant project is an exciting investment for the state and my department will continue to work with Altus Renewables to realise an outcome for South Australia.

GAWLER LINE ELECTRIFICATION

In reply to **Ms BEDFORD (Florey)** (18 March 2021).

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised:

The contract for the provision of outer north passenger transport services was awarded to Transit Systems Australia (Torrens Transit) in March 2020 after an open public tender procurement process. This contract area covers the outer north of Adelaide and encompasses the Gawler railway line.

The contract requires Torrens Transit to provide substitute bus services when requested by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport due to parts of the infrastructure being closed for revitalisation, improvement or maintenance works such as the Gawler rail electrification project.

The contract also includes a provision to engage subcontractors when resource requirements exceed the contractor's capacity. The contractor is able to choose who they subcontract work to provided they hold all the necessary accreditations and meet requirements under the Passenger Transport Act 1994 and associated regulations.

FROME ELECTORATE, SAPOL DEFIBRILLATORS

In reply to **the Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome)** (18 March 2021).

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services): South Australia Police (SAPOL) has advised:

Not all police stations in the electorate of Frome have an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The provision of AED's across SAPOL is undertaken consistent with the 'Code of Practice for First Aid in the Workplace'. SAPOL has recently identified that there is a need for an AED at Port Pirie Police Station. Steps are being taken to acquire and install one.

REGIONAL ROADS

In reply to **the Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome)** (30 March 2021).

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised:

The roads in and out of William Creek commenced reopening on the afternoon of Monday 29 March 2021, initially to 4WD vehicles and then opening progressively over subsequent days.

As of Thursday 1 April 2021 the following access to William Creek was available:

Marree to William Creek	Open to all vehicles
Coober Pedy to William Creek	
Oodnadatta to William Creek	Open to 4WD and heavy vehicles
Borefield Road (Roxby Downs—Bopeechee)	

The roads were closed as a result of rain on 26 March 2021. Following significant rain events, in the interest of road safety it is necessary to allow the roads to dry out before reopening. Grading was not required to reopen the roads.

Oodnadatta Track

An inspection of the Oodnadatta Track from Marla to Marlee was completed on the Wednesday afternoon of 31 March 2021. The inspection indicated that there were some creek crossings along the route which required minor attention including the Kathleen Creek crossing between Marla and William Creek which was still running with 300-millimetre deep water.

The section between William Creek and Marree was found to be in an acceptable condition. There were some isolated sections of ponded water more specifically in the Bopeechee area. However, no sections were reported as being particularly hazardous and in an unsafe state for motorists.

There were two road maintenance patrols working on the Oodnadatta Track prior to Easter. The wet maintenance patrol had been working on the Oodnadatta Track (approximately 85 kilometres north of William Creek) since January 2021. It is anticipated that they will complete the wet maintenance section soon.

Another dry maintenance patrol was also mobilised to the Oodnadatta Track just before Easter. They commenced grading to the south of William Creek and are progressing towards Marree. The dry maintenance patrol will also undertake grading of the Borefield Road while they are working on the Oodnadatta Track.

William Creek Road.

William Creek Road has now opened to all vehicles, with caution. It is planned to utilise the wet maintenance patrol to undertake grading on the William Creek Road.

Road users can access the latest advice on road conditions at www.dit.sa.gov.au/outbackroads.

NATIONBUILDER

In reply to **the Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens)** (31 March 2021).

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

The government of South Australia does not pay NationBuilder for the service which the member has referred to.