

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

The **SPEAKER** (Hon. D.R. Cregan) took the chair at 10:30.

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

*Address in Reply*

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 17 May 2022.)

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Waite, I remind members that it is the member's first speech and that the traditional courtesies of the house be extended to the member on this occasion.

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (10:32):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I congratulate you on your election, and welcome back to the chamber. I would also like to congratulate Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC on her opening address and her outline of our government's bold policy agenda and thank her for her commitment to South Australia. I acknowledge the Kaurna people on whose land we stand today, and I also pay my respects to Aboriginal people across the state with the knowledge that their land was never ceded.

Having recently attended a meeting of the Blackwood Reconciliation Group, I pass on my thanks from Aboriginal people and the wider community in Waite to our Premier, Peter Malinauskas, who on election night recommitted to delivering a state-based Voice, Treaty and Truth to the Aboriginal people of South Australia. It meant a lot to them.

Just last Friday night, I was fortunate to attend a screening of the movie *Colebrook Reconciliation Park*, directed by Matthew Shannon. This is a documentary about the Colebrook Home, which was established in 1944 in Eden Hills. It was here many children who had been forcibly removed from their parents by government officials or for other reasons were sent.

At the screening, I was joined by a friend of mine who I grew up with and whose son was in the film. We, as well as others in the audience, commented that when we were growing up we were never aware of the Colebrook Home, its residents or the travesty that is the story of the stolen generation, even though we lived less than a few kilometres away. Their story and experiences were well hidden. That is why we need truth telling.

I am glad to know that many children and young people from our local schools now visit the memorial that sits in the place where the house once stood. They are now taught about what happened to so many Aboriginal children there. Finally, the truth is being told. It broke my heart hearing the stories, seeing the ongoing impact and frustration of those who lived at Colebrook, and I commit to doing what I can to ensure we deliver on our commitment and I hope all in this place will as well.

To my fellow members of parliament, congratulations on your re-election. I extend special congratulations to those newly elected in this house. Your presence here today to listen to my first speech means a lot to me. We worked alongside each other, supporting each other with the hope of an extraordinary success, and we achieved just that.

I would also like to thank John Fulbrook for his first speech yesterday. It was heartfelt and, fortunately, longer than mine. To the candidates who were not successful, I wish you well. It is no

mean feat running for an election. It takes hard work, determination and resilience as well as personal sacrifice, and I know that in time you, too, will join us here.

I would like to make special mention to my friend Ryan Harrison, Labor's candidate for Unley. You were a great support to me—you cannot be here today—there to listen, to help and you always believed in me. For that I will be forever grateful, and I look forward to helping you reach your dream of taking a seat in this place and serving your community.

To our previous member for Waite, Sam Duluk, I thank you for your commitment to our local community and wish you well in the future. To the other candidates who ran alongside in the election, including the Mayor of Mitcham, Heather Holmes-Ross, thank you for your commitment and civility during our campaign.

I stand here now as the first Labor member for the seat of Waite, as the first female MP for the seat of Waite and possibly the first MP in South Australia's history of Indian heritage (or at least the first to declare it). It was recently said that it took almost 90 years to have the seventh woman elected to South Australia's parliament and in just one day, on 19 March 2022, seven were elected. The significance of this is not lost on me.

Women have had to work hard to break the glass ceiling, to constantly be challenged to achieve equality and fair representation. Everyone deserves the right to be respected, to be acknowledged and to be safe at work, and I commit to continue to strive for equality and respect at work and hopefully be a role model for future women so they, too, might consider their political ambitions.

Last week, I was honoured to be joined by the women who have gone before, and to know that they are willing and ready to support me, and all the women members here now, means a lot—none more so than Gay Thompson, who supported me throughout the campaign and kept me calm during the long wait. She has continued to be there. Thank you.

I was born at Blackwood Hospital in 1975 to my parents Millie and Robert Rowe, who are in the gallery. My Australian story started when my father's family travelled from England in 1839, three years after the founding of the state, and settled in Lyndoch. This was my father's maternal family, the Gowers. The Rowe family sailed from Cornwall for 91 days, reaching Port Adelaide in 1850 before travelling by bullock cart in the November heat to Burra. My great-great-grandfather James Rowe was a Bible Christian minister travelling with the Reverend James Way, the father of the former Chief Justice of South Australia's Supreme Court, Sir Samuel Way.

My mother and my Uncle Johnnie travelled to Australia before being joined by my grandparents Cynthia and Archie Cline and my Aunty Max. The family set up home in Salisbury, where they started their new life. It must have been quite an experience coming from the bustling streets of Lucknow to Salisbury. They all went on to be successful in life. My grandparents were small business owners. Hollywood Crash Repairs was their pride and joy. They worked hard to provide for their children who all went on to have their own careers and to raise their own families, and they all remained very close. I am proud that I have this heritage and will always work hard to ensure that we support, include and deliver for all migrant families.

My parents met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend. Together they built a life in Glenalta in our Waite electorate and have lived there ever since. My father worked hard as an engineer and was the senior principal engineer on all but one of the Grand Prix in Adelaide, many interstate and overseas races, and also worked on the first Sensational Adelaide V8 race. You can imagine his excitement when he heard Labor is bringing it back to the street circuit. I look forward to being able to take dad to the race and to see the pride on his face.

Dad and mum have always been supportive of the harebrained ideas I have had, and none more so than when I told them that I was going to run for parliament. They were never particularly political when I was growing up, at least not that I can remember, but once I joined the union movement and began to call out injustice the tiger was released, and they now enjoy taking part in robust conversations on the benefits of a Labor government on Facebook.

As kids, we lived on the best street, California Crescent, always sunny and surrounded by other families and friends. We all went to school together, played cricket on the road together, snuck

into each other's houses when we were in trouble, and grew up together. We lived across the road from the Belair National Park, a place that offered me a peaceful place to reflect, especially when I was running away from home when something had gone wrong. Of course, I was always back before dinner and probably no-one noticed my rebellion anyway.

Belair still offers me the feeling of peace and now I am usually in there most days with my best friend, Bowdee, a stumpy-tailed blue heeler. Protecting the park is something that I will do. It is home to some magnificent trees, native vegetation and wildlife. I plan to work hard to ensure that it is a wonderful place to visit for future generations.

The California Crescent gang was the first community I grew up in and I still see those kids today. It was lovely to doorknock my old street and visit my old neighbours, as well as those who have now moved into the homes I once visited, and be able to share stories of the fun we used to have. I also experienced this local familiarity in our wider community during the campaign, often knocking on the doors of parents of old school friends, work colleagues and customers I had served at many casual jobs as a young person.

One lady remembered me from working at the Blackwood fitness centre, a place I worked at when I was 17, and another from my time at the Belair Bhavan, an Indian restaurant in Belair. I worked there when I was 19 and apparently I had not changed at all, a very kind compliment but it is what being a real local is all about. That kindness goes to our community, and the fact that it is one that is hard to leave once you live there. If you do leave you invariably return to raise your own children, as it is the best place to be. Living in the trees is how I would describe it.

But, over the years, the density of the trees has reduced, often alarmingly, and it is something that I am passionate about. I was heartened to be able to not only introduce local 20-metre tree warrior Tom Morrison to our now Deputy Premier, Dr Susan Close, but to also provide real examples of why we need better protection for our tree state. I am glad to know that with Susan's passion and commitment to the environment we will go from the worst tree protection laws in the country to the best.

After I graduated from school I went to Flinders University but I found that science was not my calling in life. I realised I had a passion for food, not just eating it but creating with it. After studying at Panorama TAFE, Regency Hotel School and William Angliss TAFE I became a chef. TAFE is such an important part of our education and training system and I am so glad that both state and hopefully a future federal Labor government have committed to supporting TAFE.

I worked at various restaurants, moving from apprentice to head chef in one day. I began working at the Austral Hotel in 2001. It was and still remains a busy hotel. I often worked upwards of 70 hours a week, my boss letting me know that head chefs do not get days off, even when you are sick, there is a public holiday or you need to take time off. How things have changed.

I never knew about unions when I worked in hospitality. I never had anyone to give me advice on my rights at work, often working 11 hours a day, split shifts and often in hot kitchens under high pressure. I feel running a busy kitchen taught me about resilience, tolerance, care for my colleagues, working to please others and never giving up, because no matter how many bookings we had time could not stand still and we would get through it all.

It was at the Austral Hotel, where I met my husband, Craig. He was a wild one. In 2002 we bought our house in Upper Sturt, and in 2003 we welcomed our son, Finn, into the world. He was an absolutely beautiful baby who had the world at his feet, surrounded by love not only by us but our families. Everyone was enamoured by Finn, long curly hair, a cheeky grin and a laugh I wish I could have bottled. He was such a happy little boy. His laugh is still infectious today, albeit a little deeper.

In 2007, Finn and I were having dinner at my auntie's, something we did often, and there was a knock at the door—a knock that would change Finn's and my life forever. It was the police, and they were there to tell me that my husband had died. We must never forget that whilst the police are there to uphold the law they are also witness to things that you and I would hope to never have to see or deal with, and I pay my respects to those who take on that responsibility in our community.

I was in shock after they left, as was the whole family. My grief for my child and his future was overwhelming and I committed to him there and then that he would come first. With the help of

my family and friends, Finn was raised by a village. My sister, Jo, who could not be here today, moved her family, my brother-in-law, Felix, and their three kids back to Adelaide to be here for Finn and I. Our boys grew up together.

Being a single parent taught me a lot. It is difficult financially but also emotionally to not have a partner to share the load and the love but also the stigma that can come with being a single parent. Providing support for single mothers and also families, older women, those with disability or those who are homeless who do it rough is something Labor does well. I know that having Nat Cook as our new human services minister will ensure that no-one is left behind.

I was fortunate not to lose my house, but there were times when it came close. I had family support but many do not. My husband grew up in community housing with his sisters, Eve and Sarah. My mother-in-law, Margo, remained there until she relocated to a nursing home. There was a roof over her head and it was comfortable, but it was clear it was commission housing.

Last week, I was fortunate to represent Minister Nat Cook in Strathalbyn to open new community housing built by Unity Housing. Previously, community housing or social housing was based on the bare necessities. Not only did this make it quite obvious, but it also left those needing a roof over their heads feeling like outcasts. It was wonderful to see these new properties certified to a gold standard and also NDIS-improved livability, so that families moving there would be proud of their new homes.

Having a pleasant place to live gives people the springboard that they need to a better future, and it was great to be able to speak of Labor's commitment to invest in public housing in response to the housing crisis that currently exists in South Australia. I will not forget what it was like to have no money left at the end of the week, having to create meals out of not a lot, or visit my parents, sister or aunty's house in the hope they would invite us to stay for dinner, so I will fight hard to improve the lives of all South Australians and look forward to working with Nat in this space.

With a young child to care for, cooking was no longer a career I could maintain. I moved to banking, taking up a job in the Unley branch of Bank SA before moving to the Stirling branch to be closer to Finn, who was at kindy there. It was in banking that I was first introduced to what a union did. Working in banking was a real change for me: nine to 4.30, able to be home in the evenings, not so stinky, and also to be able to make a difference in the lives of my customers, even if it was just to say hello and have a chat about their day.

I appreciated the opportunity to change direction in my career but often saw things in the workplace that did not seem right: working conditions challenged or colleagues struggling to get through the day. I wanted to help to fight for our rights and entitlements. I became the union rep, but soon I needed more. I realised helping others was in my blood and I was successful in getting a role as an organiser at the Finance Sector Union. It was here I could make a difference for my friends and former colleagues but also for workers across the industry and as a part of the union movement across Australia.

Working at the FSU taught me a lot. It taught me about collective action, about camaraderie, about not giving up and about looking outside the square for a solution. I was able to listen and advocate for our members—something that gave me great satisfaction. I thank those with whom I worked at the FSU—Jason Hall, Daniel Clutterbuck, Liam Dwyer, Sarah King, Celia Brougham, Clinton, Darcy, Ellie, Heidi Hammer, Cathy Cahill and the whole advocacy team—and the national executive who supported my campaign, and the many more who gave me their perspective on how to fight a good fight.

COVID was incredibly difficult for our frontline workers, and our bank and finance workers were no exception. As essential workers, branch staff had to turn up and work and serve customers, handle their money and continue to reach sales targets during the height of the pandemic. Many fell to the virus, often whole branches having to close as staff recovered or were close contacts. Many staff feared they would take the virus home to vulnerable family members. They persevered, though, and are amongst the heroes who kept our country going through this pandemic.

There are many stories of frontline heroes, especially those who work in health. Several of my family work in health, including at the Flinders Medical Centre. Our nurses, doctors, paramedics and support staff deserve our utmost gratitude. Many of these heroes live in Waite, as we are close

to the hospital. I heard countless stories of exhaustion, struggle and frustration, and there was no end in sight. Many could barely hold on while they were hoping that a party that prioritised health over an entertainment complex would win so that they could finally believe that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

Labor's commitment to health, through our state policies and also through our partnership with federal Labor to redevelop the Flinders Medical Centre, will deliver the relief and support our health workers need and deserve. On Saturday, I encourage all in Boothby to consider this when they cast their vote.

There have been many moments in my life that led me to want to stand up for the community of Waite, whether it was feeling that no-one in the current government in Canberra cared about those doing it tough, always looking for ways to cut support to those who need it most, or the unfairness that exists depending on your postcode.

I live in one of the most beautiful electorates, as I said, living in the trees. One of our main issues that constantly came up while doorknocking was climate change and the lack of action by the Morrison government. Many in our community do everything they can. Every second house has solar panels, people recycle, they catch public transport and are mindful of the environment. I am proud to be part of a state government that knows we need to take urgent action and will deliver a greener hydrogen future. Switching off solar panels, instead of harnessing the extra energy we generate, is madness.

I know that in my community many took a sigh of relief that a Labor government was returned in SA and are hopeful to see one at a federal level so that real climate action can be taken. I wish both Louise Miller-Frost and Marisa Bell all the best on the weekend because Australia cannot afford another three years of inaction.

Climate, the environment, support for all and just plain kindness to others are values that I am passionate about. Protecting our community and being a local volunteer is another. I am a member of the Upper Sturt Country Women's Association and also the Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee. It has been through this association that I have met many incredible examples of community advocates. The former president of the hall committee, Jean Evans OAM, may she rest in peace, was a real inspiration to me, involved in so many organisations in agriculture, local council and the hall committee. Whilst we did not always agree about who to vote for, she was a trailblazer and will be remembered as such.

Carol McGough is another. Giving 98 per cent of her time to the community, she is the mother of our CFS brigade and the community at large, always ready to share her warmth when you need it. Fortunately, her husband, Allan, is also community minded, as are their children, so they all understand her commitment. Three generations of the McGough family are represented in our local Upper Sturt CFS, with over 100 years of combined service. Carol is the one who convinced me to join the CFS and I have never looked back.

The Country Fire Service family is special. They are volunteers who jump out of bed in the middle of the night to clear trees off the road, run towards a fire and actually hold a hose. These are the heroes who help protect in their darkest moments, when they are injured, when their houses are at risk and while they are also helping to protect the environment, animals and property.

It is something that I am most proud of, but the work of the CFS comes with great risk. This was never more evident than earlier this year when we lost someone I have known since our kids were very little, Louise Hincks. Her family kissed her goodbye when she headed out on a strike team to the Coles fire in the South-East, something they had done many times before. She led her CFS brigade of Happy Valley like she normally would, but sadly this time Louise did not return home.

Experiencing the true strengths of the CFS family as they gathered around her girls, Alice and Addie, and her husband and family was overwhelming, as was the support for the other firefighter who was seriously injured, also a friend of mine. Being a CFS volunteer is dangerous, and I will do all I can to ensure our firefighters have what they need to try to stay safe, to be able to do their job properly and to make it easy to protect our community. I was so pleased to hear that a federal Labor government will support the Sturt CFS should Labor win the 2022 election.

We are fortunate to have many volunteer groups and individuals in our Waite electorate, whether they go out to help the environment, such as the Friends of Parks groups and the eco climate walk kids, or the local community, such as the Blackwood Action Group, the Blackwood Reconciliation Group, Rotary, the Lions Club and more. They all give up their time and energy to help others.

Today is Wear Orange Wednesday, a day where we acknowledge the work of the State Emergency Service. Like the CFS volunteers, they answer the call no matter the time of day and we appreciate all that they do. In this Week of the Volunteer, I sincerely thank all of the volunteers across the state, and I look forward to working with our local volunteer groups as their member for parliament.

My commitment to our community is that I will work hard for all the people of Waite, even if I was not your first choice or second: you are all important to me. I know for some this was the first time you voted Labor and I will work every day to make you and our community comfortable with your decision and I thank you for your support.

To our loyal Labor voters, thank you for never giving up and thank you for all those who stopped to let me know they were so glad that their vote finally counted and Labor could not only form government but would also see Waite finally turn red. Your loyalty and commitment have finally been realised. I will do all I can to work really hard to make sure we stay a Labor seat and build on our community's strengths.

Mr Speaker, there are many people I would like to thank, so please indulge me. First to my family: to my son, Finn. He is not here today. I wish he was. He is an apprentice carpenter and is likely on the worksite. We have been through a lot together and it has not always been easy, but I am so proud of the man he has become. Finn, I am excited to see you become Adelaide's best carpenter. I know it is hard that I am not around as much at the moment, but know that I love you and I hope to get some balance soon so that we can hang out on the couch with some Netflix and pizza.

To my mum and dad, Millie and Rob, thank you for always being there, for picking me up when I needed it, with a warm hug and a plate of tuna patties—my childhood favourite. While my path has not always been clear, you have always supported my decisions and I thank you with all my heart.

Mum, you taught me that no matter what, family is everything. Your love and advice as I too became a mother and navigated being a parent is something that I treasure. Dad, you are such a hard worker and I know things have had to slow down for you now, but your commitment to helping me raise Finn the best way I could, having grown up without a father yourself, means everything to me. To see you both there glowing with pride on the first day of parliament, proud of your daughter, and feeling at peace that you no longer needed to pay my council rates for me was everything.

To my sister, Jo, and my brother-in-law, Felix, you have been incredible guiding lights for me, such wonderful humans, incredible parents, incredibly generous and always ready to support me. To Lucas, Oliver and Charlie, my nephews, thank you for being the siblings Finn did not get to have. It has been an honour to watch you grow up to be strong and caring men.

To my brother, Adam, and Olga, who have the flu, thank you for bringing the joy of children back to Christmas. Along with my cousins, Anjuli and Sam, Craig and Trevor—not in that order specifically—it is so lovely to be able to share in the joy of your children as they grow up as the second cohort of cousins.

My Auntie Maxine is like a second mother to me, ready with a cup of tea any time, day or night, always willing to drop what she is doing to help me and Finn, even letterboxing in the unforgiveable Upper Sturt area, I am forever grateful. To my Uncle John, who was and still is such a wonderful role model for Finn, I thank you for your hours of woodwork lessons, your late night doctor visits and for our robust political discussions. Thank you for helping me to see the other side and I am sorry you could not be here as you continue to battle illness.

There is also someone else who is not here who meant the world to me and I know is looking down so happy that I have been able to achieve this success, although she probably would not be happy about what side of the chamber I am on. To my nan, my soulmate, I wish you were here.

To my husband's family, David, Michelle, Eve, Sarah, and CeCe, losing Margo last year was difficult and made so much more with COVID, but I know she will be jumping for joy that Labor has been returned and that I am here.

I have family and friends spread across the globe but none more important than the Smiths. To Mike and Cathy, you were there for Finn when he really needed it and for me, when I was struggling with the throes of parenthood. Thank you for your guidance, your patience and golf instruction. It is not just a game but a mindset and I know Finn will always treasure his time with you.

To my CFS family, thank you for your friendship and everything that you do. To my girlfriends Lauren, Leisa, Leanne, Mandy, Amelia, Tamar, Jo, Mel and Belinda, we have had some epic journeys since we were kids and we have brought our kids up together. I thank you for your friendship, support and help on the campaign.

To my wonderful neighbours, Don and Susan, thank you for always being there, for your advice, your support and an ear when I needed it, for your help on the booth this election and last, it means a lot.

The campaign to win the seat of Waite started 4½ years ago for me, but for members of our Waite sub-branch, well represented in the gallery, it had been decades. With only four weeks to campaign in 2018, I walked into a campaign committee meeting to meet Michael Cook, Don Clancy, David Lewis, Phil Saunders and Francis Muldoon for the first time. I had no idea who they were and I had no idea what I was doing, but they were ready and while we did not come away with the win, we came away from it as friends and ready to commit to winning in 2022—and we did.

Our Waite sub-branch is one of the best attended state Labor sub-branches in South Australia, always drawing a crowd to discuss local issues, consider tactics, write motions and share our dedication every month, allowing us to grow support heading into the election. I was fortunate to be supported unanimously by the sub-branch to be the candidate for Waite again and I thank them for their trust in me.

We worked bloody hard. We had a core group of doorknockers ready to go out almost any day asked, all local, all aware of local issues so that conversations with voters were relevant. We knocked on a lot of doors—over 10,000. Waite, with all its hills and gullies, is not your average nicely flat electorate. But there was not a driveway steep enough, nor a set of stairs long enough to keep us from getting to the doors of our community and many will still stop and tell me they loved the fact that we climbed their driveways to listen to them.

To Julanne Sweeney, Francis Muldoon, Mick Cook, Ian Smith, Fiona Grey, David Lewis, Morris Allen, Darryl Regan, Patrick Donaldson, Helen Daly, secretary Doug Malvin, Aileen Croghan, Anton van Bavel, president Liz Temple, Peter Haigh, Peter Cahalan and Tim, and everyone else in the sub-branch, thank you for believing in me and for your help, and thank you to all the other secret letterboxing fairies and election day volunteers. This win is yours.

Thank you to Phil Saunders especially. You worked so hard for so many years as the president of the Waite sub-branch and, before that, Davenport. I am sorry that your health took you away from the opportunity to be involved in this momentous win, but it was your years of tireless campaigning and hope that inspired us all.

To Peter Cahalan, Rosemary Clancy and Kathryn Carter, our trainee in the office, thank you for joining the Waite office team. You are all wonderful and I know our community will love having you there to help. To Matty Driver: Matt, I am so glad to have you as part of the Waite office team. Your youth, skills and your passion astound me and the community. I know that you will go far. Thank you for sharing this part of your history with me.

To Daniel Clutterbuck, thank you for being my friend, my mentor for many years and now my office manager. Just like old times, we are a strong team. To my friend, campaign manager and office manager sometimes, Don: I would not be here were it not for you. You pushed me to almost breaking

point but were always ready to catch me just before I hit the ground. Your support, advice, attention and dedication to the campaign, always believing that we could win, kept me going and still does. Thank you for your friendship and your smoke blowing; it means a lot.

Thanks also to your family: to Tanya, for giving up your husband for six months, and to Lucienne, Elliott and Lior. Lucienne, I am fairly sure that you, like the rest of the Clancys, will someday walk these halls, either as an MP yourself or as a support crew for one, and I look forward to that day.

Premier, Peter, you are an incredible leader. You have inspired a generation with your empathy and commitment to our shared future. Everyone in Waite knew you, they grew up with you, they played footy with you—and confirmed that you were pretty average—or they went to school with you. You were a leader from the start and I look forward to being here with you as your vision for South Australia is realised.

To the wonderful Dr Susan Close, growing up in our local area you know firsthand how special it is and I value your help. From announcing my candidacy at our first environment forum in August, our local community were enamoured by your knowledge and care for the environment. I know that you will be an amazing advocate for nature.

To Katrine, Nat Cook, the wonderful Emily Bourke, who cannot be here—

**An honourable member:** She was here.

**Ms HUTCHESSON:** —she missed it; she can thank me later—Jayne Stinson, Dana, Andrea and Zoe—the sisterhood—thank you for your support of our campaign. Thank you also to Tung Ngo, whose visits to our sub-branch meetings were our connection to the party and always put a smile on the team's face. For your and Suzanne's support, and being always willing to help, thank you.

To Justin Hanson, thank you for always believing we could win this. Your little texts of support, help on the doors and advice meant everything to me, and your support for Ryan's campaign was inspirational. John Fulbrook, the new member for Playford: the first time I met you said, 'I have crunched the numbers and you can win this.' You had my back from the start and I am so glad that I can share this chamber with you.

Thank you to Lee, such a special person, quick to offer support to the Upper Sturt CFS and our community to keep them safe, always there when I have questions, no matter how silly. I appreciate you. To Blair, Tom, Chris, Leon, Stephen, Michael, Joe, Tony and all of the Leg Co., I am looking forward to what we can achieve together. And Kyam—I have to do them both—we will get you up to Waite for the best sausage rolls in South Australia soon.

The spiciest seven, the women who grace these benches with me: it was incredibly inspiring to hear your stories this last sitting week and to hear the experiences that drive you and to know you all personally. I know that you are all amazing representatives of your communities and that you are here for all the right reasons and together we are going to achieve amazing things for the people and communities of South Australia.

To Nadia especially, you have been campaigning ever since I met you. Your dedication and drive are nothing short of incredible. You are like a Porsche with no brakes. You are just a force of nature and deserve all the success that comes your way. Thank you for your support for our campaign before, during and now as we embark on this journey together. Everybody needs good neighbours, and I am sure glad you are mine.

I also want to acknowledge all the staff of all members of parliament, and the staff at party office. I hope some day to have my own Josh as it seems you need one to become a minister. To Josh Harmer, the feeling is mutual—you are my favourite too!

To Matt Marozzi, thank you for doing all you could for us—for being a steadying voice on the end of the phone, for reminding us of our strengths and for advocating for us. I really appreciate it and wish you good luck in your new role.

James Johnson, your hug and tears on election night meant the world to me. Your support, belief and help during our campaign and now is special, and I am so glad you are on the hunt to become a Waite resident, and I look forward to working with you to protect and enhance our natural



environment. To Aemon, Victoria, Reggie, Zac, Matt, Matt and all from party office who assisted us, thank you.

Our community of Waite is special. I will work hard to make sure that everyone is heard and that their views are respected. While boundaries change communities don't, and I look forward to representing our community, to getting to know as many members of it as possible, to helping in every way possible, and to making them proud to have me, the first woman to represent Waite and the first Labor member for Waite as their local member for Waite. Thank you.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before I recall the member for MacKillop, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Emily Bourke MLC, the Hon. Clare Scriven MLC, the Hon. Reggie Martin MLC and—momentarily departed—the Hon. Justin Hanson MLC.

*Address in Reply*

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (11:10):** Today, I rise to provide my Address in Reply to the Governor. This is my first week in the Fifty-Fifth Parliament. Like several of my colleagues, I unfortunately missed the first sitting week due to COVID isolation. I acknowledge the Governor, Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, for her address on the opening day of parliament and her welcome to new and continuing members.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all new and re-elected members in this house and in the other place. It is truly a humbling experience to be elected to represent our communities. I would also like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your re-election to the position. I look forward to your continued fair and impartial treatment of all of us in this house.

I would like to express my profound thanks to the people of the MacKillop electorate for placing your trust in me to represent you in this place as the member for MacKillop. To be re-elected for the second time in the MacKillop electorate is something for which I am truly grateful and will honour with a firm commitment to continue to advocate for the betterment of MacKillop communities.

I look forward to representing the constituents in my electorate, who have placed faith in me to advocate on their behalf. I am wholeheartedly committed to continuing to advocate for the communities in this electorate. I remain passionate about advocating to ensure our regional communities can grow and thrive by ensuring living is affordable, quality health services are accessible, business is enabled and not obstructed, our community infrastructure is fit for purpose, quality education and training is available and accessible, and our communities are not disadvantaged by virtue of living regionally.

I never tire of speaking about the strengths of the electorate. It is an economic powerhouse for the state and is comprised of a diverse and dynamic community. The electorate is a truly magnificent and beautiful place to live, work and raise families. I have spoken before in this place about the beauty and vast natural assets of the region. From our south-eastern coastal shores, the Karst landscapes, peat swamps, wetlands, fertile soils, red gum country, the Mallee in the north and the Coorong, the MacKillop electorate is truly a magnificent and diverse location.

The redistribution of boundaries that came into effect on 19 March this year has made the MacKillop electorate all that much more diverse and dynamic and, I might add, geographically much larger. The MacKillop electorate extends across communities from Millicent, Tantanoola and Nangwarry in the south. These are relatively high rainfall areas dominated by intensive cropping, horticulture, livestock enterprises, forestry and forest product processing. The inclusion of significant coastline in the electorate also supports an important fishery sector.

The electorate now reaches from the former northern boundary, which lay just beyond Bordertown and Meningie, to now include the entire Coorong District Council and the entire area of the Southern Mallee District Council. The change brings the electorate's size to just more than 34,000 square kilometres. The expanded area includes the townships of Pinnaroo, Lameroo and Tailem Bend and smaller communities like Geranium, Peake and Sherlock, to name just a few, where the landscape is dominated by broadacre cropping and punctuated with more important horticulture and associated processing enterprises.

The electorate includes a diverse community, including farmers and farmhands, viticulturalists, vineyard workers and winemakers, commodity processing workers, allied businesses and workers who provide services and supplies and repairs, educators and health workers. The electorate is also called home by an important migrant population, including strong representation from individuals and families from Afghanistan and the Philippines who have been drawn to the electorate for work and as a safe place to raise a family.

The change to the electorate boundary has brought strong Mallee communities into the MacKillop electorate from the former Hammond electorate. I have been pleased to meet some really great community-minded, driven people from these communities, people who want to ensure they are well represented in this place. May I thank the member for Hammond for all the advocacy and work he has done in this part of what formerly was his electorate on the eastern side that is now part of MacKillop.

I look forward to seeing much more and learning more about the people of these communities across the electorate in the coming years and working hard for them. While today I wish to look forward, I would like also to acknowledge some important investments and gains that have been made in the past four years for the MacKillop electorate. We saw:

- the completion of the Penola bypass, creating a safer environment for the main street of Penola and its community;
- the ban on fracking in the South-East, a decision which is a testament to the role of our parliament and listening to the people;
- the completion of roadworks that have allowed the reinstatement of speed limits on some key regional roads, including the Clay Wells Road and the Ngarkat Highway;
- the delivery of long overdue resurfacing and upgrades to regional roads including the Dukes and Princes highways;
- the delivery of much-needed support packages and grants for businesses impacted by COVID restrictions, and the investment in tourism facilities and vouchers to encourage more people to travel to the regions;
- the construction of much-needed mobile phone towers at Keilira, Tower Road, Legges Lane and Avenue Range;
- the delivery of much-needed upgrades to our hospital, including \$3.1 million for the Naracoorte hospital to upgrade their surgical theatre and sterilising area, and \$2 million for Bordertown's new community health building;
- the delivery of the works to support the transition of year 7 students to high school, which included \$5 million worth of works at Naracoorte High School and \$4 million worth of works to the Kingston Area School;
- schools across the electorate benefiting from the stimulus funding to a value of \$100,000 each and \$30,000 each to kindergartens;
- the Balharry kindergarten at Lucindale receive \$500,000 for infrastructure upgrades;
- the upgrade to school buildings at Lucindale;
- the revitalisation of the Kingston main streets;

- the provision of opportunities for sporting infrastructure upgrades, which has seen the recent investment of more than \$1.4 million for upgrades to the Naracoorte sports centre to upgrade courts, the Tintinara Oval and recreational area, the Kybybolite sports club, the Mundulla Football Club, the Bordertown Football Club, the Mount Burr Football Club;
- sporting clubs in my electorate also benefiting from smaller grants for program funding and equipment;
- recognition of the importance of our local fishing industry, with a much-needed injection of \$5 million allocated to the Beachport jetty; and
- our investment in CFS, with new upgraded CFS trucks and new sheds.

Looking forward, despite this investment and achievement, there is much more work to be done in this electorate. We need to address the shortage of affordable housing in the electorate. This is a foundational issue for our economy and communities and must be addressed. In recent years, we have been working with local and federal government representatives, businesses and Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast to quantify the problem in the electorate and seek solutions. We know there is a significant shortfall in affordable housing and very limited social housing opportunities. This is having a significant personal, financial and economic impact across the electorate.

I am just going to elaborate a little bit further on this area. One of the things that I am hoping for from this new Labor government is that there has been some commentary about the way that I won this electorate, even from the new Premier, where he said that Limestone Coast does not need Adelaide but Adelaide needs the Limestone Coast—and may I hold him to those words. This is one area I think that really not just affects MacKillop but probably affects all of regional South Australia.

We have a town called Bordertown. It has had a shortage of housing for nearly 10 years. It has some of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, if not across Australia regionally, and we have done nothing to address the worker shortage in this town for that long. It has now extended to every town in MacKillop where we have a shortage of affordable housing now, and we are seriously needing some sort of assistance, injection or impetus to actually fix this problem.

I want to just highlight some of the inequities so that everyone knows some of the reasons why this is happening. If there is going to be building development and urban sprawl or even affordable housing builds in the state it should be well recognised by this parliament, both sides of politics, that the best bang for dollar is in Adelaide, and the urban sprawl around Adelaide.

It means that what I am saying is that if you go to the financial sector to borrow money to build 50 new houses in Mount Barker, the Southern Vales area or the northern areas of Adelaide, you need only 10 per cent equity to seek finance for that build, whatever that may look like. If you want to go and build out in our regions you will require 60 per cent equity.

Just in that sense, even the finance sector recognises the risk and the extra finances and cost involved in trying to build in the regions, yet we have so many opportunities out there right now that are going begging—not only the fact that we are missing the workforce, but even if we found the workforce we have nowhere to house them. We seriously have nowhere to house them and we are seeing businesses that are going out in the regions, like Parilla potatoes with a massive investment out there in the Lameroo-Pinnaroo area, and building their own houses. You could say, 'Maybe they have to,' and they are.

But in that sense not every business, not every small business, not every builder, not every electrician, not every trade, not every grain business or trucking business can actually afford to go and build houses for their entire workforce. This business was very lucky; the Parilla potato processing factory is a major business. There is a major meat processor in Bordertown in Naracoorte and I know—and I have already seen this over the last 10 or 20 years—that sector is very competitive.

Even though it is very lucrative in the sense of what meat and protein is worth on the world market today, it has not always been like this; it has its ups and downs. If you say that they have to go and build houses for their workers, you are actually almost setting them up for failure perhaps if

there is another downturn and they had to invest millions of dollars into housing in these towns where there is none available at the moment.

I will just give you an example is what has happened in Bordertown. JPS meatworks is there which processes mainly lamb and mutton. They actually bought an old motel that had become defunct and turned it into housing for the workers, just to find rooms so that they can get enough workers into the plant to keep the plant running. You can imagine what that is like when you put COVID on top of that and your workforce is locked down or restricted, plus you cannot find the workers and you do not have the housing. You can see how these businesses have their hands tied behind their backs before they have met their commitments in making a return for their investors or the owners of those businesses.

Another issue I will touch on again is affordable housing. You would not think it would be a problem in a little town like Robe, a wealthy, beautiful town with a lot of beach shacks that have all doubled if not tripled in value because of the way that regional housing—and probably Adelaide housing—has gone in the last two, three, five years.

Now Robe, which is a busy tourist hub that goes from around 1,000 people during the winter—but may have 500 to 1,000 tourists there—to 15,000 to 20,000 through the peak period of Christmas and new year, cannot find employees to service those tourists because there is nowhere to put them in housing. The housing is too expensive, so there was no-one to cook or clean or do the cafe jobs, coffees and the like, that tourists come to expect when they go to a tourist town like Robe. So there are two extremities.

One of the last towns I saw suffer the affordable housing issue was Millicent. As extrapolated across the regions, we always knew there was a problem in Bordertown, it certainly moved on very quickly down to Naracoorte, and one of the last towns was Millicent. Millicent now still has an affordable housing issue. There is a large social housing cohort, but some of the houses are condemned and not lived in because of the maintenance backlog over a number of years in terms of government, not just over the last previous government. But now there is a shortage of housing there as well. There is a major industry just south of Millicent, Kimberly-Clark, that needs workers and so forth. There are a number of other businesses in the region at Millicent, some are fishermen, some are forestry workers and others are in horticulture and so forth. It is hard to find workers if there is no housing available to them.

Businesses are crying out for workers. Worker shortages are hitting a range of sectors, including agriculture, agricultural processing and tourism. Geographically, nowhere is immune to the issue across the electorate from Tantanoola to Taillem Bend. We know a solution lies in training and attracting skilled workers to our region but to attract and keep workers we need housing, good services, health care and education. We need good partnerships with local and commonwealth governments to deliver this.

Roads: despite the investment in recent years the roads in the MacKillop electorate continue to require further investment. Our road infrastructure is aging and significant upgrades and resurfacing are needed and passing lanes and shoulder sealing are required. We were fortunate enough to have a major road seminar in November last year where we invited the hierarchy of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, all local government, RDA and LGA from the Limestone Coast to Naracoorte.

It was a very interesting meeting. The outcomes of the meeting made its way all the way to my Premier at the time, Steven Marshall. There is one thing I want you to realise, and that is that we are not alone in this. It was recognised at that meeting that some of the roads in MacKillop are 17 years past their use-by date. What does this mean? It means that investment has been poured elsewhere in the state. It has not ended up in MacKillop—and probably other regions, not only MacKillop and the Limestone Coast.

Secondly, when these old roads are resurfaced, and they have fallen into such decay where they call it crocodile skin on the road, where the asphalt cracks open and looks like crocodile skin, you can no longer resurface these roads because that crocodile skin seeps up through the new surface and the new surface only lasts four years. Instead of it being a resurfacing job, a major road

upgrade is required for these roads. There is no doubt that this would not just be in the Limestone Coast, but it is probably replicated all the way from Port MacDonnell to Ceduna.

The other thing with these roads, as we know, is that we have done a lot of shoulder work. We have brought in some new passing lanes, but there are a whole lot more other roads that do not have the shoulders, and I will just touch on this. When our government rolled out the upgrade to the Ngarkat Highway, it was meant to have shoulders and we were going to put new shoulders there as the government intended and raise the speed limit to 110. The previous government reduced it to 100. The road was in such a state of disrepair that it required a whole lot more than just the shoulders, and the cost of it was in the millions of dollars. It probably took six to 12 months longer than it should have. This will not be an unknown phenomenon. It will be like many roads.

All I can say is that I am hoping that this new government on the other side recognise they cannot turn a blind eye as they did when they were in government for 16 years, and I come back to the words of the Premier. He said that the Limestone Coast does not need Adelaide but Adelaide needs the Limestone Coast. He should probably say that it needs regional South Australia. We are hoping that you do not let us down, you actually recognise that the road infrastructure needs to continue on and you do work with the federal government to get as many funds as possible into our regional roads—and MacKillop is one of those.

Mobile phone blackspots: despite inroads made through investment in mobile phone towers in the last four years, there is still much to do. Too many people and businesses within the electorate are dealing with no or poor mobile phone coverage. We need investment to enable our businesses to grow, to ensure our community is connected in times of emergency, work and other reasons. I have a number of areas, such as Mayo, Sherwood, Meningie to Coonalpyn, with massive blackspots, including now the new Mallee area of Lameroo, Pinnaroo and other smaller areas up there.

It is well recognised, and we hear it all the time, that when tourists come into our region from Adelaide, they are used to a fast mobile network that works basically all the time. I will give you a little example: they rock on down to Beachport. Little Beachport is a town of around 500 during winter, which probably swells to 5,000 to 10,000 during the Christmas-new year period. The mobile telephone network cannot cope with that influx of tourism. You will be on the phone and dropping out. You will drop out all the time because of everyone else's phone, and their data is fighting to compete for the lack of infrastructure at Beachport.

Another point is that when they come into our region, they travel down the roads. Generally, our highways are well covered by the mobile network, but they only have to go back on some of the roads that are not well covered and they realise what it is like to be talking to their friends, their mates, texting or doing their Facebook/social media, and all of a sudden there is nothing. Adelaide people say, 'Well, jeez, how backward is this area? They don't even have mobile coverage out here.' It is something we have learned to live with, but we should not have to. We do hope that the new Labor government recognise they did not participate in the mobile network as they could have over the previous 16 years of their government. I hope they do not drop the ball, and I hope they realise and continue to advocate for more mobile phone coverage out into the regions.

The South-East drainage system: our drainage network remains underfunded. This drainage and associated bridge, culvert and regulating structures need ongoing maintenance and management. Work is needed to both service the needs of landholders for drainage and to retain water in the landscape. We need funding to ensure our transport network that crosses these drains is maintained and fit for purpose.

This network and drainage system has been living off a budget of around \$2.75 million a year. It is looking after hundreds of kilometres of drains. The drainage network and the maintenance doubled on them through the early 2000s, when the northern drainage scheme was finished and completed and then was added to the South East Drainage Network that has to look after what was the southern part, and the funds have not been forthcoming to maintain.

There is one analogy I want the parliament to hear, and hopefully it will go beyond the walls of this parliament: what is the difference between a bridge going out of Burra, where the Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain that bridge, and a bridge that sits on a road going out of Millicent? Why is it that a small organisation, such as the south-eastern drainage board, has to

look after hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure on such a budget? Why is the Department for Infrastructure and Transport not responsible for all these bridges and infrastructure as it is throughout the rest of the state?

Yes, I know that this infrastructure was to drain the agricultural land, but it was actually to drain the land so we would get transport and network through to Melbourne and Adelaide first and foremost and then it was upgraded and approved for agricultural pursuits. I really hope this new Labor government recognises the budget and the work that is required. I hear that it is between \$40 million and \$50 million worth of works for new bridges and culverts that allow heavy transport to access thriving, flourishing agricultural businesses. They are being inhibited because these bridges are 40 and 50 years old and they are too small or do not have the capacity to handle the 40 to 60-tonne truckloads these days.

Health care is an ongoing massive issue in MacKillop, which is probably no different from anywhere else in regional South Australia. The shortage of doctors, first and foremost, is known. We have been trying to work through the locum doctor model. In the last six months of government, we were going to roll out \$184 million to engage local GPs in our hospitals. I am not sure what the new Labor government will do in this area, whether those funds are sitting there waiting to be used or it is already rolling.

I know there is hesitation around doctors fulfilling those roles in local hospitals, but can I say this: the local Millicent hospital back in the early 2000s used to have obstetrics, surgery, two anaesthetists and surgeons and used to outperform the Mount Gambier hospital. Now it is just a shadow of its former self. The local GP clinic used to be well engaged in the local hospital and they used to work collaboratively together to be a massive and successful medical precinct.

Today, the doctors are in the clinic. It is hard to get doctors into Millicent and probably every other clinic in regional South Australia. We have a locum doctor system in the Millicent hospital. We were not able to finish it or complete it or get it changed in the four years. As I say, nothing happens quickly in this area and that is a fait accompli. It is unfortunate that we could not address it and get it solved before we were no longer in government. But we do need to solve it and we do need to get medical specialists, like doctors and GPs, into our regions because it is going to be another reason why we will not get the population and populace into our regions.

The infrastructure in our region is certainly tired. I know that, before I was in government, the roof at the local Kingston hospital used to leak. They used to have buckets down the corridor. I can tell you that the Naracoorte hospital still has buckets in the corridors from the roof leaking. Even though we spent some money there in our previous government, there is more money required. Based on the promises that have been advocated by the new Labor government, I am hoping that their funds are forthcoming to address some of these infrastructure problems.

We have an aged-care facility in Kingston where the aged-care centre off the hospital has a fire hydrant sprinkler system for fire but the aged care within the hospital does not have a fire hydrant water sprinkler system in the hospital. We were getting on top of it and it needed to happen, but it has not happened and there is more money to be spent.

All I can say is that we must make sure that our medical facilities are at least comparable to city expectations. We may not have all the specialists. We may not have heart surgeries and the like in our regions: I fully get that. But we need the basics in place so that people can recover and have minor surgery and there is a hospital and health system that gives people confidence to live in our region.

Another one that comes to mind is palliative care in our region. As we live longer, as ailments come to bear like cancer, we do need good support for palliative care when people are in the last weeks and months of dying, where people choose and want to live at home. We do need community health nurses, with the care needed to look after these palliative care patients, to get around the regions and be able to make sure they do not have to die in a hospital if that is their choice and that comes from managing pain to the end-of-life experience to basic hygiene and cleanliness. That can all be done today, but if you do not have the resources, it does not happen and it makes that whole experience a lot worse.

With a view to looking forward, I would also like to highlight the issue of hospital ramping. The capacity of our hospital system is a major problem that is yet to be resolved and was a key election promise. A Legislative Review Committee inquiry was initiated after the receipt of a 44-signature petition on this matter. The inquiry shone a strong spotlight on the impacts of this issue on our communities. The Labor government needs to find answers to this problem for our healthcare system.

With this review, it was most interesting that we only heard from industry sectors on hospital ramping. It was done in much haste, but I can tell you this: there was no black-and-white answer to this problem by any sector. Can I say that it was handled very late, and I wish that it had been conducted earlier so that there was some resolve and some guidance for this new Labor government to run by. You are going to have to develop a system and solve this problem. It was a problem you left behind in 2018, and it is even a problem you created probably, or you took ownership of it—you should—because it started in 2010.

Some of the questions I asked of the witnesses were: does South Australia have the best ambulance model in Australia? Do we have enough ambulances in Adelaide, that is regionally, for the population? Is it commensurate with the rest of Australia with the number of ambulances, paramedics and the like to meet the needs and expectations of South Australians? Furthermore, another question was: if there is not a good model in Australia for ambulances, are there models out there in the wider world we should be watching, looking at and picking up for what an ambulance model should look like and how it should operate and function?

It is going to be very interesting for the Labor government to work through this and I wish them all the best. I hope they do not push it under the carpet. I hope they shine a light on the fact that just because you have got into government it does not suddenly evaporate and that it will be ongoing. I think one of the things that was probably also highlighted in the petition and by the witnesses—who did not come up with any solutions—is that maybe community expectations of what ambulances are for and how they can be used have changed and maybe that needs to be managed better so they are used for only real emergencies rather than for other purposes.

Before I close, I would like to briefly reflect on those who have assisted me here today and for this coming term. I would like to extend my thanks to my family, who have been a great support to me during my first term. From my youngest daughter, Annabel, to older brother, Philip and my wife, Katherine, they have been a tower of support not only during the last four years but prior to that, in my first year of trying to be re-elected as the member for MacKillop. I do sincerely thank them for their patience and the fact that they have probably come second to my political career.

I would also like to thank my electorate office staff for their efforts over the last four years, when at times they have had to operate under very trying circumstances. We have all been working through a period like no other. COVID border closures brought an unprecedented volume of inquiries and requests for assistance to my office. Amidst this, parts of our community were working to recover from the January 2018 Sherwood fire.

Our communities were further affected by the Keilira fire in 2020 and in Lucindale 2021 respectively, which devastated farming businesses. Most recently, on New Year's Eve the Wrattobully fire started in the electorate and spread devastatingly into Victoria, impacting on our cross-border community.

I appreciate the resilience, professionalism, empathy, courtesy and assistance my staff have provided over the past four years to constituents and, more broadly, to members of the cross-border community. To Jennifer, Rosemary, Michelle and Sue and trainees, Lilli Mae, Tayla, Macaela and now Yahnika, our current trainee, I extend my sincere thanks and real appreciation for all your efforts.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to my election campaign team, who offered advice and delivered an enormous amount of assistance with my re-election. I specifically would like to thank David Hood, my campaign committee chairman; MacKillop SEC president, Sonia Winter; Tayla Standley; Jillian Andrews; David Malpas; and Robert Bull, who all offered their time and energy to coordinate the campaign on my behalf.

I also extend my gratitude to the Liberal branch presidents and other Liberal members who assisted with coordinating the significant logistical exercise of the campaign. Your efforts are much appreciated. I think we had 30 to 35 polling booths just in my state electorate that all had to be manned and at least represented for the Liberal cause.

With those remarks, I finish by saying that the next four years are going to be very interesting. We were very unfortunate that we were in government for only four years. We deserved and should have been in for another four years to at least see some of the advantages we were trying to roll out in the first four years, bearing in mind the COVID pandemic and those natural disasters such as fire.

I hope that after whatever it is, one term, two terms or three terms, whatever this new government sees itself serving, it does not treat the regions with discontent or disrespect and recognises that the regions are an important part of the South Australian economy. I wish them all the best in their endeavours—with all the factional warring that will take place between their own seats, winning as many as they did, and looking after the numbers, egos and personalities that will bring; I wish them all the best with that—and that they can take this state further forward so that we are a shining light in the Australian landscape rather than a backwater, that we continue on in that light and that we all end up prosperous for this. I wish everyone well in the Fifty-Fifth Parliament.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11:39):** I rise today to give my Address in Reply. I would like to acknowledge Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, the Governor of South Australia, and thank her for her opening speech. I want to apologise because I was not there. Like many of us in the house at that time, I was home in isolation with COVID.

I have to tell you, I had a little bit of a rough time and I am very, very thankful for the three vaccinations that I had and encourage all South Australians to make sure that they are not just double-vaxxed but triple-vaxxed. We have an opportunity to keep ourselves as healthy as possible. The governments, both state and federal, moved quickly. Having gone through it, being vaccinated, it was difficult.

For those who are not vaccinated, or not fully vaccinated, I strongly encourage you. I have an 11-year-old child who is also vaccinated and I am delighted to see that we will be rolling this out to primary schools as key locations, as hubs, to encourage parents to bring along their children. I am very privileged to be here today to be re-elected as the member for Ramsay for the fourth time. This year, I celebrate my 10 years in office as an elected member. They have gone incredibly quickly and I still have so much to support with my electorate and to continue with as the member for Ramsay.

My electorate of Ramsay has changed quite significantly, and I was reaching out to about a third of people for the first time to ask them to vote for Labor and myself. I am now proud to represent for the first time the suburbs of Burton, Elizabeth Vale and part of Elizabeth South, and I have had returned to me Brahma Lodge and Salisbury South. I look forward to continuing to work with my current constituents who are new to me and those who I have represented during the time I have been in this place. To the areas I am leaving behind, such as Salisbury Downs and half of Paralowie, you are now in the safe hands of the member for Playford.

I was delighted to see the member for Playford give his first speech yesterday and his commitment to the community that we both live in. I would like to recognise my neighbouring MPs, particularly the member for Florey—and I congratulate him on his new role as the member for Florey—and the member for Elizabeth. We have known each other for a very long time and it is great to have you there.

I give a particularly warm welcome to the new member for Taylor. The member for Taylor and I went to high school together and he was the first person to suggest that perhaps Young Labor might be an area where I could voice my many opinions. That is nearly 30 years ago and I thank him for his great idea then and welcome him here to this parliament.

I commit to my electorate to continue with my ongoing engagements that I have had for the past 10 years, whether it be a seniors' forum, my Welcome to Babies events, and my very regular attendance at community events. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Salisbury Business Association—led by David Waylen and supported by the City of Salisbury, our local council—for their constant focus on activating our community with many free events, including May



the Force Be with You. We did something for Halloween and we have a Salisbury Fringe market and a multicultural festival. At a time when we were very isolated and could not meet during COVID, these events became so much more important.

If one was cancelled we would make sure that we worked on the next one. This weekend there is going to be the main street festival, and David will be at the forefront. He has asked me to come with my badge making, but unfortunately I will be a little preoccupied handing out how-to-vote cards for the federal election. However, it really made me realise that when we could not catch up and when we could not be together as a community how much these events bring our families together. The majority of those events are free, supported by the council, directed by the Salisbury Business Association, and they mean a lot to where I live.

I would also like to take the time to congratulate and welcome our 14 new members on both sides of the house. It seems like just yesterday that the member for Port Adelaide and I were elected in a by-election in 2012. When we joined this parliament we joined many women from the class of '97, which was a watershed moment—particularly for Labor politics—to increase the level of representation. Of course, this does not take away from the enormous and fantastic outcome that happened on 19 March.

To the many women who are starting their journey as a politician, I want to be a mentor and a friend to you as others have been to me on the way. I can talk about Annette Hurley, who I worked for back in the 1990s but who has always remained someone I can go to, talk to and be guided by. What I can tell everyone is that the time here goes very, very fast. So, while I have been elected for 10 years, it feels like just a moment ago. Every day you will learn something new. You never know who is going to walk through your electorate office door asking you to advocate, asking for you to help, and you might be the one person who can make a difference.

I am very proud to be part of the Labor Malinauskas government, to be a part of the cabinet appointed role as Minister for Tourism and to return to my role as Minister for Multicultural Affairs. These are portfolios I am incredibly passionate about and contribute significantly both economically and socially to who we are in South Australia.

Let me take the time to thank our Premier and Deputy Premier for their leadership both in opposition and now in government—committed, robust, connected are the words that come to mind when I think about our leadership team. As I think the member for Playford said yesterday, they do not ask anything of you that they are not prepared to do themselves. It is incredibly important when you are building a team, a unified team, to lead for the future in South Australia to show by example, to show your own commitment and where you want to be.

I want to talk a little about the election commitments that we made. First and foremost what is important to me is my commitment to my electorate, to those areas. Our commitments include an upgrade to the Brahma Lodge Primary School hall. The current school hall at Brahma Lodge Primary School is not fit for purpose. It is a very small school in Brahma Lodge, which also includes a wing of the Elizabeth Special School.

As a result of its size, in the past it has often missed out on grants, and that is why it was important for me to commit to them to invest \$1 million for a new school hall. I particularly want to thank the member for Wright, who previously covered Brahma Lodge in his electorate, for his advocacy for the area. We had a conversation about what we really needed to do. Brahma Lodge is a really special school. I was invited to its end-of-year concert. It is a school with high vulnerabilities and a school that has children of all abilities, but it is unique and it is special, and it plays a really important role in the electorate of Ramsay.

Brahma Lodge Football and Sports Club also spoke to me about recent upgrades they had had through the council, but we also need to look at the improvement of other facilities around that area. The Brahma Lodge Football and Sports Club includes netball, cricket and football clubs. I am pleased to say that their A and B teams were winners in their 2021 division grand finals. We have committed \$50,000 to the redevelopment of the oval and the facilities.

In the electorate of Ramsay we have a higher level of disability than in your average regions, and because of this I am acutely aware of the increased needs when people are travelling. We are

very, very much looking forward to the return of the train. It has been inadequate, the bus services that we have had in the north, and it was very much welcomed when this government gave free bus services to our community until the train comes back.

We will be supporting a changing place at the Salisbury Interchange, which incorporates both the train and buses. Currently it has a very old set of toilets that are not disability friendly and, in fact, are not particularly nice. We have committed \$100,000 to new change facilities. What this means is that people of all abilities and needs can access this facility. It has a hook where people can be helped to get in and out of a wheelchair. Most importantly, it gives them dignity, and it gives true support to their carers who need to assist them to live.

Other areas of support include support to my beloved Salisbury Football Club. I am the patron, but it is also home to the Northern Districts Cricket Club—the Jets. It hosts many community events; that includes sports days and spring fairs. They are looking to upgrade their facilities. In the past, the women's changing facilities have had attention. They have incredible talent there at the Salisbury Football Club. I think we have got five women's teams that are competing. Their intention is to install an electronic scoreboard, and we will be supporting them with that.

Probably one of the most important issues that was raised with me as the local member—and I thank the member for Elizabeth and his staff, who are here today—is the issue about the Elizabeth Vale pedestrian crossing. There have been many instances of dangerous driving at the intersection of John Rice Avenue and Haydown Road, particularly when vehicles are attempting to turn right. This has led to frequent accidents, and given it is right next to the Lyell McEwin Hospital, you often have people in SA Ambulances there, people going to visit, people getting to the emergency section. So we will contribute \$1.5 million to improving the safety of that intersection.

As the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and formerly the shadow minister, I had the opportunity to consider the election policy we would take. It involved lots of conversations with our community leaders about where we needed to focus. Let us remind ourselves about our diverse community, because half of South Australians have a parent who was born overseas. Our diversity is us: it is not 'them'. It is not a different group. With this in mind, that is why we committed an additional \$16 million to the multicultural portfolio.

These additional funds are going to go to celebrate language and culture, build capacity, governance and economic engagement, build stronger families and stronger communities, identify and respond to racial and religious intolerance and invest in community infrastructure upgrades, including upgrading security and community transport.

One of the key areas that this policy will focus upon is, for the first time, such a significant investment into community languages. That is a committed \$4 million investment over four years. I have had the opportunity to sit down with the Community Languages Association, the executive officer Darryl Buchanan and Binh Nguyen, who is their chair.

We have 94 community language schools here in South Australia, formerly known as ethnic language schools. Predominantly it's volunteers. It is volunteers who give up their Saturdays to make sure their children and their grandchildren understand their language and support their culture. But what is important about being bilingual is that it is an asset to South Australia. Whether you are going to go on to look at trade opportunities overseas, whether you are going to help be an interpreter or whether you are going to promote international education, having another language is incredibly useful.

What I see at the moment is that community languages are very grassroots and while there must be registration and there is training, it is the right time now for us to put a spotlight in lifting the standards and, more importantly, supporting those that give time to make this happen. There are a few different areas we need to look at: the amount of money given per student, some of the barriers to them finding host schools to hold their language school on a weekend and the barriers to people training to be registered to be language teachers.

A key area for me is also about the dropout, when young people between 12 and 17 get to high school they stop learning their language. The community languages schools have some involvement in running the SACE level language as well. So I am really looking forward to working with not just the current 94 schools but schools in the future who are looking to run this facility.

There are many other things within this comprehensive multicultural policy. We want to ensure the diversity of the South Australian Public Service, where we will collect and report on the data of employees who were born overseas or speak another language at home who work in the South Australian Public Service. I spoke about this in the debate when we introduced our new multicultural bill. We must be a model employer in the Public Service.

We have gone through this process with a gender lens and looked at people with disability or people who are Indigenous. Now is the time for us to see those areas of unconscious bias, where migrants to this country are not seen equally for those opportunities within the Public Service. The commonwealth do this, the Queensland government do this and now it is time for us to do this in South Australia.

We will produce and maintain an online South Australian Multicultural Resource Directory, listing organisations that offer information, advice, support and networking. We will pilot a multicultural women's microbusiness fund. We will be engaging with some new multicultural media grants to enable skills development in communication. That is an issue that has been raised with me many, many times.

We will be introducing a Multicultural South Australian Ambassador Program to activate the South Australian Multicultural Charter and to embed its principles within the workforce and business practices of South Australia's leading organisations. I am not just interested in reflecting on the Public Service and that it reflects our community, but what I am interested in doing is talking to business, to understand some of the barriers for some of our skilled migrants and people of our diverse community gaining work in all industries.

What I will be asking businesses to do is sign up to the charter, and that is a charter that we are going to be bringing here to the parliament that we will all agree upon, that will reflect a multicultural charter for South Australia. But a lovely piece of paper on a wall is just that. We must activate this charter and we must bring people with us to do so. We are going to be bringing back the Multicultural Women's Leadership Council, axed by the previous government, and the Labor government will be supporting the Multicultural Festival to be an annual event, beginning in 2023.

I am also delighted to be the Minister for Tourism. Having been the shadow minister for tourism for four years, it has been an incredible time of uncertainty. I set myself some KPIs as the shadow minister to reach out to people all over South Australia to understand what was working for them and areas where they needed advocacy. I worked incredibly hard doing that. I met some wonderful people, and I communicated with them regularly about what was being raised by me as the shadow, my concerns and where we were going.

As I have said many times in this house, I had some very difficult conversations when COVID hit, doors closed and overnight people's businesses disappeared. When JobKeeper came on, it was a great relief, but when JobKeeper came off, tourism and hospitality were still suffering. When we were drafting our election policy, we knew that this industry had taken an enormous hit and that they needed to know that we backed them up. They needed to know that we saw their potential and that, even though they nearly got to 50 per cent of the visitor economy under COVID, with support we could bounce back, build back and get back to where we were at \$8 billion but, more that, continue the shared aspiration to get to a \$12 billion visitor economy by 2030.

I know we can do it. We have fantastic operators throughout the whole of South Australia committed to this, and we have backed them up. We have backed them up by an additional \$40 million over four years for major events. We know that major events are a catalyst for travellers to visit our state. Major events support hospitality, accommodation and tour groups, and we want to make sure that our reputation as a festival state continues throughout the year.

This has been a challenge for all governments in South Australia, but we are committed to making sure that a tourism platform is there throughout the year, not just for Mad March but for the Illuminate Adelaide festival in July to be a massive drawcard and, of course, the Adelaide 500 in early December. The \$40 million fund will help grow new homegrown world-class events, be able to grow existing owned and managed events and also support new events and business events.

We know that there is an issue about skill shortages in the industry because many people left the industry. Someone well known to all of us is Phil Hoffmann, who has been running his business for more than 20 years. I think probably 40 per cent of his staff left to go to other industries. He is building back now, but this continues to be an area where support is needed and focused across the board.

To do this, we have committed to increase money to the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia, \$1.6 million over four years, for capability building and one-to-one business coaching, as well as a program to encourage young people to consider a career in tourism. What I am most excited about is the boost to marketing funding, with a focus of an additional \$20 million over the next two years. Every conversation I had with a tourism operator was 'increase the marketing budget'. Wherever I went in South Australia that is what they asked me to do, and we will deliver on that.

We have had some interesting times in tourism, with the regions being rediscovered by South Australians. Now that the borders are open, we are encouraging interstate travel from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland—from all over the place. This is our time to shine, but I also want to be straightforward. Not all regions did well and, while six of the 11 regions have achieved their 2025 regional tourism goals already, there are regions that did not do well during this time. There are also parts of the industry that did not do well, particularly those focused on international tourists or those tour operators providing support for those interstate.

I recognise that the Limestone Coast and Yorke Peninsula had some really challenging times, as did the Flinders, and I will continue to work with them and advocate for them to be front of mind for me. Overall, we have had this enormous change. Now, 60 per cent of the visitor economy comes from the regions, whereas it used to be in the low forties. So it has been a great change and we want to make sure that it continues.

During the election campaign I received significant support from many volunteers. While there is always the risk of not naming someone, I will endeavour to do so. Thanks to Pastor Elysius and his team, Kolmar and Hannah; Pastor John Nkombera; Kamal Dahal; Munhemal Khan; Dr Joseph Masika, or 'Uncle' as I call him; Mohammad and Shah Safi; Esaq Farahmand; Trimann Gill, who is the third candidate on our Senate ticket and I wish him very well on the weekend; Constance and Prince Jones; Amarjit Grewal; Kudzai Nyamande; and Theophile. I thank them very much for their help.

Thanks also to Hannah Franklin, Councillor Dennis Ryan, Brenden McLean, Nasir Hussein, Deputy Mayor of Salisbury Chad Buchannan, who is here, Alex James, Janvier, Juma, George, David, Sallimata, Sidique, Kenneth, Michael, Muhama, NK, Michael Pratt and Albert Barrie, Akram, Brad, Dara, James Shaka, and to my dear friends Susie and Jess. Susie and I met at university, and we remain friends to this day. She comes out every time, and this time her daughter came out as well—my goddaughter, Jessica—to hand out how-to-vote cards, and I thank them very much. I would also like to acknowledge the personal support that I get from the Mayor of Salisbury, Gillian Aldridge. We have known each other for 10 years and have a great affection for each other.

The voting for this election ran for two long weeks, as every one of us knows in this house, and I spent lots of my time handing out how-to-vote and pre-poll cards in the sun, rain and wind, and I thank all the volunteers who kept me company. Campaigns are exciting and engaging, but they cannot be delivered without a team around you. I really would like to thank my campaign manager, Cathy Perry. Cathy, I cannot do it without you. You are my rock. I thank Tom and Rick for all their hard work. Christie-Ann, I have struck gold with you there, and I cannot wait for your continued support. I had great local video endorsements from Brenden, Coby, Maria, Van and Jo.

For each and every one of us in this house we cannot do it without the support of our family. Mum and dad played a slightly less active role—the first time, dad did not go up the poles to put up the corflutes; at 79 (and having beaten cancer) he did a much more stay-at-home role this time. To mum and dad, thank you always for your ongoing support. Thanks to my brother Kirby, who always helps out on election day. Mostly, I want to thank my husband and my son. You are truly dedicated to me being the member for Ramsay and in my ministerial role. Every weekend, when I am out of the house catching up with our fabulous community, you support me always and I thank you dearly.

It is my son's last year in primary school this year. He attends a local primary school in my area. It will be a big change when he is off to high school next year. I said to him, 'What would you like to do when you grow up?' 'Mum, I want to be a politician.' I am not sure whether I should be encouraging him or not, but there is a sense of pride that he sees me and my connection to my community and my advocacy and he sees that importance, and for that I am incredibly proud. Thank you to the constituents of Ramsay for giving your support and having faith in me for another term.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:10):** I rise to contribute to the debate on the Address in Reply and I am grateful for having the opportunity to do so. First and most importantly, I thank the electors of Heysen, one and all, indeed the entire population of those communities of Heysen that I have been honoured to represent in the last parliament, for re-electing me to continue to serve.

As many members have reflected, particularly listening to those who are returning to this place, it is truly profoundly humbling to be entrusted with the trust of a community to speak up for them in this place. It is an honour that I hold dear. I am never more motivated to work for my communities of Heysen and I join with them in seeking to continue to improve the fabric of those communities and the lives of our great people in the Adelaide Hills as their voice in this state parliament, so thank you one and all.

I acknowledge and I thank with a sense of a deep debt of gratitude my colleagues in the Fifty-Fourth Parliament who were unsuccessful at the recent election. Theirs is a proud legacy of hard work and achievement, both individually and in their contribution to the Marshall Liberal government, one that has a proud record of achievement that I will reflect on momentarily.

Rachel Sanderson, the member for Adelaide; Steve Murray, the member for Davenport; Carolyn Power, the member for Elder; Corey Wingard, the member for Gibson; Richard Harvey, the member for Newland; and Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Deputy Premier and member for Stuart, all made tremendous contributions. They are missed daily by all of us.

That list is incomplete, and I wish to single out Paula Luethen, the former member for King. Paula was the one who, on the pendulum, going into 2018, was not odds-on to win. She needed to outperform to win, and she needed to outperform every day in terms of delivering for her community to continue in this place. Paula, I salute you. I think the fact that you are no longer here is a loss to this place and I hope that you are back. To one and all of you, we will miss you and I thank you for your work in the last parliament.

I also wish to congratulate those new members entering this place. As always is the case at this time, we have the opportunity to hear the motivations of those coming here who have been newly elected and, as has been reflected on just now, we sometimes in these early days learn many things on any given day. Certainly, we learn from those who come here and I wish them well in their future contributions to this place. I hope they contribute to the richness of this very important institution in our state.

I congratulate the government on its election, on its success in March, and I wish it well in its important work in the interests of all South Australians. Government is hard and achieving in government is important. It is a daily endeavour. The job of the opposition that we now have is to hold the government to account and I will endeavour to do that to the best of my ability every day.

I want to say thanks to so many who have helped me to continue in my representation of my communities of Heysen: to my family, to my colleagues, to my team of volunteers and to my dedicated staff in the Heysen team. This is in all sorts of ways a team effort and, once the contest of an election is past, the day-to-day work of being an effective local member is very much about our capacity as a team to assist our constituents day by day, and I cannot do that effectively without my great team, so thank you. I thank you for what you have done, and I know you will continue to work tirelessly for our communities.

Heysen, like so many districts, has changed its boundaries from 2018 to 2022. That is a process that is outside our control. As other members know, we become very parochial about those areas we represent and so when we lose areas that we have been speaking up for here it is felt very considerably. I observe that Heysen, from 2018 to 2022, changed as significantly and more significantly than many districts. In particular, the south-east part of Heysen moved to the east and

moved into Hammond and Kavel—primarily those areas including Strathalbyn and the areas around Strathalbyn. They include Belvidere, as well as Bugle Ranges, Gemmells, Highland Valley, Red Creek, Salem, Sandergrove, Willyaroo, up to Wistow and Woodchester and key among them Strathalbyn itself.

I will say some more about it. Strathalbyn is very dear to me and the focus of achievements in government, policy commitments, that I think serve to illustrate the way in which the Marshall Liberal government went about delivering improvements to community, so I am sad to see Strathalbyn and surrounding areas leave Heysen. They are in good hands with the member for Hammond. As I have said to them, in many ways I hope they will expect to have the service of a member who is familiar with the communities there as well as one who has served them before. I wish the member for Hammond the very best in his work for those communities.

Heysen has also gained significant new parts of the Adelaide Hills and in many ways Heysen is now even more characterised as the Adelaide Hills district, and there are parts of the Hills that have been previously part of Heysen and I am so glad that they are now, in many ways, returning. They include those Playford areas, those Sir Thomas Playford home areas of Ashton and Basket Range, of Carey Gully and Cherryville, of Marble Hill, as well as other parts of the Hills: Castambul, Cherry Gardens, Coromandel East, Crafers West and areas also to the east, particularly Hahndorf, Mount George, Norton Summit, Paechtown, Piccadilly, Summertown, Uraidla, Verdun, and even the lower portion of Montacute.

Priorities for our Hills communities and those new areas of Heysen in particular are, as they were, many areas of keen priority and they include a still urgent need to continue to improve road infrastructure. I highlight in that regard and with a nod to the Ceravolo family, who have been moving their fresh produce through the winding roads of Ashton for many generations and calling for improvement to road infrastructure.

Along with the important priorities of health and education, those roads and communications infrastructure improvements continue to be pressing needs for those communities. Perhaps specially, although it is a priority that is now common to all of us, the appreciation for the need to preserve and enhance and protect our natural environment is one that is a primary concern of my Hills residents.

I single out today just one group in particular to highlight the nature of that engagement. It exemplifies the strength of local community that is present in the Hills and also a keenness to get to grips with the environmental challenges and opportunities that we have and that is the group Imagine Uraidla. Imagine Uraidla came together some years ago at a time when Uraidla itself as a town was at risk of disappearing altogether. It had a main street with very little going on and the real challenge was to work out ways that Uraidla could actually continue to exist. What we have seen over the last several years, although we remember it is only in recent times, Uraidla has returned to being a real jewel among Hills towns and that has been largely the result of the commitment of a group of locals and local businesses who call themselves Imagine Uraidla.

We now have one of the best hotels in the Hills, the Uraidla Hotel, which describes itself somewhat modestly as 'the worst hotel in Uraidla' and on the opposite corner, if you head around the other side of the beer garden, you will find out it is also 'the best hotel in Uraidla'. The investment that has gone into that hotel, including a microbrewery and the bakery and the various facilities that are associated with the hotel, is very much at the centre of bringing back the vitality to Uraidla.

I cannot talk about Uraidla without reflecting on the extraordinary work that has been done by the Uraidla Bowls Club during the same period of time, another community group that could well have struggled but for the commitment of those members to get it back and going. The facilities there are now tremendous, assisted with the generous support of the Marshall Liberal government, and particularly importantly the group of volunteers led by the president, Richard Crabb. His team has made sure that the Uraidla Bowls Club is part of what is vital and exciting about what is going on in Uraidla.

I mention Imagine Uraidla in the context of the environmental priorities in the Hills, and I am glad to say I have already worked to some extent with Imagine Uraidla on initiatives that the local community can take to lead the way in terms of community energy initiatives. Imagine Uraidla and

the Uraidla community are very keen to demonstrate ways in which we can lead in terms of taking our chance with renewable energy and showing how a community, by taking initiatives together, can provide an example for the community more broadly. I look forward to working with the Uraidla community on that initiative in particular.

It is perhaps an important one to highlight because, in order for a community to want to participate in building for itself a sense of community around making the best of new energy technologies, you have got to have confidence in the system and what it is looking to deliver. One of the very important and fundamental contributions of the Marshall Liberal government, led by Minister van Holst Pellekaan, was to restore confidence in our statewide energy system.

We should not forget, and it is something that is close to the hearts of my electors in the Hills, that in 2016 we had a statewide blackout, and we suffered as well as that significant outages throughout the latter part of that year, including at Christmas time and into the new year. At that time, indeed in the lead-up to the election in 2018, over those summers we got to a stage where it was to be anticipated that there might be long blackouts whenever there was challenging weather, whether it be hot, stormy or whatever.

The sort of conversation that was going on in the Hills increasingly was, 'Well, what's the smart generator to have ready to go? What sort of money needs to be invested to be able to switch on so that you can be independently able to back-up your freezers and your other business infrastructure and maybe keep the lights on at home?' We should never forget that when we set out to achieve improvement we need to make sure first of all that we have reliable and cheap energy, and that is the sort of thing that engenders the confidence to then take initiatives in this space.

There have been considerable highlights over the course of the last four years in the Hills in terms of delivery of improvement, and I would just mention a few very briefly. I will say a bit more in a moment about the reservoirs, but the Hills is home to perhaps South Australia's most important dam at Mount Bold, and we are to see significant safety upgrade delivered at Mount Bold, which is a very important improvement for that important piece of infrastructure.

I am proud that the Woorabinda Bushland Reserve will now be protected in perpetuity. It is 34 hectares of bushland in the Stirling area, and the achievement of the heritage agreement between the government and the Hills council is an important one and makes clear our commitment to preserving the natural environment in the Hills.

I am very proud of the significant improvements that have been made at Heathfield High School. Our deputy leader, the member for Morialta, led a truly significant transition and improvement in South Australian education in moving year 7 to high school. He is to be congratulated on that. Heathfield High School was the beneficiary of initiatives not in only preparation for the move of year 7 to high school but also in much needed improvements to ensure that Heathfield High School is delivering the very best of education to our young people in the Hills.

There have been crossing upgrades that have occurred at Echunga, Meadows and Kangarilla—and a shout-out to each of those primary school students in particular. Many in Echunga had reached out to me as had those at the Kangarilla Primary School. I know, having been there for the opening of those emu crossings, how much they are appreciated and what a difference they make to calming traffic through those towns.

The South Eastern Freeway has seen very significant upgrades indeed in the course of the last four years, generational upgrades. For Heysen, they include the addition of the managed motorway—the third lane between Crafers and Stirling, which has made a real difference every day to those who use the freeway and in particular those who use that part of the freeway.

The work on the South Eastern Freeway extends all the way to the tollgate and to the Glen Osmond-Portrush Road crossing and all the way to Stirling, with more works that are ongoing. It is important work. It is our state's most important piece of road transport infrastructure, and it is the kind of work that ought to have been done in a more orderly way over an extended period of time. It has been done in a concentrated period of time, and I thank everybody in the Hills for their patience. The works were certainly worth the wait, and I am glad to see it completed.

There have been upgrades to Heathfield oval, just recently opened, that I am very proud to have advocated for. The addition of My Home Hospital has made a great difference to those elderly in the community.

In the course of the last four years Heysen saw, both within Heysen and immediately neighbouring Heysen, at the Cudlee Creek fire in 2019, significant—generational—bushfire emergencies. My communities suffered through those as well as making significant contributions to the response and to the support of those who suffered devastation through those fires. I applaud the government's commitments to bushfire response that have been well canvassed over that time. I hope in the years ahead we do not experience again such fire emergencies.

I will say a little bit more in a moment, too, but the opening up of reservoirs that occurred under the stewardship of the former Minister for Environment and Water, the now Leader of the Opposition, included Mount Bold Reservoir, and a significant initiative it was too.

I want to thank in particular Premier Marshall for his leadership over the last four years of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament and indeed his leadership of the Liberal Party going back over almost a decade. The Liberal Party is a great party with a proud record of achievement in government, and that is a record that speaks for itself over the course of the bulk of the last century. Premier Marshall's record of achievement stands out in this state and will be very well remembered in history. On a personal note, having worked with him as a member and then very briefly as a minister in his cabinet, it was an honour and privilege to serve with him, and I pay tribute to his great work as Premier of our state.

The Marshall Liberal government delivered real improvement and I really wish to highlight that in three ways. Firstly, it delivered practical cost-of-living reductions. It said it would and it did, but it did so by underpromising and overdelivering. We know that the Marshall Liberal government delivered cost savings of \$1,092 each year for an average household. That included reducing the cost of water bills, ESL bills, electricity bills and car registration. We also took the policy decision to double the value of sports vouchers and expand their availability.

We have a budget that will come up shortly, a budget that will be delivered in the coming weeks by this new government, and the spotlight will shift to that of delivery by this new government. We will be watching closely. The Marshall Liberal government was indeed one that managed the hard business of government by delivering real outcomes. That is hard to do and we will be now holding this government to account as it endeavours to continue the momentum that the Marshall Liberal government built for this state.

Secondly, I wish to highlight that those achievements were made in the most extraordinary of circumstances of the pandemic, and I am glad that we are looking to emerge from that now. It has certainly been the greatest challenge that this state has faced since the Second World War, and it is one that the Marshall Liberal government's management response to ought to be most proud. In that regard I highlight and thank the leadership of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade. I remember saying to the electors at the door at Strath on occasions in the lead-up to the election, 'Don't vote for me, vote so that Stephen Wade can be the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.' That is a decision that people should not and do not regret. We owe Minister Wade a great debt of gratitude for his leadership of the response to the pandemic.

A record of achievement in government leads and must be characterised by confidence. To reflect in another way perhaps on what that means, it comes back to the promotion of what is so dear to all Liberal governments, and that is the enhancement and growth of home in all three ways that Menzies referred to: homes material, homes human and homes spiritual.

The Marshall Liberal government did all of those things. It brought people back to the state. It promoted business confidence in the state. It left government with South Australia being the fastest growing state in the nation. It achieved where it counts. It achieved in terms of the direct impact it had on people's lives, in the reduction of the cost of living, and it achieved in terms of the business growth that that engendered.

Perhaps the best way that I can pay tribute is to highlight that sense of home. We must, as time goes forward, ensure that all that we do in this place builds and promotes the sense of home in



South Australia: homes material, homes human and homes spiritual. I will continue to work to the best of my endeavours to ensure that we do that.

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (12:40):** Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to commence by congratulating you on your appointment and also the Speaker on his appointment. I am sure you will both rise to the challenge. Today, I am speaking in response to the address by her Excellency the Governor of South Australia on the opening of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament of South Australia. I want to thank the Governor for her words and for her commitment to South Australia.

Unfortunately, in the last sitting week I was one of those at home with COVID, but I had the technological benefit of being able to watch the Governor's speech online and also the first speeches of many of our newest members and those this week, being here in the chamber. I want to extend a warm welcome to all those new members. I know they have acknowledged that they have been blessed to be chosen to represent their community in this place and I know they understand the privilege of being able to serve their community.

When I entered parliament, only three years ago, there were 12 of the 47 seats in this place occupied by women. I am now really proud to say that there are 17 of those seats with 14 being held by Labor women, for the first time outnumbering Labor men, not that we are competitive in any way. To those new members for Adelaide, Newland, King, Davenport, Elder, Gibson and Waite, my warm congratulations and welcome to this place. Our position in this chamber has been hard-fought for and my door is always open to new members on either side of the chamber if I can help in any way. I want all those new members to remember what is up on that tapestry which is 'A woman's place is in the house.' There are no truer words than those.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the new members for Taylor and Playford, and the members for Schubert, Frome and Flinders on the other side, and welcome them. To you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and my other colleagues who were here for the last session of parliament, congratulations on everyone's re-election, and to those who are no longer with us, I wish them all well in their future endeavours.

I also want to congratulate our Deputy Premier and Premier. I want to thank them for leading a team that had a clear vision for the future of South Australia, not only giving a plan for going into the election but actually a plan for the next generation. For too long we have been focused on electoral cycles to the detriment of our future generations, and that sort of short-sighted politics, I believe, ended on 19 March with the election of the Malinauskas Labor government. It was an honour to work with the now Premier as we developed the agenda that we took to the election, and I was incredibly pleased that it was so roundly supported by the South Australian community and that we are now hitting the ground running in implementing that policy agenda.

As part of that, I am very pleased and humbled to accept the portfolio responsibilities for small and family business, consumer and business affairs and the arts. Those portfolios I think are essential to the prosperity of South Australia. Small business is the engine room of South Australia's economy. It makes up 98 per cent of all businesses in South Australia. Small businesses contribute \$40 billion to our state's economy and employ almost 40 per cent of our workforce. They play a critical role in South Australia's economy by improving productivity, creating jobs and unlocking economic growth.

As many people are aware, I ran my own business for seven years prior to this election and I am no stranger to the joys, the challenges and the sheer hard work that go into running a business. In opposition, I regularly spoke with small business owners and their advisers, and I heard a consistent message throughout my engagement that there needed to be a state government that focused on small business that had an interest in easing the pressure on the largest sector of our economy and, really importantly, understood how small businesses operate in this state.

I have the pleasure of being the minister and having a really strong focus on promoting the needs of small and family businesses in this government, and I am very pleased to be able to take that role. I know the last two years have been very difficult for small and family businesses across the state with COVID. Many of those impacts continue, with frequent staff absences due to illness.

Obviously, there are extreme shortages in skills and labour, and disruptions in supply chains and increasing costs of doing business.

I genuinely feel for small business owners and operators who are trying to plan their staff rosters or order stock when members are suddenly not available or when basic stock items are suddenly unavailable. There is still a lot of pressure in the small and family business sectors. We are not out of the woods yet. During COVID, many of those small businesses had to spend their hard-earned savings, and some had to remortgage their homes, so there are some sectors of business in South Australia that still have a way to go to recover. What we plan to do as the Malinauskas Labor government is listen and focus on how we can help that sector. We want small and family businesses in South Australia to know that the Malinauskas Labor government has got their back.

We want to help small business and increase their opportunities and make it easier to do business with government. We will make sure that government services are simpler to navigate no matter where that business is located—in the city or in the regions—and no matter whether that business is a new business or a multigenerational family business. We want to be able to provide resources for whatever businesses actually need to help them access information on how to access financial support, take on new employees, upskill their staff and be there through the difficult times.

I am also really pleased to be able to deliver on the small and family business programs that we took to the election, none more so than the Women in Business program. It is high time that women in business are afforded the recognition they deserve in pursuing their entrepreneurial spirit without gender-related barriers. Women continue to fight to be represented in executive positions in the workplace.

Just over a third of business owners in Australia are women, but the number of female entrepreneurs is pleasingly growing. South Australian female entrepreneurs are taking leading roles and promoting innovation in areas such as space, professional services, technology, health and social enterprises. While these entrepreneurial women are creating jobs and growing our state's economy, women in business continue to face barriers in accessing support and accessing capital to get their ideas off the ground.

The Women in Business program is a \$4 million support package to support female-owned businesses. It will help boost our economy, create jobs and support our local entrepreneurs. The package will provide a suite of programs that will be made available to South Australian female-owned businesses. Essentially, I see that as two streams, and we are working on a program at the moment. There is a stream that I anticipate will be for startup and microbusinesses to really give female entrepreneurs that business support in the early stages of their business to give them fundamental business skills and knowledge, which is crucial to being able to have a long-term sustainable business, to provide them with mentoring and opportunities to grow their networks and to see their businesses succeed.

Further to that, for established businesses with a high-growth agenda, I anticipate there will be a program to provide things such as group sessions to improve business skills, a growth program enabling those businesses to set up best practice in governance and strategic planning and gaining access to advisory board members and business mentors who would help them in growing their business. This I hope will lead to increased access to capital, growth and jobs for South Australia.

The Malinauskas government will also provide more opportunities for local businesses to tender for government work. We have a target to move spending away from interstate and overseas suppliers to the tune of 5 per cent, which will actually equate to \$425 million per year going into the pockets of South Australian businesses. Part of that policy will include a mandated 90 per cent of labour hours on major infrastructure projects being delivered by South Australian workers. Government agencies will be required to buy locally manufactured uniforms and PPE wherever possible.

South Australian manufactured products will need to be used on public housing construction and maintenance programs where they are available. We will make sure government procurement opportunities are publicised three months in advance so local businesses can have adequate time

to prepare their tenders and we will be looking at other ways to make it easier for small and family businesses to participate in government work.

While we are working to establish new industries through the creation of the hydrogen industry in our state, small business is a fertile ground to ensure a boom in employment. We have about 147,000 small businesses in this state and the provision of simple and effective training on business fundamentals—business management—will ensure those businesses grow.

We will see a growth by developing programs that help small businesses develop their interstate and international export markets. Just one new job being created by a fraction of those small businesses will see thousands of new jobs created in this state. As the Minister for Small and Family Business, I look forward to being able to help these businesses grow.

We have a very proud history in South Australia of developing large successful businesses, particularly in the family business sector. The member for MacKillop is well aware, with his own family business, but there are others, such as Coopers Brewery, Haigh's, Hills and Seeley International. There are many well-known South Australian family businesses and I hope that many more will fit into that category, whether it is a tech firm starting at Lot Fourteen, a building company operating out at Salisbury or a retail and hospitality venue coming out of Rundle Street. It is my hope that we will witness growth from each of those sectors and many more to help the growth of our state for our children.

I am also very pleased to have received the honour of becoming the Minister for the Arts. South Australia has a very proud history in the arts, largely stemming from Don Dunstan and his Labor government. This year, I have already celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State Theatre Company and the South Australian Film Corporation. Next year, we will also celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Adelaide Festival Centre, the first centre of its kind in Australia.

Arts and culture lie at the heart of our identity as individuals, as a community and as a state. It is central to who we are as South Australians: how we communicate and how we see ourselves as citizens and members of our community. While arts and culture play an important economic function through employment, tourism, exporting skills, training and liveability, its social and cultural values are much greater than that. Arts are a public good. Arts in South Australia tell a story of who we are, a story that started more than 60,000 years ago and it tells the story of how we got here today. It is a story of our future self.

The Malinauskas Labor government has ensured that there is a minister with specific responsibility for arts and culture and I look forward to being a strong voice at the cabinet table for that sector. It is a really key role in the cultural leadership of this state and our government will support it as such. The arts sector was one of the hardest hit during COVID and it is even more urgent now for us to work with that sector to continue its return and growth. I want to work with the sector on a strategy that will consider the conditions for our artists and how they live, work and create. The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to securing the prosperity of our cultural and creative system.

In opposition, we were committed to supporting live music. In government, we are fulfilling that promise. Our music industry has endured an incredibly tough time, seeing the cancellation of thousands of events and major job losses through COVID. We on this side of the chamber are committed to getting the live music industry back up and running. This will not only contribute to our state's economy but give Adelaide its groove back.

Getting music back into our venues, laneways and public spaces will enrich our state and attract visitors, boosting local businesses. We are determined to see this industry recover, rebuild and grow its multimillion dollar contribution to our economy. Past Labor governments have boosted our night-time economy with, for example, the implementation of small bar licences. That policy in itself proved a fundamental game changer to the Adelaide CBD.

We will implement our See It Live policy, which will provide 5,000 See It Live vouchers to get music acts back into pubs, clubs, small bars, cafes and restaurants. In addition, it will support performers in being able to boost the hospitality sector. While the See It Live medium and large event grants were made available to South Australian based promoters, organisations and businesses

operating music venues, that will help fill a whole calendar of gigs and festivals through the upcoming financial year.

Further to that, we will commit to having the best Royal Adelaide Show that we have had. After the cancellations of the 2020 and 2021 Royal Shows, we have a plan to make this show bigger and better. The theme this year of the Royal Adelaide Show is reunion: a celebration of community coming back together again. Our government will partner with the Royal Adelaide Show to introduce live music as part of its program with a \$500,000 grant.

Further to that, our commitment to reinvigorating the arts does not stop with live music. We have a plan for a stronger sector. We are the Festival State and our Adelaide Fringe Festival is the largest arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere, second only to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The Fringe attracts thousands of tourists from interstate and overseas. Its impact on our economy is in excess of \$50 million, creating almost 4½ thousand jobs directly and indirectly.

Our Fringe has the capacity to be much bigger and raise the profile of our city and our state on a national and international stage. That is why we will invest an additional \$8 million into the Adelaide Fringe. This funding will enable the Fringe to provide more grants to local working artists and to put on more performances. It will enable the Fringe to host a headline anchor event, as Sky Song was this year. It will provide the resources to effectively market the festival to interstate and overseas audiences, which I hope will attract more visitors to our city and our regions and have a flow-on effect through our restaurants, cafes and tourism operators.

We also have the Adelaide Film Festival. It is not just Mad March: we have festivals across the calendar year. We maintain a number of biennial festivals and until recently that included the Adelaide Film Festival. That was started almost 20 years ago with the establishment of the Adelaide Film Festival. We now celebrate half a century of filmmaking in South Australia. The film festival is now being funded to become an annual event and that will support the event, boost local independent filmmaking and showcase the best of international film here in our city. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

*Ministerial Statement*

**FRONTIER SOFTWARE CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT**

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:01):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** On 10 December last year, the former Liberal government publicly announced that Frontier Software had been the victim of a ransomware cyber attack, with significant personal information of approximately 80,000 state government employees illegally accessed. Frontier Software is an external payroll software provider for the majority of state government employees and has held its contract with the state government since 2001.

On coming to government, I asked Treasury to provide me advice on this incident and the steps being taken since this incident occurred. I am advised the former government was first formally made aware of this ransomware-based cyber attack on 14 November 2021. I am advised that at first Frontier did not believe SA government payroll data had been accessed. Frontier's servers had been compromised, and I am advised it took until Wednesday 8 December 2021 to advise government that it had confirmed state government payroll data had indeed been accessed.

Frontier advised the government that it had inappropriately stored government payroll data on its own servers, contrary to its contract with the state government. The attack was perpetrated by an overseas criminal organisation on Frontier's network, and this data, amongst others, was accessed. After accessing this information, the perpetrators deployed ransomware to Frontier's systems and posted some of the files to the dark web. Thankfully, following engagement by Frontier, the files were only accessible for less than 24 hours on the dark web. There is no information

regarding any ransom which may have been paid or how Frontier managed engagement with the overseas cyber criminals in relation to this attack.

The state government payroll information accessed by this organisation belonged to both current and former public servants, containing personal information. While different groups of employees had varying levels of data stored by Frontier and illegally accessed, the type of information included employees' tax file number; first name; last name; date of birth; employee number; home address and emergency contact information; email address and phone numbers; Australian Taxation Office payment summaries; bank account information; superannuation details; salary related information, including allowances and deductions; training and education history; and employee diversity information.

The former Treasurer publicly announced this cyber attack at approximately 2pm Friday afternoon on 10 December 2021, two days after it was notified by Frontier that employees' information had in fact been accessed. This announcement occurred in conjunction with an email to public servants. It occurs to me the timing of the former government's announcement serves to minimise media scrutiny and also had the unfortunate consequence of reducing the ability of employees to make inquiries about the incident.

Treasury has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake a forensic review of this incident. I can now advise the house that these formal investigations of the relevant facts and impacts are now complete. The estimated cost of this PwC review was \$420,000, agreed by the former government. I am advised the cost to the South Australian government managing this process may exceed three-quarters of a million dollars by June this year.

This PricewaterhouseCoopers review identified that there were a further 13,088 individuals who had personal information stolen in this attack and did not receive any targeted communication from the state government in 2021. These individuals were a mixture of former and current employees of South Australia Police, Metropolitan Fire Service, Department for Infrastructure and Transport and state government executives and board members.

Now that the review has been completed, direct communications and updated material for those past and current employees impacted have been provided. These communications occurred this week, commencing on Monday 16 May 2022. The Malinauskas Labor government is taking action on these important issues and will not delay advising employees like the former government.

I am informed Frontier Software has developed additional security measures within its systems. A formal breach notice has been issued by the government to Frontier regarding its failure to adequately protect the information it holds for the South Australian government employees.

State government employees have been concerned about their personal information being accessed and have suffered direct impacts from this cybersecurity incident. In excess of 3,000 individual employees have accessed a cybersecurity support service put in place to assist victims of the data breach, with many of them being locked out from accessing important services such as the online Australian Taxation Office or superannuation record systems because of this incident.

Now that the final report from the formal investigations has concluded, this government is committed to ensuring all affected employees will continue to be directly notified. I will update the house in the future on the steps being taken to recover costs from Frontier and ensure the future security of South Australian government employee information.

*Parliamentary Committees*

**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:07):** I bring up the report of the committee, entitled Annual report 2018.

Report received.

**S.E. ANDREWS:** I bring up the report of the committee, entitled Annual report 2019.

Report received.

**S.E. ANDREWS:** I bring up the report of the committee, entitled Annual report 2020.

Report received.

**S.E. ANDREWS:** I bring up the third report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

**S.E. ANDREWS:** I bring up the fourth report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received and read.

#### *Question Time*

### **HOMELESSNESS SERVICES**

**Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on re-election to your office and welcome you back after your period of being unwell.

My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier agree that it is important to provide timely responses to cases of vulnerable South Australians who have asked the government to provide urgent access to housing?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:10):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Naturally, I don't think it would surprise the Leader of the Opposition or anyone in this place that, as a Labor government, we are naturally concerned with anybody within our community who has a request of government services or services from the not-for-profit sector in any form.

The role of government is to provide assistance to those in our community who need it most, and when they have requests of government or legitimate questions naturally we would like to support them and provide a response in a timely manner, notwithstanding, of course, that from time to time complexities present themselves that may mean there are instances when a quick response is not always forthcoming. Nonetheless, timeliness is virtuous and that is a principle I would have thought everybody in this house seeks to honour.

### **HOMELESSNESS SERVICES**

**Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11):** My supplementary is to the Premier. How long does the Premier think that a vulnerable South Australian should have to wait to receive even an acknowledgement from a minister that they have received an urgent request for access to housing?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:11):** Thank you very much for your question. Of course, nobody should be left without a home and nobody should be left without a shelter, without a roof over their head. It is absolutely unacceptable.

During the COVID pandemic, the then Liberal government decided to reform homelessness and home-finding services and structure them into a number of alliances. Previous to that there was—

**Mr GARDNER:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order. I will hear the member for Morialta on a point of order.

**Mr GARDNER:** Standing order 98. The question was pretty direct in relation to the length of time for a minister's office to respond or to acknowledge a request for support, and the broader policy concepts I do not believe are germane.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is very quick on the trigger. We are listening carefully to the minister's answer, and if there are matters that raise concern with respect to standing orders they can be dealt with in the course of the answer.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** As I was explaining, during the COVID pandemic the then Liberal government decided to restructure the housing and homelessness system for people who were found wanting when it came to shelter. We know that the demand increased incredibly during that time. As we were facing a situation where people could transmit or succumb to COVID, we wanted to make sure, obviously, as a state that we were treating them well and that we were not leaving them on the streets.

At that particular time, hundreds of people were placed into hotels. That also then put pressure on the emergency system. During the same time, as I explained, the whole service was reformed as such and restructured so that the services were put into alliance sections across not just the metropolitan area but through the regions.

This was done without adding any extra money to the system, so it has put the not-for-profits under enormous stress and strain, and that has backlogged into a situation where we find people are waiting for quite a long time to get attention. In fact, I understand that there are around 400 contacts—and I think that is per day, to be honest—from people who are struggling to find homes.

I know that many members both on our side and on the other side of the chamber have actually found that their offices have received a lot more contact in relation to people who are under stress—housing stress. We see every day that there are people reaching out for help, help that at the moment is very hard to find because we've got a situation where we've got both a hot market from a real estate point of view and we've got very few rental properties available. In fact, I think the vacancy rate on rentals was something like 0.2 per cent. So out of tens of thousands of those it becomes very hard for people to find any accommodation.

What we've got is a system that was reformed under a time when demand was greater, and homeless numbers have actually increased over the past four years as well.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Sorry, have you got something to say, have you?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Have you got something to say? Actually, I think the—

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, please be seated. I will hear the member for Morialta on a point of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister is called to order.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sir, 98: the minister has a minute to go and is yet to identify what a timely response from her office would be.

**The SPEAKER:** There is some force in the point of order. Minister, I draw your attention to the question and bring you back to a closer line on that question.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** No problems. I actually also think that the opposition leader's question should probably be to the member for Dunstan, about why he oversaw such reforms—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —that made the housing system so hard to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morphett!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Florey, the member for West Torrens, order! There is a point of order. I will hear the member for Morialta on a point of order.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sir, she defies your ruling and should be brought back to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** I am listening carefully—

*Members interjecting:*

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

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The house does not permit quarrels between members across the chamber. The minister has the call. The point of order has been emphasised. There is only a brief moment remaining in the answer, as I understand it.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** If there is a concern that is being raised with the minister's office in respect to any situation where somebody's life is at risk or their health is being jeopardised, we answer as soon as we can, which is often straightaway. However, such is the contact we receive from people such as the shadow minister in the other place, at five minutes to five on a Friday, that it is very difficult to actually activate assistance. We make every effort to provide assistance as soon as an inquiry gets in but, as you can understand, they get triaged. They get triaged according to severity.

### HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

**Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Does the minister think it is acceptable to leave South Australians who are at risk of homelessness, rough sleeping and in some cases displaced from their families, waiting almost two weeks before the minister even acknowledges their urgent request for housing, let alone do anything about it?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: standing order 97. The question involved argument. I would ask that the member rephrase the question and perhaps do it properly.

**The SPEAKER:** There is some force. I will allow the leader some latitude because he is the leader, but I will give an opportunity to rephrase on this occasion.

**Mr SPEIRS:** Thank you for your latitude, Mr Speaker. My question again—or rephrased question—is to the Minister for Human Services. Is the minister aware that South Australians who are at risk of homelessness, sleeping rough and could be displaced from their families after traumatic events, are waiting almost two weeks before the minister acknowledges their urgent requests for assistance?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: standing order 97. The Leader of the Opposition is asserting a fact.

**The SPEAKER:** It's a matter of fine judgement. The question does appear to contemplate a state of affairs. On this occasion, I am going to permit the question, but I do emphasise standing order 97 to the leader. We wouldn't want it to become a habit.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:18):** I'm not aware of that particular situation, but clearly if there was to be a situation like that I would like to act on it. When we actually took over the office there was something like 1,500 emails and messages—

**An honourable member:** Really, 1,500?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —1,500. They come in en masse, and the reason that people are resorting to contacting—

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** I'm pretty happy to keep talking. It's their time.



*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Dunstan is called to order.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** They either want information or not.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members! There are a number of members who are contributing in a manner contrary to standing orders. The minister has the call and has not, as I understand it, concluded the answer.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** As soon as a request comes into our office it is accepted as soon as the email comes into the inbox. As I explained to you, because of the situation of where we currently are in respect to housing and homelessness services, the providers are under an enormous amount of strain because of the way they were structured and the way that the changeover happened in such a rush, so there are more people who are under strain. We've got many more people who are homeless. We have far fewer properties. We saw over the last four years up to 2,000 vacant Housing Trust properties at any given time. We know that currently that number is coming down and that is because of the great work of the Housing Authority who are working under direction to prioritise bringing empty homes online.

I have also spent the last couple of months talking directly to a number of providers about the barriers and the problems that they have been facing in terms of being able to provide support and outreach to people who are in a terrible way in our community. We are heading into winter. I have reached out to our department also in relation to having a review and another look at the Code Blue triggers and the Code Blue situation. We had a winter probably milder than previously. Who knows what is going to happen this time?

We are taking a whole range of strategies across the board to ensure that we are able to provide the best possible outcomes for people who are sleeping rough. My office is absolutely prioritising the—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —information that is coming to them.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Flinders! Member for Chaffey!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** In terms of the particular situation or the particular person, you can provide me with further detail. I can follow that up straightaway now if you like—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond, for Unley!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —and even have an answer to you before the end—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond is warned.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —of question time. But without a name, without a date, I don't have any information for you in respect of that particular case. What I have also found today, which you might find interesting, is that there are a range of people who have been reaching out to the minister's office using Minister for Human Services as the email. That's not my email. My email is ministerhumanservices@sa.gov.au, so if somebody has reached out—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —via the incorrect email—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hartley!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —that is something that potentially has not been picked up. I'm really happy to follow up a particular case for any one of you at any time. As you know, I will immediately answer the phone if you pick up the phone to me. I don't know the particular case if you don't give it to me. Obviously, you shouldn't provide details directly in question time, but if you want to give it to me privately I will follow it up—no problem.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! We were doing so well.

#### **BALCONY ROOM REFURBISHMENT**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:23):** My question is to you, sir. Can you advise the house of the cost of the refurbishment of the Balcony Room, approved by your predecessor, the member for Heysen?

**The SPEAKER (14:23):** Thank you, member for Elizabeth, for the question. I will consider it, take it in and return to the house with an answer.

#### **PARLIAMENT HOUSE ARTWORK**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:23):** My further question is to you, sir. Can you advise the cost estimate for the installation of artwork in the car park tunnel sought by your predecessor, the member for Heysen?

**The SPEAKER (14:23):** Thank you, member for Elizabeth. I will consider the question and return to the chamber with an answer.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### **SOCIAL HOUSING**

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:24):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. How long does the minister think a vulnerable South Australian who has requested urgent access to housing support should have to wait to receive a response from her office? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Ms PRATT:** The opposition has been contacted by a number of vulnerable South Australians whose cases have been brought to the attention of the minister's office, but who have then experienced lengthy waits for the minister to even acknowledge their issue, let alone provide assistance.

These include a woman at risk of homelessness whose case took seven days for the minister's office to even acknowledge; a family whose property needs urgent maintenance works, including an inoperable bathroom, whose case took 12 days for the minister's office to acknowledge; a displaced family staying in a motel after experiencing traumatic events, whose case has had no acknowledgement at all after being referred more than two weeks ago; and a woman who is sleeping rough who says she has had no contact from the minister's office, more than two weeks ago, after her very urgent situation was first referred by phone. All report that they have been ignored by the minister and that their situation remains unresolved.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer is called to order.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:25):** All of which I am very happy to follow up. There are a couple of those that I am—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Unley is warned.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Are you interested or are you just going to bark on over there?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, you will not respond to interjections.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** I can further expand on the 400 a day. That is across the homelessness sector and those calls are received through Uniting Communities, who provide support. There are hundreds and hundreds of people a day. One of the stories being relayed there actually does come to light. I believe it may be quite a high-profile case that involved the movement of a family of 12 people. They were not originally in public housing but were provided with emergency accommodation. There was a contact made to the shadow minister because they were given her email—because the person just figured she was still the person; not everybody is engaged in our system, I guess—and she contacted us at 4.51 on a Friday afternoon to talk about—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —unsuitable accommodation. I understand in that particular case what the member is alleging—that there has been no resolution—is not, in fact, true. There has been resolution in relation to provision of housing.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** There has been a resolution in relation to some of that housing but, as I explained before, it is really difficult to actually find housing outcomes. There was very little public housing built during the last four years. In fact, the numbers—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** What we are doing to respond to this—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is warned.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —is that, apart from being two months in, we've now got a full suite of staff within the ministerial office who are getting through what potentially is a backlog, but I am not sure on the particular cases, as I said, because there are so many that come through. I am very happy to follow up on every single one of those.

What I hope will happen over the next six to 12 months—because we have asked to speak to a number of providers of housing solutions so that we can provide innovative, practical and quick outcomes for people who are experiencing homelessness. I think we have heard of a number of people who are sleeping in tents, and it is just not suitable and it is not appropriate. We are reaching out directly to try to secure some more dignified and comfortable housing very quickly. On top of that we also now have said—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is called to order.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —'Are you okay? Are you alright?'

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** What we have been doing as well over the last month is prioritising a pipeline of building over the next four years. We have an injection of new money, so brand-new

money, not just part of the general budget which I believe the then Premier wanted to go out and shout about in the media that they spend more money, all that sort of stuff—rubbish. We have \$181 million of new money going into the system to provide for the construction of hundreds of new homes. So there will be 400 new homes.

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** We will bring online 350 homes. Many of them were empty for three years or more of the previous government—which is pretty shameful, to be honest. As well as that, we will be bringing up to a higher standard 3,000 other homes, homes that are required for decades. They are needed for decades to provide housing solutions—

*Mr Gardner interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is called to order.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —to South Australians just like the ones you talk about. But, please, if you would like to get back to me about the actual details—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —I will give you—sorry, I have run out.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Heysen on a point of order, which may have been resolved.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Standing order 98(b).

**The SPEAKER:** I think the minister has concluded her answer.

### SOCIAL HOUSING

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:30):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. What does the minister think is more important: posting photos to social media, posing with housing tenants or acknowledging and actually following up on urgent requests of vulnerable South Australians for access to housing? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Ms PRATT:** On 13 May 2022, the minister posted to social media with housing tenants in front of their house, captioned, 'I am committed to ensuring our public and community housing is as good as it can and should be.' During this same period, her office was failing to respond to urgent requests.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:30):** Thank you for paying attention to my social media—I feel really honoured.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** It's really good to know that the messages are getting out there, and it's even better to know that the messages are so positive. On Friday last week—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is warned for a second time. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** On Friday last week, I took time to go and spend a couple of hours in the member for Reynell's electorate at one of the public housing sites. This is a mixed site. There are dozens of detached and semidetached small single-storey homes across a number of streets, and there are also a number of walk-up flats—

*The Hon. G.G. Brock interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Frome!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —in that particular site. My priority, given that there had been fires occur at that site, was to make sure that I went down to visit the area to make sure (a) that the residents felt safe, (b) that the sites were secured, (c) that there was a plan in place for any residents who might not have felt safe or wanted alternative accommodation, and (d) how that site fits into the big picture in relation to the \$180 million that we are investing.

On that day, I visited and I spoke to a number of residents. I won't say the gentleman's name, but there was a gentleman who lives there, and I know that our Premier, who has a very generous heart and a very big social heart, wants to make sure that refugees are safe—

**The Hon. B.I. Boyer:** That would be a foreign concept over there.

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —housed and looked after—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —not just by bricks and mortar but by wraparound services that ensure that their life is able to improve from the situation when they arrived.

This particular gentleman I spoke to was very generous with his time. He told me about being born in one Middle Eastern country. He had to be displaced because of war and, then years later, in that next country, was again displaced because he was in fear of his life. He found himself tenanted about two years ago under the Liberal government in a situation where his trauma and his PTSD are completely triggered by being in a tight location where overnight he can't sleep.

I spent quite a bit of time talking to him about how scared he was, and I made a commitment at that time to come back with a housing officer, someone from my staff, bring him a meal and sit with him at night to see what was actually happening in that particular location. He was almost brought to tears, and he was very pleased that we would do such a thing.

We started to make arrangements and find out the type of diet he needed and set the time to visit him, but in the meantime, of course, the manager who was with me found the last Hove unit that was left vacant because all the residents were tipped out under the previous government and we have been scrambling to fill them. This gentleman has now been offered a beautiful, two-bedroom unit at Hove which he will move into and he is so very grateful, so that is my priority.

## PRIVATISATION

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (14:35):** My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house on the government's position on privatisation and advise if he is aware of any alternative approaches?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:35):** I thank the member for Playford for his question—and indeed I can. This government made our position clear on privatisation at the recent state election. We don't support the Liberals' fire sale of government assets and services, and our position was informed by the behaviour of those opposite over the last four years.

Mr Speaker, you might remember that a little over four years ago the member for Dunstan told the people of South Australia that the Liberals 'don't have a privatisation agenda'. Well, during the government's one term in office they got very busy breaking that election commitment to the people of South Australia. Straight off the bat, they privatised the Adelaide Remand Centre in their first budget—and what a success that was. Under the stewardship of the member for Hartley, prisoners were escaping out of the kitchen window. What a great achievement under that new privatised contract.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** They also, of course, sold the right to operate our trains and trams to Keolis Downer.

**Mr Tarzia:** Don't mislead the house. You had better check where it was.

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

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Was it a bathroom window?

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer has the call.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Was it a Joe Cocker lyric, was it? It was a bathroom window and not a kitchen window?

**Mr Tarzia:** You said it. Don't mislead the house. It's a very serious offence.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Hartley!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** If it was another room of the prison, I stand corrected. I am grateful to the member for Hartley for his superintendence of that portfolio. Not only did they privatise the right to operate our trains and trams to Keolis Downer but they also sold the rights to operate South Australia's road maintenance functions to various private contractors. This privatisation included Field Services, its functions of course operating our traffic lights across metropolitan Adelaide and roadside infrastructure management.

They also privatised the government's interest in world-leading technology Addinsight. They privatised patient transport services from Modbury Hospital, and they were just the privatisations that actually proceeded. The former government, led by the member for Dunstan, also hung the sword of Damocles of privatisation over SA Pathology. They said, 'If you don't cut your budget by over \$100 million, you're going to get privatised.' That is what they said and it took the member for Dunstan, at the beginning of a global pandemic—

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —to be humiliated into a backdown from that privatisation.

**Mr GARDNER:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer, there is a point of order. I will hear the member for Morialta on the point of order.

**Mr GARDNER:** The minister is debating the matter: standing order 98.

**The SPEAKER:** There is some force in the point of order. The Treasurer knows the question, has the question and will come to the question.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Could you imagine what would have happened, Mr Speaker, if SA Pathology had been privatised during a global pandemic? But there was another privatisation that the former government managed to slip through without too much notice, and that was the sale of a state-owned, profitable training company called Scope Global. Formerly called Austraining International, it was established in 1991 and renamed Scope Global in August 2014. Scope Global is a specialist project management, international development and training agency, wholly owned, it was, by the South Australian government.

The review of the South Australian government's international and interstate engagement bodies and functions, known as the Joyce Review—Mr Speaker, you will remember the success of that, appointing the Hon. David Ridgway as Agent General—recommended that this Scope Global organisation be transferred to the Treasurer. That occurred and then didn't they get their privatisation act into gear once again?

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** So it came as little surprise for me to find out on coming to government that this had quietly been flogged off to a company established as little as less than two years ago in another privatisation. Shame on those opposite. We won't be following their decrepit example.

#### PLANT PROTEIN INDUSTRY

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the government honour the \$65 million commitment made by the former Liberal government to ensure South Australia becomes a powerhouse in plant protein manufacturing? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** On 1 March 2022, it was announced that South Australia is set to be the home to the largest plant protein manufacturing capability in Australia thanks to a \$113 million funding package from the Morrison government and a \$65 million contribution from the former Marshall Liberal government. Overall, the plant protein manufacturing project is worth a total of \$378 million.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:40):** I thank the shadow minister for his question.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** The answer to the shadow minister's question is, yes, we will be funding that project. Do you know why, Mr Speaker? Because on this side of the house we acknowledge that every now and then government has a role to play to drive investment in South Australia, otherwise known as picking winners—that was characterised by those opposite.

One might ask oneself the question: why was a government that sought to characterise itself as never picking winners willing to drive so much public sector investment in an industry?

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** That is because—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Flinders! Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** That is because there is an acknowledgement on this side—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is called to order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens! The Treasurer is called to order. The Premier has the call. He has concluded his answer. The Premier retains the call.

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey, that is your third and final warning.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** On this side of the house, what we have is a party in government that is very capable of being guided by a set of principles and ideology that acknowledges that government working with industry can drive economic growth in South Australia. What we are not going to be is a government that seeks to espouse an ideology on one day and do something completely different the next.

**Mr GARDNER:** Point of order.

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

**Mr GARDNER:** The Premier's characterisation is clearly descending into debate. Standing order 98.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully to the Premier. I have in mind your point of order. I am not going to rule on it for the moment.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What I was illuminating the house with is that on this side of the house we do believe that—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —where—

*Mr Gardner interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —opportunities present themselves for government to make active investments with private industry, in conjunction with the commonwealth, then that can be a worthwhile pursuit. In this instance, the government has formulated the judgement that in regard to the plant protein industry it is a worthwhile investment. We welcome the commonwealth's commitment. We will continue to honour our commitment as a government, and we certainly welcome private sector investment as well.

#### EXPORT INITIATIVES

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Minister, how is the state government—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Waite, please be seated. Member for Chaffey, you can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A. You have had ample warning.

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

**Ms HUTCHESSON:** Minister, how is the state government planning to promote South Australian products in the Japanese market?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:43):** I thank the member for Waite for her question and her interest in our export markets and the way the Malinauskas Labor government is working to sell South Australia to the world following an unprecedented and turbulent time in our state's export markets. I am pleased to advise that South Australia will partner with—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —Rakuten, described as the Amazon of Japan, and on 26 May a dedicated South Australian page will go live—

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morphett is called to order.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —on its platform.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Wright is warned for the first time.



**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** In Japanese, Rakuten stands for optimism, and the department, our business and export partners—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wright!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —and the government and, I am sure, the opposition are all very optimistic about the unique and exciting opportunity that South Australia has been able to secure. We already treasure our trading relationship with Japan, a relationship that already sees it entrenched as South Australia's fifth largest export market, with an export value of almost \$700 million per annum.

The opening of new opportunities into the everyday Japanese market is a welcome new tool to enhance the state's export activities and increase our footprint in Japan. And, make no mistake, the reach and presence of Rakuten should not be understated. The Rakuten group has over 1.6 billion members globally. I am sure that many in this place, including the member for Morphett, will have seen the Rakuten logo emblazoned on advertising hoardings at major events such as the premier international tennis team event, the Davis Cup, while others might be more familiar with the sponsorship of some of the globe's biggest sporting teams, be it on Steph Curry's Golden State Warriors jersey in the NBA or across the front of the La Liga's Spanish giant Futbol Club Barcelona shirt.

In the domestic market alone, Rakuten has over 111 million Japanese users and is home to almost 30 per cent of Japanese e-commerce, equating to some \$40 billion in 2020, a portion of which South Australia is now primed to gain access. The 3 June go-live date is the culmination of over 12 months hard work. I like to put on record—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I don't mind acknowledging it. I would like to put on record, in this place, my acknowledgement of the department's—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hartley!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —regional director, Sally Townsend, and her team in Japan for delivering this project and partnership, and we wish it a long and successful endeavour. I am happy to acknowledge my predecessor's role, if he had one, in this project as well.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** In keeping with Rakuten's company philosophy, South Australia and Rakuten will walk together, providing a new exposure for South Australian producers and exporters alike. Along with a first mover advantage on Japan's premium e-commerce platform, we are seeking to establish our own unique footprint in the Japanese market.

This initiative will see nine new South Australian businesses enter the Japanese market for the first time and provide additional support and exposure to over 70 companies already in market, including over 50 wineries, from small Adelaide Hills producers like BK Wines and Jauma to iconic names such as D'Arenberg, Henschke and Penfolds.

South Australia will be the first Australian jurisdiction with a standalone designated page that showcases the very best of our state's premium wine, beer, gin, honey, almonds, seafood, sweets, spreads and pet food, along with fashion and beauty products. As a result of this partnership and South Australia's designated page, some additional 400 products will be listed, increasing the number of South Australian products on the Rakuten platform to almost 2,500. With that increase comes an anticipation that this initiative will yield an increase in the value of our export sales into the Japanese market.

Recently, the Premier and I had the honour to meet with the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Shingo Yamagami, and the Consul-General of Japan, Mr Shimada Junji,

and reiterated our commitment to the Japanese-South Australian relationship. We hope that a presence on platforms such as Rakuten, built over time, over the last 12 months—

**Mr Gardner:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, there's a point of order. I anticipate that—

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —will ensure that South Australia continues to be a trusted brand within the Japanese market.

#### BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:48):** Seeing he is so keen to talk, my question is for the Minister for Housing and Urban Development on a very topical subject. How many affordable houses would be delivered at the Brompton Gasworks development by the preferred proponent, MAB, compared with other shortlisted parties?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:48):** It would be inappropriate for me, I'm sure you would understand, to comment on what is a set of commercial relationships undertaken by Renewal.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Well, in the same way—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —it would be wrong for me to compare any other aspect of these deals, it would be inappropriate for me to compare—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —on the presumption of the question. The government has announced a review, and that's the matter done.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:49):** My question is to the minister for Housing and Urban Development, seeing you brought up the subject. Who will undertake the review of the Brompton Gasworks development? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** In a media release on 4 May, the minister said an independent firm would be appointed to undertake the review but in this house, the following day, he said the review would be undertaken by an independent advisory body. We need some clarification; do you know?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:49):** The government is currently in the process of selecting an independent business advisory firm to undertake a review. Just to be clear about this, the government announced this in the run-up to the last state election, a huge announcement. How much consultation with the opposition? A huge agreement announced or a huge announcement was made in the run-up to the state election—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is called to order.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —so what we are going to do, we undertook to have a review before the election, we are currently in the process of—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —selecting an appropriate firm, and that will be it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### **BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:50):** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. What then is the estimated duration and cost of the review into the Brompton Gasworks development?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:50):** I am on the record that once a firm has been selected to undertake the review, between six and eight weeks. I told you that in the last sitting of parliament.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Yes, once we have selected a firm to do the review.

#### **BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:51):** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Will he confirm that in January, as a precondition of the Renewal SA Board approval, MAB accepted key commercial terms proposed by Renewal SA for the Brompton Gasworks to enable MAB to be designated the preferred proponent?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:51):** As I understand it, what has happened is that the previous minister selected a preferred proponent, but no development agreement—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** No, the minister. It is a minister's press release. Go and have a look at the minister's press release. The minister made the announcement, didn't he? Own your own work. Don't try to scurry away from it. The previous government made a huge announcement in the run-up to the state election—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wright!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** You made a huge announcement in the run-up to the state election. We said we would review it—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Wright is on a second warning.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —we are currently in the process of implementing our election commitments. I don't know what is so dramatic or interesting or why you are all getting so excited.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is called to order.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** You marched in here on the first week and you said, 'Will you fulfil your election commitments?' Here we are, fulfilling our election commitments—pretty simple.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Flinders on a supplementary.

#### **BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:52):** Has then the minister directed Renewal SA executives to cease work on finalising the development agreement?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:52):** I don't know how many times I have to go through it. We announced a review before the election. We are currently in the process of implementing that review. It's pretty simple: we are fulfilling our election commitments.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley is called to order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Interjections are disorderly, as is well known.

#### **BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. When was the board of Renewal SA's delegation to the chief executive to enter into a development agreement with MAB withdrawn, and at whose direction did this occur?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order 97: the question inserts facts, purports to be facts to the minister asking him to answer them. That is out of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I uphold the point of order, but I am going to allow the member the opportunity to rephrase.

**Mr TELFER:** Thank you very much; I will indeed. Has the board of Renewal SA's delegation to the chief executive to enter into a development agreement with MAB been withdrawn and, if this did occur, at whose direction?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: standing order 97. The member again began with an assertion of fact that a delegation—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I listened carefully to the question. I am going to allow it on this occasion.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:54):** It's pretty clear, isn't it? We announced a review before the election, we are implementing that review.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Frome!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** That's the government's policy. That's what we are implementing. Everybody knows it. The public knows it, you know it; what more is there to know?

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is called to order.

#### **REGIONAL HOUSING**

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:54):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. How is the Malinauskas Labor government addressing the housing crisis in regional areas?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:54):** It is a really important question, and I thank the member for Giles for the question, who has been a member now for, what is it? It is eight years plus a bit, so he knows the regions very, very well. I have visited his area of Whyalla several times now as a member of parliament. I will be heading back up there again.

With respect to the housing stock in Whyalla, there are many properties that have been left to go to rack and ruin, I guess is the best way to describe it, over the past couple of years. I look forward to visiting that area again. As we know, regions matter, all regions in South Australia—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —not just some. I know how attuned you are to social media, so it's not just some hashtag on social media. It is actually very important—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —because when the reforms were done previously under the Liberal government in terms of the alliance restructuring for homelessness services words were put out into the media, such as, 'We will deal with the homelessness crisis in the areas, in the regions where people are from. They will then have the services—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —all provided at that particular point—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —but these commitments were made, as we know—

*Mr Gardner interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —under the homeless reforms with no extra money. In fact, the alliances were made to find money for alliance managers—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Housing is homelessness. This is all relevant.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, please be seated. There is a point of order.

**The Hon. N.F. Cook:** He doesn't understand, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will hear the point of order as I am required to under 134. The member for Morialta.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

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

**Mr GARDNER:** Sir, standing order 98. The question was very clearly about a prospective use of what Labor is going to do in its term in office rather than looking back at the past. Context has been provided for almost two minutes and the question should now be answered.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Morialta. There is some force in the point of order. I will draw the minister's attention to the question. The minister has the question.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Resolving the housing crisis actually takes some work in reversing some of the decisions that were made under the previous government or adding further services to improve the offering now for people under those current services, so we are left with a choice.

What we are doing, rather than unpicking alliances that were put in place too quickly without extra money under the previous Premier's rule, is investing money into services like Vinnies, Catherine House and Hutt St over the next four years to add to the crisis and support services that are available.

The assertion under the previous model, put in place around about a year ago, was that services would be provided in the region where the person became homeless, but that is actually not able to happen in all cases, and people are still travelling to the city where they are able to get help from other providers that have capacity and providers that sometimes have got beds—not always, sometimes.

But, of course, again, as we know the alliance models were given without crisis beds to the numbers that are needed. We saw the defunding of Vinnies, which lost us around about 60 beds. We saw the defunding of Catherine House, which also cost dozens of beds—

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, there is a point of order.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —and people have—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is a point of order, and of course under 134 I am required to hear the member on a point of order and to determine it.

**Mr GARDNER:** Standing order 98, sir, for the same reasons as last time.

**The SPEAKER:** Very well. There is a degree of force. That being said, the question did contemplate a reasonably broad answer. We have had the body of a reasonably broad answer. I draw the minister's attention to the question.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Thank you very much, sir. In terms of adding to that crisis end that will be addressed here within the metropolitan area and also other services in the regions. We are investing the \$180 million to build 400 homes, and 50 of those—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —I'm glad you asked—are in a group setting with support services. There will be 150 of those in regions, including Mount Gambier, including Whyalla, probably, I would expect in your electorate—

**The Hon. G.G. Brock:** I would hope so.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —Port Augusta, yes, very good—across a range of reasons.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Well, Narungga? I'm sure Narungga as well. We are currently doing the mapping process to allocate the 150—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson—

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Then there's the 350 brought back online—

**The SPEAKER:** —interjects out of his seat.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —as well as 3,000 increased standard homes. So we are resolving—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hartley!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —across the trajectory a housing crisis left to us.

#### **BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:59):** My question is for the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Minister, is Renewal SA still dealing with MAB Corporation as the preferred proponent of the Brompton Gasworks development?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:00):** The former government, prior to the last election, after they made this significant announcement without consultation, just before a state election, refused to release any of the criteria or any of the weightings around this deal, which is a very important deal on a 5.8-hectare site right next to the CBD which requires significant remediation. I could ask all of your questions. I could ask the former environment minister whether he took an interest—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Frome is called to order.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —in the most dirty, polluted site in South Australia, couldn't I? I could ask that question. I could speculate, for instance—and this review will look into whether or not—

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Frome!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —this agreement is consistent with the original approval for the Bowden Urban Village. So it's a whole range of things; we can get into a whole speculative game, if you want to. We can really do that, if you want to—if you want to—but what I would do if I was you—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —would be to just wait for the government to implement its election policy and wait for the outcome of the review.

### FAMILY DAY CARE AND RESPITE CARE

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:01):** My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister advise the house about the future of family day care services in South Australia?

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:01):** I thank the member for King for the question and for her genuine passion for early childhood in South Australia. Thousands of South Australian families use family day care and respite care services that have been provided for by the Department for Education for many years in our state. In fact, over 4,000 children are cared for and educated by more than 430 educators.

The reason for its popularity and its enduring use in South Australia is that it meets some very specific needs of South Australian families. That includes providing very flexible hours—so for shift workers who might need care early in the morning or late at night and also, of course, for parents who would like to have their kids cared for in a home environment, which is what these 430 fantastic educators provide.

Keeping all that in mind, it is remarkable that the former government decided that it would privatise this service. We know, of course—and the Treasurer touched on this before—that when they came to government in 2018 they made a solemn promise to the South Australian public that they had no privatisation agenda, but it didn't take long before they threw that out the window and they started privatising everything that wasn't bolted down. This was one of those things. Fortunately, of course COVID got in the way.

But I can tell you that it was not a popular move in the sector; in fact, key stakeholders were opposed to this. The Family Day Care Educators Association said that the prospect of this privatisation caused a lot of anxiety amongst the educators. The Public Service Association raised objections and concerns about the privatisation as well, which of course brought me, as the new minister who wanted to review this decision, to the obvious question, which was: exactly who did support this privatisation? Who wanted this privatisation and why was it planned?

The answer I got was a very telling one. When I sat down with the department, as you do early in the first days of becoming a minister, and you review these key issues, I said, 'So what was the reason behind it?' I was told: 'Minister, it was about de-risking.' It was about de-risking.

That is an incredible thing for a government to say. De-risking is something that financial institutions do. De-risking is something that KordaMentha, I think, were doing to the South Australian health system when they had a go. De-risking was what the South Australian voting public did on 19 March. But de-risking is not the kind of language you want a government to be talking about, particularly in the areas of education and early childhood.

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Has the minister concluded his answer?

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER:** I have not, thank you, Mr Speaker. So, for those reasons, I was very pleased to attend the family day care service of Depu Bhalodia at her service in Campbelltown recently and announce that the Malinauskas Labor government would not be going ahead with the privatisation of family day care services in South Australia. Of course, Depu was delighted. Other stakeholders who joined me on that day, including Merrilyn Hannaford from Family Day Care Educators Association, spoke very positively about our decision to scrap this privatisation.

I'm very pleased to inform the house that that is the reason the Department for Education will remain as the approved provider of these essential services. We are going to keep providing this really important flexible care to some of the most vulnerable children and families in South Australia. It is a great source of pride that I am on my feet again here delivering on yet another of the Malinauskas Labor government's election commitments so early in the life of this government.

### **BROMPTON GASWORKS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:05):** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Minister, does the government reject the criteria and weightings used by Renewal SA to assess proposals for development of the former Brompton Gasworks site, which followed a proper process throughout?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:05):** Well, did it? Did it? That is a question for the review.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Well, I've got some questions too, like did this go to cabinet? Did this major deal—5.8 hectares right next to the CBD, crucial land, it needed significant remediation. You can find that out because you can google it. Maybe the former environment minister will want to google it, but the question is: was it just announced by the former Treasurer, or did it go to your cabinet?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Maybe you should answer that.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** The other question is that maybe if you took it to your cabinet you would have looked at the original approvals for the Bowden Urban Village, which said that the state and Renewal SA would be the master planner, the master developer, and that we would specifically avoid development agreements. This is a development agreement, and what we have done as a government is implement our election commitments. We have done it carefully, we have done it with caution—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Morialta, member for Dunstan!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I can tell you we have done it with caution and we have set broad criteria because we want to know if this is the best deal for South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** What's wrong with that? Nothing is wrong with that.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Flinders!



**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We are implementing our election policies. There are no surprises here.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta! Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We are simply implementing our election commitment and that is it. If those opposite want to ask questions, well, we will ask questions of you, like did it go to cabinet?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond! Member for Frome!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Did you address this issue?

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**Mr TARZIA:** The minister is not responsible for decisions of the former government.

**The SPEAKER:** That may be. I am going to turn to the member for Adelaide.

### COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:08):** My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. How are community language schools assisting our young people to stay connected to culture, and how is the state government supporting these endeavours?

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (15:08):** I thank the member for Adelaide and recognise her commitment to her diverse electorate, many of whom are involved in community language schools. There are 94 community language schools in South Australia, and they are supported mostly by volunteer educators and community leaders who want to make sure that language and culture are passed on to both their children and their grandchildren.

When I was the shadow minister for multicultural affairs, I noticed in my conversations with people that they would often have challenges keeping young people involved, whether it would be about the size of the school, the curriculum or where it was located.

We know as a government that being bilingual is an asset for South Australians. As we look to the future, whether it be trade or increasing our international education, if you speak more than one language it gives you many opportunities in the future not just here in Australia but in the world as well. That is why a key part of our election policy was a \$4 million increase to community languages. When the Premier and I announced this, it was widely welcomed, and it was welcomed because it gives a true support and a true commitment to this incredibly important part of our community.

Different issues have been raised, and I met with Darryl Buchanan, who is the executive officer, and his chair, Binh Nguyen, who donates his time to run the Community Language Schools Association. Issues have been raised with us about locations of host schools, skilled educators, training equipment and managing student behaviour. One of the key things is how we keep young people involved in these language schools, particularly when they hit high school, when they have other areas that interest them and they feel like it is something you just do when you are in primary school. But we know that if you go on and do SACE I and II then you are more likely to go perhaps on to university and study this language and be fluent in it.

We also want to assist new and emerging communities as they look forward to registering to be a community language school. At the moment, it is a very big jump from going from a volunteer, very small group who are supporting young people in their language, to actually registering to be a community language school. Particularly if you are a new arrival group and English is not your first language, this is even more challenging.

I continue to talk with both the community and the association who is leading this work, and I look forward to coming back to parliament to talk about this election commitment and how we will roll it out.

*Grievance Debate*

**HOMELESSNESS SERVICES**

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:11):** I rise today to raise serious concerns, concerns that have been brought to my attention by my colleague the shadow minister for social and community housing regarding the growing number of vulnerable South Australians who have been ignored by the office of the Minister for Human Services.

I was disappointed to learn that when these serious matters are referred to the new minister it is taking 12 days for her office to even acknowledge them. In some cases, they are completely ignored. By contrast, the minister, when questioned today, stated that at-risk cases would be processed in her office as fast as they could and often straightaway.

These cases of concern include South Australians who are at high risk of homelessness, South Australians who are sleeping rough, South Australians whose properties require urgent maintenance work and, in one tragic case, a family that was left displaced after experiencing extremely traumatic events. The Minister for Human Services is confidently making grand speeches in parliament. She is making statements such as:

I am working to restore care, empathy and humanity to the human services and the social housing sector in South Australia.

Or:

My intention is for you to have the ability and the opportunity to live in safe housing and a positive family environment...

And:

Having a safe and suitable place to live is a fundamental human right. It is unacceptable for people, particularly children, older people and people living with disability, to be in insecure or unsuitable housing, or to be in crisis.

Even in her very urgent but unorthodox interruption of the Address in Reply, with the referral to the Social Development Committee, the minister declared just yesterday:

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.

On the matter of disability housing support, the minister stated that she was watching with interest. Well, she needs to do much more than that. But while the minister makes these grand statements of empathy and intention, vulnerable South Australians who do not have a suitable place to live are not even being acknowledged by her office. A number of cases have reported that after being referred to the minister's office they have not been personally contacted by her office and that their situations remain unresolved. Listening to these stories is heartbreaking and the delayed response from the minister falls worryingly short of the standards set by the former Marshall Liberal government.

Under the Marshall Liberal government, all cases would receive an acknowledgement from the office of the Minister for Human Services on the same day. Significantly, the former minister's office would also be in direct contact with medium to high-risk cases and actually follow up on their concerns on the same day as well.

The Minister for Human Services said last sitting week that she is not a minister who will sit in an ivory tower and that those experiencing hardship need to be heard. Even the member for Waite was extolling the minister's virtues today, stating that under this minister no-one gets left behind. However, her actions appear to be proving otherwise. The minister had four years as the shadow minister for human services and, during that time, she often criticised the former government and promised to do better.

I would hope that going forward every vulnerable person will be responded to in line with the precedent that was set by the Marshall Liberal government. Actions speak louder than words and it is time that the minister acted on her commitments.

### **AGED-CARE FACILITIES**

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:15):** I want to take some time today to speak about those who have helped to shape this country, because right now they need help more than ever.

We all in some way or another have an understanding of what is occurring in our residential aged-care facilities, and it is heartbreaking. These are people who have contributed to our country by working hard, paying their fair share of taxes and raising their families. They deserve to age with dignity, as we all do, and we must work together to improve the situation and to ensure that aged care is better for all who need it and those who work in the sector. Sadly, the current federal government have had more than a decade to fix this system, but under their watch it has only become worse.

All the while, aged-care workers are turning up to work day after day, night after night, and doing their absolute best with what they have to show love and respect to those in their care. Currently, there are nurses and aged-care workers who are being pushed to the brink with the added challenge of managing COVID-19, and it absolutely astounds me to learn that the minister responsible for aged care in this current federal government, led by Mr Morrison, would attend a cricket match in Hobart over a Senate select committee on COVID-19. We cannot trust them to fix the aged-care crisis. We cannot trust them to take responsibility. We cannot trust them to change.

I have taken the time to listen to those who work in this sector. I have heard the heart-wrenching stories from aged-care workers, like Julie who spoke at the aged-care rally recently. Having 40 years' experience in the industry, she shared how strong a toll it has taken and how it is pushing her to breaking point. This is a person who works in the industry because she has a genuine passion about providing dignity to older Australians. I also heard stories from the likes of Norma and Selina, who have 15 and 13 years respectively in the industry. They are tired of seeing food standards degrade, residents forced to use the same pad for hours in a day, washing residents with unsuitable equipment because they do not have the resources and being unable to put a resident to bed as they could not find a bedsheet.

Just this weekend, I bumped into a gentleman from my community as he was going to vote. He works in aged care, and he shared with me how painful it is to have a resident look him in the eyes, begging him to stay just a little longer, when he knows he simply does not have the time to give when he has so many more to tend to before his shift is done. Not having enough supplies, not having enough time and not having enough staff is forcing people like this gentleman, Julie, Norma and Selina to make heartbreaking decisions about who gets seen and when. This is not good enough, and we need to be doing more to back in workers in aged care. It starts by backing in those who want to train up to work in the sector.

I am pleased that this Malinauskas Labor government is reinstating TAFE SA courses in aged care that had been dropped by the former Marshall government. It also begins with taking responsibility and acting—something the Morrison Liberal government is often too resistant to do. A federal Labor Albanese government is committed to fixing the crisis in aged care and ensuring that older Australians are not just a number and not just a burden and are given the respect, dignity and attention they deserve.

By putting nurses back into aged-care homes and providing medical attention the moment residents need it, staff can spend more time with residents, helping people have a shower, get dressed, eat a meal or have a conversation, providing so dearly needed company and human interaction for residents.

They can provide better food for residents so they are getting the nutrition they need. They can improve transparency in reporting on expenditure, so we can identify providers who are not doing the right thing and importantly support and fund a real pay rise for aged-care workers because high standards of care require supporting higher wages for aged-care workers currently performing

backbreaking work for as little as \$22 an hour. I am so pleased that federal Labor has a plan—a plan not to turn their back on the crisis afflicting aged care but to take it head-on and solve it.

### INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:20):** I rise today on the important issue of attracting investment to this state. It is already clear that this Malinauskas government is prepared to make reckless and arrogant decisions to interfere with several contracts and decisions of the previous government in a way that will seriously concern potential investors in our state.

We see this with the Malinauskas government's approach to the current contracts for the outsourcing of metropolitan train and tram services. In opposition, Labor made wild accusations about improprieties in the negotiations of these contracts. It sought to undermine reputable businesses bidding for these contracts. Labor even announced that, if the private sector had the audacity to ignore its opposition to outsourcing these contracts and successfully seek compensation for breaking them, Labor would simply legislate to remove any rights to compensation.

Now, even after the Auditor-General gave the procurement process a completely clean bill of health, Labor is blindly pursuing a reckless policy that will only warn off potential investors in our state because it is textbook sovereign risk threatened by a typical antibusiness Labor government. Labor has even signalled to investors that, if it cannot win a case to prevent compensation, it will, at a stroke of its pen, legislate to change the law in its favour.

What adds to this concern is the way in which this Malinauskas government threatens to interfere with decisions duly made by the independent board of Renewal SA. In late January 2022, the board selected MAB Corporation as the preferred proponent for the redevelopment of the Brompton Gasworks site. This was the final step in a process initiated by Labor when last in government and continued by the Marshall government.

The board's decision was made well before the commencement of the caretaker period. It was endorsed by the then Treasurer as minister responsible for Renewal SA. This gave the executive of Renewal SA the right to close out an agreement with MAB that would have allowed this valuable development to be underway by about now. But what did Labor do? The then opposition leader announced that a Labor government would undertake a review and possibly rip up any contracts entered into with the successful proponent, and why? Because Labor considered this would be a good pre-election media grab and play into local footy politics. It was an arrogant grab for short-term popularity and political gain but another serious long-term threat to investor confidence in South Australia.

Concerns about public space expressed by the leader in justification completely ignored that the proposal chosen by Renewal SA far exceeded any open space requirements in the master plan for the site approved by Labor when in office. What we see again is clear interference in a properly made decision, potentially jeopardising the probity and process of a project run by a statutory authority with an independent commercial charter. From late January 2022, the Chief Executive of Renewal SA has had delegated authority to finalise a contract with MAB Corporation. What has happened since?

**The Hon. N.D. Champion:** How do you know this?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr TELFER:** Has he been directed by the minister to stop negotiations? No answers. If the minister has directed—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister is called to order.

**Mr TELFER:** —Renewal SA to stop negotiations—

*The Hon. N.D. Champion interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Taylor!

**Mr TELFER:** —this direction needs to be tabled in this house because Renewal SA had selected MAB as the preferred proponent. The parties had agreed to commercial terms, but the minister has now stepped in on some assumed authority to initiate an independent review, in effect, an independent review of a decision already made by an independent statutory authority. It is becoming a farce.

This is a complex project. There are significant issues with respect to contamination on that site. We on this side have every confidence that Renewal SA took into account all of the challenges and made its decision based on which proponent would provide the best solution. One of the factors considered was the provision of affordable housing in this project. We all know how important this subject is but here we have the government now reviewing a project which would provide such affordable housing in this city.

The government cloaks its intentions with the statement, 'We are simply fulfilling an election commitment to review the criteria,' but the government has at the same time set community expectations that this may end up being a different outcome from this project and this is not the way to attract investment into South Australia. Renewal SA is an independent authority with responsibility to make independent decisions in the best interests of our state.

This is a government that arrogantly assumes that it knows best, a government that is prepared to interfere with independent processes to get its way. This will be a significant test for this Malinauskas government and investors around our nation and elsewhere are watching closely.

#### **WEST LAKES DUCK POND**

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:25):** I rise to raise an important issue in my electorate, an important issue in particular in West Lakes in my electorate and that is the issue of the freshwater lake, known by some people as the duck pond. This issue first arose late last year. Inexplicably, the council, the City of Charles Sturt, approached the community advising that they were going to consult with the community on a range of options for the future of the freshwater lake.

Nobody is against the council talking with the community about the freshwater lake, but what alarmed members of the community, particularly people living on Delfin Island, were a couple of the proposed options put to the community by the council, including filling in or repurposing the lake from its current use. The result was outrage from affected residents.

For those members who are not quite as familiar with this part of West Lakes as some, Delfin Island is a key part of the West Lakes development, delivered from the 1970s onwards. It houses approximately 2,000 residents and the freshwater lake system was built into the design from day one to provide amenity as well as a sanctuary for local wildlife.

It has been enjoyed by members of the community for some 50 years. I have had people contact me not just about the day-to-day enjoyment they get from the area, taking a walk around the freshwater lake or sitting down and having a picnic, but about the fact that there have been, I am advised, marriage proposals, weddings and other significant family events held there. Understandably, with that in mind, this is a really important part of the local community.

As soon as I found out about this issue, I sent a petition out to my community asking for their feedback on what they thought of the council's proposals. We walked out a survey, hand delivered into letterboxes, across one day and before the end of that day I had more than 50 responses to that survey, such was the feeling from the community about what the council was looking at.

Over the course of December, January and February in the lead-up to the recent state election, the community got themselves organised. It was not something that the local member or councillors had to corral together; this was a genuine example of the community being driven to take their own action.

I would particularly like to take the time to pay credit to Paul Paparella and Robyn Haworth for their extraordinary efforts in mobilising the community. Shortly after the state election, in fact I think it was the following weekend, I attended a rally with prominent West Lakes resident Gary Johansson as well as Paul and Robyn to address the local community about the importance of the freshwater lake.

It was a warm day—about 30°—and more than 300 people turned out for this rally. The sentiment was unanimous: they did not want the council doing anything to interfere with the future of the lake. Everybody is up for improvements to amenity, and everybody is up for periodic maintenance if the lake has to be drained, cleaned, restored and returned back to its original condition. Everybody is in favour of that, but what the community would not abide was the council taking any action to fill in the lake or to reduce its size. It seemed obvious to members of the community—and, I have to say, it was my suspicion as well—that the council was talking in these terms to the community merely because they wanted to reduce their ongoing maintenance expenditure on this lake.

I am really pleased to say that only in recent weeks the council has now taken off the table those two options to either fill in the lake or to reduce its size. This is a win for the local community. It is not something that I can take credit for because, as I said, this was community mobilisation driven by their own efforts, of their own volition, and they have sent a clear, resounding message to the council that this will not be accommodated by the community.

The council has taken those options off the table, and we are now back to a genuine conversation about how the council can meet its obligations in maintaining this lake into the future and also what improvements to amenity and other facilities can be imposed in this local area. Congratulations to the community of West Lakes for this win.

### UNLEY TREE CANOPY PROJECT

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:30):** Today, I would like to speak about an innovative program that was introduced to Unley by the Mayor of Unley, Michael Hewitson, about combating the loss of tree canopy on private land. We know that Unley is one of the smallest electorates in the 47 House of Assembly seats. One of the reasons for that—geographically, I am talking about now—is because of the very small amount of public open space, which means we rely heavily on private open space for tree canopy for wildlife, shade and the experiences we have in Unley.

We have seen a dramatic decrease in tree canopy on private land in Unley. Particularly as the former Labor government's Rau planning reforms have come into action, we have seen subdivisions, extensions and pools going into properties. We have seen trees removed to make room for either bigger houses replacing smaller houses or extensions on older houses that remain.

Consequently, the council have developed a plan that they call their Very High-Resolution Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) project, which enables them to capture and monitor the amount of canopy on each property, whether it grows or whether it has been removed. They have the support of many of the south-eastern suburban councils to trial a project where they are able to impose an incentive penalty scheme for new developments for those development approvals that would result in an increase in the built footprint of the property. This would trigger the scheme.

Examples of this would include two or more dwellings on one allotment, alterations and additions, inground swimming pools, verandahs and garages. In other words, when trees are removed, there is an incentive to consider redesigning or, alternatively, not removing all the trees, leaving them there to encourage more tree canopy. When a development application is lodged, an assessment of tree canopy over the property will be made against a target canopy cover of 15 per cent, and if the target is not met the property owner would be charged an additional 10 per cent of their rates until such time as the 15 per cent canopy cover is achieved on the property.

Conversely, if the 15 per cent target is met in the time of the development, additional charges will not be imposed. Consequently, we will have a situation where there will be a value put on that canopy to encourage more innovative design. We already have in the planning code the need for 'plantable soil', but there is no incentive, if you like, for that soil to be planted with trees. This has broad community support in Unley.

It requires the intervention of the planning minister and I was very pleased with the warm reception that the mayor and the CEO of Unley received from the former member for Heysen as the planning minister was discussing the details of this project and looking for the approval of the minister for such a plan to be implemented. The approval process through the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and approval for the minister relates to:

An approval of the Minister that relates to a scheme to be established by a joint planning board or a council may be given on conditions specified by the Minister.

If the scheme is established under the system, there are certain obligations of the minister. I am very keen to have a chat to the new planning minister and support this project being rolled out in Unley as a trial project. It is anticipated that it may be a trial for about 10 years to assess the full impact, but with 3 per cent public open space one of the benefits of this scheme is that extra funding will be available for the council to purchase land to plant trees.

### LIGHT ELECTORATE

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:35):** Today, I would like to pay tribute to all the volunteers in my local community. It is National Volunteers Day, and I would just like to acknowledge the work and contribution made by volunteers in my community. Volunteering is an important part of an inclusive society. Volunteering connects us, strengthens our sense of belonging and creates positive relationships that build stronger communities.

South Australians have a long history of volunteering, and they contribute directly to the health and wellbeing of individuals, our communities and the economy of the state. Volunteering keeps our communities and organisations working together. Volunteering maintains the quality of life in our communities by providing essential support to those members in need.

For example, in my community, like many other communities, we have volunteer organisations like Meals on Wheels who provide an important service in terms of not only helping to feed people in their homes but also providing that social interaction and that connection to community for the people who need it. Most of our communities have service clubs who do great work in providing a range of services in those communities and also raising funds for various projects they donate moneys to. My community also has environmental groups who do tree planting and various native grasses, etc. to improve our community.

The sporting organisations, whether it is football, or soccer, or netball, or tennis, all those organisations in my community are run by volunteers. People participating in those sports, particularly young people, would not be able to do so if we did not have volunteers. In our schools, members of the governing council are all volunteers. We often have volunteers who act as referees and umpires and coaches in local schools. Again, our community benefits from that contribution. Our aged, youth and women's organisations support those communities through a whole range of activities.

The small business sector has a range of volunteers, too, in terms of their own business groups, who then promote businesses in the town. For heritage and culture in my community, for example, we have the history team that helps promote the history of the town and also helps to catalogue the history of our town in the community.

We have a number of groups and volunteers involved in health and wellbeing, and one of those is the Willo's Men's Shed. It provides a service to men, predominantly men who are retired, in terms of a place for them to interact and socialise, and their wellbeing is improved. Our faith organisations, the churches, are also run by volunteers and supported by volunteers.

As to our community safety, Neighbourhood Watch and the Road Safety Committee in Gawler also help to keep our community safe. We have justices of the peace who are volunteers, and I am fortunate enough in my office to have a range of JPs who actually have a roster system. We provide a JP system through the electorate office, and they do that in their own time.

Our emergency services, our SES, CFS, St John's, all have a lot of volunteering involved. I also note that today it is WOW Day, when we recognise the contribution of volunteers who volunteer their time and skills in the State Emergency Services. With respect to that, I am proud to say that this government will provide the funding to establish an SES subunit in Gawler for the first time, and so the volunteers who want to participate in the SES do not have to go to Salisbury or Kapunda to volunteer but will be able to volunteer in Gawler. More importantly, by being in Gawler they are actually closer to the action when they are required.

There is no walk of life that does not receive the support of volunteers. Volunteering helps not only the community but also the volunteers themselves, who learn new skills and form new

friendships and relationships. The contribution volunteers make to our community and our community connections cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately, the volunteering sector has been hit hard by COVID-19, and now it is important that we actually support our volunteer organisations in a way to get them back on board to ensure that they can provide their important services.

I would also like to mention the fact that our volunteers are supported in this state, particularly in the northern suburbs, by two organisations, Volunteering SA&NT and Northern Volunteering, who support our volunteer sector through training and other services. Today, I take this time to say thank you to all the volunteers in my community.

Time expired.

### *Bills*

#### **MOTOR VEHICLES (ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEVY) AMENDMENT REPEAL BILL**

##### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:41):** Obtained leave to introduce a bill for an act to repeal the Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Act 2021. Read a first time.

##### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:41):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The government introduces a Motor Vehicle (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Repeal Bill 2022 in order to repeal the Motor Vehicle (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Act 2021 to deliver on a key election promise to abolish the electric vehicle levy introduced by the previous government. This government has acted immediately to introduce this bill to repeal the levy in order to provide certainty for those looking to purchase an electric vehicle and to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles by reducing the cost of owning and operating an electric vehicle.

A survey undertaken by the Australian Institute in 2021 showed that seven in 10 South Australians would be less likely to purchase an electric vehicle if an electric vehicle levy were to be introduced. This bill will repeal the levy before electric vehicle levy were to be introduced. This bill will repeal the levy before any electric vehicles can be taxed for the kilometres they drive. We want to encourage South Australians to buy an electric vehicle, and a levy will have the opposite effect.

Over the coming decade, the price of electric vehicles is expected to fall, and electric vehicles will become increasingly common on our roads. This bill will operate to increase the number of electric vehicles on the road, resulting in reduced state greenhouse gas emissions from transport and an improvement in air quality.

I commend the bill to members and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

This clause is formal.

##### Part 2—Repeal of *Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Act 2021*

###### 2—Repeal of Act

This clause repeals the *Motor Vehicles (Electric Vehicle Levy) Amendment Act 2021*.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pisoni.



*Address in Reply***ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Adjourned debate for adoption (resumed on motion).

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:44):** I continue my remarks with some very important thank-yous. Each of us would not be here without the hardworking commitment of our volunteers who supported us through our campaigns, and I did not want to miss the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank my small and dedicated, hardworking volunteer team who gave up their time to ensure that I was in this privileged position.

I would like to thank the Enfield sub-branch of the South Australian Labor Party. These are Labor's true believers. They are the people I can call on time and time again to do the heavy lifting, the people who say yes before they have even heard what my question is. These are the volunteers who made the phone calls, who stuffed envelopes, who put up corflutes, who knocked on doors and stuffed more envelopes and knocked on more doors. I want to thank them all.

I cannot name them all, but there are a few special people I do want to name. Mr Campbell Menzies, thank you for your steps—many, many of them, as you traversed the streets of Enfield, ensuring that every household received my campaign materials. I am very grateful for his efforts. I want to thank Jack Eaton for joining me in his first substantive role in an election campaign and for the many, many calls that he made and for manning his first polling booth. I want to thank Zahra Bayani for liaising with my volunteers and making sure we had people on every polling booth through the Enfield electorate and for being able to manage the last-minute people pulling out due to COVID in the lead-up to the election. She showed great flexibility.

I want to thank my staff who helped me during my first term as an MP in my electorate office: my trainees Lucy Nguyen, Christina Christou, Chloe Fern-Pring and Christian Lippis, and my electorate officers, Josh Harmer, Gemma Coward and, in particular, Joel Wemmer and Akram Arifi. We now have the pleasure of having Chloe back in a permanent role in the electorate office. I want to thank all of them. Each of them has played a vital role in engaging with our community and in advocating for the needs of the residents of Enfield.

I also want to thank my newest staff members, members in my ministerial office for their support and their patience through the last few weeks. All those people have made my job significantly easier by making sure my various offices are running like a well-oiled machine. I also want to give a very special thank-you to my husband, Josh, and my children, Sebastian and Charlie, for their love and support and particularly their resilience over the last couple of months in the election campaign and in the first couple of months in this new job.

It is an honour to have been the member for Enfield in this house for the past three years and for another four. I am truly grateful to be able to represent my community in this place. My very final thank-you is to the people of Enfield who put their faith in me. I am eternally grateful for that.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:47):** I rise in reply to the Governor's speech and, in so doing, thank the Governor for her role in opening parliament this year, and I congratulate her on her appointment and on the distinction with which she has served South Australia thus far.

Having heard the magnificent first speeches of so many new members, it is in some ways intimidating to rise to make my own contribution. I already knew the quality of the seven women we have introduced to this parliament on this side, but even so I was impressed by their ease in bringing together their personal stories with the values that inspired them to be active in politics along with their ambition for this state.

I have been a loyal member of the Labor Party for very many years, yet I have rarely felt so proud of my party. To create the culture, to offer the shared values and to have the sheer political capacity to mean that we were the party they chose to join and chose to stand for and now to join

with in our team in parliament is the ultimate compliment to the oldest and greatest political party in Australia.

The volunteers who worked so tirelessly on the campaigns themselves reflect the values of a party that represents all South Australians, and many of them will in due course make significant contributions to political life, and I look forward to watching that. I also note that these seven women join a team in this place which already has seven women, making this side of the chamber now for the first time truly gender representative.

While we have some more work to do to make the Labor parliamentary party more fully representative of the South Australian public, this is a moment that the women who adorn these tapestries could scarcely have dreamed we would ever achieve, given how hard they had to fight simply to grant women the vote.

What is so important about this group of seven is that they are a group. While each is individually worthy of being in this place and will make their mark on it and South Australia, collectively they are a force to be reckoned with, a team that will look after each other when times get hard and a symbol of the winds of progress blowing in this state of ours.

Intelligence, empathy and a ferocious work ethic are the characteristics of each of them and make their election such a sign of hope. Those are the qualities that should be rewarded and the people in their seats did exactly that. Their mutual support of each other and celebration of each other's achievements is exactly what politics needs to see more of: less destructive competitiveness and more constructive solidarity.

Of course, much as each of these women is an outstanding campaigner, there were other forces at play which saw Labor returned to office in March. The decision by so many South Australians to vote Labor, many for the first time, or the first time in a long time, will be the subject of much analysis, no doubt. My view from having been on the ground knocking on doors, meeting people in parks and shopping centres, and speaking to people at polling booths, is that they wanted a more optimistic and caring South Australia.

They saw a government that was not dreadful, but nor was it inspiring. They saw a middle-of-the-road government with little vision and almost no sense of the common experience of the people. That is what is needed in politics—understanding and planning at the macro level to meet the big challenges like climate change, automation and complex geopolitical shifts, while also recognising that how people's day-to-day lives are affected by government matters.

Fortunately, we have a Premier now who has a rare capacity to operate simultaneously at both levels, and I believe what happened at the election is that people saw that and knew that they would be well served by him. The Premier has a sophisticated understanding of the need to modernise, decarbonise, diversify our economy and concurrently ensure that people are able to raise families, work in decent jobs and be confident that their healthcare system will look after them when they need it. He is, on a personal note, also a good friend and a loyal team member who is invariably the first to find a solution to a dilemma and see the funny side of a difficult situation—the perfect leader through an election campaign, and it was and is an honour to serve as his deputy.

The task before us is substantial. While many South Australians live full, prosperous and secure lives, we know that there are far too many living in poverty, whose children face lives of hardship from the outset based on the income of their parents rather than a fair chance to fulfil the potential with which they are born. Indeed, it is the incapacity of Australia to facilitate children taking their place in society as productive and independent adults regardless of socio-economic status that is the biggest risk we collectively face in our task to modernise our economy.

Make no mistake, failing to educate all children well affects all of us. While we are stuck at 75 per cent of young people finishing school (and we know that the missing 5,000 children a year in South Australia are overwhelmingly from disadvantaged backgrounds), we will not have the bright future we all hope for. To change this, and to reach the levels of some 90 per cent many OECD nations have achieved, we will need to get serious about early childhood education and we will need to make sure that every school is responsive to the needs of their students.

The policies the Minister for Education will carry out in this term of government—preparing for universal three-year-old preschool, increasing mental health and learning support services, and building five technical colleges most significantly—will make a lasting difference to young people at school today and to the next generation of South Australians.

The present and looming shortage in workers with skills, qualifications and experience is a challenge for many parts of the world, and Australia and South Australia are not immune. Workforce planning to build the workforce that will be able to ensure ongoing growth is an essential task of state governments. VET is an important part of this, but it is by no means the complete answer to the needs of our businesses for workers, and simply counting the number of people in training tells us little about how workforce shortages are being addressed.

True workforce planning requires a combination of vocational training, university training, reskilling or reorienting the careers of the existing workforce as industries change, and skilled migration. This government will work on all these pathways for the industry sectors that South Australia can and will grow and excel in. We will do that with industry and with education partners from schools to vocational training to universities.

It is worth noting, particularly in the context of our celebration of the nine women who have come into this chamber at this election, joining the eight returned female members, that female participation in the workforce is a significant part of the answer to addressing the skills shortage. Australia has one of the least generous childcare systems in the OECD, and the highest proportion of women working part time. Women's participation in the workforce in Australia has hardly changed in the last 40 years, while education rates have soared.

At a time when we are looking desperately for a skilled workforce, we risk overlooking those skilled workers who are in the workforce but part time because they cannot afford or do not have access to decent quality care for children. As a recent report from the chief executive of Women's Network found, halving the workforce participation gap between men and women would represent an additional 500,000 full-time skilled workers with post-school qualifications. Engaging women in paid work at the same rate as men could unlock an additional one million full-time skilled workers in Australia. The National Skills Commission estimates the need for 1.2 million additional workers across the economy by 2026.

We desperately need a federal government that is prepared to do serious reform in early childhood education and care, and I hope and expect our royal commission to drive the discussion here about what we can and should expect from our preschool and early years services. Not only is the future of our children's education at stake but so, too, is the capacity to assist women to fully participate in the economy for their individual benefit and our collective prosperity, a prosperity that is by no means assured.

Australia has a relatively unsophisticated economy. Our exports rank as 86<sup>th</sup> in the world in complexity. That means we rely more heavily than most advanced nations on low value-added products, raw materials often, and capitalise too rarely on the brainpower of our people and the creative capacity of our institutions. While low complexity commodities can sustain a wealthy nation, over-reliance on them makes us vulnerable to fluctuating global demand and our lack of sovereign capability to make products we depend on is risked when the global supply chains are disrupted. It also means much lower productivity increases than in nations that can harness the power of technology and increases in skill levels. What comes from low productivity increases in a low complexity economy is stagnant wages, which is exactly what has plagued Australia for a decade.

South Australia has the additional challenge that the vast majority of our businesses are small to medium, with the emphasis on small. Indeed, 98 per cent of our businesses are classified as small. While that shows great enterprise, creativity and hard work in the South Australian community, what comes with the absence of a concentration of large corporations is a comparative lack of private investment in research and development, in employee skills training and in capital upgrades required to keep businesses modern and competitive.

That requires government in South Australia to be more active and more thoughtful about the future of our economy. It requires industry policy and workforce planning to ensure that when South Australia goes after shaping the economy it will happen—not talk, action. We know we need

to decarbonise our economy not just to make our contribution to staving off the worst of climate change but, crucially, to ensure that we are strongly positioned as the rest of the world chases a zero carbon future.

We have great advantages here already, in very low carbon intensity in our electricity generation and in our natural solar and wind resources being able to produce so much more. But we do not have an industry that is taking full advantage yet of being able to manufacture the components required for renewable energy production, nor do we yet have a sufficiently low profile energy production to be the beacon for zero carbon manufacturing, which we should be aiming to be. Having the Hydrogen Jobs Plan work is not just the production of truly green hydrogen but pivoting and expanding our manufacturing sector, which will take deliberate effort. It will take an industry policy that is designed to work with small to medium businesses to engage fully in this shift.

As a state, we have a reasonable expectation of significant work associated with the defence sector, not least contributing to the new submarine build when the uncertainty about that is finally resolved. To realise the full potential in that sector, not only in direct work at Osborne and Edinburgh Park, but also and crucially in the supply chain companies, we need to do workforce planning and we need to work with companies so that they are able to participate in that supply chain. This requires concentrated effort from government, not just hoping that things will fall into place.

We also need to take better advantage of the huge economic powerhouses of our state: the three public universities. Usually thought of as educators of our young people—and they do this well and in a way that makes a difference to their lives and the future of the state—the universities are so much more. They are the beacon for intellectual research activity, and we should all be proud of their quality and the rate at which they are expanding their research effort.

However, we can have a greater ambition to see that research generate manufacturing and service industries to a far greater extent than they currently do. Australian R&D is lower than our competitors. Some nations are spending 2 per cent of GDP on R&D. Australia is just under 1 per cent and South Australia is well below that, at 0.74 per cent as opposed to 0.9 per cent. We are also well below our population share of federal R&D tax incentive claims, which is unsurprising for a nation of small business.

South Australia is also behind the Australian average in university qualifications, and this gap will be increasingly to our disadvantage in a global economy that rewards high value, knowledge-intensive industries. In 2021, for example, just under 60 per cent of South Australians aged 20 to 64 years had a non-school qualification at certificate III or above. That is below the national average of 65.4 per cent and ranked lowest in the nation. Supporting our universities to fill some of that gap in educating our people and in driving research and commercialisation to ensure that South Australia has a bright future, particularly in advanced and low-carbon manufacturing, is one of the priorities of this government.

As I alluded to earlier, all sectors of the economy need to be more responsive to climate change. That means being low to zero carbon as rapidly as is feasible, but it also means embracing a circular economy, being water and biodiversity sensitive, and generally becoming fit for a sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are in tough times for the planet. It is easy, with the challenges essentially between humans, such as current geopolitical unrest, the impacts of poverty on families and the crisis in housing affordability, to keep from front of mind that there is a slow, grinding crisis that must not be ignored, which is that we have asked too much of the planet and must learn to live more within the capacity of the natural world.

Australia has the world's highest mammal extinction rate. In South Australia, 12 per cent of our native species are threatened and 70 per cent of South Australia's wetlands have gone. Allow me to paint this picture: 10,000 years ago, there were some 15 million tonnes of biomass in the form of wild animals. Today, there are 160 million tonnes of mammals, 60 million tonnes of humans, 100 million tonnes of livestock and just three million tonnes of wild mammals. That is literally the weight of the demands that humans have placed on wildlife.

The work done by the environment departments—the Department for Environment and Water, the EPA and Green Industries—should all be aimed at sustaining our natural environment and guiding how we affect it in the choices that we make. The people in those departments, and

those who volunteer or work in the community to strengthen our environment, are true heroes dedicated to our collective future. The people who stand up for nature in their local parks, such as Flinders Chase or Belair National Park, are standing up for our future. They are passionate, knowledgeable and hardworking. They deserve respect and gratitude. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with them again.

In closing, I want to thank the people of Port Adelaide for again giving me the honour of representing them in parliament. It is now 10 years since I first stood as a candidate, and I struggle to find the words for the gratitude I feel towards those thousands of people who allow me to do this job on their behalf. The words 'honour' and 'privilege' can be overused, but no others fit so well. It is a pleasure to live and work in that community.

I am also endlessly grateful to the members of the Port Adelaide Labor sub-branch who work so hard each election to get the messages out to our people, be that through putting up corflutes, letterboxing or standing for hours at polling booths, and I thank you. The people who staff my electorate office, Samantha and Cameron—who I have hardly seen during this whirlwind start to the new government and further complicated by COVID—are the mainstay of the service we provide to our constituents, and I am so grateful for their work and their compassion for our constituents.

To my new team: Josh, without whom I simply could not do this job, Jason, Emily, James and Caitlin and the Public Service staff, we will do interesting, important and challenging things this term of government, and we will do them to the best of our ability in the service of the people of South Australia. To my colleagues, you make this job a joy. The humour, solidarity and conviction that we can make a difference sustain me.

Finally, to my family—I love you. You give me the strength to do this job, the comfort when it gets hard and the confidence that it is all worthwhile. Thank you.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The new member for Stuart.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (16:04):** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I cannot get used to the terminology, and every time the member for Frome gets up I feel as if I want to get up myself. Mr Deputy Speaker, congratulations on your appointment. I have not had the chance to officially do that in this chamber.

To you, Mr Deputy Speaker, fellow members, colleagues, family and friends, it is my privilege today to deliver this Address in Reply to Her Excellency the Governor's speech opening the Fifty-Fifth Parliament of South Australia. Again, Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment and all other new members in this house and also my congratulations to the unsuccessful candidates who stood in the last state election. It is absolute fantastic.

I am very proud and privileged to be delivering this address as the recently elected member for Stuart. Of course, as members will know that, whilst this is my first election as member for Stuart, I spent the past 13 years representing the great electorate of Frome. However, the significant boundary changes implemented by the Electoral District Boundaries Commission to the electorates of Frome and Stuart forced me to make a difficult choice prior to the recent election.

It possibly came as no surprise to anybody that I decided to run for Stuart, given that Port Pirie and its surrounding townships were moved into the electorate of Stuart. I have spent most of half of my working life working for a better future for the residents of Port Pirie, first as an active community member, then a member of the Port Pirie Regional Council, then as mayor, then as the member for Frome and now as the member for Stuart.

I have seen Port Pirie grow, not only as the first provincial city in South Australia but to where the city is at the moment, with its great progress and opportunities. There is the security of the Port Pirie smelter, a multimetal processing facility, with funding secured during the 2014 state election to where the plant is currently. Large amounts of capital have been expended by the new owners, Trafigura, which has majority ownership of the facility. They have their own reverse osmosis plant for water not only for their own consumption but, very importantly, non-potable water is being made available through a partnership with the Port Pirie Regional Council to green the city of Port Pirie.

The latest proposal from the company is to establish a hydrogen plant, providing the success of the business plan, not only for their own transformation to a greener and more sustainable facility but also to look at exporting this product to customers overseas.

While my focus may originally have been on the city of Port Pirie, my 13 years spent representing the wider electorate of Frome have allowed me the great privilege to serve and advocate for a much larger area of regional South Australia. This will continue as I take on the task to represent the electorate of Stuart going forward. My new electorate, in fact, relates directly to my past experiences and parts of my own life that I look back on with very fond memories.

As I noted in my maiden speech in this place, I was an owner-operator of a roadhouse at Port Augusta, where I initially employed 15 people, which then grew to 45 people after three years. Prior to that, I was a manager for BP Australia at Port Augusta, covering nearly 80 per cent of the northern areas of this great state, managing at that time the largest BP territory in the world and being able to be at that particular point the top manager with performance at each state conference.

These areas are mostly in the Stuart electorate, which covers an enormous area of over more than 300,000 square kilometres, from the Spencer Gulf to the Northern Territory border in the north. The electorate includes pastoral leases and unincorporated Crown lands, Lake Eyre and parts of the Simpson Desert. Its main population centres are the Upper Spencer Gulf cities of Port Pirie and also the eastern part of Port Augusta. It also has the townships of Peterborough and Laura—which, as we all know, is the home of the great Golden North Ice Cream—plus several other communities spread across the new electorate of Stuart.

Stuart incorporates the district councils of Mount Remarkable, Orroroo Carrieton and Peterborough, as well as portions of the Northern Areas Council. This diverse region includes wonderful places, such as Booleroo Centre, Carrieton, Leigh Creek, Maree, Innamincka, Flinders Ranges and other locations. I cannot wait to get out there and visit these people and support them in their journeys forward. As the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development in the previous term I served in 2014 to 2018, I travelled nearly 700,000 kilometres across regional South Australia, hearing people's ambitions—

**Mr Ellis:** Four years?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Yes, four years. I will start again because the member for Narungga interrupted me.

As Minister for Local Government and Regional Development in a previous term, I travelled nearly 700,000 kilometres across regional South Australia hearing people's ambitions, their frustrations and, more importantly, their desire just to get on with it. That was a clear message I brought back to the cabinet.

I welcome the Premier's announcement of the return of community cabinet or country cabinet, which is such an important message and opportunity for regional South Australians who have felt and have been forgotten. Having been unheard for many years, they find it very refreshing to see ministers actually drive in—not fly in—and partake in social events, stay the night and mix with their communities.

I have very much enjoyed reforging my connections to some of the most remote, most beautiful and most iconic locations in the north-eastern areas of our state. The sheer size of the Stuart electorate probably accounts for the fact that it represents so many elements of our state's regional economy: farming communities, pastoral properties, mining and resources, fantastic tourism experiences, the service and industrial centres of our regional cities and the vital community centres of our country and outback towns.

I look forward to advocating for the seat of Stuart, as I have always done for Frome and for all other regional parts of South Australia. The electorate is named after John McDouall Stuart, who pioneered a route from Adelaide to Darwin. Ten years later, this paved the way for the construction of the overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Port Darwin and then the Ghan railway.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the former member for Stuart, the Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekaan, for his outstanding service to the electorate of Stuart, regional and outback South Australia and the whole of the state. Dan originally worked with

BP Australia in a different role from mine and during a different period. However, we share a number of similarities in that he also operated several roadhouses, but I only had the one in Port Augusta. Like me, Dan was committed to his task of representing the people of his electorate, and I wish Dan and his wife the very best in their future endeavours, whatever they may be.

I also congratulate Ms Penny Pratt MP, the new member for Frome. She will be working just as hard for many of the communities that I have had the privilege to represent for 13 years.

During my period as the Independent member for Frome, I learnt a tremendous amount about other activities in our great state that I had not been aware of. At the same time, I became deeply involved with several community groups across the electorate of Frome over the last 13 years. Those 13 years were a very enjoyable period, and it was very interesting that at every state election I had different boundaries, and even at this time I still get calls from people in the original boundary areas. I will always have great memories of these people for the rest of my life.

It is interesting to look back. In 2009, I had one boundary; in 2010, I had the same boundary; in 2014, I had different boundaries; in 2018, I had different boundaries; and in 2022 I had different boundaries again. My children ask, 'What is going on?' I just say that is the way that democracy works. It is about the population growth and things like that. It also gives the other members in this house the opportunity to see some of the great areas in our state. The member for Narungga is one of those. He is sharing some of my original area and also some of my previous area, in Brinkworth and Blyth.

I would also like to acknowledge that for the first time in the state's history the city of Port Augusta is split between two electorates: my own seat of Stuart and the seat of Giles, held by Eddie Hughes MP. While I do not think any representations to the boundaries commission advocated for this result, the commission felt it necessary to ensure equal representation across the whole state more widely. That is one of the reasons why we in this house need to make certain we get more population in our regional areas to ensure that this goes back to the way it was originally. We have another state member, whoever it may be, in this house representing regional South Australia.

Noting this, I would also like to assure all residents of Port Augusta that the member for Giles and I will work very well together to represent the great regional city as a whole. With changing boundaries, I intend to establish an office in Port Augusta not only to serve the people of Port Augusta but also to allow the people residing further north of Port Augusta access to their local member.

The challenge will be to manage the allocation of staff allowable for an Independent in an electorate office to be able to service both electorate offices adequately and safely. However, I am very sure that once staff are in place we will be able to achieve a great outcome for both offices. I look forward to discussing any state issues in the Port Augusta office as soon as we can facilitate these arrangements.

My time in parliament has always been marked by my willingness to work across both sides of politics with whoever sits in this place on behalf of regional South Australia. In this spirit, I look forward to working with Mr Hughes to ensure that Port Augusta is represented and served by government in a properly co-ordinated fashion. I also note that, between us, Mr Hughes and I represent a very large part of what is generally considered to be outback South Australia. While these communities can be very far apart in distance, they often share the same outlook, the same issues and the same opportunities. So I think that if we work together, along with Sam Telfer, the new member for Flinders, the newly elected representative, it will be critical for the long-term health and prosperity of our most isolated communities.

It is a great honour to have been appointed as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. I would like to also acknowledge the former Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the member for Dunstan, for his great dedication and work with regard to this very important portfolio. This is a very passionate topic for me, my father having served in the Australian Regular Army, having fought in New Guinea and on the Kokoda Trail, and my brother having served in Vietnam. He enlisted at the age of 17 and served two terms. I was a reservist for approximately 10 years in not only Port Pirie but also Port Adelaide.

I will be giving consideration to the final report of the Torrens Training Depot/Torrens Parade Ground Steering Committee, chaired by our former Governor, Rear Admiral the Hon. Kevin Scarce.

I also acknowledge the member for Hammond, the shadow minister for veterans' affairs. I reassure him and others in this place that I will work collaboratively and openly with him and others—him in particular, as shadow minister—to ensure both older and younger veterans receive the acknowledgement, attention and assistance that they deserve.

I look forward to working with the veterans community over the next four years. Australian service personnel have been deployed on operations to every major conflict since Federation. In World Wars I and II, more than 1.3 million service personnel—nearly 90,000 of them South Australians—enlisted. In over a century, more than 102,000 were killed, including the 41 soldiers who died in Afghanistan.

I have attended several events since being appointed minister and I have not only enjoyed these activities but, more importantly, they have given me a far deeper understanding of the issues and challenges that these veterans and their families are enduring. I look forward to working with everyone in the future. We have the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of significant campaigns of World War II, which will be held in the coming years, such as the Kokoda Trail campaign, Bomber Command over Europe and the war in the Pacific. Next year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. There is also the importance of commemoration of regional towns, such as the RSL in Port Pirie and Port Augusta and across all regional South Australia.

The changing nature of military service and conflict means that the needs of veterans are ever changing. It requires a balance of veterans' needs from different generations, their employment and education, incarceration, family and domestic violence, homelessness and suicide. Each year, approximately 300 Defence Force personnel leave service. Most of these people settle into civilian life in South Australia. It is during this transition period that we must ensure that our veterans are set up for life as they change careers or get more involved in the wider community.

We must remember that a lot of these people went into the Defence Force very young. They are trained differently from the way normal civilians are throughout their working life. When they come out into civilian life, there is great change, and they need to be able to adjust to that. The biggest issue that I see—and I have learnt from this in the short period I have been the minister—is that there are different requirements. We have the older generation and we have the younger generation. The younger generation has different needs from those of the older people, who are more settled in life and who have encountered lots of issues. Younger people have different needs. There is domestic violence, there is PTSD and there are all the conflicts—the memories, the trauma. They still have that going on, including homelessness and things like that.

We, as a house, as a society, need to work with those people. We need to make certain that we look after them because they are the people who fought and fought hard, and some of them gave their lives for us so that we are here today in a free democracy. We may disagree on lots of things, but we are a free democracy, and we have to say thanks to those people. I know quite a few of them, and they are my friends. They have come back and have all these everlasting issues. They are enjoying life the best they can, but sometimes they feel left out, and what we have to do as a government, as a state, as communities, is recognise and help those people through that.

We need to have data on the veterans community. The 2021 census results available later this year will give us a greater opportunity to improve our understanding of the total veteran population in South Australia, and that is something I have been asking for. I have been asking these questions and we do not have this information at the moment. We need to understand specifically smaller regional areas, smaller communities, and what services those people need.

We have to provide those services for those people where they want them, with their not having to come into Adelaide, not having to come into the capital cities, because that is the last thing some of these people can do. They cannot afford it, and they do not have the ability to do it mentally and physically. What we have to do is identify where those people are, locate them, and then do the best that we can to make certain that those services go to those people, instead of them having to come to the services.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide is underway. It is expected that the commission will be in Adelaide to conduct its hearings in the early part of 2023. I look forward to working with the Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC), currently chaired by Colonel Susan Neuhaus



CSC (retired). That advisory council was established by a previous minister to provide advice to the minister, and we have to look at the membership of that in the next month or so.

I intend to continue working with those people, but I will also continue to ask questions and to ensure that we get the best opportunities and the most information so that this house, working together, can facilitate and formulate some direction going forward to make certain that we look after those people and have the best things available.

The service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform to preserve our democratic way of life is the reason we are able to stand here today before each other in what I believe is the best country in the world. I have said this earlier and at other locations: we look at what is happening in Ukraine at the moment, all the issues over there and we only have to look at it on TV. Sometimes it is hard to know whether that is reality, fiction or a movie.

Certainly, we have a great democracy and we have freedom. We may disagree on lots of things, we may support different football clubs or political sides or whatever it may be, but at least we can walk the streets safely. We do have lots of issues here, but we can get on top of those. The debt that we collectively owe to these men and women can never be repaid, and I look forward very passionately to serving as the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

I am not looking in my rear-vision mirror. One of the things I do not do is look behind me because what I did yesterday, and what we did yesterday, no-one can change. All we can do is look at what we achieved yesterday, look at some of the things we may have done, may have considered, and then analyse them today and look forward to changing and hopefully going forward with that.

I am looking forward with all the opportunities that our state has, and I will cite my area as an example of where we have so many natural resources: an abundance of gas, multiple renewable energy projects and economic infrastructure in ports, rail and roads. We have great opportunities even on Eyre Peninsula, and we have great opportunities in the South-East, Upper Spencer Gulf, the north, but the challenge is to get that product out of there.

There is also Yorke Peninsula with the grain and the opportunities there. It is absolutely fantastic, and I have been there many times, as my stepdaughter lives over there. Whilst I love Port Pirie, she loves it down that way and it is absolutely fantastic. What we have to do as a state is to ensure that we get those products out, and we also need to have trained people working there as well as accommodation—and that is the biggest issue. We may have people, we may be able to get skilled migrants coming in, but we need houses and we need places for them to be able to reside in.

I will also be making a statement soon in this place about my plans for the three portfolios I have: local government, veterans affairs and regional roads. I am keen to work together with everyone and with all levels of government—local, state and federal—and both sides of politics in this house to build this state and to achieve its best potential.

Before closing I want also to thank some people. I have been a fortunate person to be able to do things I get great joy out of. I came back to Port Pirie from Port Augusta in 1978. I got on council because the council was not doing the roads, and that led me on a journey to where I am today. I have been able to do stuff that as a child, as a schoolkid, I never thought I would do in my life, but I have to honestly say that I have been very blessed with opportunities to achieve things that I consider some people could never do in their lifetime.

I want to thank my family in particular, but I also want to thank the people of Port Pirie and the surrounding areas for their belief and trust in me over the last 13 years, not only as a local member of parliament but also my 20 years on council. I want to thank my family. I want also to thank my late wife, Arlene. She was there from the start when I was a councillor, and then this opportunity came after she was involved in that road crash. The community of Port Pirie supported me and my family for many years. I will be forever grateful for that, and I have indicated that in other locations.

To be a member of parliament is a great privilege, as well as being a member of council. The member for Flinders was the President of the Local Government Association. It is a great privilege, but it comes with challenges. It comes with challenges for your family. They have to face those challenges. Your family has to give things up, and the member, whoever it may be, has to give things

up too. They have to give up some of their family life. It is a challenge, but there is fulfilment at the end.

As the mayor, people said to me, 'Mr Mayor, this is an issue. What are you going to do about it?' My thought was, 'Well, what do you think?' They would say, 'It's not my problem. You're the mayor.' Well, I say to these people, 'It's not only my problem. It's not only my issue. It's our issue, and what we've got to do is work together and make certain that we get the right direction and analyse everything and make certain that we do the right thing.'

I want to thank my current partner, Lyn. She took on a mixed family for many years after the accident. We have now a Brady-blended family in Port Pirie. We have had the opportunity to learn. Our family has now expanded. We now have 14 grandchildren between us, and it is a privilege to have that when I go home. Other members in this house are able to do what they do because they have family at home. If they do not have a stable home life, then in actual fact they cannot do their job properly.

To my two children, Hayley and Marisa, I want to thank them very sincerely for all they have put up with for the last 44 years and since I came back. They have said a lot of things and they have been left out of a lot of things. After the boundaries changed I thought about whether I would renominate. The first thing I did was to talk to the previous member, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, because we are friends. It was a very quiet election. I then asked my girls. They said, 'Whatever you want to do, dad, do it.' That is what I am going to do now.

I am putting the challenge to everybody here. Let's do it together. Let's make certain that we get the best opportunities for our great state. I am looking forward to working with this government in this parliament over the next four years.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** The member for Narungga.

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (16:28):** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, and a sterling job you are doing indeed. I think you would quite convincingly be in the top three people to have occupied that chair today.

I rise to make my contribution in reply to the Governor's speech, and in so doing I would like to commence with the most important thing, which is to say thank you to the people of Narungga. It is a tremendous honour to be returned to this place and one which I will never take for granted. To each and every person who supported me in any possible, conceivable way a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

When I was giving my maiden speech, just over four years ago and after a long, hard campaign in the lead-up to that 2018 election, I referenced that I thought Narungga was the most beautiful electorate in the entire state; that view remains and, if anything, has strengthened over the past four years. It has been a wonderfully pleasurable experience getting to know so many different people and so many different communities across the 10,000 square kilometres that Narungga occupies.

In referencing that, I should pay homage to the people of the Adelaide Plains, Mallala, Dublin and surrounds who have unfortunately been moved out of the seat of Narungga as a result of the boundary redistribution, but it was no less pleasurable getting to know those wonderful people on the other side of the gulf. In truthfulness, it was part of the electorate that was perhaps a bit foreign to me upon my election, but it was wonderful to try to wrap my head around the issues, which were remarkably similar to those on the peninsula, over the past four years.

To each and every one of those people who have reached out to my office or seen me in the street or bailed me up in any possible way and whom I no longer have the pleasure of representing, thank you sincerely as well for the honour it was over the past four years.

I should also welcome the new parts of the electorate, those being, as aforementioned by the member for Stuart, the regions that were in Frome and that I have had the great pleasure of welcoming into the new seat of Narungga around Brinkworth, Blyth, Redhill and those sorts of parts. I have had a couple of trips up there already, and I am looking forward to spending a great deal more time there and getting to know the different communities and the people who occupy those wonderful towns. It is one of the really pleasurable parts about being the local MP.

On Yorke Peninsula, to the parts of the seat that have remained the same, at the risk of repeating myself I say a sincere thankyou to all those wonderful communities. There are something like 70 different communities on the peninsula, and each of them has their own different localised issues: their roads, their kerbs, their footpaths, all those sorts of really local issues you have to try and wrap your head around.

Then there is the next step up, those issues that are multicomunity, those little ones that join the communities that might have issues in common. Then we go right up to the regionalised ones and the statewide issues. It was a lot to wrap my head around in four years, and it was a big workload, but it has been really, really enjoyable, getting around and meeting all the progress associations, sporting clubs, community groups, all those different people, and getting to know the wonderful work they do.

As a result, after all of that work and all of those experiences, it was a really humbling experience to have had such support at the recent election, despite a difficult couple of years personally. So thank you sincerely to all those people who demonstrated that support through helping to volunteer, handing out how-to-vote cards, spreading the good word or even just voting in my favour. That was, as I said, a tremendously humbling experience and an honour and privilege that I will never, ever take for granted.

I would like to single out a few different groups of people, though, as cause for special thanks. First and foremost, to the wonderful people who have occupied the Narungga electorate office over the past four years, we have had Rosemary and Sarah, who have been with me for the entirety of that time, bar one small break for maternity leave; Georgia, who joined us more recently and who unfortunately has found alternate employment and will be leaving us quite soon—all the best to her in her new endeavours; and then the trainees we have had along the way: Sophie, Nikki and Chelsea.

I have absolutely no doubt—there is not a shadow of doubt in my mind—that without the wonderful interactions those wonderful ladies had with the community that approached them for different issues re-election for me would not have been the faintest of possibilities. Without the work they did in serving our community so well and so brilliantly, there is absolutely no chance that I would be back here after the most recent election. For that and everything else they do to keep me on track and keep our office on track, I say a sincere thankyou. Hopefully, it can continue for the next four years, and we will have another uninterrupted run of success. So thank you to all those people. It is much appreciated.

Secondly, a quick thankyou to my partner, Courtney, who has been a wonderful rock of support—she is flat out at the moment with the federal election—and to my family, who had dropped everything at any time to help me in any possible way and did a power of work across the campaign and on polling day. For them I am especially thankful: my parents and my brothers, my nanna and anyone else who helped.

I have already referenced them quickly, but to everyone who helped on my campaign throughout the course of it, thank you. I ordered what I thought was an ambitious 100 shirts with 'Vote 1 Fraser Ellis' on them for election day, for the 30 booths scattered around the peninsula, and we ran out of them quite quickly. At the end of the day, we had people asking for them to help out, and we did not have any left to give out.

We managed to spread those 100 people out evenly across the 30 booths, which is an extraordinary number. It may be not the biggest, but it felt like an extraordinary number when it came to doing the rosters. It was a really humbling experience to have such demand for those shirts and such assistance on the day, so thank you to all those people.

There are a few who are worthy of special thanks. Jamie Smith, who I referenced in my maiden speech four years ago, has been a long-time mentor and terrific bloke and a tower of strength throughout everything we had to deal with over the past two years. It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know him over the course of my political career, and it is a friendship for which I will be forever grateful, and I hope it continues for as long as it possibly can.

Malcolm Eglinton and Graham Mattschoss have again been wonderful supports over the past five years, and I hope that continues. Neil and Dale Sawley did a mountain of work and again

were put in an awkward spot, but offered their unconditional support, which was much appreciated. The Hon. Senator Alan Ferguson has been a tremendous support and a sounding board over the past five years, and I really appreciate the access that he gives me for advice on a whole range of fronts in his term as a senator.

Then one other one, which I would like to spread out over the past five years because I rewatched my maiden speech upon hearing a lot of the wonderful ones that have been delivered in this chamber over the past couple of weeks. I took the time to rewatch mine to see if there was anything worth referencing, and it occurred to me that I had forgotten to thank a friend of mine, Mike Daniel, in the previous one, so hopefully he accepts this in lieu of thanks in the initial one. For those wonderful people and everyone else who helped, thank you sincerely for your assistance in staffing the 30 booths up and down the leg. It was much appreciated.

I would also like to offer congratulations to other candidates: Tom Michael, Mark Paull, Ashley Wright, Kerry White and Wendy Leanne Joyce, who all conducted productive, respectful campaigns. Dianah Walter should also be congratulated on putting her hand up for election. Unfortunately, she received the determination from the Electoral Commission rather recently about a series of misleading advertisements, so that was a rather disappointing way to end the campaign, but she should be commended for putting up her hand nonetheless. It is a difficult thing to do, and I am sure she is better for the run.

I also congratulate all other members who have been re-elected and elected for the first time. It is a tremendous honour to take your seat in this place and enjoy all the goings-on that occur here on a daily basis, so congratulations to everyone here. In congratulating those new people, and those who have returned, it is also worth mentioning those who have not had the good fortune of returning to this chamber.

There are quite a few of them: Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Corey Wingard, Paula Luethen, Richard Harvey, Carolyn Power, Frances Bedford—who, I might add, was tremendously welcoming when I joined the crossbench a couple of years ago and a wonderful asset—Rachel Sanderson and Jonny Gee. Commiserations to those who missed out at the election and congratulations for those that have had the opportunity to retire and find alternate employment.

I would also like to thank a special thanks to four people. I had the great fortune of having an office adjacent to Peter Treloar's for four years and of sitting next to him in the chamber. He was a tremendous mentor for the goings on of parliament. I think the people of Flinders were well served for the entirety of his term and will continue to be under the new member, but thank you to Peter for all his support.

Upon considering the idea of nominating for parliament, I initially sounded out two people: Sam Duluk and Stephan Knoll. They were tremendously supportive throughout the whole process, and it is quite disappointing to see neither of those two gentlemen here in this parliament. Of course, I regard Steve Murray as an excellent parliamentarian, and I think he would have been a wonderful asset to this parliament. So thank you to those four gentlemen for their assistance as well.

I want to touch on some of the things we managed to achieve in the electorate of Narungga over the past four years because I regard it as being a tremendously lucrative period for our community. We had a series of wish list items we brought to the parliament, and amongst them were health investment, road investment and just a general investment in local sporting infrastructure. I think if we mark ourselves against the wish list we brought here four years ago we would measure up pretty well.

The health system, although there is a lot of work to do and I do not contend that it is completely solved yet, has benefited tremendously on the peninsula. We had investment in the Ardrossan hospital that kept it open for four years, and it needs to be rolled over and reinvigorated. We had new services and investment in the facilities at Wallaroo Hospital, which again needs to keep on being built upon.

Wallaroo Hospital is one of the rare examples where it has funding, as part of the regional health plan, which has been mentioned a few times, to hire three full-time doctors to work in the public hospital system. That is a great initiative, but it is proving tremendously difficult to attract those doctors to accept those positions as opposed to locum work.

The profitability of locum work, where they can work one day off and take home huge sums of money and not have to worry about showing up the next day if they do not want or anything like that, is proving a real hindrance to attracting those people who might otherwise be partial to working in a regional setting. We had that money there to attract doctors to work in the public health system. Unfortunately, that has not quite paid off yet but, hopefully, as we continue to fine-tune regional health we might be able to get some doctors staffing Wallaroo Hospital on a full-time basis.

We had other things. There is a brand-new surgical theatre at Yorketown Hospital after it was threatened with closure just prior to the last election. They are doing lists now of minor surgeries. It is a wonderful asset for that community—and there are a few other things like that. Regional health, I think, is by far and away the biggest issue that voters in regional South Australia are interested in at the moment.

When you approach anyone on the street and ask what will swing their vote, it is the one thing they are interested in, so we need to keep making sure that we put that at the forefront and ensure that we continue to make progress and attract professionals to country South Australia because that is ultimately where the shortage lies. We can build all the buildings we want but if there is no-one there to staff them then we will be in the same hole we are still in.

There has been a mountain of work done trying to incentivise doctors out to regional SA, but it seems to me, as a layperson, that incentivising doctors is not working. We need to start to guarantee that they are there, we need to start to take steps to forcibly distribute—if that is the right word—doctors out into the right parts of the state. I will be working towards that. I reckon that is the answer. I think there needs to be some really proactive work done to ensure that we have access to what the member for Stuart referenced the other day as the basic services that we should have available to us. We do not expect the exact same services that are offered in the city, but we do expect access to a basic level of service.

I also referenced roads. Again, when you talk to a country person, the other thing they bring up more often than not is the quality of the road network. I am really thrilled that over the past four years, between the three levels of government, there has been in excess of \$200 million put into Narungga roads. Some of the really bad ones that I had on my list when I was elected and that I talked about in my maiden speech have finally seen an investment.

Perhaps most notably is the road right down the middle, the one that came up a lot when I was doorknocking, between Arthurton and Minlaton. That has been fully ripped up all that way and is finally getting resealed and redone. Pleasingly, across the really poor, bumpy part it is not just a surface job; they have ripped it up and redug it and actually laid a proper base, so hopefully that road will last a bit longer. It is certainly wider now. A wider road is a safer road, as both members for Flinders have said. It is certainly a lot wider now and hopefully it stays flatter and safer for just that little bit longer.

There is the Port Wakefield overpass, which is well on the way to being done. I think now motorists are starting to see what the finished product will look like. At conception, there were a few sceptics who wondered whether that was the proper way to do it or whether there might be a better solution. I dare say they are still out there but I think, as it takes shape and as people start to see how it will work in practicality, it will be a wonderful thing. Even if it does not solve the problem completely, even if there is a slight delay, it will be better and safer than it was. It is money well spent if it saves a few lives on country roads. It is wonderful to see that take shape, the massive project that it is, and it cannot be too far away from being done in its entirety.

There are a couple of others: the Wallaroo entrance road, which was signed off just before the election. The first stage of that is underway or has been completed. I am really excited about that. The next step is council doing the stormwater and then a final coat of road. There are many, many others still to do. I am not suggesting every road in the YP is fixed up and ready to go but we have made a really good start. If we can keep that momentum going for the next four years, we should be well on the way to having a wonderful and much-improved road network that is the envy of a lot of other electorates around the state.

As I referenced, too, there is plenty of work going on in sporting clubs. It is pleasing to see some that have been waiting quite some time finally getting the investment they have been yearning.

I note that Kadina are playing the CMS Crows this weekend. We cannot play at Minlaton as we normally do because those clubrooms are currently in the midst of redevelopment. That is a wonderful thing to see and I look forward to next season, if I can still move, to hopefully play at Minlaton and see that brand-new club facility underway.

As I said, we have achieved a great deal in the past four years, but there is still plenty more to do. I have already referenced the work that I would like to see done in the health space. I think attracting and retaining, or guaranteeing access to basic health services in country SA is pivotal. It is the biggest issue that we are facing. I do not think it is too much for country people to ask for and expect the basic access to services that many in the city have. I think as well—and it might offend present company—that Wallaroo Hospital is in desperate need of a dramatic upgrade. The Pirie hospital up the road is far bigger and services a far higher standard of care in a lot of different areas, and in my understanding, based on the service plans, it is a smaller catchment area, a smaller service area. That is not to denigrate the Pirie hospital. I am happy for that to have that wonderful access.

When we look at the population that Wallaroo serves and the work that it does—particularly during the tourist season, when we have a massive influx—it needs to be drastically bigger. It is a 21-bed facility at the moment, but now it could easily be 50 or in the high forties. I will be working towards seeing a big upgrade to Wallaroo Hospital.

There is a plan in at Infrastructure SA, and I will be looking forward to reading that report to see if it is considered a good use of taxpayers' money with a recommended spend for our region. I will be advocating to the government to adhere to that recommendation by Infrastructure SA, hopefully giving Wallaroo Hospital a real upgrade and, as I have already touched on, provide continued investment in Narungga roads. There are still a few more to do.

I would love to see the Minlaton to Stansbury road get some shoulders to make it a little bit wider, and I would love to see a Bute to Port Broughton road upgrade. I would love to see a North Coast Road upgrade, which is a council road, but it is still in desperate need of an upgrade that may be beyond the scope of council by itself to do. There is plenty more to do, and we have made a wonderful start. As I said, it would be wonderful to be the envy of a lot of other state electorates with regard to roads.

One thing I would like to see in relation to roads is a turning lane fund, and I have written already to this new government. There are so many wonderful coastal communities up and down Yorke Peninsula, and a lot of them have what they consider to be dangerous access points, where they have to slow down on the road to access them. In peak summer, when most tourists are accessing those coastal communities is also when you will also find heavily laden grain trucks trying to use those same roads.

If you have to slow down with your caravan or your boat to try to get into one of those coastal communities, and you get a grain truck coming right up behind you, it can be dangerous. It would be a relatively cheap fix, I think, to have a turning lane installed so that those cars can get off the highway, slow down on that turning lane and access those wonderful coastal communities just that little bit more safely, so I will be advocating for that.

Hardwicke Bay is in desperate need, perhaps more so than any other one; and I think the Acting Speaker is a visitor of Hardwicke Bay. With the entrance road being on that corner, it is a bit of a blind corner, so there is all the more risk with those cars having to stop on the main road, and hopefully we can get them off. I will be advocating for that as well as for many other investments in regional roads.

The final issue I would like to mention as part of this speech is child care, which by no means has been a silent issue, but of late it has become especially topical. We need to ensure that those people who work in or want to work in regional areas can leave their kids in child care one day and contribute to the local economy. If they are stuck at home looking after those kids, then we are deprived of a professional worker who could otherwise be contributing to our local community and our local economy.

With YP Council and the Minlaton SYP childcare action group, I met with a private provider for child care. The private provider—not to denigrate them—indicated that it might be in the high sixties of kids per day in order to make it a viable business model. Well, that is not viable for a lot of

country towns that do not have that number of kids in child care on a consistent basis at the very least. I would like to think that there would be a scalable model or an alternative model that might enable regional communities to provide that child care for different size populations, so I will be working on that.

I have written to both the education minister and the Premier and suggested that maybe access to child care might be a good feature of the royal commission that is planned and coming up for out-of-hours school care. I would like to think that would be considered to be added to or augment the terms of reference for that particular proposal. I have also written to the regulatory body (the acronym of which I cannot quite remember off the top of my head) and suggested that they conduct their own report into how child care might be enabled in regional South Australia. I would like to see some more work done in that space, and I am sure it will make a tremendous difference to our local communities.

In closing, it is again a wonderful privilege to be re-elected by the people in Narungga. It is a really humbling experience, and I give them my word now that I will continue to work as hard as I can so that we get our fair share of the pie on the YP and that we get those infrastructure projects that are so desperately needed to make our community a better place to live and a more productive economy for the benefit of the general state. With that, Mr Acting Speaker, thank you sincerely and I look forward to the progression of this parliament.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** The member for Torrens.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:49):** Thank you, Acting Speaker, and I congratulate you on your re-election and your election as the member for Florey. I welcome the opportunity to acknowledge in this place the traditional owners of the land, the Kaurna people, and to pay my respects to their elders past and present as together we walk along the path of reconciliation.

I take this opportunity to reflect on that day in Canberra when, in my previous role as a senator for South Australia, I was present when former Prime Minister the Hon. Kevin Rudd made the apology to the stolen generations. I recall the emotion and the hope in the chamber and on the lawns outside the house on the hill, our nation's parliament, following the Prime Minister's heartfelt words.

In relation to our parliament now, I welcome that this parliament, if all goes well, will finally fulfill the promise of a meaningful treaty with the first South Australians with the establishment of an Aboriginal Voice to Parliament, the restarting of the treaty process in the state and the set-up of a truth telling process guided by the Uluru Statement from the Heart and driven by our state's first Aboriginal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Kyam Maher.

I speak today in reply to the address of Her Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, on the opening of the Fifty-Fifth South Australian Parliament. I offer my congratulations to all re-elected members who sought and gained the support of their constituents and the new members of which there are quite a few. In particular, I would like to make special mention of the eight new Labor members in this place who worked so hard earning the privilege and honour of sitting on this side of the chamber for the next four years and beyond, we hope, representing their electorates.

I start with my neighbours in the north-east, the member for Newland, Olivia Savvas, and the member for King, Rhiannon Pearce, both determined from day one to achieve their goal, along with the member for Adelaide, Lucy Hood; the member for Elder, Nadia Clancy; the member for Davenport, Erin Thompson; the member for Gibson, Sarah Andrews; and the member for Waite, Catherine Hutchesson, all who fought amazing campaigns connecting with their community and securing the support of constituents to be elected to this Fifty-Fifth Parliament of South Australia. I look forward to working with each of them to achieve our shared goals.

It is significant that your arrival in this place brings with it the highest number of women and the youngest person, the member for Newland, elected to the House of Assembly in its 165 years. Hanging on the wall before me as I stand here—I can almost reach out—is the artwork created to acknowledge the long struggle that resulted in the South Australian parliament in 1894 being the first to give women the right to vote and to stand for parliament. Interestingly, in this, the Fifty-Fifth

Parliament of our state, it is the first time also that any government, or opposition for that matter, has more women than men holding a seat in this place.

I congratulate also the member for Playford and the member for Taylor, who brings with him significant experience from his time in federal parliament, along with a wonderful sense of humour to which I am sure we will all be a witness.

In my Address in Reply in the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, I said, 'We on this side will be working hard to ensure that we will not be spending any longer than one term here in opposition.' Being elected to government from opposition did not just happen: it took listening, thinking, speaking and action in so many areas, so many topics with so many discussions taking place at street corner meetings, coffee catch-ups, community forums, front doors and the phone and so much more.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Premier on his leadership in opposition and our Labor team, including the new members, for their dedication and commitment to listening to the people of our state in metropolitan and regional South Australia and from all walks of life. We listened, we heard, we reflected and now we sit on this side of the chamber to put in place the Malinauskas government plan for the future.

Along with the deputy leader, shadow ministers, members and candidates, we listened to what was important to the people of our state:

- from the homeless and those striving to get their home and those on the rental merry-go-round, to owners of multiple properties;
- from on-the-ground workers and their union representatives to business owners, large and small;
- from those suffering the effects of the devastating bushfires and increased ramping at our hospitals to the emergency service workers, many of whom endured their own suffering;
- from families in need of support to the teachers in our schools;
- from the volunteers who are the backbone of our local sporting clubs to the volunteers who keep community organisations operating, serving our communities;
- from family members with parents in aged-care facilities to aged-care workers;
- from nurses and doctors at our hospitals to the patients and their families;
- from individuals enduring mental health complexities to providers and support services; and
- from those with disability and the carers who support them.

The honour to stand in this place on this side of the chamber where we all in this house, individually and collectively, strive to take our seat, representing our constituency and governing our wonderful state of South Australia, became a reality for Labor just two months ago. For that we owe thanks to the women and men of South Australia who put their faith in us, in Labor, in the now Premier, the member for Croydon, and the Deputy Premier, the member for Port Adelaide, along with the whole Labor team.

For me directly it was the electors of Torrens who returned me for a third term to be their voice in this place. To the residents in Oakden, Hillcrest, Vale Park, Hampstead Gardens, Manningham, Windsor Gardens, Klemzig, Gilles Plains, Holden Hill, Greenacres and Valley View who supported my re-election, I offer my sincere gratitude. It is a tremendous privilege to serve you as the member for Torrens. I thank the electors of Torrens who, at the 2022 election, put their faith in me.

The electorate of Torrens is a diverse one with people of many cultural and ethnic backgrounds and new citizens regularly arriving from around the globe. It has a strong and vibrant community group sector and some of the most passionate sporting clubs, including Gaza Sports and Community Club, the North Adelaide Rockets Basketball Club, the North Eastern MetroStars Soccer



Club and the Adelaide City Football Club. In addition, it has many important social and learning hubs, including the North East Community House, Hillcrest Community Centre, the Wandana Community Centre and the Holden Hill Community Centre and, of course, we have many schools.

It is home to many dedicated community groups and clubs that I have come to know extremely well over the past four years: the Gilles Plains and Hampstead RSL; the Northgate Oakden Residents Association; the North East Community Assistance Program (NECAP); TADSA; the Klemzig, Windsor Gardens and Walkerville Neighbourhood Watch and the new Neighbourhood Watch in Valley View, which is a new suburb since the boundary redistribution; the Hillcrest Scouts; the Enfield Horticultural Society, of which I am a patron; and the Hillcrest Seniors, to name just a few.

In 2014, I welcomed the opportunity to stand for the state seat of Torrens for the first time and to become a member of the then Weatherill Labor government. To hold government is what we all aspire to and work towards in the South Australian Labor Party, to deliver on our policies and to be able to facilitate fairness and equality of opportunity for all in our community.

In opposition, I committed to working hard with the new government where it was in the best interests of my community and the state of South Australia, and, when necessary, to hold the government to account for the decisions it made and, in some instances, for those it failed to make. I am one who always looks to find the silver lining and, looking back, I believe I stuck to my commitment throughout the four years in opposition.

I had a number of significant issues in my community that needed to be raised, which had a great impact: the closing of the Strathmont Centre by the then Liberal government and also the closing of access by the public to the Hampstead Centre. While the then government said that they would accommodate the more than 2,000 people who used those facilities, they ended up sending a lot of them through to the Modbury Hospital rehabilitation pool which, I might add, was built by the Labor government. Of course, once COVID hit, all those people missed out on the swimming lessons, rehabilitation and water therapy that they required.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record that I am proud to have been a member of the Weatherill government and to highlight some of the progress and things that were delivered, including a state-of-the-art health and biomedical precinct, the iconic SAHMRI and a world-class new Royal Adelaide Hospital. We were a government that revitalised the CBD with the redevelopment of Adelaide Oval, the new Adelaide Botanic High School, the Riverbank Precinct, the Adelaide Convention Centre, Festival Plaza and laneways and small bars. We were a government under which crimes against persons and property halved with more police on the beat.

From March 2014 to March 2018, in my particular area in the north-eastern suburbs, the Torrens community benefited from significant investment in our community, including the extension of the O-Bahn into the Adelaide CBD, improving travel times and reliability for thousands of public transport users; the multimillion dollar Modbury Hospital and Lyell McEwin upgrades; the installation of a koala crossing on Fosters Road near Cedar College; and the partnership that was approved with the Port Adelaide Enfield Council that delivered the Lights Community and Sports Centre on the former Ross Smith school site, now a multi-use sports centre that is home to the Rockets Basketball Club, with five courts making it international standard.

There is also the synthetic soccer pitch and the lighting upgrade in Adelaide City Football Club and the North Eastern MetroStars Soccer Club; the new Oakden ambulance station, including a 24/7 emergency crew; support for multicultural community events that help develop an understanding of different cultures and are inclusive of all members of the community; and new STEM facilities for Hampstead Primary School, Hillcrest Primary School and Wandana Primary School.

At the 2022 election, we saw that commitments were needed again in our community; in fact, some had been totally ignored. So I am proud and pleased to be able to announce the Gaza Sports & Community Club upgrade, incorporating female change rooms. It resolves the issue of players changing and substandard change rooms and women and girls having to change in cars or toilet cubicles; this will be addressed through Labor's commitments. For four years, I called on the Marshall Liberal government in the state parliament to honour their candidate's promise to the Gaza committee

at the 2018 election to meet Labor's commitment to the new change facilities, but they failed to do so.

On the issue of the swimming pool closed by the Marshall government, in government we have committed to an upgrade repair for the infrastructure at the Royal Society for the Blind pool. This will mean that Royal Life Saving South Australia will be able to deliver swimming lessons for our multicultural community and for people needing to learn to swim. There will be water therapy for clients of the RSB and also swimming lessons and water therapy for children with autism. We will not let our children down. That is part of what we were talking about in relation to the RSB swimming pool.

A commitment towards making South Australian autism-friendly has been given by the Premier. As a former teacher, I welcome that commitment to children with autism and their families. Also, we have reform of early childhood education and care so that children can start school ready, including the introduction of three-year-old preschool programs, the lifting of quality teaching across our schools, the promise of some of our contract teachers being made permanent, the establishment of five technical colleges for students who want to go straight into the trade school and supporting young people with learning challenges or struggling with mental health issues so that they are engaged.

Of course, health was also a priority. Time and again, throughout the COVID pandemic residents told me about their concerns. I am proud that this government plans to deliver 350 extra ambulances; 300 more nurses; 100 additional doctors; 300 extra hospital beds; 120 mental health beds; 10 major hospital upgrades; five new ambulance stations; 14 rebuilt, upgraded or expanded stations; and a new ambulance headquarters. We have already touched a mental health, but there is even more for mental health.

Interestingly, last week I attended the Commissioner for Children and Young People's summit and I believe that quite a number of people here attended that summit. One of the issues for the students that I spoke with was mental health and that was a priority, so it is wonderful that this government is going to deliver on that as well as more for drug rehabilitation and for country health. What also often impacts on young people are the wages that they are paid. I am pleased that Labor will introduce wage theft legislation to create criminal penalties for persistent and deliberate underpayment of workers, including wages and superannuation.

We do not get to this place without the help of many, so I would like to thank, on this occasion, of course the leader and the members of our Labor team. I want to thank each one of my supporters and volunteers throughout the election campaign. A special thanks to my dear friend Monika, who continues to volunteer as a language interpreter and cultural ambassador for the many different communities in our electorate. She is continually fielding phone calls way after the sun has gone down, always working and helping to bring communities together. I would like to thank her wonderful husband, Raj, and her son, Dhruv, and daughter, Tarini.

I also thank the federal member for Adelaide, Steve Georganas, for his support and Angelique and Toni, who made hundreds of phone calls on my behalf. There are so many volunteers to name but I will, if I have the time, go through some of them: Manjit, Harvinder, Jawahar, Jaskirat, Jagmeeta, Vikram, Trisha, Navneet, Gurpreet, Diya, Eric, Deo, Juvenal, Emmanuel, Mohit, Mehak, Shreya, Benny, Hui, JinTian, Zhenxiang, Mehak, Mohit, Akhil, Vipul, and Emmanuel, Jai, Blessing, Smridhi, Jagdev, Pradeep, Stephanie, Kimberly, Wendy, Nick and Paul. I also thank Kuldip, Michelle, Ray and Yvonne, David, Farrah, Peter and Beth, Charlie and Adelia, Mel, Sheila, Ken, Margaret and Peter, Trevor and his family, Peter, Karen, Rob, Lewis, Lily, Don, Tash, Chook and Gillian.

My thanks to the many Torrens sub-branch members, particularly Bob, John, and Graham for the many bags of material they delivered. I think they must know every letterbox in Torrens now. My sincere thanks to my staff Tracey and Caprice and Rosemary for their valuable after-hours contribution and all who played a part along the campaign trail.

I would like to put forward a special thanks to Hannah Evans, my amazing campaign manager, who again worked tirelessly over the past eight years and from day one to election day. This election, however, she had the assistance of her fiancé, Simon, who had no idea what he was getting himself into when he placed that ring on her finger. He took to campaigning like a duck to

water, preparing posters, up and down ladders, handing out how-to-votes on election day and delivering to letterboxes.

Hannah, I truly appreciate your dedication and your insight and commitment from day one eight years ago through to election day 2022 and I wish you a wonderful journey ahead. I would like to thank also my nephew Cale for the many hours you put in letterboxing, putting up and taking down posters and the many hours both you and Ché spent preparing corflutes.

To our son, Ché, thank you again for your support and enthusiasm, endless hours of letterboxing, keeping up to date with 24-hour news cycles, for cleaning and putting up and taking down corflutes while in between working on university assignments and always for your insight and very honest and valuable opinion on everything.

To my partner, Russell, for your love and support, your great organising skills, tireless work in our multicultural community ensuring that the benefit of Labor policies are understood, often having to address language and cultural barriers, your commitment and understanding is never ending.

I take this opportunity to place on record my thanks again to the electors of Torrens, who at the 2022 election put their faith in me to represent them for the third time. It is truly an honour. I am committed to my electorate of Torrens and to the state of South Australia, and be assured I will always stand up for what is in the best interests of the residents I represent and the people of our great state.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** Before I recognise the minister, I just want to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the former Treasurer and Deputy Premier of South Australia, a former member for Port Adelaide and member for Hart, the Hon. Kevin Foley.

#### *Address in Reply*

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Debate resumed.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:10):** It gives me great pleasure to stand in this place to make my seventh Address in Reply to the house. Well, it is more than seven because we have had more than one Address in Reply per term, but the seventh after an election—it is the seventh occasion of my re-election to the House of Assembly. It is, indeed, an honour; and I am humbled to continue to be Father of the House, an obligation which I take exceptionally seriously, as I did in the previous parliament.

Starting off, Mr Acting Speaker, can I congratulate you on your election to the seat of Florey. I know that you will do that job well and will grace the Public Works Committee with the respect and dignity that that committee deserves, and it is in safe hands with you and the other members who are on it.

I would also like to congratulate all my colleagues who have been elected, especially the new members who have been elected for the first time to the South Australian parliament, especially those on the government benches. Of course, we have spoken often about the seven, and that they are seven remarkable women who will do amazing things in this parliament on behalf of their communities, but I want to talk about three amazing women: my wife and my two daughters.

My wife is long suffering being married to me. It is not easy, let alone that I am a politician. I remember how relieved we were, in a way perversely, that we had lost the 2018 election because Helena had just turned four, and my oldest daughter, Tia, had grown up with dad being a very busy minister, and I missed out on those early years so I got to have a bit more time at home with the girls over the last four years. They are now old enough, I think, and prepared to see dad get busy again—much, much busier than he was in opposition, although we were very busy in opposition.

I also want to thank my staff. I want to thank Betty Livaditis, who did a tremendous job in my electorate office. I want to thank Zoi Papafilopoulos and I want to thank Nick Antonopoulos for the hard work they did, including my team of volunteers. I want to thank the people of West Torrens. The people of West Torrens have been with me since 1997. Indeed, they have been with me since 1971 when I was born in that community.

I was born and raised in the community that I represent, and that is a great honour for me. A lot of people do not get the privilege to represent the community they grew up in. My friends and family grew up in the western suburbs. It is a great honour to know that I have been representing them for nearly now a quarter of a century.

I congratulate my ministerial colleagues on their appointment. I am indeed very proud to see the Premier sit in this chair, and very proud to see the work that he has done and will be doing over the next four years. I wish him the very best, and commit to do my very best to ensure that his Premiership is a success because, in the end, if the government succeeds the people of South Australia succeed. We all want the government to succeed no matter who they are.

I also want to make a point about the former governments: the Weatherill government and the Marshall government. I want to point out very quickly and emphatically that the Malinauskas government is not the Weatherill government reborn: it is a different government. It has different objectives, different agendas. This is not a continuation, with a four-year recess, of the last Rann/Weatherill government. This is a new government, with a new agenda, with a new leader and with a new cabinet. We have our own priorities, and those priorities were argued at the election at length.

I want to thank the former government. I think that the former government had its faults, and I was prepared at length to call them out on their faults, but not everything they did was a disaster. They did good things, and they worked hard for the people of South Australia, and I want to thank them for that. It is not easy. It is not easy to work so hard and lose. I know exactly how they feel, and I do have sympathy for members opposite who did work so hard and have lost and felt as if they have not been rewarded for their hard effort and their labour.

But I just point out that the term 'minister' means 'to serve', and it is to serve without reward. Re-election is not a reward for the previous four years; it is an endorsement of the next four years. While that might not be comforting to members of the former government who have maintained their seats or who have lost them, the point that I am trying to make, ineloquently as I am, is that the election is not a reflection on everything they did over the last four years.

I think South Australians are genuinely grateful that we got through the pandemic as well as we did, and the former government deserves a lot of credit for that. I paid tribute to the former government on election night on the ABC, and I paid tribute to the former Premier, who did deserve credit for the way he conducted himself.

Of course, the other part of that equation is the endorsement of the next four years of the future. The people of South Australia chose a future, and they chose us to lead them in that future, and that is humbling and comes with a great deal of responsibility. The Premier was kind enough to give me responsibility for a number of portfolios. The first one I want to talk about is management of government business in this chamber.

I take this chamber very seriously. I think it is steeped in tradition and convention, and the rules are there for a reason, but so are the conventions, and the conventions are often much more important than the rules. You will not find anything in standing orders about pairs. You will not find anything in standing orders about the way we conduct ourselves outside of here in this building. That is built by convention. again, without wanting to be too disparaging of the previous government, there were some conventions that were thrown out, and that is sad. That was not just in the last parliament; it was in the previous parliament.

The ones I am talking about, of course, are the conventions about passing budget bills and budget measures. That convention had stood in this state for over 100 years, and the former Premier, when then opposition leader, trashed that convention. That convention is now gone, and he saw it in the last parliament, and our state is worse for that. Our state is worse off for the breaking of that convention.

The former Premier also broke the convention on pairs, or his government did, and then that was restored after a long, protracted period, after the former Opposition Whip was betrayed terribly in the parliament by a pair not being honoured. These traditions and conventions are important, and I commit to the house that I will do my utmost, with the Government Whip, to uphold the conventions and traditions of this parliament as well as all our collective responsibilities to uphold the standing orders.

I want to also talk about my other two portfolios. The first one is Infrastructure and Transport. We have a very, very big agenda. The most pressing in transport is public transport policy, where we are attempting to undo a privatisation of our trams and trains and conduct an investigation into the feasibility of returning our bus services into public hands. This is important work. It is important work because I have seen over my 25 years in this place the failure of privatisation.

That is not to say that there have not been some successes, where the government has opted not to continue a service and allow the private sector to do it, but wholesale privatisation has not worked. The most glaring example of that is the ETSA privatisation. I was here for that debate, and unfortunately the minority on that occasion was proved right. It was a disaster and continues to be the worst decision made by this parliament, by a government, in living memory, almost as bad as the State Bank.

If you had to look at two events of the last century, I think, excluding war and depression—that is, policy decisions—the sale of ETSA for me ranks as the worst decision a former government took. That decision still has implications today and will continue to have implications for the next 170 years. South Australia is now at the mercy of monopolies when it comes to transmission and distribution of our power network. They are making a fortune from South Australians.

It is no coincidence that the deindustrialisation of our state is almost inexorably linked to the privatisation of ETSA and the increase in power prices as a result of that. That is why things like public transport are not just an amenity; they are an economic tool to get workforces to and from work efficiently and cheaply and safely. They also save money for the taxpayer. Every single time someone catches a bus, train or tram we all save.

We are spending record amounts of money. The previous government, the Weatherill government and now the Malinauskas government is spending a fortune on what has been called congestion-busting infrastructure works because we are building infrastructure to the peaks when everyone drops their kids off to and from school, everyone goes to and from work. We have more car parks per capita in Adelaide than any other capital city in Australia. We need people back on buses. We need people back on trains. We need people back on trams. We need people utilising public transport.

The best lever to do that is public ownership because when you run these services for profit it is not about the service, it is about the return. For us, if we can get people catching buses, they can pay their mortgages off faster. They will save money on car parking. They will save money on insurance. They will save money on petrol. They will help decarbonise our economy. We will save on greenhouse emissions. We will save on noise and noise pollution. We will improve amenity of our suburbs. We need mechanisms and measures to get people on trains, trams and buses. The first step towards that wholesale reform is of course to bring them back into public hands.

The second part of the agenda within transport and infrastructure is of course the north-south corridor. The north-south corridor is a very important part of the picture. The former government talked a big game. There has been not a hole in the ground, not a boot on the ground, not a shovel in the ground, nothing. It is a shame because it is a lost four years and now we are left to pick up the pieces. I hope their delays have not left this all too late.

The former government had announced some very large amenity-busting pieces of infrastructure such as overpasses alongside tunnels. The whole point of the tunnels was to improve amenity, but of course the former government—in the areas that they did not represent—were quite happy to put up very large structures that would perhaps impose on communities. I am very keen to see if we can remove those.

The next part of the energy picture is a lot more complicated. The former government, the Marshall government, made a promise to lower power prices by \$302 compared with 2016-17 prices. That was not achieved. That was not met. In fact, power prices under the former government were on average higher for every year bar one than they were under the Weatherill government. The numbers do not lie.

The ESCOSA do an annual figure and you can compare them. Prices went up dramatically and then they came down over a period of time. As they were coming down they were still higher than they were in 2016-17, so the government's promise was to have power prices this financial year at about \$1,600 per year, per family. They did not even get close to that number. In fact, it was over \$1,900 and for most of the term it was over \$2,000 a year for the average family. Those types of promises, despite the untruths that were told in here about their commitment, really did speak volumes.

What we are attempting to do now is of course to institute a transition, and that transition is to introduce green hydrogen. This is a complex issue, but it boils down to this fundamental principle: South Australians have used their money to build the largest renewable plant in the world, South Australian rooftop solar. If it was a generator in its own right, it would be one of the largest generators on the planet—one of the largest. That creates an oversupply or net negative demand which can destabilise a grid because of the intricacies and the physics of the grid in the way that power is generated and distributed into the system when there is not enough demand to soak it up.

The previous government's policy was to turn those solar panels off. They did not want to increase demand: they wanted to turn panels off. That is not a solution to an energy revolution: that is a step backwards. Our plan is to utilise that net negative demand when prices are cheap and take what is a traditionally expensive form of electricity storage, which is to take water and use electricity to make hydrogen. It only works when power is cheap. Of course, when we oversupply the grid power is cheap, often negative, and we can make green hydrogen cheaply. Then at times of expensive or high electricity prices when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing, we have the ability to firm or produce that power using that hydrogen. It is the equivalent of a battery, and it is very exciting.

In fact, it is so exciting that states all across the country are attempting to replicate what South Australia had begun in 2016, 2017 and 2018. I met with a company yesterday who said to me that the Western Australian Minister for Energy told his department that he had one ambition: to overtake South Australia in hydrogen. The truth is that everyone over the last four years overtook South Australia in hydrogen, every single jurisdiction. We went nowhere, did nothing, stood still. The good thing is that now we have a reformist government back in place that is taking renewable energy seriously and is very keen to progress it.

I commend the former government on its expression of interest at Port Bonython. I note that that has taken an inordinate amount of time and has been exceptionally slow, causing a great deal of frustration amongst the participants who have been, quite frankly, very critical, from what I understand, of the process. However, that being said, they did put in a bid for a hydrogen hub and at a federal level both Mr Albanese and the Prime Minister have agreed that no matter the outcome this Saturday that money will be flowing to South Australia, and \$70 million is not to be sneezed at. That money will now be spent in Whyalla on building the infrastructure required to deliver a hydrogen hub. I know that members, including members opposite, are very excited about this.

I want to finish up by talking about the former Premier, the member for Dunstan, and why he deserves to be noted in this parliament. Being Premier—and I have seen it up close now on three occasions—is not easy. It is a hard job. There are lots of demands on time. The good thing for the former Premier is that he will have more spare time now.

Four years of working nearly 24/7, not being able to go out and enjoy a drink, not being able to go out and enjoy a nice meal, not being able to go out and enjoy the company of friends, always working, always on the job—you cannot let your hair down when you are Premier. You cannot go out and just enjoy yourself because, quite frankly, the job is just so overwhelming. Regardless, no Premier has the time to do that even if they wanted to. It is not possible.

The one good thing that has come out of this loss is that it allows those opposite to re-engage, and I hope they enjoy that time. For the ones who are planning on leaving, I wish them well. I know

that the former Deputy Premier has announced her resignation and will be causing a by-election. I suppose the government's perspective on that—regardless of the legality of it—is that, if there are to be any other by-elections, they be conducted quickly and swiftly and at the same time. That would be the appropriate thing to do now that the member for Bragg has compelled us to do so. With those few remarks, I congratulate everyone on their election.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Brown.

At 17:31 the house adjourned until Thursday 19 May 2022 at 11:00.