

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17 May 2022

Parliamentary Procedure

SPEAKER, ABSENCE

The CLERK: I advise the house of the absence of the Speaker. Pursuant to standing order 17, the Deputy Speaker took the chair.

The Deputy Speaker took the chair at 11:00 and read prayers.

The DEPUTY 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.

COMMISSION OF OATHS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received from the Governor a commission under the hand of Her Excellency and the public seal of the state empowering me during the temporary absence of the Speaker, and until he resumes his duties, to administer the oath of allegiance or receive the affirmation necessary to be taken by members of the House of Assembly.

Members

MEMBERS, SWEARING IN

The oath of allegiance required by law (or the affirmation) was administered and subscribed to by members.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 5 May 2022.)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Flinders. I remind the house that this is the member's first speech and that he should be accorded the normal courtesies and respect afforded to new members on this important occasion. In case you do not know what that means: no interjections, please. Member for Flinders, you have the call.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:07): Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank Her Excellency the Governor for her words of introduction at the last sitting of this place at the start of this term of state parliament. It really is a great privilege and with great pride that I take my place in this house as the newly elected member for Flinders. The electorate has been my home for my whole life and for many previous generations of my family. I am excited to be elected to this position of representation for my community and take up the challenge of being the voice for our needs and opportunities in this place.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the previous member for Flinders, Mr Peter Treloar. He served the electorate with passion, enthusiasm and conviction for the past 12 years. His dedication to the electorate and his constituents, and his contribution to this house, is to be congratulated and admired. Peter was held in high regard throughout the electorate as well as within this place, as was highlighted by the words which were spoken about him from all sides of this house. He has also been a good friend and mentor for me; he has always been willing to do what he can to help me. I have been reminded often that I have big shoes to fill in this place, and this is a challenge I am looking forward to taking on.

An election campaign in Flinders is unique, with 26 polling booths spread across hundreds of kilometres, which make up the electorate, as well as the mobile booth, which travels to the far-flung areas of the far west. I had volunteers at all these booths on election day, from the large ones in Port Lincoln, with thousands of voters, down to the very small booths in towns with dozens of voters in places such Wirrulla, Darke Peak or even my home town, Ungarra.

These volunteers were friends, family, party members and supporters who believed in me as a candidate and in what the Liberal Party stands for, so I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge their efforts in helping me to be elected to this position. Thank you.

I want especially to thank my SEC president, Danny Bartlett, who put in countless hours through the campaign, helping organise volunteers and spending days in the hot sun with me at the pre-poll, as well as others, such as Des and Audrey and Keith, who helped me in those two weeks of pre-polling.

The electorate of Flinders covers an area of natural beauty and environmental diversity. It was one of the original 17 state electorates that was created in 1856 and is the only district to have survived in name to this present day. It includes 10 different council areas—the district councils of Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Elliston, Wudinna, Kimba, Franklin Harbour, Cleve, Tumbly Bay and Lower Eyre Peninsula and the City of Port Lincoln—as well as the local government area of Maralinga Tjarutja and a portion of the pastoral unincorporated area, which includes localities such as Fowlers Bay, Nullarbor and Yalata, going all the way to the border with Western Australia.

The over 2,000 kilometres of coastline in Flinders vary between the secluded bays and the beaches and islands of Spencer Gulf, the sheltered coves and inlets up the West Coast and the rugged, spectacular cliffs that face out towards the Great Australian Bight and the Southern Ocean. Its waters are productive and full of life, with Eyre Peninsula producing more than 80 per cent of South Australia's seafood. It is renowned across the nation and the world.

Port Lincoln is the regional hub, and here you will find the largest commercial fishing fleet in the Southern Hemisphere. The region is home to the South Australian southern bluefin tuna industry. It produces 97 per cent of the state's oysters, 92 per cent of the state's mussels, 62 per cent of the state's abalone, as well as finfish, prawns, lobster—I could go on. These industries are built on sound environmental management, sustainability, aquaculture development and entrepreneurship.

On the land, the electorate of Flinders is equally as diverse. It varies greatly, with higher rainfall, big gum country in the south, rolling hills with productive mallee soils, big granite country with such incredible character, wide open farming land and the red, rich outback land which we have in the far west. Our environment is unique and breathtaking, highlighted by the Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay and Gawler Ranges national parks, as well as many other national parks, conservation parks and heritage areas.

I come to this position with a strong connection to my electorate, with a history through my forebears with families such as the Telfer, Provis and other families stretching back to the 19th century. Like many others at the time, my great-grandfather travelled through bush tracks with horses and wagon loaded for the long journey, arriving at a scrub block, where the first task was to dig a small dam with a pick and shovel to try to catch water for his horses and start to build a life for his family there. I am so privileged to be able to farm that same land with my family more than a century later.

With such personal history and working experience, agriculture is a real passion of mine. Agriculture is the cornerstone of my electorate's economy as well as the state's economy. The electorate of Flinders now takes in all the agricultural land of Eyre Peninsula, which produces 40 per cent of the state's wheat crop, 24 per cent of the state's barley and 22 per cent of the canola. We need to make sure that we are continuing to invest in this valuable primary production.

The technological advances I have seen in just my 20 years of farming are incredible, let alone looking further back. For instance, my grandfather started farming life as a teenager, using horse teams to work the land and cart their produce. Before he passed away 10 years ago, he got to experience a 450-horsepower tractor, which was precision steered using GPS technology. Our state's farmers utilise technology and research to be state-of-the-art, modern, sustainable businesses. As a state, we need to make sure we are doing all we can to ensure that we are

encouraging investing in agtech to ensure that we are doing all we can to continue to be at that technological cutting edge.

In my electorate, we have the Minnipa Agricultural Centre, which was first established back in 1915, more than 100 years ago, and has been helping with development of dryland farming ever since. It is an example of consistent and constant research, variety development and active farmer involvement, which is so vital to the future of agriculture in South Australia and should be encouraged and enabled by government.

The previous generations I spoke about were also incredible examples of hard work and selflessness. As well as building somewhere for themselves to live and earn a living, they also turned their efforts into building their community, with churches and schools often being first. As a man with a strong Christian faith, I am truly thankful to be able to have a heritage of faithfulness through multiple generations—especially my grandfather, Reg Telfer, who was a strong influence on my life. I am blessed to be able to worship and fellowship more than 100 years later at the same church as those forebears, at my home town of Ungarra.

The spirit of giving and volunteering continues in my electorate, regularly having one of the highest volunteer participation rates in census data. These people are investing back into their community, building a better place to live, not just now but for the future. In communities across Flinders, it takes everyone coming together to ensure we are doing all we can to support each other through both good and challenging times. You can find them volunteering at schools, sporting clubs, community groups, churches, museums, service groups—all over the place, and often in multiple different places around their community.

It was this sense of community responsibility which first led me into community leadership, taking up the challenge of serving on the District Council of Tumby Bay as an elected member. This led to more than a decade in local government, being elected to the role as mayor for over seven years. During my time, council was able to deliver a number of positive infrastructure projects which put the community in good stead for the future, as well as significant community events and programs which have added to the depth of quality of our community for people of all ages. The people who work in local government are passionate about local outcomes, and I have been truly lucky to work with a number of high-quality people throughout that time.

I have always had a region-wide perspective, and this led to me being elected unopposed by my peers to be the President of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, which is a grouping of those 11 councils from around Eyre Peninsula. This role helped me to understand the needs, challenges and opportunities from across my whole electorate, recognising the similarities which we have across our region but also the differences which are inherent when you are looking at an electorate which spans more than 200,000 square kilometres. I covered a lot of that landmass during the last 12 months, and I am sure I will continue to over the next four years.

I heard from community leaders and community members across all of Flinders. It is clear from those discussions that health across my region is the number one priority and concern for my communities. Recruitment and retention of medical professionals is the biggest health challenge for my electorate, especially those communities away from large population centres. Local government has been active in trying to help their communities through these challenges building houses for doctors to live in, buying and operating medical clinics, paying for medical services for the community and playing an active role in trying to recruit GPs.

To give you some examples, the council at Streaky Bay has had to work with the community to form the Streaky Bay and Districts Medical Clinic, which is a community-owned GP practice providing comprehensive general practitioner services for all ages for Streaky Bay, surrounding districts and visitors. At Kimba, the council has been involved with the community to build a new medical clinic in the town and has been very active in trying to attract a GP for a number of years. Wudinna, for instance, is currently without a GP. This issue is across my whole electorate.

I was encouraged when the former government developed and introduced the Rural Generalist Program, which is designed to provide a training pathway for medical professionals to develop the diverse skill set necessary to practise in regional areas. This training program is vital for us to build the long-term capacity, which we need for our communities to be sustainable. However,

short-term solutions really need to be put in place as well. The current arrangements for our smaller regional centres are not working, and we need to develop structures, incentives and arrangements which actually reflect the needs of these communities. Short-term, expensive locum services provide no certainty or continuity and are undermining the long-term sustainability of communities in my electorate.

Without appropriate medical services, we are losing those who are most vulnerable: the elderly, the young families—those who add to balanced and all-inclusive communities. These people are forced to leave communities when there are no medical supports, and we cannot afford for that to happen to my communities in Flinders. We need all three levels of government working together to get solutions which are sustainable.

My experience in local government also extended to being elected as the President of the Local Government Association of South Australia by the 68 councils from across the state. My time as head of the LGA was one of significant change, with the local government reform bill being developed with the Liberal government, as well as having input from all sides of parliament. It was the most significant reform of local government for over 20 years, and I am proud to have helped play my part in aiming for balance and effectiveness in that bill along with the minister, department, parliament and the LGA under the leadership of Matt Pinnegar as CEO. There are still many opportunities for local government to adjust and change, to more effectively operate and reflect the needs of their communities, and I am committed to playing my part to drive forward the need for such changes.

During my time as LGA president, and on the LGA board of directors, I had the opportunity to meet with and get to know mayors, CEOs, elected members and staff from all across the state and to develop a greater understanding of the issues and opportunities they face. There are so many significant economic opportunities all across regional South Australia, and we need to make sure that the state government is doing all it can to promote these opportunities. This requires investments into roads and productive infrastructure that enable products to get to market efficiently and people to get to their destination safely.

As someone who nearly lost their life in a serious car accident, I am passionate about road safety, especially in regional South Australia. Almost two-thirds of the crashes resulting in a loss of life or serious injury on regional and remote roads are single-vehicle crashes that do not involve any other vehicles or pedestrians. Many of these occur when the vehicle leaves the road and collides with an object or rolls over. This is why the record level of investment into South Australian roads from the Liberal government in the last term needs to continue.

In my electorate, there has been significant investment into shoulder sealing, overtaking lanes and intersection upgrades on some of our major highways: the Eyre Highway, the Tod Highway, the Lincoln Highway and the Birdseye Highway, in particular. The works that have been done to widen long distances of these roads will mean that the margin for error is greater for people travelling along them if they make an error of judgement. As my predecessor in this place would often say, and is often quoted as saying, 'A wider road is a safer road.' There is an ongoing need for strong investment in our regional roads, and I will be actively advocating for the government to prioritise such expenditure.

As you can tell, I am a strong advocate for regional South Australia, regions that contribute so much and have industries that put \$29 billion into the state's economy. I was part of a consultation team that helped develop the South Australian Regional Development Strategy, visiting communities and towns across the whole state to hear directly from local community leaders, small businesses and advocacy groups. This work was invaluable to fully understand the opportunities, challenges and needs of our regional areas, and to recognise that the regions are crucial for the future prosperity of our state.

The objective of the strategy was to define key focus areas that can drive government investment, decision-making and alignment in service delivery, reflecting the clear priorities of each unique South Australian region. There should be consideration of regional perspectives with every policy developed by government, especially in key areas such as health, education, housing, infrastructure and others. For regional South Australia, growth and development must be targeted in ways that make our community stronger and more resilient. We must ensure we get the basics right

so that we can support our existing regional populations and drive opportunities for them to grow. There is so much upside for our state if we get these policies right.

As I finish up, I would like to make mention of those who are special to me. I do not have a full gallery of friends and supporters, but I have a few kicking around at the back there. It is a bit of a trip for us to actually get from my electorate all the way to Adelaide, but I know there are plenty watching on the live stream so—whichever camera—'Hello, and thank you for your support.'

Those friends and family and supporters who have helped me get to where I am today, especially throughout the state election, are too numerous to mention, but I would like to express my gratitude to them all. I would like to thank my local government friends from across the whole state, who have supported me and who have always been a good source of knowledge about what is happening on the ground in South Australia. I would like to thank my church family and friends from Ungarra, who have always been there for me with prayers and support throughout the years.

To my family, my brothers Luke, Joshua and Isaac and their wives and families, as well as my sister, Esther: thank you. We have always been a close family who have taken care of each other, and I truly do appreciate that. That also extends to my wider family of uncles, aunties and cousins, who have always meant that there is a wide support structure for me in our family.

To my parents-in-law, Ian and Jane, who have always been there for us throughout the years, and my parents, Malvern and Lyn, who were able to be here for my swearing in a couple of weeks ago: thank you for your love, support and encouragement throughout my life, even through challenging times. They, too, I am sure, are watching online, looking after our three little girls for us while we are over here.

Finally, to my wife, Karla—I put this near the end so I can take it steady—we have been together through most of our lives, learning together, working together, raising our kids together and doing life together. You are my best friend, the love of my life, my confidante and you have always been my greatest encourager and support through good times and bad. Thank you for everything.

To my parliamentary colleagues, both state and federal, who have supported me with their advice and direction as I have been finding my feet: it truly is a privilege to be elected into this place, representing my community in important decisions that are made that affect all of us. That responsibility should not ever be taken for granted by any of us, whether we have just got here, like I have, or have been here for many years. I will always endeavour to act with integrity and respect serving the electorate of Flinders, who have put their trust in me to represent them. I will finish with a couple of verses from the Book of Psalms, chapter 37:

Commit your way to the Lord and trust in Him. The Lord makes firm the steps of those who trust in Him. Though they may stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord holds them in his hands.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (11:30): I rise with my Address in Reply for this current term. I want to begin by thanking my bosses. A lot of people come up to me and say, 'I met your boss the other day. He's a really good fellow.' I say, 'Which one?' and they say, 'Peter Malinauskas.' I say, 'He's not my boss. I've got 25,000 bosses. He lives up in Croydon; he ain't my boss. He leads our party, but my bosses are the 25,000 men and women, the voters, of the electorate of Mawson.' They are the ones I get up every day for and go in and work hard for each and every day. They are the people I write to before the election and apply to for my job again, pointing out the things that we have achieved in the past and those things that we want to achieve in the future, particularly over the next four years.

At this election, more than any before, the response I got from my bosses was overwhelming: a 15½ per cent primary vote increase and finishing up about 13½ per cent with the two-party preferred. I particularly want to thank everyone this time around for the faith they have put in me to go around for another four years. It will take me out to 20 years of service to the electorate of Mawson by the next election, which is the same time as you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and the member for Hammond and the member for Unley. We all came in in that 2006 election.

I have as much energy now as I did in 2004 when I put my hand up to run, and I am sure everyone else in the class of 2006 feels the same. However, you do change things around a little bit as you go on. For me, those changes were mainly done by an act out of my control: a redistribution

before the 2018 election. This redistribution saw me lose 20,000 voters I had really got to know over a 12-year period. I liked them, I knew all the issues and everything else, and then less than 18 months to go before the 2018 election I was told, 'Hey, we have changed the boundaries a little bit. You have picked up an island called Kangaroo Island.' I think the only other islands we had in Labor hands before that were Delfin and Torrens islands. Kangaroo Island is not exactly Labor heartland—well, it was not.

I remember when that news came through. We were in a cabinet meeting at the Marion Swimming Centre and Jay Weatherill received a message about the boundary commission report. He said, 'Biggles, I think you're'—I will not put the word in there, but 'in trouble' would be a lighter version of what he said. I said, 'What's the downside of this? I have picked up about another six pubs, I have picked up another 12 bakeries, I have picked up an island and I like meeting new people. Where is the downside?' I went out with a positive attitude, which is all you can do when you are dealt that hand.

Basically, I had built Mawson up to a 5½ per cent Labor margin from 3.6 per cent in the 2002 election, and then with the stroke of a pen the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission turned it into a 4½ per cent Liberal seat. We were going to the election at the end of 16 years in government, so let's just say there were a few headwinds, but we pierced through them and got in with a very healthy margin of 115 votes after eight days of counting by the Electoral Commission.

We began the journey from 2018 through to 2022. One of the first things I decided to do, which was a little bit of a shock to me and I know it was also a shock to the party, was not to put up my hand for the shadow cabinet. That was decided over Easter, about two weeks after the election and a week after I found out I had won. We were in Hobart and about to have lunch with Will Hodgman, a really good mate of mine who is now the High Commissioner in Singapore but at that stage was the Liberal Premier of Tasmania. I woke up—I had been tossing and turning—and I thought, 'You know what? I have this brand-new electorate. I don't want to be in Mount Gambier, in Port Lincoln, in Ceduna, all those places that I love, as a shadow minister, because I know that my work ethic will have me on the road day in, day out for the next four years. I really need to be spending time in my electorate.'

I am so grateful I made that decision, particularly given we did not know what was to come: the deadly bushfires of 2019-20 that devastated half of Kangaroo Island and the pandemic that we had to work through with our communities. As much as I miss the cut and thrust of being in there and fighting the good fight as part of the shadow cabinet, I found other things to fight about in my own electorate.

In 2018, I wrote to the new Premier and all the ministers and said, 'I have a bit of a reputation for fighting for people and not fighting with people.' But for four years these guys gave me every reason to fight for people and fight for the people in my local area. In their first budget, what they did to the people of Kangaroo Island was to say, 'You know how you get 50 per cent off your rego because you're paying 40¢ a litre more than any other South Australians for your fuel? We are going to take that away from you.' Basically, overnight, they doubled the registration cost of every vehicle on the island.

If you speak to someone like Mike Smith at KI Freight, his registration bill went from \$70,000 to \$140,000 with one change in the budget. We are talking about a budget that is about \$23 billion a year give or take. This is a \$1.5 million gain for that state budget, but for the people of Kangaroo Island it was a massive hit to their budgets. Not only are they paying more for fuel but they are paying more because Mike and other freight companies have to put that extra \$70,000 onto their costs.

The Kangaroo Island Council were up for about an extra \$100,000 in rego costs because of this move. The only person who did not come out and support it, of course, was Michael Pengilly, Mayor of Kangaroo Island, because he will always put the Liberal Party ahead of the ratepayers. He will always put party politics ahead of the job he is meant to be doing, which is looking after the people he represents at the local government level.

We had 3½ thousand people sign our petition at the Kingscote Show and the Parndana Show. The Liberal Party guys told me afterwards that everyone kept coming up to them asking, 'Where do we sign that petition for this budget impost, this doubling of the rego?' They said, 'You

have to go round and see Biggles. He's the guy with it.' I think we even had Vickie's aunty sign it. That was the passion people had for righting a wrong. Peter Malinauskas wrote to everyone on the island and said, 'A Malinauskas Labor government, if elected in 2022, will reverse that.'

I am really proud to stand here today to say that in the upcoming state budget on 2 June the rebate on registrations on Kangaroo Island will be returned—not returned by the Liberal Party, for whom traditionally these people have always voted, but by the Labor Party who have a sense of decency, who have their ear to the ground, and who know that cost-of-living pressures are real and huge for all South Australians and particularly for people on Kangaroo Island who already have higher imposts than other members of the South Australian community. That was one thing the Liberal Party gave me to fight for.

There was Main South Road, which they were dragged kicking and screaming to before the election. In the final days before the 2018 election occurred, Rob Lucas finally signed a letter saying that they would match and commit to a \$435 million upgrade of Main South Road between Seaford and Sellicks. When they got in, I had a meeting with Stephan Knoll, who was the Minister for Transport at the time, and I said, 'Let's work together. I have some ideas about what people want.' He came down and we had a photo taken together on Main South Road with the wonderful people from the Main South Road Action Group. I really want to commend them. I reckon they are one of the best community activist groups I have ever come across anywhere in South Australia.

Stephan came down, we did a photo and I put it on the front of my newsletter because, as I said, I want to fight for people not with people, so if we can work together people really like to see that. Then Stephan got into trouble from his Liberal Party counterparts, who said 'You shouldn't have been in a photo.' That is when the cooperation ended and the commitment to the project ended as well. Four years on from our commitment of \$435 million over stage 1 and stage 2, we still had not seen any work start.

They took money from that project and spent it somewhere else. We do not know where that has gone, so we had to go to this election committing a further \$125 million to do the job properly and also to put in three overtaking lanes between Myponga and Cape Jervis. For that, I want to thank the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport, the leader and everyone else who was involved in the election promise process, because I think we did pretty well in the seat of Mawson.

We have a very long list that we plan to roll out. We have \$1.3 million for the Aldinga skate park. We have the unisex change rooms at the Aldinga Sporting Complex, worth \$825,000. We are going to do a study to see whether we should have a swimming pool in the Aldinga area; there is \$150,000 for that study.

We have \$105,000 to put in an irrigation system at the McLaren Vale Sporting Complex, because do you know what they have at the moment? They have one of those little tractors that you would use at home in the 1970s on the cable that goes out, so a volunteer has to go down there and change that little tractor around all the time, making sure it is going in the right direction.

There is \$1 million for the Tatachilla Lutheran College to McLaren Vale cycling and walking path, to make it safe for students to get from McLaren Vale out to the college. There is \$3 million for an Aldinga to Willunga cycling and walking path as well, so we are connecting those two parts of the world.

We all love having students coming in here to do tours, and when you try to explain things to them it is always good to give them an example of how they could make a difference. The Yankalilla Area School students were getting into me about how they needed some shade cloth and they needed some upgrades of things at their school, when we were doing the rounds and showing them where we all sit and how parliament works.

I said, 'Why don't you head back to school and all write me a letter about what it is that you would want done?' I went to the then shadow education minister, the member for Wright, and I said, 'Look, we've got all these. What do you reckon it would cost?' He said, 'About \$200,000.' I said, 'Have we got \$200,000 to give the kids at Yankalilla to upgrade their middle school area?' He said, 'Absolutely. For you, Biggles, and for those good people of Mawson, you've got it.' So there is \$200,000.

We have \$100,000 for the Cape Jervis traffic management study. The next one is the one that really excites me, because when we talk about this budget—\$23 billion or \$24 billion, whatever it is—it is a lot of money, and sometimes we think that we have to spend billions to get the attention of people, but at other times the way you get their attention is actually to do something that is really crucial and important for their local community.

We have a whole series of hall upgrades. I do not reckon the Second Valley kitchen—and I have been to a few big fancy dress parties there in the koala suit and a few other outfits—

Mr Pederick: Show us the photos.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: They're on Facebook, mate. Have a look: it's the funniest Facebook you'll ever see. I do not reckon their kitchen has been upgraded since World War II, when they probably built it, so they have \$50,000. The other thing is disabled toilets at bowls clubs and these community halls. We have \$50,000 for the Maslin Beach Community Hall, \$50,000 for the Myponga Memorial Hall and \$50,000 for the Second Valley Soldiers' Memorial Hall and the McLaren Flat community club.

We have bigger projects, like the \$4.2 million that we are spending on 21 intersections in and around the McLaren Vale region. I want to thank the Onkaparinga council. We have the former mayor here, now the member for Davenport. The Onkaparinga council did an excellent prospectus, where they basically gave us a whole list of projects. It is like a catalogue. You just go through it and say, 'Oh, we'll have one of those, we'll have one of those and we'll have 21 of those.'

These 21 intersections are not necessarily dangerous for us locals, because we know they are country roads and they are intersections, but we have had a spate of fatal crashes there that have been largely due to inattention or missing that there is a stop sign or a give way sign coming up. The council came up with a very well thought-out plan to upgrade 21 of these intersections. Again, I want to thank Onkaparinga council for doing that. The \$3 million bike path from Willunga to Aldinga was also in their planning, and many of the other projects, like the \$1.3 million for the Aldinga skate park and the women's change rooms at Aldinga, were also part of that bid.

I guess that is a sign of how you can work with local government. If we want to look at Kangaroo Island Council, two weeks before election day they finally said, 'Can we have a meeting to talk about what our election commitments are?' I said, 'I'm sorry, but we've already got hundreds of millions of dollars to put into the electorate of Mawson,' because other council areas like Yankalilla and Onkaparinga had already spoken to us. That is not to say that we did not make any commitments to Kangaroo Island—because we did. We are reversing the rego concession on Kangaroo Island. We are also pumping \$10 million into the hospital over there that badly needs an injection of funds.

While we are talking about Kangaroo Island, I want to take everyone back. I have not told this story publicly before because it was a story I did not want to be publicised, as I did not think it identified and spoke to who I am, and it certainly did not speak to who the people of Kangaroo Island are. It happened on my first visit to Kangaroo Island, after being elected their MP. I had been there for years and years before as a tourist, as a journalist, as a member of parliament, as a minister.

I was parked out the front of the Ozone Hotel, where I was staying. My cousin Mary-Lou Corcoran used to run it. I went out the next day and got in my car and drove to my next meeting and thought, 'Something feels a bit weird here. I must have a flat tyre.' I pulled over and said, 'I have a flat tyre. That one is flat as well.' Then I went around the other side and I had three flat tyres out of four, and I was thinking, 'What is going on here?' Someone had slashed my tyres on the island.

As I said, I did not actually want to bring this up before because it absolutely does not speak to who the people of Kangaroo Island are—maybe for one or two people, it does. When my son, Conor, was putting up election posters a few weeks before over there, someone did make out they had a gun and was going to shoot him off the ladder, so there are obviously one or two characters over there, but these people are not representative. Kangaroo Island is a beautiful place, full of beautiful people and I love them dearly.

I have to say, when I went to Turner's Tyre Service, Mark Turner said, 'Lucky they only did three because we only have three of that certain tyre that you need,' and I was starting to wonder whether it was Mark—no, I did not really! He is a great bloke and a great community man who

sponsors the racing club and everything else over on the island. But it was a little bit of a wake-up call because I was thinking, 'I know they didn't vote for me,' I think we only got about 22 per cent of the vote on the island in that 2018 election, 'but surely we can be friends. We are going to have to work together for the next four years'.

I had a lot of meetings on that trip, but on my next trip over I met with the progress associations—Baudin Beach has one, American River has one, Penneshaw has one—and I turned up and they said, 'What are you doing here? We have never had a state MP come here. We do not even get the local councillors coming to our meetings.' I said, 'I am just here to introduce myself so that we can get to know what your issues are and so that you know you can be comfortable, if you have any issues that you want to raise, that you can just give us a call or send me an email.'

I said, 'But the main reason I am here is to show you that I do not have red horns and a tail. I am not a communist. I am from the Labor Party and no-one in my family ever voted for the Labor Party,' although dad did say he voted for Des Corcoran because Des was a good bloke who always worked hard for our area. That is all I have ever tried to do: just turn up, front up. It does not matter who people vote for; if they are your constituents, it gets back to the fact that they are one of your 25,000 bosses. We all get on well, even if we have a difference of opinion in who we vote for and the party that we support.

I was building this relationship with the people of Kangaroo Island and then we had the bushfires of 2019-2020. That was a devastating time for the island. What I learned from the Wangary fires back in 2005, before I was a member of parliament when I was Pat Conlon's Chief of Staff and he was the Minister for Emergency Services, was that you have to be a big government. You have to get in there and wrap your arms around the community and find out what it is that they want, and you help in any way you possibly can.

I basically said to my partner, Karen, 'I am going to be on the island, on and off, for as long as it takes.' I went over there with my swag, camped out at Parndana, and a lot of times ended up in the evacuation centres with lots of other islanders and visitors to the island. It was a really scary time for everyone on the island. There was so much pressure on everyone. Those fires burned for four or five weeks; it was a terrible time. You would think you had survived because they would come at you from the north, they would come at you from the west, they would come at you from the south, and then three weeks later they would knock you down and destroy your house from the east. It was a really difficult time.

I do not think I have ever been closer to a community than during those times. I saw the level of inaction from government. They put a person in charge of the fire recovery who said, 'We are going to wait until the fires are out to ask people what they want done. Rather than do things to them, we are going to do things with them,' and we said, 'But it is going to take four weeks to put the fires out.' I know from my experience in 2005 that people wanted generators. They wanted generators so that they could get back out on their property. All they had left was the soil where their house used to stand, and to get people out there is a big part of the grieving process.

In Wangary, we gave them shipping containers with wheelbarrows, generators, portaloos, toilet paper, gloves, shovels and all those sorts of things that can help people do that. You are staying with your friends, you are staying with your family, which is lovely—people are opening up their houses, 'Come and stay with us'—but sometimes you just want to bawl your eyes out, or you just want to hug your wife or your kids. We did not have these places cleaned up for over 100 days, so every time someone went back out to their farm, it was just the crumpled ruins of what was their family home. That is not good enough. That is why I was quite outspoken during that period.

We got \$130,000 donated through five businesses on Kangaroo Island that sell generators. Mates of mine in business on the mainland rang up and bought a generator for them, including patients of my mate Dr Michael Reid down in McLaren Vale. The Labor Party is not the flavour that he votes for, but he likes what I do in the local area. He sent an email to 10 or 12 of his winemaking clients who have a bit of coin and said, 'If you don't buy one of these \$2½ thousand generators, your next examination is going to be very painful.' We had \$25,000 worth of generators from there. AHA chipped in \$35,000 and BankSA chipped in about \$35,000, as well as a lot of other business mates of mine.

As to two-way radios: when you are out fighting fires—I know the member for Hammond has a farm firefighting unit—when you get out there and it is a bunch of white Hilux utes it is pretty hard to tell who is who or talk to each other. We had someone on the island whose husband had a farm fire unit. She contacted me on New Year's Eve 2019 into 2020 and said, 'These guys can't communicate with each other, so can we get some two-way radios from the government?' I said, 'You're dreaming. They might have them to you by June when it's pouring with rain, but you need them straightaway.'

She said, 'What are you going to do?' I said, 'Let me think about it.' I put up a thing on Facebook and said, 'These guys are getting around there with no communication. You can ring Jamieson Marine on Kangaroo Island and donate \$250 and they will make sure a two-way radio gets to a farm fire unit.' It was as simple as that, and 161 two-way radios were donated. We know they saved lives. I heard one of the farmers interviewed on ABC radio on the morning of 4 January, the day after the worst of the fires, and it made the hair on the back of my neck stand up. He and his daughter were trapped, and he could talk to people and they could get him out of where he was.

Another person told me that the only thing that kept him sane during the enormous noise, heat and fear that came with that fire was hearing his mates' voices over the radio. That is what governments are meant to do. That is what local members are meant to do, to be in there and roll up their sleeves. 'I don't hold a hose'? You do not have to hold a hose. I never held a hose, but I did a lot of good things for the local area because I listened to what it was that they wanted me to do.

Based on that, people on the island saw that they had someone as their local rep who would go the extra yard for them, who would stand up for them, who would fight for them. I am very grateful to those people on Kangaroo Island who voted overwhelmingly for my return as their local member. I was so delighted. I was getting a bit emotional, I have to say, on election night when I saw those figures come in. There are four booths on the island and it was four out of four. We won those booths. We had never won any of them before.

That restored my faith in the political system. The people always should come before the party when you are a representative in this place and when you get in there and do the right thing. That is not to say that I did not have enormous support from everyone in my party during those times—in fact, over the whole four years. The shadow cabinet came over to Kangaroo Island. They met with locals who had been affected. They got out and worked out what they could do in their portfolio areas that would make it a better place.

I want to thank them for the empathy that they showed, for the hard work and understanding that they showed, which no doubt really helped my connection with the local people on Kangaroo Island. The people in Aldinga, Second Valley and Yankalilla also noticed what was happening over there. I think something that you need to do is just work really hard day in, day out. It does not have to be a disaster: you just have to be there to listen to people.

We had things like the proposition to dump PFAS in McLaren Vale. McLaren Vale would be the last place in the world where you would scrape all the PFAS soil off Air Force bases around Australia, put it in trucks, bring it and dump it in our area in landfill. We have \$850 million in thousands of jobs and hundreds of businesses connected to food, wine and tourism. Why would you destroy all that by dumping PFAS there? We had meetings there where we had 350 to 400 people come to those meetings in a time of COVID.

I want to pay tribute to Amy Williams and her family. Amy ran for the Liberal Party and she did a great job as a candidate and we did not have a cross word. In fact, we had a beer together at five past six on election night and we just said, 'Cheers to democracy,' because there was not a cross word for the whole thing. We were on the pre-poll booth. My family was there and Amy's family was there: Jill, her mum, and Ian, her dad; Stephen, her partner; my sister Toni and her husband, Roger; and my son, Conor, and his partner, Hannah, were all there.

My dad was a stock agent and he used to buy and sell cows for people down along the Fleurieu, so he knew the Williams family well. I think we always have to remind people that, while you might see some conflict, you might see some fighting at certain levels, that is not how we have to operate. We can have differences in opinion, but at the end of the day we are all human beings who put a hand up to try and do a better job.

I want to thank my staff, who work really hard in the electoral office, because I always say there is not much point in me hanging out in the office because you guys are probably already voting for me, I need to be out and about in the electorate, and I have 6,000 square kilometres to be out and about in. So I want to thank Jazz and Erin and Mel and Darry who have done such a great job over the past four years and to the trainees that we had during that past four years: Courtney, who is still with us, Jess and to Brooke as well. They work really hard and they are the first point of contact for a lot of people who are in trouble or who want some help with something, so I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

To the volunteers: people like Kerrod Trott, Leo Sexton, Maureen and Ray on Kangaroo Island. I look at someone like Leo Sexton who has been a Labor supporter, as has Maureen, all their lives. They live on Kangaroo Island, and it was great when we had the declaration of the poll. As the winning candidate, you get to decide where that is, and we had it in Parndana at the pub there, with Ted Chapman looking down from the Kangaroo Island Shearers Hall of Fame, a picture of him with a singlet on, shearing a sheep. Ted was looking down on us as we celebrated the victory in the seat of Mawson.

I wanted to have it in Parndana, and the Electoral Commission was great because they accommodated me by sending over the returning officer to do it there. I wanted to do it there because out of every part of the electorate no part was hit harder in that four-year period than Parndana and the surrounding farms, so it was really important that we did that. To have Leo there and Maureen, who were just cock-a-hoop that their guys finally won. It was a bit like being a Melbourne supporter when they won the flag last year, I think.

I want to thank my family, my partner Karen, who is always there for me, and I am batting way out of my league: she is an absolute ripper. I want to thank Karen for being so beautiful, for being so caring, for just being a wonderful human being, and my son, Conor, who has been the brains of the operation since he was four years old back in 2004, when I first stood.

He was giving me all the advice back then. He has been my campaign manager for the past two elections, including that unwinnable 2018 one and then he backed it up in 2022 to give us the biggest swing of any seat I think in the state. He has only just turned 24, he just graduated last week from Adelaide Uni with degrees in economics and international studies and he is fantastic.

He had his partner with him this time, Hannah, who comes from the northern beaches of Sydney, which is a little bit like Kangaroo Island. They are traditionally pretty strong Liberal lands up there, but her dad, Jeff, is a schoolteacher and he has been handing out for the Labor Party up there every election he has been alive. People like Jeff are the people we salute in the Australian Labor Party, people who go and do the hard yards.

I want to thank my sisters, Toni and Jacinta, and their partners, Roger and Wayne, and my nephew Zach, who came down from Brisbane as well to hand out on election day. By the end of the day he was so sunburnt that he could not see where his skin finished and the red Labor T-shirt started. He was at Sellicks Beach all day, where I think we ended up with 73 per cent of the vote, so he did an amazing job. I want to thank another family member, a family member who came to us unexpectedly, and that is Dusty the Kangaroo Island kelpie.

Dusty is symbolic of those bushfires. He is symbolic of survival. He is symbolic of the hope that comes out of a bushfire. He and I have been to every primary school in the electorate, and we sit and read a book about bushfires written by an author and a mum who lives on Kangaroo Island. He came out with a beer—Dusty Draught—to raise money for the farm firefighting units to get protective gear for those people to go with the two-way radios.

During COVID, he was a companion and a friend to everyone in the area but, most importantly, to older people who could not see their kids or their grandkids and were isolated. Each day they would talk with Dusty and say, 'You're the only thing that gives us a laugh.' I know he does not like the member for Wright's dog—he thinks it is a cat. He sledges me and he sledges our cat, Aliska, who he calls Patrick, and he sledges the member for Wright's dog, who he calls a cat. But he has very good credentials, and he is a genuine, loving dog, and we love Dusty.

Time expired.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown): Before I call the member for Playford, I remind the house that this is the member's first speech and that he should be accorded the normal courtesies and respect afforded to new members on this important occasion.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (12:00): Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I congratulate you on your appointment. While the Speaker is unavailable today, the elevation of an independent Speaker is significant, and I wish him all the best in his recovery and continuing in his role.

I was honoured to hear the Governor's speech and am delighted to play my role in the delivery of the agenda she so eloquently outlined. As Her Excellency is relatively new to the position, I also wish her all the very best in her very important role. I thank the previous member for Playford for his outstanding service and support. The wonderful thing is he still sits in this chamber, albeit in the Speaker's chair, and will continue to be outstanding as the new member for Florey. Noting that the member for Ramsay previously represented parts of my constituency, her stellar work must also not go unnoticed, nor the support of her staff and her team that were given to me during the campaign.

This is going to be a long speech. It is not lost on me that few have the opportunity and honour to tell their story. I thank the people of Playford for this privilege and aim to do justice to the many wonderful people I mention today.

This begins with our new Premier. It is an honour to be part of his team. To me, the most enduring quality of his leadership is he will never ask anyone to do something he is not prepared to do himself. Like every good leader, he leads by example. I have been fortunate to work for the new Deputy Premier. She is one of the most intelligent people I have met and is our best bet in addressing numerous environmental issues that we face.

As a migrant, it is a true honour to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Kurna people, and I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge that the electorate of Playford is on Kurna land and will respect this while performing my duties as its local member of parliament.

My time in the Northern Territory compels me to place on record that actions speak much louder than words. While I believe in the importance of sincerity, the opportunities before this parliament are pivotal to Aboriginal Australians. May we lead by example in enshrining a meaningful voice to them in the hope that it can lead to a brighter future for us all together.

It is an honour to stand in this chamber as a rich man. These words are in part borrowed from the late Max Jelly, a loving father, husband, grandfather, soldier and friend to many, including me. I have been fortunate to have grown up in a household full of love and to have wonderful friends and now a beautiful family, making me also wealthy.

I realised this when I was much younger and under sad circumstances. As a young man, I visited Max in hospital, knowing his time was coming to an end. Almost 20 years ago, he held my hand and quietly told me he was dying a rich man. As I became incoherent, he explained that his wealth had nothing to do with the accumulation of money and all to do with the love he had encountered along the way. I cannot pinpoint the exact time I decided politics was for me, but I do know from that moment his life took on much greater meaning.

While I do not think red was his political flavour, I begin by placing the memory of Max Jelly on *Hansard* as my way of saying thanks. I do not expect many of you here to know him but see it as proof that if you are decent to people you will be remembered long after you are gone. Despite many difficult chapters in his life, he could always find reasons to smile. He was the closest thing I knew to a hero. We have all met people like him: they are real, they are amongst us and they make everything better just by being themselves. In a world where the superficial gains respect over substance, I choose his memory and understanding on wealth as a first clue in who the people of Playford have sent to this chamber.

It is not lost on me how much of an honour it has been to have been elected alongside seven talented women to the Labor camp. With their strength in numbers and as individuals not only can we begin to rewrite a wrong, but we are all winners when the parliament better represents the people who elect them. Our next challenge must be the representation of a greater cross-section of the

many ethnic communities that mould as one to make us all Australians. As a representative of one of the most multicultural electorates in South Australia I found no shortage of future leaders ready to rise to the occasion.

The origins of my values go back to Europe, namely, England and Poland. During the Second World War my maternal grandfather, Wadek Krzton, who served in the Polish Army and later worked in London, met my grandmother, Marjorie Hyde. The two got engaged before Wadek went back to Poland in 1947. Marjorie joined him once she turned 21 in 1948, and my mum, Elizabeth, was born the following year. While their marriage of 29 years was a happy one, tragically in 1975 Wadek went missing and was never found. Marjie, as we subsequently called her, returned to England. Despite her hardship, she always remained faithful to fairness and being a champion of the have-nots.

I fondly remember watching question time with her during visits to England, observing her shout at the television and yearning for the chance to give Mrs Thatcher a piece of her mind. I became fascinated by the ritual and, as time went by, our little talks evolved into a 30-year political discussion. Towards the end of her eventful life, she moved to Adelaide. By Christmas 2020, whispers were emerging of my being the candidate for Playford. At the same time, it seemed clear that her health was going downhill. While I was asked to keep quiet, I confess that before I said my final goodbyes, I bent the rules a tiny bit and shared my secret with her. My final memory of Marjie was that as I left the room, despite her fading health, she had a great sense of satisfaction on her face.

My dad, John, not only shares my name but also hails from the town of Reading in England, where I was also born. Growing up as a young boy in the Second World War there could be no denying this chapter had a profound effect on him and his rather large bookcase. I never met my grandfather George. He was one of many born in the late 19th century who had been disrespected as a soldier, worker and tenant. What set his generation apart was the traction they made in standing up to the lorded gentry and saying enough was enough. He deserves much more than these few words, but close to 50 years after his death, in a distant land, I think he would appreciate knowing that his blood flows through this Labor member of parliament.

By the time I was born in 1980, the wrecking ball known as Thatcherism was in full swing. The erosion of the welfare state was started by an individual who proudly proclaimed that there was no such thing as society. Realising there was more to come, my parents decided a better future awaited me and my sister, Jayne, in South Australia. On a slight segue, during this campaign my dear friend and long-term supporter Paul Isbel pointed out to me the irony of Thatcherism. Despite its endeavours, it succeeded in creating another Labor MP, albeit on the other side of the world and 40 years later.

Starting a new life in a distant land is a bold step. My parents had never set foot in Australia and, like so many migrant families I met during my campaign, their bravery was rewarded. While family was left behind, mum and dad made the right decision to migrate, and I cannot thank them enough.

I think the lure of good wine brought them to Adelaide, where we lived in migrant flats in Ascot Park for 12 months. While basic, even as a toddler I remember these being happy times as we surrounded ourselves with other families, who became what dad described as our plastic uncles and aunties. Families such as the Masons, Pietrowskas, Luczaks and the immortally flamboyant Uncle David helped fill voids in our lives that are as meaningful today as they were 40 years ago.

Settling in a new country with just the four of us meant no casual visits to cousins, no babysitting from grandparents or being led astray by a rogue uncle. It was just the four of us. It has taken a few years for us to realise and, while I know they will challenge every word I say, we have been proud and resilient and our closeness means we are difficult to break. I can only imagine how much harder it is for those who came here without a word of English and not of European descent.

It did not take long before mum and dad were bewitched by the beauty of the Adelaide Hills. They often joked of their peasant heritage, which they proudly flaunted when they took over a few acres in Scott Creek. It was a utopia for us all and light years away from the council houses of Reading and heavy industry of Upper Silesia.

Their paradise was filled with fruit trees, flowers, vegetables, wood lots, sheep, chickens, and occasionally geese, meat hens or turkeys. I have fond memories of our dam filled with yabbies, long road trips with my sister, Jayne, or forever wearing gumboots, and maybe picking blackberries, but always watching out for snakes. Across the dirt road lived the Austin family, with Melissa a willing recruit to my misadventures.

Sadly, the 1980s were not happy hunting grounds on the employment front, especially to migrants. Mum and dad quickly realised they were not going to make a fortune and found happiness in living modestly and reaping what they sowed. Selflessly, and as is the case with so many migrants to Australia, they gave away so much so that their children could have a bright future.

Scott Creek primary, the local school of 50 kids, was also a happy backdrop. They say small is beautiful and, with a principal in Brian Yuill to show us why fairness mattered, I had everything I needed for the happiest of childhoods. While I refuse to alter this perspective, things took a turn for the worse when dad began working as a postman in the 1980s. I clearly remember the day back in 1989 when I was doing a job at a neighbour's place for Scout Job Week. Mum came over to tell me that dad was in hospital. I was told not to worry, but he had been forced off the road by a passing car while driving a motorcycle.

If it is a measure of a politician to keep a promise, I am proud to say that for 33 years I have kept mine by never hopping on a motorbike. When bones break, some heal better than others and, unfortunately, in dad's case things would not be the same for him again. He has continually put on a smile over the years despite the ongoing agony he experiences to this day. I know that getting up those few stairs to watch me in the gallery have been agonising, but he bravely hides it under a beautiful smile.

Beyond the physical pain, there is the emotional torture that workplace accidents leave in their trail. Maybe these were different times, but I will never forget watching him take a call on Christmas Eve from the local manager of the post office. Despite the pain he had been through, and willingness to get back to work before things properly healed, dad was sacked the day before Christmas. This taste of betrayal is something a nine year old should never swallow.

We have heard the member for Adelaide bravely share the significance of green doors and letterboxes from her childhood and the member for Elder recounting the brilliance of tinned tomatoes. To me, the image of a cheap, red telephone that never worked properly cannot be unseen. I remember dad receiving this news from this phone while the aura of uncertainty descended upon Christmas.

Events like this force youngsters to consider what they can do to help, and this is pondered for years to come. While I cannot borrow a TARDIS and tell that young boy everything is going to be okay, I see hope as the ultimate currency for those in similar circumstances. May we spread this thick and fast over the next four years.

My family has always believed in seeing the good in everything, even something as terrible as a workplace injury. Cameos in the workforce became few and far between for dad, but, as you can see, from almost living off the land I was never hungry and fortunate to always have both parents around me as I grew up. The reality of our lives today is that we are much poorer from our constant need to have both parents working to stay afloat. Sad to say that, even before entering parliament, the time I spent working has come at the cost of time with my son. While my intentions have been well meaning, I will be happy to join with anyone to explore how working families can give more time back to their loved ones.

High school in Heathfield was initially a shock, but I stayed focused while working in a supermarket for seven years. A part-time job not only put some extra money in my pocket but also gave me the opportunity to grow up. Before too long I found myself in Flinders University studying history and public policy. While I was just a face in the crowd, I was inspired most by Dr Lionel Orchard and his lectures on urban politics. Initially I felt that social sciences were not for me and found myself taking on a second degree in marketing through Edith Cowan University.

With two degrees in my pocket, I heard London calling as a place to begin a career. It was anything but, and it gave me the wake-up call I needed. People go to the UK to see places like Big Ben or Stonehenge, but I could not unsee those sleeping in doorways, colossal traffic and the

exploitation of workers. Realising that it was not the place for me, I settled on having a short holiday while pouring pints for a few months. To be paid £4.25 an hour, while the short bus ride to work was £3.80, made me realise there was something wrong.

I could only have stayed afloat thanks to the generosity of Barbara and Arthur Sergent. I am also grateful for their early career advice. Upon my return to Adelaide, I read about this dreadful thing called WorkChoices and drew parallels to the labour market in the UK. Having had a taste of something similar, I felt obligated to ensure this never happened here.

By 2004 I was an active union organiser and proud member of the Australian Labor Party. Within three years I was managing the Labor campaign in Mayo for Mary Brewerton. We did not win, but we were quite pleased with the 14.6 per cent swing we pulled off. While 15 years late, I take this opportunity to place on record the extraordinary efforts that Mary made. Along the way I was inspired by the selfless efforts of party members like Terry and Joyce Hemmings, Trevor Corbell, Doreen Woods, Tim House, Shirley Lord, and John and Sandra Marshall. While age and distance may try get the better of us, I want you to know that I still consider you part of the team. No matter the contest, be it Mayo in 2007 or my own tilt in Kavel in 2010, you gave it all and I remain indebted.

I have been fortunate to work with some of the best in the business, for which I also owe them much. After two years spent as an immigration officer, Bryan Moulds gave me my big break at the Property Council. While we disagree on shandies, cricket and the marginal nature of the seat of Heysen, his guidance today is as favourable to me as it was when I was 25.

Dr Jane Lomax-Smith unleashed me into the realm of political employment, taking me on as an adviser in 2008. Jane is an incredible advocate, with a photographic memory that made her so effective in her pursuit of social justice. She taught me a lot and, most importantly, made the whole crew laugh. If I was not standing here now, I would have developed a sitcom based around life in our office.

The wisest man I know, David Lewis, gave many great written gifts to the world. While I do not think he will ever see the merit in my giant novelty cheque, I have hung on to many of his words. My favourites—'good policy is good politics' and 'politics is the art of the possible'—have remained and shall remain guiding lights. Jennifer Rankine will always be 'the minister' to me. I have never met someone so hardworking. Beyond her very special powers of getting to the truth, she is the ultimate force for good. It is a privilege to count her as a friend, and I am grateful for the five years we worked together.

Simonne Whitlock, also affectionately known to me back in the day as SR, cannot go without mention—a true friend and the best media adviser in the business. Bonded by the affection of two overly dependent cats, we survived bushfires, singledom and estimates together. She works hard, maybe even too hard, but her commitment to her work is dwarfed by the depth of her heart. Other great names I have had the privilege to advise alongside include Andrew Love, Tim Ryan, Briana Hendry, the member for Wright, Ben Temperley, Leah Manuel, Steven Nugent, Chris Langworthy and Tristan Sloan. The latter three are still kicking goals in the Northern Territory.

Life as a political staffer is not the glamour fest some like to paint. The quest to overcome headlines and deadlines is both stressful and tiring. With minimal job security, the challenge is not for the fainthearted. It is easy to denigrate, but I feel this is unfair. If working in such a role for 11 years labels me as a professional politician, so be it. I am what I am. I have never shied away from wanting to do the best for people and recognised from an early age that the best way to bring about change was through the political arena.

I welcome recent efforts to improve conditions for those working in either side of politics. I have genuine concern for the staff of the previous government who must now find new jobs. I am also aghast at reports on scandals coming out from Canberra. As a unionist, it does not matter which side a staffer is from, everyone deserves dignity and respect in the workplace.

Following the birth of my beautiful son, Julian, I took a break from advising and went to work for the education department. Working on school infrastructure, it was a thrill to see things from the other side and to apologise for the many briefings I had supposedly made people write. Libby Sowry not only forgave me for my sins but became an excellent boss, and her team were a joy to work with.

Whenever we hear ministers in the chamber recite issues with confidence, think of people like Libby, Ross Treadwell or Julieann Riedstra, who spend hours bringing things together.

A wise man once told me that if you stop believing in something then you should walk away. While it cannot be changed, the shift from year 7 into high school by the previous government was my trigger point. When Labor was last in office the department made it clear that far greater educational benefit could be achieved by investing in programs rather than extra classrooms.

As my job was altered to deliver this change, I felt in all good conscience that I could not stay. My wife and I found new challenges in the Northern Territory. For 2½ fantastic years we watched crocodiles, explored Kakadu and ate copious amounts of mangoes while I provided advice on the planning front to the Gunner government.

I made so many friends in Darwin and could not be more proud that one of them was my minister, Eva Lawler—hardworking, kind, clever, warm-hearted and fun. These are just some of the words to describe a brilliant human being whom I cannot help but respect. I saw the good and the bad in the Northern Territory. While it has its challenges, its beauty rests in its resilience. You cannot live there without its having a profound effect upon you.

Family and COVID were strong forces pulling us back, and I was deeply honoured to be endorsed as the Labor candidate for Playford. I could not be standing here today if I did not receive the support and faith given to me by my union, the Australian Workers' Union. Peter Lamps is not only a great secretary but also the quintessential unionist. I know that he would never seek personal acknowledgement and would always argue that he is the mouthpiece for the many, but I am breaking the rules and singling him out for all his support.

Unions like the AWU supported me, but more importantly they continue representing the men and women in my electorate who make this state great. I am privileged and thankful to have been an official of the union and see firsthand the challenges faced by unions in representing members across a range of issues and industries. I commit here to assisting them to achieve the goal of a fair go all round and thank my many AWU comrades for sharing and showing me how we are stronger together.

We often see the union movement demonised for being a barrier to self-interest. Sticking together is a human trait that should be respected and embraced. Many of us only have to look at our ring fingers to appreciate the value of someone watching our back. So long as people care for one another unions great and small will prevail. Any effort to deprive people this opportunity is tampering with what it is to be human.

Beginning our campaign in August last year, I was fortunate to be joined by some outstanding volunteers and together we doorknocked, phoned and letterboxed all corners of the electorate. There is no 'I' in team, and I could not have done it without the selfless support of some amazing volunteers.

My dear mate James Rosser regularly made the trek from Colonel Light Gardens to be by my side. We have been mates for over a decade, and I cannot find words to express what our friendship means to me. While I go off on my crazy tangents, he has always been there to keep things in perspective.

Simion Bugingo was there for me right from the start. The world threw many challenges at him during this time, and he always maintained his cheery, selfless composure. His inner strength is beyond measure. Greatness awaits, and in years to come the most significant part of this speech will be the fact I mentioned him before he became famous. I also want to wish him and Beverly a happy and beautiful life together.

Bianca Merenda moved heaven and earth in support of the Playford campaign. She would have walked several hundred kilometres to ensure each letterbox received its rightful share of attention. Loyal and always there with a smile on her face, I am grateful for everything she did. Munhemul Khan and his band of brothers were by my side throughout. It has been a great honour getting to know him and his family, and I count him as a true friend.

I also want to thank the great Salisbury councillors who stood by my side. Sarah Ouk, Beau Brug and Chad Buchanan gave up what spare little time they had to attend street corner meets and follow up on many council issues I encountered on the way. I have lived in a number of councils but

never met such a dedicated bunch of councillors. They are a credit to Salisbury and do an outstanding job.

Tony Pham politely berates me for throwing him into the limelight, but he also knows the value I place in words. He is a very modest, bright, caring and warm person. I have enjoyed his company throughout the campaign. It is wonderful he has taken the leap of faith to join my office staff, and I cannot help but be enormously proud of him.

He says it to me a lot, but in context to the Hon. Justin Hanson from the other place, 'You're a good man, Charlie Brown.' Thank you for being that shining light and sounding board. I am not sure how I would have coped without you and your receptive ear. I often note how others remark that you are a great bloke, which makes me even prouder knowing that we have been union buddies and the best of mates since 2006.

I know I will miss out some names, but I also want to thank Pauline Austin, Allan Jones, Rene Vodegel, Jim Hill, Barry Beechey, Matthew Marozzi, Miranda Mulder, Tully Haines, Amy Buxton, Hassan Huka, Ryan Schumacher, Katie Holloway, Lisa Creffield, Chris and Neil, Aemon Burke, Michael Atkinson, Reggie Martin, Steve May and Josh Peak for their support and encouragement on the journey.

I will not pretend I am not disappointed that my electorate office is temporarily in Modbury North and some distance away from my community. The silver lining is that a brand-new one in Parafield Gardens is being fitted out, and I look forward for it to be ready later in the year. This is centrally located and will serve the community well. In the meantime, it is great to be supported by fantastic staff like Tony, Ryan Schumacher and Pristine Cook, who go out of their way to care for constituents. A special shout-out goes to Sam Dauner for the amazing role he has played in getting things set up.

I literally would not be standing here today without the ongoing support of my rheumatologist, Dr Barbara True. For 14 years I have suffered from psoriatic arthritis, which, if not treated, makes most forms of movement very difficult. She has helped me manage it every step of the way, including a flare-up at the start of the campaign. The gratitude I have for her is beyond measure, and whatever does not kill you makes you stronger.

I also want to thank those candidates who stood for the seat. We may have our differences of opinion, but I can honestly say to Shane Quinn, David Wright and Hemant Dave that it was my pleasure getting to know you. I have stood unsuccessfully in the past, and I want to express my gratitude. Thank you to you and your crews for making me laugh and being exemplary representatives of your causes, especially during the two weeks we spent together at pre-polling.

As a nod of respect that I place in you all, I asked Independent candidate Shane Quinn to put a few words together that I promised to read into my speech, which are as follows:

My father said on many occasions, if you do not like something, sit back and shut up or do something about it...so I did.

I had every intention of changing the world, starting with the electorate I ran for. I was not after big paydays or chauffeured cars, not even pats on the back, just getting things done.

I cannot argue with that, and it is well-made points like those from Shane that show we have more in common than what separates us. We only have to look at Ukraine at the moment to realise how fortunate we are.

In these next four years, I am keen to make an impact on a number of fronts for my community and to work with people like Shane. I know he wanted to see action at The Pines School and so did I. It was a pleasure to tell him and governing council chair, Paul Williamson, that Labor has committed \$1 million towards a new gym at The Pines School. Facilities at the school have been an issue for many years and I am keen to see the standard lift.

I cannot ignore traffic, and I will work to see improvements on our local roads, bike paths and public transport networks. Public housing is significant within the electorate, and I congratulate Minister Cook on her efforts in developing Labor's housing commitments. We will see much-needed

upgrades for 350 currently vacant houses, and 3,000 more public homes improved through a maintenance blitz. The case for many of these upgrades in Playford is strong.

Above all else, I recognised the biggest commitment I can make is to be there for my community. Sometimes, it is to be a shoulder to cry on; other times, it leads to tangible benefits, such as a new postbox in Mawson Lakes, the replacement of a slanting Stobie pole on Kings Road, concrete medians to slow speeding traffic near the Cadzow family home or trimming trees overhanging the property of Mr Singh. These may be little things to some but, when your back is against the wall, they mean everything.

We doorknocked and phoned thousands of people during my campaign, and my biggest commitment to my constituents is to keep on listening and build on what we achieved during that campaign. This includes listening to local businesses, providing them certainty and clearing the way for their success. If a rule does not uphold a community value, then it should be classed as red tape. Supporting business does not mean flogging off government assets. Privatisation provides political expediency and overlooks long-term community benefit.

While the Liberals reneged on their promise to never sell ETSA or pay consultants \$7 million to almost give away the TAB, Labor cannot proclaim its innocence. This is why I stand shoulder to shoulder with the Premier in recognising the past mistakes, such as the sale of the forests, and backing him in, bringing back our trains and trams into the public sector, legislating against any future sale of SA Water and banning new privatisations of public services. When I told David Brown at a street-corner meeting I was proud of Labor's policies, I specifically meant these.

A maiden speech is often reflective of the past, but I ask members: if tomorrow's generation could write to us now, what would they say? Would they thank us for anything, or would they be angry? I know if I could send a similar letter, I would be saying thanks for nothing in relation to past privatisations.

The environment is a huge concern to me, as it is to many voters who put their faith in me. Beyond this but in some way linked, there are two other big sleepers coming our way fast. I am deeply concerned of a future where there is a transport underclass as fuel prices rise, roads become clogged and, with few alternatives in place, the ability to move freely may become a luxury. The sooner we end our dependence on fossil fuels, the sooner we can free ourselves from these future shackles. The Premier's and Minister Koutsantonis's vision for a new industry producing hydrogen has enormous potential and deserves praise for being visionary. It is easy to criticise, but the fallout from complacency is devastating.

Hydrogen may just be the tip of the iceberg for a new beginning and, by embracing the opportunity locally, we are giving ourselves a fighting chance against a dystopian alternative where travel is a luxury for the few. Make no mistake, a new form of fuel on its own will not address this problem. We need to rethink the shape and size of our urban environments, invest in bicycle paths and rail while bringing jobs closer to our homes.

I was often asked during the campaign why I was standing. I made it clear that I was sick of picking up a newspaper and reading how marvellous it was that we have another million-dollar suburb. It is not marvellous: it is an absolute disaster. Housing is not a choice. Housing is not a luxury. Housing is a fundamental human need and right. Housing is the single largest expense for almost every household in the community.

When we are forced to pay vastly higher amounts for our housing, we are left with less to spend on local businesses or to invest in our own future and the future of our children. I am encouraged that since I started 10 months ago I have noticed some parts of the media recognising that we have a huge problem for both prospective renters and homebuyers.

According to the latest data from Demographia, the median cost of a house in Adelaide is now eight times the median household income. We used to pride ourselves on our competitive advantage of being an affordable place to live. Now, according to ANZ and CoreLogic, it will take, on average, 11 years for first-home buyers to save for a median 20 per cent deposit. I have a mortgage, and therefore a foot in the door. I am one of the lucky ones, but the group of have-nots is growing by the day. If we do not make an effort to tackle housing affordability now, we betray generations of future Australians.

Some may think that because the value of their property has skyrocketed this is not a problem for them. I beg to differ. We must remind ourselves that rising housing costs are all relative. If your house goes up by \$100,000, then there is a good chance the one you want to buy next will go up by the same amount. If we do not already, most of us also aspire to have children or grandchildren and I, for one, do not want unaffordable housing to be a terrible legacy we hand to them.

State governments on their own are not the silver bullet to solving the problem. We are most certainly part of the mix, but we cannot do things on our own without the support of all tiers of government, along with business and social services, pulling together as one. The challenge with any goodwill shown in solving this problem is that one false move may quickly unravel everything. In a national market, any gains we make locally can be cancelled out overnight by interstate investment, and hence that is why this must be seen as both a local and a national problem.

I also want to make it clear that this is not a call to drive down the cost of our properties. Such a move would create negative equity, and I have seen the consequences of that when I lived in Darwin. The desired end point is fairly clear: we must aim to slow housing prices to allow time for wage growth to catch up, and we need to reduce the cost of new supply coming onto the market.

How we get there will be varied. Arguments around solutions—such as land supply, building materials, new cities, taxation, and public housing—all tackle this problem differently. I have been around long enough to know that there is merit in all of these, even if some pull in the opposite direction to another. That is why we need a concerted effort to examine the merits of every option before deciding on a way forward.

The other problem is a general willingness to want to get this problem solved. This can only happen if all sides of politics across the country and in different chambers put down their weapons and start working together. It took a generation for us to land in this mess, and it will probably take that long to address it, but it will only happen if we all have the will to succeed.

I make this plea to everyone in this chamber: be an adult, put your differences aside and become part of the solution. I made my commitment to Katherine Maurer that I would say such words, but I also say to my son, and all other children living in my electorate, that I am here to be part of the solution. My son, Julian, and nephew, Toby, are in the gallery. I promise to care about the issues so that, hopefully, you will grow into a world where you do not have to.

To Julian, also known as The King, Monkey or Mighty Julian: you are a warm, funny and caring boy who gives so much. Like your dad, you are a bit of a joker—maybe not quite as funny. We have built around us a world layered with complexity. When this has got the better of others, use that superpower of yours and give them a smile, and when things get hard for you, remember, daddy loves you very much. As you get older, remember that I am only ever as far as a phone call away, and hopefully even closer. Most importantly, do not stop being yourself. Nobody can do a better job of being you.

To my sister, Jayne, I have always admired your ability to stick up for yourself. I am even more impressed with how you do it for others. You could easily be doing this job, but instead you have chosen to excel at teaching and make a difference in many lives every day. You have every right to be proud of what you have done. You, Stuart and Toby are a great unit, and we love spending time with you all.

My parents, John and Elizabeth, mean the world to me. Something does not feel quite right if I do not speak to them on a daily basis. We pull each other's legs all the time, and I enjoy every minute I spend with them. I love them deeply and owe them so much. My mum never stops wanting the best for her family. Selfless and loyal, she is always surrounded by friends because she is one. My dad is my best mate, and that is why he was the best man at my wedding. I am glad you can be here today because this win is for you.

During my wedding speech, I had everybody worried that I was going to forget my wife. It was as deliberate then as it is now: I am saving the best until last. My wife, Briony, is a very special person. She puts up with a lot, especially me. The last few months have been a challenge and she has never complained. A lot has been sacrificed for me to be standing here today, which is why this

win is as much a victory for her. She has a heart of gold, the patience of a saint and never stops giving.

I have been lucky to travel to many parts of the world, but the most beautiful thing I have ever seen was the instant love she had when our son, Julian, was born. Instinctively, she knew how to be a great mum from the get-go, and I love her for all that she is and what she does. When we first met, she told me she liked adventures. We have had a lot together and I look forward to many more to come.

I cannot stress how much of an honour this moment has been for me and my family. While I think it is important to have some idea of who I am, what matters most is the people at home. I have given you over 6½ thousand words in telling you my story; now it is over to you to tell me yours.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown): I pass on my congratulations as well to the member for Playford.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:43): I rise today to provide my contribution to the Address in Reply to the Governor and welcome all the new members and the re-elected members to this place. It is a privilege to represent your constituency, but no more than it is for me to represent again the people of Chaffey in the Riverland and the Mallee in this place. I would sincerely like to thank Her Excellency the Governor for opening the Fifty-Fifth Parliament.

It was an absolute pleasure recently to host the Governor in the electorate of Chaffey. Not only did she attend the 65th Mardi Gras at Loxton but she also had the pleasure of attending the RSL Loxton branch ANZAC dinner and unveiling the monument dedicated to the Riverland's rail history. She also visited Cashmore Avenue in Loxton, sharing the same name as her mother, Jennifer Cashmore, who was the member for Coles from 1977 to 1993 and the third woman to be elected to the House of Assembly.

As I have said, I am also very proud to be re-elected to this place for my fourth term. As we all know, Chaffey, being the premium food bowl in South Australia, has a lot to offer—not only through its greater economic drive to the state's economy but through its people: their tenacity, their dedication and their ability to rise above the hardships that have been presented to the regional and primary industry communities that are facing a variable climate that really puts regional centres under scrutiny, particularly with the recent natural disasters. I will talk about that a little bit later.

I am humbled and grateful to have received the support that I did through the election and the campaign leading up to that election. I have given my word to every constituent in Chaffey that I will continue to dedicate myself to their interests and that serving the people will always be my first priority.

This year, some of the electoral boundaries have changed. The electorate of Chaffey has expanded, taking in a little more of Mid Murray Council as well as Karoonda East Murray council. Some 30,000 square kilometres are now the electorate of Chaffey, which gives me the opportunity to go out and explore some of the great parts of regional South Australia, encompassing the Riverland and the greater parts of the Mallee. It really is a wonderful experience to go out there to experience some of the newly maintained roads that were rebuilt under the Marshall Liberal government.

This gives me an opportunity or a segue to recognise the former Premier, member for Dunstan, Steven Marshall. Steven can be proud of the legacy he has left as Premier over the last four years. The previous government's lasting achievements can be credited to his determination and his genuine passion for our state. I am grateful for his friendship, commitment and passion for our state, especially for the regions of South Australia.

Many of our primary industries have done it tough over the past four years with drought, hailstorms, bushfires, the coronavirus, the pandemic that has disrupted global markets, and in particular the impacts that China has had on many of the commodities, particularly in Chaffey. It has also been important to have the former Premier committed to and focused on regional South Australia and supporting these industries. I have been honoured to serve alongside the former Premier and am grateful for the responsibility he gave me as Minister for Primary Industries and Regions here in South Australia throughout those turbulent times.

As a minister, I was very humbled to be given the esteemed honour for primary industries and regions. It is a great passion of mine—not only in a former life before coming into this place but also in understanding the complexities of living in the regions, understanding the complexities of being a primary producer, and understanding a variable climate that we deal with every year.

Some of the issues that we had to deal with, and the complexities of being a primary producer, included contaminated strawberries where needles were put into strawberries. This put most people on high alert when they were purchasing their fruit and vegetables—not only were strawberries a target but it put every consumer on high alert. We saw large amounts of the primary sector, particularly strawberries and berries, thrown out due to the uncertainty. We dealt with floods and we dealt with bushfires: not only as the member for Mawson has said, but there were bushfires right around South Australia.

As a government, I think we did a very good job. It is all very well to criticise and say that things did not happen quickly enough, but we needed to get a workforce and volunteers out there to support and prop up those communities that needed help and support during those times, both on Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.

The devastating fires in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island were very visual bushfires. We know that densely wooded areas on Kangaroo Island were great fuel for fire as well as the forests over there. There were also the Keilira fires down in the South-East. These fires were just a part of what we were to be dealing with in terms of natural disasters and that I dealt with particularly as a minister for the regions and agriculture that were surrounded by all this uncertainty.

Sadly, we also experienced drought. During my time as a minister, much of the state was in drought and I want to thank all the participants who came to support the roundtable meetings we had, the commodity sectors and the banking industry, looking at ways we could best support those industries and communities that had been long-suffering through the drought that saw almost all the state impacted.

I must say it was quite heart-wrenching to see the effect that it had not only on businesses but also on the mental health of those communities and those individual farmers who were unable to stump up payments to banks, unable to put food on their tables, unable to feed livestock, having to ship livestock around the country and having to sell livestock. Fortunately, we saw very strong commodity prices through that drought and that gave some level of buoyancy to what could have been an absolute disaster.

We also saw a significant number of hailstorms around South Australia, with none more impacted than the Adelaide Plains, up through the Barossa and into the Riverland. Sadly, we saw the Riverland experience three significant hailstorms. The government did come to the party and stumped up support packages to help them.

We saw biosecurity threats: we saw Queensland fruit fly come into the Riverland and then we saw Mediterranean fruit fly come into Adelaide, which came at a considerable cost not only to industry but to government, looking at how we eradicate those invasive pests. The world's most invasive insect is the Queensland fruit fly, as well as the Mediterranean fruit fly. We really did have to change the way we thought about distributing fruit. We had to stop giving our family and friends fruit, and stop the movement of fruit over a very short period of time so that we could eradicate those pests.

We also saw the Pacific oyster mortality syndrome (POMS) in the oyster industry that brought the oyster industry to its knees. The government was able to give them significant support so that we could develop our own facilities and infrastructure in South Australia to develop the spat and grow that spat out of our small farms and then start to rebuild and regrow the oyster industry in South Australia.

One of the big side effects, the unseen issues, were the mental health issues and the suicides that we saw through these very turbulent times of uncertainty and that really did pull on the heartstrings. As the minister responsible for all those sectors, there was never a waking moment when I was not thinking about the people who had been severely impacted, their families, their friends

and their community members. I will talk about the FaB Scout program a little bit later. They are some of the challenges that as a minister I had to deal with.

I am proud that I was able to leave a legacy. In my short time as a minister in government, we saw the reform of the scalefish industry, with large amounts of licence buybacks so that we could not only have a sustainable industry for fish stocks but make sure we had fishermen who had a sustainable business that they could continue to operate knowing that the government had brought back some of those long lines and net licences to bring those who remained in the industry into an area of sustainability, so that they could put a restricted amount of fish into markets to hold prices up and not flood markets with large amounts of fish caught, which was devastating not only the prices but also the sustainability.

We saw a harvest extension in the pilchard industry and that not only saved those operators but gave them the ability to supply the food stocks to the tuna industry. One goes hand in hand or hand in glove with the other. We also saw the opening up of leasehold areas in South Australia so that we could see more aquaculture, which is the future of the fisheries industry.

We saw a large area opened up for those aquaculture businesses, whether it be algae, whether it be seaweed, whether it be the ongoing kingfish, tuna or finfish industries, or whether it be some of the molluscs or the shellfish. It is a great opportunity, and I think we are seeing the benefits and the rewards of that opening up.

We also saw the lobster season extended. It was dealt a severe blow by China. We know that China really did pull the rug out from under a lot of commodities that South Australia has relied very heavily on, and we have seen the devastation that caused, not only in lobster but in wine and in red meat. We have seen large sectors that have had to restructure and continue their way without China being one of the great so-called saviours with high demand and high prices that gave our primary sector a real shot in the arm. Sadly, they were brought to their knees once China pulled the rug out from a lot of those industries overnight.

The dog fence rebuild is another great legacy, and we are very proud that a \$25 million rebuild of the 2,150-kilometre fence is protecting a \$4.1 billion industry in South Australia. Industry, state government and the commonwealth government came together to provide \$25 million of funding to rebuild 1,600 kilometres of that fence. It was nothing short of a once-in-a-generation achievement, and I am very proud to be able to say that I worked with industry and with the commonwealth to make sure that we actually got a rebuild of a fence that was falling apart. We were seeing wild animals coming through that fence. Farmers were lying in bed at night wondering just how many sheep were going to be lying dead in paddocks of a morning once the wild dogs had roamed their way through.

Lifting the moratorium on GM crops on mainland South Australia was another great initiative, and we are very proud to have brought us into line with other mainland states. It gives more tools in the toolbox for our farmers and our grain producers not only to develop some of those GM technologies here in South Australia but also to bring in research money. It brings in investors' money, and it gives us the ability to be competitive, more competitive than we were.

We know that GM canola was part of the package but, more importantly, there are other crops that we are looking to put some GM technology into. We are looking at pastures for the dairy industry, and if we can get another rotation out of an annual crop in some of those dairy properties that is a game changer for the dairy industry. It is a game changer for some of the livestock and red meat industries. It was a real turning point, and we are very proud of that.

Regarding the introduction of the amended pastoral bill, sadly that has gone back to the environment department, and I am hoping that the minister responsible will be responsible in allowing that pastoral bill to advance. I do not want to see it roll back to the dark old days. We have to make sure that we give the tools to the pastoralists that they need to advance their businesses so that they can be more flexible and have the ability to be more diverse with those pastoral lands. The drafting of the biosecurity bill was also very important.

The introduction of 55 mobile blackspot towers over a period was a \$10 million investment by the state government. The previous Labor government forgot about the regions. They forgot that

there was digital non-connectivity, and so as a responsible government we not only governed for all of South Australia but we put the balance into the connectivity with mobile phone towers.

We also funded and developed a number of blueprints for forestry, for dairy and for the grains industry, which I am very proud to be a part of. As a minister, they are the things that I am so proud to stand here today and say as part of a legacy. It is a short legacy, I might add, but it was advancement in agriculture. We know about agtech, we know about carbon sequestration and storage, we know about the future of what farming is about to behold. I think I was able to plant some of the seeds there, and hopefully the current primary industries minister will support some of those initiatives so that we can advance agriculture and the primary sector. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Deputy Speaker (Hon. A. Piccolo) on behalf of the Speaker—

Independent Commission Against Corruption - Failing the Corruption Road Test: Corruption Risks in South Australia's Driver Training Industry

By the Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas)—

Capital City Committee—Annual Report 2020-21

By the Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas) on behalf of the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Aged and Infirm Persons' Property—Fees Notice

Community Titles—Fees Notice

Legal Practitioners—Fees Notice

Real Property—Fees Notice

Registration of Deeds—Fees Notice

Roads (Opening and Closing)—Fees Notice

Strata Titles—Fees Notice

Valuation of Land—Fees Notice

Worker's Liens—Fees Notice

By the Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas) on behalf of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

National Parks and Wildlife—Fees Notice—Wildlife

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Harbors and Navigation—Fees

Motor Vehicles—

Fees

National Heavy Vehicles Registration Fees

Passenger Transport—Fees Notice

By the Treasurer (Hon. S.C. Mullighan)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Controlled Substances—Fees Notice—Poppy Cultivation
 Fisheries Management—
 Demerit Points—Hand Fish Spear and Spear Gun
 Fees Notice
 General—Hand Fish Spear and Spear Gun
 Industrial Hemp—Fees Notice
 Livestock—Fees Notice
 Plant Health—Fees Notice
 Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes)—
 Fees Notice—Egg
 Fees Notice—Meat
 Fees Notice—Plant Products
 Fees Notice—Seafood

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. N.F. Cook)—

Inclusive SA—Annual Report 2020-21

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis) on behalf of the Minister for Local Government (Hon. G.G. Brock)—

Local Council By-Laws—
 District Council of Mount Remarkable—
 No. 1—Permits and Penalties
 No. 2—Moveable Signs
 No. 3—Roads
 No. 4—Local Government Land
 No. 5—Dogs
 No. 6—Cats

By the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs (Hon. A. Michaels)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—
 Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing)—Fees Notice

By the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Correctional Services, Department for—Report of actions taken following the Coronial Inquest into the death in custody of Joshua Marek Stachor—April 2022
 Government Response to Standing Committees—Legislative Review Committee: Report on the Correctional Services (Miscellaneous) Variation Regulations 2021

Question Time

STATE BUDGET

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05): My question is to the Premier. Is the government still committed to running surplus budgets across the next four years without imposing new taxes or increasing existing taxes?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:05): I congratulate the member for Black on his re-election and also taking on the position of Leader of the Opposition. We wish him moderate success in that role, of course, but most sincerely our best wishes go to him in this new role. Once again, we get the continuation of the baseless fear and smear campaign which was run at the last state election by those opposite. The ongoing allegation that—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: standing order 98. The minister is about a minute into his question and he's already debating the matter.

Mr Whetstone: That's right. That's how long it took him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey, not quite yet. The question was about the government's commitment, and that has a bit of prehistory to it, so I will allow the minister to give some prehistory and also get to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: If that's how Liberal frontbenchers count, it's little wonder the budget is in deficit at the moment. We made it absolutely clear that not only would we be delivering a comprehensive reform agenda, a policy agenda, led in principle to getting our health system back on track, but we would be funding those commitments in a way that wouldn't need to impose new taxes and charges on the people of South Australia, that wouldn't see changes in tax policy, that wouldn't see what we saw in the last four years, and that is a governing party go to the people of South Australia breaking its election commitments when it came to tax policy.

We had the approach of those opposite. They promised to, I think, take the axe to land tax, and then we saw, less than 18 months later—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: it's been the status of this house that the government is not responsible for policies of former governments, so when the Treasurer makes claims about former Liberal policies he is contravening standing order 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My reading of that comment is that he was making an observation; he wasn't taking responsibility for your party's decisions. I will listen to what the minister has to say, but I ask the minister to stay on the tenet of the question.

Mr Whetstone: Concentrate, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, I don't need your advice, please.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: What we won't be doing is replicating a full-frontal assault on property owners, like what happened in 2019 with the previous government's land tax reforms. What we won't be doing—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: debate pure and simple and utterly against the standing orders.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speakers—and there are a few of those on this side—have said that there is always a bit of latitude for compare and contrast; is that correct, Mr—

Mr Teague: You're the boss.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'You're the boss,' right, I am. That's right. Treasurer, you have the call. I think you can continue.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: We won't be conducting a full-frontal assault on property owners. We won't be conducting a full-frontal assault on motorists, like what happened in 2019—not only an increase beyond the bounds of the government's regular fees and charges setting regime but also and up to a 30 per cent increase in the fees and administration charges imposed on motorists when they transact with the government—with those two things alone designed to raise more than \$30 million of extra revenue per year from motorists.

What we won't be doing is increasing, for example, the solid waste levy by 40 per cent—not only a bin tax on every South Australian household and business but also something that saw a direct result in increases in council rates to more than two-thirds of metropolitan households as a result of that unheralded, unprecedented tax increase.

At the last election, we promised that we won't be doing that to the people of South Australia. Unlike those opposite, we think that our election commitments are important, and we will be upholding all of them, including those we made on tax policy.

STATE BUDGET

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10): My question again is to the Premier. What government agencies will be required to make deeper spending cuts over and above the already 1.7 per cent mandated efficiency dividend? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr SPEIRS: The Mid-Year Budget Review predicted inflation of 2.75 per cent this financial year when Adelaide CPI is now running close to 5 per cent, inevitably increasing pressure on budgets.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:11): I am not quite sure what the latest CPI figures have to do with what the policy was we announced at the last election. When it came to pursuing efficiencies in the public sector, we said that, in association with delivering more than \$3 billion of improvements to state government services and infrastructure as part of our election commitments, they would not completely but in part be paid for by seeking some efficiencies from government departments. We made it absolutely clear that we wouldn't be imposing new savings as part of that effort on frontline service delivery agencies, and that included health, it included education, it included the police, and it included TAFE, courts, child protection and so on.

We have laid out our policy. As to what that means in terms of dollar figures for those in-scope agencies—those central government agencies, for example, like the ones that are responsible to me, or to the Premier, or to the Attorney-General, those that do not predominantly provide frontline services—will be revealed on 2 June when we hand down the budget.

STATE BUDGET

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): Supplementary to the Treasurer: how much money will be saved by the 1.7 per cent efficiency dividend, and has the Treasurer had advice as to whether, with rising inflation, that is going to provide enough funding to cover the anticipated election commitment costs?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:12): Again, I am not quite sure that the Leader of the Opposition understands how budgets are annually set in South Australia. Separate to the regular inflation rate, which does on a lagging basis have a partial impact on the fees and charges that we might set, there is a wholly separate way of indexing agency budgets which is not attached to or aligned with inflation.

The leader seems to be confused about whether or not agency budgets will be indexed by a particular amount and that that is tied to inflation. Well, I can advise the Leader of the Opposition that that is not how budgeting is done here in South Australia. It's not how budgeting has been done for the last 20 years, and it's not how budgeting will be done over the next four or, God willing, eight or 12 years under this government.

We will be handing down our budget on 2 June, and I am sure that all the curiosities that are eating away at the Leader of the Opposition will be satisfied by the figures that will be published in the budget papers.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (14:14): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier please update the house on any federal election commitments that would improve health services and boost bed numbers in South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:14): I thank the member for Elder for her question. I know that she takes very seriously her responsibility, this whole government's responsibility, towards improving our health system in South Australia. We know it is under extraordinary strain not just because of the COVID pandemic, which of course puts pressure on the health system throughout the entirety of our commonwealth, but also because this state government has inherited a health system that was made demonstrably worse under the life of the former conservative government here in South Australia.

Ramping, we know, increased by over 400 per cent. When the former government did take it upon themselves to eventually, on occasions, release ramping statistics, it became increasingly clear—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —that ramping, under their watch, was made so much worse by upwards of 480 per cent. This government has been elected with a very serious commitment to improve the status of our health system. In the pursuit of that effort, we unapologetically acknowledge that we are looking for active partners to achieve outcomes. We want to be a government that is open-minded to working collaboratively with other agencies and other parts of our economy, including the private sector, to try to drive performance improvements within the health system, and do you know what? That also happens to include the Commonwealth of Australia.

On this side of the chamber, we believe that where there is a willing partner in a federal government to improve our public health system, then we will work with them. It is incredibly unfortunate that there is virtually no evidence of the current commonwealth government showing any willingness or any appetite to engage in constructive discussions, constructive dialogue, let alone willingness to make investments in our public health system in South Australia or anywhere around the country to improve outcomes, to improve the sort of care that patients reasonably expect in a First World country such as our own.

I can't tell you how grateful I have been over recent weeks to learn of the news that the federal Labor Party is willing in government, should they be elected on Saturday, to partner with our state government in investing in critical public health infrastructure in our state. We know that investment at Flinders Medical Centre is needed.

What we do not need as a state are the sorts of piecemeal investments in Flinders Medical Centre that we have seen in the past, the sorts of investments where you might spend money opening up additional capacity in the emergency department only to close capacity behind the emergency department, the sorts of investments that led the former government's own independent report to establish that it actually may have made the situation worse rather than better.

We want to be a government that drives big investments, big change in terms of the performance of the Flinders Medical Centre, which is why we are putting on the table \$200 million of state government money if we can have that matched from the commonwealth. The federal Liberal Party, they're out. They don't want to be party to such an investment, but federal Labor have committed to \$200 million at the Flinders Medical Centre. This means we can see a \$400 million redevelopment of the Flinders Medical Centre if the Australian people, if the South Australian people, so choose this Saturday.

MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier told the federal Labor leader that a major road infrastructure project to which they have both committed \$60 million each, \$120 million in funding, has been rejected by a South Australian government commissioned feasibility study as not justified in economic terms?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:18): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I, too, join the Treasurer, as I mentioned earlier, in congratulating him on his elevation to the important office in our state of Leader of the Opposition. I wish him well and it is good that he is here today.

Again, it won't surprise the Leader of the Opposition or anyone else in this place that I am very excited about the proposition of working with a federal government that wants to make investments in important pieces of infrastructure, whether they be health infrastructure or road infrastructure. The Majors Road proposition, which I understand the Leader of the Opposition is referring to, is one that our government is committed to. When we make election commitments we are going to deliver upon them.

We know there have been previous commitments made to the Majors Road on/off ramp proposition and we know there have been a large number of representations made. Indeed, there have been strong advocates for this project. I know the federal member for Kingston desperately wants to see this happen. I know the member for Davenport is very supportive of this project. I know the member for Gibson is desperate to see action with respect to traffic relief from Brighton Road, to actually be realised rather than talked about.

But there are other key members of this parliament who have been proponents of this project in another lifetime, and that of course is the Leader of the Opposition himself. In fact, I understand the Leader of the Opposition once identified this as a number one priority. Your priority is our priority.

There is one alarming element to what has occurred over recent days. I think we are starting to see the fault lines emerge in terms of how the opposition is going to conduct itself because—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir: standing order 98, the substance of the question. This is not germane information and the Premier is clearly debating when he is describing fault lines in another political party. There is clearly absolutely no substance to what the member is now presenting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give the Premier an opportunity to show how this discussion is relevant.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: South Australians know this parliament can work really effectively if we work in a bipartisan way on the things that we agree upon. I would have thought that if the opposition was looking for an opportunity to be bipartisan and constructive on some issues it might be on the Leader of the Opposition's number one priority.

I thought if we could achieve agreement on anything it was going to be his number one priority. A couple of weeks into opposition and it turns out not so. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition now is an active antagonist of a proposition that he once supported.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir. The question was very clear: it was about whether the Premier had provided advice to the Leader of the Opposition federally about a feasibility study. The presentation now is pure debate and directly opposite to standing order 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understood the answer has provided some context, which I will allow.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: For the benefit of the Leader of Opposition Business in this place, of course I spoke to the federal leader of the Australian Labor Party when seeking their support for this project and their commitment to co-invest with the state Labor government. That was of course before there was a state Labor government, and they have made such a commitment, so this will only be realised in the eventuality of a federal Labor government, which will be up to the people of South Australia and Australia to determine. But, yes, of course I spoke to him and advised him of the fact that this is a project that we thought enjoyed bipartisan support potentially.

I also advised him of the fact that this is a project that so many people in the southern suburbs want to see. We know that with a multibillion-dollar investment in the north-south corridor as a result of the former government's actions, and consistent with this government's intentions, with that sort of multibillion-dollar commitment, we want people to be able to use the road, including in suburbs such as Sheidow Park, Trott Park and Hallett Cove.

We also know that any analysis of this proposition in the past was potentially done in the context that the Hove level crossing project was going to eventuate as well. That project was committed to and then of course backflipped on and dumped, which has left Brighton Road in a rather perilous position, with growing demand for that road without adequate investment. So we are committed to this investment and we are going to make sure it happens should federal Labor win.

MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): My supplementary is to the Premier. Given the Premier has highlighted changes to the dynamic of the road network in the south-western suburbs, will he agree to commission a new feasibility study which takes into consideration those challenges?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:24): This is a project that we would like to deliver during the life of this term of government. The Leader of the Opposition will well appreciate, as I think every individual in this place would well appreciate, that big infrastructure projects do take time. I am just trying to recall what big infrastructure projects were delivered upon over the last four years.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: They did the Portrush Road intersection.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: There was the Magill Road-Portrush Road intersection. That game changer—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir. The question was very straightforward: it was about whether the government would commission a new feasibility study given that there have been changes to the dynamics in the south-western suburbs in traffic. The Premier's response is going nowhere near it, as has been his practice so far. It is against standing orders, and we seek your support to keep the government to the standing orders provided for all of us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that a reflection of my chairing, member?

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope it is not. As far as I could tell, the Premier was indicating the barriers required to deliver a major project which the Leader of the Opposition asked about.

Mr GARDNER: You may have misheard the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Mr GARDNER: The question was about whether the government would commission a new feasibility study.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That's correct, and my understanding would be that the commission of the study would lead to the project, and the Premier was actually explaining why he wanted to deliver the initial project immediately. Premier, did you wish to add to the answer?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: As I was saying, it does take time to get big infrastructure projects off the ground, which the now opposition would be well familiar with, given that we saw more commitment to advertising campaigns on infrastructure than to actually delivering them. We, of course, are getting on with this project. It shouldn't surprise those opposite that the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure is actively in discussions with the CEO of Transport and Infrastructure.

One of the things that has informed my judgement in respect of action around big road projects in South Australia is to get on with the job of key appointments. We have appointed Mr Jon Whelan to the position of chief executive officer of the department because we see in Mr Whelan a person who has a long track record of actually delivering projects. As both the current minister and also the former Minister for Transport and Infrastructure know, Mr Whelan gets it done. We made his appointment expeditiously because we didn't want to find ourselves in a six-month or even potentially a nine-month process that we have seen in times past where it takes forever to make appointments, which actually delay the ability to deliver on commitments that have been made. So we are committed to this project.

Of course, we have stated publicly that our commitment is very much contingent upon having a federal commonwealth partner in this regard. I think the record shows that the federal Coalition don't want to support residents in the southern suburbs getting this project. So if you are travelling down Marion Road tomorrow morning and it's feeling a bit congested, and you are thinking to yourself, 'I would like residents in other parts of our state, such as Hallett Cove, to be on the north-south corridor using the Darlington facility, for instance, rather than being on Marion Road,' and you are thinking about why you are stuck in traffic, then I would encourage you to actively contemplate voting Labor this weekend.

If you vote for the Coalition federally there is no investment in Majors Road, which means the burden on Brighton Road is likely to be far greater than what it can be if we are able to deliver on this project. We are committed to it. We are going to make sure it happens. The time line that we would like to achieve is getting it done in this term should federal Labor be elected on the weekend, which we are working expeditiously to achieve.

MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): Supplementary: is the Premier aware of advice from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport officials that an on/off ramp at

Majors Road may actually increase traffic flow on Brighton Road, which I am sure the member for Gibson doesn't want to hear?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:28): We are a government that is absolutely well aware of the challenges associated with Brighton Road. It is hardly for me to speak about Brighton Road as much as the member for Gibson, who uses Brighton Road on an almost daily basis; this is very much a key component of the member for Gibson's community. We heard very loud representations in the lead-up to the state election about just how much this issue needs to be addressed. There is no-one in the seat of Gibson or in the surrounding community who doesn't want to see less traffic on Brighton Road, and we are absolutely committed to ensuring we do something about it.

The Majors Road on/off ramp serves as a very serious investment to help relieve that burden on Brighton Road. It is one that, as I have stated previously, not only do we support but indeed the Leader of the Opposition used to support himself. He has decided to go down the low road of opposing a project that he once—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: standing order 98. When the member is reflecting on the opposition leader, not only is it challenging standing order 127 but it is clearly debate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the Premier to get closer to the question.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We will do everything we can to ensure that the concerns of those residents on and around Brighton Road are heard and acted upon, and that is why we are committed to infrastructure in a range of different formats but that also does include of course the Majors Road development.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader, you have had—

Mr SPEIRS: Supplementary?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have had two supplementaries.

Mr SPEIRS: I have lots to ask about this.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are limited. I think this might be your last supplementary.

Mr SPEIRS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): My supplementary question is to the Premier. Given that he is unaware of advice from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport that traffic might be increased on Brighton Road, will he commission—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order: the opposition leader is inserting facts into his question. He can't do that, so, sir, I ask that you rule that question out of order and ask him to rephrase.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. I will give the leader a chance to rephrase the question or move on to another question.

Mr SPEIRS: Thank you for your patience, Mr Deputy Speaker. My supplementary question is to the Premier. Will the Premier commission advice with regard to potential increases in traffic flows along Brighton Road as a consequence of the development of an on/off ramp for the Southern Expressway at Majors Road?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:31): The former government did commission a report into the Majors Road on/off ramp, and they received that in February of 2020. Their report concluded that there would be a reduction in overall travel distances for a reasonably significant number of trips but that that would not certainly justify the cost, and the government then abandoned the project. That was in February 2020.

But that didn't deter one young ambitious minister. He kept on fighting for this. He kept on fighting for this project. He didn't capitulate. Oh, no, he fought on. He fought on because on 13 July of that same year, after having received that report—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —he still supported the project.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

Mr GARDNER: Debate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport have anything else to add?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have plenty to add, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you also ensure that it's closer to the question.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am, sir. I think the premise of the argument made by the Leader of the Opposition is that his government received a report that didn't justify this expenditure; therefore, why are we. He received that report in February 2020. I just gave the house an explanation about why the former government didn't proceed. What I am saying is that didn't stop a young ambitious minister fighting for his community, because in July of that same year, after having received that report, what was he doing? He was still fighting for that interchange. He wouldn't capitulate. River Murray, capitulate? Yes. Majors Road, capitulate? No.

The Hon. C.J. Picton: Who are you talking about?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I'm talking about the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Black.

Mr TARZIA: Point of order: this is debate, 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Gibson.

MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the government's commitment to build the Majors Road interchange and any alternative options canvassed?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:33): It gives me great pleasure. The people of the southern suburbs have waited long enough, particularly the good people of the electorate of Black—suburbs like Hallett Cove, O'Halloran Hill, Sheidow Park, Trott Park. They were promised this interchange in 2018 and they have waited patiently for four long years. In fact, they were told over that four-year period the following. On a Facebook post on 6 March before the 2018 election, they were told:

The Southern Expressway by-passes our community with no opportunities to get on or off. If re-elected on March 17th my number one priority will be advancing an on/off ramp at Majors Road starting with—

this is unambiguous—

planning and design works.

That post goes on to say—obviously currently an interesting comment—'Unfortunately, Labor cannot and should not be trusted to get this happening.' I think you misspelt Liberal. You've got an 'a', 'b', 'o' and 'r' in it.

Then another Facebook post on 8 March, with a video of a young, ambitious man driving along the Southern Expressway, says, 'For far too long the Southern Expressway has bypassed our community and I want that to change.' The post goes on to say, 'I'm 100 per cent focused on delivering this project with design works budgeted for in the new term of a Liberal government.' It

was an ambitious and idealistic time. They were lifting their eyes above the horizon for an interchange at Majors Road.

Then the then government received their report. As I said earlier, the final feasibility study on this project was received in February 2020. But then that young, idealistic member for Black kept on fighting. On 13 July 2020, he was on the ABC spruiking the potential for the project. After they have received the report, on the basis of which he wants us to abandon it, he says, 'I don't think it's something that will happen in the next couple of years'—he was right—but it will happen down the track'. Right again! Right again!

The Majors Road on/off ramp is a critical piece of infrastructure that the member for Gibson has been fighting for. Why? Because of the debacle over the Hove Crossing, the debacle that was of the former Minister for Transport and Infrastructure of blessed memory. We need this on/off ramp. The people of Gibson need this on/off ramp. The people of Black want it. Guess what? This weekend, they will have a chance to vote for it again. I suspect they will be very surprised to see what's happening with their local member of parliament.

We are going into detailed planning. Planning works are anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. I will consult with the local member of parliament, the Leader of the Opposition. I will consult with the member for Gibson and all the local communities, including those people who are impacted. An analysis already conducted has identified opportunities to refine the concept and minimise the impacts on the national park that people are concerned about. I am also advised that the interchange won't impact access to Glenthorne Farm. Further, final design will ensure that the continuity of the Patrick Jonker Veloway is maintained.

We will do this properly. We will make the Leader of the Opposition proud. We will make sure that his community can finally get access to that Southern Expressway and that, when he does, that young, idealistic man driving along, looking at an interchange he couldn't get on or off, can think of me, the Premier and the member for Gibson, who has worked so hard to make sure that his community can get access to a long overdue piece of infrastructure.

MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier find it acceptable that the current design for the Southern Expressway on/off ramps at Majors Road run through Glenthorne National Park and will see the loss of potentially thousands of trees?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:38): I think Glenthorne Farm, the national park, also had a BMX track put on it by—

An honourable member: And a soccer pitch.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And a soccer pitch.

Mr Speirs: Empty areas.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Empty areas. It is true to say that the design members opposite had endorsed at the last election did take out significant trees. I understand that there is significant work being undertaken by the department to minimise that and substantially cut back the loss of amenity. I will consult with the Leader of the Opposition about his love for the trees of Glenthorne Farm and that national park and show him what the previous government had planned to take out, despite his advocacy, his strong advocacy for that bypass, and make sure that we can minimise those impacts.

We want to make sure that the amenity of the area remains. Majors Road really is a tale of two types of use. Monday to Friday it's a very different type of use from the weekends. I think on weekends there are a lot more people using the areas in and around where the interchange is proposed. We have to make sure that we can interface that appropriately in making sure we are not taking out trees unnecessarily. When the opposition leader says 'thousands of trees', remember that some shrubs are classified as trees.

I will be making sure that we minimise the impact on the natural environment, making sure that we can maintain the Patrick Jonker Veloway, making sure that we can minimise the impact on what I think is a very good investment in soccer facilities and, of course, access to the BMX facility. But I do note that when the Leader of the Opposition and the federal Leader of the Opposition—now Premier and the current leader of the Labor Party, Mr Anthony Albanese—were there, we were in the local community before the announcement and after the announcement. I have to say it was an overwhelmingly well-received announcement.

Mr Speirs: You're talking to the sub-branch.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, it wasn't the sub-branch. Again, the same reasons that the member for Black had endorsed this project are the reasons we are doing it: because it's the right thing to do. The capitulation is hard to understand. Potentially, he knew of leaks coming out, so he thought he would try to divert issues because the leaks were quite embarrassing. I am not sure who is trying to undermine his leadership so early and so quickly. Perhaps this is a way of trying to divert from that leak. Who else could be a young, ambitious shadow minister looking for a promotion?

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: standing order 98, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, do you have anything else to add? No.

TORRENS TO DARLINGTON PROJECT

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:41): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. What an excellent job you are doing! My question is also to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Following his advice to the house in the last week of sitting that the current design of the Torrens to Darlington project is under review, who is undertaking the review and how long will the review of the current design of the Torrens to Darlington project last?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:41): That is a very good question. Mr Jon Whelan, who is the Chief Executive of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, is someone who is overseeing almost every major piece of infrastructure in this state. He is someone who I think enjoys bipartisan support; he certainly did in the last term. Mr Whelan and his associates—Mr Wayne Buckerfield and his team—do an exceptional job, and I think they are a great example of public servants who are able to serve the government of the day fearlessly and frankly.

So we are looking at things like the very elevated roadways that the former government was proposing in and around Anzac Highway to see whether they actually work, whether they actually cause queuing in the tunnels. We are looking at what they were attempting to do in West Hindmarsh with another 17 metre-high elevated roadway to reconnect to Grange Road and the impact and visual amenity impact that would have on local communities. We are also, of course, looking at how best to make sure that the remedy works are done properly, and that takes time.

Of course, there is a project of works that are in the budget from the Mid-Year Budget Review. You will see our framing of that in the 2 June budget. But I can say this: we won't be lectured by anyone about the north-south corridor because on this side of the parliament—

Mr Fulbrook: And this side.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —we delivered Torrens to Torrens—and that side. We delivered Torrens to Torrens and Darlington and the Northern Connector and the Northern Expressway and the Port River Expressway, so our commitment to infrastructure is in our works and deeds.

The former government talked a big game on tunnels, but there wasn't a tunnel-boring machine here. There were no tunnels being dug over the last four years; it was just talk. We are doing the appropriate thing in making sure that the people who are going to be building this are doing it properly and that we are ready to go out to market as quickly as we possibly can to commence this, because it is the largest undertaking this state will ever undertake in terms of procurement. So it is very, very important that we get this right.

I think it is prudent that the government is looking at the detailed design to make sure we are minimising the impact and especially the amenity. Remember, this nonstop corridor is designed to improve efficiency of our road network and to make sure that we can get freight to and from market quickly and efficiently, to make sure that we can have good east-west movement throughout that corridor, to make sure that we can deliver this project on time and on budget. I am anxiously awaiting the outcome of the federal election on Saturday, because if Mr Albanese is elected Prime Minister that will mean we have someone who is committed passionately to infrastructure.

Mr TARZIA: Point of order: this is clearly debate. The outcome of the federal election is irrelevant to the question, so standing order 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My understanding of the answer was that the minister was talking about the relevance of the election outcome to this particular project, so I think it's relevant.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Can I point out to the house that this project is funded fifty-fifty with the commonwealth government, so the outcome of the federal election is germane. It is very, very important. I am not sure, given the lack of commitment from the current Prime Minister to South Australia, given that we haven't seen much infrastructure built in South Australia over the last four years, that we should rely on a Morrison government to continue that level of investment.

We are very anxiously awaiting the outcome of an Albanese government's election because the one thing Mr Albanese cannot be criticised about is his commitment to infrastructure. He is the father of Infrastructure Australia. He has built and supported more infrastructure in South Australia than members opposite have forgotten—

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: And delivered them.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and delivered them. So we are talking about a man who is committed to our state and committed to South Australia, and we look forward to building with him.

UKRAINE, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister outline any efforts to provide medical assistance to the Ukraine community?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:46): I thank the member for Davenport for her question and for her interest in how we can support people in Ukraine. I am sure that all of parliament is united in our support for the Ukrainian people in terms of the outrageous invasion from the Russian Federation into Ukraine at the moment. This is something that the government is taking very seriously, and the Premier has certainly taken a personal interest in making sure that we have provided everything we can to provide this government's support.

Obviously, there has been a significant donation of at least \$175,000 from the government, in terms of support for Ukraine. Also, last week we had a meeting with the Ukrainian ambassador, Mr Vasyl Myroshnychenko, at cabinet. I understand this was the first time that he has presented to an Australian cabinet anywhere in the country. He certainly was able to give his insights and an update on the situation on the ground for the Ukrainian people.

From SA Health, we want to do everything we possibly can to help in the efforts as well, particularly when we have seen the horrors of thousands of people losing their lives, and also civilians who have suffered in many other ways, particularly physically, emotionally and psychologically, through the Russian invasion.

Some weeks ago, we received a request from the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, who reached out to SA Health seeking a donation of medical supplies to assist communities in Ukraine. This is an umbrella organisation that provides representation for the Ukrainian community here in Australia and South Australia. I am happy to report that the South Australian government has answered the call from the Ukrainian community and has provided substantial medical assistance.

The Malinauskas government have now provided over 20,000 items of medical equipment, with a value of over \$78,000. We have provided those shipments to Ukraine, and contained in the shipments are items which can be used in their hospitals to support injured soldiers or civilians,

including laryngeal masks for adults and children, first aid and wound dressings, pulse oximeters, emergency medical kits, nasogastric tubes, hypodermic syringes, and many more items.

The pallets were dispatched on 8 April. They were freighted to Melbourne and then loaded onto international freight the following week. I am delighted to report that we have now seen photographs confirming that those shipments have arrived in Ukraine and are now being used in the hospitals of Ukraine, with very delighted doctors, nurses and other clinical staff appreciative of the efforts. They will be distributed and used throughout Ukraine. We also received, through the SA Health Distribution Centre, a kind letter of thanks from the Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, which I quote:

I am writing on behalf of the innocent people of Ukraine...Firstly, can I say how wonderful all of you have been. You have helped with the donations that we received from SA Health. You are the people, that facilitated us on behalf of the Minister of Health, the Premier and, the people of South Australia.

Everything we, the committee, asked, you have been able to provide answers and solutions, to each of our questions and requests.

I want to thank everybody in SA Health who contributed to this effort to put this package together. I thank the Premier for his support. Ultimately, I want to thank all those people who were able to put this package together, which we now know has arrived in Ukraine and will be providing support for the innocent people who are dealing with this and are, unfortunately, victims of this invasion at the moment.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:50): My question is again to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister rule out any delays for the completion of the north-south corridor?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:50): Last time I checked, David Jones has a large amount of frontage on North Terrace; I think it has just been exceeded. The front of that question, after four years and not a shovel in the ground—not a shovel in the ground—to come in here not within the first 100 days and start demanding of us anything—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: the minister is reflecting on the question. Like that or in any way he is debating, it is contrary to standing order 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, do you wish to add anything?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, I do, sir. The north-south corridor from the River Torrens to Darlington is between two projects Labor started and finished. You would think, in their four years that they were in office, members opposite would have actually had the decency to begin the works on anything between those two projects, and they haven't. To come in here today and demand that we ensure that this project is delivered to a time line that they didn't start—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point of order is?

Mr GARDNER: Same standing order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the minister has completed his answer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, I will add more, sir. This is a project we need to get right. There are no do-overs with tunnels. There is no promising a right-hand turn and then getting it wrong. There's no promising GlobeLink and then abandoning it. There's no promising Majors Road and then not building the interchange. We've got to get this right. It's important that we get it right. In line with our commitments, there will be no capitulation and there will be no leaks.

We are talking about delivering one of the largest projects in the state's history, and I won't be lectured by anyone opposite about its delivery. We will be lining up our commitments in the budget, and in the budget we will outline our expenditure. We are working towards making sure we can do as much as we possibly can over the next four years, which will be a dramatic improvement over

what members opposite did, which is absolutely nothing—absolutely nothing. If there was something at least they could point to—something—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: the minister has moved entirely to reflecting again on the opposition, and that is debate—standing order 98 again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question did to some extent ask the minister for an opinion, when you look at the question—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me finish. Are you—

Mr Tarzia: It was a closed question, sir: yes or no?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it wasn't a closed question. It asked for a judgement to be made and the minister is now giving his judgement.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Sir, it's a bit difficult when the member asks a question about a review and when it's going to be completed and then demanding to know before the review is completed whether there will be delays. If we look at this chronologically and fairly, you would say there's a review going on within the department about some of the infrastructure components of the project the former government did not begin but had planned, so we are working through that. Once we have finished that, we will come up with a time line which will be represented in the budget. I have to say—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left! Members will—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am sensing a bit of agitation from members opposite. It could be because they are reading about shadow cabinet deliberations in the paper. Who would leak such a piece of information to a journalist? Who would do—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the minister has completed his answer. The member for Hartley followed by the member for Mawson.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:54): Supplementary to that, again to the minister: will the minister then release any details and modelling on the cost of any productivity losses as a consequence of any of these delays that he is referring to?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:54): I didn't mention any delays: I said that we were conducting a review.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Well, a new time line could be—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: As my learned friend says, it could accelerate some parts of the project.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Could the Minister for Human Services and the member for Chaffey—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have to say that the agitation of members opposite coming from these leaks is getting pretty pronounced now. There is a certain level of agitation going on.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: It's set the hares running.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It has set the hares running. Who could possibly leak such information? But there have been no such leaks from our cabinet. Our cabinet is watertight—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: That's right, united.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Watertight and united. There are no individuals. We are a team. There is no-one out there trying to promote themselves.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order.

Mr GARDNER: Standing order 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has the minister concluded his response?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have lots more to talk about this leak. I reject the inference of the question that there will be delays. I reject the inference of the question. What I have said is that members opposite propose to have some suburbs living in the shade while they are building tunnels, and we are looking at those overpasses to make sure we get them right.

That doesn't mean delays. What it means is that we are doing a job properly, and for members opposite, who have not put a shovel in the ground, to be attempting to criticise us, I think, quite frankly, is dishonest of them. Why don't they just accept nothing happened—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a point of order, minister.

Mr GARDNER: That is clearly in contravention of standing order 98.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the minister has probably answered the question.

NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister inform the house about the emotional and economic cost of road trauma in South Australia?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:57): Congratulations to the member for Mawson on being returned to this place. He has turned parts of the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island from blue to purple to red.

As of midnight 16 May, the first day of National Road Safety Week, South Australia has recorded 30 road fatalities and 245 serious injuries. That is 275 tragedies with countless repercussions to the families, friends, colleagues and neighbours of those directly involved in these incidents.

Whilst these figures represent 10 fewer fatalities than this time last year and 29 per cent fewer serious injuries than this time last year, I am incredibly conscious—and I know that everybody in this place is—that one death on our roads is far too many, and achieving a goal of zero road fatalities is something that we share as representatives of our community across this place, the other place and right across the country.

Whilst recent figures indicate that we may be trending towards lower road fatalities this year, we must remain vigilant and ensure that road users make good decisions and take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others. I recognise during this week and all weeks the work being done in government agencies and by road safety partners to reduce the instances of drink driving, and commend the hard work that has recently resulted in the lowest drink-driving rates recorded in 10 years.

This year, approximately 500,000 alcohol tests have been administered to drivers on our roads, with over 4,400 tests returning readings above .05. A return rate of alcohol tests exceeding the legal limit of almost 1 per cent is still unacceptable. These drivers are putting their own lives at risk, the lives of others at risk and it simply won't be tolerated by this government. Poor decisions are still being made by motorists on the roads and, sadly, distraction is now the number one cause of death on our roads: simple things like using your phone, changing the air conditioner and touching the radio. It's everybody's job to get home safely.

This government will continue to work with SAPOL and road safety experts to reduce the instances of serious road accidents resulting in death and injury and the often long-lasting

devastation to our communities that they cause. Each of these 275 tragedies has its own unique story. I urge all South Australians, this week and every week, to think about what their story will be and the story of their loved ones if they make one of these poor decisions and fail to get home safely.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:59): My question is for the Minister for Energy and Mining. Does the minister agree with the federal Labor opposition's claim that its Powering Australia plan will cut South Australian electricity bills by \$275 by the year 2025?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:00): I believe them more than the opposition's promise to cut power prices by \$303 over the last four years, and they didn't. That didn't happen. Investing in projects approved in the ISP is a good option by the Albanese opposition, helping improve and strengthen the grid. A lot of those charges—making sure that we can offset that with government investment is a good thing.

The question I don't understand is why members opposite are opposed to it. We have a commonwealth government and a commonwealth opposition who are both fighting to try to reduce power prices. We should be encouraging both of them. Members opposite certainly weren't able to decrease power prices by the amount that they claimed; in fact, most of the time that they were in office—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —power prices were higher than they were under the Weatherill government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr GARDNER: It's a straightforward question, and the minister is now debating.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that was one of his more straightforward answers. Minister, did you wish to—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I wasn't attempting to debate the answer at all. I was just trying to give a factual answer. What I am saying is, in the midst of a federal election campaign, both sides in Canberra are looking at alternative paths to try to lower power prices for South Australians. The Morrison plan is to invest in technologies, and hopefully those technologies can decarbonise the grid and lower power prices. The Albanese plan is to invest in the ISP and make sure that they can lower power prices through strengthening the grid.

I have faith in my federal colleagues; in fact, I am meeting with the shadow minister, Mr Bowen, today in this very building. I am looking forward to talking to him at length about Labor's plans and how we can work together. Just recently, to the credit of the former Marshall government, the Speirs opposition, they were able to put in a submission to the commonwealth government for funding for a hydrogen hub. That money has come through and that money has been endorsed by Mr Albanese and Mr Bowen. That means that, no matter who wins, that money is coming to South Australia. That is a good thing.

The investment in hydrogen and renewable technologies will lower power prices. It will also help decarbonise. This doesn't have to be an either/or situation. Both sides are attempting to lower power prices. I believe Labor's plan is better. Members opposite would, I assume, prefer the Coalition's plan. I think our plan will work. Our plan is approved by the experts. Our plan has been modelled. Members opposite's plans at the commonwealth level have not been modelled.

So, yes, I trust the experts and analysis done by the commonwealth opposition, and I support their plans. I think it will help lower power prices. If it doesn't, I am sure the member will stand up and ask me questions about a plan I am not responsible for and demand answers from me, and I will attempt to do exactly the same thing back to him. The reality is we are all attempting to lower power prices. We are all attempting to do what we can, but the problem is this: there is an international factor at play now which is lifting wholesale power prices across the country, and that is the war in Ukraine.

Don't believe me: listen to the Prime Minister. Spot prices for gas reached over \$40 a gigajoule. The price of coal went up nearly \$126 a tonne. These had impacts on the eastern seaboard, which had impacts on our market. When gas prices go up, prices go up. When there is an international gas shortage, prices will increase. The question for us is: when this stabilises and the war in Europe is over, hopefully we are able to transition. Hopefully, this is a message to all of us to make that transition work faster so we are not as reliant, and other countries are not as reliant, on Russian gas, and we can turn to those alternatives, like hydrogen and renewable energy. That's our plan.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Does the minister agree with the comments made by Danny Price of Frontier Economics in *The Australian* on 20 April 2022 in relation to the federal Labor opposition's Powering Australia plan? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: On 20 April 2022 Danny Price said:

It is either an arithmetic error or alternatively they are assuming all the other costs are plummeting, including network costs, and that is impossible. It's just a mistake. It's just plain wrong.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:04): I'm glad the opposition is now accepting the wisdom of Danny Price, someone they railed against when they were in government. When we put up our energy plan, which was costed and formulated by Danny Price at Frontier Economics, members opposite said it was flawed. It was questioned. They gave quotes to our daily newspaper saying that costs would blow out, that storage costs would blow out. Well, you can't have it both ways: either Danny Price is a trusted expert or he's not.

I haven't seen the comments made by Mr Price and I don't have the benefit of a country members' travel allowance to offset the costs of my power utilities. I have to pay for them out of my wages, so I am not able to claim a country members' travel allowance to offset these costs.

Ministerial Statement

INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO SAFEWORK SA'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF GAYLE WOODFORD

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:06): I table a ministerial statement given in the other place by the Attorney-General.

Grievance Debate

STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:06): Character is important in politics, and today I want to talk about the emerging character of the new Labor government, a character that is quickly becoming characterised by arrogance. We saw it in their first week in parliament with the snickering and the sneering and the sledging from the benches opposite, the dismissive answers, the old guard not giving the new guard a go.

In the lead-up to the election, we saw the Premier firmly focused on the future, but I cannot help but note that we are seeing a huge amount of the past resurfacing very quickly. The old Labor way of doing things—playing the blame game, less transparency, jobs for the boys—just keeps on continuing. It is like where they left off in 2018.

I thought it was telling that in the first week of question time there was next to no mention of Labor's positive policies for the future, as the slogan said, but instead minister after minister rose and reflected on the previous four years of Liberal government. With \$3.1 billion of promises—and it will probably end up being a lot more than that—you would have thought that the Premier and his team would have had something positive to talk about.

We saw the new government remove the 30-day time line for responding to questions with notice. What are they trying to hide is the question that we must ask. Over the past week, it has been revealed that long-term Labor staffers have once again been parachuted into public sector jobs. We should again be asking whether merit selection process been followed, or is it just straight in, conveyor belt to the top job, something that is tantamount to corruption in my view.

One appointment that raises some eyebrows is the 10-person Premier's Delivery Unit, which will cost taxpayers \$2 million a year. The Premier still has not explained why we need that exorbitant price tag when it is the very job of ministers to be responsible for delivery in their portfolios.

Speaking of delivery, one project that this government seems hell-bent on actually delivering, is the on/off ramp for the expressway at Majors Road. As the local MP, and this has been highlighted many times by me and by others, this was something I was interested in. We engaged a feasibility study into this upon coming to government in 2018, and that feasibility said that you would not ever do this. I quote from the feasibility study:

With no Expressway interchange at Majors Road, travel patterns across the wider area may be less efficient than they might otherwise be. However, whilst an interchange may result in overall reductions in travel distance and time for a reasonably significant number of trips, these would not be sufficient to justify the cost of constructing it.

Put simply, the traffic gains are next to nothing. Without completing the north-south corridor first, on/off ramps at Majors Road could actually result in an increase in traffic in neighbouring roads, particularly Adams Road, through Sheidow Park and Trott Park. More importantly perhaps, there could be a significant increase in traffic flows down Brighton Road.

This does not take into account that the current proposed design will rip a highway right through Glenthorne National Park—a project those opposite never supported. They planned to build hundreds of houses there. We turned it into a national park. They want to run an asphalt highway right through the heart of it, marooning the recently opened Sam Willoughby BMX facility on a roundabout in the midst of a motorway and wiping out a couple of million dollars' worth of mountain biking tracks. Chasing a quick headline, what we saw from the Premier and the Minister for Transport was a plan that will see potentially thousands of trees removed from that site, precious habitat, the loss of green open space and the home for koalas, woodland birds, echidnas, kangaroos and a range of other species.

I was delighted on Saturday to be joined by members of my community, and this project is not popular in my community by any means. To have the Friends of O'Halloran Hill, the mountain biking trail maintenance members and the Friends of Glenthorne gather and show their shock and disdain for a project that will harm the natural environment was encouraging to me. I say to those volunteers in National Volunteer Week that I will stand right beside you in the face of an arrogant government that will not listen to independent expertise, will not listen to evidence and wants to arrogantly push ahead with a project that South Australians do not want.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:11): Yesterday, I had the great pleasure of attending the National Volunteer Week parade in Victoria Square along with the Premier, the Minister for Human Services, the member for Davenport, and the Hon. Russell Wortley and the Hon. Tung Ngo in the other place. It was such an incredibly wonderful feeling at Victoria Square. After the event, I put on social media that you really cannot help but smile when you are surrounded by so many volunteers.

The volunteers were rewarded with a free barbecue lunch. I guess if it is a democracy sausage on election day, I think we would have to call this a kindness sausage for all the volunteers who came along. It got me reflecting on the wonderful volunteers in my own community. If you hear the names Rosey, Roger, Fiona, Chris, Margaret and Mary, you would not think that they are names associated with superheroes, but they are the names of superheroes in my community. They are among the almost one million South Australians who volunteer in our great state.

At Prospect Meals on Wheels, where I also have the pleasure of volunteering, you will find Chris, Margaret, Mary, Rosey, Roger, Fiona, Annabel, Genevieve, Krystina, Vanessa, Wayne, Vernon and many, many more cooking in the kitchen and delivering meals across the Prospect community. Each will likely tell you the same thing—that they get more out of volunteering than they give. The reason they volunteer is because of the people, our clients: the clients who greet you with

the warmest smiles and kindest hearts, the clients who tell you each and every time you deliver a meal how very grateful they are and also ask you when the mixed grill is next going to be on the menu, the clients who greet you at the door with their little dogs in tow, the clients who are no longer with us but we never forget as we drive down their street.

The theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is Better Together. For me, it highlights how thankful I am not just for all the volunteers in our community but for the reasons that we all volunteer. The people, the places, the causes and even the animals are the reasons we volunteer. They enrich our lives every time we volunteer, so I want to say thank you to all the wonderful volunteers in my community because we really are better together.

This weekend, there will be hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers who will come out for the federal election. They are volunteers who do this with no expectation of acknowledgment or reward. They do it because they do believe in something bigger than themselves, so regardless of the political persuasion or the party that you will be volunteering for this Saturday, thank you.

Thank you to all the community members—the mums, dads and caregivers—who will be out there cooking up all the democracy sausages or holding a bake sale. It really is so wonderful that we can all come together in the spirit of democracy, which is so incredibly important given the events that are happening overseas today. So, for National Volunteers Week, a huge thankyou to everybody who gives something back in our beautiful community.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (15:15): Today, I rise to talk to the house on the matter of the north-south corridor. Wasn't it interesting today when I asked the minister to rule out any delays to the completion of the north-south corridor? South Australians have every right to be concerned with the answers that we heard today. We asked about whether there were going to be any delays. We were spoken to by the minister about a new time line. This new time line implicates that the current time line is no longer in effect. The minister could not rule out any delays.

We do not know how long this project will now be delayed. We do not know what cost blowouts there will be because of any delays as well. South Australians have every right to be very worried and concerned about how this government is going to complete this very important infrastructure, probably the most important bit of infrastructure in our recent history.

It is a very exciting project. We know many South Australians are keen to take advantage of this nonstop thoroughfare. It was due to be completed by 2030, but what we heard today is that this government cannot and will not rule out any delays to this project—delays to this project that also mean cost blowouts to this project.

We on this side of the house could not be prouder of the work completed by the former government on this important project under what was its current design, beginning with the Northern Connector, which was upgraded. The Barossa got a whole lot closer to Adelaide as well, making the much loved wine country under an hour from Adelaide. An \$867 million six-lane motorway created a 43-kilometre nonstop corridor to the Barossa and that was especially a major victory not only for our local wine industry and tourism sector but also jobs, especially in our regional areas as well.

Then of course there was the Darlington upgrade, which is another nonstop stretch of motorway between the Southern Expressway and also north of Tonsley Boulevard: over \$700 million in investment. It was a project that slashed travel times, saving commuters up to 10 minutes either way and greatly improving traffic flow with five traffic lights removed. It did not stop there. The Regency Road to Pym Street project, also opened in March 2021 ahead of schedule, saves motorists up to eight minutes during peak hour, further reducing time spent on the road as you head north. We certainly built what matters.

Torrens to Darlington, as we know, is the final and the most complex section of the north-south corridor, South Australia's biggest infrastructure project. This combination of tunnels, overpasses and underpasses will create the final piece of what will be a 78-kilometre, nonstop, traffic light free motorway between Gawler and Old Noarlunga. The Marshall Liberal government was successful in securing \$2.26 billion to get this final stage of the Torrens to Darlington done. The design of the final piece needed to effectively address congestion challenges and also consider the

connectivity to the arterial network to deliver the most effective motorway possible and the current design chosen under our government did just that.

The people of South Australia have been very patient with the completion of this project, but it is time for the government now to get their skates on and finish the north-south corridor. The Marshall government completed a suite of upgrades on the north-south corridor. All we ask from this government is that they get on with it and complete the final component that South Australians have been waiting for on time and on budget.

Today, I gave the minister an opportunity to rule out any delays to the completion of the north-south corridor. The minister was not able to rule out any delays. That means that the project will be delayed and it is going to blow out. Is it going to blow out by millions? Is it going to blow out by billions? The people of South Australia deserve to know. We will be watching this matter very carefully in the upcoming budget.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:19): Last Thursday was International Nurses Day, a day for us to celebrate all nurses and the incredible work they do. Nurses play such an important role in our healthcare system and, on top of what is actually in their job description, manage to do so much more. Nurses calm us, nurses show us compassion, nurses show us endless amounts of patience and nurses make us laugh when we need it most.

One long night with a very sick toddler in my arms at Flinders, it was a nurse who pulled back the blue curtain with a sandwich for me because she knew that I had not eaten for hours. When I recently ended up in the RAH in the middle of the night, it was the triage nurses who made us feel comfortable and safe in the waiting room. Nurses provided a care above and beyond what is expected of them. We must not only celebrate but acknowledge their work as the crucial community service that it is.

Last week, I had the pleasure of joining nurses and midwives at the Repat for the ceremony to seal the SA Health Nursing and Midwifery Time Capsule. This celebration was a wonderful recognition of the crucial and delicate work nurses and midwives have provided our community for generations. As a very small show of my appreciation, I returned to the Repat the following day with morning tea from our local Kyttons Bakery so the nurses could celebrate International Nurses Day when they eventually got their much-deserved break.

My third visit to the Repat last week was one focused on the future. I joined the Premier, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Louise Miller-Frost, Labor's candidate for Boothby, to announce that this Malinauskas Labor government, in partnership with a future Albanese Labor government, would deliver an additional 24 beds at the Repat. These beds will provide a more appropriate care setting for older people in our community who, in the current system, are likely to be in a bed at Flinders for an extended period.

This partnership also extends to Flinders Medical Centre where if, and only if, Labor is successful this Saturday, we will see a long, overdue upgrade of Flinders Medical Centre, much of which remains untouched since I was born there almost 36 years ago. These 136 new hospital beds at Flinders are in addition to the beds already committed to by this Malinauskas Labor government and they will largely be provided in single rooms, providing patient privacy as well as infection control.

With an Albanese Labor government, we will also provide a major upgrade and expansion of the Margaret Tobin Centre. We will expand the intensive care unit, we will create new operating theatres, we will expand medical imaging and we will establish a brand-new eye surgery clinic. South Australians need a federal Labor government that can bring people together and work collaboratively with our state government to adequately address our community's healthcare concerns. Whether it is these plans for the Repat and Flinders, delivering a new mental health and wellbeing centre or a Medicare urgent care clinic near Flinders, Louise Miller-Frost and the federal Labor team are ready to support our plans to fix the ramping crisis.

So this Saturday, or in four sleeps as we measure time in our household, South Australians have a choice, a choice that will determine not just what the next three years look like for our country but the next generation. On Saturday, South Australia, and indeed the rest of the country, will choose

between Labor's plans to invest in our health system, including in our southern suburbs, or just more of the same chaos and division from the Coalition. I think the choice is clear.

On International Nurses Day, we should not just thank the workers who provide essential care to our community, we should pledge to provide them with the best possible healthcare system to work in. I am incredibly proud of the policies we, as South Australian Labor, took to the state election and we know we can build on them in partnership with a federal Labor government.

I again thank the people of Elder for putting their faith in me and I ask that you please do the same for Louise Miller-Frost this weekend and help elect a federal Labor government.

GONIS, MR B.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:23): I rise to speak on a reflection and a sad situation but a celebration of a life. When you become a public figure, when you become the local member, your community becomes much more available to you, if you like, and you participate in many other community sectors within your local community and you are introduced to new ones for the first time.

As a new member, elected in 2006, one of the first communities to embrace me as their local member was the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia. One of the people I had the absolute pleasure of meeting and developing a wonderful friendship with since that time was Bill Gonis. Sadly, Bill Gonis, at the age of 63, lost his life due to a health condition just a couple of weeks ago.

I want to reflect on Bill Gonis's career and what he has done for his community. I will start by reading out the first line of his own CV where he stated, 'I am a passionate public servant dedicated to influencing the future of the public sector and the passenger transport industry,' as we know of Bill's work in the passenger transport sector. He went on to state:

I have focused on empowering individuals to work together to address critical business issues, and in doing so have drawn on specialist expertise and fostered ownership of solutions that genuinely make a difference to an organisation's major stakeholders.

Nowhere did we see that more than in his presidency of the Greek Orthodox Community here in South Australia.

I was first introduced to the Greek Orthodox Community through the local parish in Goodwood, at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helen, on Goodwood Road. It was only a week or two after I was first elected that I was invited to their Easter service. We know that community groups can be turbulent at times and they can also flourish at times. There is no doubt that when Bill was in that role as president—and he was until his death and he was the longest serving president of the Greek Orthodox Community here in South Australia—the community flourished.

I remember how caring he was for his community and how his focus was not just on the organisation itself and the Greek Orthodox church, which we all know is a breakaway church from the Archdiocese and it is the last remaining two-church system, Greek church system, in Australia, as I understand it. Bill was certainly a very steady set of hands for that community and he developed relationships right across the Greek community and beyond.

Bill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2006 for his services to the taxi industry and also to the Greek community because he was seen as being a person who cared very broadly about his community. I can remember when COVID first hit in March 2020. We know how important the church services are to the Greek community and there was a real dilemma for the Greek community about how they could continue to offer communion.

Because Bill knew me, and my being a member of cabinet, he called me for advice on how they could manage to continue with their church services but also keep the congregation safe. He had a very open mind to getting a solution. I was pleased to have been able to introduce him to the appropriate person in the Department for Health, who was then able to work with the Greek community on a solution so as to be able to continue with their services in a safe manner.

I was very sad to hear the news. I considered Bill a friend, someone I could rely on, someone who always made me feel welcome. So, Bill, please rest in peace.

MOONTA MINES UNITING CHURCH

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:29): I rise to make a brief contribution regarding the Moonta Mines Uniting Church and in so doing will briefly outline the background around the Moonta Mines precinct. Obviously, it is a legacy of Moonta Mines, which once held South Australia afloat in a period of great prosperity for that mine. It was a massive producer of copper and it really put Moonta on the map when it was a thriving town. I have been told, and I have not fact-checked myself, it was the biggest town outside Adelaide. Mr Acting Speaker, I do not need more than five minutes, so you are welcome to start the clock now, if you would like.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown): We might start the clock for the member for Narungga.

Mr ELLIS: In any case, Moonta Mines was once a thriving metropolis and put South Australia on the map and, indeed, financed it there for some time. That legacy precinct now, which is still there and home to a wonderful tourist train operated by volunteers, a tremendous sweet shop, again operated by the local National Trust, and a plethora of other local tourist attractions that celebrate the history of Moonta Mines, has been awarded national heritage status.

The federal government granted that heritage status and along with it a significant grant of close to \$5 million in order for the National Trust and those local volunteers to improve access, to improve signage and to improve all those things that make an attractive tourist destination. We have upcoming a really exciting time in the history of the Moonta Mines precinct. It should be wonderful to see it all take shape and I am looking forward to being involved in that.

Part of that precinct is of course the wonderful Moonta Mines Uniting Church. The church was built in 1865 during the aforementioned copper mining boom in Moonta, and it was built by the miners for the miners. Those immigrants who came out from Cornwall were heavily religious people and relied on that sense of community that the church provided and knocked themselves up what was a really wonderful and beautiful, picturesque church.

It originally seated 750 people, but, with the increased production of the mine, a population boom followed and soon the addition of a gallery was implemented in the church, which can now seat 1,250 people. In 1888, a large traditional pipe organ was installed, which is still in use today, and really is a sight to behold. The church itself is a tremendously beautiful building and has been well upheld by those local volunteers.

Unfortunately, the dwindling of the congregation has necessitated a rethink about how the Uniting Church maintains its assets, and ultimately the decision was made by the synod to put up this church for an expression of interest sale. I have to report that, unfortunately, with all the wonderful investment going on, including the big grant from the federal government, a significant investment from local volunteers and the National Trust to bring that precinct up to spec, that prospective sale has not gone down particularly well in the community.

Although it is accepted that the low congregation numbers would mean that this church is no longer a viable place to worship, it is preferred by community members that the church remain in the hands of someone who will undertake to ensure that public access remains a key component of the church. It would be a terrible shame, in my view, and I think in the view of the majority of our community, if that church were to be closed off to public access and the people who visit, including every second year for the Kernewek Lowender, were denied access to have a look through that church and see a pivotal part of the history of Moonta Mines.

The expressions of interest program has been opened with the local realtor and the church has been calling for those expressions. I met with the church, the synod, along with the Mayor of the Copper Coast Council, Ros Talbot, and we expressed the community's concern on their behalf to the synod, who assured us that heritage would be placed at the forefront of any sale process. We have taken that to heart.

The optimism that arose out of that meeting meant that the council, in collaboration with the National Trust, put in an expression of interest. They combined to put in a joint bid for a rather small amount of money, but one which would put heritage and access for the community at the forefront and guarantee that it would remain in public hands, available to public access and use.

I sincerely hope the synod look upon that application favourably. It would be a tremendous shame for that church to fall out of public access, and I sincerely hope that now that process has run its course they choose to make sure that building is gifted to the community, the ones who built it originally, the miners who built the church for the community on behalf of the community, and I sincerely hope that it is returned to community hands.

A petition has been run by the Progress Association that has in excess of 1,500 signatures on it, which indicates widespread community support to ensure the church remains a public asset. I have written to both state and federal ministers (noting of course that it is caretaker mode in the federal government at the moment), expressing a desire that, should all else fail, one or both of those governments contribute to the purchase cost of that church, gift it to the National Trust or the council, so that they can continue to uphold it and make it a feature part of the upcoming national heritage-listed Moonta Mines.

On behalf of my community, I concur with their outrage that the church might well be lost to public access. I assure them that we are doing all we can to ensure that heritage and access are placed at the forefront of this EOI process, and I will continue to report to the community as it progresses.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:35): I will continue my remarks. After focusing on the privilege of being a minister in a Marshall Liberal government and some of the achievements and the legacy that I left in my time as a minister, I would now like to touch on and recognise some of the outgoing MPs who were in this place, particularly as part of the Marshall Liberal government's team.

Peter Treloar, who is a great friend of mine, was elected in 2010. The member for Flinders made way for the new member for Flinders. Peter has been a great friend. We have shared many good times together in this place and in our home electorates, whether it is on the mighty River Murray in front of my home or whether it is on the coastline at Coffin Bay or Port Lincoln. Stephan Knoll was a very good and effective minister for transport, infrastructure, planning, local government and other things. He decided that he would hang up the gloves and move on into the private sector.

Corey Wingard, the member for Gibson, was ousted through the state election process. He was a good minister and he also looked after the sport, racing and recreation portfolio. Dr Richard Harvey, member for Newland, also did an outstanding job as the Government Whip. He was a solid, steady performer who did outstanding work not only in his electorate but also here in the parliament.

Paula Luethen, the member for King, was an outstanding advocate for her community, but she was beaten at the state election. Carolyn Power, the member for Elder, also did a great job, but she was overcome, as I understand it, by preferences at the end of the day. I congratulate the incoming member for Elder now representing those good people. Rachel Sanderson, the member for Adelaide, had a very tough portfolio as Minister for Child Protection. She did an outstanding job in what was a very tight contest. She came into the parliament in 2010 and defied the odds in most ways because along the way most people said she would not survive more than one term. She stuck it out and survived three terms but was ousted at the last election.

Steve Murray, the member for Davenport, was also ousted at the last state election. He is now back into the private sector. Rob Lucas, the Marshall Liberal government's Treasurer in another place, had been in this place longer than most and longer than some of us have been alive. He was a very solid, diligent Treasurer and knew his brief very well. He decided it was time to hang up the boots and move along. Of course, John Dawkins was the President of the other place as well as a very strong advocate for suicide prevention. He has also moved on to other greener pastures. I would like to acknowledge those former members for the great work they did not only in this place but also for their communities.

Of course, we are back to what really matters, and that is the Marshall Liberal government's deliveries to the electorate of Chaffey. I was pleased to be part of a government that recognised the

importance of what the regions were looking for. In four years, what we saw were great initiatives in education: the \$7.5 million amalgamation to the Berri Regional Secondary College, and the amalgamated campuses for the middle campus at Glossop with the senior campus at Berri now houses 800 students and I think has been an outstanding success.

I mention the high-speed internet connections to 24 Riverland schools. It was a \$130 million SWiFT program, which really brought our schools to the next level with digital connection and making sure that we did not have slow internet speeds that hindered the progress of classrooms particularly in our regional centres.

I also mention the \$5.17 million capital works at the Renmark High School, which was a great initiative. Thank you to the former Minister for Education, who enabled me to open up that capital works program as well as the \$5 million capital works program at Loxton High School. They were just great initiatives in Chaffey and much needed, as were some of the maintenance programs right around Chaffey. I think that at my last count there were 27 schools in Chaffey, and all of them needed maintenance upgrades for the betterment of the region.

With respect to roads, there was the upgrade to the Browns Well Highway reinstating 110 km/h. We saw a \$15 million safety upgrade on that highway, which saw a lot of heavy vehicle activity with the cessation of trains both from Tookayerta to Tailem and Pinnaroo to Tailem. The \$87.5 million to upgrade the Sturt Highway between Renmark and Gawler is still underway, and we are seeing major intersection upgrades as we speak.

There was also \$1.5 million in the state budget towards the Mid Murray-Murraylands road upgrade, which was an eight-kilometre stretch between Blanchetown and Morgan. It was a great addition to upgrade that unsealed road to give carriage of freight that moved between Blanchetown and Morgan. Of course, there was the construction of the \$202 million Truro bypass. That is purely productivity gain. It bypasses a significant town on the outskirts of the Barossa at Truro, and it was a much-needed bypass to create efficiency upgrades.

With respect to health, the \$4 million MRI machine to the Riverland General Hospital was a great investment that has meant people have to travel less for imagery, going to the regional hospital rather than having to travel either to Adelaide or up to Mildura. The investment also allows a greater level of cancer treatment at the Riverland General Hospital, including the deployment of specialist staff. It is a great initiative that is saving people travelling and saving people the heartache of having to uproot themselves and move away from family, friends and their workplace to undertake cancer treatment.

In addition, the Allied Health Rural Generalist Pathway, introduced across regional South Australia benefiting the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network, was part of a \$20 million rural health workforce plan.

Of course, the local infrastructure investment was just a great initiative, and what we have seen are some really, really good projects that will be game changers. We know that the \$1.5 million Waikerie Riverfront Community Hub project is about building a new clubhouse for the Waikerie sporting precinct on the river. There are not too many sporting clubs that can lay claim to having a sporting precinct on the River Murray. I think that is just a great initiative.

The \$600,000 to reinstate the Riverland Community Justice Centre was a great election commitment I made to the people of Chaffey. We also saw \$1 million towards the Renmark town wharf upgrade. Sadly, we had seen a number of incidents with houseboats and watercraft that did not read the state of play when coming into that wharf, which really gave it some significant damage over time.

I have mentioned the Truro bypass, and I have mentioned the \$87.5 million Sturt Highway upgrade, and we also saw the new mobile phone towers at Murtho, Murtho South, Mount Mary, Bower, Wunkar, Peebinga, Nildottie and Marama. They are just connections. It is about people being able to use not only their mobile phone coverage but some of the digital technology in our equipment, in some of our tractors and some of the modern-day equipment that we now use on farm.

Gone are the days of having to go to the furthest point up a hill and stand on the roof of your four-wheel drive, trying to get reception, trying to ring a truck, trying to ring the markets, trying to

understand what commodities are doing and whether you should be putting grain or commodities onto that truck to get the best price. We upgraded the mobile phone towers, and that has been a real game changer. There is much more still to be done, but we did enhance that.

There is an enhanced safety hub for people experiencing domestic and family sexual violence. I think we have seen significant improvements in domestic violence in the electorate of Chaffey. There was \$1.1 million invested through the Tourism Industry Development Fund and more than \$800,000 invested through the Active Club and sports infrastructure grants. These are great initiatives. They are a great opportunity for small community sports clubs to receive small amounts of money so they can upgrade equipment and some of their facilities, making sure they can attract some of our young to come out and play sport because they have the equipment and some of the facilities that are attracters to playing sport. We all know that sport is a fabric of regional communities.

I am very happy about the \$150 million of the Regional Growth Fund. That contributed \$10 million to the Riverland in 2020 and it created 120 jobs. That is an outstanding success. There was a \$2 million upgrade to the Yamba quarantine station. That is the entry point out of Victoria into the Riverland, which is the lens into South Australia from the east, particularly through the horticulture hub. We see there that the new quarantine bins as well as the upgrade to Yamba really do strengthen our biosecurity credentials.

We all know that being fruit fly free is a market advantage, and it also puts significant money back into some of those growers' bottom lines. Every carton that does not have to be treated for fruit fly is an extra \$4 a case to the grower. In some instances, that can be \$20 a tonne extra to growers. That is a game changer when it comes to putting new planting materials in, upgrading facilities, upgrading pack houses and making sure that we remain competitive. That is great.

For the Seasonal Worker Program, I was very proud to work with SAPOL, SA Health and the Coordinator in bringing our Pacific Islander worker program to the Riverland for quarantine. Once they had embarked on their quarantine process, they were then out into the paddocks, the orchards and the vineyards being productive, picking, harvesting and packing fruit, pruning and planting. It shows just how important it is that we now have a Pacific Islander program and just how reliable we will become.

We have seen that many Australians have become so city centric that they are not prepared to go out and do the hard yards in the elements, in the heat, in the cold, in the rain. What we are seeing now is that we have a workforce that is doing an outstanding job. It is an important workforce and it is a very important part of the Riverland and the electorate of Chaffey.

The Tourism Industry Development Fund contributed more than \$3½ million for investment into the Riverland, all through a \$900,000 funding program. That put a shot in the arms of a lot of our tourist operators. Tourism is one of the big industries in the Riverland, particularly reliant on the River Murray and eco experiences. What we saw there was a great shot in the arm for our tourist sector.

In mental health, there was the appointment of eight Family and Business Support mentors to support farmers impacted by droughts, seasonal conditions and commodity downturn. We have seen the impacts of China. We have seen the impacts of storms on not only the crops but the infrastructure that comes away with them. That further \$2 million to provide mental health outreach services has been an absolute game changer.

I want to talk about the Murray-Darling Basin Plan before my time is up. I want to put the Minister for Environment on notice. She cannot continue to mislead this parliament. She cannot continue to mislead the people of South Australia. The 450 gigalitres is not for South Australia. The 450 gigalitres is for the southern connected system so, minister, read your brief because the people of South Australia are sick of being misled by a minister, by a government, that is pledging 450 gigalitres. The same goes to Anthony Albanese, the federal Labor leader. They cannot continue to mislead South Australians.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:50): I am really just a warm-up act for what is following me, and that is two amazing women who will be giving their inaugural speeches, their maiden speeches, to the house, so I will speak very quickly on my Address in Reply to the Governor's speech to open this session of parliament.

In doing so, I also take this opportunity to thank the member for Dunstan, Steven Marshall, and I will use his name because it is important as a friend and someone who has given South Australia enormous opportunity. We know that we were a reform government. A lot of things changed in South Australia under the four years of the Marshall government and change is always difficult to manage.

The facts are that we really only had two years of doing that unencumbered because of course in March 2020 we had COVID-19, and the number one focus was keeping South Australians safe and as many South Australians as possible alive during this one-in-100-year pandemic that has taken millions of lives around the world. Where else would you want to have been living since March 2020 than here in South Australia because of the work and the leadership of Steven Marshall?

It was not just his leadership over the pandemic but his leadership the minute he became leader of the Liberal Party, turning an organisation, a political party, into a professional organisation that had plans and ideas for South Australia and then implementing those plans and ideas.

There were two areas that I was very fortunate to be involved in as the Minister for Innovation and Skills, and one is Lot Fourteen. When we came to office, Lot Fourteen was an abandoned hospital site that the previous Labor government had earmarked to be a development site, a real estate project. Steven Marshall, the member for Dunstan, knew there were better options for that project and we are seeing the benefits of that today, with 1,500 people working there every day. It is a catalyst for science, for startups, innovation, research and the space industry.

Every state competed for the National Space Centre to be in their state and the South Australian bid, driven by Steven Marshall, was the one that was accepted by the federal government. I spoke to a federal minister at that time who said, 'There were no political favours in that, David. South Australia got that bid because it was the best submission,' and that submission was signed, sealed and stamped by Steven Marshall.

Then I was given the privilege of moving from the shadow minister for transport and infrastructure into skills and innovation. I remember the commentary at the time. There were those in the Labor Party backgrounding the media: Pisoni has been demoted, he has those minor areas of skills. Look how important skills have become. They are the number one issue in Australia at the moment. Foresight again by Steven Marshall. That is why I took that challenge up and we delivered.

Not only did we deliver on increasing the prestige and the opportunities that vocational education through apprenticeships and traineeships deliver but we actually delivered more of them. There were over 20,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships within that four-year period—a 72 per cent increase over a three-year period against a 66 per cent decline under the previous Labor government over a six-year period. There is no doubt that the work that was done by the Marshall government in the innovation and skills space has set South Australia up to transform an economy.

For 16 years I sat here listening to those opposite. Whenever an old manufacturing firm, an engineering firm or a firm involved in the motor industry closed down we would hear Labor ministers come out and say, 'Yes, but we are in a transitioning economy.' Well, guess what happened during the Marshall government? The economy transitioned, and it transitioned to the modern economy we now have.

It took the then Leader of the Opposition, the member for Croydon, to the dying days of the election campaign, when he was asked, 'What is one thing that the Marshall government has done well?' to concede: 'Lot Fourteen.' I am very pleased that that has been recognised, and it now has bipartisan support. We must remember that it was destined to be a condo for the East End rather than a hive of new industry and activity that will eventually employ 6,000 people in that space. It is a very exciting time here in South Australia, and it is exciting because of the work that was started and delivered under the previous Marshall government.

I am very concerned about the work we have done in rebuilding the skills base here in South Australia and rebuilding the non-government sector for delivering skills. We know that the non-government sector is the sector that is connected to industry. Many of the non-government providers—whether it be PIA, whether it be the Master Builders or whether it be HIA—are industry driven. They reflect exactly what industry needs. They need that industry. We went into partnership with those sectors with our Skilling South Australia program, which was extra money.

We were the first government to recognise and acknowledge that there is a cost to on-the-job training when it comes to apprentices and trainees, and we came to the party and supported businesses with their on-the-job costs in that area, and we delivered outcomes. We delivered outcomes within the first full quarter of launching Skilling South Australia. We reversed the decline that had started back in 2012 of fewer and fewer commencements year on year to increasing those commencements. Initially, it was only a small commencement. I can remember being ridiculed by the Labor Party for the small increase that we delivered, but that increase continued. It snowballed, and by the middle of last year, according to the NCVET, there was a 72 per cent increase—the highest growth in the nation over a three-year period.

We were able to convince the federal Morrison government how important skills training is for the economy and for opportunities for Australians. One of the code responses of the federal government was the Boosting Apprenticeship program, with a 50 per cent wage subsidy. Again, that recognised the cost of on-the-job training, and I was very pleased to hear that that has been extended. We have also seen incentives for the second and third year introduced, and those incentives continue. Of course, that will only happen with the continuation of the Morrison government.

We know what the Albanese government has in mind. It wants to lock away 70 per cent of skills funding exclusively for TAFE—in other words, taking apprentices out of the workplace where they are being paid to learn and putting them back in the classrooms in their own time. That is the Albanese model—not giving people opportunities for them to be paid to learn, which is what we are seeing happening worldwide. In Britain, we are seeing an explosion of white-collar apprenticeships where people are not doing university degrees in key areas, such as the IT sector: they are actually doing apprenticeships in that area.

We started that process here in South Australia with apprenticeships in the IT sector, traineeships in the IT sector. When we came to office, there were no traineeships or apprenticeships in the public sector. When we left office, there were over 2½ thousand trainees and apprentices in the public sector, all predominantly in white-collar areas—areas in which people had not had the opportunity to complete an apprenticeship or a traineeship while being paid, and earning a salary to do so. That was the commitment that the government made: to do our part to increase skills here in South Australia. We simply did not think it was acceptable to ask the private sector to do it without the government participating in that program at all.

I know that the people in the gallery are not here to hear me. They are here to hear some young and exciting members who have joined the parliament here in South Australia. I will finish by talking about the types of numbers we were able to deliver in the skills space: 53,000 apprentices and trainees from when we started our Skilling South Australia program to leaving office.

We also saw an increase in completions in the last NCVET figures. South Australia led the nation in increases in completions in apprenticeships. We dramatically increased funding to TAFE. I congratulate the member for Morialta, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition now, on his work in reforming TAFE and getting it back to focusing on students and on delivering.

Remember, there were two inquiries. We had a chair who was sacked. We had a CEO who resigned in disgrace. We had ASQA fail random audits of 10 courses, including Cert III in Individual Support. It was an absolute basket case, and that happened as a decision of the previous government in 2014 to shift funding from the non-government sector almost exclusively to TAFE while at the same time reducing staff numbers at TAFE by over 500 or, if you like, 25 per cent of their staff. It was not a targeted process; it was a real hatchet job.

We saw the closure of 17 TAFE campuses between 2013 and 2019: Marleston, O'Halloran Hill, Panorama, Croydon, Gawler, Rundle Mall, Roseworthy, Bordertown, Millicent, Naracoorte, Clare, Cleve, Kimba, Renmark, Waikerie, Kangaroo Island at Kingscote and Morphettville. Many of these were closed when the member for Frome, now the member for Stuart, was representing the regions in the cabinet; I did not hear anything from him complaining about those campuses being closed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Schubert, and I remind the house that this is the member's first speech and that she should be accorded the normal courtesies and respect afforded to new members on this important occasion.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (16:02): I thank Her Excellency for her speech to open the Fifty-Fifth Parliament of South Australia. I am conscious of Her Excellency's achievements in the highest post of the Public Service in our nation and am grateful for her fresh, thoughtful leadership of the people of South Australia. Her mother was a health minister in a former Liberal government and a pathfinder for representation of women in the parliament.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve in the Parliament of South Australia, but above and beyond that it is an enormous honour to do so as the representative of my community—the people of Schubert, the family into which I was born, the community that raised and educated me and the region in which I am forming my own family. It is humbling to be the member for Schubert, representing some of the most hardworking, enterprising and innovative people in our state and nation. Their passion for what they do, what they produce and the community in which we live inspire me each and every day.

It is hard to describe the sense of community that imbues Schubert. For those of us who are fortunate to live in Schubert there is a deep and instinctive appreciation for the toil of many generations whose efforts have put our community onto the national and international stage as an iconic food, wine and primary production region. We are a region built on hard work and strong values of family, resilience and integrity, and it is these values that underpin our success as a regional powerhouse in Australia.

Geographically, the electorate of Schubert is a stunningly beautiful patchwork of communities and landscapes. Schubert is home to the entirety of the Barossa Valley, from Truro, St Kitts and Stockwell in the north, Nuriootpa, Tanunda and my home town of Angaston, to Greenock, Williamstown, Sandy Creek, Lyndoch and Seppeltsfield. It wraps around Moculta, Keyneton, Eden Valley, Springton, Mount Pleasant and into the beautiful northern Adelaide Hills of Birdwood, Mount Torrens, Gumeracha, Kersbrook, Cudlee Creek, Houghton, Paracombe, Inglewood and Upper and Lower Hermitage. In the south-west, it embraces Sampson Flat, Humbug Scrub, Yattalunga, Uleybury, Bibaringa and Kalbeeba.

The seat of Schubert is named after a genius in the wine industry, Mr Max Schubert. Max was the creator of Australia's most iconic and collectible wine, the Grange Hermitage. He had no formal training. Max started at Penfolds as a 15-year-old boy and was later tutored by the late Ray Beckwith. He famously persisted in secret with his early winemaking after the Penfolds board wanted to pull the plug, labelling it 'experimental'. How disastrous that would have been for us all.

Eventually, he changed the face of the Australian wine industry. Max Schubert's persistence and innovation paved the way for generations of winemakers. His determination and vision inspired many to have the confidence to challenge the status quo. As those who are brought up in the Barossa appreciate, the best way to sustain and honour our long-held values is to embrace new ways to express them. The people of the Barossa, the Adelaide Hills and the Liberal Party have done me the honour of being able to carry the name of Schubert in this place. I will strive to reflect the timeless values of Max Schubert and the region he embodies.

Throughout life, there are many people who have an impact on us and shape who we are. For me, those people are first and foremost my family. The Hurns have been in South Australia since 1850. That was when my great-great-great-grandfather, William Hurn, settled in Angaston from Bath, England. After five years of working for George Fife Angas, William had saved enough money to buy his own plot of land and start his own orchard. Over time, he expanded the property to 400 acres from where he grew and exported apples to London. My family has lived and worked on this same piece of land for over 170 years, with each generation building on what had come before them.

Growing up, my spare time was spent, like plenty of country kids from the Barossa, helping out on the farm, cutting apricots for drying, picking the ends of the grapevines just to get those last few kilos and working on the boards in the shearing shed, usually too slowly for everyone's liking. Every day, my mum and dad were working hard to provide for my brother, Shannon, and I. It is never

more profoundly demonstrated than on a farm that you ultimately are only rewarded for the effort that you put in.

Communities across Schubert are generous to those in need, both within the region and beyond. But we know that that generosity is not possible without the hard work that builds a bounty that can be shared. This reality underpins my commitment to the Liberal Party. We are a party built on the philosophy that there is no greater driver of human endeavour than individual will. As the founder of our great party, Sir Robert Menzies, once said,

The best people in this community are not those who 'leave it to the other fellow', but those who by thrift and self-sacrifice establish homes and bring up families and add to the national pool of savings and hope some day to sit under their own vine and fig tree, owing nothing to anybody.

This perfectly epitomises my dad, William. He is a quiet man, a man whose hard work, conviction, thrift and genuine passion for the land have made him well known and respected in our community. My mum, Sandy, has equally dedicated herself to family and life on the farm. She has worked hard, juggling motherhood, life on the farm and various jobs, and of course running my brother and me around the place. She is intuitive and able to talk to people from all walks of life.

It is safe to say that mum and dad are my biggest supporters, and I am here today in large part due to their sacrifices, and I am delighted to see them in the gallery today with my nan Geraldine Zilm, who is one of the strongest ladies I know, and my brother, Shannon, is listening in from Western Australia. Shannon is one of the most grounded people you will ever meet, entirely unaffected by his achievements in life, and I want to thank him for his support and advice. This is their day as well as mine.

I also need to mention my gratitude to my late grandad Brian Hurn, who instilled in me the ethos of public service. Grandad served our community as chairman of the Angaston council and Mayor of the Barossa Valley for a combined 27 years. He was a man of principle and conviction. He did not want to just be involved in things. He was determined that through his involvement things would get done.

It astounds me that, although he served at the level of government dealing with some of the most bitterly fought over local issues like zoning and planning and development approvals, I have never heard a bad word said about grandad. He passed away in 2015. I miss him dearly. How good would it be to be able to pick up the phone and lean on his wise advice and counsel as I serve in this place.

I attended Angaston Primary School and Nuriootpa High School, and I am a proud recipient of an outstanding public school education. I firmly believe in quality education for all, as both the foundation of a civilised society and as the enabler of opportunity. Schubert is brimming with families like mine, whether it be the descendants of hardworking and trailblazing Germans who settled in the Barossa and the Adelaide Hills or those who came before or after. For almost 200 years in South Australia, people have moved to our regions with dreams of opportunity and prosperity, but no dream has a hope of success without hard work.

The challenges faced by our communities over the years have only strengthened our resolve and forged our character. Whether it be war, bushfires or drought, market downturn or poor government policies, we have emerged stronger through every challenge and not through luck but through resilience, enterprise and the sheer strength of our values and community spirit.

Let me illustrate this through the vine pull and the efforts of another trailblazer, Peter Lehmann. The late 1970s delivered a huge grape surplus that ultimately led to the state-sponsored vine pull in South Australia. In amongst all of that, Peter Lehmann established his namesake winery by himself, primarily to save dozens of generational grapegrowers in the region and our 100-year-old vineyards. He took the surplus grapes under an arrangement called The Futures. On a handshake deal, growers trusted him with their grapes on the understanding that he would pay for them in two years' time.

The late great Peter Lehmann's ethos was: my word is my bond. This is an idea that may send a shiver down the spine of lawyers, but it is an enduring Barossa value that came to the fore during the vine pull. My family has had a long connection with the Lehmanns. The Hurns have sold

grapes to them for generations, not only out of a sense of obligation after my great-grandmother Dorothy once knocked Peter Lehmann off his bike in her car.

Beyond the Barossa, the northern Adelaide Hills are new additions to the seat of Schubert, and I am fascinated by the similarities between these two regional communities in my electorate, but they both have a very firm sense of identity and regional pride. The Adelaide Hills is a remarkable food bowl. It grows premium fruit that is exported right around the world, including cherries, apples and pears. The region is also full of passionate community-minded people who have provided me with great insight and valuable advice on my journey to this place.

Town pride can often be best seen at local sports games. I certainly know from my time playing sport how vigorous the contest is in the regions, and it is no different in the Adelaide Hills. I would like to particularly acknowledge Tony Hannaford from the Gumeracha Football Club, the 2019 premiers of the Hills footy league division 2, 3½ decades since their last premiership. I would like to thank Tony for his assistance throughout my campaign and, of course, for his delicious cherries.

For 35 years, much of the Adelaide Hills was represented in this place by Sir Thomas Playford. He was first the member for Murray for five years from 1933, and then the member for Gumeracha for the following three decades until his retirement in 1968. He served as Liberal Premier of South Australia for 26 years, the longest term of any elected leader in Australian history and in the wider British commonwealth, a record unlikely ever to be surpassed. Sir Thomas diversified South Australia's economy and we remain the fortunate beneficiaries of his bold vision. But first and foremost, he was an active local MP. He never lost sight of his community and why he was there, and nor will I.

Never forget where you came from, always fight for your community, stand up for what is right and act with integrity. These are the fundamental values across the communities of regional South Australia and that is why our regions epitomise the very best of our state. Regional South Australia contributes around \$29 billion per year to the state's economy. The Liberals recognise the value of our regions and, in our recent term, invested more than \$3 billion across 1,000 projects to create jobs and better lives for South Australians, with a focus on health, education, tourism, recreation and sport.

It has been a very long time since any South Australian government gave so much support to our regions and it is an important achievement that the new government needs to emulate if it is serious about supporting our regions and growing our state. I am particularly passionate about promoting and enhancing regional sport and investing in local sporting infrastructure. Sport has been a big part of our community and my family over many generations.

Participation in sport teaches teamwork, sacrifice and leadership. Getting better at sport requires training and dedication and taking nothing for granted. Growing up, I played netball for Angaston in BL&G and was privileged to represent my state and nation. Having been a participant, I know that modern sporting infrastructure is so critical to ensure that communities stay fit, healthy and strong. But more than that, sport is often the centre of life in regional towns. It is the foundation of a strong community and fosters volunteerism. Investment in sporting infrastructure is never a dollar wasted and I will be active in advocating that the regions continue to get their fair share.

There is no doubt that South Australia's future success and prosperity depends in large part on a strong and vibrant regional South Australia. We need a flourishing primary industries sector and successful small and family businesses. We need safer and better regional roads. We need individuals to have the freedom and incentive to make decisions that are in the interests of their family and their community without the burden of over-regulation and bureaucracy.

That was the hallmark of the previous government. Throughout South Australia, the Marshall government leaves a legacy that we can be proud of. That is why it is all the more disappointing to be on this side of the chamber after just one term in government. In four short years, the Liberal government achieved so much. We did more to transform the state's economic opportunities than Labor did in the 16 years it was in office before us. I would like to acknowledge my friend and mentor, the member for Dunstan, Steven Marshall, and thank him for his service as our state's 46th Premier and the confidence he showed in me as a member of his team.

The good work and sound investments made by the Marshall Liberal government will be paying dividends long into the future. I refer to initiatives like Lot Fourteen, a visionary, world-class start-up and growth precinct driving innovation and creativity in the city and beyond; a renewed focus on defence and space, bringing jobs and investment to South Australia and stopping the brain drain to other states, a remarkable achievement from where we were just four years ago; and beginning the long, complex process of reforming South Australia's health system after 16 years of mismanagement, cost blowouts, hospital closures and horror stories.

Strong progress was made but slowed by the unprecedented impact of the global COVID pandemic and the immense new challenges that came with it. I have no doubt that history will rate the Marshall government highly, in particular for its handling of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has killed millions around the world and was better managed here than in any other state or country.

The Marshall government left an economy growing at a faster rate than at any time in the previous 30 years and delivered historically low unemployment. It is a legacy to be proud of, and the challenge for the incoming government is to continue building on what has already been achieved, and this includes in our health system. Words are cheap and they do not wipe out actions.

During the election campaign, Labor talked a lot about our hospitals, particularly ambulance ramping. Ambulance ramping in South Australia started 10 years ago on Labor's watch. While the member for Croydon was health minister, the Repat was shut and other hospitals were downgraded. These actions only added to the pressures across our health system inherited by the Marshall government.

We responded by providing South Australia with more doctors, more nurses and midwives and more ambulance officers than ever before in our state's history. South Australians are now being cared for by more health professionals in bigger and better hospitals. The question now for this Labor government is how it will keep the promises they made to the people of South Australia whilst keeping their commitment to not increase taxes.

The Liberal Party in opposition will be providing active accountability and a positive alternative. The new Leader of the Opposition, the member for Black, David Speirs, has made it clear that our team will not oppose for the sake of it, but we will hold this government to account for both their responsibilities and their promises. As a team, we will work around the clock to ensure that the Liberal Party is in a strong and competitive position in four years' time for the next state election, casting a bold vision for this state that is underpinned by positive policies and grassroots campaigning.

I am humbled to have been appointed by the leader to serve as the shadow minister for health. Health is a key foundation for people to be able to live their lives to the full. Health services are a critical responsibility of the state government and the largest area of expenditure. I look forward to being part of shaping health services for the future of this state.

As both the local member for Schubert and shadow minister, a key priority of mine is that this government must continue with the construction of a new Barossa hospital. Our community has been extraordinarily patient in waiting for this hospital, and I believe it is time to get on with it. Real progress has been made, and I will fight each and every day to ensure that Labor does not let our community down again and that this hospital is delivered.

Delivering this hospital is about ensuring that local families and our loved ones can get the health care and treatment that they need closer to home in a 21st century facility whilst also taking the pressure off our city hospitals. I will also be fighting to ensure that the reopening of the Gumeracha and Mount Pleasant emergency departments remain on track. I will work with passionate locals like Joel Taggart and Libby Barber, and others, to ensure this is achieved.

It is hard to reflect on the challenges and the opportunities of our region without acknowledging two generational battles that we are in the midst of fighting: climate change and mental health. Climate change and environmental issues are particularly close to the heart of our new Liberal leader, who was a very active and effective environment minister. Like our leader, I believe that the climate is changing and that we must take it seriously. Climate change has become

variously framed as a social or a moral issue, but it is critically an economic one, too, and must be seen as such.

I know that many of our farmers see it that way. There are no more committed and effective environmentalists than our farmers. When your income and future depends on the productivity of your patch of land, it certainly makes you appreciate the necessity of preserving and protecting that land into the future.

My family and community have ingrained in me a deep sense of responsibility to preserve and protect our natural environment and water security. We must continue with plans to deliver a long-term water security solution for the farmers and the growers in our region. There is desperate need for this, and I will work every day with industry to ensure that it is delivered.

Mother Nature can also wreak havoc on the mental health of our regional towns. You can work as hard as you like on the farm, but without the right combination of sunshine and rain a farm can fail, and under the financial pressure that follows good people can often be pushed to breaking point. It breaks my heart to see so many people fall victim to the demons of the black dog.

Almost half of all Australian adults will face mental ill health during their lives, and whether it is in the regions, the towns or the cities across our state, young or old, no demographic is untouched by mental ill health and depression. I have met with many organisations in Schubert dedicated to providing support in the regions for mental health, such as Seeds of Hope, which is a support group that raises awareness. They do a remarkable job, but there is so much more to do and I look forward to championing this cause in this place.

Like all of us who come together in this parliament, I have been supported by an army of people along my journey, and many are here today in the galleries. They have made an incredible contribution and it would be impossible to thank them all individually. I would like to recognise my predecessor in this place, Stephan Knoll. Stephan served the community with distinction as the member for Schubert for eight years and was very generous with his support and assistance during this campaign for which I am very grateful. I wish him, his wife, Amy, and their children all the best for their future.

To the Liberal Party, my local state electorate committee, the Barossa branch and the Torrens Valley branch: thank you for your unwavering encouragement, support and assistance. The Liberal Party is a truly democratic party that empowers its membership with the choice of their local representative. I thank the local liberals who chose me to represent them and our region and who have backed up that choice by campaigning for me at the election. I would like to thank each and every one of them.

Thank you to my campaign team: Brian Barnett, Chris Pheiffer, Clayton Scott, Mark Grossman, Clementina Maione and my husband, Adam. Our campaign meetings may have been shorter without the wine, but little is done in the Barossa without one, so cheers! To my many dear friends from all walks of life who have helped and inspired me along the way: I see so many of you in the gallery and I thank you very much.

To Robert Brokenshire, Ann Ruston, Stephen Wade, Christopher Pyne, Simon Birmingham, John Gardner, James Stevens and Hannah March, to the federal member of parliament covering Schubert, Tony Pasin, and the new member for Frome, my great friend and colleague Penny Pratt: thank you for your counsel. To the late Professor Dean Jaensch who set me on this path over many long black coffees: thank you.

I would also like to recognise the many good people who, over the last four years and in some cases much longer, have made extraordinary contributions in serving our state but who were not successful at this election. I refer to people like Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Corey Wingard, Paula Luethan, Richard Harvey, Rachel Sanderson, Carolyn Power and Steve Murray. I want to thank them for their service and wish them all the best in their next endeavours.

To my parents-in-law, Colin and Julie Howard, who stood all day at the Mount Torrens booth and who would not take no for an answer thank you. To my husband, Adam: your love, patience, support and uncanny ability to never panic has helped guide me to this place and I am forever grateful. You are the love of my life, my partner, my teammate and my best friend.

Finally, I thank the people of Schubert, who have put their faith in me to fight for them in this place, and I will always do that. I will never lose sight of the enormous privilege and responsibility that it is to be their voice. As a farm girl, I am not prone to hyperbole. I call things as they are. You can therefore trust me when I tell you that it is absolutely no exaggeration to say that Schubert is the jewel in the crown not only of South Australia but of our entire nation.

Our outstanding reputation internationally is a testament to our community's passion for the land, our unique business offerings, our enviable lifestyle and our character. It is my home. It is my family's home. It is the place where I want to raise my children. I will always put Schubert first and am committed to being a vocal and unflinching advocate for them in this place.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (16:34): I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion without notice forthwith and for the question to be put prior to the Address in Reply being adopted.

Motion carried.

Motions

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (16:35): I move:

That the Social Development Committee inquire into, and report on, the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) on South Australians living with disability who have complex needs and are, or are at risk of, residing for long periods in inappropriate accommodation (such as hospital or residential aged care), with reference to:

- (a) ability to access and navigate the requirements of the NDIS;
- (b) the timeliness of approval for appropriate specialist disability supports, including home and living decisions through the NDIS; and processes that may lead to delays;
- (c) the adequacy of funding in NDIS plans to fund the supports required;
- (d) the ability of the NDIS workforce and market (including the specialist disability accommodation policy settings and market) in South Australia to deliver necessary accommodation and funded supports;
- (e) the impact on the wellbeing of participants of these inappropriate accommodation arrangements;
- (f) any negative impacts on state government services; and
- (g) any other relevant matters.

This referral comes after many points of advocacy to members' offices on our side of the house and, I am sure, on the other side of the house, from people living with disability and their advocates. Many would be aware that South Australian taxpayers provide more than \$800 million per annum to support the NDIS. The NDIS is a game changer. Choice and control is something that people with disability have wanted for decades, and now it is being delivered, but sometimes there are obstructions in the way of a successful pathway to choice and control.

While the scheme has been of huge benefit to many South Australians, sadly some of those who need it most either do not get access or suffer serious delays in planning and approvals. This does include people who lack support frameworks and networks or families who can advocate for them, so sadly these people can be left without a pathway to that choice and control without advocacy.

This often includes people with complex needs, particularly those with acquired brain injury, cognitive impairments and intellectual disability—those who can least afford it. There are other groups, such as people with language and cultural barriers, that are not adequately addressed by the NDIS in particular in relation to accommodation needs.

Prior to the NDIS, there were people in hospital for lengthy periods of time. It goes without saying—this is not a new thing—that people with disability often ended up with prolonged hospitalisation periods over many years. However, with the state handing over its funding and the coordination responsibility to the NDIS, there has been a notable increase in the number of people who remain in hospital for longer, obstructed and with barriers to discharge and success—barriers to choice and control and optimal accommodation outcomes.

There has been an apparent increase in the number of people with a disability with complex needs who require specialist robust housing, behaviour supports through allied health professionals, skilled and experienced staff. Much of this is down to different models of care, different models of support over decades and, with choice and control and the acknowledgement of the basic human rights of people with disability, modalities of care have changed.

Many people have entered the health system as social presentations due to provider failure. This is something that is providing an absolute barrier to discharge from hospital. The impact on the wellbeing of the person with disability and the health system is significant, as they often require complex and significant substantial resourcing, including security, to keep themselves and others safe.

An organisation, the Summer Foundation, has recently commenced a campaign to reduce the amount of time it takes to assess an application for NDIS housing support. I am watching this with interest, and I am hoping that this forms part of the inquiry. It is so important that these decisions are made well and also made quickly. Every day a person is stuck in hospital in inappropriate accommodation or with the wrong supports, delays their recovery and can even send them backwards. It prevents people from participating fully in the community and it does not maximise their potential in the long term.

This inquiry by the Social Development Committee will provide an opportunity for South Australians, particularly those in this situation, to tell their stories. It will help to ensure that South Australians—all of us—are getting the best value for the more than \$800 million that is contributed to the NDIS but, more importantly, that people with disability are getting the best possible outcomes through the NDIS.

This is absolutely not a partisan referral; it is something I have spoken about across the house with other members of the opposition and also with members on this side of the chamber. It does not seek to lay any blame; it seeks to find some answers in order to insert some opportunity to provide housing for one group of people who are left wanting. This is about ensuring that the people we love and care for receive the support and services that not only are paid for but they deserve. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (16:41): I rise to speak on the motion to suspend the standing orders. In doing so, I indicate that I will be brief. There are pressing matters before the house. I indicate that we have no opposition to the substantive motion that is to follow the motion we are discussing, and I have no criticism to make of the Minister for Human Services' content. I would draw to the attention of the leader of the house—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, but I draw the member's attention to the fact that the house has already dealt with the suspension, so you are speaking to the substantive motion.

Mr GARDNER: In that case, thank you, sir, I will speak on the substantive motion's timeliness in this place. I indicate that, while the Minister for Human Services' speech is absolutely welcomed—we of course want to support people living with disability in Australia and in South Australia to live their best lives—and there is no problem with the Social Development Committee referral, this is not necessarily the right place to have done it, though, in the Address in Reply debate.

The opposition was advised this morning by the Government Whip that the government required two minutes to suspend standing orders to make this referral. I suggest that the Government Whip or the leader of the house might provide advice to their ministers in future that, if one wants to make a non-partisan/bipartisan committee referral, the first place to do that is in the committee itself. The committee can resolve on its own motion to have an inquiry.

The second place to do it is in a period on the *Notice Paper* entitled Committee Business, with notice given so that every member of the house can consider the matter and contribute to the debate at the time allocated for that. The third opportunity to do it is by a letter to the committee, followed by a ministerial statement before question time.

There are many ways in which the government could have handled this. Providing the opposition with a couple of hours' notice that two minutes would be required and then taking a substantially longer time than that is not the way to do it. I encourage the government to be honest with the opposition for the good management of the house in the four years to come.

Motion carried.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call on the member for Frome, I remind members of the house that this is the member's first speech and that she should be accorded the normal courtesies and respect afforded to new members on this important occasion. Member, the floor is yours.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (16:44): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to speak and recognise the opening of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament of South Australia. My congratulations to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on being re-elected in this place. I offer my congratulations to all the other members of parliament in this house and all returning members to this place for the Fifty-Fifth Parliament. I also sincerely thank Her Excellency the Governor for opening parliament last sitting week. I thank her for her continued contribution that she is making to our great state, and I especially note her commitment to regional events of significance in my own electorate.

It is a privilege not lost on me that I stand here as the first female member of the country electorate that we all know as Frome, and it is with unabashed pride that I reclaim this seat for the Liberal Party, as I pledged to do over 12 months ago. My first official order of business is to recognise my predecessor, the newly elected member for Stuart, in his role as Minister for Regional Roads, Local Government and Veterans Affairs. He has been generous in his congratulatory comments to me, and I note that we have a shared passion for better access to mental health services across the Mid North. I also look forward to working with him in this Fifty-Fifth Parliament to ensure regional SA continues to benefit from state government funding for regional roads.

However, this neighbourly collaboration is bittersweet as I make mention of the outgoing member for Stuart and former Deputy Premier of South Australia, Dan Van Holst Pellekaan, a gentleman and loyal servant of the Marshall Liberal government who excelled in his portfolio and delivered on our election promises to stabilise the grid.

I am the new custodian of an electorate that is named after General Edward Charles Frome, our colony's third surveyor-general, arriving on the ship *Recovery* in 1839. New Frome is 200 kilometres long, from Terowie to Two Wells, and it reflects the very best of our state where the pristine samphire coastline hosts our precious international bird sanctuary, where the food bowl of the Adelaide Plains meets the golden canola crops of the Mid North and where the renewable energy landscape of Goyder north runs south into the majesty of World's End Gorge.

At its geographical heart is the Clare Valley, where all four seasons are captured in the cycle of a grapevine, and the green canopy of a riesling varietal can be found draped over the seven hills of this diverse region. Of course, to single out one winery would be career limiting.

If wine is not your thing, Frome can offer you award-winning authors, poets and painters. C.J. Dennis, author of *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke*, was born in Auburn. Colin Thiele AC of *Storm Boy* fame was born in Eudunda and of course is featured on the town silo writ large. The Owen silo was painted by Robert Hannaford AM and he was born and continues to live in Riverton. Younger female art professionals, such as Alexia Prokopec, Nadine Grace and Alysha Sparks, have commissions booked well into next year with each of them capturing the glory of our stunning landscape.

Ian Roberts OAM, from my home town of Blyth, was my first introduction to the medium of painting and, given that it is less than eight kilometres outside my electorate, I make no apologies to the member for Narungga that I will poach this town back from him at the very first opportunity.

We are also strong in agricultural industry and manufacturing. In 1932, a bushman from Belalie North called Reg Murray Williams started selling pack saddles to Sir Sidney Kidman to make a quid. No Aussie wardrobe is complete now without the distinctive accessories of moleskins and R.M. Williams boots, which he established exactly 90 years ago. Outback SA fashion was iconic before The Iconic. Young people get it.

In every corner of this electorate there are signs of an industrious workforce, never resting or relying on others. The Bundaleer Forest planted in 1875 was, in fact, our nation's first purpose plantation, while at the southern end of the electorate Laucke Mills had expanded to Eudunda and Kapunda. That same copper town is currently serviced by its biggest employer, J.T. Johnson hay exporter. Of course, not to be outdone, Balaklava is also serviced by hay exporters Gilmac and Balco. I am sure your cupboards are full with San Remo pasta, which has storage facilities in Balaklava and Owen in order to support its 31-year history of growing and buying durum wheat in South Australia.

Early settlers to the Mid North established famous merino studs like Bungaree and Collinsville. We all know the legacy of pastoralist Sir Sidney Kidman and, sadly, lesser known explorers like the intrepid World War I photographer and polar explorer Hubert Wilkins, from Mount Bryan, or the Penwortham early settler John Horrocks, who was shot by his own camel—true story. As it is history month, I make quick reference to the copper mining boom that began in Burra and the freight route of the copper loads to Port Wakefield via Halbury and Balaklava.

But it is the renewable sector that is the cutting edge of innovation in Frome. Wind turbines at Hallett and the big battery at Hornsdale, which the Marshall Liberal government expanded in 2020, were just the beginning. This year, French company Neoen committed to a \$3 billion—with a 'b'—investment into a hybrid wind solar battery storage project called Goyder North and Goyder South, not to mention a ringing endorsement from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), which described the interconnector from Robertstown in Frome to Wagga Wagga in New South Wales as a critical, no-regret solution to keeping the lights on in this state. It will have safe passage through the eastern corridor hosted by my neighbour the member for Chaffey.

As an educator, it is also important to remind the chamber that the Roseworthy Agricultural College established in 1936 was the first of its kind in the nation, while also offering the first Diploma of Oenology. Perhaps it is most relevant, though, for me to mention the political contributions from the Mid North: an honorary mention for Sir George Strickland Kingston, who was the deputy surveyor to Colonel Light. He also was our colony's first Speaker of the House of Assembly in the Old Chamber of course. He represented in this order the seat of The Burra and Clare and subsequently the seat of Stanley, both encapsulated in Frome. As the member for Black will attest, I am a former volunteer of this historical home at Kingston House and therefore I am quite pleased with that connection.

Of personal significance, I note former federal members for Wakefield: Charles Allen Seymour Hawker, Charles Robert (Bert) Kelly and Neil Andrew. I also congratulate the new member for Taylor, my neighbour to the south.

In a political twist, my rural district has twice delivered a Liberal member for Adelaide: from Riverton, Trish Worth AM, and preceding her, from Blyth, my dad, Michael Pratt. My very first experience of a maiden speech goes back 34 years. It was April 1988 when in Canberra my father delivered the last ever maiden speech to be heard in Old Parliament House. A week later, my family had the great fortune to attend the opening of the current federal Parliament House. If I may channel Sir Robert Menzies, I will never forget the vision of seeing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passing by.

I could do an entire grievance on the foibles and fearlessness of my father, which he would love, but I will not—not happening today, not today. People call Pratty when they need help or a laugh or both. Mr Yellow Pages, I have heard him called, and it is quite fitting. He is an ideas man and a rogue. He has been a Japanese movie industry heart-throb—also a true story—and one of the most entertaining charity auctioneers this state has ever seen.

Our family life on the farm at Sandaroo was idyllic, as all flashbacks are, but my parents made some very brave futureproofing decisions as it became apparent we would need more land just to break even. So when an opportunity came along to run in the 1988 by-election for the federal seat of Adelaide, my father threw all his energy at it, defeating Labor in its heartland. Timing is everything in politics. Our family rode the inevitable bumps of losing an election and it stung us for many years. That adversity held me in good stead for later years, but throughout high school I only had eyes for a teaching career.

It was in 1990 when the nation's Treasurer told us that this was the recession we had to have. Thousands of families were forced to consolidate finances, and we were no different. We worked our way back, but it took my parents years to recover from double-digit interest rates. I quickly learned to manage my expectations about hard work versus reward and the importance of good governance and fiscal responsibility. During this challenging time, it was mum who got us all through—no surprise. She is an elegant, unassuming lady. In her life, she has cooked for shearer gangs and catered for classical concerts; she has fed premiers and consuls.

But most people do not know that to help us get by for a decade my mum worked the 6am shift at Vili's bakery making pasties and making money to keep us going. Rosemary Milisits and her late husband, Vilmos, were very good to our family and many others over decades and, in turn, every member of my family ended up working in Vili's business. I am sure it was no accident. I echo previous condolences from this place on his passing and recognise the generosity of these two great benefactors to our state. As a Hungarian postwar refugee, Vili was determined that with his bakery no-one he knew need ever go without food, so I cannot imagine what he would think about the senseless war in Ukraine.

Working at Vili's put me through university and after graduating I was desperate to return home to the Mid North to teach. In fact, the age gap was right that, if I was lucky, I might have ended up teaching my young cousins—and I hope they are watching and tuning in today: you are lucky. You probably dodged a bullet. It was not to be. The education department instead sent me to the bottom of the state to teach primary school French. I relocated to the frosty climes of the South-East, where I never had to water my garden or install an air conditioner.

Teaching in the country changed my life forever. While I was busy creating lesson plans, driving the school bus, conducting the choir and coaching the debating team, I was also developing my own views about what good leadership looked like. I became passionate about staff welfare. I was confronted daily by the impacts of long-term generational unemployment and by the positive power of education.

The life I live today has been shaped by my formative years as a teacher, and I recognise the positive influence from the following passionate country educators: school leaders Liz Noske, the late Julie Howie, John McCade, the late Rob Shepherd, and my very special friends Bec Maddigan, Sarah Vinall and Helen Widdison. Collectively, their influence guided me to fight for the rights of individuals, to expect the best from every student and not the worst, to debate curriculum and department policy.

Most precious of all, teaching introduced me to brain theory and to neuroscience, which in fact changed my own brain and teaching practice for good. If mechanics must train to understand car engines and doctors must train to understand anatomy, then every graduate teacher should train to understand how the brain functions. Our entire system of testing and reporting is predicated on the student being able to recall and retrieve information from their long-term memory. Teachers help students to create these lifelong memories.

My own memories take me back to days of being a frontline public servant, protecting students from themselves, their family and sometimes even other teachers' unreasonable expectations. I became a court advocate for students more than once. I conducted risky home visits to drug-dealing parents without hesitation to check on a student's welfare. I was thrust into the world of kinship and residential care agreements, and I understand well the horrors of making mandatory notifications after a students' disclosure.

Even still, teaching is a wonderful vocation. It taught me selflessness and sacrifice. I discovered my passion for helping others, fighting for those who do not have a voice, and it taught

me how to compromise. Working with students and families, I developed a guiding mantra to manage my expectations but to keep my standards high, and those learnings have travelled with me to this place.

Since my swearing-in ceremony, I now have one singular opportunity to outline my own priorities as a newly minted member of the 55th South Australian parliament, an opportunity to imagine forward to a future where I will be measured against commitments I make today on behalf of the voters of Frome, who put their faith in me to represent them with integrity.

Even members of the public who remained disengaged and disenchanting with politics and politicians cast their vote back in March and participated in our democratic process that Winston Churchill once deemed the very worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. He added that no-one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise. But voters are encouraged by mainstream and social media to collectively denigrate this imperfect democracy and participate in a national blood sport of hunting elected representatives until their best or only option is to quit.

And so I return to my mantra: manage your expectations, but keep your standards high. Just think about it: we all have expectations, but in the political sphere it is voters who expect much of us. By the Oxford definition, they have a strong belief that something will happen. Reading a *Quarterly Essay* in 2012 challenged me at the time to reflect on a voter's perception of politics—on all voters' perceptions of politics, in fact—and 10 years on, that essay, entitled *Great Expectations*, holds true.

Picking up an observation made by former Senator Amanda Vanstone, the author Laura Tingle opined that voters are angry because they have expectations that have not been met. They are sceptical about why people enter politics. But observing the class of 2022, they should not have any doubt. In 2012, Tingle wrote:

Our expectations of what government will do have seemed to grow over the years. Of course it will be there to assist us after bushfire or flood, not just with our immediate emergency needs but also by helping with rebuilding and providing income support. When we travel to war-torn and unstable countries, we expect government to rescue us from trouble and sometimes to get us home.

How prescient. Every member here shares an obligation to bring voters along with us as we debate legislation and make laws that must improve the lives of others. We can actually start those conversations in the classroom as well as with our own constituencies.

As the member for Frome, I will continue to engage fully with my electors, communicate in a way that does not overpromise nor under-deliver. The Marshall Liberal government met expectations by investing over \$100 million in new Frome in pools, schools and clubs alone. I am so very grateful to the voters in my electorate who placed their trust in me and resoundingly elected a female Liberal member. In Frome, I hope that we continue to manage our expectations and keep our standards high.

As I stand here today, I note that I am the sum of my experiences, and many people feature in the retelling of my life such as it is. I am overjoyed to share this moment with beloved family and friends and publicly extend my deepest love for my parents, Michael and Dianne, as well as my aunty and uncle, Meredith and Rob. Every campaign, whether successful or just falling short, demands much from our volunteers and supporters. I am extremely grateful not just to those who assisted me during the election period but to every volunteer and branch member who has ever said yes to helping out on polling day.

Of particular note, I wish to thank Malcolm Dixson, who is well known to the Liberal family. He was dedicated in his quest to save the Repat, and we did, and he continues to be a positive influence on us all. The Frome campaign was fuelled not just by the best schnitzels at the Sevenhill pub but by the energy of my committee members: Richard Daley, Malcolm Bartholomaeus, Craig Honan, Jason Noble, Ian Jenkins, Bec Long and James Long. I thank you all for your support and for travelling here today. In addition to this, I was assisted daily by Scott Kennedy, Bethany Flight, Anna Tsirigotis and Sam Diprose. I am thankful for their guidance, friendship and expertise.

I recognise the presence of former member for Elder, Carolyn Power, and her husband, Brad, and I thank you for your friendship. I wish to thank our new party leader, the member for Black, for his friendship and encouragement over many years. We seem to have come full circle from my

time supporting your own campaign and inevitable entry to this illustrious place in 2014, and I am proud to echo your own first speech sentiments in return. Thank you for giving me the opportunity as a shadow minister to be a strong voice for health and, indeed, health services in the regions, to promote wellbeing and to be an advocate for ageing.

To our state's 46th Premier I owe much. Thank you to the member for Dunstan for his encouragement and belief in my ability to serve our party in any capacity. Moreover, I wish to thank him for his unrelenting service to our state—it cannot be said often enough. I have mentioned all my parliamentary neighbours bar one: the member for Schubert. Thank you for your friendship. You know what it means to me. I am really excited by the prospect of serving our first term together. We both have a brother living in Perth, and by the virtues of the live broadcast I send my thanks and my love to James, Anna and little H. I cannot wait to meet my nephew, but you have to make sure that the barracks for the Crows, not the Eagles.

So, in sympathy with the member for Morialta, I am a Crows tragic. Like politics, Aussie Rules has afforded me the sweetest of victories in the most bitter of losses. I grew up in awe of the early players—the Jarman brothers, Mods, Roo, Goody, McLeod and now Tex—but I would jump off the couch for Eddie. He retired after the 2019 season ended, with no chance of playing a farewell game.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms PRATT: It was a shame. I will try to get over it. Elections can be like that: not every member of parliament chooses the timing of their departure. I am not planning on going anywhere, but I have taken the opportunity today to use my first speech to pre-empt my last speech. I love my electorate, I love my job, I love my home, and I encourage you all to come and visit our beautiful region. As you drive along the Max Fatchen Way, the Horrocks Highway, the Thiele Highway and the RM Williams Way you can be sure you are in Frome. #RegionsMatter.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (17:12): It is a great pleasure to rise in this place and speak about some local issues in the seat of Wright, which I am honoured to have been re-elected to for another four years, and, of course, I thank my constituents and the members of the public in the north-eastern suburbs who have shown their faith in me by giving me another four years to represent them.

I should pay special mention to at least half of Modbury North, which is a suburb I now share with the member for Newland but which is new to the seat of Wright, and I say farewell to the very good people of the suburb of Brahma Lodge, who have returned to the member for Ramsay against my wishes. Nonetheless, I am sad to see them go and, in particular, the fantastic relationship that I have had with the Brahma Lodge Football Club. The member for Ramsay's ears must have been burning because she heard I was going to take Brahma Lodge back and she has just wandered into the chamber.

I should explain, though, that I have to wear this scarf during my address here. It is the Golden Grove Football Club's—

An honourable member: Shame!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: —yes, 'shame' indeed—colours, because I stupidly went into a bet with the new member for King in the local derby between the Golden Grove Kookaburras, which is the member for King's team, and the Modbury Hawks Football Club, which is the team of the member for Newland and me.

The original bet that we laid out was that the loser, who as you can see now is me, would mow the lawn of the winner wearing the team colours of the successful team. Unfortunately, the member for King does not have any lawn at her place, or so she tells me. I suspect she does and does not care and wants me to get up and wear this instead, so this is penance for a silly bet that I made, and I am making good on it. Congratulations to the Kookaburras, and I sincerely hope that when the rematch comes around we absolutely pump you.

Could I perhaps start by acknowledging how fortunate and proud I am to be re-elected to this place. It is not an honour that I think anyone in here takes for granted. I think it is true to say—and I

am sure you would agree with this yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker—that as the member of a seat that has been marginal for a very long time, since its inception in 1993, it is not something that you take for granted. You are always fighting for your survival, and certainly that was the mentality I took to representing my constituents between 2018 and the most recent election.

Nonetheless, it was a pretty overwhelming result for the new Malinauskas Labor government. I will be honest and say that it was not one that I anticipated. I think everyone just put their noses to the grindstone and worked as hard as they could. Certainly, some of the members sitting here to my left, three new members of parliament, led the way in the incredible amount of direct voter contact that they had since becoming candidates for the Labor Party. That was inspirational for me as someone who was getting towards the end of his first term and trying to find the motivation to get back out on the hustings, knock on doors and make phone calls, which, as enjoyable as it can be sometimes, can also be very hard work.

The message I want to pass on to the people I represent across the suburbs of Salisbury East (which I share with the member for King), Wynn Vale, Gulfview Heights, Redwood Park, Surrey Downs, half of Modbury North (I do not think I am forgetting anything there) and Modbury Heights is that I thank you for the support you have shown and the confidence you have placed in me. Despite the fact that I also now have the privilege of being the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, which I will get onto in a second, I intend to give you the same strong and active representation I gave you in the first four years because you deserve it.

The seat of Wright is my home. I live in Gulfview Heights. My three daughters go to a public primary school in the seat I represent. My wife plays for the local hockey side, I play some very average amateur basketball at the Golden Grove Recreation and Arts Centre and we both do a bit of volunteering. I am proud to say that the area I represent in this place is well and truly my home and my family's home as well.

Before I go back to a few of the commitments we made locally in the seat of Wright, which I am very excited to have an opportunity now for us to deliver upon, I will lay out some of the commitments that the Malinauskas Labor government has made more broadly in the education, training and skills portfolio. After having been returned as the member for Wright, and having been the shadow minister for a relatively short period of time before that, I did not take for granted that I would automatically find a place on the front bench when government came around.

I was fortunate enough to stay there and to keep the portfolios I had, with the exception of veterans affairs, which has gone elsewhere but no doubt will be very well looked after. One of the proudest moments I had during my time as shadow minister was when I got to join the then Leader of the Opposition, Peter Malinauskas, and the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Susan Close, at the Convention Centre, I think it was, for what was really the first in a series of election commitments that the Malinauskas Labor team were making in the lead-up to the state election.

There was an obvious tendency and an obvious leaning towards focusing exclusively on health and our response to the global pandemic, given that it was roughly October 2021 when we were making these announcements and the media was once again swamped by all the complications of how we were trying to deal with COVID-19 in our community. An obvious response that we could have made was simply to focus all our election commitments, certainly the first ones that we made, completely on how we responded to COVID-19 and health exclusively.

I think it was a very bold but ultimately a very wise decision by the now Premier—and this of course goes back to the motto that we took through the campaign of For the Future—that what we needed to start looking at, and very much what the South Australian public were looking for, was a party and a government with a view to how things could be once the worst of the pandemic was over.

Of course there are a number of things which are key to that. Health is one and education is very much so. The truth is that, as tough as the last 2½ years have been on so many people—and certainly I have met lots of people who would be in the more vulnerable category in the seat of Wright who have had a pretty horrendous 2½ years through contracting COVID themselves, being a close contact, losing family members to COVID or simply people whose health is so vulnerable that they have decided to retreat somewhat from society to protect themselves—what we decided to do back in October was lead with policies about education instead.

I think there was risk in that. There was genuine risk that the South Australian public and the government at the very least would respond by saying this is out of touch or out of step. Why is this opposition, who wants to be the government in five short months, not talking about the pandemic that we are dealing with now? I think time told us, as those months went past and we got to the 19 March election, that we had actually hit the nail on the head in terms of what the South Australian public were looking for, for its next government.

The first thing we announced as part of a suite of education election commitments was that we would be delivering universal three-year-old preschool for South Australian kids, and that as part of that we would hold a royal commission into how that very significant and complex structural change to our education system in South Australia would actually be delivered.

You do not have to go far now to see the abundance of research about just how important the first 1,000 days of a child's life actually are. I think the research shows, and it was certainly something that former Premier Jay Weatherill used to talk about all the time, that 90 per cent of the brain development of a child is complete in the first five years of that child's life. The need for us to focus on those first five years, on the early years, and invest as much of the state's resources and taxpayer dollars in those years is really important.

Not only is it just the right thing to do, in terms of making sure that those young people get the best start in life that they possibly can, but it is also the wisest decision from an investment standpoint in terms of the return government gets on that child's life trajectory and seeing the successes that they will have if they get the first five years right as they go on to primary school, secondary school, maybe vocational education and training, university or straight into a job.

The thing that we always have to grapple with in government is accepting that, although investing in the early years can come at considerable cost, when we actually look at what governments spend down the track, if we do not get those early years of a child's life right and they for some reason get onto a path that could be complex issues around mental health or homelessness, sometimes that path leads to things like incarceration or long-term unemployment.

Ultimately, the state, and therefore the taxpayer, spends vastly more on trying to help that person at the tertiary end of their life than they would have had we invested in the early years. All that research shows the best bang for buck in terms of investing in the earlier years is three-year-old preschool. We have committed to moving to three-year-old preschool and in fact we have committed to that starting in this term of government.

I look forward to, I hope in the not too distant future, being able to talk in more detail about who we will have as the royal commissioner, who will have the very big task of looking at how we deliver this very significant reform and locking down the terms of reference and all the different things they are going to look at, which include things around the quality of out-of-school hours care, accessibility of out-of-school hours care, and the kind of support that we put around families, particularly working families, who are looking for care and education for their children that will enable them to either stay in the workforce or get back into the workforce without necessarily having to juggle the 3 o'clock or 3.15 pick-up every day.

Not long after that, I also joined the now Premier and now Deputy Premier to announce that a Malinauskas Labor government would be building five technical colleges across South Australia. These will be technical colleges for years 10, 11 and 12 students at five different sites. We have now named those sites; in fact, we named all five of them before the election. There will be one technical college in Mount Gambier and one in Port Augusta, and the three metropolitan locations will include the Tonsley TAFE site in the south, Findon High School in the west and The Heights School in the north-east. If we are able to deliver them in the fashion that we would like, these colleges will be transformative.

Many members of this place will know how successful the model of technical colleges that has been delivered by the Catholic sector in South Australia for a number of years now has been. In the area that I represent in the north-east—not far from your seat, Mr Deputy Speaker—is St Patrick's Technical College, which is an incredibly successful model out there. I know that many young people from the seats of King and Newland choose to finish year 9 and start year 10 at St Pat's. We have

Western Technical College in the west and we also have Cardijn College in the south. People are voting with their feet and choosing those models.

We are going to make sure that, in addition to having those Catholic technical colleges, we will also have public offerings. We are aiming to locate those in the five locations that I mentioned; not to be setting them up in competition with the fantastic Catholic technical colleges that we already have but to complement those. People will have choice in terms of whether they would like to do it in a non-government setting and to make sure that people have something that is near to them. I am very excited about this. I know that this has really been the brainchild of the Premier, Peter Malinauskas. He has pushed this really hard, and I feel really excited to have the opportunity as education minister to deliver on that vision of his.

In the early weeks since becoming education minister, I have spoken on a number of occasions about my vision for the education system and where there might be any points of difference between me as minister and the former minister, and between the former Liberal government and the new Malinauskas Labor government. Given what I have spoken about, it is timely that I mention today, given that our years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students are currently undergoing NAPLAN, that although this government firmly believes that there is a place for NAPLAN—and we do want to see our NAPLAN and our PISA scores improve across the board—whenever we are talking about student achievement and improving the academic results of our students, whether they go to government schools or non-government schools, we also need to be talking about wellbeing. That conversation is more important now than it has ever been.

The feedback I have been getting from school sites, and directly from principals and teachers, is that they feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the wellbeing and mental health of both our teaching and learning workforce—and there are some 279,000 students in South Australia. The effects of COVID upon those people has not fully washed through yet. In fact, we are going to see that wellbeing, their mental health, probably continue to suffer even as we are coming out of the pandemic.

My point and my philosophy have been that if we want to achieve the uplift in academic achievement in tests like NAPLAN and PISA we cannot expect the improvement if the mental health and wellbeing of our students undertaking those tests is shot to pieces. It is illogical and nonsensical to think that we are going to improve those scores while kids are not in a healthy state of mind and able to perform to the best of their ability. If there is a change in focus from this new government in terms of our approach to education, it would be to make sure that whenever we talk about academic achievement, whenever we talk about NAPLAN—and we are always going to be talking about that, and they are important indicators of our education system—we have to talk about wellbeing as well.

That brings me to the next major election commitment made by the Malinauskas Labor team, which was to invest an extra \$50 million over four years in having another 100 staff in the education department to support the wellbeing of students. Currently, we have approximately 200 of those. With that \$50 million of money, we have committed to employ another 100, so it will be the single largest increase in the wellbeing supports provided by the department that we have ever seen.

We know that, although it is a very big increase, it probably is not even going to touch the sides in terms of what is actually needed out there. I do not want to lead people to believe that this is a silver bullet for all the issues we face in our schools in terms of people's wellbeing. I know that more investment and more support are needed, but I look forward to delivering on that.

I think that we can probably link using those wellbeing officers directly to what I hope will be an improvement in our NAPLAN results. They will include professionals, such as occupational therapists, speech therapists, child psychologists and counsellors, who will be able to go out into our schools not only to support the students who might be grappling with all those kinds of issues but also to help our education workforce to have the skills to better support those kids themselves because they have done it really tough as well.

They have had a very hard 2½ years. In the many opportunities I have had since becoming minister to get out to schools and talk to staff and students, I have always not only made a point of thanking them for the stoic way they stood by in the classroom while other people were able to work from home but also told them that, even as someone who was the shadow minister for education

and now fortunate enough to be the minister, I certainly had real feelings of guilt dropping my kids off at the classroom doorstep and waving goodbye and teachers being faced with a classroom of 25 to 30 kids they were still teaching to make sure they could have an education, even through a global pandemic when other people had the opportunity to go home perhaps and work virtually.

I think it is very important that we keep that in mind and also acknowledge that we have a workforce that is exceptionally tired, a workforce that is in some degrees a bit worn out and that has been operating at a heightened state of anxiety for a very long period of time. As the minister, I want to do everything in my power to make sure that we support them as well as our students.

In the time remaining to me, I might speak briefly about some of the great local election commitments made by the Malinauskas Labor team. One that I will begin with has already been spoken about in some excellent detail by the new member for Newland and that is what has been an issue for decades in the north-eastern suburbs—the Community Wastewater Management System.

I do not think there is any need for me to go into the ins and outs of septic tanks yet again in this place. We have all had well and truly enough of that. It is good that we are now in a place where we have a plan to fix these things and, as I have been saying, move the north-eastern suburbs into the 20th century. It is not the 21st century because sewerred blocks were something of a long time ago and unfortunately people in the north-eastern suburbs have still been dealing with—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was Gough Whitlam's promise to the western suburbs of Sydney.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Is that right? Well, you now have the Malinauskas Labor government's commitment to the 4,700 households in the north-eastern suburbs who are still on septic tanks. We have made a commitment that we will transition them, and I think it is from 1 July this year, in fact, that they will be able to move over and start paying the fixed sewer rate from SA Water instead of the rapidly increasing CWMS rate they pay for the obvious luxury of having their septic tank pumped.

The truly ridiculous thing of all this is that the fee those residents have been paying has been steadily increasing because, as the septic system has got older and older, across the last four years the number of blockages in the system has increased by 100 per cent, according to a statistic I saw. This is a system that is basically set to explode.

We are putting more and more money into just maintaining it and keeping it running and, in the meantime, we are charging residents who are stuck on these septic tanks up to \$800 just for the luxury of having someone come around and pump their septic tanks. I am pleased that at last this is going to be fixed, and I look forward to working with the member for Newland and the Minister for Environment, the Deputy Premier, as we make good on that commitment.

Modbury Hospital is a perennial election issue in the north-eastern suburbs, of course. I must say that, although it has had an interesting history, to say the least, in terms of things that have happened at the hospital over many years, I am pleased the political attention it has received perhaps over the last two elections has resulted in some really fantastic commitments and new investments at the hospital.

The commitments were made by Minister Picton, then the shadow minister for health and Peter Malinauskas, and they joined the members for Newland, King, Playford and Torrens as we made the commitment for a new cancer centre at Modbury Hospital, including chemotherapy so people who were getting treatment for cancer could get that treatment closer to home and make it easier for their loved ones to support them while they are undergoing that treatment. As to more mental health beds, of course we know the severity of that issue and we know how great the shortage is in terms of available mental health beds, in not just the north-eastern and northern suburbs but across the state. More subacute beds are an issue as well.

Anyone who has been out to the north-eastern suburbs who does not reside in the area and has raised the issue of Modbury Hospital with residents would know pretty quickly how passionate people are about it. I still bump into people in the area who are obviously older now but who speak emotionally about how they chose the north-eastern suburbs, often back in the seventies, because they had a hospital of their own on their doorstep.

We need to understand this place, and it took me some time as a member of parliament in the area to fully understand that in many cases people chose the north-eastern suburbs to be near Modbury Hospital. When political parties, no matter what colour they are, start mucking around with Modbury Hospital, they rightly get very angry. I am pleased to say that what we are going to see across the next four years is further investment that will secure the future of Modbury Hospital.

A bit more locally in the seat of Wright, we are going to do a very big upgrade to Wynn Vale Drive, which is a connector road that links the suburbs of Wynn Vale, up the hill, with Salisbury East, down the hill, and through Gulfview Heights in the middle. It is one of those roads that has increased usage now. It has a couple of schools sitting on it. It has what I think is the most dangerous intersection, at the bottom of Wynn Vale Drive where it meets Bridge Road in Salisbury East. If people want to do a right-hand turn, which almost no-one tries anymore because you are taking your life in your hands, to get across four lanes of traffic it cannot be done without doing it in two stages.

There has been a lot of advocacy from local people over many years to do something about it, and a lot of those local people are not necessarily people who use the intersection themselves but who live in nearby streets used by motorists to avoid this intersection, which is incredibly dangerous as well. We will be putting traffic lights at the intersection of Bridge Road and Wynn Vale Drive. We will be adding a few other indented bus bays so that the bus that runs along there, which was delivered by the former government—and I will give them credit for that—can pull off the road at each point to enable cars to get past.

We are also going to have a look at what we do at the intersection at the other end of Wynn Vale Drive where it meets The Golden Way, which is very similar to the same problem at the bottom of the hill, except you can do the turn in two stages, but which is a bit of a nightmare during school drop-off and pick-up times. We are going to look at what kind of solution we can find that may not be traffic lights, given the number of traffic lights along The Golden Way now. The member for King and I added them up and there are a lot. If you get all reds, you are stuck there for a long time. It is on our radar, we know how important it is to the community and we will finally be delivering the upgrades to Wynn Vale Drive.

I mentioned the Modbury Hawks. Although they let me down in the derby and have inadvertently led me to be wearing this scarf today in here, they are a fantastic local club. The three of us here—the members for Wright, King and Newland—have all spent time there. It is one of the most welcoming sporting organisations I have ever been to. There are places in this job, Mr Acting Speaker, and you will know this, where sometimes it feels like work, but you still need to do it. Sometimes there are other places that when you are there it does not feel like work at all; it feels like spending time with friends and enjoying yourself.

I am always keen to take my three daughters along because the management and the families at the club always make a great effort to involve them and make the kids feel at home. You can go along on a weekend and watch a game, have a beer, have a snag and hopefully watch them pump the Kookaburras and generally have a really good time.

I am pleased that finally after 160 years—Modbury Hawks is 160 years old, an incredibly old and proud club that has been underinvested in by political parties of all persuasions for too long—we will now be delivering a much-needed upgrade to that club. I know that they are incredibly excited about it. This week, the member for Newland and I joined them as they turned on their new LED lights, which have been funded by the council. The next step will be the upgrade that will be delivered by the Malinauskas Labor government, and I will be very excited to finally deliver some new infrastructure to what is not just a great sporting club but a really important community club in our area that looks after its players and families.

I thought in the last three minutes I have I should say some thankyou's to people who have been integral in my being able to do my work as the member for Wright and as the shadow minister, now Minister for Education. First, I would like to thank the opponents I contested for the seat of Wright. Chiefly I would like to thank Mr Graham Reynolds who was a councillor at Salisbury council. He would be known to many people here. He is a fundamentally decent person who has done the honourable thing by his party on more than one occasion with very minimal support in seats that have been pretty tough to win. He is a genuine local person who lives in Salisbury East. He works hard for his community.

I was very impressed by him. It did not particularly surprise me, but when I went along to the declaration of the poll at a recreation reserve, it was a crowd of three. There was my office manager, Kristianne Foreman; myself; and Graham Reynolds. Despite the fact that it was the world's smallest crowd and we were sitting in the foyer of a basketball stadium on three plastic chairs, Graham still made the effort to stand up and give a very generous speech to me.

We both agreed that it had been an incredibly fair fight and we agreed when he was preselected and we bumped into each other all the time that we would make sure it was a fair fight because we both knew that was the right thing, but we both also acknowledged that our communities do not want to see politicians scrapping with one another. It is not a very good look. I want to thank Graham for the way he conducted his campaign. I know that he will go on to serve the community in some kind of role for many years to come.

I thank my electorate office staff, Kristianne Foreman and Josh Weidenbach. We all know that these are tough jobs. They are the ones at the front counter when we have constituents come in with tricky problems. We all have those constituents we might refer to as 'frequent flyers' who like to pop in every day just to have a bit of a chat and say hello. I have constantly had fantastic feedback about my staff, not only for the fact that they are all local—they all live in or just outside the seat—but also for the fantastic way they treat the people of Wright. I look forward to continuing to work with them both for the next four years.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Teague.

At 17:43 the house adjourned until Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 10:30.