

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 2 December 2021

The **SPEAKER** (Hon. D.R. Cregan) took the chair at 11:01 and read prayers.

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

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:02): Because of the health advice that went out last night suggesting that parliament does not sit this morning, and understanding that in the last short while advice has been received saying that parliament can now sit, including this afternoon, many MPs would not be available to sit right now because they were following the first set of health advice.

I am reliably informed that it will not be possible for the house to make up a quorum at this point in time. So, Mr Speaker, I recommend that you reconvene the house at 2pm today, when I do believe we will be able to make up a quorum of this house. This is an agreement that the Leader of Opposition Business and I have reached.

The SPEAKER: I will hear the Leader of Opposition Business.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (11:03): Mr Speaker, we concur with the government's position.

The SPEAKER: Very well. Members, I propose to suspend the sitting of the house until 2pm, at which time the bells will ring to convene the chamber.

Sitting suspended from 11:03 to 14:00.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:00): I move without notice:

That standing orders be so far suspended today to enable ministers and members to speak and conduct business from any seat within the chamber and the Speaker's gallery and that members of the Legislative Council be prohibited from admission to the Speaker's gallery.

The SPEAKER: There being an absolute majority present, I accept the motion.

Motion carried.

Petitions

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition): Presented a petition signed by 280 residents of Adelaide and greater South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate steps to provide a long-term sustainable funding stream that provides the resource capacity needed to respond to the escalating demand for ambulance services and to eradicate the practice of ramping in South Australia through whatever means necessary.

Answers to Questions

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

- By the Minister for Education (Hon. J.A.W. Gardner)—
Children and Young People, South Australian Commissioner for—Annual Report 2020-21
[Ordered to be published]
Education Standards Board (Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and
Standards Board of South Australia)—Annual Report 2020-21 [Ordered to be
published]
TAFE SA—Annual Report 2020-21 [Ordered to be published]

- By the Minister for Environment and Water (Hon. D.J. Speirs)—
Coast Protection Board—Annual Report 2020-21
Native Vegetation Council—Annual Report 2020-21
Premier's Climate Change Council—Annual Report 2020-21
South Australian Water Corporation—CHARTERS September 2021

*Parliamentary Committees***PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Mr DULUK (Waite) (14:02): I bring up the 203rd report of the committee, entitled Warradale Primary School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 204th report of the committee, entitled Grange Primary School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 205th report of the committee, entitled Belair Primary School Redevelopment Project, which is a very good project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 206th report of the committee, entitled Magill Schools Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 207th report of the committee, entitled Black Forest Primary School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 210th report of the committee, entitled Salisbury Recreation Precinct Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 211th report of the committee, entitled Mount Barker Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 212th report of the committee, entitled Magill Road Redevelopment, Burnside and Campbelltown.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 213th report of the committee, entitled East Marden Primary School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 214th report of the committee, entitled Cultural Institutions Storage Facility Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 215th report of the committee, entitled SA Athletics Stadium Renewal and Upgrade Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr DULUK: I bring up the 216th report of the committee, entitled 'Uley Wanilla system additional storage tank green patch tank project'.

Report received and ordered to be published.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:04): I bring up the 2021 report of the committee.

Report received.

Question Time

COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:05): My question is to the Premier. Why have there again been very long wait times for testing 22 months since the first COVID case in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: Last week, as the Premier was opening the borders he said at a press conference:

So we've looked at all the things that need to be put in place in South Australia before we've taken a decision to remove those state borders, making sure we've got adequate SA Pathology capacity and also making sure that we've got overall testing capacity and availability right across the state.

Last night, there were again reports of lines of over 2½ hours for people coming forward to get tests at the Victoria Park site when seven exposure sites were listed.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:05): I thank the member for Kaurna for his question. He is quite right: we have put additional resources into SA Pathology, and of course the private laboratories in South Australia have been also able to increase their capacity in preparation for us opening our borders on 23 November.

I think that our waiting times compare extraordinarily favourably with any other pathology service in the country—in fact, pretty much any other pathology service in the world. Ahead of opening, we moved both the Ridgehaven site and the Victoria Park site to 24 hours, seven days a week. We also looked at significantly flexing up the hours for many of our other sites, and we will continue to do that in accordance with the requirements.

I think that yesterday we processed around 8,600 specimens through SA Pathology. This is well below the full capacity that we have provided for, and we will continue to flex that up. Obviously, some of those sites were identified quite late in the night. We are now operating at a different level, and so I think people should feel very assured that if they go online, they use the app, they will be able to book in for a time for testing, but of this morning there were no lines whatsoever.

I know that this will be an anxious time for many people here in the state as we do open up our borders, but can I just reassure this house that we have done this in accordance with the advice that was received at the national cabinet from the Doherty Institute, which said that at the time that we get to 80 per cent of all of our 16 and over population fully vaccinated we put ourselves in a good position to be able to remove those state borders and end statewide lockouts. That is precisely what we are doing at the moment.

There were always inevitably going to be cases that come into South Australia. I think that to date we have had about 30 cases in the last nine days. This is well within the provisions of the

model that was created. I think that we are well on track, and part of being well on track is making sure that we still have the confidence of people in South Australia to go and get vaccinated if they have not been vaccinated already, or to have that second jab, or to have that booster when they become eligible, to continue to use the QR code check-in, but also just to be mindful that we are now going into a different phase of this disease.

That really means that people need to be more aware than ever before about social distancing, hand hygiene, hand shakes and close contact. We are not at the same place we were three or four months ago, when a single case would have been something that we would try to eliminate as quickly as possible. We have moved from that elimination of community transmission through to a suppression of community transmission in South Australia.

Even though we don't have the same level of intense focus on every single case, we do still want to reduce the spread as much as possible so that we can continue to increase those vaccination rates in South Australia. The good news is now that we have, I think, 90 per cent—so nine out of every 10—of 12 year olds and older in South Australia have now had at least one shot of their vaccination, so I think that very soon we will get to that fully vaccinated 12 and over population of 90 per cent. That puts us in an extraordinarily good position but, yes, last night there were some short delays, and I think that was—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I think that SA Pathology is providing world's best practice in terms of pathology service. Unlike those opposite, who want to have a go at them, what we are doing on this side is to make sure—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —that we are providing all the resources—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —they need to continue to provide a world's best practice service supporting people in South Australia.

Members interjecting:

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

COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:09): My question is to the Premier. Why has the government decided that now is the right time to close the busy Lyell McEwin COVID testing site that has recently been closed? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: The Lyell McEwin Hospital testing site is displaying an electronic billboard today which says 'Testing clinic closed. No longer in operation'.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:10): Those are decisions that we make within SA Health based upon the demand that could exist and what the optimal use of those facilities within our hospital settings are.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kaurna is called to order. The member for Lee is called to order. The member for West Torrens is called to order. The Premier has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know that those opposite think that they are experts in all things, including epidemiology—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and the administration of SA Health. I would rather put my faith in those people who have qualifications in that area, who have expertise and experience in those areas and those people have guided South Australia to this point: the safest state in the safest country on this earth.

With regard to where we have those clinics for PCR testing, they do move around from time to time. In fact, we have looked at every single opportunity to provide testing in new and unique locations to make it as easy as possible for people, but that is a decision which is obviously made based upon volumes and also proximity to other testing sites. Thank you very much.

COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:11): Supplementary to the Premier, further to his statement that these clinics move around: is it correct that the Lyell McEwin hospital COVID testing site, which has just been closed by the government, has been in operation at that site since the beginning of the pandemic?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:11): Sir, as you would be more than aware, we have dozens and dozens of these sites. I don't know the exact opening hours of when they open and when they close and where we will be going next—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Ramsay!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —but what I do know is that I put my faith in SA Health to make sure that we do have adequate testing facilities. Those testing facilities can be provided by SA Pathology and also our private laboratories, our private pathology laboratories in South Australia who have done a mighty job, an absolutely mighty job and, in fact, in many instances world leading. Other jurisdictions around the country and around the world have looked at the pathology services, the testing services that we have provided in South Australia.

We were the first in the Southern Hemisphere and, in fact, I think only the second place in the world to create what is now the norm. This is the drive-through testing station with the PCR test. We are now really asking people who develop any symptoms whatsoever to go and get themselves tested.

Mr Picton interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Kaurna! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We are looking to make those as accessible as possible across the state and, from time to time, that means that we will look at that map, we will look at that coverage and we will adjust it accordingly.

COVID-19 TESTING CLINICS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:12): My question is to the Premier. Why has there been no permanent testing site in either the District Council of Robe or the Kingston District Council? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: On Friday last week, there were two exposure sites identified in Kingston South East and on Tuesday this week six exposure sites were identified in Robe. However, the government has previously established no permanent testing sites in either Kingston South East or Robe, with the closest testing available an hour's drive away in Millicent.

It took until Wednesday afternoon for a pop-up testing site to be made available in Robe and, even then, it was only opened yesterday for two hours. Last week, the Premier told the public that he had ensured we had adequate SA Pathology capacity availability right across the state.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13): I just took the opportunity to get some advice with regard to the question that the member was asking previously about the lack of testing capability in and around the Lyell McEwin Hospital. I am reliably informed that we do have testing just a few metres away at the Gould Road site and then very close and adjacent at 185 Philip Highway, Elizabeth.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Two sites that would be within a kilometre of the site—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —that those opposite are complaining about closing down.

An honourable member interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I don't know about those opposite, but I don't find it—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford is called to order. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I will take the question with regard to Robe on notice and get a response. We do know that Robe has exceptionally high vaccination rates, and I do want to acknowledge the community at Robe for making sure that they have done everything they possibly can to protect their community.

But, as I said in the answer to the first question that those asked today, we are going to have cases in South Australia. Three or four months ago, a single case could set off a cluster that would lock down the state. That's not the case now because we have been able to reduce that transmission potential to a much lower level and because I think we do have effective test, trace, isolate and quarantine, and we still do have adequate public health and social measures in place.

But we do have a period over the next couple of weeks when we will see more cases in South Australia, and we will learn better methodologies for how we treat these going forward, and testing is an important part of it. It was important for us to get a mobile testing unit to Robe. This is the protocol that was put in place, and I thank the people of Robe for making sure that (1) they vaccinated themselves and (2) they have availed themselves of the PCR testing site, which is now in Robe.

DATA HARVESTING

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:15): My question is for the Premier. Does the Premier maintain that he is not the subject of an investigation by the Ombudsman as a result of an ICAC referral in relation to the misuse of data by his office? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Ombudsman, Mr Wayne Lines, last month confirmed to the Crime and Public Integrity Policy Committee that he had commenced an investigation into the Premier's office as a result of a referral from the Office for Public Integrity into possible misconduct or maladministration in relation to misuse of data within the Premier's office.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:16): I note that the member for West Torrens has made that assertion in the public domain. I think it's completely and utterly incorrect—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —but I will not be making any comment on this matter whatsoever.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:16): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is lowering costs for South Australian families with children who play sport?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:16): I thank the member for King very much for her question and note her advocacy in this area. The Marshall government acknowledges the important role, I should say, that club sport and recreation plays in our community. We are committed to creating places and opportunities for kids to be active. The Marshall government has demonstrated its commitment in delivering important strategies to sport that support South Australian families at the same time.

Families right across the state have been cashing in on the government's beefed-up Sports Vouchers program. I stress the point about how excited the government is to have extended this program to include year 8s and 9s. I acknowledge the member for King's work in advocating for that because it puts money back in the pockets of South Australian families. We have also expanded the program to add swimming and dance, and we know that getting people more active is really important on this side of the house.

Since coming to government, more than \$24 million—\$7 million this year alone—has gone back into the pockets of South Australian families, hardworking parents so that their children can play sport. By contrast, the figure is especially significant when we compare it to the not quite \$7.5 million that those opposite spent in three years. I do go back to the point that under the previous government the voucher was only \$50, and in fact they didn't have it budgeted going forward—

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

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —at the last election. We doubled-down and we have put in \$100.

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order. Please be seated.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The minister is not answering the substance of the question, sir; he is debating the answer. I ask you to bring him back to the substance of the question.

The SPEAKER: I am going to give the minister some latitude. There was a reasonably broad question asked.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I was pointing out the \$100 that we put in over on top of what the previous government wasn't funding as far as this was concerned. So \$100 went into the expanded program, and it is a great outcome for South Australian families.

It was great to see the member for Adelaide out catching up with young Tiah and Katia from the Walkerville Netball Club and to hear from their mother, Georgia, how important these sports vouchers are to their program and getting their kids playing sport and at the same time putting money—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —back into their pocket. I note that the member for Elder caught up with—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —a couple of sports vouchers beneficiaries from the Wildcats Netball Club.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: I also spotted on the member for King's social media—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford knows the standing orders.

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: —that she had visited the Wood family and their three children, who have claimed sports vouchers through gymnastics, I think it is. Over to the member for Newland: under Labor, families in his electorate saved \$160,000, which is not bad, but under our program it's more than \$550,000 back into the pockets of hardworking families in the member for Newland's electorate. '

Let's have a look at all of them. If we go to the member for West Torrens' electorate, I am delighted—and I'm sure he is too—to let his constituents know that they are benefiting more under the Marshall Liberal government's policies than they were when his government was running the state. Under the old government, families in his electorate saved \$106,000, but under the Marshall Liberal government's plan and what we have been delivering, more than \$350,000—\$106,000: \$350,000 back into the pockets of South Australian families. I know parents in the member for West Torrens' electorate would be over the moon about that.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: You don't know any parents in my electorate.

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

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD: We know that if we can get everyone doing 150 minutes of exercise per week, everyone doing that much exercise—it's a big goal, but we want to push towards that—we can save the health budget up to \$800 million a year. That's what the figures are. By doing our policy, by putting in this cost-of-living relief through the Sports Vouchers program, we are going a long way to helping achieve that.

Since coming to government, we have put \$400 million into sport, which is a wonderful accomplishment and it's already achieved great results, whether it's from the elite level right through to the grassroots level. As sports minister I am really proud of the programs that we have supported here.

Once again, the Marshall Liberal government is committed to building what matters in South Australia so we can get more people more active and at the same time lower the cost for all South Australians as they get more active in our community. Two words to finish: game on!

DATA HARVESTING

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:20): My question is to the Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: My question is to the Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister is called to order. The Minister for Transport is called to order. The member for West Torrens has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Has the Premier engaged legal counsel at the expense of the Crown in relation to the Ombudsman's inquiry/investigation into his office in relation to the misuse of data?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:21): I refer the member to my previous answer. I won't be commenting on any case that the Ombudsman is working on at the

moment. In fact, they were his own words to the committee, that he won't be making any further public comments. I think it would be completely inappropriate to do so. But with regard to the public assertion that the member for West Torrens raised—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —I did seek legal advice, not from the Crown and not at any taxpayers' expense. I sent him a letter and I have had a response, a pretty flimsy response, and I'm considering my action on that matter at the moment.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I look forward to it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I look forward to having the Premier in the dock.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

DATA HARVESTING

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:21): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier received any advice that he or his office may have breached any state or commonwealth laws in relation to the misuse of data as a result of the Ombudsman's inquiry?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:22): I refer to my previous answer.

DATA HARVESTING

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:22): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier or will the Premier claim any legal professional privilege over any documents the Ombudsman has requested in relation to his inquiry into the misuse of data by the Premier's office?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Point of order: that's an entirely hypothetical question. The member has no idea whether the Ombudsman has asked or hasn't asked, so to ask what the response to that hypothetical situation might be is outside of standing orders.

The SPEAKER: There is some force in that submission. I am going to give an opportunity to the member for West Torrens to reformulate the question. It may be that there are sufficient touchpoints to ensure the question is in order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier claimed legal professional privilege over any documents the Ombudsman has requested as a result of his investigation into the Premier and his office?

The SPEAKER: I am going to allow that question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:23): I have answered this question. I think it would be inappropriate for me to be making any comment with regard to any inquiry whatsoever. I think this is commonplace. It's in accordance with the precedents and I just refer the member for West Torrens to my previous answer.

DATA HARVESTING

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:23): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier been compelled to give evidence to the Ombudsman or has he volunteered to be interviewed as part of the investigation into the possible misuse of data in his office?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:23): I know the member for West Torrens has a great deal of expertise in appearing before various integrity bodies. We know that there was an extraordinarily high profile one—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —which examined what ended up on the front page of *The Tiser*, which referred to the member for West Torrens—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —not by his electorate name but—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —as 'c-bomb Tom', which I thought was completely inappropriate.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: The one person who does have—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —expert experience with regard to appearing before integrity bodies is the member for West Torrens. With regard to his specific question here, I refer him to my previous answer.

DATA HARVESTING

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:24): My question is to the Premier. Has the Ombudsman interviewed the Premier's Chief of Staff or any of his other senior advisers, including his director of communications, as part of the investigation into possible data misuse?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:24): As per my previous answer, I refer the member to the comments that were made to the committee by the Ombudsman himself, Wayne Lines, that he is not making any comment with regard to any inquiry that the member for West Torrens is interested in at the moment.

HIGH-TECH SECTOR

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:24): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister please update the house on what the Marshall Liberal government has achieved in attracting high-tech jobs since the last election?

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Minister for Trade and Investment) (14:25): I thank the member for MacKillop for his question. There is certainly a lot of positive news happening in this space at the moment. I have talked previously in parliament about some of the massive high-tech companies that are coming here, world-class companies attracted to South Australia, turning South Australia into a high-tech hub in areas such as defence, space, medical technologies, creative industries.

Those productivity gains that tech makes are also making great improvements in food and agriculture, and also energy and mining in the areas of the regions that the member for MacKillop is very interested in. It's really good. We are the defence state, we are the nation's space capital and we are fast becoming the digital state as well.

As I said, since coming to government we have attracted many world-class companies here, such as Accenture; AWS, the second biggest company in the world; and Google, the fourth biggest company in the world. MTX have come along as well, as have Nokia 5G in the area of space and also Microsoft Azure Space. These are big companies coming here to South Australia, and that is bringing in other companies' interest as well. Consulting firms, such as PwC, 300 jobs—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Motorola?

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON: Yes, Deloitte is coming here—500 jobs is fantastic, and that's why only just recently—

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON: —I was really pleased to hear that a massive US global tech firm Cognizant are going to set up here, creating 1,600 jobs, highly skilled careers here in South Australia. They are going to be creating a global digital centre here in South Australia in areas such as artificial intelligence and in areas such as 5G, space technologies and also data analytics—all areas where South Australia has a competitive advantage not only in the nation but also in the world. If I could just quote the Cognizant CEO of Australia and New Zealand, Jane Livesey, she said:

Being based in Adelaide will help us to fulfil our purpose to build a high-quality, market leading digital transformation capability that enhances the lives of everyday Australians.

So that's fantastic news here and fantastic news for South Australians. This announcement, this investment by Cognizant, brings our first term in government here to have created over 5,000 jobs in the high-tech sector. That's right: 5,000 jobs here in South Australia, and that's fantastic news, absolutely. This comes hot on the heels of the Minister for Innovation and Skills recognising that we have had the most number of South Australians employed here in the state's history.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Lee!

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON: It's all going towards that. That's building towards growing the economy. We have seen just recently the GSP figures for the financial year 2021: 3.9 per cent and nation leading. It is the first time in a long time we have been up the top there. This has been driven also by exports. We had fantastic export figures, with a new state record for the 12 months in July of \$13 billion.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON: You will be happy to know, Mr Speaker, that trade figures have come out for October just today and again showed above \$13 billion. This is all helping to drive the economy, creating jobs for people and, importantly, these jobs are available now. Cognizant are already recruiting, Accenture are already recruiting in areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, software engineering, data analytics, and also across other adjacent areas, such as marketing, legal fees, accounting fees.

This is benefiting South Australians across the board. We are getting the fundamentals right here, attracting world-class companies to give world-class jobs and opportunities for South Australians for years to come.

KANGAROO ISLAND BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:29): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier reconsider his government's decision to evict people on Kangaroo Island who lost their homes in the bushfires and were provided with emergency housing? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Geoff and Priscilla were made homeless because of the bushfires on 20 December 2019 and they were provided with emergency temporary housing, but, because of the crisis in the construction industry in sourcing building materials, they have not yet been able to rebuild their permanent home.

This week, they received a text message and then a letter from Housing SA advising them that they must give up their emergency accommodation in February next year. Geoff and Priscilla are just one example of around 25 families or individuals on the island who have lost their homes and who are in a similar circumstance.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:30): I am representing the Minister for Human Services in the house as a result of recent changes, so on behalf of Minister Lensink I will take this question on notice in terms of the detail—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —of the family's case. I can provide a little bit of insight into the way the Department of Human Services worked very strongly with Twiggy Forrest and the charities that helped in the provision of the construction of those temporary homes. A very similar operation was supporting families in my electorate and throughout the Adelaide Hills as well, so I know very well how important that provision was, supported and facilitated by the Department of Human Services, when it was provided.

It provided those families with some breathing room to construct or reconstruct their homes without their having to relocate off their properties. Of course some wanted to, but many wanted to stay on their properties and be hands-on in supporting the construction and staying, whether that was to look after their animals or their property. I am fully aware of how important it has been to those families to have had that service provided.

It was an innovative service. It was a service that the government, the department, did well to support. Obviously it was very strongly supported by Andrew Forrest's charity, for which we are very grateful. As I understand it, it also supported a number of jobs in South Australia in the construction industry. A number of them were able to use South Australian suppliers and businesses to help construction.

In relation to the circumstances we are in now, obviously it was not intended that the provision be for such an extended period of time. The member has outlined details in relation to this particular case, and it possible there are others in the same set of circumstances. I will raise this with the Minister for Human Services and not just take it on notice but undertake to ensure the member receives a response directly outside the parliamentary process if that is more timely than through the parliamentary process.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:32): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with business leaders that he has abandoned his role as the state's leader? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: In an article published in *The Advertiser* in 18 November, David Penberthy writes:

There is a sense that the Premier has pulled back too far, or even wholly abandoned his role as leader, ceding unquestioned authority to chief public health officer [Professor] Nicola Spurrier in making decisions that have the capacity to make and break businesses.

The article continues:

...when it comes to those make-or-break COVID decisions that have a huge impact on the private sector, Marshall is the guy off camera at the press conference nodding dutifully...

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33): No.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:33): My question is again to the Premier. Does the Premier agree that the number of business leaders defending his government's handling of the process for reopening the state can be counted not on one hand, but on one finger? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: In the same article by journalist David Penberthy, it was written:

Those defending the Premier can be counted not on one hand, but on one finger—the Property Council, headed by Marshall's former senior adviser Daniel Gannon. Every other key group is either scratching its head or openly furious.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33): I am a father of two and I know all about teenage children and their habits around the home. Often what they do is go to the fridge and find some old pizza that's been there for two or three weeks and they reheat it. That's what we are seeing here today. This is like a teenager: they run out of anything useful, so they go back and reheat something from two or three weeks ago in the paper. This is how inept this opposition is at the moment. It is quite extraordinary.

On a day when we have our export figures showing record exports from South Australia for eight months in a row, at a time when only two weeks ago the ABS said we were the fastest growing economy in the state, all we hear from those opposite is mirth and derision. But let me tell you, there is even more to come. The state final demand figures came out today, the September quarter. Where was South Australia? A 1.4 per cent surge in a single quarter. This doesn't happen by accident. This happens by putting the requisite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —arrangements in place in South Australia to make it more attractive for the productive component of our economy—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to do well. One of the things that I am most excited about is that growth has come through the private sector—

Mr Picton: Who are the business leaders who support you?

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —making sure that we give the confidence to the private sector—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to invest.

Mr Brown interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We now have record confidence—consumer confidence, business confidence, investor confidence—in South Australia. We have the number one most livable place in the country. We are also one of the strongest magnets for attracting investment into our state. Only moments ago, the Minister for Trade and Investment outlined some of the companies that are gravitating towards South Australia at the moment.

This is providing hope and opportunity for young people for generations to come. We are always going to be respectful to our traditional sectors—mining and agriculture, manufacturing, construction, tourism and international students—so many of those sectors that have got us to where we are at the moment, but we are excited about the future in South Australia. We are making a pivot towards these new and emerging sectors—defence, space, cyber, machine learning, blockchain, agtech, the creative sectors and renewable energy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: These are the areas which are driving a change in confidence. People are talking about Lot Fourteen and what is happening down there—

Mr Boyer interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —with the Australian Institute for Machine Learning, the Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre and the Australian Space Agency in South Australia, and those opposite hate it. They absolutely hate the good news. They hate the fact that so many young ones are not leaving the state like they were when the member for Lee was on the front bench.

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

The SPEAKER: Premier, there is a point of order. I will hear the point of order under 134. The member for Lee on a point of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I take exception to the allegation that I hate what is happening—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The proceedings on a point of order are that we will hear the point of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I take exception to the allegation that I hate to hear what is happening at Lot Fourteen, particularly with the Australian Institute for Machine Learning, because of course the former Labor government signed it off, not the current Liberal government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not going to rule on the point of order. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: There is so much going on at Lot Fourteen. Those opposite wanted to sell it off for apartments. They basically wanted to enter into long-term leasing arrangements to put 1,300 apartments on the Parklands. They had no regard for it, just like they had no regard whatsoever for the Repat hospital in South Australia. Let me tell you, sir, what we have been doing since coming to government is to focus on turning the Repat—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —into one of the most exciting precincts for health care in our state.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I was down there the other day and there were people with happy, smiling faces.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We didn't just have another bulky goods precinct, presided over by those opposite, and we don't have 1,300 apartments. What we do have is more than 1,300 high-tech jobs in South Australia and there are many thousands more to come. I'm going to finish on a stat that is very positive. When we came to government we had an exodus of young people and capital out of this state—3,000, 4,000, 5,000—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —6,000, almost 7,000 or 8,000 net migration out of South Australia—under the settings that those opposite put into place.

Ms Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hurtle Vale is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We now have a net migration back to South Australia for the first time in 40 years, renewed confidence and renewed hope for the future.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:38): My question again is to the Premier. How many senior business leaders has the Premier fallen out with or had a tetchy exchange with? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: In the same article published by *The Advertiser*, journalist David Penberthy reports—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Child Protection is called to order. The Minister for Transport is called to order. Deputy Premier! The member for Lee has the call.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: In the same article published in *The Advertiser*, journalist David Penberthy reports, 'The ambivalence/hostility—

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier is called to order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —towards the Premier is worsened by tales of his falling outs—

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

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education is called to order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —and tetchy exchanges with people who have historically been red-hot supporters of the Liberal Party'.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:39): I am worried about this reheating of the pizza. I think it's going to catch on fire, it has been reheated so many times. He is talking about the same article from weeks and weeks ago, three times with this question. You would think on a day like today, there might be a single question from those opposite about the new variant of concern, Omicron, which is of great concern to the entire nation. No, we are now asking questions—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —based on what commentators wrote in *The Advertiser* three weeks ago.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: This is how hopeless and disconnected with the main things that the people of South Australia care about.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I will tell you what they care about: keeping South Australia safe and keeping our economy strong. That's exactly and precisely what we have done every single day—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee on a point of order. Premier, there is a point of order. I will hear the point of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker—debate. The question was quite specific about how many senior business leaders the Premier has had a falling out with.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The proceedings in relation to a point of order are controlled by standing order 134. I will consider the point of order. There is some force in the point of order. Premier, I will bring you to the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I have finished my answer, sir.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:40): My question is again to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with business leaders who describe him as having 'a glass jaw'? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Transport is warned. Premier, you are called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Transport! The member for West Torrens is warned, the Premier is warned, the Minister for Transport is warned.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Journalist David Penberthy writes in the same article—

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: He thinks he is at the cabaret, sir. He writes:

I know a number of people in business who believe the Premier is afflicted by a glass jaw, with a capacity to regard legitimate questions as baseless gripes and policy criticisms as personal attacks.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:42): I have nothing further to add to my previous answer, sir.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chaffey is warned. The member for Chaffey—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey, you will leave the chamber for 15 minutes under 137A. Member for Playford, you will follow.

The honourable members for Chaffey and Playford having withdrawn from the chamber:

INNOVATION POLICIES

Mrs POWER (Elder) (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the Marshall Liberal government's success in driving innovation here in South Australia and is the minister aware of any alternate plans?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir: standing order 97 says questions should not involve any argument. The member is claiming 'success' for whatever she is talking about.

The SPEAKER: It's a matter of fine judgement. I will give the member an opportunity to rephrase the question. I think minor surgery to the question might allow us to arrive at a different destination.

Mrs POWER: We do know those opposite hate good news. So my question is to the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs POWER: —Minister for Innovation and Skills.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Please don't provoke the opposition, member for Elder.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Transport! The member for West Torrens is called to order.

Mrs POWER: Don't worry. I won't ask it with as much enthusiasm as yesterday's question. My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on what the Marshall Liberal government is doing in terms of driving innovation here in South Australia, and is the minister aware of any alternate plans?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is called to order. The minister has the call.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (14:44): Thank you, sir.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: It is terrific to get another question from a government member about innovation—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: —because this is what this government is all about. Not a single question in the four years we have been in government from the other side on innovation—they still think we are in the Industrial Revolution over there. They have been nowhere to be seen in technology in the last four years, let alone when they were in government.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir: standing order 98. The minister is attempting to debate the answer—badly—and that means it is out of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: That may be, member for West Torrens, but the noise in the chamber has meant that, keen as I am to hear the minister, I am struggling. The minister has the call.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: I thank the member for Elder for her interest in innovation and the work that the Marshall government is doing. We took a clear innovation policy to the last state election, and we have delivered.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is warned.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The Marshall Liberal government's success in delivering outstanding results, in partnership with industry, has been recognised across the country and around the world. Since coming to office, this government has driven a change in the culture of entrepreneurship and significant growth in the tech sector. We are now emerging as one of the nation's leading centres for technology companies and start-ups. A recent report by Accenture found that the technology industry supports—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: —33,000 jobs here in South Australia and contributes \$6 billion annually to the South Australian economy. Furthermore, the technology council of South Australia, or the TCA, named Adelaide as one of Australia's tech and startup powerhouses. The TCA's CEO, former South Australian Kate Pounder, now based in Canberra, says she left Adelaide after graduating from university to pursue a career in the technology sector. Two decades later, she said Adelaide is emerging from COVID-19 as one of the country's leading centres for technology companies and startups, backed by a supportive state government, a deep talent pool and an attractive and affordable lifestyle. To quote Kate Pounder:

I left Adelaide because at that time if you were interested in the tech sector and tech policy there wasn't a lot of opportunity in Adelaide, so I'm really excited to see the way the industry's grown here and the great work that the state government's doing...

She goes on to say:

I think it means for that next generation of people coming forward, they've got the choice to stay now in Adelaide and pursue their career there.

So there you are. This is why we are seeing more people returning to South Australia and we are seeing an increase in net state migration here in South Australia—because we are offering real careers. There are companies employing South Australians right now, companies like MTX, Amazon Web Services, MIT, AIML and BAE, just to name a few. Why are they coming?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Wright!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Because the skills are here and the pathways into those sectors are here. These are the skills of tomorrow that have arrived in South Australia. Those opposite kept talking about the transitioning economy but did nothing about it. Well, it's here. Those jobs of the future are here in South Australia, and we are making sure that every South Australian has an opportunity to move into the new pathway.

JobTrainer was announced as a response to COVID, with \$145 million. We used JobTrainer money to start a new relationship with KIK Innovation, which brought the French coding school 42 to South Australia, the only French coding school in Australia. There are 60 around the world and the only one in Australia is here in Adelaide. A four-week boot camp of training incorporates micro-credentials in ICT and business skills.

Graduates of the 42 Adelaide school end up being offered jobs and traineeships by some of the largest and fastest growing tech companies in South Australia, such as Loftus Technology, Lockheed Martin, OzRunways, elmTEK, FOUR, Accenture, Sine, MTX and more. The Marshall government's high-tech sector plan has brought those companies here to South Australia. They are here because they can get the staff, they are here because of the business conditions we have set up, and they are here because they see a future in South Australia.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:48): My question again is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain to the house why business leaders and industry associations are briefing the media against him?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:49): It is always good to be able to talk about the excellent industry associations we have in South Australia, representing a sector which is being listened to by government for the first time in a very long period of time.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We only heard a moment ago from the Minister for Innovation and Skills.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: He has defied all odds, quite frankly, and delivered the very best results in the entire nation in terms of vocational education and training and skills development, and this is one of the core reasons why so many international firms and so many national firms are now choosing to come to South Australia.

It has been one of the key issues that people have raised with me from industry associations, especially those on the industry response and recovery committee whom we met with very, very often during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, and certainly in the early days.

What we know is that when we listen to the business community, when we lower their taxes, reduce their red tape, provide a vibrant investment attraction environment and focus on skills development then it will translate into work.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: You don't need to take my word for it: take a look at the statistics, which show where we are sitting at the moment, an area which quite frankly—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —I feel very proud of—

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —at the moment. When we look at the state final demand for the September quarter, South Australia was up 1.4 per cent. Australia was down 1.8 per cent. What we saw under those opposite for 16 years was that every time those national statistics would come out we would get further and further—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —behind that peloton. Every time it came out—

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —it just reminded us that the settings were wrong. But today we are very proud in South Australia to look at these statistics. In South Australia, we have surged 1.4 per cent—

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —not in a year—

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, there is a point of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The question was about business leaders and industry associations briefing the media against him, not about economic statistics.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sir, point of order.

The SPEAKER: The minister wishes to address me on a point of order. I will hear the minister.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The framing of the question began with a 'why'. It is a broad invitation for any minister to respond in relation to the subject matter in any way.

The SPEAKER: My attention is being drawn to standing order 98. I direct the Premier to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Of course, the substance of the question is listening to business leaders here in South Australia, and that is exactly and precisely what we have done. We have listened to those concerns, whether they be concerns regarding skills, taxation arrangements or regulation, and we have addressed those issues. What we have been able to do is to translate that into outcomes for those people, and I was reminding the house that the excellent figures that came out today, the state final demand figures for the September quarter, which surged 1.4 per cent. Before we came to government, this state did well when we got to 1.4 per cent—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —over an entire year. In 16 years of the previous government, I think for the last decade, the average growth over a year was around 1 per cent. We grew 1.4 per cent in a three-month period because we listen to the business community—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and we get those settings right. Let's look at some of the other states around Australia. New South Wales went backwards 6.5 per cent and Victoria went backwards 1.4 per cent. In fact, the entire country went backwards by almost 2 per cent.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: In South Australia, we surged forward, and that, of course, is on the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —state final demand figure for the last entire year—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Innovation and Skills! The minister is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —with a massive surge of 3.9 per cent. Virtually every single time—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —we look at the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Innovation and Skills is warned. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Just about every time we look at those statistics in terms of business confidence, consumer confidence and investor confidence, they are off the scale. They are at decade highs or they are at highs that have basically blown out records for the index ever.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: That is the situation that exists at the moment.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I am the first to admit that industry associations play a tough game. They are always after more, and so they should be. They are advocating for their businesses.

Businesses have done it tough over the last 18 months, the last 20 months, the last 22 months, while we have been dealing with this coronavirus pandemic. There have been changes at short notice regarding restrictions and the way that they operate—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —but I assure each and every one of these sectors that we are putting their best interests first—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and that is now translating into excellent conditions, a very attractive business environment in South Australia, and the results are there for all to see.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:53): My question again is to the Premier. Can the Premier rule out ever using obscene language or yelling at an industry leader in the course of one of his tetchy exchanges?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier is called to order. The member for Hammond is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:53): I have heard of members using obscene language. I know how that is referred to in the Labor Party.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It is referred to as conversational swearing. I also know how it is referred to in *The Advertiser*—'c-bomb Tom'—which I thought would have been humiliating and there would have been some sort of sanction that was suffered. My understanding, from the evidence that was provided with regard to this matter, is that it was directed at hardworking public servants in South Australia. Apparently this didn't result in sanctions. I think maybe the member for West Torrens said that he was going to reflect—

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, please be seated.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Standing order 98: the question was specifically about the Premier's use of obscene language in his tetchy exchanges with business leaders.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, we were doing so well. Standing order 98 does, of course, focus our attention in relation to a number of rules applying to answers. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: As I was saying, the member for West Torrens not only directed those comments at senior public servants, hardworking senior public servants in South Australia, but there was of course the case when he directed it at a very senior businessperson in South Australia—

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Premier please be seated. There is a further point of order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The first words out of the Premier's mouth again were debate, rather than answering the question, which was about his use of obscene language with business leaders.

The SPEAKER: Standing order 98 does provide a prohibition on debate. I draw the Premier's attention to the question. The Premier, I do give him a good deal of latitude because he is the Premier. I am listening carefully.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Certainly I share the passion of many of our industry leaders in South Australia who are doing it tough during a pretty tough period for their members, which is, of course, something that I take on board and make sure I listen to as much as possible. With regard to the specific—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —the member for Lee has not made any specific comments.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: He is keeping it pretty flimsy at the moment. All I can do is reflect on things which we know to be fact.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: The member for West Torrens says, 'Why don't you step out and say it outside?' We don't have to step outside; we can actually read it. We can actually read the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens! Premier please be seated.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It's published already—published in black and white.

The SPEAKER: Premier, please be seated. The member for West Torrens can leave the chamber under 137A until the commencement of crossbench questions. I know he listens carefully to those questions.

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

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I know that the opposition subscription to *The Advertiser* ran out recently because they are only asking questions about articles that appeared three or four weeks ago. But there are plenty of old copies covering in full technicolour detail the issues. The member for West Torrens I think in many ways basically sullied the entire government at the time. I am not specifically aware of the issues—

The SPEAKER: Premier, there is a point of order. I will hear the point of order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Once again, this was specifically about the Premier's use of obscene language to business leaders.

The SPEAKER: Order, deputy leader! I am going to do something else. Under 137A, Minister for Transport, I direct you to leave the chamber for 15 minutes and to return at the commencement of crossbench questions. I appreciate that debate in the chamber is spirited at the moment and you have been contributing in a spirited way. However, I am struggling to hear the floor.

The honourable member for Gibson having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: We have been very lenient with the member for Lee—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Trade and Investment is warned.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —but his initial question offended standing order 97, including argument, and the member has now three times repeated the argument. What he is asking about is accusations. He pretends that they are facts.

The SPEAKER: Very well, I'm going to take the question from the member for Lee and then I'm going to turn to the member for Hammond.

PREMIER MARSHALL

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (14:58): Can the Premier advise the house whether he stopped taking phone calls or meeting requests from any business or industry leaders here in South Australia?

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order from the Deputy Premier.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Again, sir, argument.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! That's a matter of fine judgement. I am going to allow the question. Once I hear the answer—

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:58): Well, sir—

The SPEAKER: Very well.

REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister please update the house on what the Marshall Liberal government has achieved in regional South Australia since the last election?

The Hon. D.K.B. BASHAM (Finniss—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:59): The Marshall Liberal government is delivering strongly for our regions. It is helping create jobs, encouraging investment and building economic resilience. The government has established the \$160 million Regional Growth Fund over a 10-year period.

There have been some great projects in the member for Hammond's electorate, Parilla potatoes being one of them and Beston foods another, great investments in his electorate. The Regional Growth Fund has supported 80 projects since we were elected. The government has invested \$65 million and a bit more into these projects. Of these projects, 37 have been completed and are already supporting the jobs and the economic opportunities in the regions.

When one considers the impact of COVID-19 on the economy over the past two years, this is a remarkable achievement being delivered by private business investing in these regional businesses and regional communities, supported by the government. In contrast, when we came to office there was \$12 million worth of regional development projects that had never been delivered. They were projects that the government committed, had a press release about and a launch, but nothing ever happened.

The Marshall Liberal government is also investing \$10 million in the Mobile Black Spot Program fund to actually make sure we get better coverage right across our regional areas with improved phone coverage. There are 54 new mobile phone towers, extending coverage to regional communities—54, a complete contrast to what happened previously under the former government. This investment is so important for the regions to have that connectivity.

The government has also developed a Regional Development Strategy, working with the regions themselves to work out how we drive those regions forward. We are working with and meeting with the leaders of government. The chief executives of government are coming together with representatives from all the RDAs and other council organisations to support the regions, to have those conversations, making sure we are connecting with those communities, making sure that we are delivering for those communities.

The former government centralised services and decisions in Adelaide. We are making sure those decisions are being made in the regions. It's so important that we see the regional health boards being established, the landscape boards being established, giving those decision-making processes back to those communities that actually understand their communities.

The government has also put in \$2½ billion in new measures over the past two years and funding over the forward estimates of \$875 million supporting those regions. We have supported our regional businesses, delivering on those top priorities ignored for a long time by the former government. They include \$25 million to the SA dog fence, a piece of infrastructure that has been so important for South Australia for many years and neglected for many years.

We have put \$21 million into drought assistance funding. We have abolished the GM moratorium to make sure farmers have the choice. We have invested \$24.5 million into the marine scalefish fishing reforms. We established trade offices around the world to make sure we can get our products to market. Again, in the member for Hammond's electorate we are supporting Thomas Foods with their rebuild following their disastrous fire. This government is supporting our regions. Our policies are supporting the regions. Our regions matter.

TREASURY PORTFOLIO

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:03): My question again is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the house who in the state parliamentary Liberal Party will hold the Treasury portfolio after the state election?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:03): The person will be a member of the cabinet.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It will be a member of cabinet, sir.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We are very well served at the moment in our cabinet by the Hon. Rob Lucas—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Police is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —who of course is the Father of the South Australian parliament. Some people might refer to him as the grandfather or the great, great, great grandfather. He has done an exceptional job, and I will have further comments to make about him tonight. One of the ways that we run our cabinet in South Australia under this government is for us to take a whole-of-cabinet approach so we don't have individual ministers who make decisions irrespective of the rest of the cabinet. This is particularly important with regard to Treasury.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Police is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We have the Budget Cabinet Committee—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister for Police is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —where I think we have five cabinet ministers who sit around that Budget Cabinet Committee. They develop the budget. They develop the Mid-Year Budget Review. They develop all the cases for changes to the budget in South Australia, and that ultimately goes to cabinet. There is a process which is well in place.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hurtle Vale is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It's not like we make unilateral decisions—

The SPEAKER: Premier, there is a point of order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —within the Treasury portfolio.

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order, Premier. Please be seated. Point of order, member for Lee.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Point of order. The question was quite specific: who will manage the Treasury portfolio for the state Liberals after the election?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: A member of cabinet, sir.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Police is called to order. We will make that announcement—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —on the other side of the election—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —but we have many people who are qualified and many people who are involved in Treasury—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —roles at the moment.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

COVID-19 QUARANTINE

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:05): My question is to perhaps the Premier or the minister representing the Minister for Health. Can someone confirm why returning South Australians, approved for home quarantine by EntryCheck SA, I am told as recently as 1 December appear to have been placed in medi-hotels and are being held there as assessment checks that should have been possible within a few hours appear to be taking days? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms BEDFORD: I am told by recently arrived double-vaccinated travellers that they are in this very position. While PCR tests can take as little as 24 hours on the outside world and identifying country of origin and suitability of premises for home quarantine were all well in place before their arrival after 23 November when borders were opened, these travellers were detained and today, while information has changed several times, they now seem likely to be released from hotel quarantine before 3.30 in time for the next plane load of arrivals to check in.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:06): It's not uncommon for us to put people into the most secure arrangements pending verification of their home quarantine arrangements. We were the first to pioneer this in the country and, in fact, the rest of the country is mainly using the hotel quarantine arrangements. It was South Australia that pioneered the home quarantine arrangements.

Some people in the early stages thought, 'I can do it at my home,' but they didn't take into account that they might be, for example, in a high-rise building where they were using common facilities like lifts to go off and have their required PCR tests, which made them ineligible. Some people were telling us they could isolate but then couldn't provide us with further detail with regard to whether there was anybody else on that site or likely to come.

We do want to make sure, especially for those coming from overseas and especially now that we are dealing with this new Omicron variant at the moment. I apologise if there has been any inconvenience to anybody who has come in, but our primary responsibility is to keep our state safe. We are concerned with the international border. That's why we moved from seven days' quarantine to 14 days' quarantine for anybody coming back from overseas on the weekend, when we learned more about the Omicron variant.

I am hopeful that that will be able to be reduced down fairly quickly. In fact, we said that when we got to 90 per cent we were hopeful that we could remove that quarantine time for all international arrivals who are fully vaccinated. We need to see where Omicron goes between now and then, but I am hopeful that we can move back down to seven days and then ultimately to zero as soon as possible.

Since the advent of the coronavirus, we have said that we don't want to keep any restriction in place one day longer than we need to, but we have needed to. We have needed to put very strong arrangements in place for those people who have come from overseas and those who have come from interstate. Now, of course, our major restriction is on those people who are unvaccinated. I think that sends a very strong message to those people who remain unvaccinated, who remain reluctant or hesitant about having the vaccination.

I apologise if there has been any inconvenience to these people who have arrived but, out of an abundance of caution, we need to verify that the place—whilst it might be their home—is actually a suitable place to make sure that they are isolated not only from other family members coming but also from other tenants potentially in a building or a compound who they could come into contact with when they are going off for their required PCR test during that time of isolation.

COVID-19 QUARANTINE

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:09): Supplementary: while I am tempted to go into that because it was an actual home that was empty they were going to, my question is: when will a second briefing, this time on the current COVID situation, be arranged for MPs with the health department officials in line with the legislation which I believe was recently passed in this place?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:09): I thank the member for the question. I will raise that issue with the Minister for Health and again bring back an answer for the member. I will use the house, whose processes are available, but I will also get an answer directly.

COVID-19 QUARANTINE

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:09): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier alleviate hospitality and tourism concerns that they will be effectively locked down for seven days every time they are deemed as a close contact venue? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr BELL: Coming into the summer season, which is the busiest time for cafes and hospitality, many owners have raised concerns with me that their entire staff will be required to quarantine for seven days, even though they are double-vaccinated, if the venue is deemed a close contact. This will effectively render their businesses unviable because they will have no staff during the busiest time of the year.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:10): The member is right: if somebody is deemed a close contact, then they need to go into either seven days' quarantine and isolation if they are fully vaccinated or 14 days if they are unvaccinated. But we don't deem buildings

or businesses close contacts. They could be exposure sites or transmission sites, and then within those we do a risk assessment.

Those people who are working there and who come into close contact for an extended period of time could be assessed as either requiring to have a testing regime put in place or, potentially, if they are in close contact for an extended period of time, so closer than 1.5 metres for more than 15 minutes or if they shake hands with a person—and a lot of it depends on some other factors with regard to the length of time, whether they are wearing masks or not, whether there was any physical contact, whether it was indoors or outdoors—all of this is taken into account in the risk assessment.

My belief is that we will do everything we can to minimise the disruption to businesses. One of the biggest issues in the earliest stages of the disease was when a case was found you would close the entire business, you would put everybody there into quarantine, you would do that for 14 days and you would actually do a deep clean. This often had very damaging results for those businesses that were affected by this.

We now move into a different phase, because we are moving away from the elimination of community transmission to the suppression of community transmission. Single cases aren't as critical as they were back three or four months ago. That's why now we are only really interested in people who are within a very close range for an extended period of time, or whether there was contact.

What I can say to every single business in South Australia is that the very best thing you can do is to make sure that your staff are vaccinated. For people who are working in there, we know that the transmission rate is much lower when people are vaccinated, but we also know that the severity of the symptoms are also much lower as well.

I was speaking to Professor Spurrier recently about examples where somebody might be working in a supermarket and come into contact with somebody for a very short transaction. Both might be wearing masks and there is no physical contact but they were in close contact with somebody who was a contact. Would they be required to go into 14 days or seven days? And the answer was no. It depends on the circumstances. Obviously, if there was a physical exchange, that would increase the risk level and increase the likelihood that somebody was put into isolation or directed quarantine.

I actually think that whilst there are scenarios where businesses could be potentially closed down if every person in the business came into close contact and prolonged contact without masks with physical contact indoors, in reality there would be very few cases that exist and quite different from what had occurred several months ago.

PARLIAMENTARY SITTING PROGRAM

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (15:13): My question is to the Premier. Would the Premier consider it in the best interests of the people of South Australia if the parliament was to be closed down for five months? With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Trade and Investment is on one warning.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hammond is warned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Police is on one warning.

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hammond, I draw your attention to standing order 142.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: If I can just elaborate a bit further. At the last sitting of the parliament, the minister in charge of government business attempted to close down the sitting of parliament until the end of May 2022. With the dramatic increase in COVID cases just recently and the borders having been open for just 10 days, and more cases anticipated in the next few days, I ask the Premier if it is in the best interests of South Australia to close down the parliament.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:15): As Manager of Government Business in the house, it is quite appropriate for me to address this question from the member for Frome. The member for Frome came in in a by-election about 2008 or 2009, I think it was. What that means—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Chaffey!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —is that the member for Frome will be familiar with the information I am about to share, but it is well worth answering this question and putting this information on the record. The vote of the house the member refers to, from the last Thursday of sitting, was actually a matter that was very straightforward, very normal.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Playford is called to order. The member for Kaurna is called to order. The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: It is actually very straightforward. On the last scheduled sitting day of the parliamentary calendar coming up to an election—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is called to order.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —to move that parliament resumes after the election is completely straightforward and completely normal.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Just to help those opposite, who pretend they don't know this, back in 2013—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —the house rose on 28 November, and the house rose for—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order, Deputy Premier. There is a point of order. I will hear the point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 98, sir, requires the minister to answer the substance of the question, not debate it. By reading out his arguments about 2013, and then probably what happened before—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —dissolving the last session of the last parliament, he is debating the answer rather than answering the substance of the question, which is: why should ministers who are paid \$350,000 a year take a five-month holiday?

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister wishes to address me on a point of order. The minister will be heard.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Briefly, the minister was directly responding to the question—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Lee!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —as to why it is appropriate. That was the question, and he was explaining why. The member for West Torrens has made a speech debating the merits of the question itself—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: It is an utterly bogus point of order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, I draw your attention to standing order 142, which prohibits noise or interruption in the course of debate. In view of the number of points of order that have been raised, I'm going to extend the time for question time for five minutes to accommodate the crossbench.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Wise decision, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will be heard.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: When asked if it is appropriate, sharing some history will help. In 2013, a Labor government rose—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —parliament on 28 November for five months and seven days until the 2014 election. In 2017, a Labor government rose the parliament on 30 November for five months and two days.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: In fact, the member for West Torrens—

Ms Cook interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —in 2017 was the Manager of Government Business at the time. It would seem it was entirely appropriate back then, when the member for Frome was a minister in that government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: The member for Frome, who is keen to know whether I think it is appropriate or not, was a minister in the government when the member for West Torrens was the Manager of Government Business.

Ms Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hurtle Vale!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: At that point in time—

Mr Picton interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —it rose for five months and two days. So would it be appropriate, the member for Frome asks hypothetically? History says that the Labor Party thinks it would be appropriate. History says—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —that the member for Frome—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —would think it's appropriate because he was a minister in that Labor government that did exactly that. No doubt he supported that wholeheartedly—cabinet solidarity and all those sorts of things that he would have had. So history tells us that under—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —those opposite, including the member for Frome, it was considered entirely appropriate. We will see what happens this year, but one thing I can tell the house is that, whenever we rise, we will be out of session for less time between this parliament and when we resume after the next election than we were under those opposite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —in the previous two elections.

PARLIAMENTARY SITTING PROGRAM

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (15:20): Supplementary question to the minister in charge of government business: in 2017 and 2013, the same periods of time you mentioned, was there a pandemic impacting the state of South Australia?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, we will hear the Deputy Premier.

The Hon. S.S. Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

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

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:21): The reality is that we have never, ever had a global pandemic before, not for 100 years, so it's a pretty straightforward question to answer. There has not been a global pandemic since the Spanish flu, approximately—

Mr Picton interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —100 years ago, so the answer to that question—

Mr Odenwalder interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Elizabeth!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —is self-evident.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: If the member for Frome is surreptitiously trying to argue in his question, if hypothetically—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —he's trying to surreptitiously argue in his question—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I have not ruled in relation to any point of argument. I encourage you not to speculate on any ruling that might come because there is not going to be one. I'm hearing you, Deputy Premier.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: If hypothetically there is a reason behind the question from the member for Frome, then let me just say very clearly: we follow the health advice when it comes to this pandemic. We started—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —addressing this issue as a government saying at the beginning, the middle and at the end that we follow the health advice. The health advice—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —has nothing to do with this parliament sitting. It is—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! It would be an extraordinary thing to direct members to leave in the last three minutes of what may be the last question time. We will hear the Deputy Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: This is entirely speculative by those opposite. Let me just say that we have the best interests of the people of South Australia at heart. We are dealing with a global pandemic. Some commentators say that our government—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —is actually doing it better than any other jurisdiction in the world. That will remain our first and foremost—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: —priority for the entire rest of the term of this government without any doubt whatsoever, and if those opposite actually cared more about the topic they would ask more questions in parliament about the topic.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: We want another question time and you won't give it to us.

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

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: This guy is just a joke. It's ridiculous.

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, you have already departed once.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens has also departed once. I can choose to extend question time once more and if there are continuing interjections we will.

ROAD UPGRADES

Mr DULUK (Waite) (15:24): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Minister, can you please confirm that the important road works at the corner of James Road and Old Belair Road in my community will begin at the beginning of next year as scheduled?

The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:24): I will have to go away and check that time, I am happy to come back to the member, but there is a lot of work that has been done there as far as consultation with the community as well. I know this is a very important project and we want to make sure we are doing all we can to keep those communities up there safe. Of course, we are working through the fire season as well, so we want to make sure that we are working with the community around that. I will take the specifics on notice and go and get the timing and the scheduling for that for the member and come back to him.

We have invested quite a bit of money in and around the Hills, and we talk about the South Eastern Freeway and the millions and millions of dollars we have invested there, and I want to thank the people of that community for putting up with the works that are going on. I know that as we are getting through the stages of that work they are appreciating the far smoother, far safer road that we are putting in place, and that is always our focus when we are doing these projects, to have road safety at the forefront of what we are doing to make the journeys much quicker for that local community and safer at the same time.

Grievance Debate

STATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:25): Well, what another dreadful week for this government! Imagine being the first Liberal Premier in this state for 16 years and successfully turning every single industry association against your party. Imagine being in the situation where industry leaders and business leaders are ringing up members of the media to brief against the Liberal Premier of the day because they are sick and tired of the treatment they get from this Premier.

In the middle of a global pandemic, when there are legitimate questions to be answered about how much support this government is giving to the business community to get through this difficult period of COVID, the response they get is either a hung up phone call or, if it is answered, they have to hold the handset out here while they get screamed at by the Premier, and the allegations of obscene language used by the Premier in those phone calls are extraordinary, absolutely

extraordinary. This is the behaviour of a Liberal premier and, indeed, this is the behaviour of a Liberal government that has the most extraordinary sense of entitlement about it you could imagine.

Let's look at the events of this week. We started out with the parliament having to discipline the former Deputy Premier for lying to the parliament on three separate occasions because she could not bring herself to do the right thing, the conventional thing, the thing that has precedent here in this place, and resign after being found out for misleading the parliament.

Then we found out that the minister for environment and conservation, a minister more than happy to take up the extra \$150,000 on top of his base salary in order to be a minister, is starting to get sick and tired of having to deal with his stakeholders, starting to get sick and tired of those people who are advocating on behalf of environmental causes. It is all getting too much for the minister for environment and conservation. This is the person who wanted to be the Deputy Premier, this is the person with such a sense of entitlement that he believed he could be a minister but not take all of the responsibilities of being minister.

It went on. He was complaining about the Greta Thunbergs of the world that he had to put up with. He started complaining about Extinction Rebellion gluing themselves to Flinders Street. Extinction Rebellion? What about constitutional rebellion? What about the behaviour of the former Deputy Premier gluing herself to the cabinet table, refusing to leave, refusing to do the right thing and resign? Now we have this extraordinary situation where she still continues on as Attorney-General because the Premier yet again does not have the courage to exert any discipline over his party and sack those people who have been found out for doing the wrong thing. I am not surprised—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —that the member for Chaffey finds this so objectionable, because he should know the most, one of the three disgraced former ministers forced into resigning for rorts. This government has lost a deputy premier, three ministers, two backbenchers, a president of the Legislative Council and a government whip through scandal. They all had to resign in disgrace.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: And, worse than that, they lost more members of their caucus—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —including the Speaker, the member for Kavel—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Chaffey!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —and the Hon. John Dawkins, who left in disgust. They could not bear being Liberals anymore because there was such a hollow outfit running this place—absolutely extraordinary. In the middle of this mess is the member for Dunstan, the Premier, refusing to do what is right and exert any authority over his caucus.

The complaints from the business community are clear: he has left the field. He has abdicated his responsibility. He will not take their phone calls. He will not listen to their complaints. He will not represent those complaints and concerns to the Transition Committee because he has chosen not to be a part of it. So they do not have a line into government at the moment, with their complaints, in the middle of a pandemic.

It is exactly the same behaviour from this Premier abdicating the field when it comes to managing his own ministers. He refuses to sack them. On 24 July last year, six months after the country members' accommodation allowance scandal was being raised and whether the disgraced member for Chaffey and the disgraced member for Schubert should resign, what did the Premier tell the media? 'This doesn't meet the threshold for resignation.'

That was Friday. Sunday, two days later, the Premier is up there announcing that they had fallen on their own swords because the Premier did not have the courage or the gumption or the leadership to demonstrate what ministerial standards should be in this place.

The Hon. S.J.R. Patterson interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Morphett might think he is at a wedding, but this is a grievance debate, where we do have a discretion to keep talking.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: This government does not want to continue sitting—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: It's time, sir.

The SPEAKER: It is. I will give the speaker an additional 30 seconds.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —because it is terrified of scrutiny. It is terrified of scrutiny because they are led by a shallow Premier.

MORPHETT ELECTORATE

The Hon. S.J.R. PATTERSON (Morphett—Minister for Trade and Investment) (15:31): I take this opportunity to speak in parliament today about the many achievements that the Marshall government has set up in the community of Morphett, a community I have been proud to represent since 2018, a community I have lived in with my family for the last two decades.

When I was a candidate for the 2018 election I made a number of commitments to the local community after listening to them, should I be fortunate to be elected to represent them in 2018. I am proud to say that I have fulfilled all those commitments and then some. From very early on in the piece, we recognised the need for longer operating hours at the Glenelg Police Station. They had been cut back to only five days a week—Monday to Friday—and we know that crime does not only happen during weekdays.

During the peak season, when many tourists flock to Glenelg on the busy weekends, there was no police presence in this police station. As such, I committed to extending the operating hours of the Glenelg Police Station, and that is what the Marshall Liberal government has done. In the past few summers we have seen an increase in the operating hours of the Glenelg Police Station, which is now open seven days a week during these peak summer months, and we have seen an increase in both mobile and foot police patrols around the Glenelg region. This has certainly assisted not only all the local residents but also, importantly, visitors and tourists to Glenelg, to feel safe and certainly enjoy our vibrant coastal community.

I also committed to upgrading the drainage and playing surface of the fantastic Plympton Oval. Thanks to a \$100,000 commitment provided by the Marshall Liberal government, we have been able to deliver this upgrade, benefiting the Plympton Football Club, the Plympton soccer club and also the Plympton cricket club. During those four years, we have seen an explosion in the number of girls playing football, and this has been a further benefit of this playing and drainage surface. It used to be a mud pit, but now it is a playing surface that many locals would be proud of. It is encouraging them to come out, get fit and get active.

Additionally, my community made it quite clear how important road safety is, not only for road users but also pedestrians. That is especially why I was committed to installing safety bollards at the front of Glenelg Primary School along busy Diagonal Road. Over 100,000 vehicles go through that Diagonal Road-Brighton Road intersection per day. These safety bollards will ensure the safety of students and pedestrians, making sure they are protected. Also, \$130,000 was provided by the Marshall Liberal government to get this crucial community safety upgrade installed.

At the same time, I have also done work around the school, on the other side, on Rugless Terrace, for those students and pedestrians, by putting in place a pedestrian crossing near the tennis courts. There is also increased signage around the Diagonal Road pedestrian crossing, just in front of Glenelg Primary.

Another important election commitment was to revitalise and reactivate the Repat, which was closed down by the current leader of the Labor opposition, the member for Croydon. He oversaw that. But never fear, the Marshall Liberal government has invested significant funds, namely, \$115 million of state funds into the redevelopment of this Repat to make it a genuine health precinct, including \$95 million into a surgical facility upgrade with 30 overnight beds.

Additionally, in conjunction with the federal Morrison government, we have invested in a specialised advanced dementia unit, a neuro-behavioural unit, the Bangka Strait Ward and also a Veteran Wellbeing Centre paying homage to its past history. Also, I am pleased to inform the house that the fantastic Plympton Veterans Centre, which is run by volunteers, is operating there now. Previously, they were operating out of the Glenelg Plympton RSL in the electorate of Morphett. These commitments are fantastic.

We have also put massive investment into our schools to make sure that we provide world-class education for all our students, whether that is \$7 million into the upgrade of Glenelg Primary School or \$3.5 million into the STEM upgrade of Plympton International College. In addition, we have invested another \$3 million into a performing arts centre at Plympton International. We have also invested in our local catholic schools, with \$1 million to St Marys Memorial, \$800,000 to Our Lady of Grace and \$2.4 million to St John the Baptist at Plympton.

This is creating world-class educational facilities for our students. There is more to come, and I am confident about the future of the community of Morphett under a Marshall Liberal government.

Time expired.

BADCOE ELECTORATE

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:36): It has been a busy term, and especially busy in Badcoe. Although there are those in this place who see me working hard and fighting for our community and achieving things, and this seems to make them quite angry and even a bit vicious, I am pleased to say that I know that I am making a real difference in my community.

High among the things I have delivered is local sports infrastructure. It was a joy to open the new Goodwood Oval clubhouse a year ago. Hundreds of locals signed the petition to get that upgrade. It fills me with sheer joy to see it being used now by women and men, girls and boys, people of all cultures and abilities not only for sport but also for community activities.

My very first election commitment was upgrading Weigall Oval at Plympton. With funding from the former Labor government, I committed the initial funds followed by a council contribution. It is a splendid facility where I spend quite a lot of time as the No.1 ticketholder for the Adelaide Angels Baseball Club and also supporting the Cobras soccer.

I was also pleased to get new women's change rooms for the Millswood Bowls Club. I have advocated for scores of local clubs in my area to get Active Club grants, including the Plympton Halifax Calisthenics Club, which recently got new floorboards. The new synthetic pitch at the Cumberland Football Club at Clarence Gardens is getting excellent use, as well as Fund My Neighbourhood projects, including cricket sightscreens for the Goodwood Roos, a barbecue for the Goodie Saints and a new scoreboard at Goodwood Oval to round out the sport infrastructure delivery.

I also made a wealth of commitments in education before the last election. I was pleased as the candidate to announce Building Better Schools and STEM lab funding for a range of schools in my electorate: \$7 million in total for Plympton International College, both new science labs and a new arts centre; \$9 million for Hamilton Secondary's new space centre; \$10 million for Springbank's upgrades, which we hope to see soon; new science labs at Plympton, Richmond, Goodwood and Forbes primary schools; and Fund My Neighbourhood projects at Edwardstown Primary and Ascot Park Primary—the veggie garden is going very well there.

I have also been pleased to see the community infrastructure, which I committed and which was funded by the previous Labor government, being delivered. That includes the upgrades of the playground at AA Bailey Reserve at Clarence Gardens, new air-conditioning units for Active Elders at Ascot Park, and I was delight to find a new home for the incredible children's charity Puddle Jumpers, which is something very close to my heart, and their work during COVID has been exceptional.

Following some lobbying of the council, the council forked out funds to deliver on my election commitment of upgrading Dumbarton Avenue Reserve after the government refused. Thank you to them. Another of my commitments at the last election was upgrading Kesmond Reserve at Keswick. I wrote to the Premier after the election about that one too, but unfortunately he would not fund it. But finally someone somewhere has realised the benefit of that election commitment and it is now also funded. I look forward to seeing that delivered albeit much later than Labor would have delivered that upgrade.

There are a few election commitments that have not been delivered by this government, despite funding being allocated by the former government. Forestville Hockey Club's promised new home has not materialised, despite the bipartisan commitments, and Black Forest Primary School is yet to get its promised upgrades, though hopefully they will come to fruition late next year, finally.

Maybe the thing I am most proud to have delivered for my community is a voice, a voice against the unfairness inflicted on our community, and unfortunately there have been a few. The Save Our School Zone fight saw thousands of families outraged at the sudden revocation of the new school zone. In my electorate, families at Marleston, Kurralta Park, Black Forest, Glandore and Clarence Park saw their children, who had hoped to attend city schools, suddenly evicted without notice.

I joined with my colleague the member for Torrens and our communities to oppose that outrageous and sudden decision by the government. But the attacks on education in our area did not stop there. Next they tried to shut down Springbank Secondary College and abandon Labor's \$10 million investment to upgrade that school. We joined with the passionate parent community and we won the fight to save that school.

I have been highly engaged with my community over the future of the old Le Cornu site at Forestville for more than five years now and it is the suburb in which I live. My survey of more than 900 people reveals a desire to use the site for education or green space. I have also been advocating for my community against building developments that disadvantage our community and we have had a few wins.

But by far the most hard-fought battle has been over 192 Anzac Highway and the strip of land abutting the Glandore character zone. It has been the subject of much distress and, just as the residents thought they had won that fight, they were shocked in July to find that the three-storey height limit abutting the Glandore character zone was changed to eight storeys by the now former Minister for Planning. There is much more on this page that I would love to update you on but, hopefully, I will have the opportunity after March to continue as the member for Badcoe, a job for which I am so grateful.

ELDER ELECTORATE

Mrs POWER (Elder) (15:41): As 2021 draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the year that has been and update the house on some key wins for our state and my local area. Whilst as a government we have been laser focused on navigating the global pandemic for the health and wellbeing of South Australians, we have also continued to get on with the job of delivering better services, investing in our healthcare system, lowering costs for households and growing jobs.

On the jobs front, we have generated 3,800 full-time jobs in October alone and the state has hit a record high of full-time jobs. The latest ABS stats show that SA has 18,000 job vacancies, and job vacancies are important because they mean job opportunities. This is complemented by our massive recruitment drive for health workers and, of course, these numbers are backed up by exports and other stats that show our economy in a very strong position, which is important.

It is important because meaningful jobs provide people with a sense of purpose, a stake in our community and the chance for a better quality of life. Jobs here in SA also mean our loved ones do not have to move to the Eastern States or elsewhere; they can instead work right here in the great state of South Australia next to the people they love and who love them in return.

Locally, we have seen significant investment in our healthcare system, with the expansion of the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department now complete. Our work to reactivate the Repat has also seen a number of key milestones achieved this year, including the Veterans

Wellbeing Centre, which is open and operating; the brain and spine rehab gym, which is completed and looks spectacular; and significant works at the town centre, with a new playground installed and a lone pine from the shores of Gallipoli planted, which is really important to keep that heritage of the Repat and the veterans alive.

Of course, the Repat has been opened and operating as a healthcare facility with a number of wards already opened, including the Specialised Advanced Dementia Unit, the neuro-behavioural unit and the Bangka Strait Ward. In big news, we are also bringing surgery back to the Repat, just as we promised.

In terms of lower costs, families and households in my electorate are certainly enjoying the benefits of our reforms, with the average two-child, two-car household saving approximately \$800 per year since we were elected. What is everyone doing with their \$800 back in their pocket this Christmas? I would love to know. Last weekend, I caught up with Nina and her four active girls—Bella, Isla, Gracie and Scarlett—who all play netball for the fantastic Adelaide Wildcats in Clovelly Park. Her family is loving the saving of up to \$100 for each daughter with our sports vouchers. In total, residents in my electorate alone saved \$166,000 through the sports vouchers. It is absolutely incredible.

In our area, I am so proud to have pushed for change, worked with local residents, our ministers and other key stakeholders and to be part of the Marshall Liberal government that has delivered train services on the Tonsley, now Flinders, line in the evenings and on the weekends for the first time ever. Can you imagine having a train line that did not even have trains running on the weekend? This is a big win for Mitchell Park and Clovelly Park residents.

We have also seen the planetarium and performing arts centre complete at Hamilton Secondary College, along with other upgrades that see students in my local area access world-class facilities. Families who were in the past zoned for Springbank Secondary College are now zoned for Unley High School, which is getting a big, major upgrade. This is providing families with the certainty that they have been craving, while of course also giving them the choice, as Springbank Secondary College remains open as an unzoned school. We are also investing in upgrades there. We have a number of greening projects happening in St Marys, Edwardstown and Pasadena. The Springbank intersection is complete and, of course, we are doing a lot of other work.

This is just a quick snapshot of some of the things that have occurred in our local area this year alone. It has been quite a year. It gives me great enthusiasm for what next year might bring and what we can and will achieve together. To my local residents, I remain committed to you. I have enjoyed supporting you, not just this year but since I have been elected, and I look forward to continuing to do so in the future. It has been a big year. Bring on next year. In the meantime, I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season.

WATER SAFETY

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:46): Yesterday, 1 December, was National Water Safety Day. It is a day that is so necessary in Australia, in a country surrounded by water, with rivers and creeks running across it and some backyards that have swimming pools, from wading pools to above-ground pools and some in-ground pools. But what about public pools?

Over the past four years, I have highlighted the fact that closures and lack of swimming pool facilities in the north-east and in Torrens have resulted in members of our community missing out on swimming, missing out on water safety, missing out on water therapy for young and old and people with a disability, impacting also on our culturally and linguistically diverse families, many that have come from landlocked countries and have little or no swimming or Australian water safety knowledge.

My letters to the Premier and to the various government ministers have apparently fallen on deaf ears. Last parliamentary sitting, I called on the government to actively pursue the building of a public swimming pool on the new Oakden development site, or nearby, in partnership with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the federal government.

With the permanent closure of the Strathmont swimming pool by the government, the minister in the other house said that there would be places for people to have swimming lessons. So what did they do? Swimming lessons were taking place at the Hampstead swimming pool. That is now closed off. The Modbury pool, which was the rehabilitation pool next to Modbury Hospital, which

was built when we were in government, a Labor government, was opened up and swimming lessons were taking place there. But of course now that is closed off.

The Royal Society for the Blind, closed their swimming pool in March last year due to COVID, and it has not reopened. Last week, the announcement was made of the imminent closure of very small pool but one that was well used, the School of Little Swimmers. So there now are many thousands of locals no longer able to access a pool. This does not include those who are looking for a swimming pool to access for the first time.

I have tabled a petition in the parliament on this issue because I know Torrens and the surrounding suburbs have significant new arrivals from landlocked countries, and swimming and water safety lessons are a must. But there is not the availability of a pool within a reasonable distance to accommodate anywhere near the demand, not for our local primary schools, not for children with special needs, not for new migrants to South Australia or the local area. Tragically, this was highlighted only last week by the drowning of a young child with a disability and I know last summer, a student from Pinnacle College.

Between July 2020 and June 2021, despite COVID-19 there was an increase in drowning deaths across Australia—294—an increase of 20 per cent on the previous year. Royal Life Saving Society Australia CEO, Justin Scarr, said children were at increased risk of drowning over summer and they required constant supervision around swimming pools and inland waterways. He said that simple actions to help make water safety a priority on National Water Safety Day include enrolling children in swimming lessons. You cannot enrol children in swimming lessons if there are no swimming pools. That is a problem that is currently being faced. I know that Royal Lifesaving and other swimming providers are having that issue as we speak. There are no swimming pools.

Enrolling children in swimming lessons sounds really simple but it is not in Torrens, and it is not in the north-eastern suburbs because there are no pools, and if you try to get a vacancy, it is very difficult. To have a class, and to have a vacancy for a class of students or people who want to take swimming lessons, is virtually impossible.

How is it that we are having such difficulty? This government needs to change. It needs to become serious about what it is delivering in this field. It is a safety issue, it is an issue for our new migrants, it is an issue for children with special needs, it is an equality issue and it is something that needs to be addressed and it needs to be addressed now. The government can do this, they can commit funding to a new swimming pool in the Torrens area on the site of the new Oakland development.

CHAFFEY ELECTORATE

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:51): I rise to speak on a couple of exciting issues that are happening not only within this place but up in the electorate of Chaffey. The Riverland flood plains are awash at the moment with high flows, and the nine-year Riverine Recovery Project has released its final report. It is an \$88.3 million project, which has delivered across multiple phases of the flood plain system, particularly around the Riverland floodplain network. The report shows that the 7.24 gigalitres of water that have been returned to the environment are working.

What we are currently seeing is three Riverland flood plains, Chowilla, Pike and Katarapko, all operating simultaneously. That is the first time in modern history that this has happened. What we are seeing at the moment is life being bred back into the wildlife, with an outrageous amount of wildlife that is now being exposed. The trees are regenerating. We are seeing saplings start to take off again. Those flood plains that had been dry, particularly Pike, for nearly 16 years are now receiving a drink, allowing those native plants to flourish.

We have 30,000 megalitres a day coming across the border at the moment. Storage is full and South Australia is set up for a fantastic opportunity when it comes to the river environment, the health of the river and people visiting the Riverland. I am calling on every South Australian to go up to the Riverland and have a look at the outstanding water flows that we are currently seeing. The natural environment has absolutely sprung into life. Go up there, catch a fish, have a great time and be hosted by some of the great Riverland businesses.

I would also like to pay respect to you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We came into this place together, elected in 2010. There are many similarities between you and I coming into this place. We were preselected about 18 months out before the election, we are both off the land, we are both of a similar age and we both have similar sized families. I think we both have similar life beliefs. I think the genuineness that you have brought to this place is something I use as a benchmark, and I think you should hold your head high that you have withstood the test of time with a sense of honesty and as a gentleman in this place.

Some have called you the Prince of Edillilie. Some have said that the local member has just been that real genuine guy who, as a farmer become politician, is now heading home back to the farm, back to his family, to spend a bit more time down at Coffin Bay. I know that along the way you have purchased and are about to set up a small little love shack on the coast there so that you can enjoy some of the fruits of life.

Of course, you have had a little bit of hardship in recent times with the passing of your mother, Wendy. I noticed that your dad, Brian, your wife, Annette, and your kids were in here the other day. Congratulations to Madeleine on her second child, your second grandchild. I am sure that both Leo and Flynn will be a focus for you.

Over the times, I had many visits to Flinders. Passing one another in the corridors, as I would pass you, 'G'day, Flinders,' and you would reply, 'G'day, Chaffey,' and that would then start that conversation. I know your favourite number is 164. It could be kilometres an hour, or it could be just a number—I am not sure. Whenever I went over to Flinders to visit you in an official capacity—whether it be a regional person, whether it be a minister or whether it be a friend—Friday nights, family pizza night, were always great nights and you would expound some wisdom when we had a conversation.

I must say that you have found a very good niche in this place, sir, as Chair of Committees and Deputy Speaker. I congratulate you on your performance. I congratulate you on the way you have held yourself and on the respect you have on both sides of the house. Not only do I go over to visit you but of course there is Wally the great fisherman, and the Henderson family over at Elliston are also very good friends.

You will be missed, but our friendship will continue because the West Coast is one of my favourite places. That is your home, and that is a place where I will again rendezvous with you to have a quiet tippie or maybe get you out in a boat to catch a fish. Good luck to you, and your family will be the beneficiaries of your resigning today.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Chaffey. Member for Narungga, you will have to excuse me, but I am not going to call you for just a moment. I am going to thank the member for Chaffey for his words today, and I am going to thank all those members who have offered me best wishes in the time ahead. I really appreciate that.

Member for Chaffey, there are two more things I would like to say: I am way younger than you—I think some months, in fact; and the other thing is that I genuinely hope that you, Tim, get to see your new grandson, who I know lives overseas. I hope that you get to see him and hold him in the very near future.

FISHERMAN BAY

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:57): I rise to talk about a project in the north of my electorate, which has finally taken shape after close to 30 years of attempts—that being the freeholding of the Fisherman Bay community. The Fisherman Bay community is a rather unique one. It has been a leasehold community for quite some time, which has prevented any investment from those people who own the leases at that site to do up their shacks to make them more livable and make it a more attractive community altogether. But, as I said, after some 30 years it is finally happening.

The first titles were handed over eight days ago now, on Wednesday of last week, to those people who registered their interest in doing so, and we are well on the way to having a completely freehold community. It should spur significant investment into that part of the world and, hopefully, result in a far more attractive holiday destination. I have only been the member for Narungga for almost four years, and it has been a really important part of my work during that time. It is particularly pleasing to see it finally come to fruition.

That being said, it has been a long-term project, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who have helped me, who I know have been involved in the process for a lot longer, for the work they have done. I thank Mr Peter Barrie, Mr Robert Hosking and Mr Bruce Manhire, as well as Sue Valente—all people who have helped me along the journey and, as I previously said, have been involved.

I gave a grievance in this place in 2020 about the importance of this project and what it would mean. At that time, I talked about how Peter Barrie, Robert Hosking and Bruce Manhire showed me around the community, showed me what they had planned and articulated to me all the things they had done over the journey to try to bring it to fruition.

At that time—this being over a year ago now—they were confident that the end was in sight, that the horizon was coming closer and that they would finally get to make it happen. There has been a little bit of a changing of the guard since that time, and Sue Valente has been the lady I have dealt with mostly since then, and it is pleasing to see that all still managed to happen.

There are some 432 allotments at Fisherman Bay, and it has been a quite monumental effort to try to get all the ducks in a line to make sure they can all be freeholded and made available to those leaseholders who currently exist there. It has had Development Assessment Commission support since 2012, with the process was started in July 2010. Of course, the idea was spawned a long time before that.

They have had difficulties along the journey from the Environment Protection Authority, the Coast Protection Board, transport services, Crown Lands, fire compliance and SA Water, and there are still issues that need to be resolved around coastal protection. You can see why it has taken so much time, with so many hoops they have had to jump through.

Key to making it all happen has been two things. The first, I am really pleased to report, was a \$3 million grant from SA Water to augment the Community Wastewater Management Scheme. That grant was made possible through SA Water, and it is really pleasing to see that has been made available and will result in this project finally happening. It will have a flow-on benefit for the people of Port Broughton and Barunga West Council, as their wastewater scheme becomes larger and more efficient.

It was pleasing to be out there last Friday for a sod-turning—I do not get to do many of them—and a ceremonial photo. After the photo was taken, a front-end loader came in and picked up all the loose dirt, which is a far more efficient way to turn a sod as far as I am concerned. It was pleasing to be a part of it, and a pivotal part of it was making sure that the CWMS was up to speed and able to cope with the increased pressures it will come under.

The other key part has been to get all the right people in the right places. It is not to denigrate any one person, particularly any one person who might be up in the Hansard office who previously occupied the position of chief executive officer of Barunga West Council, but I would like to commend Maree Wauchope, the current chief executive officer, and the current council for the work they have done. There have been some issues with that, some difficulties in making it happen, but wherever they have arisen Maree has found a way to overcome them. Without her and without the current council, I am sure we would not be at this place today.

As I opened with, significant investment will be unlocked as a result of this freeholding. People who own leases and shacks at Fisherman Bay will now be able to invest with confidence, knowing that they have tenure and will be able to enjoy the use of that shack for the foreseeable future and that it will have resale value. It is estimated that it will spawn approximately \$25 million worth of investment in the region, and that will only be a good thing for our part of the world.

It will mean greater rate revenue for the council, a more attractive place for people to visit on the Northern Yorke Peninsula and a really exciting development, one that has been 30 years in the making. It is especially pleasing to have been part of finally delivering it.

KAVEL ELECTORATE

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (16:02): Each of us comes to this place with the sincere belief that we are here to serve our community and to serve our community as well as our talents may allow—however humble they may be in my case. Life is full of great joys but also hard choices,

and one hard choice in life might come, as it did in my case, by asking: am I able to serve the interests of my community and also the interests of the party, and would it be right if I were to put the interests of my party first, that I was serving an ideology or a party ahead of my community?

I place on record that this was no easy choice. However, I put my community first in deciding to become an Independent. That is no criticism of any party. There is massive population growth in the Hills and there has been for some time, not just in Mount Barker—and the growth in Mount Barker is significant—but also in Littlehampton, in Nairne, in Woodside, in Lobethal, in Brukunga and everywhere around and in between.

This massive growth is a choice we make as a state but, if the burdens are going to be imposed on my community that come from massive population growth, and if by executive fiat the state is going to create a new city at Mount Barker, then it must be the case that there is a whole-of-government focus and plan for my community.

It cannot be acceptable—it cannot be acceptable—for example, that there is a single ambulance at Mount Barker. There has been a single ambulance since 1992, and if I were to remain silent that might also remain the case. It might also remain the case that there would be inadequate investment in education, in roads, in public transport, which we desperately need for the Hills, and in health.

I am grateful, very grateful, for all the investment being made in my community, but I say to the house that it is no longer possible—and it has not been possible for some time—for me to reconcile this very hard conflict, the hard conflict between the need to speak out for my community and the need to serve or being asked to serve the needs of an ideology or a party. I have made the choice that I have made, and I have faced some criticism in that choice, but in the quietness of my heart I know that is right.

Can I say this: criticism of me personally is an assault not only on me but also on the critical needs of my community, and there has been, to my mind, no successful campaign in the Hills that has been focused on one person. It needs to be focused on my community. A successful campaign needs to be focused on the needs of my community, and I call on both major parties in this state to bring forward a whole-of-government plan for my community.

Every day that passes that there is not a whole-of-government plan for my community means that future generations who will grow up in Mount Barker and throughout the Hills will not have their urgent needs met in relation to education, in relation to health, in relation to health care more generally and generally allied healthcare services, in relation to mental health care services and in relation to infrastructure. I say that I will not stand by and allow that to occur.

So the choice that we have in our community is now a very clear one: we need to put maximum pressure on this government and on any future government to ensure that there is adequate investment, and only by taking that step can I believe in the quietness of my heart that I am serving the interests of my community.

Bills

ABORIGINAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 November 2021.)

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (16:07): As I was asked to seek leave, I was talking about flying flags in the Florey electorate office, the first of which was in the Modbury Triangle. In those days, the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were Blu Tacked to the glass of the office's front windows. Despite this show of support for First Nations people, it took well over a year for the first Aboriginal person to come in and make themselves known to me and my staff.

Not long after, we started the Florey Reconciliation Task Force, and many good friendships have been made through those meetings and many good works done in our local area and beyond. I mention all this because it is an example of the time it sometimes takes to gain trust and acceptance from Aboriginal people, both important if we are to make a difference and assist Aboriginal people to

capture the aspiration for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future based on justice and self-determination.

On our move some years later to 436 Montague Road, the second Florey electorate office in my time, we installed three flagpoles and have since flown the national, state and Aboriginal flags every day, weather permitting, and other flags on special days.

I understand that one of the aims of this bill is to underpin the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which seeks constitutional reforms to empower Aboriginal people to take their rightful place in our community and a call to enshrine a First Nations voice in the Australian Constitution. The Uluru Statement further seeks or sought to have a Makarrata Commission to supervise the agreement-making process between governments and First Nations people.

Makarrata is a word from the Yolngu people of the Arnhem Land and it captures the idea of two parties coming together after a conflict and healing the divisions of the past. Wrongdoings are acknowledged and steps are taken to make things right.

A Makarrata commission would have two key roles: (1) to supervise the process of agreement-making and (2) to oversee a process of truth-telling, especially to recognise Indigenous history in this country. While the bill before us takes steps towards achieving this truth-telling process between our parliament and our First Nations people, many individuals have approached me to raise their concerns about this bill, people of high esteem in the Aboriginal community. They have approached me about the bill, its mechanics and its possible outcomes.

They do not believe the proposed Aboriginal representative body of 13—one being the commissioner or chair; five being elected Aboriginal people, one each from the five widely diverse and varying geographic wards the state has been divided into where a rep from one group could not really readily identify whether they represent all the others in the same ward; and seven other people on the committee or body appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the Aboriginal groups, again with the involvement of the Aboriginal representative body.

The Uluru Statement is held in high regard and achieving what it seeks is important to First Nations people. There is concern that at least the intrinsic sentiment of the Uluru Statement has not been fully enshrined into this legislation and aspects included could be lost or limited in the future.

Most individuals who have contacted me are disappointed with the consultation process and have labelled it insufficient. While mindful of the impact COVID-19 has had on this process, and the efforts of the commissioner, it is still disappointing many in the Aboriginal community were unaware of this draft bill or felt they did not have the opportunity to truly voice their opinion and concerns on this bill during the consultation period, not having had the time to get together and to speak about it in groups.

Research into various models across Australia and internationally could provide greater evidence and knowledge on the best practice model for a voice to this parliament. I mentioned the United States, Canada and, in particular, New Zealand where there has been a treaty in place since the very early days of settlement. All these countries already have treaty agreements between their respective Indigenous peoples and governments.

Closer to home, the Victorian Yoo-rook Commission was formally established in May 2021 in response to a call for a truth-telling process. It is the first truth-telling body to be established in Australia. The body explores the historical and ongoing injustices committed against Victorian Aboriginal communities since colonisation. The commission is also independent from government and afforded the full power of a royal commission.

Major concerns have been raised about the definition of Aboriginal persons as prescribed in part 1 of this bill as it pays sole regard to biological descent only. It does not consider self-identification or community recognition. It does not recognise there is a lack of records or written evidence to prove biological descent, especially for those individuals of the stolen generation. It beggars belief that in the Australia of 2021 some people in the community still do not have a birth certificate for a number of reasons. I am ashamed to say that I believe the federal government could have acted a lot faster in making this a reality and, if they had not been prepared to act, then this state government should have been.

The commonwealth government applies a three-part test for determining eligibility for certain programs and benefits: Aboriginal descent, self-identification and community recognition. In interpreting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989, federal legislation, Justice Merkel in *Shaw v Wolf* further emphasised the importance of descent in establishing Aboriginal identity but also recognised self-identification and community recognition are relevant in establishing Aboriginal descent and identity.

Another concern in this bill is vesting a single body, the Aboriginal Representative Body, to represent and make decisions on behalf of all Aboriginal people across South Australia. The flow-on effect of the definition of an Aboriginal person can lead to misrepresentation within the body of Aboriginal communities and their differing concerns and issues. The priorities of the Kaurna people are very different from those of the Kokatha people, and the formation of the body could cause more conflicts and disenfranchise groups.

The definition of Aboriginal person as prescribed under this bill may have negative impacts on the operations of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988, Native Title Act 1993 (commonwealth), Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966 and 2013, and other land rights acts (Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act 1981) which may not come to light until after this bill, if successfully enacted, and this could be too late.

Aboriginal people should be awarded a voice in this parliament—no question whatsoever. It should be one where all First Nations people feel they are represented and included. It should not be rushed. The process, while well meaning, should not be rushed. The diversity within the communities and their groups must be acknowledged and a body formed which can be united and discussed to make parliament aware of the various priorities and concerns of our First Nations people.

For these reasons and more, which I know the Aboriginal community will bring to my attention when they are able—and they have been working on this since the bill was first introduced to the house but have not had the opportunity to bring their concerns to me in a more formal manner—I hope the bill is not passed in its present form. I urge members to give consideration to the fact Aboriginal people do have these concerns, and I ask them to make sure they consult widely with the Aboriginal people in their communities to understand what this bill will truly mean to them.

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (16:15): I rise to speak on this bill and, in doing so, I acknowledge that the land on which I live and spend time with our community and we meet today is Kaurna land. I pay my deepest respects to Kaurna elders past and present, to Kaurna future leaders and to elders and people of other Aboriginal nations. In acknowledging elders and the land we meet on today, I acknowledge that this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

I also acknowledge that there is a long road ahead to genuine reconciliation. I am proud to be a member of a party that has already made commitments to progress genuine engagement with Aboriginal people in our community. One of these important steps towards reconciliation, towards ensuring the voices of Aboriginal people are absolutely heard, is to completely endorse what is set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I note proudly that over two years ago South Australia Labor publicly announced support for all three elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart: voice, truth and treaty. In rising today to speak to this bill, I also acknowledge Kaurna leaders.

Our southern community is deeply blessed to learn from leaders who generously share their wisdom, their culture and their kindness. Amongst them is Karl Telfer and his family who, together with so many of us in our southern community and beyond, are heartbroken by the recent passing of his strong, beautiful and active mum, who with such passion and focus relentlessly worked for the voice of Aboriginal people to be heard, listened to and acted upon, for Aboriginal people to be empowered to lead, to have a genuine, strong voice for treaty and truth telling to occur, and for healing and reconciliation to happen in an honest, truthful way that genuinely recognises past and current hurt and injustices.

I take this opportunity in this place to say that I will miss her. I am deeply grateful to her for what she taught me, for the wisdom that she so generously shared with me about culture, country and the continuing struggle. I will forever continue to be inspired by her, by her honesty, her willingness to tirelessly fight and act for change. I will have her strength, her voice and her willingness to fight in my heart and mind whenever I have the opportunity to speak up about what makes a difference, about what matters, and that absolutely includes this debate in this place.

An Aboriginal voice to parliament matters. How this occurs also matters. An Aboriginal voice to parliament must be established and amplified in a way that represents what Aboriginal people want in terms of this voice. In order to ensure that this is the case, a comprehensive, respectful process must occur. As others have said, including the member for Florey, to ensure that the process is so, a deep, appropriately resourced consultation must occur.

In thinking about this process, as others have done, I reflect on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. As we know, it is a statement that deeply calls for voice, treaty and truth. The Uluru Statement from the Heart also calls on reforms to empower Aboriginal people to take a rightful place in their country to have self-determination to create change. The Uluru Statement from the Heart states:

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

Each of the three elements of the statement—voice, treaty and truth—are equally important and are all vital interwoven parts of the necessary journey to implementing what is contained within the Uluru Statement. Unfortunately, this bill seems to respond only to one of these crucial elements—voice. However, sadly, we also know that the voice prescribed in this bill is not a completely meaningful voice to parliament, but rather a voice to a new parliamentary committee.

Enshrined and genuine engagement with and voice to parliament is an important—indeed crucial—step in ensuring that Aboriginal people have a genuine say in a parliamentary system that has not supported them, not listened to them and not acted upon their advice for more than 100 years.

Aboriginal voice, autonomy and genuine engagement should have been key elements throughout the entire drafting—and potentially redrafting—process and post consultation about this bill. However, instead of thorough and wide, appropriate consultation, we have seen:

- consultation on the bill opening on 7 September;
- just 10 days later, consultation on the bill closing on 17 September;
- the bill not being published on the YourSAy website;
- the bill not being published on the Premier's website;
- no media release;
- no promotion;
- no additional resources in video or in language;
- no in-person consultations whilst the draft bill was online for that very short 10 days;
- no summaries provided of any in-person consultations; and
- comments having to be emailed—none posted publicly online.

Others have traversed why this consultation is utterly inadequate. The most obvious way in which the limitations of this consultation are expressed are, of course, in the shortcomings of the bill itself. This bill is just not good enough.

On 13 February 2008, former Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a formal apology to the people of the stolen generations whose lives have been blighted by past, horrendous government policies of forced child removal and assimilation. Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said:

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians. We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

I remember joining with many others in Elder Park to hear that apology. Like many others, I thought it was such an important moment that one of our sons attended with me in lieu of attending school. It was, I believe, an important step and one that many I understand fervently hoped would precede real change.

More recently, in 2015 South Australia proudly became the first mainland state to introduce a Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme under then Labor Aboriginal affairs minister, the Hon. Kyam Maher. I wholeheartedly acknowledge and thank now shadow minister Maher for this work and for his ongoing work with and for Aboriginal people in communities across our state. It is extraordinary.

There are so many issues in our community on which Aboriginal people simply must be heard and on which truth just must be told. I touch on just a few of these. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you and others in this house would be aware, I am very passionate about the prevention and eradication of domestic violence. The domestic violence statistics that we continue to confront are appalling, and they are a persistent call to action. Most recent statistics from the SAPOL annual report note that the number of domestic violence related assaults shockingly rose again this year by almost 10 per cent.

What we also know about all the shocking domestic violence statistics is that they are significantly worse if you are Aboriginal, that there is a deeply disproportionate impact of domestic violence on Aboriginal women. The Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement in his December 2020 report historically presented in this very chamber outlined that:

- national figures demonstrate that about one in 10 Aboriginal women experiences family and domestic violence;
- in addition to the physical effects of violence, these women were more likely to experience psychological distress, long-term health conditions, poor mental health and homelessness; and
- they were less likely to trust the police than those who had not experienced violence.

We also know that Aboriginal women are less likely to trust the legal system and hospitals. Shockingly, just a few years ago Mama Mia reported that Aboriginal women are 38 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of domestic violence.

The commissioner also noted that within the Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan, specific action on domestic violence is limited to a single regional initiative and that a whole strategic and a whole-of-government approach is urgently required. A year on from this report, sadly we are yet to see that whole strategic and whole-of-government approach to preventing and eradicating domestic violence.

On every issue, Aboriginal voices must be heard and acted upon, including on this most pressing, devastating issue of domestic violence. Heard and acted upon Aboriginal voices must be, because those statistics I have just outlined are deeply unacceptable. On this issue and on every issue, as a parliament we must enable the development and creation of a mechanism that genuinely empowers the voice of Aboriginal people. For it to be structured in a way that works, the time must be taken to have Aboriginal people lead the way.

I have had the privilege of meeting with the Nunga Babies Watch group—aunties, grannies and other women desperately concerned about the way that vulnerable families are treated when Aboriginal babies are removed. The stories they and others have shared about Aboriginal women for whom English is a second language not being provided with translators before their baby is removed and of extended family members being ready, willing and able to assist just simply not being contacted at all were disturbing.

A report published by the Guardian for Children and Young People in May this year shows that one in every 11 Aboriginal children in South Australia is in state care—one in every 11. It is hard to describe in words just how shocking this is. What I can say, is that this warranted an immediate response from the Marshall Liberal government and particularly from the child protection minister. Sadly, that immediate response was just not forthcoming.

The report shows that a growing number of children, 36.7 per cent, or 1,519 children, in state care in South Australia are Aboriginal. The Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Dr Roger Thomas, also highlighted the lack of focus on supporting Aboriginal children and families in his report to parliament last year.

Despite these appalling figures, the Minister for Child Protection refused to accept any of Labor's amendments to the Children and Young People (Safety) Bill to enable Aboriginal children, their families and communities to be more meaningfully engaged in the child protection process and

to lead important discussions about the future of their children. It is clear that much more needs to be done in terms of early intervention and prevention.

To get to exactly what must be done and to do it, it is essential that a meaningful voice is established in parliament to work on this and on many other key issues. As I said, Aboriginal families and communities must be enabled to lead processes to support vulnerable children and their families to help keep families together. To genuinely hear about those processes and to take real action that will make a difference on this and on many other issues, the way that that voice is heard must be robust, developed, supported and led by Aboriginal people.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:29): In my contribution to the Aboriginal Representative Body Bill, I will begin by quoting from the preamble to this bill:

Aboriginal people have long called for their voice to be heard in Parliamentary and Government decision-making processes. Too often, Aboriginal representation, advocacy and influence is absent and decisions are made for Aboriginal people by others.

The Parliament of South Australia wants to ensure that the voice of Aboriginal people is heard by the Parliament and the Government of South Australia. When their voice is heard, Aboriginal self-determination becomes a step closer.

This Act sees South Australia accept the invitation of Aboriginal people to join them and walk together towards a better future.

Those words that I have just read out from the preamble were not drafted by the government, although the government certainly does agree with them. They are the aspirations of Aboriginal people expressed to the government through the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Dr Roger Thomas. Let me quote from the Premier's second reading speech to explain the bill:

The initiative in this bill represents a landmark in the social and political development of our state and our people and an important step in the national journey towards reconciliation...

With this bill we create formal, legal communication channels through which a representative body of Aboriginal South Australians can speak to the heart of our system of government with reciprocal obligations to listen.

Again, these words I have just read are not words written by the government. They were drafted as a further step in a journey that has been entirely Aboriginal-led from its beginning more than three years ago. At the forefront has been Dr Roger Thomas, supported by many other respected Aboriginal leaders in our state and members of their communities. Dr Thomas gave a historic address to this house last December. He concluded that speech by saying:

I strongly believe that for us to progress what has been started today, as it is often stated, Aboriginal affairs should be bipartisan, and it is to that end I strongly encourage this parliament to fully apply the full spirit and principles of bipartisanship in working with me and other significant Aboriginal people to progress the Aboriginal voice.

This is the government's continuing wish.

In giving his address to this house, the commissioner also tabled a report which explained the consultation he had undergone on Aboriginal engagement reform. He explained that this reform was one of the 32 initiatives identified under the government's Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan released in December 2018, almost three years ago. He explained that he had developed a new engagement model as a result of a five-stage process, which had involved initial discussion with Aboriginal community leaders followed by statewide engagement.

As a result, he presented in his report a model for an Aboriginal representative body, which has been incorporated into the bill now before the house. In doing so, he described this model as 'a significant step in the Aboriginal community's road to self-determination'. Dr Thomas also commented:

Importantly, the Body will embody one of the key tenets of the Uluru Statement from the Heart: Voice. It will be a voice of the Aboriginal community to the Parliament of South Australia.

The government cannot emphasise enough that what is before the house in this bill faithfully reflects the advice the commissioner has presented to us as a result of all his consultation. In his report to the house last year, the commissioner referred to the challenges COVID had presented to his continuing work, and he wrote:

I recognise that there is a level of nervousness among Aboriginal people across the state about the risks of COVID-19, which may continue to present challenges for engagement and the electoral process. However, it is important not to lose sight of the significance of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, in which truth-telling and an Aboriginal voice remain key to the broader Aboriginal community.

After the commissioner presented a draft bill in August for cabinet's consideration, cabinet sought a final round of consultation to ensure what had evolved into legislation was clear to those stakeholders who had been involved in the design of the new engagement model. As a result, the commissioner held four consultation forums, supported by representatives from parliamentary counsel, the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

He also met with the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council, the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee and the Australian Electoral Commission, amongst others. In addition, 51 regional Aboriginal organisations were presented with a consultation pack. As a result, the commissioner advised the Premier that, while there was a minority of attendees who felt that the time given to review the bill in detail was insufficient, a common narrative of strong support for the bill was evident throughout all the forums.

Contrary to what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said in her contribution on the bill, the subject of Aboriginal engagement reform has been widely canvassed with Aboriginal people and communities. It has been done in an entirely Aboriginal way, led at all times by the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement. The opposition, in its response to this bill so far, has encouraged distrust of this process and its outcome. Typical of Labor, it pretends to know what is best. It ignores the empowerment of our Aboriginal people and communities.

And what did Labor do when it was in government? Very little until the last of its 16 years in office. In February 2017, it established the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. In July 2017, Dr Thomas, as the Treaty Commissioner, presented a report to the former government following consultation with Aboriginal people and communities. The house will note that this was a much shorter period of consultation than has occurred for the development of this new engagement model—four months compared with almost three years.

Dr Thomas advised the former government that there was widespread community support for the establishment of an Aboriginal Representative Body as a step in the process of further consideration of treaties. But his advice was rejected, with the former government directing instead that negotiations about treaty had to commence before the end of 2017.

In May 2018, Dr Thomas reported to this government about the treaty process of the former government and he advised that from the outset there were widespread concerns expressed by the broader Aboriginal community and the commissioner about the very short time frames for the consultation process to be carried out across South Australia. The consequences of these unrealistic time frames placed insurmountable pressure on those nations that had been selected to commence negotiations. They had little time to adequately comprehend treaty and fully prepare for negotiations, let alone to properly consult with their own community members.

The government accepts the engagement process enshrined in this bill is breaking new ground. That is why the Premier asked Dr Thomas more than three years ago to initiate consultation with our Aboriginal community. The model the commissioner has developed will provide a voice to Aboriginal people that will be independent, representative and genuinely connected with Aboriginal communities. It establishes a body whose existence and functions, as well as independence, will be enshrined into law.

It establishes formal communication channels between Aboriginal people, the parliament, the government, ministers and government agencies. It establishes accountabilities for ensuring that views put on behalf of Aboriginal people are considered and respectfully responded to. This parliament now has the opportunity to provide Aboriginal people with a voice that will be heard by the parliament, the cabinet and state government agencies.

Because what is proposed is new, clause 59 of the bill provides a review mechanism to include a scheme of consultation to be determined by the review body itself and to be undertaken no more than three years after the commencement of the bill. This will leave the destiny of this reform where it should be: in the hands of Aboriginal people. The government urges the house to recognise and respect the work of Dr Thomas and support the engagement model he has proposed on behalf of the Aboriginal people of our state.

Debate adjourned on motion of Dr Harvey.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:39): I move:

That the house at its rising today adjourn until Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 11am.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that seconded?

An honourable member: Yes, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been seconded.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (16:40): Sir, I have an amendment. I move:

That the house at its adjournment reconvene on Tuesday 14 December 2021.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The amendment has been seconded, so I will accept that.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: I move:

That the time for debate on the amendment be limited to 10 minutes on each side.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, you can limit the total time for the debate to 20 minutes, but you are not able to specify 10 minutes for each side. It is semantics, I know, but could you move that, please?

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Yes, sir. I move:

That the time for debate on the amendment be limited to 20 minutes in total.

Motion carried.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens, you can speak to your amendment.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you, sir. It is a pathetic move by a pathetic government, by a frightened Premier who is afraid of scrutiny.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Leader of the Opposition is isolated in his house by state government regulations. Here we are, the parliament, and we were scheduled to have a question time today which the government had said would be the last question time before the election, yet the leader of the Labor Party, the alternative Premier of this state, and the alternative Deputy Premier of this state are abiding by SA Health guidelines to stay at home, and what does the government do? The government says, 'Well, bad luck.' So much for a representative democracy. So much for the ability to have a full and frank exchange of ideas in the lead-up to the election.

The Leader of the Opposition has agreed to every debate with the Premier. The Premier has not. We want to have a contest of ideas. We want to hold the government to account. The Manager of Government Business did offer the opposition the opportunity to come back on 14 December on the proviso I agreed that would be the last sitting day. The opposition will not be held ransom to demands or bullied. We reserve the right for the parliament to sit. We will not be intimidated or bullied into any course of action that we believe does not serve the best interests of the people of this state.

Oppositions are here for a reason. The reason we are here is to hold the government to account. We are in the middle of a global pandemic. We are facing mutations of this disease that went from the initial COVID virus that has mutated into Delta, and now we are seeing the Omicron variant spread through Australia. We do not know what is ahead of us. The Premier today said with this most recent Norwood cluster, 'We've got this.' Well, we will see.

What the Premier is doing is shutting down the ability for us to question, critique and scrutinise the government's decisions in the most important period in South Australia's history since

the Second World War. We are in the middle of a global pandemic and ministers want to take a five-month holiday. The worst part about that is that with what we are seeking to do, our leader and deputy leader cannot be here because of the guidelines set out by the government itself. Think about that for a moment.

The opposition leader is in his house in isolation because the government of the day say that is the appropriate thing to do. What we are saying is that isolation period ends on 14 December—depending on the result of other tests—so that is the most prudent time to have the Leader of the Opposition back here in the parliament, but the government is saying no. Let that sink in for a moment, what the government is attempting to do.

That is why the Premier scurried out of here. He does not want to be accountable for the decisions he is making. He is terrified of the Leader of the Opposition. He is terrified of who he is and what he stands for. He is terrified of the contrast with him. He is terrified of the questions that will be asked by him. He is terrified of being in the same room with him.

I implore the crossbench and those who are up in their offices listening to this: whatever assurances and guarantees you have given the government, yesterday changed everything. The opposition leader cannot come here today to participate in question time. The opposition leader is in isolation and the government is trying to shut down parliament.

Let's not be overly dramatic about this. The opposition leader will get out of isolation. He has tested negative. He is a fit, healthy young man. He has been double-vaccinated, he has followed all the advice from SA Health and he will be back in this parliament ready to go on 14 December. Why not adjourn until 2pm on that date and have the question time we were meant to have today between the Premier and the alternative premier of this state before the election?

What is wrong with that in a representative democracy? What is to fear? There is nothing to fear, unless you are a cowardly, inward-looking dilettante who cannot govern, who is terrified of scrutiny. This is the worst tradition of the Westminster system.

In question time today, the Deputy Premier said, 'Well, the Labor Party, and indeed I myself, moved adjournment motions that were of a similar length to this.' I point out to the Deputy Speaker and the house that they were agreed to by the then opposition. We were not in a global pandemic when things were changing daily. We were not in a period when the state had its borders shut or having other states shut their borders to us.

There is confusion about the matrix and how it works. Today, members were asking questions for assurance of their local businesses about how this works as the Premier and the government introduce COVID-19 into South Australia—deliberately, intentionally. I would have thought that now is the most important time in our history to be open. Those who have come before us have sat during wars, pandemics, depressions, recessions, disasters, and stood there and answered questions.

How easy is it for the government to avoid scrutiny by not sitting? It is very easy. There is no reason at all for the government not to accept this. If you believe in representative democracy and you believe in scrutiny, if you believe in fairness, given that the opposition leader is not here today for the last question time the fair thing to do is give the opposition a question time with our leader at our helm. That is what the people of South Australia demand.

The idea that the government can just brush that away because the Premier is terrified of the contrast is unfair. It is unfair because it shows the arrogance of the government and how they view this place and this parliament. So I say to crossbench members who are considering voting with the government to shut down parliament for five months: you do your constituents a disservice.

Policies will be made between now and the election. We are not heading into caretaker mode. Those policies will impact constituencies, especially the border electorates, and those border electorates, more than any, need representation here in the parliament.

I think the motive of the government is one of fear. I could be wrong, but I suspect there is something that might happen or is about to happen or is underway that they are afraid of being publicised. I do not know what it is, but you get the sense that there is something not quite right in the government. There is something that they are trying to keep a lid on. I do not know what it is.

I am not quite sure that any South Australian watching this debate or hearing about this debate would think it is prudent to shut the parliament down for five months. I do not think that they do. I do not think any South Australian thinks that parliament should not sit; in fact, I think it upsets them because of the massive cost politicians are on the taxpayer. They would have thought, 'Well, parliamentarians, where do they belong? They belong in parliament.' That is our job.

The parliament traditionally does rise around Christmas time before an election, or just before Christmas time with an optional week. We decided to sit the optional week, and within that optional week we have lost the ability to have our leader and deputy leader here for that question time. I say to the members opposite that the tyranny of minority ultimately is imposed on those who exercise the tyranny of the majority because what happens then is that every time precedents are set and conventions are broken they are returned in spades.

That might not bother some members who are not planning a long political career, but I say to the younger members: what they are witnessing is a breach of the conventions and standards that this parliament has had for a long period of time. I imagine the Deputy Premier wishes to speak for 10 minutes.

The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan: No, you are welcome to continue.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you. The conventions set by this parliament are important to be kept. Over the length and breadth of the time the member for Dunstan has been leader of the Liberal Party, we have seen a number of conventions trashed in this parliament. The first one is, of course, budget measures, and that has now set in place forever and a day the amendment of budget measures.

Then there was the not honouring of pairs. We have decided that we believe in that system of conventional parliamentary arrangements and we honour pairs. Indeed, Mr Deputy Speaker, your good self, with some personal tragedy in your family, sought a pair and it was granted. Then, to show the honour of the opposition, when you wished to have a say and a vote by electronic means, that was granted. We at no stage attempted to silence the minority, as it were, on the committee investigating the then Deputy Premier. Then, when the Deputy Speaker decided to return as a good loyal soldier to vote for the end of the sessional orders, the opposition did not cry foul.

What we are asking for today is fair. Our leader and our deputy are not here. Today was the last question time. Rather than our leader being able to argue the points and then at the end of the day close out the Fifty-Fourth Parliament with remarks—thanking the staff and talking about the election in the new year, as all leaders of the opposition have done as parliament closes—the government seeks to deny him that. He should be here, but he cannot be, so we should return at a time when he can be here to make those remarks, to set out our agenda, to ask those questions and to keep the government to account. So I do not accept the government's argument. It is undemocratic. It is unrepresentative and it is cowardly.

I do not think there are many members opposite who agree with the Premier's tactics. I think there are many who think it is cowardly. Why be fearful of a question time? Confident, outward-looking governments do not fear scrutiny. Confident, outward-looking governments are not afraid of contrasts with the opposition. This government are—terrified of it, absolutely terrified of it—and they should be. They should be worried because this government—plagued by scandal, plagued by resignations, plagued by controversy—

Ms Bedford: Plagued by plague.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Plagued by plague—cannot make a reasoned argument for re-election, so what they hope to do is to press the reset button by stopping the parliament.

The parliament is where they have done exceptionally poorly because it is in here we have discovered the travel scandals. It is in here we have discovered the conflicts and the misleading. It is in here that has caused the resignations and the internal infighting. So what the Premier is attempting to do, in my opinion, is to shut the parliament down in the hope people forget. What people will remember, what we will remind people of, is that ministers who are earning hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money are shutting the parliament down for a period of five months, that parliamentarians do not want to come to work. We do. We want to be here.

To think that they want to shut it down for five months during a global pandemic, I think the people of South Australia will see through that and they will see the disgraceful behaviour. We will see, I think, that mentioned in many a marginal seat throughout the election campaign. I am very disappointed that the government would not allow the opposition leader to have the last question time, even if it was this year. With those remarks, I yield to my good friend the member for Frome to close out the opposition and crossbench's argument for more sitting time.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (16:57): First up, I have been vocal about having to close parliament down for five months and I do not hide from the fact. The issue is that we are here to serve the people of South Australia.

The government in question time today—basically, I got a barrage from the other side about why should I ask a question, in comparison with previous years. I can say to the members here and to the crossbench members and to the members of the government that in previous years, in 2013, 2017 and other years, we did not have a pandemic. We have a pandemic here at the moment. We have the outbreak of 19 cases today from what I understand. We have people in isolation. People are looking for leadership and they are looking for security. They are looking for people to be there in their time of need.

Five months is a long, long time. Normally we come back in February, but with an election in March, or whenever the federal government are going to do it, then we basically have two months after that. We are not going to be here to serve the people of South Australia in a time of need. They are looking for leadership, quite frankly, and I have people in droves saying to me from all over South Australia, even from Adelaide when I walk down from the unit in Henley Beach, 'What the hell is going on with the parliament? Are you there serving the people of our communities and the state, or are you serving the people of yourselves—in other words, looking after yourselves?'

These are the questions they are asking because the borders have been opened up overseas; are members of this parliament here taking trips overseas? I am saying, 'I can't answer that question.' I would love to be able to have a couple of months off myself, but at the end of the day, like other members in this house we have people continually coming into our office about the uncertainty about the matrix, about coming back from over the borders. They are looking for leadership for goodness sake. People are looking for us to be there in a time of need.

In the times of war, did our previous leaders go and hide? Did they stay home? No. We have to be there for the good and the bad of the times. I know that we are in a trying period of time, but we need to be there for those people. I have people every day ask me—and they are not my supporters; they are supporters of the government—'What is going on? Why are they trying to close the parliament down for five months?'

I have said before that we should be sitting in December. We have done that, in the optional week. I still say we should be sitting in a week in January, towards the end of January, and I still say we should be sitting in February before the writs are issued. We have plenty of time. If we have not done our jobs in our electorates in this period of time, even if we have to sit up to the day before the writs are issued, then we in this house have not done what we are supposed to be doing—looking after our own people. I very sincerely ask people to reach into their hearts and look at this: are we here for the people of our communities?

We have very good remuneration. Ministers have good remuneration. I understand that, but the ministers have a lot of responsibility and the government has a lot of responsibility, but they need to be there for when the people are looking for that guidance, looking for people to be there. As I say, all I can ask is for people to allow this extra one day. I think we should be sitting a bit more, but the opposition have put the 14th, and I am happy to do that, but I certainly think we should be sitting more than one day.

The house divided on the amendment:

Ayes 18
Noes 21
Majority 3

AYES

Bedford, F.E.

Bettison, Z.L.

Bignell, L.W.K.

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Close, S.E.	Pederick, A.S.	Gee, J.P.
Knoll, S.K.	Malinauskas, P.	Cowdrey, M.J.

Amendment thus negatived.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe I saw the member for Mawson taking photographs of members in the chamber. I ask that they be deleted.

The SPEAKER: I direct members not to take photographs in the chamber. The question before the Chair is that the motion be agreed to.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	21
Noes	18
Majority	3

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Cowdrey, M.J.
Gee, J.P.

Malinauskas, P.
Pederick, A.S.

Knoll, S.K.
Close, S.E.

Motion thus carried.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is seeking the call.

Adjournment Debate

VALEDICTORIES

The SPEAKER: The Premier on indulgence.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens! The member for West Torrens is called to order. If the member for West Torrens wishes to address the Chair, I will hear him. I will hear him on whether I should grant indulgence, but I am minded to grant indulgence. I will hear the member for West Torrens.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The indulgence is from the house. We do not grant leave for the Premier at all, under any circumstances, to make any remarks while he denies the Leader of the Opposition exactly the same courtesy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I have heard the member for West Torrens. I intend to hear the Premier on indulgence.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (17:13): It has been an extraordinary year for the people of South Australia—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —as we have dealt with the second year of the coronavirus here in our state. I would like to start by thanking every single member of this place, every single person in South Australia, for their extraordinary efforts to keep South Australia safe and at the same time to keep our economy strong.

In particular, I would like to thank those people who have been on the frontline. Often, we hear about Professor Nicola Spurrier, the Chief Public Health Officer, or Dr Chris McGowan, the Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing, but below them are huge teams of people who make a contribution every single day. The people who are working at SA Pathology and in our private pathology labs here in South Australia, the Communicable Disease Control Branch, the people who do the contact tracing—they are the real heroes of the way we have dealt with the coronavirus here in South Australia, and I want to put on the record my grateful thanks to each and every one of those people in our state.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: This is the end of our parliamentary year. It is also the end of the parliamentary term, the four years. It has been a period of time—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, I draw your attention to standing order 142. The Premier is on his feet.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I would like to acknowledge all those people who have been working very hard—

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

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —in particular my colleagues within the South Australian cabinet, the members of the government and the members of every single electorate in this state. Many of them have had to deal with some pretty difficult issues, with people asking them questions, queries and concerns about how we deal with the coronavirus, and so I do thank every member of this parliament for the great work that they have put in. I would also like to acknowledge Rick Crump, who is the Clerk, and David Pegram, the Deputy Clerk here in this chamber—

The SPEAKER: Hear, hear!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and to their entire team for their work, the good functioning of this house. I would similarly like to place on the record my grateful thanks to the Clerk of the Legislative Council and the Black Rod, Chris Schwarz and Guy Dickson. Particularly I would like to put on the record my grateful thanks to David Woolman, who looks after the fabric of this fine institution, this fine building that we all come to call our workplace. It is always a privilege and a pleasure to come in here on a daily basis.

Mr Brown interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It is one of the most extraordinary workplaces in the state, and it is a huge responsibility to make sure that this building and the fabric of this building are maintained and enhanced.

Mr Brown interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: This year, of course, we have had an extraordinary upgrade to our facilities here with the new car park. It did take some time, but I am very grateful, and of course also the improvement in the amenity to the Balcony Room. I particularly acknowledge the work hanging some of the Aboriginal artworks there. I think I have been congratulated by many members of the public, who have thought that this is absolutely fantastic.

Can I thank Dr John Weste and everybody who works in the state parliamentary library for their work supporting members of parliament and also greeting members of the public who come into our parliament. Can I acknowledge and thank all of the catering team staff but in particular their leader, Creon Grantham, the members who work in the Blue Room, Karen, Nicky, Belinda and Casey, and in fact every single person who works in catering. It is always a great privilege and a pleasure to bring people, who might be people that we celebrate for their contributions in South Australia, in for a special acknowledgement within one of our facilities.

I would like to thank every other person who works within this parliament building: people who work in PNSG, people who work in the cleaning staff, the Procedure Office, the switchboard staff, the maintenance team, the very dedicated security team during this particularly tough time, and of course Ben down in the cellar, who seems to have expert knowledge on all wines ever produced in South Australia. I hope everybody is able to spend some time with their family this year before we return to parliament early next year.

Can I thank the people who work in my own team, whether that be ministerial team or in the electorate office. In particular, can I thank Ryley Eckert and, before her, Esther Tonkin for looking after my electorate office. It is an office that is often right in the firing line. They do an absolutely fantastic job.

Can I thank my staff in the Premier's office, led by Courtney Morcombe and Paul Armanas. Can I particularly draw the parliament's attention this year to the great work of the Richard Yeeles. He is my senior adviser. He has not been well over these past couple of years. He is a stoic performer.

Let me tell you, Richard has served the people of South Australia over a long period of time. I think he first started back in the 1960s at the ABC, but he has served subsequent governments

here in South Australia, including being adviser to multiple premiers and leaders of the opposition. He had a great career in mining. He is my principal adviser. He has a great passion for Aboriginal South Australia. We wish him well with his health struggles at the moment and look forward to him returning to continue to support our government on the other side of this next election.

Can I particularly now turn my attention to the retiring members. The other day we heard from the member for Schubert on his retirement, and I made some remarks there. He has been an outstanding contributor both as a member of the house and as a cabinet minister. I think his career in cabinet was too short. I tried to convince him to continue to serve in this place because I thought he had a much greater ongoing contribution to make. He made a decision to spend more time with his family and look for alternative career opportunities. Can I say that he will be successful in any single profession that he turns his mind to and we wish him all the very best for the future.

I now turn my attention to the member for Flinders. The member for Flinders and I came into this parliament on exactly and precisely the same day. We campaigned together. He has the beautiful electorate of Flinders, one of my favourite electorates to visit. It is always a great pleasure to visit him in Port Lincoln or many of the other towns in his very vast electorate. He has excellent staff in Port Lincoln and excellent staff in the very small office in Ceduna—say hello to Di Smith for me. She does a great job. It is a vast electorate and it has been extraordinarily well served by the member for the past 12 years.

He comes from Edillilie. He was a Nuffield scholar, one of the highest honours that we can bestow upon a South Australian citizen. He is an outstanding farmer. He is an outstanding businessman and he has been an outstanding member of this parliament. He has of course been our Chairman of Committees and our Deputy Speaker in South Australia. I think we can all appreciate the skill that he has applied to that.

He is passionate about Eyre Peninsula, in particular farming, not only farming but areas like aquaculture and tourism as well. He is always talking to me about opportunities. He sees the bigger picture. He has fought for infrastructure here in the South Australian parliament. I hope we have been able to deliver on that in our first four years in government and I hope we can continue to deliver for the people of Eyre Peninsula into the future.

Paul Keating said, 'If you want a friend in politics, buy a dog.' I have had a friend in politics. Peter Treloar has been my great friend in politics the entire way through. He is an outstanding man. I will always call him my friend. I wish him and his family well, in particular, Annette, his beautiful wife, and also his fantastic kids, Madeline, Henry, Max and Thomas. Port Lincoln is a long way away from Adelaide and he has spent a long time away from his family over the last 12 years and we wish him all the very best for the future.

I would also like to put on the record my grateful thanks to the Hon. Rob Ivan Lucas of the other place. He is also a man of great integrity, hard work and dedication. He was born in 1953.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Keep it classy, Labor; keep it classy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are unparliamentary interjections to my left. I will monitor those interjections carefully. 'Grub' is unparliamentary. There is no point of order, so I will not rule on it, but I do emphasise that point.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I would like to make a reflection on the great contribution that the Hon. Rob Lucas has made to this parliament and to the people of South Australia over a long period of time. He has held a huge number of portfolios over decades. He is definitely the father of this parliament. He has served this parliament for almost 39 years. I think on every single day that he has been in this place he has made a contribution, putting the people of South Australia first.

This has been an extraordinary period, a second period as the state Treasurer, which is unusual, especially with a period of about 16 years in between. I think this is a very different period in that role than he had previously. I would say, though, that despite the extraordinary situation and

the need for fiscal stimulus, the Hon. Rob Lucas has adapted to his new-found ability to spend money and he has done it extraordinarily well.

When he was the Treasurer last time, I think the budget was sitting at around \$6 billion at that time and now it is up around \$23 billion. When we came back to government, the South Australian budget was the lowest ranked in the nation. It was a disgrace.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: In fact, it was ranked below Tasmania.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members, come to order. The member for Lee is called to order.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We have now restored the confidence of those rating agencies—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —here in Australia, and that is because of the great work that has been done. Right alongside that excellent stimulus and support package that the Treasurer put in place, we have seen economic growth the likes of which we have not seen for a very, very long period of time in this place.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Playford, come to order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I will make just a couple of personal reflections because I know that many people have spoken about his parliamentary performance in the other place today. I did not get to see much of what went on up there—in fact, not everybody knows what does go on in the other place—but I spend a lot of time with him in my capacity as the Premier and his as the Treasurer. It is fair to say that when we came to government he was the only person in my cabinet who had any cabinet experience. He had a great depth of knowledge that he very openly and willingly shared with all members of the cabinet and, in fact—

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Ramsay!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —the broader Liberal team and the broader parliament here in South Australia. He is a hardworking, dedicated, highly intelligent contributor, he has a very strong faith and he also has been a great friend. We joke because we have caught up virtually every Sunday since I was elected as the leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party, which is almost nine years ago.

I quip that I had to give up God for Rob Lucas because he only wanted to meet on Sunday mornings. In his faith, he goes off to church on Saturday night, so it was of no consequence to him. It was a big consequence to me, and I have had to move to alternative arrangements. It has been a wonderful time when somebody who has made such a contribution to South Australia has thought selflessly about how he would mentor the next generation, and for that I am very grateful.

In conclusion, 2021 has been an extraordinarily tough time for this parliament, for members of this parliament and for our state, nation and the world. I think every South Australian can hold their head high for the way that South Australia has dealt with the coronavirus, the way that the people of South Australia have worked together with our health professionals and with South Australia Police in keeping our state safe. Our vaccination rates are world class in this state, as are our QR code check-in and our testing arrangements in South Australia. We would not be able to achieve what we have without the close working partnership that we have with the people of South Australia.

There are going to be some testing weeks ahead. We have lifted our state borders and there are now cases in our state, but we did this on the back of modelling and we did this with a full

explanation to the people of South Australia. I believe we will come out of this on the other side much stronger. We will have opened our borders, and that will provide further economic stimulus to some sectors that are still doing it very tough. I wish all members are very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year. I hope people in this place get to spend some time reflecting on the year that was and the year ahead.

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens, on indulgence.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (17:27): Traditionally, the Leader of the Opposition would respond on indulgence. In the absence of our Leader of the Opposition and our deputy leader because of government regulations—they cannot be here—we asked the parliament to allow the opposition to have another question time and the government refused. The government now, also on indulgence, wanted to perform a tradition that they have deliberately denied the Leader of the Opposition. I have to say that I am pretty stunned that has occurred because the Leader of the Opposition, if he were here, would have been very gracious. He would have wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Unfortunately, the member for Taylor is not here. He is also retiring and would have liked to have done a valedictory, but that also has been denied him and he is also unable to say his farewell to the parliament. It is also noted that his departure was not mentioned either.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Playford!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have to say that we are served exceptionally well in this parliament by the people who work for us to maintain our representative democracy. That starts with the Clerk and all his staff. They are exceptional devotees of the parliament. They do their job under very, very difficult circumstances. They do it in a high-pressure situation where there are a lot of political considerations, and they walk that fine line between serving the Speaker and the office and serving the parliament, and they have done that exceptionally well. For that we thank them. We thank them for their non-partisan advice, we thank them for their honest advice and we thank them for the work they do.

To Hansard, who often go unsung and unrewarded, thank you for making us sound eloquent and reasonable. Thank you for the work you do. They do an exceptional job. Without Hansard, the public would not know what occurs in the parliament, and of course the record is so very, very important.

To all the catering staff and all the staff who make the building function, thank you to all of them. I hope they have a very safe Christmas. They have had a very difficult time managing the public, managing us, during the global pandemic. It must have been very difficult work, and it can be very frustrating. We thank them.

We want to pay tribute to our leader and our deputy leader. They have been an exceptional team over the last four years. We have been extraordinarily lucky to have been led by people of integrity and intelligence like Peter Malinauskas and Susan Close.

An honourable member: And courage.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And courage. They have done exceptionally well. We were elected, at the last election with only 19 seats, facing a long term in opposition, but we have made ourselves incredibly competitive, and that is entirely because of the leadership team we have led by Peter.

We have seen dramatic changes within the government, a majority government now down to 21 members. That is in no small part due to the unity, discipline and focus of this opposition, and we are very proud of the work the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy leader have done. We will unveil that work over the next five months to the people of South Australia and ask for their mandate at the next election.

To retiring members, I start with Jon Gee. We wish him and his family as good a Christmas as they can possibly have and a better new year. Our hearts and care and affection and love go out to Jon and his family. He is a remarkable man who has devoted his life to the union movement, devoted his life to the cause of Labor. He is someone who walks quietly but carries a big stick.

If you were in parliament, Jon Gee is not that person who makes the big speeches, but you walk into his electorate and everyone knows who he is. He works hard and he is always out there working for a community that needs good representation—and he has done it exceptionally well.

I also want to congratulate the retiring members in this place: the member for Schubert and the member for Flinders. I have spoken to the member for Flinders already so I will not embarrass him again. The member for Schubert we wish all the very best in whatever career path he chooses next.

We also note the departure of the Treasurer from a long career that began in 1982—I am sure he is looking forward to some time with family and grandchildren in whatever role he takes on—and, of course, the President of the Legislative Council, Mr Dawkins, who has done an exceptional job as President. He is someone who worked very hard in the area of suicide prevention, who was the Premier's suicide prevention advocate until that was taken away from him for some reason. He has served that chamber well.

To the people of South Australia and all those who have kept us safe, especially Commissioner Grant Stevens and Professor Nicola Spurrier, I would like to thank them for their labour and everyone who works with them for what they have done for the people of South Australia.

I also want to thank the crossbench: the member for Florey, the member for Frome, the member for Mount Gambier, the member for Waite and the member for Narungga. They are a crew of people who have been thrust together through different circumstances. It is a very, very difficult task to be the crossbench and hold the balance of power in this parliament, and I suspect they will be holding the balance of power after the election if a majority Labor government is not elected.

We enjoy working with them. They have nothing but the best interests of South Australia at heart. They are exceptional advocates for their causes, and I would like to personally thank them. I know the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would like to thank them, especially the member for Frome and the member for Florey for their contributions to the parliament over the last four years. It has been exceptional, and they are great examples of what Independents can do in the parliament.

I wish the government members well over Christmas and the new year. I hope that they enjoy their five-month holiday and I look forward to seeing those who are returned after the election. To those who are not returned, I wish them all the very best for whatever career paths they take. I do congratulate the Deputy Premier on his appointment and then election to Deputy Premier. It is a great honour to be the Deputy Premier of this state. It is a great honour to serve in this parliament and I congratulate him and wish him and his family all the very best.

Importantly, I want to thank our Speaker. Our Speaker has served with distinction. He served an apprenticeship with one of the greats of the South Australian legal fraternity, if not the nation, former Chief Justice Doyle, and you can see it has worn off on him. He is a man of high integrity. He is a man who has served the people of South Australia and this chamber exceptionally well. The way he conducts himself is an example to us all. He is a fierce advocate for his community and his electorate. He is someone who has changed the way this chamber conducts itself for the better, and I thank him for that.

I thank him for the way he carries himself as Speaker. He has done the office a great deal of good, and for that, sir, we wish you a happy Christmas and safe new year. If the people of West Torrens allow, I look forward to serving with you again in the Fifty-Fifth Parliament when we return in whatever capacity you are, sir. I hope you continue as Speaker or perhaps even higher office.

It is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition is not here to carry out these remarks. We would have liked him to be here, and that is the tradition and convention of our parliament. That seems to be continually trashed over and over again, and that is unfortunate because the only things that make this place work are the conventions and precedents of this parliament, and as they are wrecked and trashed we lose something of the past. That is a shame because there are many of us who have to be here longer to maintain those privileges and those traditions and those customs, so that is unfortunate.

So, to all, a very merry Christmas. To all, a very happy new year. I look forward to a contest of ideas. Congratulations to everyone who has served in this parliament. I think we have all done our communities proud and hopefully we can look to 2022 for a new bold vision for the future, which the Leader of the Opposition will outline for the people of South Australia, and that that bold vision for the future will carry this state into a more prosperous area of growth and confidence that the Leader of the Opposition will provide this state. Merry Christmas to all.

The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Deputy Premier, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:38): I seek your indulgence to share a few words as well. This work that we do, particularly in this building, is very competitive by nature. We have a democratic system set up around us to manage that, but it is very competitive. Sometimes competition brings out the best in people, sometimes competition brings out the worst in people, but I know genuinely and deeply that all the MPs who serve in this place have an overwhelmingly higher number of good traits than bad. I put myself in that same category. We are all here working for what we believe in.

Today is a competitive day as well, and we all know that as we get closer and closer to elections the heat of that competition picks up. That is natural, that is normal, that is how it is. When we adjourn today, as is normal before elections with the same amount of time—in fact, less time this time around between now and the next election than in the last two terms of government finishing. In fact, this year we have had more sitting days than is normal at this stage in the cycle.

When we adjourn this time around, I wish all of my parliamentary colleagues who work in this chamber, and of course those from the other chamber, a safe, happy, healthy Christmas. Christmas can be challenging in many ways, and I wish the very best of that for everybody.

With regard to members who are retiring by choice, let me first turn to Jon Gee to share some thoughts. Jon is a quiet man and, in the few times that I have had the opportunity to sit and talk with him, he has been a very interesting, very engaging, very thoughtful person and I thank him for that.

It is appropriate for me to put on the record, too, that as Manager of Government Business in this house I did ask Jon Gee whether he would like to make a farewell speech, a valedictory speech, and he said no. He told me face to face that he did not want to do that, so he has not missed any opportunity to do that. I said to him that if he wanted to do so, if he changed his mind, to just let me know. He was very firm to me. He said, 'No, I actually do not want to do that.' So he has not missed that opportunity. Of course, I wish him and his family well under what is an especially difficult time for him.

The member for Schubert—a lot has been said about him, and I concur. That young man could have been, could still be, will still be pretty much whatever he wants to be, an incredibly capable person. No doubt—and these are my words, not his—while he is somewhat bruised by his recent time in this place, he has also grown and gained and will be far better off for the challenges that he has faced here. I wish him and his young family all the very best.

I have already spoken about Peter Treloar, a close friend of all of us, an absolutely outstanding person. We all wish him the very best.

The Hon. Rob Lucas in the other place is somebody I have learnt an enormous amount from. I dare say people on the other side of the house who may not even like the man hypothetically have actually also learnt a lot from him as well. He is a person you cannot help but learn from the more time you spend with him. I thank him and also his family who have been without him in some ways for nearly 40 years. I thank them also for his contribution to our state over a very long time.

Parliament is tough in many ways. All of us accept the fact that we have very unpredictable schedules. Even if you happen to be a single person living very close to Parliament House, it has an imposition on your life. If you move on to people who might live in the suburbs who have families and broader responsibilities, it gets tougher again. If you move on to country members—and the member for West Torrens was good enough to say in his comments about Peter Treloar the other day, acknowledging that you are away from home a long time. That is life, that is what we choose, no complaints whatsoever, but every single person who serves here surrenders, by their choice and by the choice of their electorates, a significant amount of themselves. I know that in this chamber we all do it for the right reasons.

When we work in this building we are supported extraordinarily well, and I have said this in a different context. I cannot think of another workplace people come into and they are looked after as incredibly well as we are by the other people who work here, and I know that members appreciate it. I know that members have friendships and relationships with different members as well.

One person might know a cleaner better and somebody else might know somebody in catering better, somebody else might know somebody in building services. It does not matter. We develop those friendly relationships. We are looked after remarkably. When I get in here sometimes extremely early in the morning, I see the cleaners doing their work. I have a short talk with them and some of them I have got to know by name and regular correspondence.

Perhaps the area we are all most familiar with is the catering area. We have the bar, which we know is actually more of a coffee shop. We could not be better looked after. Building services—things just happen in this amazing place—between the Speaker and the President on the other side and through the Clerk and the Black Rod working their way through the organisation. There is never, ever a time that I walk into this building and I do not think, 'Goodness, how lucky am I to work here?' As a good, long-term friend said to me late last week, 'It doesn't seem that long ago, Dan, since you were cooking hamburgers at Spud's Roadhouse at Pimba.'

Some people aspired to be here through most of their lives. They got here—fantastic, absolutely wonderful for them. Some people had other paths that got them here, and that is good too. We are incredibly fortunate, and we are incredibly fortunate for a range of reasons but especially because of the way we are looked after by staff in this building.

Lastly, we head to an election. I have mentioned the people who are retiring by choice. It is possible that some of us will not come back not by choice. I acknowledge that anybody who lives in an unsafe situation in their seat needs to recognise that. I put myself in that same category. The new Stuart is not a safe place for the current member for Stuart. It is also not a safe place for the current member for Frome, and we talk about that quite openly as friends and colleagues.

The hard, harsh reality is that a few of us will not return and that will not be by choice. I wish all those people—every single one of them, Liberal, Labor Independent—the very best for their futures. Whether it might be moving to retirement, whether it might be moving to other work, whatever they choose, everybody who has passed through this place I wish the very best for them.

Lastly, I thank my Liberal Party colleagues. We know each other well. We work closely. I am sure it is the same on the other side of the chamber. My Liberal Party colleagues have challenged me in many ways through this term and they have also honoured me in this term. We stick together through thick and thin. There is a hard core of us. The Premier leads us. We all do our very best. I thank my colleagues for their straightforward, open—not always agreement—engagement with me. I acknowledge Labor members, I acknowledge Independent members and I particularly thank my Liberal colleagues.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (17:47): Similarly, on indulgence I wish to make a few brief remarks and echo the sentiments the member for Stuart and the member for West Torrens have made about one member who has not previously been acknowledged before today and who is ending his tenure in this place, and that is the member for Taylor, Jon Gee. As the member for West Torrens said, he has had an extraordinary career in the labour movement and the union movement, particularly in the Holden's manufacturing operations here in South Australia.

You only needed to visit the shop floor with him and other workplace representatives back when he was still in the union to understand what a profound and transformational impact he had in the course of his career on the workers there and, in particular, the achievements of gaining extra entitlements, protections, for those workers. The parliamentary Labor Party will miss him, and I also know that the parliament will miss him as well.

I would like to reiterate the comments other members have made about the staff who support this building: principally, in here, Rick and David, and the house staff and also the Serjeant-at-Arms, Lauren, and her team. I would like to pay particular regard to David Woolman and the building attendants and the absolutely extraordinary job that he and his team have had before them in this term in trying to deliver an infrastructure project, where one end of it did not have a finite place to end for many years due to the ongoing uncertainty over the car park project.

I would like to thank one team member in particular who finished his employment this week, Keith Mellor, with whom those of us who have worked up on level 2 would be familiar. He is a wonderful man, except for the fact that he supports the Adelaide Crows. Friendship with Keith has been most enjoyable over the last two seasons, can I say, for that particular reason. Keith is not continuing his employment here because of the outsourcing of some of those arrangements here at parliament, which is regrettable, and there will also be significant changes for some of the remaining staff as well, but they do an absolutely outstanding job supporting us in this building.

Like the member for Stuart, anyone who comes into the building early is met with cheerfully by not only the security staff but also the cleaning staff and, in the current context, what a job they have ahead of them and what a job they have had in the last two years trying to keep this place not only clean but clean according to the ever-changing requirements of dealing with a global pandemic.

I would like to pay particular attention to the efforts of Hansard. I am really sorry for those times when my parliamentary colleagues have asked me to get through to a particular time of adjournment on whatever debate it might be, particularly in the first months of this session of parliament with the supply debate, which we were not expecting. I was told at 4 o'clock that I had to speak until the house rose and then I was told the house was rising at midnight. My apologies for that and other lengthy contributions.

I also want to say particular thanks to the library staff, headed by John Weste. It does not matter what group you bring into this parliament on a parliament tour, or even if you are bringing guests in for a meeting or for lunch or dinner, he will drop everything in order to show members of the community around his extraordinary and expanding collection. It is an absolute pleasure to hear how he engages with members of the community and brings those objects to life in the library.

Similarly to those on the other side of this chamber, I wish them well for the festive season, I hope they manage a decent break with their families and loved ones. The last two years have been particularly challenging. In the midst of a very challenging term, it has been extraordinary watching friends becoming enemies and enemies becoming friends in this place, and I know it has taken a toll on many people in this place.

Having some time to themselves before what will no doubt be a hectic election period will be most welcome. Of course, I also want to pay tribute not only to my electorate staff but also to all the other electorate staff who support members of parliament. When we have been stuck in here, they do the most incredible job making us look good out in our communities and attending to all the needs of people who approach our offices for help. To my staff and to all the other staff, thank you so much for everything that you do.

I want to pay particular regard to those members of our community who have gone above and beyond in the last two years. To those workers who have worked through regardless of restrictions in our community—retail workers, hospitality workers, those police keeping us safe and others in similar professions, and particularly those members of the business community who have, in many cases, had their livelihoods stripped away from them—can I say that we feel for you and the challenge that you continue to face due to the pandemic and the restrictions that have been in place.

My final words are for my opposite number in the other place, retiring member of parliament Rob Lucas. I have not been in parliament as long as Rob—who has? He came into this place at the age of 24 in 1982. In fact, some of us have not been alive as long as Rob Lucas has been in this place. He is a fairly warm and congenial man outside parliament, but I must say, my goodness, doesn't he play it hard inside parliament.

A lot of people lament how adversarial and gladiatorial state politics is now in South Australia, and I would point members to the Hon. Mr Lucas as one of the key reasons why that has occurred. Members, their staff, public servants—no-one has been spared personal and particularly invective remarks, press releases and smears from Rob Lucas.

Whatever you think of his contribution as a minister, whether it has been as education minister, whether it has been as Treasurer in the previous Liberal government with a series of privatisations and the impact that has had on households ever since, whatever you think he may have contributed as a Treasurer in this term, there is an extraordinary job to try to get politics back on track after the way in which he has taken great pleasure in conducting it.

I have known of members of the Public Service in the Department of Treasury and Finance who have left this state, let alone left the employment of the South Australian Public Service, in order to extricate themselves from any further political attacks, and that is most regrettable. Hopefully, this brings an end to not only his chapter as a parliamentarian but that sort of behaviour. With that, I will conclude my remarks.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (17:55): In an effort to bring some balance to the debate as both Mother of the House and a member of the crossbench, I appear to be well on the way to having the last word, so I shall do so. Apart from the member for Frome, the members of the crossbench have each made our way here by different and varying trips, none of them really as enjoyable perhaps as the member for Frome's conscious choice to be an Independent and a crossbencher. But here we all are, crossbenchers by choice, and the choice we have all made is to be true to ourselves and, in doing so, try not to give each other surprises on the floor of the house. I am not sure how successful we have been in that endeavour, but we have endeavoured to do that.

I know on behalf of the crossbench I would like to echo all the thanks that have been given here today, particularly to all the members of the staff of the parliament and also to the staff of all our offices. We are particularly reliant on them without a party machine behind us. I think each of us, as we have come to the crossbench, have realised just how much we probably take them for granted, as a party machine does do a great deal of work.

On that particular point, I would like to also acknowledge the contribution of the Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas. I acknowledge him for making it possible to allow us to do our jobs by resourcing us to do so. It is not possible for us to examine all the legislation and do everything we need to do without the extra assistance we have been allocated, so we thank him for that.

Touching on the library, which is a really interesting point, I would like to congratulate them on making the public feel so welcome. To you, Speaker, I would like to wish you well with your bold agenda, even though you have had only a short time to attempt to realise it. I know you really want to open the house up to the public and make the public feel at home in this place, to make them feel they have a place here and to be owners of what happens here, which I think is really important.

In the past four years, we have had some interesting commemorative times, none more so, to my way of thinking, than the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage or the quasiquicentenary—and we have had such fun in helping Hansard learn how to spell that. Of course, we are going to be approaching the bicentenary of South Australia in the not too distant future, and it may take us some years to work out a really good agenda of things to do. I would like to think we would start that early, so perhaps, Mr Speaker, that is something you can turn your mind to, as well as perhaps the relaunch of Helen Jones's marvellous book *In Her Own Name*.

Before I finish off, there are just two things I would like to mention; one is to the Premier. While I acknowledge his remarkable transformation of the Balcony Room, I would like to remind him that my small painting has never been returned, that little Aboriginal flag that sat on the mantelpiece, so if someone could do some work and scurry around and find that, I would like it back in my pigeonhole at some point.

The other point I would raise is about the photographic recognition of numberplates as you enter into this building. For some reason, my numberplate, which is red and white, will not be recognised by the photographic equipment. As I have said many times to many people, if it is a legal numberplate, I expect you to go and organise someone to organise that equipment, because mine is not the only red and white numberplate in this state. I am sure many other people would want to come into this building, or perhaps the Casino next door, and not have trouble at the parking boom. With that, I thank all of you for your collegial support this term and look forward to being with you into the future.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan.

The SPEAKER (18:00): Members, briefly and on my own indulgence, I might make some comments to the house. Can I amplify the genuine and heartfelt support for the work of the Clerks, their professionalism and dedication, their deep learning and the silos they maintain for the benefit of all of us are significant. We are deeply grateful not only for their professionalism but also for their assistance, of course, to the office of the Speaker.

To the house staff, an extraordinary group of people. It was well said by the Deputy Premier that in entering this building there is belief amongst all members that there will never be a deviation from the high standards. Of course, now seeing some of the machinery behind the facade, I am aware of your personal commitment not only to the workings of this house but also to democracy in our state.

To building services, to Hansard, to all the political staffers in this building who go about their work quietly and effectively, to the library staff, to all the journalists with whom I have dealt and with whom members have dealt, it is a very professional press corps in South Australia and, of course, they have been with all members on the extraordinary journey in responding to COVID and seeking to report openly, fairly and accurately to South Australians not only what has occurred in this place but they have also sought to try to support and provide information to South Australians about what might occur next in very difficult and changing circumstances.

To the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of Opposition Business, thank you for your support, advice, guidance and direction to me. It has been appreciated. You are both very tough competitors, but I know you both seek to be fair. In blistering some of the paint occasionally, the Speaker's hands are burnt, but nevertheless I seek to support you as well and also the government and the opposition in seeking to ensure that we do the best we can as a parliament.

To the Premier, thank you Premier for allowing me to serve as your Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention. It was a great honour and a privilege. It was, of course, a subject matter that was close to my heart. I carry in the quietness of my heart the passing of my godbrother and close friends. Many country members are deeply affected by suicide, as are many people across the state. I am very appreciative to the government and the opposition, who were able to see through our nation-leading suicide prevention bill in the life of this parliament. I know, too, that I speak and convey the thanks of the President of the other place, who wished to see that legislation resolved. It has been. That is an important step forward.

The opposition leader is not present here today, nor is the deputy opposition leader, and I thank them, too, for their professionalism and their support of me in this role. It is not always easy being Speaker and it is not always easy being Speaker seeking to effect change to that office. It is my sincere view, it is my firm view, that the Westminster model is the better model, but I appreciate that others have different views. Change is difficult. I appreciate that too.

I recognise the service of previous Speakers. Their professionalism and distinction are unquestioned. Their service was exemplary. I agreed to nominate only on the basis that there would be a change to our constitution after the house had effected that change. As I say, the service of previous Speakers is service that I emphasise. I note that a previous Speaker is in the house, now a minister of the Crown in view of circumstances that otherwise befell other members in the course of this parliament.

To retiring members, thank you sincerely for your exceptional service and commitment to the people of South Australia. This is not an easy role, but it is a vital one. It has not been easy, I am sure, for you to make a decision to leave this place. We are all here to thank you and I wish to amplify comments made in relation to those members.

To the President of the other place—a man of great honour and distinction, and a man, too, who has provided guidance to me before I entered parliament—thank you. To the crossbench, thank you, too, for your encouragement in ensuring that I would see that I could serve in this role. I was nominated, of course, by two members of the crossbench. That is an unusual thing in and of itself but, as I say, I was nominated only after changes to our constitution. It is my view that those changes need to be defended in the future. I believe this parliament will defend those changes. It is also my view that I am quite sure that the role of independent Speaker will continue.

Thank you, members, for hearing me out. It has been a pleasure to serve you. It has been a pleasure to serve the state.

Bills

**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (GAS INFRASTRUCTURE)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (STRATA SCHEMES) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 18:07 the house adjourned until Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***SA HEALTH**

822 Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14 October 2021). What is the total cost of the backlog of medical equipment, broken down by each local health network?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

Within SA Health, there are controls in place to ensure assets are appropriate, available, safe, used effectively, functioning correctly, and compliant with relevant laws, regulations and standards. In the SA Health environment, with well-trained clinical staff and technical staff, most equipment performs well beyond its expected life. Asset performance is monitored. Devices are replaced when they can no longer be supported by suppliers or become obsolete.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

881 Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (18 November 2021). What research has the SA Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance completed or is currently undertaking to reduce inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions, as 23.5 per cent of prescriptions prescribed in 2017 were found to be inappropriate according to the hospitals which participated in the NAPS survey?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education): The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has been advised:

I refer the honourable member to Question on Notice No. 809.

ADELAIDE CITY DEAL

In reply to **the Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee)** (26 October 2021).

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): Under the terms of the project agreement for the Adelaide City Deal, the following milestones comprise the expected \$15.5 million which relate to the 2020-21 financial year:

Milestone	Amount
Innovation Hub	
A business case that meets the requirements of Clause 17 of the Agreement has been submitted to and accepted by the Australian Government.	\$2 million
Smart Technology	
A business case, that meets the requirements of Clause 17 of the Agreement, has been submitted to both Parties and accepted by the Australian Government (in respect of the three projects being Free Wifi, CCTV and Experience Adelaide).	\$1 million
Aboriginal Arts and Cultures Centre	
A business case that meets the requirements of Clause 17 of the Agreement has been submitted to and accepted by the Australian Government.	\$4 million
International Centre for Food, Hospitality and Tourism Studies	
A business case that meets the requirements of Clause 17 of the Agreement has been submitted to and accepted by the Australian Government.	\$2 million
Heysens Gallery at Hahndorf	
Submission of a project plan. Signed contract with the Lead Professional Services Contractor (Architect) to deliver the design and obtain planning approvals.	\$3 million
Carrick Hill	
Submission of a project plan Concept design completed.	\$1.5 million
Mitcham Hills Trail and Glenthorne Loop	
Various projects	\$1.8 million
TOTAL	\$15.3 million *

*Note the total in the published table appears as \$15.5 million which includes \$0.2m paid in the 2019-20 year for Mitcham Hills Trail and Glenthorne Loop projects

In 2020-21, the commonwealth paid a total of \$6.5 million to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the following projects:

- Smart Technology: \$1.0m
- Aboriginal Arts and Cultures Centre: \$4.0m
- Carrick Hill: \$1.5m
- Total: \$6.5m

The South Australian government submitted the requisite business case in respect of the Innovation Hub (\$2 million) prior to the end of the 2020-21 financial year, which has since been paid by the commonwealth in the 2021-22 financial year.

The viability of the \$60 million International Centre for Food, Hospitality and Tourism was being reassessed in 2021. The State Government is currently consulting with the Federal Government about what other projects could be established at Lot Fourteen, including plans for a hi-tech training facility to focus on delivering specialised training in cyber and digital technologies. As such, the relevant milestone (\$2 million for submitting a business case) was not achieved in the 2020-21 financial year.

In respect of the Heysen Gallery at Hahndorf, the project plan has been submitted and approved by the commonwealth, and the contract with the architect (Snøhetta) has been signed. Whilst there are no known issues with plans submitted to the relevant council (Mount Barker), full planning approval is yet to be granted and as such the milestone (\$3 million) has not been met. It is anticipated that approval will be granted, and early works will commence in the near future.

The funding for Mitcham Hills Trail and Glenthorne Loop projects (\$1.8 million) will not form part of grant funding for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet as they relate to projects administered by the Department for Environment and Water.

ADELAIDE CITY DEAL

In reply to **the Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee)** (26 October 2021).

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): Yes, the business case was completed and submitted to the commonwealth government in February 2021. It was deemed acceptable, and the state has received a \$4 million milestone payment under the Adelaide City Deal Project Agreement.

LOT FOURTEEN

In reply to **the Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee)** (26 October 2021).

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): The Adelaide City Deal project agreement was signed in 2019. The viability of the \$60 million International Centre for Food, Hospitality and Tourism was reassessed in 2021. The state government is currently consulting with the Australian government about what other projects could be established at Lot Fourteen, including plans for a hi-tech training facility to focus on delivering specialised training in cyber and digital technologies.