

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 19 May 2022

The **SPEAKER (Hon. D.R. Cregan)** took the chair at 11:00.

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 18 May 2022.)

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Taylor, I remind members that this is the member's first speech, and the customary courtesies of the house ought be extended in these circumstances. I call the member for Taylor.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (11:02): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and congratulations on your election as Speaker of the house. I congratulate Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC on her address to the house and also acknowledge that the land we meet on today is the land of the Kurna people and pay respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Congratulations to all of the class of '22 on your excellent first speeches. I want to begin my first address to this house with the words that I quoted in concluding my first speech to the federal House of Representatives:

We come here to give service because we early caught the disease of endeavouring to render public services in some sphere and to leave the world better than we found it.

These were the words of Sydney McHugh, a South Australian farmer, veteran and Labor Party member from Quorn who served as the federal member for Wakefield from 1938 to 1940. McHugh's words are old-fashioned but I believe fundamentally the sentiment to be true: what unites us in this place is a desire to do good.

A century later, in the context of a profound cynicism about politics here and around the world, we have a job to prove that. I have found that the best way to combat public distrust is faithful service to your constituents and to your cause. Fundamentally, that means showing up and doing what you say you will do. That is why for the last 15 years I have regularly held publicly advertised stalls in the Munno Para Shopping Centre.

I have doorknocked and called, and I have attended events all over the northern suburbs and the Mid North. I have delivered on election commitments that we made on my election day in 2007, like a GP Super Clinic on Curtis Road. I have faithfully tried to represent people when they have come to me with issues. Because I am a person of strong opinions, I have also argued with my constituents when I think they are wrong.

When I quoted Syd McHugh in my first speech to the federal parliament, I did not realise that I would be following in his footsteps in another way. McHugh served not only as member for Wakefield but also as the member for Light and the member for Burra Burra in the South Australian parliament. It is my great honour to have the people of Taylor place their confidence in me to serve them in this house. But I am conscious, of course, that I would not have had the great privilege to serve in both the federal and state parliaments without the great Australian Labor Party.

Ever since I joined the party in 1992 and went to my first meeting at the Elizabeth sub-branch, I have been committed to this great Australian cause of fairness, justice, liberty and the mutual bond of mateship with our fellow citizens. I would like to thank the Taylor sub-branch for all of their work in the election campaign, particularly our president, Mr Steve Hollingsworth, a former worker at Holden and a delegate for the mighty Vehicle Builders Union.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr Jon Gee, my predecessor in Taylor and a former Holden worker, delegate and official at the VBU. These men were on the frontline to save Holden from closure, and they were on the frontline advocating for workers in the aftermath. I would also like to thank the SDA for their passion in advancing the rights of retail workers. To Josh Peak, Sonia and Tom at the SDA, keep up the good work.

As a former trolley collector, I saw firsthand how contracting can lead to a race to the bottom on wages and conditions, and it radicalised me. To this day, I believe that the fair payment of workers is the foundation stone for a fair society. If you do not have fair wages, you will not have fairness in other areas of public policy because greed will be prioritised as a societal value.

I am so glad that after the long fight, not just by unions but also by the fair work inspectorate, most of the major retailers have now taken action to protect trolley collectors from subcontracting arrangements that undermine pay and conditions. You should all note that the trolley collectors faction in this government is small, but it is significant: just the Premier and I. I think we are open to new members, even those in the opposition. I would also like to acknowledge Mr Ian Smith at the TWU, Mr Peter Lamps at the AWU, and Mr John Adley of the CEPU, for their advocacy on behalf of their members.

So many of the people I acknowledged in my first speech to the House of Representatives are now members of this house or the other place. I cannot possibly acknowledge them all. You know who you are. Thanks for putting up with me. I do want to place on record my admiration of the efforts of the ALP party office: our president, Emily Bourke; our campaign director, Reggie Martin; and our new secretary, Aemon Bourke—a great election result, a great campaign.

A shout-out to the member for Ramsay who knew me in my high school days at Kapunda High, and the member for Elizabeth, who knew me at Salisbury uni. Someone asked me about Salisbury uni the other day and I had to explain that the campus was closed all those years ago. I would also like to give a shout-out to the members for Florey and West Torrens, who were at my first ever Young Labor meeting. I thank them for their long and enduring friendships.

I would also like to thank my two former Wakefield campaign managers: the Treasurer (on cue), and the Premier, both tough taskmasters. I would not have predicted 14 years ago that I should be so fortunate as to serve with both of them in government, and I am so glad to serve as a minister in your government, Mr Premier. The Premier must have taken some notes 14 years ago when he attended my first speech to the national parliament, because I talked at length about urban renewal and the Playford Alive project.

I am keenly aware of the critical significance of the planning portfolio and its decade-long influence on how citizens work, how they live in their homes, their families and their community. It is a vital long-term policy lever, and I look forward to implementing our election commitment to having a review into the planning legislation and the code. I also think my time on the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has uniquely positioned me for the trade and investment portfolio at a time of unprecedented international turmoil.

Of course, no MP or minister is any good without a vast network of talented current and former staff. For my current staff, thanks for the last 50-plus days. Thanks to James Agness, Manny Chrisan and all the public servants for their hard work; and thanks to the former staff of the Wakefield and Spence electorate offices. To Mat Werfel—my office manager, who somehow managed to battle a rare form of asbestos-related cancer, a court case that went all the way to the High Court (and victory) and a demanding boss—I cannot thank you enough. Thanks also goes to Caleb Flight, Nimfa Farrell, Rob Klose, Alex Pados, Ruben Bala and Brad Templar.

I am particularly proud to see a former staff member, Olivia Savvas, become the member for Newland. I was always impressed by her tenacity and maturity and, in the last weeks of pre-poll as I stood on the booth, I had not one but two constituents tell me they were voting for me because of

Olivia's hard work on NDIS and Centrelink cases. Olivia's hard work was typical of the staff in my office.

My final thanks must go to my closest advisers. Those of you who know me well will understand that I hate taking advice and that I would rather charge into battle, sometimes with those opposite and sometimes with the Liberal Party. If I have matured or softened at all, if I am any easier to deal with, any less pig-headed, if I have achieved any equilibrium at all, it is all down to Fiona. She was well trained in Whitehall, in Treasurer Foley's office and in Canberra to provide sage advice. Most importantly, she is patient and forgiving. She is also something of a portrait artist: she paints Labor prime ministers in colour and the Liberal ones in black and white—a visual representation of our state of affairs and, perhaps, our strengths and weaknesses.

It has been a mad journey since I convinced her to get engaged over a dinner and half a bottle of rum one night, and announced it on Facebook, but we have not looked back—and we still have the other half of a bottle of rum to get through. We have been blessed by our beautiful girl, Louise—my other adviser. She is already a great negotiator and clever advocate. I am glad she is here today so she can see it to be it, if she wants, but she might also just decide to be Spiderman. I want to thank my mum, Tina; my sister, Simone; and Fiona's parents, Lyn and Allen, for all their help and support while I was away in Canberra.

For all those Labor candidates contesting the federal election, I am thinking of you, particularly Matt Burnell in the great electorate of Spence. It is a true honour to serve in this place, to serve one's electors and to attempt to serve future generations in our deliberations. Let us all leave the world better than we found it.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of friends of the parliament and also members from the other place, the Hon. Emily Bourke MLC and, momentarily just departed, the Hon. Justin Hanson MLC.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (11:17): It is a great pleasure to be able to provide my Address in Reply speech this morning as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. I would like to begin by thanking Her Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, for her first address to our parliament. Her appointment was one of the many important decisions of the government I was proud to serve in for four years under the leadership of the member for Dunstan.

I regret the loss at the election of those who served in that government as ministers and members. I want to thank them for what they contributed to their local communities and to the state of South Australia either as ministers serving in the cabinet for some or all of those four years or as dedicated local members of parliament, serving their neighbourhoods, their communities, the people and the organisations that make South Australia the great place that it is.

I particularly want to thank Dan van Holst Pellekaan for his service in the seat of Stuart, the former Deputy Premier of South Australia and the former Minister for Energy and Mining. I want to thank my neighbour to the east in the electorate of Davenport, the former member for that seat, Steve Murray. I want to reflect on the contribution that Paula Luethen made in the seat of King, that Richard Harvey made in the seat of Newland and that Rachel Sanderson made both to cabinet as our state's Minister for Child Protection and as the member for the state seat of Adelaide. I want to reflect on the contribution made by Sam Duluk in the seat of Waite.

In particular, I want to thank Corey Wingard, a great friend, who I walked alongside during his journey as the member for Mitchell and the member for Gibson and as a cabinet minister for four years as well. Corey is a real friend of mine and someone I will miss hugely serving with in this chamber.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the work of Carolyn Power. Carolyn and I served on Marion council together between 2010 and 2014. Her passion for the community that she represented was, in my view, second to none. Her desire to help people from all walks of life, her contribution to her assistant portfolio as Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention was one of dedication and continuous service to the people of South Australia.

Again, I will miss Carolyn Power in this place, but I will not miss her friendship because we remain in regular contact, hourly contact it seems sometimes, and I believe she has a great future ahead of her serving the people of South Australia and the communities she is part of in some form into the future.

I congratulate all those members who have been returned and the new members of the Liberal team, in particular the member for Frome, the member for Schubert and the member for Flinders and, in another place, the Hon. Laura Curran MLC. They are great contributors to our team going forward and I thank, in particular, the members for Frome, Schubert and Flinders for agreeing to join my shadow cabinet and making a contribution to keeping the government accountable but, possibly more important than that, developing ideas and a vision for our state in their respective portfolio areas.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your reappointment to the office of Speaker and I have no doubt that you will serve in that role diligently, with fairness and with a great level of aptitude. I congratulate the Premier and the Labor Party of South Australia and the new ministry on taking office and on their election victory. It is no small thing to be able to sit around a cabinet table and make decisions that will shape the future of our state. So, no matter which political party you are from, it is a privilege to get that opportunity, and that is an opportunity I have been incredibly privileged to enjoy myself, that opportunity and the immense possibilities that come from that cannot and should not be underestimated or diminished.

I want to thank the electors of Black and my campaign team for their support and their work which enable me to continue to serve in parliament for another four years. I talk a lot about my electorate. It is a place that I call home, and I have lived in and around that part of Adelaide and our city southern suburbs since arriving here in 2002. It is a great part of our city and I think in many ways it is representative of our state—a group of people, a set of communities, neighbourhoods, streets, clubs, footy clubs, surf clubs, service organisations, churches, schools, small businesses.

It is symbolic in my mind of what being an Adelaidean, a South Australian, is all about. It is a group of people who love their state, love the livability of their state, want to work hard for their families, want a hand up rather than a handout, want to get ahead, pay down their mortgage, send their kids to a decent school and be part of a community. I see those characteristics in the people I interact with and meet every day as a local member of parliament representing suburbs like Hallett Cove, Trott Park, Sheidow Park, Marino, Kingston Park, Seacliff, South Brighton, Seacliff Park and Seaview Downs.

I want to thank those who were involved intimately in my campaign and helped me get re-elected: the many volunteers in the local Liberal Party branch but, beyond that, people in those clubs and those organisations who believed in the type of representation that I sought to provide them and have sought to provide them over the last eight years since entering parliament in 2014, and perhaps a bit before that since going onto Marion council in 2010.

I want to thank my electorate office staff, Jana Kranixfeld, Ben Freeman, Rachel Koch and previously Nathan Howse, for their contribution. I want to thank my branch president, Fran Southern; her husband, Dennis; Kym Rampling; and Deanna and James Brine—people who have worked alongside me, both in my branch and in the community, for an extended period of time.

It is only eight years since I first won my seat in parliament, and in fact it is only 19 years since my parents brought me to live in South Australia in December 2002. I did not want to move to South Australia. I wanted to stay in my bleak little Scottish town because that is all I knew. I arrived here as a very difficult teenager, determined to make my parents' life a misery for cursing me with having to move to the other side of the world, leaving behind all that I knew. I had never driven through a traffic light controlled intersection before moving to Adelaide and I was overwhelmed at

the thought of living in an immense cosmopolitan city. I arrived here as a shy, pale, Scottish teenager. I am still pale, not quite as shy, no longer a teenager and—

Mr Pederick: A little bit Scottish.

Mr SPEIRS: Still a bit Scottish, although when I go back to Scotland people always say, 'Why do you speak so Australian?' So there you have it. But very early on in my time living here, I realised my parents had made a big sacrifice to move their three boys—I am the oldest, with two younger brothers—to the other side of the world. It was a financial sacrifice. It was a relational sacrifice. It was a sacrifice that put immense strain on our family and extended family, but my mum and dad wanted to create opportunity for their boys.

For my 16th birthday, my mum purchased a watercolour painting for me. It is not really what a 16-year-old boy is after for their 16th birthday present. That watercolour painting is of a tower called Agnew Monument. Agnew Monument was built on a hill above our family's farm on the south-west coast of Scotland and it was built in memory of the life of a local politician Sir Andrew Agnew, who served in the Westminster parliament in the 19th century.

Mum said to me, 'No matter where you are in the world, no matter where you call home, take this painting with you and look at it and it will remind you of where you are from. Never forget your roots.' I do not think when my mum gave me that watercolour painting for my 16th birthday that she expected it to one day hang in the Leader of the Opposition's office in the Parliament of South Australia, but today it does hang in the Leader of the Opposition's office.

The painting always reminds me not only of where I come from but also importantly of the sacrifices my parents made to bring their kids to the other side of the world and the possibilities of what can be achieved in this state and this country if you are willing to give this place a go, roll up your sleeves—and I often have my sleeves rolled up—and give it a really, really good crack, and that is what I have tried to do during my time living here.

I signed off my maiden speech to this place in 2014 by quoting the words of John Smith. John Smith was the Labour leader in the UK from Neil Kinnock's loss in 1992 until two years later, May 1994, when he died very suddenly in his mid-50s of a massive heart attack. He was a Scottish member of parliament who had risen through the Labour ranks representing coalmining interests in the central belt of Scotland. He had been the shadow chancellor of the exchequer through Neil Kinnock's period of time in the British Labour leadership and then had become leader after that election loss.

Just hours before he died he gave a speech, using a form of words that I then paraphrased in my maiden speech, because he asked his audience for the opportunity to serve. I signed off on my maiden statement with this statement, quoting John Smith:

With the heartfelt gratefulness of someone who has been welcomed into a new country as if I had lived here all my life, I say: the opportunity to serve South Australia—that is all I ask.

I have now been given the honour and opportunity to serve our great state as the leader of the Liberal Party and, as a consequence, the Leader of the Opposition. I am humbled by the confidence that my parliamentary colleagues have shown in me, and I will ensure that I do not let them down and that I do not let the people of South Australia down.

I am exceptionally proud of the shadow cabinet I have been able to put together. The election result two months ago, while very bad for the South Australian Liberal Party, did not deny me talent when it came to putting together this shadow ministry. I am immensely grateful to the member for Morialta for his role supporting me as deputy leader of the Liberal Party, but I have also been able to establish a diverse team, a team that is reflective, I believe, of life in South Australia. There are six women in the shadow cabinet, there are seven people aged in their 30s, there are nine people with school-age children, there are seven people who call regional South Australia home and there are two fresh generation migrants, of which of course I am one.

I also want to take a moment to reflect on the contribution made to South Australia by the member for Dunstan, the former Premier of South Australia, the 46th Premier of South Australia. I think history will be kind to the legacy of that government. We lost office for a range of reasons, and

there will be an opportunity to analyse those for many years to come, but there was a complexity over the last couple of years, a complexity not seen in modern times for any government anywhere.

It is a complexity shared by other governments in the last couple of years, but it was one that Steven Marshall led this state through. I want to thank him for his friendship, his mentorship, his leadership and his substantial contribution to the state of South Australia. I believe he will be someone who has many more opportunities to serve his community, his city, his state and his nation in the future.

When the government changes, the state changes. That is what happened four years ago when South Australia elected a Liberal government. You will never find me denigrating our time in office. Part of my job, I believe, going forward is to secure the legacy, championing the successes of our time in government, talking about what we have achieved or the things we set in train to be achieved in the future. I will do that with individuals, such as the member for Dunstan, and I will do it with collectives, such as cabinet, government and the Public Service, which of course is the workforce the government of the day has to deliver its agenda.

South Australia elected a Liberal government in March 2018 that created jobs. It built what matters. It opened new opportunities for the state of South Australia. For years, the statistics were very clear: South Australia's economy was lagging. This is because our taxes were too high, our power prices were too high, our water prices were too high, and many of these things had been too high for too long.

Under the 16 years of Labor government between 2002 and 2018 our kids sadly were below average in every single NAPLAN survey. Our public health system was in crisis, after what I believe can fairly be described as the disaster of Transforming Health, the closure of the Repat and the downgrading of other major hospitals. In March 2018, South Australians elected a Liberal government to change our state for the better. I believe that is exactly what we sought out to do and that is what we achieved.

We did more to transform South Australia's economic opportunities than Labor did in 16 years before us. In four years, we delivered South Australia's lowest unemployment in 40 years and the highest economic growth in the nation for the first time in our state's history. We set up our state to seize the opportunities for continuing economic growth in defence, space, cyber, digital technology, high-tech, renewable energy, food, wine and agribusiness and in the creative industries.

We cut taxes for business and investors by eliminating payroll tax for all small businesses and cutting land tax for the vast majority of property owners. We reduced cost-of-living pressures for South Australian households by slashing the emergency services levy, cutting water rates, reducing third-party insurance premiums and driving down the cost of electricity. We supported farmers and exporters through opening new trade offices right across the world, helping make merchandise exports reach over \$13 billion for the first time ever.

In our last budget, we committed \$17.9 billion over four years to critical state building infrastructure projects, continuing the Marshall government's record program of infrastructure expansion and infrastructure renewal. This includes \$3 billion in rural roads, including upgrades to more than 4,800 kilometres of roads in regional South Australia.

As I am out and about—and I have already done a couple of fairly significant regional trips during my time as leader—I am hearing that positive feedback. I hear lots of feedback on these trips about different things but the consistent feedback is that our government committed to improving road infrastructure. That is good for the economy. It is good for moving food and fibre around our state and further afield and, of course, it is good for safety as well. It results, hopefully, in more people getting home to their families night after night without the tragedy of loss on our roads.

We established Lot Fourteen as a beacon of future opportunity. Again, I want to pay tribute to the intellectual contribution that Steven Marshall made to the idea of Lot Fourteen. That will be one of the key things that people look back on when we look at Steven's time as our state's Premier. I note that in one of the debates in the lead-up to the election, when inevitably the person running the debate asks either side to reflect positively on something that the other leader stands for or is about, the now Premier did highlight Lot Fourteen as a real legacy of Steven Marshall's leadership. I think that will just grow and grow into the future.

We know that previously the vision for the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site was not what it could be. Under the previous government, there was talk of potential private accommodation being built there, with flats and the like, but our government had a much loftier ambition for that site. Lot Fourteen now has more than 1,300 people working and collaborating on the site. It is a place where startup businesses and innovative businesses can get off the ground and not only thrive but have the support and the ecosystems around them to thrive into the future.

It is seen as a startup and growth hub to rival anything else in Australia. It is an entrepreneur and innovation centre. It is where we find the national Space Agency, it is the home of the Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre and it is where you can find the Digital Technologies Academy. These are just some of the activities at Lot Fourteen that are ringing in a future of unparalleled opportunity for South Australia, opportunity for young people to pursue their ambitions in their home state.

We have been able to turn around the exodus to other states and overseas that had become a symbol of South Australia in previous decades. The loss of people in droves to other states and overseas is something that we have been able to stem and reverse, and I really do hope that that continues into the future, because having those minds, having those resources, having the capital—both skills and financial—here in this state does really make a difference to the very DNA and the culture of what we are all about.

Under our government, Adelaide became the most livable city in our nation. As the state's Minister for Environment, I was so excited when in December 2021 we were able to secure the mantle of the world's second National Park City, symbolising our connectivity and engagement with nature, with the great outdoors, with our hills, coasts, Parklands and national parks, which find their way weaving around Adelaide. In almost every part of this city you are only a small journey, often a walk, either from the coastline or from one of our state-owned and protected national parks, conservation parks or recreation parks.

This is a vital part of the economic equation, and I hope that during my time as the state's Minister for Environment and Water we saw an increasing relevance and importance of the outdoors in the lives of South Australians. This was not just because I was the environment minister—far from it. I think the time suited this change of connectivity with nature and the environment.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Australia, other states closed their national parks, closed their botanic gardens, discouraged people from going into the outdoors. We actually did the opposite: we encouraged people there. Rather than isolate within four walls, absorbing that terrible news on a daily basis from their iPads and their TV screens, we encouraged people to safely socially distance in the great outdoors. When 21 per cent of your state is national park, there is plenty of opportunity to socially distance in that open space. In fact, if you add all our national parks together, they are about the size of the UK, which is something we should be incredibly proud of.

We worked hard to make our state more livable so that we keep our own achievers here and attract people from elsewhere. Again, following the COVID-19 pandemic, livability and quality of life seem to have risen up the scale of what motivates people to live where they live or to move where they choose to move. So it is not just about having the economic strengths and the opportunities around skills. There is a great opportunity for outdoor lifestyle but also to enjoy the arts and the creative sector as well.

One project that I was so proud of that added to that outdoor connectivity was opening up our reservoirs for the first time in 120 years. Myponga, Bundaleer, South Para, Warren, Hope Valley, Little Para, Mount Bold, Happy Valley: these had been locked up, usually behind barbed wire fences, for a long time, but we felt and believed and knew that, if managed in a methodical, sensible, evidence-based way, we could open up these places to the public.

I often say that we turned Myponga, a great little town on the western Fleurieu Peninsula, from a drive-through to a drive-to. We created a destination there by opening that really stunning reservoir. The suburbs of Aberfoyle Park, Happy Valley, O'Halloran Hill and Flagstaff Hill have been absolutely transformed by the opening of Happy Valley Reservoir, which during summer had up to 2,000 people visiting that site every day.

Since opening those reservoirs I mentioned a moment ago and listed, we have had more than half a million people enjoying walking, cycling, picnicking, birdwatching, kayaking and fishing in these places. This has encouraged a jobs and business boom, and a property price boom, in the surrounding suburbs and regional towns. New cafes and kayak hire businesses have opened, while existing businesses have seen a big increase in their customers.

Opening up our reservoirs was part of our record investment in national parks, ensuring that our precious environment is protected, first and foremost, and that conservation is at the heart of this, while also giving people the opportunity to enjoy our open spaces for generations to come.

We funded a transformation of parts of the River Torrens and the linear park. We revitalised parks across the state from the Flinders Ranges to Eyre Peninsula, to Yorke Peninsula, to the Fleurieu Peninsula, to Kangaroo Island. One of the things I was most proud of being part of, as minister, was taking part in the recovery—both the immediate recovery and the long-term recovery—of the parts of our state impacted by the 2019-20 summer bushfires.

I know that you, Mr Speaker, were intimately involved in many of the projects in the Adelaide Hills and the recovery and resilience-building in that area but, as environment minister, the part of my responsibility most impacted was, of course, the Kangaroo Island region. To be able to visit Kangaroo Island some 14 times in the last couple of years to support, witness and plan the bounce back and recovery of that landscape and that tourism offering was a very satisfying, fulfilling and humbling part of being the state's minister responsible for our environment.

We undertook once-in-a-lifetime projects, such as opening our second metropolitan national park at Glenthorne in the southern suburbs. We increased the total of national parks across the state, adding not only Glenthorne but also Hindmarsh Valley National Park on the Fleurieu Peninsula and Nilpena Ediacara National Park in the Northern Flinders Ranges, part of a World Heritage bid which will see our state's tourism and cultural heritage sector set up for huge success into the future.

We invested more than \$48 million to protect our precious coastline, the frontline and the defence against climate change, and establish what I believe to be a nation-leading, if not world-leading, platform for climate resilience, emissions reduction and, importantly, adaptation into the future. I hope, and I do believe, that the Labor government will continue to build on this legacy.

They did not have a great legacy when it came to the natural environment between 2002 and 2018, but I think public sentiments are in a very different place now, and there will be a great opportunity for us to continue what I believe has increasingly become a bipartisan platform around climate policy and conservation, particularly in an area I know both the Deputy Premier and myself are passionate about, stemming biodiversity loss into the future.

For a moment I want to reflect on skills. At the same time as making our state more livable and focusing on economic development and growth, we realised that we needed to concentrate on skills. In particular, I want to thank the member for Morialta, the deputy leader, and the member for Unley for their unrelenting focus on skills development during our time in government.

During our time in government, we built a pipeline of trained and skilled workers to ensure that South Australian businesses get the workers they need with the skills they need, not just for now but for generations in the future. We have to set ourselves up for success 20, 30, 40, 50 years from now by training our young people—and it is not just our young people because people do transition careers, but it is largely young people—for the jobs of the future.

We know that many of those jobs are jobs that involve creating things, making things. That is why it is so important to invest in skills development. We put in place the foundations for building a stronger future for South Australia. We delivered the biggest overhaul of vocational education and training pathways in a generation so that every child and every school and every learning institution can have access to a pathway that will lead to a job.

We undertook major reforms in TAFE SA which under the former Labor government was failing to meet basic training quality standards, and we turned around a legacy of delivering a drastic 66 per cent decline in apprenticeship and traineeship commencements between 2012 and 2018. Under the leadership of the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and the member for Unley, TAFE SA was ranked number one in the nation for apprenticeship and trainee growth.

We wanted to create opportunities for people in every part of our state—in our regional cities and towns, in our suburbs, from Golden Grove to Hallett Cove. We wanted to create these opportunities for young people to find their way into trades and then into jobs and developing their own small businesses, should that be the ambition that they strive for.

From mid-2018 our Skilling South Australia program created 53,000 apprenticeships and traineeships. In fact, more than 3,300 employers took on an apprentice for the first time. Hopefully, that experience and the support they got will lead them to do that again and again, and they will build the hiring of apprentices into the way that they do business.

The challenge for the new government is to continue to grow South Australia's future workforce while keeping taxes and other costs down so that businesses can make that potentially short-term sacrifice to bring on board an apprentice, to build up the capacity of their business, to build up the skills of the individual so that everyone benefits.

Another enduring achievement of the Marshall government will be our reforms in education. We improved literacy and numeracy outcomes, boosted entrepreneurial and skills-based training in schools, reinvigorated the study of languages, addressed bullying and moved year 7 into high school. We will remain committed to delivering world-class education for our children and young people from early childhood right through to their first jobs and beyond.

Throughout the pandemic we worked exceptionally hard to keep schools and early childhood services open and to keep children learning. They will continue to benefit throughout their time in education from having had less disruption to their learning than any other students across our nation—multiplied many times across the world. There were education systems shut down for more than a year in some parts of the world, and studies are showing the generational impact that that lost education, that reduced education quality, for that period of time will have on their lives.

Our achievement of keeping young people in schools is an outstanding achievement, and I want to pay tribute to the teachers and the workforces within our schools who made that happen, because it was not just the government: far from it. There were thousands of teachers across our state who took a risk—it might have been a small risk in some ways in the scheme of things, but they took a risk—by remaining in school, teaching, at that time. This is an outstanding achievement, and it ought to be celebrated.

Under our government annual education spending increased by around \$770 million on Labor's last year in office. This included more than \$50 million for an Early Learning Strategy to provide the youngest children in our education system with the best possible start to their journey. We invested \$1.5 billion, the largest amount of any state government in history, to build five brand-new schools, upgrade more than 100 schools and undertake maintenance at every government school and preschool in South Australia.

Under the former Labor government, South Australian kids were below average in every single NAPLAN category. Our evidence-backed literacy guarantee delivered real improvement in learning outcomes for our students, while improvements in every year level compared to the national average. To give greater support to our students in the digital age, we delivered high-speed internet to every school in South Australia.

No previous South Australian government implemented more of its commitments for a single term across all portfolios than the Marshall Liberal government, and we did it while lowering taxes and dealing with an unprecedented global pandemic. I will talk about our legacy because that is important to do. I will not obsess on the past, but I will celebrate what we achieved. In politics, it is not what you say that counts: it is what you do and it is what you deliver.

All recent Labor governments have come to office in South Australia promising not to raise taxes, but they all did. Labor has come into office this time promising that it will fix ambulance ramping and make very significant investments in our healthcare system as well as many other things through massive additional expenditure. Words are cheap; they do not wipe out actions, and we want to see real action from this government.

We will give them the benefit of the doubt that they will aspire to and then deliver on these promises, but it is our job as an opposition in the Westminster system of democracy to scrutinise, to

hold to account, and of course importantly—and I will put a lot of importance on this—to cast alternative ideas, developing an alternative vision for the state. It might not be entirely different in every policy area. It might have different nuanced focuses in certain areas; it might be completely different in others. But we will work incredibly hard to hold the government to account and relentlessly cast an alternative positive vision for the state of South Australia. Good oppositions mean better governments, and we should never forget this.

Ambulance ramping started 10 years ago under Labor's watch. I have friends who are paramedics, and they send me information about being ramped. They have been doing it for many years. They were doing it before we were elected in 2018. They want to see it end, I want to see it end, South Australians want to see it end, the Liberal opposition want to see it end and I have every belief that the Labor Party want to see ambulance ramping end as well—because who would not want to see it end? It is a far from ideal attribute of the current health system. We need to make sure that the Labor government follow through on their commitments and policy solutions for this. I hope their policy solutions work. Some of them may; some of them may not. We will be watching closely, as we should.

We know that when the now Premier was health minister, the Repat closed and other hospitals were downgraded. These actions only added to the pressures across our hospitals which have contributed to ramping over more recent years. Of course, we tore up Labor's contract to sell off the Repat and expanded and upgraded other hospitals across the state. We had plans to do more. The Labor government have plans to do more. I look forward to seeing those plans come to fruition.

Labor has inherited a public health system with more doctors, more nurses, more midwives and more paramedics than ever before in South Australia's history. Total staffing in the public health system in 2022 is 2,500 higher than the mid-2018 levels. South Australians are being cared for by more health professionals in bigger and better hospitals. This includes upgrades to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and at Modbury, Noarlunga and Flinders hospitals—either completed or near completion.

The emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre is now the biggest in the state. We did all the work to have a new Women's and Children's Hospital planned and designed, which will allow construction to begin later this year. The Marshall government increased beds in our hospitals and in our emergency departments. We invested in programs that enable more people to be treated in their homes and communities, which the vast majority of South Australians would prefer where appropriate, rather than being transferred to an emergency department or to a hospital.

The last data on ramping available to the Marshall government showed that ramping levels were dropping. The time delays ambulances were experiencing on the ramp at metropolitan hospitals had dropped by almost half since October. Our spending per capita on ambulance services was the second highest in Australia.

At the election, a majority of South Australians put their trust in Labor to fix a problem that Labor created. The now Premier promised he would do so without raising taxes or cutting other services. He was supported by an industrial and a political campaign led by officials of the Ambulance Employees Association. Let me put on record today that I want to establish working relationships with employee representative organisations across all sectors and aspects of our state, none more so than the Ambulance Employees Association because they have a duty to advocate for their members, and that means working with the Labor government and the Liberal opposition.

My door will always be open to Leah Watkins and the team from the Ambulance Employees Association to work with me to hold the government to account and to develop an alternative vision and alternative ideas for how we should manage a resilient, successful, vibrant, service-oriented ambulance service for our state.

We know that the campaign that the Ambulance Employees Association and the Labor Party waged against the Liberal government will cost South Australian taxpayers at least \$4 million in revenue lost following union-directed industrial action, which banned the collection of ambulance fees directed by the union.

The Premier and his government were completely compromised in their handling of this matter by the Premier's past union involvement, when he condoned the use of industrial action like

this. We will keep a very close eye on how this moves forward to ensure that the eager appearance of the Premier and his now health minister with ambulance union officials at numerous press conferences where statements were made that were often untruthful does not continue into the future.

While he was health minister, the legacy of our new Premier was the Transforming Health disaster, which a Liberal government had to unravel while managing a global pandemic. We did this at the same time as growing our economy at the fastest rate in the nation. Unlike those opposite, who remain ashamed of their record when last in government, we will stand by our record. It is a legacy that again I will repeat: I believe history will treat the Marshall government well and particularly the role of the member for Dunstan will grow over time.

I will work to champion and protect that legacy, but I will not put my head in the sand when reflecting on things we could have done better. Of course, there are things that could have been done better, and we will work to identify those, think about those, reflect on how we can respond to those and build relationships with certain groups better into the future. Our legacy, though, is that South Australia now has a future offering new and exciting opportunities to live and work in an environment that is second to none, not only in the country but in the world. We will be proud of what this state can achieve, and we will ensure that our vision is in step with what the people of South Australia want from their alternative government.

As I mentioned, it is the role in the Westminster system for oppositions to scrutinise and challenge, but it is not the role of oppositions to diminish the state we live in, to pull down individuals, to pull down business opportunities, to trash reputations, and that will not be our approach. We will not be a carping opposition. We will hold the government to account, as is our duty, but I want us to be relentlessly positive.

We have a great opportunity as an opposition. It is an exciting opportunity, to work with the government when we can, to work with South Australian businesses, with NGOs, with service organisations, with employee representative bodies and with academic institutions to cast that new vision for South Australia. We will not oppose for the sake of opposing, but we will participate fully in the debate of new laws and continue to examine the need for existing laws. We will insist that the Labor Party governs for all South Australians, not just those in marginal seats, and we will ensure that our regions are looked after, because our regions do serious heavy lifting for our state's economy.

I will endeavour to visit regional South Australia as often as possible. I have already met with 13 regional councils in the Limestone Coast, in the Mid North and on Yorke Peninsula, and next week I will visit Eyre Peninsula, the member for Flinders' electorate, to visit Ceduna council, Elliston council, Streaky Bay council, the Lower Eyre Peninsula council, Port Lincoln council and Tumby Bay council. I will catch up with the RDA when I am there. I will hopefully speak to representatives of the landscape board. I will meet with local businesses. My job will be to work with my team, the shadow cabinet and the Liberal opposition to listen to South Australians about what they want for their state.

We will fulfil our duty to ensure that South Australians have a credible alternative to the government now in office. We will not keep these benches warm for the sake of it. We will be working to win in 2026 because, if we do not do that, what is the point of us? We have an opportunity to grab hold of new ideas, to look across the globe, to bring those ideas to South Australia and to make this state the very best that it can be.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Gardner.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (12:07): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable messages from the Legislative Council concerning the South Australian Public Health (COVID-19) Amendment Bill to be considered prior to the Address in Reply being adopted.

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

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

Motion carried.

Bills

CIVIL LIABILITY (BYO CONTAINERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

No. 1. Clause 3, page 3, after line 2—Insert:

90AB—Principles

The principles set out in section 14 (other than section 14(6), (7) and (9)) apply for the purposes of this Part in the same way as they apply to Parts 10 and 11.

No. 2. Clause 3, page 3, after line 29 [clause 3, inserted section 90B]—

After subsection (3) insert:

(4) The Minister must, before the end of the 7th day after a direction is issued under this section, cause a document or documents setting out the relevant health advice for the direction to be published on a website determined by the Minister.

(5) In this clause—

relevant health advice for a direction means advice provided by the Chief Public Health Officer or by other officers of the Department to any Ministers of the Crown in respect of the issuing of the direction.

No. 3. Clause 3, page 5, after line 14—Insert:

90F—Appeal rights

(1) If a person is subject to a direction under this Part that the person must isolate or quarantine at a place other than the person's place of residence or another location chosen by the person, the person may apply to the Magistrates Court for a review of the direction.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to a direction continued in force pursuant to Schedule 1 clause 2 of the *South Australian Public Health (COVID-19) Amendment Act 2022*.

(3) An application under subsection (1) may be instituted at any time during the currency of the direction (and, subject to subsection (4), more than 1 application may be made while a direction is in force).

(4) If a second or subsequent application is made with respect to the same direction, the Magistrates Court must first consider whether there has been a significant change in the material circumstances of the case and should, unless the Magistrates Court in its discretion determines otherwise, decline to proceed with the application (if it appears that the proceedings would simply result in a rehearing of the matter without such a change in circumstances).

(5) The following provisions will apply in connection with an application under subsection (1):

(a) the making of an application does not suspend the operation of a direction to which the application relates (and the Magistrates Court must not suspend or stay the operation of the direction pending the outcome of the proceedings);

(b) the Magistrates Court must consider whether 2 or more applications by separate individuals may be joined or heard together taking into account:

- (i) the extent to which it is impractical or unreasonable for individual applications to be heard separately in view of the number of applications before the court; and
 - (ii) the extent to which there are questions of fact or law that are sufficiently similar or common across a series of applications; and
 - (iii) the extent to which the directions across a series of applications are the same or similar; and
 - (iv) such other matters as the court thinks fit in order to best manage the applications in the circumstances;
 - (c) the Chief Magistrate may make such orders as the Chief Magistrate thinks fit (either in a specific case, in a specific class of cases, or generally with respect to applications under subsection (1)) to assist in dealing with the management and hearing of applications under subsection (1) (and any such order will have effect according to its terms).
- (6) Subject to complying with subsection (4), the Magistrates Court may, on hearing an application under subsection (1)—
- (a) confirm, vary or revoke a direction;
 - (b) remit the subject matter to the person who gave a direction for further consideration;
 - (c) dismiss the matter;
 - (d) make any consequential or ancillary order or direction, or impose any conditions, that it considers appropriate.
- (7) The Magistrates Court may only revoke a direction under subsection (6) if satisfied that the direction is no longer reasonably necessary in the interests of public health.
- (8) The Magistrates Court is to hear and determine an application under subsection (1) as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (9) A party to proceedings on an application under subsection (1) may appeal against a decision of the Magistrates Court under subsection (6).
- (10) An appeal under subsection (9) will be to the District Court.
- (11) The following provisions will apply in connection with an appeal under subsection (9):
- (a) the making of the appeal does not suspend the operation of a direction that has been confirmed by the Magistrates Court and the District Court may, as it thinks fit, make any other order with respect to the operation of any other direction that has been varied or revoked by the Magistrates Court (including, if the District Court thinks fit, to reinstate or vary an original direction on an interim basis pending the outcome of the appeal);
 - (b) the District Court must consider whether 2 or more appeals by separate individuals may be joined or heard together taking into account:
 - (i) the extent to which it is impracticable or unreasonable for individual appeals to be heard separately in view of the number of appeals before the court; and
 - (ii) the extent to which there are common questions or issues across a series of appeals; and
 - (iii) such other matters as the court thinks fit in order to best manage the appeals in the circumstances;
 - (c) the Chief Judge may make such orders as the Chief Judge thinks fit to assist in dealing with the management and hearing of appeals under subsection (9) (and any such order will have effect according to its terms).
- (12) The District Court may, on an appeal under subsection (9)—
- (a) confirm or vary the decision of the Magistrates Court, or substitute its own decision;
 - (b) make any consequential or ancillary order or direction that it considers appropriate.

- (13) The District Court is to hear and determine an appeal under subsection (9) as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (14) An appeal under subsection (9) will be heard in the Administrative and Disciplinary Division of the District Court (but will not be subject to the application of Subdivision 2 of Part 6 Division 2 of the *District Court Act 1991*).
- (15) A person subject to a direction who is a party to proceedings before a court under this section is not entitled to attend those proceedings but is entitled to be represented at any hearing by a person (who need not be a legal practitioner) nominated by them and the court must, if reasonably practicable, allow the person who is subject to the direction to participate in the proceedings by the use of an audio visual link or an audio link.
- (16) A court must, in dealing with proceedings under this section, take into account the need to ensure that its proceedings do not unduly hamper the work of public officials in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

No. 4. New Schedule, page 5, before line 15—Insert:

Schedule a1—Related amendment of *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991*

1—Insertion of Part 5F

After Part 5E insert:

Part 5F—COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee

Division 1—Preliminary

15P—Preliminary

(1) In this Part—

relevant COVID-19 direction means a direction under section 90B of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, including a direction continued in force as a direction under that section pursuant to Schedule 1 clause 2 of the *South Australian Public Health (COVID-19) Amendment Act 2022*.

(2) This Part applies in relation to a relevant COVID-19 direction despite any other Act or law to the contrary.

Division 2—Establishment and membership of Committee

15Q—Establishment of Committee

The *COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee* is established as a committee of the Parliament.

15R—Membership of Committee

(1) The Committee must consist of 5 members of whom—

(a) 2 must be members of the House of Assembly appointed by the House of Assembly; and

(b) 3 must be members of the Legislative Council appointed by the Legislative Council.

(2) Not more than 2 members of the Committee may be members of a political party forming the Government.

(3) A Minister of the Crown is not eligible for appointment to the Committee.

(4) The Committee must from time to time appoint 1 of its Legislative Council members to be the Presiding Member of the Committee but if the members are at any time unable to come to a decision on who is to be the Presiding Member, or on who is to preside at a meeting of the Committee in the absence of the Presiding Member, the matter is referred by force of this subsection to the Legislative Council and that House will determine that matter.

Division 2—Functions of COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee

15S—Functions of Committee

- (1) The COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee may report to each House of Parliament if the Committee considers that a relevant COVID-19 direction—
 - (a) does not appear to be within the powers conferred by the Act under which the direction was made; or
 - (b) without clear and express authority being conferred by the Act under which the direction was made—
 - (i) has a retrospective effect; or
 - (ii) imposes any tax, fee, fine, imprisonment or other penalty; or
 - (iii) purports to shift the legal burden of proof to a person accused of an offence; or
 - (iv) provides for the subdelegation of powers delegated by the Act under which the direction was made.
- (2) A report of the COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee under this section may contain such recommendations as the Committee considers appropriate.

15T—Disallowance of relevant COVID-19 direction

- (1) Subject to this section, if—
 - (a) a relevant COVID-19 direction has been laid before each House of Parliament in accordance with section 15U; or
 - (b) there was a failure to comply with section 15U in relation to a relevant COVID-19 direction and the Committee has reported that failure to each House of the Parliament,the relevant COVID-19 direction may be disallowed by resolution of either House of Parliament and will cease to have effect.
- (2) A resolution is not effective for the purposes of subsection (1) unless—
 - (a) in the case of a relevant COVID-19 direction that has been laid before the House in accordance with section 15U—the resolution is passed in pursuance of a notice of motion given within 14 sitting days (which need not fall within the same session of Parliament) after the direction was laid before the House; or
 - (b) in the case of a relevant COVID-19 direction that has been the subject of a report by the COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee under subsection (1)(b)—the resolution is passed in pursuance of a notice of motion given within 6 sitting days (which need not fall within the same session of Parliament) after the report of the Committee has been made to the House.
- (3) When a resolution referred to in subsection (1) of this section has been passed, notice of that resolution shall forthwith be published in the Gazette.
- (4) This section does not apply in relation to a direction continued in force as a direction under section 90B of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* pursuant to Schedule 1 clause 2 of the *South Australian Public Health (COVID-19) Amendment Act 2022*.

15U—Tabling of relevant COVID-19 direction

On the making of a relevant COVID-19 direction, the Minister with responsibility for the administration of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* must, within 2 sitting days, cause a copy of the direction to be laid before each House of Parliament (and the direction is referred by force of this section to the COVID-19 Direction Accountability and Oversight Committee).

Division 3—Expiry of Part

15V—Expiry of Part

This Part expires on the day on which section 90B of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011* and all directions under that section expire.

No. 5. Long title, page 1—After 'South Australian Public Health Act 2011' insert:

, and to make a related amendment to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991*

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As we discussed in the previous sitting week, this is an important piece of legislation which has been brought to this house essentially to end the Emergency Management Declaration. That declaration has been in place for the past two years; however, we are clearly in a stage of management of COVID where a significant level of restrictions has been eased. However, there are important baseline restrictions that need to be in place. If the Emergency Management Declaration were to end without the passage of this legislation then we would be in a position where those baseline levels of COVID-19 protections would no longer be in operation.

That would be a significant concern for the management of COVID in our state for making sure that we are protecting vulnerable people in particular. Essentially, what we are left with doing is making sure that we have rules and protections in place for high-risk settings, predominantly aged care, disability care and hospitals. There are also some rules in place in regard to masks in airports. Public transport has also been listed as high-risk. These rules have been in place for some time and understood by the community.

As part of that, we have vaccination requirements in a small number of workplace settings as well, much smaller than I think you see around the country. In addition to that, there are clearly rules in place for people who test positive to COVID and also those people who are identified as close contacts. We have significantly eased the requirements in relation to both over the past few months.

In terms of restrictions for close contacts, they do not need to isolate now if they undertake a set of requirements under the emergency management directions, including the use of rapid antigen tests and the use of masks, etc. People who are identified as COVID-positive do have to isolate for seven days and follow restrictions in the directions. If the emergency management declaration were to end and we did not have this piece of legislation in place, then all of that would disappear. Essentially, this is about making sure that we have in place the current set of arrangements that we will continue with into the future.

I really want to acknowledge the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that we saw from certain members of the other place, and I particularly want to thank the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Connie Bonaros for their hard work on this legislation and their willingness to work with the government, with the public health officials, to achieve a good outcome for this legislation that will enshrine in place important safeguards for the management of COVID-19 in this state. They both worked very hard on amendments. We are now debating that consolidated set of amendments that has been agreed to by the upper house, and I want to thank them for the spirit in which we worked.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Sarah Game MLC, who, in her first couple of weeks in the Legislative Council, has obviously been working hard on this legislation in what is a difficult period in her first few weeks in parliament. She clearly filed a whole series of amendments and got advice. We had a number of discussions. We were not able to reach agreement on a whole range of matters that we discussed but we were able to reach agreement on some matters, and I want to thank her for her work as well.

I think it is disappointing that we did not see the level of bipartisanship that we have seen in relation to the management of COVID-19 over the past two years with the opposition. I think it is disappointing that that has now deteriorated in the past couple of days to the point where yesterday we saw the Leader of the Opposition, in one of the most undignified press conferences I have ever

seen in my time in parliament, talking about the Premier being a dictator and this being the Dark Ages. This could not be further from the truth.

This is a piece of legislation that codifies what is currently in place now. It does not give powers to the government in terms of putting in place lockdowns or hospitality restrictions or broad mask mandates—a lot of the things we have seen put in place by the executive under the emergency management directions over the past few years. The penalty provisions are exactly the same as those the previous government had in place for the past two years and have been very wisely used by Health and police over that time.

To do this sort of dog whistling to the anti-vaxxer movement, as we have seen over the past 24 hours I think, has been incredibly unfortunate. I hope that does not continue. I hope we return to a spirit of bipartisanship in relation to the management of COVID-19 because I think it is incredibly important for the management of this pandemic, which has not gone away. We still need to continue the management of the pandemic in this state.

In terms of the amendments that have been agreed to between the government and the crossbench in the other place, these do take the bill further to provide additional safeguards. Firstly, they add principles that should be considered in relation to how the COVID-positive and close contact rules will be set. Secondly, they introduce an appeal mechanism for people who are asked to quarantine not at a place of their choosing or at their home, which therefore would be at a place such as a medi-hotel or other type of quarantine facility. This protection would enable an appeal mechanism to be available to them. Obviously, that would now impact a very small number of people, but it is another important protection that has been added.

Importantly, as well, there is now going to be an oversight committee of COVID-19. We previously had a COVID-19 committee from the Legislative Council that was in place in the previous parliament. The previous government did not want to have this house involved in that committee. This will now be a joint committee of parliament that will provide oversight in relation to COVID-19 matters, which I think is a good thing, so two members from this house will be involved in that committee.

Importantly, if there are new restrictions that have to be put in place in relation to COVID-positive people or close contacts under the new legislation, then there will be the ability for either house of parliament to disallow those requirements. There will also be the requirement to provide and table the public health advice, in relation to those requirements, before the houses.

I think we have come a long way in terms of addressing concerns and issues that have been raised by the crossbench. We now have a number of additional protections in relation to this bill, which again I stress is a limited bill. This is very different now from what is in place around the country. Mostly around the country, it is still emergency powers that are being used. Even in Victoria, where there is a pandemic piece of legislation, the executive has much broader powers to be able to put in place whole sweeping restrictions that we could not put in place here.

I want to stress again that if we are in a position where we need to put in place lockdowns, which I hope never have to happen, or hospitality restrictions—as we saw put in place under the previous government in January—if we did have to look at anything like that, that would not be possible under the legislation we are debating now. It would have to be a consideration of a new emergency declaration either under the Emergency Management Act or the Public Health Act as have been used previously.

I endorse the bill and the amendments to the house. I want to thank again the crossbench and the Legislative Council, and I want to thank all our officers in the department for their hard work on this, particularly Professor Spurrier and Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, Chris Lease. I hope that this will enable us to have in place those baseline restrictions where we can end the emergency management declaration that has now been in place for two years and two months.

Mr SPEIRS: I will speak only briefly because the opposition believes, that this is important legislation and ought to be transmitted into the statute book as quickly as possible. I think it is important from the outset to be really clear that the Liberal opposition supports the move out of the major emergency declaration—

The Hon. C.J. Picton interjecting:

Mr SPEIRS: There may be interjections from those opposite, but of course we have just had a very reasonable speech from the health minister who talked about the reasonableness and how good these amendments were. Well, if these amendments were so good why were they not in the original bill that was presented to the opposition and to our state's parliament?

We made it clear from day one that we supported the sentiment of this bill. We supported that move from a major emergency declaration into public health legislation for the next phase of the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we felt that it had to be backed up by a step-down in some of the penalties.

We had some concern about some of the principles. We wanted to see some sort of sunset clause or end date—we felt that was important—and we thought the penalties should be stepped down. What we were after was not extreme. It was not unusual. It was simply part of what we would see as the holistic transition from the major emergency declaration to the day-to-day administration of COVID. The approach—

The Hon. C.J. Picton interjecting:

Mr SPEIRS: The health minister is again reminding me of what I said yesterday, which was true. I stand by the fact that I feel it is a dictatorial approach to have these heavy-handed penalties that are out of step with other jurisdictions across our nation. It sees us move from the emergency declaration to the public health administration in one way, but that is not backed up by the penalties, practical or symbolic as they may be.

The bill that was presented to the parliament, which the opposition were asked to tick and flick, was in a state that we did not agree with. To be honest, if we had not pushed back, there would have been no opportunity for a crossbench deal to be done to make this legislation much better, and we think it is much better. We would have liked to see the penalties reduced in terms of their quantum and their effect, but this is what the parliamentary process is all about. The opposition has a role, the crossbench has a role, the government has a role. We think where we have landed is much better.

I think we have fulfilled our duty as an opposition. I look forward to the government, the South Australian population and particularly businesses, which have done it exceptionally tough during the last couple of years, transitioning to the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic management, backed up with this legislation. We have got most of the way to what the opposition wanted. We did not get there on the penalties, and that is what it is, but we commend this legislation to the house.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you for the indication from the Leader of the Opposition of support for the legislation and in fact commending the legislation to the house, which is absolutely opposite to what he said yesterday. He said yesterday that we are dictators from the Dark Ages, when he is out there virtue signalling and dog whistling to the anti-vaxxer community. Now he is in the house here today saying that he supports the legislation. I welcome the support for the legislation—

Members interjecting:

The CHAIR: Members on my left!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —but I think that he should consider retracting his comments yesterday, which I think set back the management and the bipartisanship that has now disappeared after two years of very sensible bipartisan management of COVID in South Australia. We saw Clive Palmer-ish comments from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, which I think he should seriously reflect on. This is important legislation. We are glad the parliament has now worked together, particularly with the crossbench in the Legislative Council. I commend this to the house, particularly these amendments as well.

Motion carried.

*Parliamentary Procedure***STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS SUSPENSION**

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:29): I move without notice:

That standing and sessional orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable Private Members Business, Other Motions, Notice of Motion No. 23, set down for 1 June 2022, to take precedence over Government Business forthwith.

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

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

Motion carried.

*Motions***ASIA MINOR GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:31): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises 19 May as a Day of Remembrance for the genocide by the Ottoman State between 1915 and 1923 of Armenians, Hellenes, Assyrian and other minorities in Asia Minor;
- (b) congratulates the International Association of Genocide Scholars and many other nations that have officially recognised the Armenians, Hellenes, Assyrian and other minorities were subjected to genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish Military in Asia Minor;
- (c) notes that this house officially recognised this genocide in 2009 by motion of the Hon Michael Atkinson;
- (d) joins the members of the Armenian-Australian, Pontian Greek-Australian and Assyrian-Australian communities in honouring the memory of the innocent men women and children who fell victim to the first modern-genocide;
- (e) again condemns the genocide of Armenians, Pontian Greeks, Assyrian and other Christian minorities, and all other acts of genocide as the ultimate act of racial, religious and cultural intolerance as endorsed by this house in 2009; and
- (f) calls on the Turkish Republic to accept responsibility for the genocide of 3.5 million in Asia Minor according to the International Association of Genocide Scholars, as many as 900,000 Hellenes of Asia Minor and Pontus, 1.5 million Armenians and 275,000 Assyrians, the displacement and suffering of millions more and calls on the Turkish Republic to finally apologise for this act of genocide it perpetuated beginning in 1915.

Today is the internationally recognised anniversary of the beginning of the world's first genocide, a genocide that saw the destruction of an entire ethnicity and culture of a peninsula that had been inhabited for hundreds if not thousands of years by many minorities. Those minorities were Greek Pontian, they were Assyrian, they were Kurdish, they were Armenian.

It is important that we remember that occasion and we remember it annually, and I have done so for most of the time that I have been in this parliament. Indeed, this was the first parliament to recognise that in Australia, I think, in 2009 when former Attorney-General, the Hon. Michael Atkinson, the member for the then seat of Spence, moved a motion to officially recognise that genocide.

The formation of the Young Turk movement in 1908 was a grim milestone in history. Under the pretext of national security an extreme nationalist party launched persecution of Christian communities, which was the precursor to the 'Turkification of the peninsula' between 1914 and 1923. The peninsula I am talking about of course is Asia Minor.

Reports of what occurred during this period in Asia Minor are horrific, and had it not been for independent US journalists who were stationed there reporting back to the US ambassador, who was then reporting back to Europe and American newspapers about what was occurring, we would not have known that 900,000 Greek Christians were murdered, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered

and 275,000 Assyrians were murdered. In total, according to the International Association of Genocide Scholars, 3.5 million people were murdered—not soldiers, not people raising arms to fight under a banner of freedom, not people inciting revolt but civilians: children, women, men, aged, infirmed.

It was an organised plan to eliminate Christian minorities in Asia Minor, the very definition of ethnic cleansing. People were sold into slavery, sold into brothels, worked to death, marched to death. They were raped, they were tortured, they were murdered. Of those who survived, many were forced to flee and start new lives, like my wife's grandparents. They fled to the islands off the coast of Asia Minor, Lemnos, Lesbos, Kos and of course Cyprus. Those who fled to Lemnos were where the ANZACs staged their attack on Gallipoli. Of course, others fled to the city of Odessa on the other side of the Black Sea, which is currently again under peril from another person attempting to change history.

Of those who survived, many fled to other countries to start new lives. They fled to communities in Canada and Australia and Great Britain, and all over the world where Armenian, Assyrian, Lebanese and Greek populations reside. Today we remember. Since the genocide, there have been no war tribunals, no compensation for victims' families. This genocide continues to be unrecognised by the modern Turkish government. The Turkish government consider these atrocities merely as casualties of a war—indeed, they claim a war of aggression.

To prevent history from repeating itself, it is important we remember this event and recognise it as the genocide that it was. When plotting another genocide two decades later, Adolph Hitler remembered these murders and asked, 'Who still speaks of the Armenian slaughter?' in reference to what he had planned for the Jews of Europe. His rationale was to be as brutal as possible with his ethnic cleansing because no-one talks of the Armenians anymore.

If we do not speak out today, what happened 100 years ago in Asia Minor can occur again. Unfortunately, nationalist tensions around the world are rising again. My mother-in-law's family were refugees from Asia Minor who fled to the island of Lesbos, as I said earlier, at the exchange of populations. My children are descendants of those who fled Asia Minor. My paternal grandfather, George Koutsantonis, was staged in the Royal Hellenic Army in the city of Smyrna, which is now Izmir, which was subject to some horrific battles and slaughter.

It always moves me when I go to the Pontian brotherhood and hear the songs and see the costumes that are worn. Every time those costumes are worn by those children and those songs are sung, remember that it was the view of the Young Turks and Ataturk that those songs never be sung again, that they be erased forever from human memory, erased as an existence.

That is why it is important that we make these community grants to build memorials to remember, to help fund the costumes to support the dancing and the culture. It is not just about enjoying your culture, it is about remembering what they were subjected to. The day of 19 May will always be remembered and continue to be remembered hopefully throughout Australia, Canada and the world as a day of mourning for all who suffered at the brutal and murderous hands of the Turkish military.

I also point out that the Turkish civilians of the that peninsula were also victims. This was not a brutal uprising initiated by the local populations. They had coexisted for generations, hundreds of years, mosque alongside church sharing together their existence, completely natural for families of different faiths to live alongside each other until a nationalist movement decided that could no longer exist and attempted to radicalise an entire country.

The idea that Asia Minor now has no operating Christian churches is appalling and it should be remembered. We see now today in Northern Cyprus the same attempt to erase that history, again against the wishes of the indigenous Turkish Cypriot communities and the Greek Cypriot communities who coexisted and shared power for such a long time. Indeed, I know from my visits to Cyprus and my engagement with Cyprus that the Turkish Cypriot community is very supportive of the Greek Cypriot position on Northern Cyprus.

Until we acknowledge the mistakes of the past, we really cannot move forward, and we have seen it in Germany. The modern German state recognised the atrocities of the past and have moved

forward to become one of the most prosperous, industrial, progressive nations in the world. They remember the past. They accept responsibility for the past. They do not try to cover up the past.

I truly believe it is in the best interests of the modern Turkish state to accept and acknowledge this genocide. No-one is asking for an exchange of populations again. No-one is asking for changes to borders. What we are asking for is an acknowledgment of a wrong, of a crime. There is no-one left to hold to account: they have died. There is no-one left but us.

I hope that the house can find its way to support this motion and remember the past so that we never repeat the mistakes again in the future and that we honour all minorities and everyone's right to exist and express their faith freely no matter who they are, where they live or where they were born.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (12:42): Firstly, may I congratulate the member for West Torrens on his diligent pursuit of this issue in this parliament because he is absolutely right: it is so important that we never forget and that we support those who lost their lives in such a tragic and horrific manner. Every year since I have been here, I can recall that we have discussed this motion in this house, and it is important that we do so because we can never forget, and we do want to make a difference. It is a small difference in South Australia, but it will make a difference over time.

I was very keen to learn more about this genocide when first learning about it in this chamber because of the work of the member for West Torrens and the former member for Croydon. Turkey, of course, has resisted widespread calls for the genocide to be recognised while historians continue to argue about the events.

At the time, there were numerous reports of Turkish atrocities committed against Armenians and Hellenics. There is general agreement that hundreds of thousands of Armenians and Hellenics died when the Ottoman Turks deported them en masse from Eastern Anatolia and across the Ottoman Empire to the Syrian Desert and elsewhere in 1915-1916. They were killed or died from starvation or disease. Foreign witnesses, including journalists, missionaries and diplomats, reported the atrocities. The total number of dead is disputed, but Armenians say about 1.5 million died and the republic of Turkey estimate that the total would be about 300,000, despite them claiming that the genocide never happened, so there is an interesting contrast.

According to the International Association of Genocide Scholars, or the IAGS, the death toll was more than one million. In a 2005 letter to Turkey's then Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the IAGS said:

We want to underscore that it is not just Armenians who are affirming the Armenian Genocide but it is the overwhelming opinion of scholars who study genocide...

So what is genocide? Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on Genocide of December 1948 describes genocide as 'carrying out acts intended to destroy in whole or in part a national ethnic, racial or religious group'. The question went on to ask: were the killings systematic? The dispute about whether it was genocide centres on the question of premeditation, the degree to which the killings were orchestrated. Many historian governments and the Armenian people believe that they were, but a number of scholars question this.

Raphael Lemkin, the Polish Jewish lawyer, who coined the term 'genocide', in 1943 referred to the atrocities against Armenians, as well as the Nazi massacres of Jews, when describing his investigations. Turkish officials accept that atrocities were committed, but argue that they were not systematic and were not an attempt to destroy Christian Armenian people.

Turkey says that many Muslim Turks also died in the turmoil of war. Of course we have often heard the term in politics 'Young Turks', but I certainly would not want to be described as a Young Turk. It was an officers' movement that seized power in 1908 and launched a series of measures against Armenians as the Ottoman Empire was crumbling through the military defeats of war. The Young Turks, calling themselves the Committee of Unity and Progress (CUP), had entered the war on Germany's side in 1914.

Turkish propaganda at the time presented Armenians as saboteurs and pro-Russian 'fifth column'. Armenians marked the date, 24 April 1915, as the start of what they regarded as genocide. This is when the Ottoman government arrested about 250 Armenian intellectuals and community

leaders, who were later then executed. Armenians in the Ottoman army were disarmed and killed, and Armenian property was confiscated. Who was held to account? Several senior Ottoman officials were put on trial in Turkey in 1919 and 1920 in connection with the atrocities.

A local governor, Mehmed Kemal, was found guilty and hanged for the mass killing of Armenians in the central Anatolian district of Yozgat. The Young Turks top trio, the 'three pashas', had already fled abroad, but they were sentenced to death in absentia. Historians have questioned the judicial process of these trials, the quality of evidence presented and the degree to which Turkish authorities may have wished to appease the victorious allies; in other words, many other people got away with it. They were simply show trials, people were singled out, but many others got away with it.

The latest world leader to recognise the Armenian genocide was US President Joe Biden on 24 April last year at the 106th anniversary of the killings. America hosts the largest Armenian diaspora after Russia, estimated to be more than a million people. The European parliament and the UN Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities have also recognised atrocities as genocide.

Turkey reacted angrily after Pope Francis called it the first genocide of the 20th century in the run-up to the centenary commemorations. Turkey recalled its Vatican ambassador and accused the Pope of having discriminated about people suffering. The Pope overlooked atrocities that Turks and Muslims suffered in World War I, and only highlighted the Christian suffering, especially that of the Armenian people, the Turkish foreign ministry said, of course completely missing the point. France has a large Armenian diaspora, and since 2019 has officially commemorated the Armenian genocide as the 24th of April, including a ceremony at the Paris monument.

The killings are regarded as a seminal event of modern Armenian history, binding the diaspora together. Armenians are one of the world's most dispersed people. In Turkey, public debate on the issue has been stifled. Article 301 of the penal code on 'insulting Turkishness' has been issued to prosecute prominent writers who highlight the mass killings of Armenians. The European Union has said Turkish acceptance of the Armenian genocide is not a condition of Turkey entering into the bloc. I believe this is wrong. I think that they must have to concede that it happened.

To this day, Armenia and Turkey have no official diplomatic ties. After decades of hostility, there was a slight thaw, but since 2009 there has been no real rapprochement. That is why it is important that we support this motion. I thank the member for West Torrens for bringing it once again to this place to remind all of us and our communities, through the community representation that is represented here today, about a genocide that many people are still not aware of.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12:50): I rise to support this motion. I did not know about this genocide until 10 years ago when I became the member for Ramsay. The reason it was brought to my attention is that the Greek Orthodox Church in Salisbury Plains, St Demetrios, recognises this genocide with a service every year.

Father Chris, much loved in the Salisbury area and the wider Greek community, reminds us about this part of history, a part of history that we are not taught about and a part of history that impacted people's lives and caused trauma for many generations. As the member for West Torrens said, if we do not talk about this, if we do not accept it, we are bound to repeat this again. We see more and more leaders coming forward who seek to divide us, to talk about our differences rather than the shared humanity we have.

Not only do we have this yearly service to recognise the genocide but we have a statue in the Spains Road cemetery that recognises the genocide. Every year after the service, with the showing of wreaths and a prayer, we acknowledge and recognise those who lost their lives. I understand that was supported by a previous Labor government. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on the fact that this is still happening and that we must speak up in our democratic parliaments to recognise that when this is repeated we cannot allow people to rule without the voice of the people being recognised because, at the end of the day, we all suffer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:52): I thank my colleagues for their support and

thank the member for Unley. I thank the parliament for what I think will be a unanimous resolution to recognise this genocide again this year and memorialise those who lost their lives unnecessarily and innocently. I wish to thank the house for suspending its standing orders to allow us to do this to make sure that it is done on the day that is commemorated internationally.

I give this pledge to the Pontian community of South Australia: I will continue to do this every year that I am here. The years that I am not here, I am sure my colleagues, whoever they are, across the chamber will rise up and do the same for me in my absence, because we will not forget until this is recognised internationally, especially by those who perpetrated it.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 12:54 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Government Response to Standing Committees—Environment, Resources and
Development Committee: Inquiry into the Coast Protection Board and Coastal
Legislation
Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016—Report of Independent Inquiry—Review 2021

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

Human Services, Department of—Restrictive Practices Guidelines

Ministerial Statement

OFFICE OF HYDROGEN POWER SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:00): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: A global transformation of the energy sector is underway. South Australia's unique combination of wind and solar resources provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to lead in this transition. The opportunity is not lost on the Malinauskas Labor government and is why we developed the Hydrogen Jobs Plan to be our signature energy policy—an energy policy that will set up a future generation of prosperity for the people of our state.

Today, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia as the next step forward to delivering our Hydrogen Jobs Plan. The Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia as an attached office to the Department for Energy and Mining will undertake deliverables associated with the implementation of the Hydrogen Jobs Plan, including the development and construction of the government-owned hydrogen facilities.

This will allow the government to progress the initial stages of the plan until Hydrogen Power South Australia transitions into a government business enterprise to own and operate the new hydrogen-fuelled power plant, electrolyser and storage facility. Further, the creation of the Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia provides for a clear and independent organisational structure that will enable the recruitment and appointment of key positions to create the necessary skill set to deliver key elements of the Hydrogen Jobs Plan.

To run this new office, the government has appointed Mr Sam Crafter as the chief executive, reporting directly to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Mr Crafter has a unique skill set that includes significant experience at senior levels in the energy sector within government and the private sector, having worked for large energy companies, consultancies and small businesses.

Mr Crafter has had extensive experience implementing innovative energy policies in his former role as the executive director of the Energy Plan Implementation team, initially within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and later with the Department for Energy and Mining, under the previous Marshall government. His expertise in implementing energy reforms will be drawn upon as the government progresses the development and construction of the hydrogen facilities and formally establishes Hydrogen Power South Australia as a government business enterprise.

I look forward to returning to parliament with regular updates as key milestones of this transformational energy policy are achieved.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALS

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:03): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: There is no doubt that over the past few years our hospitals and health system have been under enormous pressure. A combination of COVID impacts, staffing pressures, budget pressures, but ultimately a lack of capacity, have led to the pressure.

Upon forming government two months ago, we set to work immediately on addressing capacity in the health system. Our plan included increasing vaccinations and opening every possible bed we could across hospitals to support our healthcare workers and their patients. However, our health system is still under massive pressure. Our hospitals and healthcare workers are managing their busy normal workload, as well as treating patients with COVID, and on top of that we are seeing flu cases and other respiratory issues. In 2021, there was a total of 40 cases of the flu in SA, with two hospitalisations. So far this year, we have recorded 725 cases of the flu, with 89 people hospitalised. This is on top of the hundreds of thousands of COVID cases and 246 cases currently hospitalised.

I want to thank everyone working in our hospitals for continuing to deliver quality care to patients while under enormous pressure: the ambos who are working long shifts and apologising when they cannot get there on time, the nurses who are missing breaks and wearing PPE for huge stretches and the doctors who are stretched across so many patients, all with urgent needs. To them I say: your government is taking every possible step we can to open more beds, to employ more staff and to protect the community.

Every possible bed we can find a space and staff to open we are opening. An extra 173 beds have been opened across the hospital system since we came to government. This includes more beds open at Modbury Hospital, at Hampstead, at QEH, at Lyell McEwin, at Gawler and more. We have launched new recruitment campaigns for staff in our health system. We are promoting vaccination through new campaigns and making it easier for people to access both COVID and flu vaccinations. We have accepted in full or in principle all the recommendations of the Monaghan review of the previous government's SHEP project at Flinders Medical Centre that the review found made the situation worse.

Unfortunately, the pressure on the health system has forced SA Health to cancel some non-critical elective surgery this week. I am advised that fewer than 20 less urgent operations were cancelled due to this but will be rescheduled. Essential surgery is of course continuing. This is a difficult situation for patients waiting for elective surgery and it reflects the pressure the system is currently under. Cancelling elective surgery is a last resort, and this of course is significantly less than the two months of elective surgery cancellations we saw across the public and private hospital systems in January and February this year.

We have taken action to open as many staffed beds as we can, and only a lack of physical beds and staffing is stopping us from opening more. This is to address the significant access block that is leaving patients stuck in emergency departments waiting for a bed. That is why we need to build more hospital wards and hire more doctors, nurses and paramedics. We are opening everything we possibly can with the resources we have inherited. This government will significantly build up the resources across our health system with more doctors, nurses and ambos and more than 300 extra hospital beds to provide more capacity.

With a partner in a future Albanese government in Canberra, we would have the opportunity to add 160 beds at the Flinders Medical Centre and the Repat. This extra capacity will provide much-needed resources in our system and build for the future and, importantly, help fix the former government's ramping crisis. Make no mistake: our hospitals are under enormous strain. This winter poses significant challenges for our health system, particularly for our hospitals. I urge all South Australians to please get vaccinated for both COVID and the flu. It is best way to protect you and to protect our health system.

Question Time

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08): My question is to the Premier. Premier, when will you fix ramping in South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:08): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his important question because ramping, of course, was a central issue that was top of mind for a lot of South Australians in the most recent state election only a few weeks ago. During the course of that campaign, we released a comprehensive policy that was orientated towards fixing the ramping crisis. It is important to understand the scale and the breadth of that crisis to understand our policy prescription and the way we will go about addressing it.

We know that over the course of the former Marshall Liberal government ramping increased by over 480 per cent—480 per cent. It was a dramatic escalation in ramping. It is true that ramping existed within the hospital system prior to the change of government in 2018—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pisoni: Before COVID.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I actually said repeatedly—

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Unley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Ramping was present—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —in the health system in the lead-up to the 2018 election, but then we had the 2018 election and the former government saw—

Mr Pisoni: And then we had COVID.

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —an absolute explosion in ramping. The member for Unley interjects. His interjection is welcome, as always. They are normally quite considered. Of course, the member for Unley might want to avail himself of information regarding what was happening to ramping prior to COVID, and then of course—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert! The member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: For the member for Unley's benefit, ramping was escalating at an extraordinary pace, and then when COVID came ramping actually went down because elective surgery was cancelled. The ramping effort that you oversaw was going—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: And you were around the cabinet table, sir, so one would have thought that you would be familiar with this. But, nonetheless, ramping increased by—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —over 480 per cent over the course of the government. That had a lot of South Australians worried. Ramping in and of itself I am not sure was necessarily the predominant fear and concern that South Australians had: it was more the consequences—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert! The member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —of ramping, and the consequences of ramping were that we saw ambulance response times become completely unacceptable. We saw a situation in South Australia where ambulance response times at the point of the change of government in 2018 were ostensibly that around about 80 to 85 per cent of the time priority 2 call-outs were met on time. So 80 to 85 per cent of the time when a priority 2 call-out was made the ambulance rolled up on time.

Mr Gardner: So when will you fix ramping?

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Then what we saw from the former government was that number fall to an abysmal level. In the first couple of weeks of this year, it went down to 33 per cent.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hartley!

The Hon. N.D. Champion interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Taylor!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Just to put that in context, basically two times out of three when the ambulance was called—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Two times out of three when an ambulance was called at the beginning of this year, it didn't roll up on time. So what we did at the election was outline a comprehensive policy, which was very, very different from the former government's, which included 350 more ambulance officers, 300 additional nurses, 100 additional doctors. We are progressing that policy, we are rolling it out and we look forward to delivering on our commitments over the course of this term of government.

The SPEAKER: I'm going to turn to the leader on a supplementary.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): My supplementary is to the Premier. With the background he has just given us taken into consideration, will he advise the house when he will fix ramping?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:12): The commitment that we made at the election, and I was really clear about this throughout the entire press conferences—and diligent former press secretaries would understand this—was that we are going to fix the ramping crisis.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: That's right.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond and the member for Morialta are called to order. Member for Flinders! Member for Frome! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: If the opposition were paying attention through the course of the election campaign, they might have seen repeated—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

Mr Pisoni: It's all about spin.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: It's about fixing your 480 per cent increase on ramping. So when throughout the course of the election campaign we were asked the very questions that the Leader of the Opposition now asks, we made it clear that our objective was, over the course of this term of government, to fix the ramping crisis to the extent that we start to see ambulances rolling up on time again. We don't want a situation where we see an exaggeration or a prolonging—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —of ambulances not rolling up on time. Our ambition, as we enunciated throughout the course of the election when these similar questions were asked on a repeated basis, is to start to see ambulance response times back consistent with the level that was in place before those opposite hacked the performance of the health system dramatically.

Mr Gardner: You said you'd fix ramping.

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: And addressing ramping properly means seeing ambulances roll up on time. That's what we are committed to delivering. There are clear publicly available metrics that will ensure that there is transparency around the performance of the Ambulance Service. But, I will tell you what we won't be doing: we won't be going to war with the ambos. Part of our—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —plan is to not just give the Ambulance Service—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call. The member for Morphett is warned.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Part of our plan isn't just to throw more and more resources at the hospital system and the Ambulance Service, although that is a key component of it, but what we will also be doing is sitting down with those people who work on the frontline. If those opposite had taken the opportunity to do that at any point—say, the member for Heysen, for instance, if he had spoken to the Ambulance Service in the Adelaide Hills he would have known—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

Members interjecting:

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

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens well knows that under 134 I hear the point of order first.

Mr GARDNER: The Premier is debating. He is talking about matters that are completely not germane to the question, which was when will he fix ramping in South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Standing order 134 requires me to consider the point of order and, if appropriate, to make a ruling. I bring the Premier back to the question.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I spent a lot of time listening to residents in places like the seat of Heysen, and I know that in the seat of Heysen they care about ambulance response times in the Hills—which were appalling. So we have decided to invest in the Ambulance Service in the Adelaide Hills quite dramatically, something I know that you are particularly passionate about, Mr Speaker, in your capacity representing the people of Kavel. Similarly, I know in Finniss they are crying out for additional services and ambulances—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —and additional shifts down at Victor Harbor.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: Premier, please be seated. There is a point of order. I will hear the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens, I will hear the member for Morialta under standing order 134.

Mr GARDNER: The Premier is defying your ruling, which comes to obstruction. At the very least, sir, he is debating, contrary to standing order 98.

The SPEAKER: I am not sure. Member for Morialta, despite your encouragement, in fact I did make a ruling. I just drew the Premier's attention to the question, which I will do now.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The question of course, Mr Speaker, was: when is the ramping crisis going to be fixed? I will tell you what, it is going to be addressed once we start to get these additional resources in place, like in Mount Gambier, like in Kavel, like in Finniss, like in Heysen, but we will see ambulance response times improve once we get those additional resources.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta is on two warnings. The leader has the call.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question is again to the Premier. How many of the 173 hospital beds that the Premier claims have been opened since the election were beds funded by the Marshall Liberal government before caretaker and yet to be opened at the time of the election?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:17): Well, well, well. Here we have the Leader of the Opposition saying, 'You've taken action to open 173 beds, but we were thinking about doing it. We were thinking about doing it. If only we had a chance we could have done it.' What an absolute disgrace! A few weeks after the election we got this bombshell report—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you for protecting me, sir, because everyone will want to hear this. A few weeks after the election we had—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call. Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —this bombshell report, the Monaghan report into what was done at Flinders Medical Centre, what was done supposedly to fix ramping, because ramping was going to end completely according to the former Premier, the member for Dunstan—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —almost immediately.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert, Member for West Torrens, order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: And it was all on the basis of this SHEP plan—which rhymes with something else—at Flinders Medical Centre. A noted national expert—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert, member for Morialta!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in terms of emergency departments and flow, Dr Mark Monaghan, was appointed to review what happened at Flinders Medical Centre. And what did he find? That this program—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —that the former government put in place opened beds in the emergency department but it closed beds in the hospital. It closed beds in the hospital, so actually this report says that the situation has been made worse by the plan that they put in place. So upon forming government we have a plan to build new wards, to build new facilities—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in particular in mental health, which I am happy to expand on later—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —but new wards across the system. But we, very urgently, the Premier and I—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley well knows the standing orders.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —sat down with SA Health, with Professor Spurrier, with Grant Stevens, to look at the COVID situation and saw very clearly modelling which you hadn't released prior to the election that showed very clearly the previous government knew about an impending increase of COVID cases that they hadn't told anybody about, plus we had the crisis underway, existing in the hospitals at the moment.

The Premier and I gave very clear instructions to SA Health that we need to find every possible bed that we could to open. This is in addition to what the previous government was doing; these are additional beds that we have been able to open. This is not the permanent fix that we

outlined at the election. This is what we can do with the current infrastructure and the current staffing that we have at the moment.

If there were more beds that you had built we would be opening them, but we have been left with a situation where we are opening—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morialta!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —as many beds as possible as we can find and we can staff. That's 173 extra beds that we have been able to open in a short time, and we have plans now—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —to open over 300 more. If there is a change of federal government, and there is actually a partner in Canberra who is willing to invest in South Australian hospitals come Saturday, we will be able to expand on that even more with 160 extra beds at the Flinders Medical Centre and the Repat. Ramping is caused by the people who are stuck—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in the emergency department every single day, waiting for a bed elsewhere in the hospital. That means the ambulance can't bring in the next patient and that means, as the Premier has outlined, that people who are waiting for an ambulance to rock up on time are waiting too long.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This is why we need those extra beds, and that's why we have opened every possible bed we can find, and that's why we will continue to build more beds, more wards with more staff to fix the crisis that we have inherited.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for King, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of a former Treasurer and member for Port Adelaide, the Hon. Kevin Foley, and a former Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Patrick Conlon.

Question Time

SCHOOL VACCINATION HUBS

Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:21): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the rollout of vaccination hubs in schools?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:22): I thank the member for King for her question and the very strong advocacy she has provided for her community over the last few years to make sure that we do everything we possibly can to protect our community from the spread of COVID-19.

What we know is that the most effective step, the most effective measure we can take to make sure that we do protect ourselves from the effects of COVID-19, is to get vaccinated to reduce the severity of the illness and also reduce the risk of hospitalisation or in some cases, unfortunately, death. In South Australia, everyone over five years of age is eligible for free vaccination, and it has been very pleasing to see the very strong uptake in that demographic. In fact, 93 per cent people are double-dosed and 71 per cent of people are triple-dosed. However, we unfortunately have a very different story amongst the years five to 11 age group, with only 59 per cent of that age group having had a first dose.

In my travels across the state, and certainly in the last couple of years, I have spoken to members of my community and asked their feelings about whether or not they are going to get their young children dosed. I don't put it down to any kind of vaccine hesitancy; in fact, in most cases the parents themselves are double if not triple-vaxxed. I think we can probably put it down to the fact that there is an assumption that children will have more minor symptoms of COVID-19, which of course in some cases is true.

What we know, and Professor Spurrier reiterated this point again this week, and it is a very important one, is that in some cases children can develop a much more serious case or illness and can in some cases suffer long-term effects as well. For that reason it's important that we do absolutely anything we can in our power to make sure that we make it as simple as we can for those families to get their children of five to 11 years vaccinated. The other reason it is so important is that, although kids often will have milder symptoms, they are very good at taking it home and spreading it to mum and dad and to grandma and grandpa, who are often in a far more vulnerable category than the child themselves.

I was very pleased this week to join Professor Spurrier at Marryatville Primary School, where we announced that we will be opening 40 vaccination hubs across South Australia—40 primary school COVID-19 vaccination hubs. Ten of those will be in regional South Australia and six will be at non-government school sites. Across four weeks there will be 10 hubs operational each week. They will operate on the Friday and Saturday of those weeks and then they will return nine weeks later to be able to administer a second dose.

On the Friday, the first day of each week when these vaccination hubs will be operational, older siblings of the children who go to the school will be able to come and get a vaccination as well and then on the Saturday the clinics will be open to the broader community. Most importantly, in terms of the effectiveness of these vaccination hubs, no bookings are going to be needed so we will make it as simple as we possibly can for these families just to come along with their young kids and get a vaccination.

On Saturday 28 May, we will also be holding Community Vaccination Day, which will provide additional vaccination spots across the state and we will be partnering with local councils in those areas to provide free public transport to make sure that those people in our community who might find it hard to get to these new clinics can get there simply under their own steam or with the help of the local council.

We are bringing vaccination clinics to the communities in South Australia that need them most and we are doing everything we can to make it as easy as possible for families to protect their kids and the broader community from the spread of COVID-19.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:25): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister advise the house how frequently he receives ambulance ramping data from his department or from the South Australian Ambulance Service?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:26): I congratulate the member on her election and her appointment as the shadow health minister, and I see she is already providing good advice to the Leader of the Opposition, whether he likes it or not.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for West Torrens, member for Lee! The member for Florey is warned.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I was going to check my phone for an important reason. I want to give the shadow minister a hint because I was the shadow minister for four years—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond is warned.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —thankfully only four, not one day longer—and, as the shadow minister and now as the minister, I am able to get minute-by-minute updates on the ramping situation

in South Australia because we actually have a dashboard where this is all put online for the whole public to see. So you can just log on sahealth.sa.gov.au—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Lee, member for West Torrens!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and you can find out what the situation is right now.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I find this situation very helpful in terms of my understanding of the health system and how it is operating. As I outlined in my ministerial statement, it is under significant pressure at the moment and I would encourage the shadow minister to utilise the resources that have been available for some time.

I think it was back when Minister Hill was the minister that the dashboards were made publicly available so everybody could see all the data, minute by minute, including ambulance delays at hospitals. I think that is a very welcome opportunity, whether you are the minister, whether you are the shadow minister or whether you are a member of the public.

Importantly, this information is also useful in terms of if you need to go to hospital, then you can see what the situation is in different hospitals at that time. If you live between two different hospitals, you may choose to go to one emergency department over the other by having a look at the emergency department dashboard which is made available for people online.

So I would encourage everybody to have a look at that information, have a look at that minute-by-minute data that we made completely, freely available and I hope that that information is of use to the shadow minister.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:28): My question again is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister advise the house how frequently he or his office receives the ambulance transfer of care data from his department or from the South Australian Ambulance Service?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:28): I thought I had just explained that we receive it many, many times a day—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —because it is available online. But, sir, you will be glad to know that there is more than that. We have actually—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is on two warnings. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: More than that—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —we have actually delivered and made a commitment before the election, which we have been carrying out since the election, to make available compiled monthly information in relation to that.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The shadow minister asks me how that compares. That compares very favourably to what happened under the previous government where every three or four months we had to raise an issue in the media—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —we had to go out and hold press conferences. We had to get journalists to ring the press secretaries—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert! Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Actually, were you a press secretary?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I wonder if the shadow minister might have been one of those people who got those phone calls asking for that information from noted journalists across Adelaide—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and was told, 'Oh, we're not releasing that information. We're not releasing it. We can only release that information every three months apparently.'

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: On a Friday night.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Well, a Friday night, a drop to a particular journalist here or there—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Florey is warned for a second time.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta on a point of order.

Mr GARDNER: Sir, with your encouragement, we give them great latitude in answering these questions. This is nothing near the question: this is debate.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GARDNER: Personal reflections are utterly inappropriate. The question was very straightforward.

The SPEAKER: Very well.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey! The member for Chaffey well knows the standing orders. He was reminded only yesterday of the standing orders in fact, at least one in particular. The minister has the call. I remind the minister that he must address the substance of the question under standing order 98.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I would love to hear from the shadow minister in terms of her experience working in government about how she did things to provide information to the public about ambulance ramping statistics because she played a very pivotal role in the previous government and great adviser to the opposition leader—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for West Torrens!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —but, more than that, to the—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —former Premier, the member for Dunstan, and I think it would be very interesting for us all to learn how that experience worked. But what I can outline is that we have a tripling of that information being given to the public under this government—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —because we have been providing that information every month. We have done it for the past two months and not to one journalist or the other. We have been putting them in media releases—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —so everyone can get access to that information.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call. Member for Lee! Premier!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Taylor!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey! Minister, please be seated. The member for Hammond and the member for Florey can depart the chamber under 137A for 15 minutes.

The honourable members for Hammond and Florey having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This is a very serious issue and it is one that we made our key priority at the election. As I outlined in my ministerial statement today, we made our key priority in terms of investing in the health service, opening additional beds, making sure that we are starting that work in terms of building additional wards and in fact have outlined plans for even more—hopefully, in partnership with a new federal government—than we committed to at the previous election. The shadow minister, in her role, will be able to access the minute-by-minute information. She will also be able to access a tripling of—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —the publicly released compiled information—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —as per our election commitment at the last election—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —because very clearly, in opposition, we called—

The Hon. N.F. Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Human Services is called to order. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —on the then government to release monthly statistics. They didn't do it. We committed to releasing monthly statistics—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We were elected and now we are doing it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The shadow minister was part of a government—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —that did not release information until four months down the track and now she is here, a few weeks later, complaining about our tripling of the transparency available to South Australians. Well, I will let people be the judge of that.

SPIRIT OF KANGAROO ISLAND

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister advise the house about the status of the *Spirit of Kangaroo Island* vessel operated by SeaLink?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:34): Can I start off by thanking the member for Mawson for his advocacy and his tenacity here. He is a tireless advocate for his community, especially the people of Kangaroo Island, who are in a unique position in our state. He is constantly in contact with my office—whether I like it or not. He does everything to ensure he applies the appropriate pressure not only to the government, whoever the government is, but to the people who are providing services to the people of Kangaroo Island, especially if SeaLink is out of operation.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: On 29 April, the member for Mawson wrote to alert me to SeaLink removing the *Spirit of Kangaroo Island* (SPOKI) from service for urgent repairs and the significant hardships this would impose on the good people of Kangaroo Island, an outcome that the member for Mawson and this government were not prepared to simply accept. Largely on the basis of his advocacy, after representations from the member for Mawson, I wrote a letter to SeaLink on 4 May to indicate the difficulties this would cause for residents—as I understand the member for Mawson had done in advance of my letter—to remind them of their notification obligations.

Following this letter and, quite frankly, the tireless advocacy and work of the member for Mawson, the company has:

- added early and late services in addition to the standard timetable;
- temporarily increased the tonnage carrying capacity on Sealion 2000 by reducing the amount of fuel carried, by increasing fuel deliveries and increasing the removal of waste frequency;
- sought assistance from the timber carrier postponing bookings for May at a reduced freight rate, which had an impact on the sailings due to significant weight;
- contacted all major freight carriers to minimise truck movements where possible to make sure we can maintain movement on the island;
- capacity gains from these actions are being managed via a waitlist system to allow priority for Kangaroo Island residents and key customer needs, prior to releasing into the online system; and

- importantly, two car park spaces are being held for last-minute emergency needs.

All of this is on the basis of the advocacy of the member for Mawson.

The initially advised period for the service to be out was from 4 May to 31 May. I am advised that SeaLink have moved significantly faster than originally planned and that the vessel has already left Port Lincoln to return to the island for final works. Final maintenance and the return of life rafts will occur urgently over the next couple of days at Cape Jervis. Confirmation of the date on which it will be able to safely recommence service will be made within the next couple of days. I assure the member for Mawson that my office and I will make sure (and the Premier has instructed me to make sure) that we get services back to the island as quickly as possible through our contract negotiations.

Again, the power of local representation from local members of parliament is important and key here. The strong advocacy from the member for Mawson on this matter has substantially eased, I believe, the burden on Kangaroo Island residents during this very trying period. It is an example of the power of all local members, whether they be government, non-government or Independent, to advocate on behalf of their communities to ministers directly.

This government is prepared to listen. This government is prepared to act. We won't be burying press releases. We won't be hiding information, like the former government. We want to act to make sure that local residents and local communities are heard. When a local community, through its member of parliament, wants to get access to a minister, this government will move heaven and earth to make sure they can be heard, whether they are Labor, Liberal or Independent. I reassure the crossbench of that—that we are prepared to listen and act quickly and swiftly when local communities are in need.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister advise the house where the public can access ambulance ramping data the government claims to be releasing monthly?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:38): We have released that information publicly in press releases, on the press releases that have been put out publicly—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —as well as—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —sahealth.gov.au, as I said earlier.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Schubert, I remind the member for Schubert that interjections are disorderly and that, of course, once you have asked the question it is customary to at least wait for a short period to hear the answer.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Given the Labor Party said that the privacy screen at the Royal Adelaide Hospital ambulance bays was an antimedia screen to hide ambulance ramping, when will the screen be removed?

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

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order from the member for West Torrens. I will hear the point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 97, sir: the member has inserted facts into her question and I ask her to rephrase it and re-ask the question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Schubert, there is some force in the point of order. I will give you an opportunity to rephrase or seek leave.

Mrs HURN: -My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the privacy screen at the Royal Adelaide Hospital ambulance bays be removed?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:39): I do welcome this line of questioning because essentially it seems to be: when will you fix all the things that the previous government did wrong, and how quickly can you do it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Let's look at the history of this matter, which was noted very early on in the short time of the Marshall government in its existence, which was that the government did put up screens outside the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I don't know—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for West Torrens!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —who was involved in that decision. I don't know—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —whether that was the Premier's decision or the then health minister's or whether this went to cabinet and the environment minister and the education minister were involved. I do not know whether the press secretary—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morialta!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —of the Premier's office was—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you for your protection, sir. I do not know whether the press secretary of the then Premier would have been involved in that decision.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The history of this matter is that originally a temporary screen was put up outside the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I think it was, from memory, a Friday night that this started going up and we absolutely criticised the priorities of the previous government in doing this, because they were elected saying that they were going to fix the health system. Actually, they made—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —the problem 485 per cent worse, and one of their only things, lasting legacies, seems to be this screen there. I would have much rather they invested that in beds in the system. That would have left us with a lot more options in terms of how we can address that—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley! Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —immediate pressure on the health system that I outlined—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in my ministerial statement earlier. I would have much preferred that they invested that time up in Mount Barker, where we have a massively growing population and where we have plans to basically triple the number of beds up in that very important growing community. However, that was not their priority. So we made those comments, and then the then government, not only did they put up that temporary screen but then they doubled-down on that and they installed a permanent screening around at some—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —expense. I can say very honestly to the shadow minister, I do not know what the expense of that privacy screen was, but—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned for a third time.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —given her interest, I am happy to seek the information from the department as to the exact costs of the previous government installing that permanent privacy screen. My priority, and this government's priority, is to invest our money in more beds, in more doctors, in more nurses, in more ambos, in more ambulance stations. That is where we will be spending our money and they are the commitments that we have made and will be delivering.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:43): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, will the government honour the mental health bilateral agreement with the commonwealth to establish adult mental healthcare centres in the northern suburbs and Mount Barker?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:43): Very, very good question. I am liking all of these questions today, because this is something I was looking to do some media on, but I might actually outline this today. Do you know when this agreement was signed between the commonwealth and the state government? It was signed the day before caretaker was entered. The day before caretaker was entered—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —this agreement was signed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey! Member for Morialta! The member for Chaffey is warned. The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier, order! Further interjections will regrettably lead to members departing.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you for your protection, sir. This deal was signed the day before caretaker. What has the reaction been to this deal that has been signed? Has it been positive? Have there been people saying this is a great deal? Funnily enough, no. In fact, Suicide Prevention

Australia have come out condemning this deal that was signed between the former Marshall government and the Morrison government.

We have also seen Sonder, which is a significant mental health and health NGO in South Australia, condemning it. They pointed to the fact that we got a worse deal than other states around the country. This is yet another example of the approach to federal-state relations that we saw under the previous government and that we will not be seeing under this government because this government—

Mr TARZIA: Point of order.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —will stand up for South Australia. This government will fight for our fair share—

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order, which I will hear under 134. Please be seated.

Mr TARZIA: The question was very clear. This is clearly debate: 98.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer and the member for West Torrens are called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier! There is a certain enthusiasm and energy in the room; however, it does not mean that the standing orders can be cast aside. Under 134, I uphold the point of order and I bring the minister to the question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Very clearly, this deal was done right before the election. This deal has been criticised by an important mental health NGO in South Australia, by an important national stakeholder in Suicide Prevention Australia, as not being a fair deal for South Australia. So I have very rightly asked my department to undertake a review of this, to compare it to what we have around the country and to make sure that, whoever the health minister is going to be after Saturday at a federal level, we do get a fair deal out of this deal and we get the investment that we need for mental health in South Australia.

This is incredibly important because we know that mental health, the lack of available services for mental health care, is a key driver of the crisis that we see in our hospitals and our ambulances, and this is a huge area we need to invest in. So if we see other states getting a better deal, that's going to make the situation worse here in South Australia. We have put up, from our perspective, a massive program of investment in mental health.

I think when the Treasurer delivers the budget in a few weeks' time, this will be seen as a generational investment in mental health that will be going into this budget. If you look at the investments that we are making, there are three significant new mental health rehabilitation wards across the state; an additional ward that will be part of the new Mount Barker hospital, sir, which I know you are a strong advocate of; more mental health beds in the new Women's and Children's Hospital as well; more Hospital in the Home mental health beds and services; as well as more community based mental health services.

We made mental health a critical driver of our election policy and our investments in addressing ramping and access block across the health system. Do you know why? Because we actually listened to the clinicians and the consumers who were saying that this was a key driver. To be completely frank, the 170 beds that we have been able to open, they are not mental health beds, because mental health beds require a certain amount of infrastructure and facilities that are not available to just open. We need to build those facilities.

COVID-19

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:48): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house about COVID management in South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:48): I thank the member for Newland for her question. I know the member for Newland cares deeply about the health of South Australians and it was certainly one of the things she advocated for passionately in the lead-up to the election, which is utterly consistent with her care for people.

In South Australia today, we have achieved an important milestone when it comes to the management of the pandemic, but it is important to remember that the pandemic still brings with it very severe consequences in our community. As of today, 415 people have died in South Australia with COVID—415 people; that's a big number. Of course, the overwhelming majority of those 415 people have passed away since COVID was let in in November last year.

Just yesterday, five people died with COVID in South Australia. That's a lot. If that happened on our roads, if five people died on our roads in a 24-hour period, it would be on the front page of the paper; it would be the lead item on every news story. But because this tragedy continues to unfold day by day, it becomes, in some respects, less newsworthy. But we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that there are real South Australians losing their lives as a result of this insidious virus, which is why last two years have been such a focal point of public policy making.

In that context, it is important to reflect on the role that we play as parliamentarians when it comes to the management of the pandemic and treating it seriously. When we manage the pandemic and we talk about the pandemic, and we talk about—

Members interjecting:

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

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member is warned!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, please be seated. Member for Chaffey, you can leave the chamber for 15 minutes under 137A.

The honourable member for Chaffey having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: When we talk about the pandemic, the words that we choose as leaders within our communities matter. We do know that there is a cohort of South Australians who have rallied against health advice. We know that there are cohorts of South Australians who have rallied against vaccination and they race towards sources of information that help validate their view, and in a liberal democracy we should welcome the freedom of speech to be expressed. But when leaders start throwing around words like 'dictator' and 'draconian'—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: When major political—

The Hon. N.F. Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Human Services is called to order. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —parties start sharing tweets from people like Andrew Bogut, who has been a high profile Australian sharing information from people, like Malcolm

Roberts, and other elements of the community that aren't necessarily science-based, then something is not right. One of the things that—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —has underscored the management of the pandemic in South Australia has been bipartisanship and maturity from all leaders being shown. What we have seen in the last 24 hours is rather inflammatory language being thrown around that seeks to try to appeal to a certain cohort of people who may not be as informed as those who are lucky enough to be in this place. I think that when you see language like 'dictator' used one day and then the next day we see commendation of legislation that was apparently draconian, then we start to see inconsistencies—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir: it offends the standing orders for a member to reflect on a vote of the house taken in the same session, let alone that day.

The SPEAKER: I will keep the point of order—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens, unless you are addressing me on a point of order, please remain silent. I will keep the point of order in mind. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Consistency matters. Words that leaders use matter. When we race to the bottom on the hyperinflammatory language that seeks to appeal to a minority of people, people need to ask themselves: do they really care—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: I think the Premier's time has expired. If the Premier has ceased his answer, then I will move to another question.

PORT PIRIE HOSPITAL

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:53): My question is to the Minister for Regional Roads. Has the minister written to his own government calling for an increase to funding for the Port Pirie hospital to match the Marshall Liberal government's election promise of \$26.1 million instead of the 50 per cent discounted project offered by the Labor Party?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:53): I am not sure how a hospital fits within regional roads, but—

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Forgive me; the member for Hartley says apparently it fits within the portfolio because you have to drive on a road to get to the hospital.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley well knows the standing orders.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That is the immense logic that we love from the member for Hartley.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We made a commitment in the middle of last year that, if we were elected, this government would be cancelling the \$662 million basketball stadium that was posed to be built in the CBD and that we would be investing all of that money in health, hospitals and ambulances across South Australia. And more than that—and this was something that the Premier was very keen to do—we wanted to make sure that we committed at least \$100 million as an additional investment in country hospitals.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a point of order. I will hear the point of order.

Mr GARDNER: The question was pretty clear about whether the member for Stuart had written to his Labor government minister about the Port Pirie health services and the investment being made there, and this is not germane to that question.

The SPEAKER: It may be that the question contemplated, in fact, two aspects that could be reflected on it. It may be that the minister is reflecting on one ahead of the other. In any event, I will ask the minister to chart a closer line to the question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you, sir, for your advice. We have made significant investments across country South Australia that will all be reflected in the state budget. Very clearly we have made a very significant investment in the Upper Spencer Gulf, not only investment in Port Pirie, not only investment in Port Augusta but investment in more ambulance officers, investment in more drug rehabilitation, investment in a whole range of services across that area. I think in Peterborough as well. I think that additional ambulance officers are going into the Upper Spencer Gulf also, as well as additional paramedics into Wallaroo.

We made that commitment very late in the piece, I think from memory, a few days before the election. The then health minister and then member for Stuart raced out a commitment of their own in Port Pirie. That's clearly what the question is asking about: their commitment. We have made our commitment. We will be delivering our commitment. The member for Stuart is a fierce advocate for his community. He is somebody who stands up for his hospitals.

He is somebody who long before the election had been talking to me about the need for investments not only in Port Pirie but in Port Augusta and right across his electorate of Stuart. I would not be able to stop him advocating for his local community if I tried. He certainly has been on to me before the election and afterwards because he wants to make sure that we get the best possible development for Port Pirie, that we get the best possible investment in his local community, and I thank him for that.

It is absolutely our commitment to deliver on our election commitments and to make sure that we improve these services, which is in stark contrast. I don't think anything happened in the past four years at the Port Pirie hospital. I am happy to be corrected if I am wrong, but we certainly did not see this investment, except for an announcement a couple of days before the last election.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. How is the state government monitoring current pressures being experienced by the building and construction industry?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:58): The building and construction industry is a barometer for our state's economy. It employs 74,000 people. It has played a significant role in stabilising our economy, obviously, through the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the federal election only a couple of days away, we know that so many people are focused on housing affordability—whether Australians can own their own home, get into the housing market, and the like—so it is a matter of public consternation.

We know that the federal government's HomeBuilder stimulus has boosted economic activity by some \$120 billion. The building works supported by this program—some \$41.6 billion—has

created some 374,000 jobs. That's all good news, but of course what it has also done is drag an enormous amount of demand forward at precisely the time we are now hitting serious supply side constraints, which are almost all generated by events beyond our control—by the closing down of China, by the war in Ukraine, by a whole range of issues.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: Key industry stakeholders, such as the Master Builders Association, the Housing Industry Association and the Urban Development Institute of Australia have all brought this up as a key concern. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that several commercial and residential builders in Sydney have already gone into receivership because of the pressures associated with rising costs, logistical delays and a globally fractured building material supply chain. Essentially, builders are being locked into loss-making, fixed-priced contracts that are inconsistent with the rapidly changing price of building materials.

CoreLogic's Cordell Construction Cost Index for quarter 1, 2022, showed that national residential construction costs have increased 9 per cent over the 12 months to March 2022. This is the highest annual growth rate outside the introduction of the goods and services tax. We know that the ABS figure showed that building product rises rose by 3.8 per cent during the December 2021 quarter and that they are now 12 per cent higher than they were a year ago. We are not immune from those factors.

We have seen severe price spikes to building materials over the year December 2021, and that is not limited to:

- reinforcing steel rising 43.1 per cent;
- structural timber prices, 39.7 per cent;
- steel beams/sections rising 24.8 per cent;
- plywood/board, 17.2 per cent;
- plastic pipes and fittings, 24.7 per cent;
- copper pipes and fittings rising 24.1 per cent;
- aluminium windows and doors, 14.9 per cent
- metal roofing and guttering rising 14.8 per cent;
- insulation up 10.6 per cent;
- electrical cable and conduit up 14.6 per cent;
- terracotta tiles up 9.5 per cent;
- concrete tiles up 5.9 per cent;
- clay brick prices up 6.6 per cent; and
- ceramic tiles up 6.2 per cent.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: A member is interrupting me, but these are serious matters for builders so you should not make fun of them. I have written to—

An honourable member interjecting:

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

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: I have written to the ACCC because I think this environment provides the exact environment where there might be price gouging, where there might be a lifting of prices, where there might be margin taking. I have written to the ACCC asking them to look at it.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: Well, what have you done about it? Zero. That's zip—zero is what you have done.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will not respond to interjections.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: Zip, zero is what you have done.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: I have also written to the federal trade minister asking him to extend—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: But what we have said—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders! The minister has the call.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: —is that we reserve—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: —our right to act in the future.

The SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister match the Marshall Liberal government's election promise to invest \$7 million into the much-needed safety upgrades for eight regional helipads in Berri, Loxton, Victor Harbor, Kangaroo Island, Port Pirie, Murray Bridge, Wallaroo and Clare?

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Were they promised the day before the election too?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:02): Yes, maybe I missed this. Maybe this was another one of those election promises the day before the election, when they started to realise that they were in a bit of strife in a few seats.

I am very happy to look into the projects that the member for Frome has raised. There clearly are needs across regional South Australia. I know that this is something that the Premier, when he was for a few months the Minister for Health previously, saw a significant increase in capital expenditure into regional hospitals and health care then, and now we're about to increase that even more in this upcoming state budget.

There is a lot to do. There are a lot of projects that need to be invested in. Certainly, something that was announced a couple of days before the election by the outgoing government we are happy to look into. I am very keen to work with all of our hospitals, all of our hospital boards but, importantly, the health advisory councils as well in terms of the priorities they have for their local areas.

We obviously need to match them up against what the key priorities are in terms of addressing healthcare needs in regional South Australia, improving those capabilities of our regional hospitals, which can ultimately lead to making sure that we can care for people closer to their home and also projects where we can make sure that we improve our workforce capability in regional hospitals. Particularly when you talk to many regional doctors, nurses and also patients, as we do, capital is one thing but the workforce is the critical issue.

While capital investment is important, and we are expanding upon that, we need to make sure that we do everything possible in terms of addressing the workforce situation in country

hospitals. That is certainly one of the priorities. We have been elected to government in terms of actually having a long-term workforce plan, which doesn't exist at the moment, and we are seeing significant workforce pressures right across country South Australia that are leading to our health services being under substantial pressure.

REGIONAL ROADS

Mr BROWN (Florey) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Regional Roads. Can the minister advise what actions have been taken to help South Australians affected by recent rain events? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr BROWN: Recently, northern parts of our state experienced a significant rain event, which I understand has caused damage to key outback roads.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (15:05): This is a question relating to regional roads, so I am quite happy to answer that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Thank you very much to the member for Florey for the question, and I am sure that everybody in this house understands the challenges with the roads in the outback, especially with the rains that are happening across all of regional South Australia, the top end and also Queensland and New South Wales. It was a bit of a baptism of fire for me as the newly inducted Minister for Regional Roads.

On 24 April, as we all know, rain in the north-east of the state was very heavy and created slippery, unsafe road conditions requiring very urgent attention. There were around 30 unsealed roads closed temporarily because of this heavy rain. Nearly 70 millimetres of rain were recorded in 24 hours in some areas, but thankfully this weather did not result in widespread flooding or create supply chain issues. However, the Bureau of Meteorology forecast more rain and possibly thunderstorms in the same areas on 29 and 30 April.

For members who have been up that way, you can understand the change in the demographics up there and the weather forecasts. The proprietor of the William Creek Hotel, Mr Trevor Wright, phoned the road condition on-call mobile on the morning of 24 April to report the rainfall and subsequent road closures. The road condition report was updated accordingly on the same morning and—as we all know in this house—as is the norm, it was emailed to over 100 regional businesses, pastoralists, tourist organisations, SAPOL and other key stakeholders.

As it happens, I have known Mr Wright for many years and was able to catch up with him on numerous occasions during my travels across all the state in my previous role as Minister for Regional Development a couple of parliaments ago. Mr Wright messaged me on 25 April saying that they were being pelted with rain and that a number of travellers were stranded at William Creek. He also sent me some photographs of that area.

The next day, Mr Wright told ABC radio that more than 80 people were stranded at William Creek, which is a very small community, and that supplies were starting to run low. Internet services were down and even the gas to heat the water was getting tight. Mr Wright and I had numerous telephone conversations over those two days, during which time I also had discussions with the new chief executive officer of my department. The department then liaised with SAPOL and the SES to determine supply levels and to develop an evacuation strategy for the travellers stranded at William Creek.

The department's road inspectors attended William Creek on 27 and 28 April to determine when roads could be reopened and where possible. They were opened when conditions were improving. It is worthwhile emphasising that outback roads are monitored regularly by the department for safety and accessibility. In fact, the department website provides regular updates for outback road warnings for people intending to travel in the regions of the state.

It is also worthwhile for members of the public—and this is very important—to check the latest update on open, restricted or closed and unsealed roads before setting off. In this case, the emergency department team liaised very closely with Mr Wright on a convoy of about 20 vehicles carrying stranded travellers that left William Creek heading to Coober Pedy, with SAPOL meeting the travellers halfway. On 28 April, Mr Wright was kind enough to thank both me and Minister Koutsantonis on ABC Radio Adelaide talkback, saying, and I quote:

People were getting down on their medical scripts and they were running out of everything...I think there was a bit of tension there about what was going to happen with the weather [that was coming in] on Friday.

Trevor is a very well-known, respected person in the outback and everybody in this house knows who Trevor Wright is. He went on to say:

So far it's been a good outcome with Tom and Geoff involved in it. It gave it much better direction...they prioritised what needed to be done.

That's what our role in this house: we're here as the bridge between the people and the task of government, whatever it may be. That's why I got into parliament. I want to thank everybody here, I want to thank the department in particular and thank Minister Koutsantonis for his support in this regard.

Grievance Debate

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:10): This opposition is determined to hold the Malinauskas Labor government to account for their election promises in health. Labor and their union allies spent hundreds and thousands of dollars in the campaign to portray the health system in crisis. The campaign was exposed by the independent Election Commissioner as being built on falsehoods. They were elected on a promise of fixing health. They promised that to the people of South Australia and now they must deliver. It concerns me that, in the face of grandiose commitments at the election campaign and the arrogance of this government since, we saw a minister today scrambling for answers.

First and foremost, the Labor government promised to fix ramping. Let there be no doubt about it: there were no caveats, no ifs or buts in the assertions of those opposite, there were no ifs or buts on the election posters that were covering every single Stobie pole uphill and down dale. You could not drive down the main roads of the regions or the cities without seeing this promise. You could not walk into an election booth in a marginal seat without seeing it.

Every single day, the ramping stats and the case studies were handed to the media and exploited by the Labor leader and his team, but now that the election is over it is radio silence. News of ramping has turned off like a tap. When the Minister for Health was questioned on ABC radio about whether he gets daily ramping figures, he said he gets them monthly. So what he called a crisis before the election campaign only warrants his attention once a month. What arrogance! Once a month is apparently enough for this minister to turn his mind to what he called a crisis. It is a crisis one day and a hobby the next.

How can this Labor government claim to be fixing ramping, fixing what they claimed as a crisis and was a centrepiece of their campaign and not be actively engaged, demanding daily updates on the current situation—at least to inform their own action, if not for public publication. The opposition has called on the government to release daily ramping data to support the Premier's assertion that the government has made headway on their promise to fix it.

South Australians deserve to know, and Labor is hiding ramping data at the exact point when the system is under immense pressure with the flu season upon us. South Australia's flu cases have recently escalated and are now astronomically high, when we compare them with this time last year. Public health experts have already expressed concern about the combined impact of the flu season and COVID and what it will mean for our health system.

The Labor government have still not produced their winter plan on how they intend to cope with hospital demand this winter, with South Australia facing its first full flu season since 2019. It was April 2018 when the minister called on the previous government to release its winter plan and that was pre COVID, so this minister has failed to meet his own deadline. South Australians deserve to

know how this Labor government is going to deal with the growing pressure on our hospitals during what will be a very difficult peak winter period.

The minister also demanded in opposition that the previous government tear down what he called an antimedia fence in front of the Royal Adelaide Hospital ambulance base. The minister labelled this fence as an embarrassing attempt to hide this state's largest hospital with a tall, antimedia fence around the Royal Adelaide Hospital to block scrutiny, but now he is in government he has refused to act. He could have had his very own Ronald Reagan moment.

The truth is that this government hate scrutiny. They hate being honest and up-front. They want to hide their failures from South Australia, just like they did for 16 years, and this is rank hypocrisy. South Australians thought they were voting for a government of action, not a government just a few short months in renegeing on commitments, full of mealy-mouthed excuses and hiding the truth. On this side of the house, we will keep this government to account, holding them to each and every one of the commitments they made to the people of South Australia, and we are just getting warmed up.

DAVENPORT ELECTORATE

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:15): I rise to discuss a handful of matters important to my community. My community in the electorate of Davenport and thousands of visitors to the area have been enjoying the Happy Valley Reservoir since it opened last year. The beautiful Happy Valley Reservoir is home to some incredible wildlife, including a huge kangaroo population, other native species and more than 90 species of land and waterbirds. Visitors can take in the wildlife while walking, riding, fishing or kayaking in this gorgeous part of the world. I particularly recommend stopping by Signatures Cafe, a coffee van run by local Flagstaff Hill resident Anne-Marie Thornhill. Anne-Marie makes a mean soy chai and is always set up—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hold on a second, just stop. Members on the left—

Mr Speirs: We'll continue our conversation about reservoirs outside.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the member for Davenport deserves the courtesy of being heard.

Ms THOMPSON: I will go back a second so that we can respect the local business owner in Flagstaff Hill the opposition leader clearly has little respect for. I particularly recommend that visitors stop by—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: standing order 127, reflections on other members.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must confess that I was speaking to another member of the opposition and I did not hear the comment. I really cannot make a ruling, so, member for Davenport, continue.

Ms THOMPSON: I particularly recommend that visitors stop by Signatures Cafe, a coffee van run by local Flagstaff Hill resident Anne-Marie.

Mr Gardner: An excellent suggestion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

Mr GARDNER: I am cheering, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not interrupt, please. Member for Davenport, continue and you will continue uninterrupted. The next member to interrupt her will leave the chamber.

Ms THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I highly recommend that people stop by the fantastic coffee van at the Happy Valley Reservoir, Signatures Cafe, run by local Flagstaff Hill resident Anne-Marie Thornhill. Anne-Marie makes a fantastic cup of coffee and is always set up in a beautiful part of the reservoir with a gorgeous view for people to enjoy. The reservoir is accessible via a car park off Chandlers Hill Road and then there are—

Mr PISONI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the status of the house.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will make a ruling. It is technically correct, but it is also a break in convention. I draw your attention to the members of the opposition. You might have your own speakers interrupted as well.

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is grievances.

Mr Pisoni: Don't try and rewrite history, mate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you reflecting on my ruling, member for Unley?

Mr PISONI: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr Whetstone: He just asked the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey can leave for 10 minutes.

The honourable member for Chaffey having withdrawn from the chamber:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: A quorum is not present. Please ring the bells.

A quorum having been formed:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Davenport, continue your grievance. Can members please either take their seat or leave the chamber. The member for Davenport will continue uninterrupted, please.

Ms THOMPSON: The reservoir is accessible via a car park off Chandlers Hill Road and then there are various pedestrian gates dotted around the perimeter. One of these pedestrian gates located along Happy Valley Drive, near the Manning Road roundabout, has become an extremely popular entry and exit point with people parking their vehicles along the verge at times and on the other side of Happy Valley Drive.

It was not long before my community started to notice some serious safety concerns. People were dashing across the road with children and bikes in tow, at times even lugging kayaks across this 80 km/h section of road where there is no safe formal pedestrian crossing. I have been advocating for safety improvements at this location since long before being elected to parliament. The initial response has been to lock this gate until a safe solution can be found. Whilst the community was disappointed to find that the gate was locked, they understand the safety issues and are glad that it is being rectified.

I am pleased to inform the community that the Department for Infrastructure and Transport is working with the City of Onkaparinga to provide a safe crossing point here so that the gate can be reopened. I understand that this work is being undertaken over the coming few weeks. I will also speak with the council in regard to parking provisions or restrictions at this point.

Further to this, the community has also requested additional gates, particularly on the O'Halloran Hill side. The way it is now, some families who live right across the road from the reservoir are having to drive to get there, as there are no close or safe access points. I have been advocating to SA Water about the possibility of opening additional entry points and hope to report back to the community soon.

The community has also raised concerns about being locked in the park when the gates are closed in the evening. There have been a few stories of people who have indeed found themselves in this predicament. I have spoken with the great staff at SA Water who have improved signage reminding people of closure times and promoting the after-hours phone number that can be called in case of emergencies. I will continue to advocate for ongoing improvements to this beautiful part of our neighbourhood and I encourage members of our community to continue to bring forward any concerns or new ideas.

We are also very lucky to have the Glenthorne National Park in my electorate. There is still much to be done at this site. Right now, they are busy working on a huge nature play space, thanks

to a \$2 million investment from the City of Marion. This play space will be incredible. It is on track for completion in the next couple of months.

I would like to acknowledge Jared Eaton and Grant Pelton from the Department for Environment and Water, who are overseeing the works at Glenthorne. They walked me over the site and explained the fantastic biodiversity work, significant landscaping and the playground works that are currently underway. I also acknowledge the Friends of Glenthorne who have contributed greatly to the planting and conservation efforts.

With the addition of Glenthorne, as well as the new soccer facilities and the international BMX facilities, Majors Road is becoming quite the hive of activity. It is great to see that the long overdue reconstruction of the road is almost complete. It is fabulous to learn that the Marion council intend to build a shared-use path along Majors Road, making the facilities far more accessible for our community.

Last week, I had the pleasure to meet with students of IQRA College, the Islamic school on Majors Road. They raised the issue of safe access to the national park from their school, which is located on the other side of Majors Road. I have written to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport regarding possible solutions and consideration of the speed limit across this stretch.

Finally, while we are talking about Majors Road, I would like to remind the community that an elected Albanese government at the federal election this Saturday will mean we can deliver the much needed on/off ramp from the Southern Expressway to Majors Road. This project is one that the community has been calling on for years. The project would be delivered fifty-fifty by the state and federal governments.

Time expired.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Morialta.

MORIALTA CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (15:24): Thank you, sir, and congratulations to you on your elevation to this role that you now hold as Deputy Speaker.

Every year it is my pleasure as the member for Morialta to honour and recognise the significant work of students in the Morialta electorate who have won Morialta Citizenship Awards. The award consists of a prize worth \$100 per campus, either to one student or split amongst a number, in the form of either a book voucher or cheque and a certificate, which is a highlight I am sure of many pinboards in students' houses around the electorate of Morialta.

The Morialta Citizenship Award winners for 2021 include 30 students from schools across the Morialta electorate. Their involvement in school and community service has been varied, and all are to be congratulated on their tremendous endeavours. That service to school and community can take many forms. Some of them had leadership roles within their schools or house captains or SRC representatives. Some of them mentored, tutored, coached, supported younger students or supported charities.

Involvement in SAPSASA athletics, football, cricket, soccer and netball was included. Many volunteered their time in their library, sports shed, canteen, classrooms and, in some cases, all of the above or other endeavours within school volunteering. A commitment to music programs, bands and choirs was prevalent and many participated in special causes such as mental health, Camp Quality, Harmony Day, Relay for Life, the World's Greatest Shave, environmental programs and, importantly, particularly under the old boundaries of Morialta in the wake of the Cudlee Creek fires, the CFS.

Many raised money and volunteered their time. All of them demonstrated a commitment to their community, to their school, to their state and, very importantly, to other young people both in their school and the broader community. Today, I commend these students to the house:

- from Athelstone School, Kiana Woods, Chloe Morrison, Levi Scott and Eddie Manifold;
- from Birdwood High School, Laura Coventry;

- from Charles Campbell College, Xuan Truong and Rachel Lang;
- from Highbury Primary School, Yianni Papacharissiou and Jordan Kaleta;
- from Lenswood Primary School, Ellie Schultz;
- from Lobethal Lutheran School, Evelyn Hughes;
- a student from Lobethal Primary School whose works were tremendous but whose family would prefer they not be named;
- from Modbury High School, Ryan Oxlad;
- from Mount Torrens Christian School, Monica Allen;
- from Norwood Morialta High School, the last ever winner from that school, Brejana Kildare—of course, Norwood International High School and the Morialta Secondary College will both be eligible in the years to come;
- from Norton Summit Primary School, Isaac Davies and Violet Smith;
- from Oakbank Area School, Ashley Levy;
- from Rostrevor College, Jayden Iuliano;
- from St Francis of Assisi School at Newton, Jacob Short and James Hicks;
- from Stradbroke School—a very large primary school in the suburb of Rostrevor with many students who were graduating last year from year 6 and year 7—a number of winners in Ruben Allen, Holly Zbierski, Kalan Masan, Faith Jayathilaka, Scarlett Power, Ali Castello and Maddie Cormack;
- from Thorndon Park Primary School, Julian Crescitelli; and
- from Uraidla Primary School, Miley Packham.

These students, these outstanding young South Australians, are deserving winners of the 2021 Morialta Citizenship Awards. I congratulate them and I congratulate other winners in the past. I cannot wait to see the positive impact that these young people will make in their schools, the broader community, the state of South Australia and our country in the years ahead. I commend them all to the house.

NEWLAND ELECTORATE

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:28): In the electorate of Newland, I am lucky enough not to have one but three incredible football clubs: the Modbury Hawks, the Hope Valley Demons and the Tea Tree Gully Wolves, more affectionately known as the Gullies. I maintain the belief that I can barrack for all three teams simultaneously, particularly as the senior teams all compete in different leagues.

Today, however, in the spirit of National Volunteer Week, I would like to talk about the Gullies and a man who has dedicated almost his entire life to the support of that club and our community. His story also touches on the other two clubs which makes me incredibly proud of the service he has provided to football across the Tea Tree Gully area.

Those of you at home will know immediately who I am referring to: the man, the myth the legend, Dave Crisanti, President of the Tea Tree Gully football club. The Tea Tree Gully football club, alongside the Modbury Football Club—and I will not say who I believe is the oldest—are recorded as being the oldest operating football clubs in Australia, first playing each other in the 1850s.

Dave attended the beautiful Tea Tree Gully Primary School and then moved on to the local Catholic school St Paul's. He studied playing for the Gullies in 1977 in the under 15s team. He shopped around a bit but ended up at the Gullies as the fitness coach in 1990. I will not tell you who I would have supported in the 1990 grand final against Modbury, but the Gullies were successful, winning their first A-grade flag in 17 years.

At one stage, Dave and his brothers, Anthony and Matt, were all training and playing at the Gullies together, showing what a beautiful club it was and remains. Dave moved over in 1994 to coach another great club, the Hope Valley Demons. He coached the premierships side there and returned to the Gullies in 1996. Dave's son Ben joined the Gullies family in the years following, and Dave's volunteer work started in 2002 as the team manager for his son's team.

Dave continued at the club long after his son finished playing. In 2005, he advocated for a young boy with a disability to play football, a case which ended up in the equal opportunities court. This year, Dave was incredibly proud to host the 2022 APM SANFL Inclusive League carnival at Pertaringa Oval, as was I, catching up with Caz Allen and Simon Nappa at Pertaringa Oval in Banksia Park, who put in so much work to make that dream a reality.

Dave does not know that I am speaking about him or any of this today, so you may wonder where I am getting my facts from. Dave was awarded his well-deserved life membership in 2011 and in 2015 published the most impressive sports book I have ever seen: *When the Going Gets Tough: the Story of the Tea Tree Gully District Football Club*, a 529-page book of the history of not only Tea Tree Gully football club but the Modbury Hawks, the Tea Tree Gully CFS and many other local groups.

I would also like to make mention of the connection between the Tea Tree Gully football club and the Tea Tree Gully CFS, to which there are at least seven joint life members. I acknowledge the tireless efforts of our CFS and Dave's commitment to both. The photos in Dave's book are incredible. My personal favourite shows a photo from the *Leader Messenger* in 1965, entitled 'Molly Byrne's new role', with a photo of Molly tossing the football at the game between Gilles Plains and Tea Tree Gully.

Dave is one of a kind. He is warm, inviting and has an incredibly big heart. He has affectionately nicknamed me Young Olivia and shows me an immense deal of respect and warmth every time I see him. His club and his community are lucky to have him, and I have been grateful for his welcome to the Gullies family. It is always a pleasure to catch up at the Gullies, and I thank him for showing such kindness, particularly to the Premier when I brought him out to visit, as well as to our visitor Senator Karen Grogan when she visited with myself and the member for Makin a few weeks ago.

Dave's parents are equal local legends, Judy and Umberto Crisanti. I thank them for their wonderful sons and Judy for her service to retail workers, particularly at Target, over many decades. Most of all today I would like the opportunity to thank Dave, an incredible volunteer, and I would like to wish him a very happy 60th birthday for 11 May. We are all better knowing you, so here's to Dave.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:33): I would like to continue my Address in Reply and touch on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, where I finished off. I want to make it very clear to the people in this chamber, and I want to make it clear to the people of South Australia, that I believe the federal opposition leader has misled the people of South Australia again and so has the Minister for Environment and Water in this place.

To tell people here in South Australia that they are going to fight for 450 gigalitres of water for the people of South Australia is incorrect. What I have to say is that the 450 gigalitres of water is for the Southern Connected Basin, and that is a very different answer from the spin we are hearing from both federal and state Labor.

The people of the Riverland have given up much as part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan contribution back for environmental flows. What we have seen is that approximately 2,150 gigalitres of water—or 2,130 to be accurate—have been put back for environmental gains to give ourselves the best chance of having a healthy working river, yet we continue to hear from Labor the spin about how they are going to reintroduce buybacks. They are going to decimate communities along the river in South Australia.

The facts remain on the table. South Australia's contribution will be around 32 gigalitres of water as part of the 450 gigalitres of water for the southern connected system for some of that 32 gigalitres of water. I would ask every politician in this place and in the federal sphere to have a

look at ways that we can achieve that water off farm. Look at environmental projects and look at ways we can better manage our wetlands. Look at ways we can better manage the Lower Lakes system and the estuaries. Look at ways we can achieve the 32 gigalitres of water so that we can give South Australia's contribution back to the environment and we can achieve the 32 gigalitres that has been allocated for South Australia to be part of the 450 gigalitres.

I want to make that very clear. I want that on the record, and I want the minister, when she comes in here, to actually apologise to the people of South Australia and to the people of this chamber, that she was wrong, that her talking about 450 gigalitres of water for South Australia is absolutely incorrect.

I move on and thank the people of Chaffey for the great work that they have done, the most efficient irrigators in South Australia. They have led the nation in water efficiency projects and programs. They have achieved best bang for buck. The return per megalitre of water is what we are seeing here in South Australia as an exemplar that should be used right around the Murray-Darling Basin.

I want to thank a few people with regard to the state election. I am very appreciative of the people and the support I had around me when it comes to a successful campaign. I want to thank all of my volunteers who gave up their time—on Stobie poles, on pre-polls and on election day—to hand out how-to-vote cards. It is a heartfelt thank you I say to everyone for their contribution: my party members, the volunteers, the community members and my staff, including a couple of young lads Josh and William who did an outstanding job. Staff at the Chaffey electorate office worked after hours to give me their time and their dedication to help me run a successful campaign.

The women in my life—my two beautiful daughters, Charlotte and Eliza; my partner, Della; my sister, Jenny; and my mother, Judy—did outstanding work, giving me support all along the way through that effort. My A team—great effort. Members of my executive—Terry, Michelle, Emily, Henry, Nicole, Ella and Tom—were the team that met late at night to give me the support, the hand, the strategy that we needed to make sure we had a successful campaign. Again, I thank them all for a successful campaign.

Also, it was remiss of me in my Address in Reply not to mention the former member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan. He was a great contributor to this place and, sadly, popularity won over capability. I want to say to Dan: well done. You represented the good people of Stuart for such a long time and your days came to an end in the 2022 election. Dan and Rebecca, you will be missed in this place.

I hope to see them socially somewhere soon so that we can talk about the good times, the great work in his contribution and also Rebecca's contribution not only as a support to Dan but also as a good friend to the Liberal family. They will be missed around this place. Vale, Dan, but we will see you somewhere soon. Thank you for the opportunity to make a contribution in my Address in Reply.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:38): I want to talk about an issue contained not just to Mount Gambier but across probably all of Australia and certainly most parts of the world, and that is the housing crisis we are seeing unfold at the moment. In my electorate office, we are seeing a cohort of people who are homeless that we have not seen before. People who have jobs—sometimes low-paying jobs, sometimes not, sometimes double income—cannot get a rental premise in Mount Gambier. We are seeing case after case of people who are facing very desperate times. Just this week alone we have had four people come in who have had their tenancy terminated on their rental. The owners are aiming to put that house on the market, and there are no rentals they can afford in Mount Gambier.

This is a very complex issue, and it is not a simple solution, but there is a real opportunity here for a bipartisan approach, a long-term, solution-based approach, and one where I would like to see a dedicated committee be formed with equal representation of Labor, Liberal and Independents to commit and not play politics with the housing crisis which is unfolding and which is going to get worse over the coming months and years.

I would like that committee to look at a whole range of solutions and put forward recommendations that this government and future governments of either persuasion would agree to. I think it does need to recognise the fact that the federal government is very focused on first-home buyers, but what we are talking about here is rental affordability. It might surprise some people that Airbnb and Stayz accommodation just in Mount Gambier have 255 listings. A generation ago, those 255 listings or properties would be rented as part of the pool that could be used for rental properties.

We used to have public housing for teachers, nurses and police. Certainly, when I was teaching in Port Augusta and then returned to Mount Gambier we had our accommodation supplied as public services. We need a re-investment in those public services because they free up other properties. I do not know whether the NRAS scheme can be improved with the NRAS 2.0 included. There are a range of things that I think a committee dedicated to housing affordability could provide and give guidance to not only to this government but also to governments in the future; of course, land availability is one of those.

In response, I have put together a housing action team in Mount Gambier, and some of its recommendations to this government—and I will be writing formally to the minister—involve crisis accommodation funding being allocated locally instead of through the South Australian Housing Association. At the moment, ac.care do the assessment and then people have to wait around to find out whether or not that assessment is going to be funded through the bureaucracy in Adelaide.

Some issues that could be looked at include stamp duty incentives, low-cost housing inclusion for all housing estates, the need for public housing stock to be improved, more two-bedroom and sole occupant properties, a maintenance register, increased funding for ac.care (as funding has not increased for 11 years), more outreach services that assist people with mental health, alcohol and drug issues, and, of course, the bond and first two weeks' rent increasing in line with market conditions. I think a whole range of things can be addressed, and I am moving forward with a proposal for a committee to address it.

Time expired.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

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) (15:43): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 31 May 2022 at 11am.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call on, on a matter of indulgence, valedictory remarks, I acknowledge the presence in the chamber of the Hon. Dean Brown, a former Premier of South Australia; the Hon. Christopher Pyne, a former defence minister and leader of federal government business; and many other friends of the parliament here with us today, including, I see, the former Minister for Child Protection and member for Adelaide, the Hon. Rachel Sanderson, and the Hon. Trish Worth, a former member for Adelaide. I see, too, Tony Hill and, as I say, other many friends of the parliament. On indulgence and by leave of the house, I invite the member for Bragg and any other members to make valedictory remarks on this very special occasion.

Members

VALEDICTORY

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:44): Over the past two sitting weeks many new members of parliament have been sworn in, and it is always interesting to hear their history and aspirations. Your roles as representatives, advocates and lawmakers are ahead of you, and I wish all of you well in those endeavours. Allow me to especially recognise the Liberal members for Schubert, Frome and Flinders, representing a strong and refreshed voice for the regional communities: for the food, of course, wine and energy producers in those regions which are so vital for the future of our state.

For each of us, our early years are formative. Mine was filled with school, stock, sport and fishing on Kangaroo Island. Growing up with the children of early pioneers and soldier settlers who battled bushfires, drought and trace element deficiencies in the soil while carrying the legacy of war, left a very deep impression. My father's decision to move into state politics opened another world. It developed my interest in public affairs and cemented my commitment to public service. It reinforced that the decisions made in Adelaide affected our lives and were not always for the better, hence my interest in politics and public policy has endured for 50 years.

A legal career was an option born from not being the eldest boy child. A visiting lawyer from Adelaide (we called them Rundle Street farmers) looked over a mob of sheep one day and said, 'We'll get a fine lot of lambs this year.' I thought that if lawyers think that they can get lambs out of a mob of wethers, then any fool could be a lawyer. I am indebted to him and the many influential women in our community who convinced my father to support higher education. Locals would laugh: how do you get a lawyer out of a farmer and ballet dancer cross? Answer: poor breeding or just plain bad luck.

The establishment of my legal practice, Chapman and Associates, gave me professional opportunities early on and, indeed, the opportunity to travel and visit other jurisdictions. Twenty years in courtrooms representing clients from all walks of life exposed inequities in the law, particularly for women, and risk to the vulnerable, particularly for children. This provided me with a long list of reforms we needed to address if the law was to both protect us and allow us to prosper independently as a state.

Political parties are important. The Liberal Party of Australia has allowed me to be involved in policy development. As the state president and chair of the campaign committee, I was part of the most successful state election in our history, namely, the 1993 election, with 37 seats. Additionally, I sat on the federal executive and on the campaign strategy committee for John Howard for the 1996 election that made him Prime Minister.

Inspirational and brave women in politics Joyce Steele (who still looks over us here in the Versace blue), Jessie Cooper, Jennifer Cashmore, Molly Byrne and Susan Ryan crystallise for me the importance of female representation regardless of political persuasion. My own time in politics confirmed the benefit of ensuring that women were in leadership positions. Supporting Amanda Vanstone, Trish Worth, Annie Ruston, to name a few, rewarded all of us with powerful representation, complementing the services of Dean Brown, Robert Hill, Rob Lawson, Graeme Gunn, Simon Birmingham and even Christopher Pyne, who brought diversity and intellect from across the state.

I am truly grateful for their encouragement and support when I was tempted into the political arena. My father, on the other hand, very publicly confirmed his disapproval—repeatedly. At the age of 44, I found myself recently widowed, with two adult sons and nothing to lose, and running for political office. This decision changed my life, and I hope has contributed to changing the lives of others.

I would like to acknowledge at this point the people of Bragg, including the residents of the Adelaide Hills for eight years. Their support during successive elections and warm welcome to their homes, workplaces, farms, clubs and communities has been extremely generous. It has been a privilege to represent them all.

For the next representative in Bragg, please note there are three priorities for the people of Bragg. One is a new primary school. It is wonderful that our local schools are in high demand, but it is urgent that a new build be continued for the increasing number of families who choose to make Bragg their home. I thank former Minister Gardner for his preliminary work in this regard.

Two, our Burnside CFS needs a new shed. With the extra responsibilities for fire and chemical spills on the freeway, modern equipment has been provided, the local council can provide the land (I have that in writing) and I have, of course, sent my proposal to the new minister.

Three, our Cleland National Park is a home for wildlife and needs further infrastructure. The park has been expanded as a koala centre and provides amenities for local and international visitors. I have advocated for a zip-line facility to be installed across the gullies to add to the adventure experience. I will leave a list on my desk.

The electorate of Bragg was first established in 1970 and has been represented by Premier David Tonkin and two Deputy Premiers. Understandably, the people of Bragg expect someone who is hardworking and high performing. I look forward to seeing who our local Liberal members select as the candidate needs their support, as I did. Annabel Wilkins, our Bragg SEC president, and her predecessors, are simply treasures—not just for Bragg but in campaigns for Unley, Morialta, Hartley, Dunstan and Colton. Liberal Party members have provided unstinting service to our cause and much advice, even when I did not ask for it.

Jodeen Carney and Ingo Block were Chiefs of Staff without peer. In government, I was ably advised by Maddy, Annabel, Esther, Sara, Alisha, Louise, Eleisa, Oliver and Lucy, and Cara and Jordan from the department were, indeed, invaluable in that service. I would also like to recognise Natalia Reveruzzi and James Francis, who have provided loyal service to me in the electorate and for the people of Bragg following the tradition of hard work of their predecessors, including Dawn, Loretta, Paul, Courtney, John and Leonie.

Many who offer themselves as candidates are not successful. There are casualties in all political parties, and at the last election I saw Rachel Sanderson, Paula Luethen and Richard Harvey, to name a few on our side, continue to work extremely hard but, in their case, in the full knowledge that their victory was on a knife edge. I pay tribute to all candidates who step up to this challenge, as they underpin our democracy in strong local, state and federal parliaments.

I am very proud of what Premier Steven Marshall and our government achieved during our term, marked most notably by our management of COVID-19 from March 2020. It was certainly a time of great uncertainty and widespread fear, but we and our fellow South Australians rose to the challenge and navigated our way through one of the most difficult periods in our history.

Premier Marshall will be remembered for the enormous economic difference made to South Australia, but for me one of the most significant contributions was when he signed up to the National Redress Scheme so that our victims of child sexual abuse could have proper financial and emotional relief, all while out there fighting to secure the Australian Space Agency for us.

I do reflect on my time as the state's first female Deputy Premier and Attorney-General and lament that it took 162 years for there to be a female Attorney-General in the same state that endorsed the right for women to vote and stand for parliament in 1894.

Having been in here for 16 years in opposition, I was certainly determined not to waste time. I did not want to be an anodyne Attorney-General: I wanted to introduce overdue reforms and get things done and try to make a difference. Known as being untroubled by indecision, my determination did, it is fair to say, ruffle some feathers, about which I am equally untroubled.

The establishment of the Court of Appeal in January 2021 had its challenges. However, the purpose of establishing it was to ensure a more effective and efficient means of disposing of the appellate work of the Supreme Court. Its creation recognised that the appellate work involves functions and skills different, of course, from those who are performing trial work and is therefore better performed in a separate court of permanent members than in a court of changing membership.

In just the first year of operation, which was less than 12 months, it delivered over 150 judgements. The number and quality of its judgements are a testament to its success. Although the Chief Justice was not supportive of this initiative, I do thank him for his assistance in its operation. During my tenure as Attorney-General, I nominated a number of judicial and other appointments, which included two presidents of the Court of Appeal: the inaugural president, Trish Kelly, and president, Mark Livesey, who leads an exceptional team of jurists.

A South Australian has never been appointed to the High Court, but I am confident that it will and it should change and I look forward to that day.

The appointments included judges of superior courts, magistrates, as well as a new Director of Public Prosecutions, a Solicitor-General, and a new Independent Commissioner Against Corruption. It was critical that the right individuals were in these roles. I was honoured to have made these recommendations for appointment and I am confident that the best legal luminaries now serve in these important roles.

As members know, I have been committed for a long time to the advancing interests of women. In this regard, I am pleased that on occasion working with women on both sides of parliament achievements have included:

- the creation of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme for those who wish to check if their partner has a history of violence;
- a standalone non-fatal strangulation criminal offence;
- bodycam footage admissible in court as the evidence of DV victims;
- removing the application fee for intervention orders;
- drafting a bill and consultation paper on the implementation of a coercive control offence, which I hope to see progress soon;
- championing the decriminalisation of sex work for sex workers, which I know is set to return to this parliament;
- reforming surrogacy laws to make it easier for couples and, indeed, singles to have children of their own; and
- modernising abortion laws.

I am only disappointed that regulations have not yet been proclaimed, as they were finalised and ready to go late last year. Perhaps it just coincides with my leaving the cabinet. Other reforms included:

- abolishing gay panic as a defence to murder and ensuring that crimes motivated by hate are taken into account during sentencing;
- passing a legislative ban on spit hoods in prisons;
- mandatory treatment orders available for youths affected by drug addiction;
- formally establishing a custody notification scheme and funding of the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Service;
- legalising protections for journalists refusing to disclose a source; and
- initiating reviews into harassment in the legal profession and the parliamentary workplace, resulting in changes to the Equal Opportunity Act.

It has been a privilege to work with the many extremely talented lawyers while I was the Attorney. The Crown Solicitor's Office provided me with significant assistance and, as members know, provides legal advice to government and its agencies. Over the years, funding to the CSO has been reduced. I make the point that, if government wants to ensure it receives expert advice from its legal advisers, resources do need to be injected, not depleted.

I know I have a reputation for being relentless, demanding and—I am sure it will come as no surprise to many—on a bad day even difficult. However, I thank all the lawyers and staff in the department of the Attorney-General for their dedication and assistance and for their frank and courteous advice and the timely provision of it.

I particularly thank Caroline Mealor, a consummate public servant, and her team: Adam Kilvert, Jo Martin, Andrew Swanson, Steph Halliday and, before her, Lucinda Byers, Kellie Tilbrook, Dini Soulio, Nerissa Kilvert, Sally Smith and Alex Hart, and of course Zero, our inaugural canine court companion. South Australia will continue to be well served. Our Solicitor General, Mike Waite; Crown Solicitor, Ingrid Norman; and Director of Public Prosecutions, Martin Hinton, are also great assets for our state.

Policy challenges will continue, and this parliament has a critical role in ensuring South Australia continues to protect our best interests. When I came to this house, obesity and mental health were looming as the greatest of our health challenges in the 21st century. I am pleased to see that so much attention and support have been given to the resolution of these matters from all sides of politics. That surely must continue.

Our success as a nation is built on the back of migration, and I look forward to the full reopening of the borders and South Australia continuing to grow from this and the reversal of the brain drain continuing. We are an attractive state that has demonstrated we can look after our own and welcome new people to the Australian family.

The success and competitive advantage of our state, however, hinges on fair and sustainable taxation arrangements. The distribution of the goods and services tax will always provoke arguments amongst the states, but we are not lesser than New South Wales or Victoria or Western Australia. We are an equal partner in the commonwealth but one which offers lifestyle advantages the larger states cannot.

I will continue to advocate for South Australia outside the parliament. I maintain that population growth is essential to restore pre-eminence in the federation. We must address that allowing population growth to stagnate will only further reduce our representation in the federal parliament. I have witnessed, in my time in politics, a reduction from 13 to 10 seats of South Australians in the federal parliament and an increase in other jurisdictions.

It has long been my view, often to the chagrin of my colleagues, that we should explore the reunification of the Northern Territory with South Australia. We gave it away in 1907. The commonwealth accepted it in 1910. As an aside, I have copies of these acts here, in case anyone is following this speech and, if anyone wants a lesson in parliamentary drafting, just look at the relevant acts and note that there is no time limit on the obligation of the commonwealth in exchange for the Northern Territory with their undertaking to build the railway from Darwin down to Port Augusta. I complained about this to successive prime ministers, and they pointed out this defect, naturally to their advantage. I am proud to say that Prime Minister Howard at least made it happen 85 years after it was promised.

The Northern Territory has resources and is strategically placed to the north of Australia with security infrastructure. It has water, liquid gas, gold and a youthful population. South Australia can provide opportunities for their statehood, employment, higher education and a commercial base that will assist Territorians, not to mention our nation-leading growth in the cyber defence and space sectors.

Australia also has four iconic tourism attractions, colloquially called the Bridge, the Rock, the Reef and the Island. We have two of them in our regions: Uluru and Kangaroo Island. Joined up, we can offer an experience to international tourists from the tropics, across the desert and to the rich environment in the south. Personally, I would like to see the artificial line dividing the central desert people forever removed. Reunification was achieved in Germany after the Berlin wall came down, so surely we can do it before Queensland jumps in.

I remain an advocate of the value of employment. Access to the financial security and reward for those with family responsibilities, children and the elderly, and sometimes those with a disability, remains an impediment. I will continue to advocate for child and parental care, in that the cost of child care and parental care be tax deductible. We have had two High Court challenges that have clearly confirmed that we must have legislative reform. This must change if we are to ensure and encourage a healthy birthrate and give employment and career opportunities to our children.

Robert Menzies was the founder of our political party, the Liberal Party of Australia, and his words should always form the basis of our philosophical direction: 'We must govern for all and march down the middle of the road.' We are not a party based on sectional interests and I am proud of that. We represent everyone from all walks of life and support them to make the choices they think are best for them and their families. I am proud that every Liberal Party member has a vote on who will represent them in this parliament and that no-one can tell them how to vote when they get here on pain of political exile.

It is undeniably true that we need representatives from more diverse backgrounds so that we can continue to govern for all. Unsurprisingly, gender diversity has been the focus in recent decades, but we will be truly representative when we have more cultural, religious, sexual and age diversity in this house. She may not be a Liberal but the absence of Kelly Vincent's perspective, I think, has been a loss to this parliament. Political parties have a responsibility to insist on this diversity

or they will face extinction themselves. We must be relevant and relatable to maintain the confidence of our electors.

Despite our recent loss and the fact that there was much more to be done to broaden our base, my view is that the Liberal Party does have a bright future with new stars taking their place in the firmament. I am confident that Michelle Lensink will provide leadership, as she will soon be the longest serving female representative in this place.

Service in our parliament should be a privilege and an honour for each of us. We have responsibility to serve our state and commit to promote policies for its betterment. Of course, its debates are lively, robust and passionate, as they should be. However, over the past 20 years I have witnessed some extraordinarily disrespectful behaviour in this very chamber that has been nothing short of appalling. Standards and civility are paramount if we are to earn and command the respect of those we represent.

Public service, of course, is not without sacrifice to our families. They often carry the burden of what we sign up to. During the past 20 years, I have written a lot of eulogies: I lost my husband, my father, my mother, my grandmother and, more recently, our brother, who took his own life. These are difficult times and I thank colleagues and the many parliamentary staff who have generously accommodated the time to allow our family to get through such painful events.

Fortunately, the reward for having children is that I now have the joy of five grandchildren: Adelaide Grace Iris, Georgina Chloe Lily, Elizabeth Stella Rose, Sophie Patricia and Billy McKenzie. For some years I was both a grandmother and a granddaughter at the same time, part of the double sandwich generation. Let me tell you that is a true reality check.

To William and Edwina, and to Alex and Laura, my love for you and appreciation for your sacrifices for my sake is deep and enduring. I am, of course, immensely proud of your achievements. I accept that you have not always shared my passions. Young William once responded to my informing him, 'I won't be at footy practice tonight as I have to pick up Malcolm Fraser from the airport,' with 'Who is Malcolm Fraser?' This was only matched by my receptionist at the time informing me on return from court, 'A gentleman called in to see you, but I said he couldn't because he didn't have an appointment.' I asked who it was—again, Malcolm Fraser.

Young Alex, the aspiring political journalist, said he could not do his job while I was in parliament. He suggested, 'So you need to resign, mum.' I sent him to Canberra.

To my sisters, Della and Trish, and their families, I also owe a great debt. They are living examples of our mother, always finding advantage in adversity, and certainly with a smile and most often with a glass of wine. To the matriarch of our family, our aunt Alison Uren, and her family, you have been there for us when we lost our brother and have given us courage, kindness and wise counsel.

We meet many people in public life and acquaintances abound, but friends are the family we choose to celebrate the good times and cushion us in the bad. I thank you all. Recently I enjoyed a surprise dinner with some of my closest supporters and many of my current and former staff. I have had the pleasure of seeing many of them go on to careers in politics, business and community service, and it is so rewarding to see them shine.

I have had 20 years in the law. I have had 20 years in this parliament. As to the next 20 years, watch this space—'space' being the operative word. My grandmother ran her business until she was 90, so I am just warming up.

I have left the blueprints of a new state court facility on the Attorney-General's desk. Much work and preparation for its development has been undertaken. It includes provision for arbitration and mediation facilities, both public and private. I urge the new government to work on the incorporation of a defence and space precinct for dispute resolution in these important areas of industry.

Our University of Adelaide, some may know, has joined with universities in the United States and in Europe to write the new rules of engagement in space for military engagement, the Woomera project. Look out for it. It will be published, and you should all take pride in our state being such a pioneer in this new frontier.

I will probably always go down with a fight and I have certainly ensured in my office that they read the sign: never, never, never give up. I never do and, much to the frustration and consternation of many, I have certainly tried to breed that same mentality into my staff, some of whom have entered this house and others who will follow in the future. I think I am pretty clear-eyed about my political legacy and I am proud of it. My epitaph will not read 'meek'. In the words of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 'Better bitch than mouse.'

In conclusion, I ask all members to remember why they are here—that is, for the advancement of others, not themselves.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (16:14): The member for Bragg has achieved a very significant first in this state—the first female Deputy Premier and the first female Attorney-General. Those achievements alone stand in their own stead, but, as she alluded to in her valedictory speech a moment ago, it is what you do with those positions. It is what you do with those titles that really matters. There can be absolutely no doubt that the member for Bragg hit the ground running in March 2018 when she entered those offices and she ran and ran and ran, and reformed this state in a way that I do not believe any Attorney-General had achieved for probably a couple of generations.

The member for Bragg's list of achievements is phenomenal. She listed some of those a moment ago, but I think it is worthy just to spend a moment reflecting on some of those particular achievements. The National Redress Scheme: a personal mission of the former Attorney-General to establish a specific fund of more than \$146 million to meet the estimated cost of South Australia's contribution to the national redress program to help heal the pain caused by the sexual abuse of children in government institutions. The power, symbolic as well as practical, of that scheme cannot be underestimated.

There is the member for Bragg's participation in policy and programmatic reform in the area of domestic violence, significant in a way that saw this state leap forward at least a generation in terms of our penalties put in place, law reform and programs to deal with not just the effects of domestic violence but finding ways to prevent it from happening in the first place.

The most significant reform to our judiciary in many decades was the establishment of the new South Australian Court of Appeal, with five judges as a division of the Supreme Court to provide specific judicial expertise in appeals, leading to increased efficiencies and consistent high-quality judgements—a huge leap forward in the modernity of South Australia's legal system.

Towards the second half of the member for Bragg's period in the cabinet she also took on the planning and local government portfolios and was able to implement the final stage of what is probably best described as fraught planning reform that had taken place over the previous decade. It took a long time to land, but the member for Bragg landed this reform. That saw the new Planning and Design Code going live in early 2021, consolidating the state's 72 development plans into one clear planning system, one clear rule book. I am not sure we would ever have got there without the member for Bragg's contribution.

As cabinet secretary for four years, I provided this role as essentially a gatekeeper to what could come into cabinet, and day after day I signed through submission after submission to be approved by the Attorney-General at the time. There is no doubt she was the single greatest legislator of our four years in government and our biggest reformer.

She also cares immensely for this state. Her electorate of Bragg means an immense amount to her. From time to time, it included those rural areas of the Hills, for which she had a particular fondness. I know she and I regularly were up and down to Cleland Wildlife Park and Cleland Conservation Park, now actually Cleland National Park, to see the many things happening there.

One of the quirkiest things I did as the state's Minister for Environment and Water was name a koala Vickie after the member for Bragg. Vickie was rescued from Kangaroo Island (not the member for Bragg but the koala) after the bushfires and forms part of what is known as the 'golden children', a group of disease-free koalas held at Cleland. If you ever want to go to see them, I am sure that in her retirement the member for Bragg will take you there. I am told—and I have checked—Vickie is

still in very good health and a very healthy weight, which is very important for koalas. So keep an eye out for Vickie the koala.

The member for Bragg is a trailblazer, a relentless reformer, a committed public servant and a leader in a thousand ways. Her commitment to this parliament as an institution, this parliament as a collective of people, is incredibly immense. Her commitment to the community that she represented, her commitment to regional South Australia, particularly Kangaroo Island, and her commitment to this state should be celebrated and acknowledged because it is second to none. She has been a leader for women, a leader for the legal sector in this state, a leader in this parliament, and I am absolutely certain that she has much more leading to do well into the future.

So, to the Member for Bragg, thank you for what you have done for this state. On behalf of the Liberal Party, on behalf of this parliament, we are grateful, and I wish you all the best for the coming years.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (16:21): I thank the Speaker for the opportunity, the indulgence, and I thank the house for giving the member for Bragg its support to do this valedictory speech. I think that everybody who has watched it and everybody who will read those words in the future will find it not just a touching, moving and informative speech but one that shows the member for Bragg never wastes an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of our state and continues to argue with purpose for that.

I did not make notes before coming along this afternoon. I scribbled some down as the member for Bragg was speaking because I think in my heart—and I apologise for the emotion—I hoped, of course, that we would not be doing this today. I wanted the member for Bragg to continue to provide a lodestone, a guiding light for us all, for many years to come. But, of course, she has served, as she said, 20 years in the law and 20 years in the parliament. She has earned the respect of this house, of the state, and she has certainly earned the right to do it on her terms.

I heard during her speech some words that she used that have been used—allegedly: relentless, demanding and difficult. They are not words that I would have used. I might have potentially said 'purposeful'. When I think of the member for Bragg, while I understand 'purposeful' being a descriptor, I think of friendship, mentorship, guidance and kindness. I do not propose to do the laundry list of achievements because if we want the house to get up tonight we do not have time. I would say that there are some reflections I want to offer from my experience of the member for Bragg that demonstrate some of that guidance, mentorship, kindness and friendship.

I met the member for Bragg when I was in the Young Liberals. I was president of the Young Liberals for a period. I am fairly certain that we made sure the member for Bragg became a life member of the Young Liberals during that period. Although she did not come up as a student politician, sometimes people talk about the Chapman family as if Vickie Chapman is not the overwhelming weight of achievement of the Chapman family in terms of her own ability.

Her contribution to the Young Liberals was substantial not because she had been a young student politician or anything like it but because she saw young people interested in politics and community service as the future of our party. She talked about her support for diversity and representation, and I know how important that is to her. The number of young people in politics who would share my recollections of friendship, mentorship, guidance and kindness I know is very substantial.

In 2002, the member for Bragg was elected. She was elected on my birthday, and it was a highlight of an otherwise very disappointing election day, but the member for Bragg taking her seat was indeed something to celebrate. She won with a very, very strong margin and has maintained the support of her electorate, which has always been a key part of what she has wanted to do.

She was elected in February, and in June I had the honour and privilege of being invited to join her office. These were the days when a member of parliament's office had one political staffer—one person to support—and the introduction of the trainee came not long after. There was an introduction by the then Rann government of somebody working two days a week to support—a

sound enhancement. Ultimately, two staffers was approved, which I think is suitable assistance to assist a member of parliament in serving their community. I came along as the one.

At the time, the Bragg electorate office after 32 years was seen as needing some enhancement, and the Treasurer supported that. The member for Bragg, rather than seeking that new rented accommodation be provided, provided the opportunity for her own chambers (which she owned) to be used to service her electorate office while that work was being done to save the taxpayers money.

My day started in Sir Mellis Napier Chambers in Victoria Square. I can only imagine the disappointment the member for Bragg must have felt on occasion when I came along as a 23 year old with much to learn, and indeed she taught me much. I hope that I have made the member for Bragg pleased with my work and potentially proud more than I have made her disappointed over the last 20 years of our professional relationship.

I know that the one thing I am able to share with her today, which I hope she has not heard about until today, was the day when I was trying to catch up on some work on a Saturday morning. I opened Sir Mellis Napier Chambers in Victoria Square. I went out to get some lunch after a couple of hours work. I forgot the alarm code, setting off an alarm across the entirety of Victoria Square, with people coming from all around looking at what was going on while this gangly sort of 23-year-old staffer—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Gangly?

Mr GARDNER: —I was more gangly then—was fumbling around with the alarm code trying desperately to remember the right number and on the third attempt succeeding. It was not the only embarrassing thing from my period working with the member for Bragg.

The member for Bragg, obviously, and her family maintained a property on Kangaroo Island. I think that Ted was still alive at the time when I was first brought over to Kangaroo Island on the weekend to encourage me in my own personal development. She thought it would be useful for me to help round up some cattle. Indeed, on the first day I was there I encountered a cow—it must have been a cow! It was about to give birth and the member for Bragg said to me, 'Now, hold the leg here, reach in here,' and despite my mother's experience as a midwife that was my first experience participating in a birth and one that I remember vividly.

The member for Bragg was a passionate advocate for her community, and I encourage the casual reader of *Hansard* to look up her grievance about Mr Lagiseti and the helicopter. The constituents would come to the member for Bragg with an issue and she would be relentless in pursuing ministers. If she felt that the minister's response was not suitably on point about the issue that had been raised or taken seriously enough, she would write back and raise questions in the house, call those ministers, pursue those issues, and they would often not be things she was doing for a media opportunity or for which there would ever be a media opportunity. She saw always in the service of this house the duty to those constituents in helping them sort out their issues.

I think that in the period from 2010 to 2018 there were many opportunities when the member for Bragg gave me good advice not only in my development as a parliamentarian but also in supporting me as a friend, and I am grateful for that and I want to place that on the record to her.

The member for Bragg raised the issue of the South Australian-Northern Territory border. I was very pleased, when visiting the war museum in Darwin, to send a photograph to the member for Bragg of the commonwealth act removing the Northern Territory from South Australia. She responded within five minutes identifying three legal defects on the front page of that legislation.

It is very important to maintain cabinet confidence when one has been a member of cabinet, but I do not think that the member for Bragg or the member for Dunstan would mind my saying that, when the member for Dunstan was away and the member for Bragg was Acting Premier, the member for Dunstan was always very pleased, upon coming back to South Australia, to discover that we had not invaded. Indeed, that will, I fear, potentially be the one public policy matter on which the member for Bragg and I will never come to agreement about, but I do not think I am alone in that. The potential sale of the pandas was raised on occasion and was something we did not proceed with, and I am pleased about that too.

The member for Bragg ultimately, as the state's first law officer, did an incredible job and led incredible reforms. At the beginning of her speech, she talked about how people in her community in Parndana reflected on the daughter of a farmer and a ballet dancer turning out as a lawyer and the suggestion that that might have been a disappointment. I think that sometimes it is the easiest thing in any community to disparage lawyers. The member for Bragg is a shining example of how, as a community, you do so at your peril.

But she does more than that: she provides examples. She was a passionate advocate for social justice and use of the law to deliver social justice, because justice for an individual who has been wronged and who needs the correction of the legal system is as important as any other social justice issue. It is only through adequately resourcing our legal system and ensuring that trials can be held swiftly and fairly and with high-quality instruction, with high-quality legal counsel available to both sides and a high-quality judiciary that you are able to achieve that for each individual. Of course, in addition to the justice and social benefit of the legal profession she so espouses, it is also a great economic opportunity for our state, and the space and defence industries that she talked about in her valedictory are going to be important areas for South Australia going forward.

I am going to miss the member for Bragg from our joint party, from our House of Assembly party room, where she was an enormous repository of knowledge, not only from her own time in parliament but of course from the stories she had and was able to share and understand from previous parliaments through her long involvement. Not only was the member for Bragg the state's first female Deputy Premier and female Attorney-General but my understanding is that she was also the first president of a major political party—possibly the first female president of any political party in Australia—in 1993 when she became President of the South Australian Liberal Party.

In that long involvement was a wealth of knowledge and history, which continues to be important to this day. I am going to miss her from those meetings. I know I am not going to miss her from this house, as I am sure she will visit from time to time and, most importantly, I know she is not going to be a stranger in my life. To our deaths, I know that we will be friends, and I thank the member for Bragg so much for everything she has done.

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan) (16:33): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and I thank you for allowing us to speak to this important departure from our parliament that is now imminent. It is a great privilege and a pleasure to rise today to speak of the wonderful pathfinder that is the member for Bragg, who has had made such an enormous contribution to our party, to our parliament and, of course, to our state.

My partnership with the member for Bragg began back in 2008 when she drew the short straw and was the House of Assembly pair for me as the candidate for the then seat of Norwood. She worked tirelessly to do everything that she could and that the members of her SEC could to raise money and to support me to come into this place. I feel very privileged that that was our beginning. Of course, that partnership strengthened in January-February 2013, when we formed a leadership partnership that the Liberal Party has never seen before, serving for nearly nine years as the leader and the deputy leader. I have quipped in this place before that the relationship I have had with the member for Bragg is about twice the length of my marriage, which was also a wonderful partnership.

We all come into this place as a product of our experiences, and the member for Bragg was a country girl. She grew up on the island, she went to Parndana school, she was then sent away to Pembroke and then went on to the University of Adelaide, where she graduated with distinction and then set off on her very important career in the law. As has been already mentioned, her father—a formidable member for his electorate who served as a minister in the Tonkin government—was a great role model for her. She followed his lead, first of all as the president of our party here in South Australia back in the early to mid-1990s and then, of course, as a member here in this parliament.

Unfortunately for the member for Bragg, she had to serve an extraordinarily long period of time in opposition—in fact, 16 soul-destroying years in opposition—but she did not waste that time. She really did determine exactly and precisely what she would do the minute she became a minister, and that is precisely what happened. For many people in their careers, becoming a member of cabinet is the culmination, that is, they have arrived and it is the highlight of their career. But for the

member for Bragg it was the start of an extraordinarily hardworking and dedicated four years in cabinet, where she made an enormous contribution.

Other members have already told us about the trailblazing, pathfinding work that she has done in terms of her portfolio, her legal reforms, which will always be there as a legacy of her time as the first female Attorney-General. From my perspective, though, the greatest role she played was as my deputy and the first female Deputy Premier of South Australia. I cannot tell you the number of occasions when she saved my bacon, sitting in the chair now occupied by the Premier. We sat together for a very long period of time, and I am very pleased that whoever did the new seating arrangements has seen fit to have us sitting back here in the dress circle of the House of Assembly.

The member for Bragg was an effective member, she was a formidable member of this parliament, she was a powerful member of this parliament and she has served with absolute distinction. I know that many people in this place have been on the wrong side of the member for Bragg. I particularly remember the former Attorney-General, the then member for Enfield, who found the member for Bragg quite infuriating on many occasions. They would both spar across the chamber—sometimes for hours, sometimes for days—on a single bill, but I think in the best interests of South Australia. Even during that period, when the member for Bragg was the shadow attorney-general, we saw some good legislation come into this parliament.

As has been mentioned, the Court of Appeal is a wonderful legacy, but another wonderful legacy is the way that the member for Bragg advocated for women in senior roles right throughout South Australia. We often quipped in cabinet—and again I do not think I am breaking cabinet confidentiality—that when the member for Bragg put forward a male for a job, we thought, 'What has gone wrong here? Surely this can't be right.' The member for Bragg was a wonderful advocate for women in this state, and I feel very proud that during her time in the cabinet she was able to put forward some extraordinarily capable women, advocate for them and make sure they that they could hold high office here in this state.

She leaves politics and she leaves this place with an enduring legacy, but she still has more to contribute. I know that she will enjoy spending more time with her sons, Will and Alex, and her daughters-in-law and of course her five wonderful grandchildren. The founder of our political party, Sir Robert Menzies, said there were two types of people on this earth: lifters and leaners. Vickie Chapman is a wonderful, wonderful lifter.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (16:40): I rise to affectionately praise the member for Bragg, the Queen of Bragg, as I have always called her. Vickie Chapman has been just a wonderful addition to my life and, as we are public figures, as the member for Bragg has said, we are publicly exposed to meet good people and not so good people, and in this place Vickie Chapman probably epitomises one of the better people I have met in my short time on this earth.

Coming into this place in 2010 with a number of people, either in the gallery or still in the chamber, she straightaway put me to work and that was that: 'Come on, we're going off and we're meeting people, we're doing this,' and I very quickly learnt that you are either by her side or you get run over very quickly. As a friend, as a mentor and as a sounding board, I was very quickly put into the role of a parliamentary secretary with environment, with water, with emergency services, with police and many other responsibilities. I soon learnt very quickly that if you do not get your piece in quickly with Vickie, you have missed out and she has walked out of the room.

As a friend and as a work colleague, I have learnt much, and her work ethic has been admired by people on both sides of this chamber: she is relentless. She continues to epitomise the passion not only for South Australia but for her job, for fairness and for making South Australia a better place. Anyone who has worked with Vickie normally has experienced Kangaroo Island, and those have been some of my fondest memories.

Going over to Kangaroo Island and slipping into Gum Valley, what we found was that there was always a pair of work boots there waiting for you, as well as a pair of shorts, a jumper and a jacket and, 'Okay, we're off to pick up sticks today, and when you've finished that we've got stones to pick up. When you've finished that, we might be able to put in a few marron pots.' It was always such a great experience.

Vickie epitomised the condition that Gum Valley was in and, I guess, the reputation that she gave Kangaroo Island. She was always a very strong advocate and always a very strong ethical person, particularly when it came to family. I met the wider family over a number of years, and I thank Vickie for giving me permission to date her sister, Della, who is up in the gallery. I must say it has been a great experience.

Her extended family, her sons, her daughters-in-law, affectionately know her as Gravy. Her granddaughters love her to bits, and she is just such a beautiful grandmother to them. I must say that some of my most memorable times over on the island have been, 'Let's go marroning and let's go fishing,' and in between marroning it is picking up rocks and, 'Let's go fishing,' and in between that it is shearing sheep or yard work. In between that, there is some fencing to do.

In between that we had a lot of fun, we drank a lot of wine and we shared a lot of memories, and some of those memories will stick in my mind forever. At the end of the day, Vickie is just a genuinely very good person, affectionately known as the Perfumed Steamroller, they tell me. Vickie, this place will have a loss with you not in it. This place will not be the same and we will not see people putting the passion, the effort and the hard work that you have in here. Vickie, you will be missed.

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) (16:44): I rise to say farewell to the member for Bragg with some sorrow. I was sorry when I heard that the member for Bragg had decided that it was her time to go. From my perspective, there are three outstanding features of the member for Bragg: first of all, her leadership as a woman; secondly, her progressive politics; and, thirdly, her strength of character, shall we say.

As a female leader, having been in this house for 20 years, I imagine the member for Bragg has seen much and has done much to make behaviour here better and to improve the experience of women in this chamber. I am sure it is a matter of some sorrow for the member for Bragg that when she leaves—and I hope indeed that she will be replaced by a woman—there will be only two women on her side of parliament. I hope that that is a low point from which there will only be more building on her side of the chamber.

When the member for Ramsay and I came in on two by-elections, we joined parliament on the same day in 2012, and because we were in by-elections we were sworn in and able to make our first speeches on that same day. After the speeches, the member for Bragg came over and was at pains to say that she welcomed us as women in this chamber and that if we had any issues we were to go to her and that she was there for us as much as for any other female member. The member for Ramsay and I have never forgotten that. We talk about it from time to time as a mark of the cross-chamber solidarity that can exist.

We now recognise that we are the most senior women in this chamber—the longest serving women in this chamber—and we take that mantle up with some trepidation: it is an important role to play. Having been a member of parliament for 20 years and the deputy leader of the Liberal Party for 12 is an extraordinary record to hold, culminating of course in being the first female Deputy Premier and first female Attorney-General. It is a pathfinding and a barrier-breaking role to have played. I am sure the member for Bragg is rightly proud of that, and I think all women in South Australia should be very proud of her career.

The member for Bragg is also what I would call a progressive woman. I think the language is used slightly differently on each side of the chamber, but I have enjoyed being on the same side in many votes on conscience issues and I pay tribute to her leadership on those. The sex work reform that was mentioned in the speech, of course, we are yet to achieve, and I am sure the member for Bragg will be very proud on the day when we finally do extend rights to workers in the sex industry.

I was fortunate enough to lead the last of the iterations of the voluntary assisted dying legislation, the one that was successful in this chamber, courtesy of the Hon. Kyam Maher in the other place. The member for Bragg was one of the leaders, if not the leader, on the other side of the chamber for those who would vote in favour, and I was grateful for her support during that time. I know that many advocates in the community speak very highly of the member for Bragg for her compassion and her leadership in that process.

There was also, of course, the termination of pregnancy legislation, where we finally saw reform in that important area that was introduced by the member for Bragg and led over two very long nights. I admired the restraint with which she addressed the chamber and answered question after question. Her stamina was not the least remarkable feature of her contribution to that debate. At times, it was a very difficult debate to experience, I imagine on both sides, but certainly on the side in favour, and I was grateful for her leadership. I did my best to be supportive from the other side through that process. It was an important reform and not the least of the reforms that she can be proud of.

But, yes, the member for Bragg is also a very strong-minded individual and I was noting with some envy her willingness to say that she does not mind that she ruffles feathers, that doubt rarely troubles her and ruffled feathers never do and that her greatest epitaph is that she is not meek. There are many women on this side of the chamber who say that we sometimes could do with a little dose of Vickie. So, while sometimes the dose has been strong, it serves as an inspiration across the chamber that sometimes it is important to simply stand for what you believe in and to be unafraid and unashamed.

I wish the member for Bragg very well. It is a career that has not been without controversy but has been served with distinction and has left a tremendous legacy of which we can all be proud, and I thank you.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (16:49): A giant of the law, a juggernaut of the Liberal Party, an inspiration to professional women, it is with some sadness that I also rise today to pay tribute to the member for Bragg.

Like many of us in this chamber, we are elected here by the collective efforts of many, not only the people who vote us into these seats respectively but also the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Like the member for Dunstan, I have also been paired with the member for Bragg in the past. It is fair to say that without the efforts of the member for Bragg and her SEC, many of whom are here, I simply would not be in this place.

I will certainly miss those movie fundraisers at the Regal Theatre with the volunteers, the ladies of the Bragg SEC and their cut-up sandwiches, freshly baked scones and all the rest of it that she and her SEC have done for literally decades to make sure that we raise the volunteers and the funds so that we can continue to allow people to be elected to this place.

The member for Bragg has always been a reservoir full of advice. I will never forget her quirky Christmas cards. She has given plenty of advice to me over the years, such as, 'About time you got married,' and, 'Why don't you sell your puppy so that you can have a child with your wife?' Whether it be personal advice or professional advice, Vickie has also been a ferocious advocate for what is right. I have been proud to be in the trenches with her for several years.

When you are elected to a seat like Bragg, expectations are high because you are expected to be here for a long time and you are expected to go far: Vickie has exceeded all those expectations. She has served in the highest of offices and it is certainly the case that we will never see another Vickie Chapman in this place.

Congratulations, Vickie, on all your achievements. Good luck in the next part of your journey. Thank you very much for your frank, your fearless and your honest advice and counsel.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:52): When I think of the member for Bragg, I think of a formidable opponent, I think of someone who is strong and determined, I think of someone who has probably been the most determined opponent we have ever faced in the 20 years we have been here.

When she entered parliament in 2002, I remember the conversations in the tactics team: 'How could you possibly handle Vickie Chapman?' It was a good problem. It was a problem that was proven to be true. She is someone who probably should have led her party but never did. I often wonder what would have happened if she had led her party, whether things might have been different over those 16 years. I do not know. But she is someone who, I think, has immense talents.

I do not agree with a lot of the social reforms that Ms Chapman introduced into the parliament; indeed, I think I voted against all of them. However, I respected her and I respected her tenacity, and I respected her ability to use the power she had to attempt to make the changes she wanted. She understood power, she understood the parliament and she understood how to use it, and she learnt how to use it very quickly.

I think it is a shame to see strong women leave the parliament. We need strong women. I think Vickie Chapman is a very, very strong woman. She could speak at length about many topics, often in the parliament late at night. She did her research. She argued her cause. Sometimes she won, sometimes she lost, but she has left her mark. For that, I thank the member for Bragg. I know that she and I do not perhaps get on as well as other members, and that is okay—that is the political system—but I do respect her and I wish her well.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (16:54): I will yield to the member for Schubert with great interest in a moment, Mr Speaker. Thank you for the call.

I rise—and I spoke of the humbling experience it is to be re-elected to represent one's electors in this place yesterday—and today I feel particularly humbled to stand as someone who, through circumstances that I think this institution ought regret, found himself walking in her shoes in recent months.

We also share the fact that, somewhat unusually these days, we both came to this place after many years in the law, a career in the law that provided a foundation for our participation in this place. I think it is a tremendous thing. That foundation brings an adherence to the appreciation of what a rules-based system brings, what evidence-based argument brings, what objectivity can bring to the force of one's argument.

I think it also brings an appreciation that in order to be an effective advocate you have to be fully grounded, and there is no-one more grounded, no-one more down to earth than the member for Bragg. At all times she has used that capacity as a key tool in bringing her effective advocacy to this place. But from that career in the law, fast-forward to my time recently walking in her shoes.

I remember a few weeks after I had come in to occupy her office—and I thought it might be temporarily—and I had had a chance to get to know the place a little bit, she returned for a Christmas gathering. I had been working with her fantastic, able staff and team I had inherited. She breezed in and said 'What do you think about all these strong women around here? What do you think about all these strong, bright, capable women around you who are helping to make what you do workable?' I do not know if I said it or if I reflected on it quietly, but it actually had not occurred to me that I was surrounded by all these bright, strong women. I sort of took it for granted.

I think that is a legacy that from one generation to the next hopefully we have come close to now that those with capacity have every opportunity. But, Vickie, you lived through the blazing of that trail. You brought us to a point where that can be taken for granted and not noticed, so I felt very fortunate to have walked in your shoes for some short months.

I reflect, as I listen to the contributions here in this place this evening, that it can be easy at times in an institution like this building—this new parliament dating back to the 1890s and built off the back of an institution that commenced here in South Australia in the 1850s—to take for granted that we will have an institution that is thriving and vibrant and healthy as it just continues on. At times I think it can be easy to think this will inevitably be the case, this will be a place in which the battle of ideas is fought, it will be the pre-eminent venue in which important arguments of the day can be had.

Vickie, you have exemplified the living of that every day over 20 years, to come into the place and say this is not a place to be on the stage where platitudes are exchanged and where there is a beauty contest of sorts. This is a place where you get into it and you have the courage of your convictions and you make your argument. That might mean that it is messy and controversial every day, even to the last, and you stand up for what you believe in. So the words 'reformer' and 'legislator' are proud epithets that you of course deserve. It is with great respect that I make those observations.

I say more about the institution on this day. I think it is an occasion to link the institution with the person, that against whatever background you bring to this place—and Vickie's is a South Australian story if ever there was one—you do not come here and do anything effective unless

you come here full of love and full of hope for your fellow Australian, for your fellow South Australian. That leads to a wrestle, a difference of view. It leads to things being at times so fraught you think, 'Hang on, how do you bring all this back together?' But we believe in the force that this institution can have to take South Australia forward to a better place, and you do that through love and hope every day.

Vickie, over the course of your time, and particularly, I might say, during those short months in recent times when I was not just sharing the time as a fellow member of this place but walking in your shoes in your ministerial role, those things are very apparent to me. I pay tribute to you. I salute you. I thank you for your service, and I wish you, of course, all the very best in the future.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (17:01): I will not speak for long, but I do just want to make a couple of reflections from my relatively brief perspective of serving in this parliament, secondly as a member of parliament but initially as a very young, wide-eyed and nervous staffer to what was then a very young Rann government.

I can remember first coming into this building in June 2002 in that capacity and, as the member for West Torrens said, there was always the expectation that the member for Bragg was going to assume, if not the leadership position of the Liberal Party, then a senior leadership position of the Liberal Party. There was always an expectation, as ministers were preparing for question time, that they were at high risk of being skewered by the member for Bragg, such was the reputation she brought into this place as a successful lawyer.

I can remember when I first started as a very young staffer. At that time, I was still living at home with my parents, which I did until a fairly ripe age, I have to say, which is increasingly becoming the trend. I was told by my father that the member for Bragg was one to watch in the South Australian parliament. He was able to say that, of course, because he had spent quite a long time working with the member for Bragg, particularly in family law, as they were both practising. He held the highest regard for her both as a lawyer and, in the early years of the member for Bragg's career, in this place.

I do not know if this story is true, but this is the story as my family understands it and as my father understood it. When the former Premier, Jay Weatherill, asked my father to be the commissioner for the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, he consulted with the Leader of the Opposition and it was taken back to the Liberal party room. It was our understanding that there was one voice that spoke out vehemently against that appointment, but it was the member for Bragg who provided the counsel to the Liberal party room which enabled that appointment to go through with bipartisan support. I do not know if that is true. I like to believe that it is, and certainly my late father liked to believe that that was true as well.

Fast-forward a few years to the time I was elected and unexpectedly, fortuitously managed to be on this side of the chamber. Very nervously, like those ministers in the early days of the Rann government coming into question time expecting to be skewered if not by the member for Bragg then by anybody else in the opposition, I was asked my first Dorothy Dixier on a matter of great importance, that being the free public transport services offered for ANZAC Day in that particular year.

After nervously shaking my way through the answer, I was asked a supplementary question by the member for Bragg: how many people took up the benefit of those services? Of course, I had no idea, and I had to take it on notice. I remember going back to my office thinking, 'I knew I would get skewered, and of course it would be by the member for Bragg.' But, on reflection, it occurred to me that it probably was not an attempt to skewer me; it was probably just as much an attempt to help me find my feet in the house. It made me realise just what sort of person the member for Bragg is.

As hard as she would play in the chamber—and there were few, if any, tougher at times—she was unfailingly pleasant and nice interpersonally to anyone outside the chamber. That is no mean feat in this day and age, I think, amongst parliamentary colleagues, particularly given the era in which the member for Bragg came into this place, in 2002. It was still a very male-dominated parliament on both sides, with standards of behaviour—not that the standards of behaviour are exemplary today—vastly worse than they are today.

While the member for Bragg might say it was her job to ruffle feathers from time to time, I am not sure I ever witnessed hers being ruffled. She was absolutely unflappable in the chamber. I also

remember in my first term of parliament there being a sudden change of direction in the course of the day's proceedings. Instead of one bill, which we were all prepared for, to be debated, another bill had to be brought on at short notice without any warning whatsoever. A note was passed to the member for Bragg, as she was the most senior member of the opposition in the chamber at the time, and she seamlessly picked up that topic and spoke authoritatively on it for 20 minutes. I remember sitting back and thinking, 'Well, that is how you do it.'

There is no coincidence when you see lawyers walking into court with annotated ring binders, footnoted and post-it note all the way through, that someone who has done that for 20 years as a career is so well prepared for this role that she can seamlessly switch from one topic to another. The member for Bragg was capable of speaking very authoritatively on anything that came before this place, and that is a remarkable achievement.

I always think there is nothing more humbling as a member of parliament than to spend a brief period of time in the members' lounge. For those who are not familiar with the members' lounge, there is a small portrait of every member of parliament who has ever been elected to the South Australian House of Assembly. You go in there, and there are about five or six panels. There are three or four panels of old boys with facial hair, and then there are a couple of panels of the modern era, where it becomes slightly more evenly balanced between the genders.

Most people, if you take them into the members' lounge, will often walk up to these panels with some curiosity and say, 'Who on earth is that?' It makes me realise that, as much as we would like to think the opposite, the vast majority of us travel through this place, in the cricket parlance, without troubling the scorers. Mr Speaker, I am sure you would agree that somebody who has troubled the scorer extensively in this place is the member for Bragg.

It has already been well litigated here—pardon the awful pun—how much the member for Bragg has achieved, not just in four years of being Attorney-General but in the standard she set for people seeking office, particularly women seeking election to parliament, the standard she set in the parliament for all of us, the contributions to debate and the achievements for her community. That is more than most of us could ever hope for. I am sure she is right that, while she has had 20 years in the law and 20 years in here, there are at least 20 years further coming. I for one am very much looking forward to seeing the successes she achieves outside this place.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (17:09): Lots has been said about the member for Bragg across both sides of the chamber not just today but over the last 20 years. First and foremost, though, Vickie Chapman, the member for Bragg, has been an absolute trailblazer for women in South Australia and a trailblazer for women in the Liberal Party.

I think it is safe to say that the member for Bragg has operated with elegance, composure and poise not only in the face of her challenges and her adversity but also in the face of all her opportunities. I feel so privileged to have spent just a short time with you in this chamber, and we are very privileged to be able to walk the path you have paved for us, and I thank you for your service.

Mr BROWN (Florey) (17:10): I was not sure whether I was going to say something today, but I thought that it would be remiss of me not to say something about the member for Bragg.

The member for Bragg's arrival in this place in 2002 also coincided with my becoming a slightly older but a still young and bushy-tailed adviser to the previous Rann government. Over my years, I worked for a number of ministers, who I will not rank by name, but let us just say that they vary from excellent quality to very passable.

Over those years working for those ministers, I came across the member for Bragg quite a number of times. I attended meetings with ministers when she would also be there. I had helped draft responses to questions on notice that she would ask. I have seen her in the committee stage of bills, and I have also dealt with amendments that she has drafted to government legislation. What I can say to anyone out there who is seeking to become an effective parliamentarian in this place is that if you want a masterclass about how you manage to achieve those things you should study the career of the member for Bragg.

Over the years, particularly in meetings, I must say that I have seen her do exceptional work. You always had to be on your toes when she was around, let me tell you, especially here in the

chamber but also in meetings. I remember one particular example, but I will not say which minister I was working for. There was a question on notice that she had asked; I drafted a response and discussed it with the minister and other staff members.

The minister said to me, 'What do you think she's up to? What's this really about?' I said, 'Oh, well,' and that I thought this and I think that. One of the other staff said, 'Look, she's just asking a question. I'm sure there's nothing else in it,' and the minister said, 'If you actually believe that response, you don't know Vickie Chapman.' I can tell you that whenever she was involved in anything like that, as government, we knew we had to be on our toes.

Obviously, I have only been in this place a very small period of time, but being able to witness her up close doing what she does I have just been struck—whilst, of course, I have not agreed with her quite possibly any of the time—by the fact that she always gives 100 per cent. There is no doubt about it. One thing you cannot say about her is that she has never been disinterested in anything in this chamber. Whether we are here late at night debating any particular piece of legislation, no matter how long the committee stage goes, no matter how many amendments we are dealing with, she always gives 100 per cent.

I think that she has been not only someone we can learn from but I know that she has been an inspiration to a number of MPs in this place. I think that the Liberal Party is really going to miss her. I have to say that in some ways we are going to miss her, too, on this side. I wish her and her family very well for what, with any luck, will now be the post-political phase of her life.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (17:13): A lot has been said about the member for Bragg, Vickie Chapman. I think that the words that come to my mind to describe Vickie would be 'supportive' and 'honest'. She is a very honest person and, believe me, I have been at the end of very honest commentary from Vickie Chapman when I have asked her for advice. There is no telling you what you want to hear with Vickie. You get exactly what she thinks, and it is very valuable, particularly for a young person entering this place or a young person being a member of the parliament. Of course, there is also her capacity. Other members have spoken about Vickie's capacity, and there is no doubt she has enormous capacity to understand an issue, articulate that issue and also deliver the argument for that issue.

I am also very proud of the work she did in social progressive policies in this place. My daughter is a very big fan of Vickie Chapman. When we have school tours in here, currently Joyce Steele is the woman I talk about as being a trailblazer in the South Australian parliament, being the first woman elected to this place 59 years after women were given permission—by the men who used to run the parliament—to actually run for parliament. Now I am able to expand on that and say, 'And it took 124 years before a woman ended up as the Deputy Premier and the first female Attorney-General in this place.' To the member for Bragg, from my daughter, thank you so much for your leadership for women and what you have done for the people of Bragg and, more importantly, for the people of South Australia.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (17:15): I felt that it was really important to say a few words about the member for Bragg. In thinking about what I was going to say as I ran up the stairs—hence why I am a little bit puffed out—I started to think about the first time that I saw the member for Bragg. You probably do not know this, Vickie, but I saw you literally running down North Terrace in I think Christian Louboutin heels (because I saw the red on the bottom), and I thought it was absolutely fabulous that you were doing that. I thought: what a formidable woman. That view has not changed.

I have observed the way that you conduct yourself and the heart and the mind that you bring to all of your endeavours. I think that your—I think you described it as relentless work—determination, sometimes difficultness, I think you said, make you formidable. I utterly admire the self-confidence that you have. I wish that more girls and women felt that sort of confidence to assert their views and their values in everything that they do.

I think that you will inspire more girls and women to be confident about setting their minds and their hearts to whatever particular dream they wish to pursue. I really wanted to recognise that in you, and to thank you for that. I think it is a really important thing for this place and I also think it is

an incredibly important thing for girls and women in communities right across our state and indeed everywhere, so thank you.

Thank you also for the work and the passion that you have put into your endeavours to progress the status of girls and women in our state through your work around abortion laws, through your work around the decriminalisation of sex work laws, through your work on domestic violence, and in many other ways. You have been persistent, you have been strong, you have not wavered in your convictions, and that is an extraordinary thing.

When I am asked about what it is like to be in here and what is like to be amongst people with differing views, one of the things that I always say is that it is always inspiring when you come across someone and you meet someone, whichever side of the chamber they are on, who absolutely stands up for their values and stands up for their views. Even if you do not agree with them, the fact that you always relentlessly in such a steadfast way stand up for them is incredibly important and something I greatly admire.

The last thing I want to say, member for Bragg, is that I think you and I connected around mental health issues. We both shared some of our experiences about our families and we both did some work in support of GROW, a mental health organisation, and I really appreciated that connection. I appreciated the understanding that we shared, and I am sure that you will continue to also work to make sure that there is the best possible support available to anybody who is experiencing mental ill health.

On that, and on every other one of your endeavours, I am sure that you will continue to make change, you will continue to inspire those who follow. I think you are an incredible force, member for Bragg. I hope that here—not here in parliament but in some way—our paths cross again. I look forward to seeing where you apply your endeavour and I wish you all the very best.

The SPEAKER (17:20): I said at the outset of these remarks on indulgence that this is a significant occasion, and it is right that it be memorialised in this way. With you, member for Bragg, goes real wisdom, intelligence, toughness, passion, determination and humour. You have been a great leader for those who have agreed with you. You have lived your whole life in service of the state and, for those who have disagreed with you, nonetheless they have admired you. I admire you. That concludes the debate.

Matter of Privilege

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE, SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The SPEAKER (17:21): I wish to address four matters which I took in from members. First, I make the following statement concerning the matter of privilege raised by the member for Heysen. Before doing so, I wish briefly to outline the significance of privilege as it relates to the house and its members. Privilege is not a device by which members or any other person may seek to pursue matters that could be better addressed by debate or settled by the vote of the house on a substantive motion.

In *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand*, McGee expressed the view that the test for whether a matter is a matter of privilege might be determined by asking whether it could, given its proper construction, 'genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the House in the discharge of its duties'. That test has been adopted by other Speakers. I adopt the test. I turn to the matter raised by the member for Heysen in relation to a matter of privilege raised by the member for West Torrens in the last parliament on 25 August 2021, and the member for West Torrens, now the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport's answer to a question from the member for Hartley in the house. More specifically, the member for Heysen refers to a response in question time by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to the following question from the member for Hartley:

Following the Ombudsman's report, will the minister withdraw the allegation of corruption he made against the former Attorney in this house on 25 August last year?

The minister responded by saying:

I don't think I ever made an accusation of corruption. I might have asked the question, but I don't think I ever said the member was corrupt. I would not do that, even with privilege.

The member for Heysen contrasts this response with the following words used by the member for West Torrens when raising a matter of privilege in the house on 25 August 2021:

Sir, I ask you to examine the questions and the explanations inserted into *Hansard* by the member for Enfield and the answers given to questions by the Deputy Premier to the estimates committee to determine whether a prima facie case exists to establish a privileges committee to investigate whether the Attorney-General deliberately and intentionally misled the Parliament of South Australia to cover up her corruption.

The member for Heysen suggests that the member for West Torrens has misled the house by denying that he ever alleged that the former Deputy Premier was guilty of corruption. I form the view that the words used by the then member for West Torrens, now the minister, in raising a matter of privilege, were to invite the Speaker to determine whether a prima facie case existed for a matter of privilege. In the Chair's view, the matter could not genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties. I therefore decline to give the matter precedence. However, my opinion does not prevent any member from pursuing the matter by way of substantive motion. I add, for completeness, that the member for West Torrens also said in the house:

...I do not think that the member for Bragg is corrupt, and I don't think I ever made that accusation. I might have posed the question: is it corrupt? But if the member for Hartley has evidence that I said that she was corrupt, yes, I will withdraw that because I don't think the member for Bragg is corrupt. I do think she had a conflict of interest and I do think she misled the parliament, but I don't think she was in this for the money.

Second, I am informed in relation to the Select Committee on the Conduct of the Member for Bragg Regarding the Kangaroo Island Port Application that the costs paid by the house for solicitors' professional fees incurred by the committee pursuant to a motion of the house were \$71,222.10 plus disbursements of \$252.64. Professional fees for Queen's Counsel were \$71,500.

Third, in reply to questions from the member for Elizabeth, I am informed that three quotes were received for the installation of art in the car park tunnel: a quote in the amount of \$222,080, which did not include the cost of prints; a quote in the amount of \$72,110; and a quote in the amount of \$30,500. It is not clear whether the lower quote included all works contemplated by the project. In any event, I elected to cancel the project. Separately, I am informed that the cost of upgrades to the balcony room were \$30,445.60, excluding GST.

Fourth and finally, in relation to the matter of the balance of questions in question time as between opposition and government members, I add to the remarks I made in response to the member for Hartley's inquiry by observing that the question time immediately following the member's inquiry did not include questions from government members. I emphasise, however, the relative disparity in the number of members as between the government and the opposition and the natural interest of all members, including government members, have and will continue to have in asking questions.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (17:26): I would like to commend the Governor, Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, on the outstanding address to the parliament—outstanding in the way she delivered it potentially more than my commendation of the writing or the Labor government's policy agenda contained therein. Her Excellency delivered it faultlessly, as indeed fits her service to our state since being appointed as Governor, our nation and indeed the commonwealth of peace-loving nations in her work leading up to her appointment as Governor.

Every time I am given the opportunity to participate in events at Government House, most recently in assisting Her Excellency and those other dignitaries present in the commendation of awards, Australia Day honours bestowed upon outstanding South Australians, I always bear in mind that career of service. I know that the support and counsel she gave to us in government over the period of several months while she was the Governor in the last months of the Marshall Liberal government were always outstanding and wise. I am certain that wisdom will continue to support the work of the new government. I think they will find it a great benefit to their government when members are in Executive Council.

I am not certain whether the new government has maintained the tradition where possible of having Executive Council with the entire cabinet. I can provide advice to the leader of the house that, if they are not doing that, I encourage them to do so from time to time. I think that they will find Her Excellency's reflections on issues of the day always pertinent, wise, useful and always in the service of the people of South Australia. I thank her for undertaking that role and her service and for also continuing to open up Government House to our South Australian community. In reflecting on the Address in Reply, not unusually I also think about those members of parliament who are no longer with us. I commend, of course, all members in the service of the house who have been elected and congratulate them on their election. I hope that all will find in this role a reward, a sense of fulfilment in the service of their constituents and will keep those constituents front and centre in their mind whenever carrying out their duties.

As we have just been reminded by the member for Bragg in her valedictory speech, we exist here in the service of others only and not for ourselves. Certainly, those members who take the opportunity to come to this place reflecting on their predecessors and the services they offered I commend them for doing so, and I note that in the members for Schubert, the member for Flinders and the member for Frome's maiden speeches. The member for Frome particularly reflected on the Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekaan's service as the former member for Stuart, but with the boundary redistribution nevertheless a preceding member. I also noticed some of the new Labor members reflecting on the service of those who came before and commend those who did so.

Rachel Sanderson, Richard Harvey, Paula Luethen, Carolyn Power, Steve Murray, Corey Wingard and Dan van Holst Pellekaan were all government members who lost their seats in the last election. I have the utmost regard for them. I had different relationships with all of them. They all brought something different to this house, but the thing they shared in common was an absolute desire to serve the South Australian community through the parliamentary service that they offered. Their experiences were different, but their passion for this state and the values that they held dear were absolutely consistent among them all. I commend them for that service. I seek leave to continue my remarks on another occasion.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (CHILD SEX OFFENCES) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:32 the house adjourned until Tuesday 31 May 2022 at 11:00.