

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 31 May 2022

The **SPEAKER** (Hon. D.R. Cregan) took the chair at 10:59.

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 19 May 2022.)

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (11:01): I am pleased to have the opportunity to continue my Address in Reply to the opening of parliament speech given by Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, and I again thank her for her service to the people of South Australia.

Morialta is so much more than an electorate: it is a community. It is a community where I am proud to have been elected as the local member four times. It is the community where I grew up. It is the community that I love and that I look forward to my children growing up in and being part of for not just decades to come but potentially generations to come. Others have laid claim to their part of the world being the best part of South Australia; I lay claim to Morialta being the best part of Australia.

The election just past was certainly a disappointing outcome for the Liberal Party, with the messages that were conveyed by voters who, some for the first time and some who go back and forth, chose not to support me or the Liberal Party at the last election. I want to pledge to you that I will give my utmost during this term of parliament and any others in which I am lucky enough to be the local member for Morialta. I will be there to support you as I do all those voters who did support the Liberal Party and me in Morialta.

I think the last term of parliament was an unusual one in many ways. Certainly, the challenges posed by the pandemic were profound. After two years of the pandemic, the situation was felt by most first-term governments, where they had done their work to address the ills and wrongs of their predecessors and it is more often than not the case that the voters will give them an opportunity to continue that work. It certainly did not feel like a one-term government for anyone who lived through the years of 2020 and 2021. They felt like a very long time indeed.

The government was forced to take extraordinary measures. It did not occur to me in my wildest dreams that I would have ever been part of a government that had to enforce state borders and checkpoints and that freedoms and liberties would have been restricted in a way that is anathema to anybody who has Liberal values as I do, yet the circumstances, the danger and the risk to the health and safety of our community were so profound that these extraordinary steps had to be taken.

I was never enthusiastic about mandates for vaccinations, for example, yet as education minister I stood next to the police commissioner and endorsed their introduction when that had to happen. Again, it was the very strong health advice that it was utterly necessary for the health and safety of our community, and it saved lives. I believe that it did. I am very pleased that we are now in a situation where those mandates have been able to be relaxed. This week, for the first time since probably the third term of last year, we no longer have the requirement that masks be worn in high schools, for example.

I understand that all of these measures upset, disappointed, aggravated and infuriated, in some cases, many people who have traditionally supported the Liberal Party. To those members I say, I understand that disappointment. As I said last year when we were implementing them and indeed on polling day when I had many discussions with people who were putting forward these points of view, I understand that frustration. Those measures were taken to save lives and they were necessary and I stand by them, but I am very pleased that we are now in a situation where Professor Spurrier and the other health advisers have clearly provided information that the stage of the pandemic we are at, the rate of vaccination in our community, has meant that many of those measures can be relieved.

It is really important, however, that as we move through any part of the pandemic the discussion is respectful, because I fear that sometimes what has been lost is respect. I see some elements of it even now as people are unfortunately taking measures outside vaccination hubs to discourage people from getting vaccinated. Respect is tremendously important. We need to respect the freedom of people to express their point of view, and people need to respect that governments and public officers are doing their best to protect health and to protect lives.

There were many messages that were given to me on election day. Some of them were in relation to votes on certain measures. Many were in relation to measures taken during the pandemic, and indeed some people were disappointed by the way the government interacted in particular in relation to hospitality restrictions during the pandemic.

There is never one reason that an election is won or lost; there is always a multitude of reasons that inform every vote. Every constituent has this important, God-given right that we protect fiercely—to choose the basis on which they elect their governments. I have certainly heard a lot of messages. To all of those people in my community, whether they voted for me or not, whether they are enthusiastic or disappointed, I promise you I have read every piece of correspondence. I have had many conversations and I am grateful for the feedback that I have had as the member for Morialta.

I am even more grateful for the trust that has been given to me as your local MP now for the fourth time. When I first put my hand up to run for Morialta it was 2008. It was an 8 per cent Labor seat at that time. Lindsay Simmons had won the 2006 election comfortably. A redistribution improved the margin to 6.7 per cent when I was the Liberal candidate, and I was pleased to get a 12 per cent swing at the 2010 election.

Since becoming the candidate for Morialta, there have been redistributions that have improved the margin and reduced it. I started with Newton and the south-eastern side of Magill and Auldana in my electorate. I now have them back, after their being with the members for Hartley and Bragg for eight years. Redistributions come and go, but broadly we are a very similar seat now to that which Lindsay Simmons won with a margin of 8 per cent for the Labor Party in 2006.

I am very encouraged by the fact that 10 per cent more people now vote for the Liberal Party than did in 2006. It is a significant improvement and I certainly put it down to the wisdom of the people of Morialta. We had some very good results in 2014 and 2018 when the margin approached 10 per cent. The margin is narrowed now. I certainly take on board the criticisms that I have heard, and I think that in the years ahead the work that was done between 2018 and 2022 will be appreciated, but I certainly will never take for granted those who were disappointed.

It is important, though, especially given that it has been such an extraordinary time, to place on the record some of those things that were achieved in my community between 2018 and 2022. I would like to take this opportunity also to thank our former Premier, Steven Marshall, for his extraordinary endeavours not only through the pandemic, which has had much commentary during this Address in Reply debate, and the extraordinary work that he did. I know he was working seven days a week for every waking hour, and he was not sleeping too many. He put his heart and soul into protecting lives and protecting jobs in South Australia, and he succeeded better than any other Premier in the nation.

However, through that term of government he was also assiduous in ensuring that each and every one of our election commitments was able to be met. There were a couple of examples where that was not the case, and a couple of people have mentioned those during the course of the debate,

but we had more than 400 commitments to the people of South Australia and we delivered more than 400 commitments to the people of South Australia over the last term.

In Morialta, that was very important. When people in Morialta put their faith in me and the Liberal government in 2018, I sought to work hard and represent them, and I am very pleased to be able to advise that our team delivered for them. We delivered lower costs, we delivered more jobs, we delivered better services and we delivered important infrastructure projects for the people of Morialta.

They were across a range of areas: in terms of road safety; in terms of schooling and educational opportunities; in terms of health and hospital services; and, importantly, in terms of local sport, environmental, recreational and community facilities. In the area of road safety, a very important project was the Paradise Interchange, an \$18 million project that improved the parking arrangements at the Paradise Interchange out of sight.

There are members of this parliament who have heard me say for years and years that in previous generations, in previous situations I have been parking at Paradise Interchange; if you got there after 8am you had to park across the road in the field next to the Paradise Influencers Church. If it was raining, you would get muddy feet, you would be in danger as you were crossing six lanes of Darley Road, and potentially be late for your bus.

There are challenges at the interchange, to be sure, but they have been massively alleviated by the \$18 million build that has put an extra nearly 400 parking spaces in the immediate vicinity of the platforms. Some of those were still available whenever I arrived there sometimes as late as 8.30, and even as late as 9 o'clock on occasion. That is such a dramatic improvement to the life of the everyday traveller and commuter in the Morialta electorate. People living in Athelstone and Newton who use the interchange; people living in Paradise and Dernancourt, in the member for Hartley's electorate; people living in Highbury, in my electorate; and people living in Hope Valley, in the member for Newland's electorate, all come together at the Paradise Interchange, and I know that they very much appreciate that improvement.

We also had some significant safety upgrades at intersections. There are traffic lights now, a pedestrian-activated crossing outside Thorndon Park Primary School, something for which the school community fought for years. There are traffic lights outside the Dernancourt shopping centre, something incredibly important for anybody who has ever tried to park in the shopping centre and then turn right onto Lower North East Road. I took the now Treasurer, then transport minister, with me on a visit to my electorate when he was first made the minister in 2014. I remember that we were sitting at that intersection trying to get out at the traffic lights and I said, 'No, you have to turn right here,' and we were waiting for five minutes for the opportunity to do so.

The former government put in place an improved entry to the centre which was a modest improvement. The Marshall Liberal government delivered a much increased right-turn lane and those traffic lights, and the positive feedback I have had from Highbury and Vista residents in my electorate and from Dernancourt residents and Hope Valley residents and other members of the community has been overwhelming positive. I am very grateful to people like Joy Ritchie, former councillor and to the member for Morphett's father, Professor John Patterson, a community member who was also involved in that campaign along with me and other members of the community. It is thanks to all of them that it has been done now.

Traffic lights at Graves Street and Newton Road were being sought there since before I was a member of parliament. It was something that the former member for Morialta Lindsay Simmons campaigned for in the 2006-2010 period but the former government never delivered. They always said it was too hard and too expensive, but it was delivered. Along with my colleague Vincent Tarzia, I thank Stephan Knoll and Corey Wingard, the former transport ministers who delivered that upgrade. Most recently was the upgraded intersection at Silkes Road and Gorge Road, which has made a dramatic improvement to safety.

Gorge Road has been resealed. There is a new pedestrian refuge on Lower North East Road at Highbury for people who are walking to the Highbury Primary School with their kids. That has sorely been sought and gratefully received. A major project, criticised viciously by the Labor Party on many occasions but much appreciated by anybody who has seen the dramatic improvements in

commuter time, was the upgrade at the Magill Road and Portrush Road intersection. That is so much smoother now. The work is nearly complete on the beautification, but the improved lane infrastructure has made a massive difference to people living in my electorate and electorates across the eastern and north-eastern suburbs. The extraordinary delays in the previous operation of that intersection caused big flow-on effects right across those routes.

As the Minister for Education, I had the honour of presiding over one of the most significant sets of reforms. Indeed, it is hard to argue that there has been a more significant set of reforms, ever since Mr Hartley was the director of schooling in the late 19th century in South Australia, with a \$1.5 billion set of upgrades to our school infrastructure and a massive expansion of our public education system.

This included a series of five new public schools—indeed the completion of Adelaide Botanic High School, which was certainly a result of Rachel Sanderson's hard work, commissioned under the former government and well under way when we got in—at Angle Vale, Aldinga, Whyalla and Goolwa, which are all already open, and now the Morialta Secondary College is due to open for year 7s next year.

The transition of year 7 into high school; radical upgrades to more than 100 of our public schools across South Australia; the introduction of infrastructure grants for non-government schools, which started in 2018 and which the new government has committed to keeping, going forward: all of these were massive improvements in the infrastructure of our education system.

At the same time, we also delivered on signing the National School Reform Agreement in 2018, which was first signed at the East Adelaide primary school in the member for Dunstan's electorate when Dan Tehan, the federal education minister as he was then, came to South Australia to sign that agreement, which unlocked billions of dollars in increased recurrent funding from the federal government to South Australian schools. But critically—and the Labor Party never talked about this when they were in government before—it required a dramatic uplift in the state government's expenditure in school education in public schools in South Australia.

To get the federal government to sign that document, we had to commit—and I had to convince Rob Lucas and the members of cabinet that we needed to commit—an extra \$700 million of state taxpayer funds to our public education system over the decade to follow, over and above the settings left by our predecessors. In addition to that, we also had the increased expenditure of about \$40 million a year of year 7s being in high school and funded at the high school rate. The dramatic increase in investment into education was matched by a reforming agenda focused on things that were going to really shift the dial and make a difference in outcomes for children and young people, and I am very proud of that.

In the Morialta electorate, which my comments will be mostly focused on today, that also had some pretty profound impacts. I already mentioned the new Morialta Secondary College, and I am grateful to the new Minister for Education, who kindly invited me to join him in turning the first sod on that development. I am very grateful that the new government is continuing with that work; it would have been a very foolish decision not to. I suspect that it was probably legally too far along the way, and of course that work is there because there is an urgent need for more capacity in our public schooling system in high schools in the eastern and north-eastern suburbs.

But I do not want to be churlish about this. The new minister has absolutely done the right thing on this in continuing the work and I look forward to seeing him. I hope he comes back to Rostrevor next year to welcome the year 7s as they start and then at the end of next year when all of the building works are complete. Indeed, that will be a beautiful new school. I look forward to being the local member, along with the member for Hartley who is across the road, in thanking the new minister for continuing that work. It is an \$84 million project, which will serve 1,200 students when full in about six years' time, and it will give them many opportunities.

It will ensure that the dramatic capacity challenges at Norwood International High School, as it is now, and Modbury High School, Charles Campbell College and Marrayatville High School—all of those schools are interconnected. Of course, when one school starts having to enforce a capacity management plan, the school next to it starts having to enforce its zone or potentially have a capacity management plan, and it has these flow-on effects. It reduces choice and creates anxiety for families.

So the introduction of this new school will provide a relaxation of that urgent capacity challenge in the eastern and north-eastern suburbs. It will be of massive benefit for those communities.

Of course, Norwood International High School has also benefited from what was a \$52 million commitment by the Marshall Liberal government. Under Labor, there was \$30 million put on the table for an upgrade of what was then Norwood Morialta High School. What the Labor Party did not say before the 2018 election was that \$15 million of that was predicated on the sale of the land at Rostrevor and flogging it off for housing. We reversed that decision and, as I said, built the new school.

We also found that to move that middle campus on to the Norwood site on The Parade at Magill, we had to put in not \$15 million of new money but indeed \$50 million of new money. But my goodness, what an extraordinary improvement it is there. That school, which had 600 students, now has 1,900 students—a massive increase—effectively a 1,300 new student capacity at that school for that \$50 million investment.

The facilities there are tremendous, world class, and I think they will be of benefit to those students for many years to come. These projects will also ensure that where Norwood Morialta High School had been rigorously enforcing its zone for some time, in the years ahead I look forward to students who are interested in those specialty programs that Norwood International has to offer being able to access them.

Charles Campbell College, Modbury High School, these high schools benefited from significant upgrades in recent years, and the Liberal Party had committed an extra \$2 million to improve the toilets at Modbury High School if we were re-elected. I am hopeful that in Thursday's budget we will see the Labor Party follow through on that. I think in the last week we have seen how sorely that extra investment was needed.

The new middle school at Modbury High School is an absolute generational leap forward, and not just one generation, as anyone who remembers those old transportables looking out over the courtyard at Modbury High School would know: indeed, multiple generations of families have potentially been through those old transportables from the 1950s. The school celebrated when they were knocked down and celebrated even more when that world-class new year 7 centre was completed. Stradbroke School and Magill Primary School currently have upgrades underway, and I look forward to their completion along with those in other schools in the broader area.

Modbury Hospital was a very important body of work under the former Liberal government. It has benefited from a \$98 million investment. There is more work to be done, and I look forward to seeing that work being completed. It was tremendously important for our government, and the health minister during the Marshall Liberal government, Stephen Wade, would often talk about the need to have more opportunities for people to get their healthcare services closer to home—more convenient for them where they live and more convenient for their families. Certainly, I know that I have always appreciated the outstanding staff at Modbury Hospital, who have always looked after my family when we have been in need.

In terms of community and environmental infrastructure, there have been significant benefits to my community through the work of the Marshall Liberal government. There have been the dramatic upgrades to the playing fields, the synthetic pitch and, indeed, lights at Campbelltown City Soccer Club, the home of the Red Devils. There have been other upgrades, particularly to change rooms so that more women players could be involved, whether it is in the women's team at the Athelstone Raggies, using their Foxfield Oval upgraded facilities; the Hope Valley Sporting Club, where \$265,000 was invested under the Marshall Liberal government to upgrade those change rooms; to a wide range of other sporting and community infrastructure projects in the Morialta electorate.

Environmental projects: the Friends of Black Hill & Morialta, Dry Creek, the Lobethal Bushland Park, which, of course, was an important grant after the bushfires. Before I conclude these comments, I will come to some words about those parts of Morialta that are no longer in my electorate.

The \$1 million commitment to further works at Hope Valley was an important measure of the Marshall Liberal government, had it been elected, and I encourage the new Labor government to

look at those reservoir openings. It was a wonderful day when Hope Valley Reservoir was opened to the public. There are facilities there that are used, and people can access that reservoir in a way that they could not before. But we would like, ideally, to have people be able to walk around the reservoir without having to go back out on the road, and I hope the new government will deliver on that. Certainly, it would have been a priority for us had we been re-elected.

I think it is as true now as it ever has been that the state of South Australia is the best place to live in the world. It is the best place to work, to play, to raise a family. As the new government comes to office, with the endorsement of the South Australian people, we genuinely wish them well. This is our state and this is our community. We want the new government to succeed in making our state stronger.

We took to the election a set of value propositions that we believed were in the state's best interests, and some of them were disagreed with by the now government. They characterised them in a different way, and I do not think always in a fair way, but nevertheless they convinced enough people to vote for them to have the reins of power. We will hold them to account in delivering on those things the new government promised the people of South Australia.

I do not think there is any question when it comes to health services that the new government have set the bar high on what they have promised they will deliver: fixing ramping, delivering on health outcomes for South Australia's people. In early childhood, the new government promised to deliver universal preschool for all South Australian three year olds in addition to all South Australian four year olds.

They made some bold claims about what they would deliver in the early childhood space and, as shadow education minister, I will be holding them to account thereto. We want them to succeed in making our state strong and keeping our state safe and, indeed, in ensuring that all South Australians have access for generations to come, our children particularly, to this continuing to be the best place to live, work and play in the world, and the best place to raise a family.

Sometimes in this state we are confronted, as is the rest of the world, by economic challenges and headwinds. Sometimes we face a pandemic, and some parts of our community face natural disaster and challenges. Sir, you and I spent a great deal of time together in the summer of 2019-20, and in the subsequent months after, in our communities—areas that are largely now in Kavel, some of which are in Schubert and Heysen, but at the time were half in Morialta and half in Kavel until the redistribution removed from Morialta all of our Hills areas.

This is a community that has suffered extraordinary property damage, livestock damage, lifestyle damage and loss of life and injury. That the loss of life was not greater should not diminish in anyone's mind the extraordinary trauma of the Cudlee Creek fires upon that community. Also, in my mind I will never forget the extraordinary resilience and strength in the face of desperately difficult times demonstrated by those communities in the wake of those bushfires.

This is a community that does not ask much of government; it is a community that supports its neighbour. When entire swathes of the community were burnt, damaged, trauma was suffered, people were in hospital, people were dying, the community still found strength to rally around. It is a community that the Marshall Liberal government was there to support.

I stood with Steven Marshall, former Governor, Hieu Van Le, and former Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, as they were warmly received in the Lobethal Recovery Centre and the Lobethal sporting ground for Christmas Eve. An enormous number of engagements occurred between us as local members, the federal member, Rebekha Sharkie, and other community leaders. The Leader of the Opposition, as he was then—now the Premier—came out on one or two occasions as well. They were received warmly by the community, but the community needed our help.

I am pleased there were new measures put in place by our government to support those communities, which had never been put in place after previous disasters. They were measures that, as local members, you and I sought from our government. We worked very well with Alex Zimmerman, who was the recovery coordinator, to ensure that those measures were delivered. I am very sad that these areas are no longer in the Morialta electorate, but they will always be in my life and the life of my family. Certainly, when I have days with the children on the weekends, our family still enjoys sharing time in those communities when we can and will for years to come.

To the people of Morialta whom I served for that term and previous terms, and to those who have now given me the greatest honour of my life—indeed, my professional life—to continue to serve as their local member in the years to come, I dedicate my support and I will faithfully serve you in the years to come.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Morialta. I acknowledge, too, your extraordinary support to me following the Cudlee Creek bushfire, for which I was very grateful.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:28): Firstly, I would like to welcome the new members of parliament. There are many from the class of 2022 who I think are going to be here for a very long time. In the years to come, their photos on the wall in the members' area may actually look like Tom Koutsantonis's photo, which is almost unrecognisable today. I thoroughly enjoy the energy and the sheer joy the new members bring to this parliament. When you have been beaten around a little bit, and get a little bit cynical, new members really do bring vigour, life and renewal to these chambers. It is a real joy to be part of that and see their progression over the next four years.

The tradition of maiden speeches is really important. It gives everyone a chance to get to know the new members a little bit better. I have listened to every maiden speech. It is good to get to know people's backgrounds and the people who have helped, and for those members to thank those who have helped get them to this place. No matter what someone's political persuasion, nearly everyone I have met who comes into this place does so with the intent of trying to make the lives of South Australians better and the future brighter for those who come after us.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to congratulate you on your reappointment, and I want to reaffirm the importance of the independence of the Speaker—an important change that was made last year—and upholding the Westminster tradition. I would like to reflect very briefly and give thought to the members who are no longer here and the contribution they have made over their years of service, particularly, as an Independent, the members for Florey and Waite, who contested the last election but were unsuccessful.

The member for Florey obviously had a distinguished career in this house. From my point of view, having recently worked with the member for Florey, she had a real commitment to her community. Many times, we were right next to each other sharing an office and I would hear her talking to constituents on issues that mattered to them. She fought for Modbury Hospital and made vigorous efforts to bring in real-time pricing, trying to get the government to commit to that not in a superficial way but in a way that would actually reduce the price of petrol for consumers and put downward pressure on costs of living. I was very impressed with her efforts around that. Of course, her Muriel Matters women's suffrage efforts kept a torch burning on that important part of our history.

Sam, the member for Waite, had a lot of involvement around health-related issues but, in particular, kids with epilepsy. He tried to get the government to look at medical cannabis, or CBD, oil to help families whose kids suffer juvenile epilepsy. He was also a great supporter of mine, as I was of him, around the lymphoedema garment subsidy that ended up with the state government committing \$4 million to the subsidy of those garments for many people in South Australia who suffer from lymphoedema. There was also, of course, his vigorous defence of the gatehouse in his electorate of Waite. I wanted to mention those things because the wheel keeps turning and if we do not reflect back, even just briefly, they do not go unrecognised, but it is good to reflect on them in an Address in Reply speech.

I want to thank the candidates who contested the seat of Mount Gambier. I honestly believe that our community had a wonderful choice going into this election. Ben Hood worked tirelessly for the Liberal Party. He would knock on doors and spent a solid nine months campaigning very, very strongly. I know this because I would get phone calls day and night from people saying that Ben had knocked on the door and where was I?

It is a bit harder when you are still doing your day job and working with lots of constituents coming in the door, but it is a real credit to Ben. He put in a superb effort and campaigned really hard. He has an IT background. His social media was excellent. I know this because he was on my campaign team for the last election in 2018. He has a very bright future. If he chooses to continue following a political path, I am sure he will end up, in some form, contributing to this great state.

Katherine Davies, the Labor candidate, was an unbelievably tireless worker. She has real compassion and care for our community and was backed up superbly with very good policies so she could go out and communicate with our electorate on what state Labor was offering to the people in the seat of Mount Gambier. She really showed great commitment to the cause, and it is the first time in my living memory when the number of people taking Labor how-to-vote cards was on par with the rest of the candidates, myself included, so it is a real credit to Katherine and the effort she put in.

Sometimes these public debates and community forums are quite daunting, particularly when you still have your day job and you have to get your head around policies and tricky questions coming from the crowd. I thought both Ben and Katherine did a wonderful job of communicating with our community and, as I said, I think we were blessed with great candidates. No matter which way people wanted to vote, they had a very good candidate to represent their views at the 2022 state election.

Peter Heaven was the other candidate. He came on the scene very late, and I did not get to know Peter very well, but I thank him for putting his hand up too. Of course, it was not just doorknocking, it was giving up your weekends and your mobile number going out to a whole range of people who would ring on it with myriads of issues. I used to see Katherine and Ben doing street-corner conversations out the front of shopping centres. They both worked very hard. I also want to thank their supporters, those people who give up hundreds of hours to support the candidate or the party they believe in.

Obviously, families get dragged in, whether willingly or reluctantly, and it was a real pleasure to get to know the candidates' families as well. Many mornings, Katherine's partner, James, and I would set up the pre-poll booth with Katherine. Jenny, who is James's mother, was there most of the day and also helped out on a forum around housing that we convened—because our issues are not political issues: they are community issues. I wanted to make sure that all the candidates were involved in addressing the issues our community faces.

Rick, Katherine's dad, was there, as was Julian Scriven—this young bloke, I tell you, is the hardest worker I have ever met. He had the Labor shirt on and he was there from the opening of pre-poll to the closing of pre-poll most of the days. He is a really engaging individual and I wish him all the best for his future too.

Mark Pretlove is one of our favourites and my team supplied cans of Solo to Mark. Mark has been there through thick and thin, through the dark days and the good days, but he is always handing out how-to-votes. For the Liberals, and I know most of them personally, Barney McCusker, Dianna Wiseman, Mark and Julie Peucker, Neil and Kris Howard and many more are just stalwarts of the Liberal Party.

To my own helpers I wrote thankyou letters—and there were 95 thankyou letters, so if I start mentioning individuals we will probably be here for the rest of the day. I wrote to each and every one of them to sincerely thank them. We had an amazing pre-poll and we would have three or four people for every two-hour slot. Most of the time, we were not turning people away but trying to reconfigure when they might want to come.

It was a really incredible effort, and when you have people there like Margie Winterfield or my mum, who knows every second person in town, you have to have two or three extras because they start talking and everyone slips past them, so you need to have someone mopping up behind to make sure that they get a how-to-vote card.

As a family, we have tried really hard to keep separation between politics and our family. It is a personal decision that we have made, but of course that gets thrown out the window when elections come around and the dining room table becomes campaign headquarters. I really do not want any of my kids to come into politics. They will obviously do what they want to do, and if I say one thing they will do the complete opposite anyway, but to have four expert advisers around the dining room table can be challenging.

My eldest daughter, Jordan, and her mother, Michaela, my wife, normally argue with each other about the correct course of action. Bridie, our youngest, wants to go for the kill every second she can, and then Jackson, my son, and I just look at each other and say, 'What the hell do we do here?' It was pretty nice when all the views lined up, but that was not always the case. Jackson and

I are a little bit more laid back and just let it flow, whereas the females in our house certainly are more combative. Watch out if any of the Bells come in here, particularly Bridie because, I will tell you what, they will be interesting times.

In terms of our campaign, the really disappointing thing for me was about 12 months ago, when the state budget was handed down. The entire Limestone Coast got \$2.3 million, and that is from Keith and Bordertown right down to Port MacDonnell. I decided that, instead of sitting there and whinging about it, we would do something about it, and we put together a document called the Future Mount Gambier and District Plan. It is about a \$100 million plan or road map going forward and it really spelt out what type of investment our community was looking for.

It was developed in consultation with stakeholders. Obviously, our two councils are our major stakeholders, and they had a fair bit of input and I thank them for that. It really tried to address the issues that we were looking at—that is, health, including ambulance; housing; and investment in trades, particularly our TAFE, which has seen a lack of real investment. We launched this document in August last year. I invited the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and SA-Best to come to the launch.

It probably surprised a fair few that the Leader of the Opposition made the effort to come down. He heard firsthand what the community wanted and that it was a united plan and not just a Troy Bell wish list. I made sure that I shared it with all the candidates so that, if I was unsuccessful and they were successful, they had not only a road map to go forward but also a road map to campaign on because this is bigger than just one person holding a seat: this is for the community's future. We had over 100 people. We were capped at 100, so I was quite nervous that over 100 people turned out on a pretty wintry night in August last year to launch the plan and also look at ways going forward.

What I was really pleased about were the election commitments from the Labor team, undoubtedly fuelled by Katherine and her hard work with the then opposition. They really sought to address many of the priorities that we had put down. I put in \$20 million over the next four years for forestry, with well spelled-out initiatives around fire protection for our community, water initiatives and growing manufacturing. I put in \$20 million and state Labor committed \$25 million to our Forestry Future Initiatives. There is the Housing For All Initiative, with 400 homes being built in South Australia, 150 in regional South Australia, for our most disadvantaged social housing program. We expect a fair chunk of that in Mount Gambier.

The government has committed \$5 million to our TAFE, \$35 million for a technical college to be built in Mount Gambier and \$35 million for health and our hospital, and that includes mental health. All of this is addressed in the Mount Gambier and district future plan. I do thank them for that commitment and look forward to the state budget this week.

There was one issue that did surprise me that I did not pick out, and that was the Adelaide 500. I did not think that issue would affect the community of Mount Gambier the way that it did, but I am still staggered at the number of people—and I would have to say the majority were Liberals—who would come up to me and speak passionately about the reinstatement of the Adelaide 500 and what it actually meant to them as people living in Mount Gambier.

Many tradies would come up and say that was the one weekend they would get away with work colleagues—there would be corporate support for them to get up to Adelaide, whether a big building company or a supplying company—and just how passionate they were about making sure the Adelaide 500 was reinstated. I will not go into many of the comments, but it is fair to say that was an issue that surprised me. The rest pretty much fell out of the future Mount Gambier and district document.

We are very keen to work with the current government over the next four years to make sure that this plan is implemented in full, and so far there is no reason to give any doubt that it will not be. I think the future for Mount Gambier and the district is very bright. With those words, I will conclude.

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) (11:46): Mr Speaker, I offer you my warm congratulations on your re-election and look

forward to your wise guidance as Speaker of this house. In providing my Address in Reply, I acknowledge Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia and thank her for outlining our government's vision and for the thought and care with which she did so. I also thank her for her deep care for the people of South Australia, her authentic and wise leadership, and her steadfast acknowledgement of and willingness to learn from the Aboriginal people who have lived on this land for more than 60,000 years.

I also acknowledge that we gather in this parliament on land that is Kurna land and always will be. I pay my respects to Kurna elders past and present, to Kurna future leaders and to elders of other Aboriginal nations. I thank those leaders for their generous sharing of wisdom and culture with us in this place and our communities. I look forward to continuing to learn from them and I am so proud that the Malinauskas Labor government will fulfil its commitment to work with Aboriginal people toward Voice, Treaty, Truth. This is a process that our Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher, South Australia's first ever Aboriginal Attorney-General, will lead our government's work on—a step that, as a state, we can be proud of.

I place on record my love and immense gratitude for the people of Reynell. I thank them for returning me to represent them in this place. I remain absolutely steadfast in my commitment to listening to them, acting with and for them, and for empowering their voices on what really makes a difference in their lives. I will return to speak at length about the beautiful community family that they are and how integral they are to all that I do and stand for.

Labor's campaign set out a positive and progressive vision—a vision not just for the next four years or even the next decade but for the next generation. We can all be proud of this vision as our Malinauskas government drives it. At the heart of our vision are the hopes and aspirations of communities across South Australia and an abiding commitment to the people of South Australia. Deeply embedded in every aspect of that rigorously thought through vision for our state's future is a desire to ensure that every South Australian experiences equality of opportunity.

We know that without your health nothing else matters. We are committed to fixing the ramping crisis and the health system. We are focused on creating the jobs of the future and an education system that will enable children and young people to thrive. We will work to ensure that our precious environment is protected now and into the future. These and our other aspirations will be realised by our government, led by our Premier, Peter, a leader of substance, vision, determination and energy, a leader, average footy player or not, whose team I am so proud to be part of.

Our Premier leads with empathy, conviction and a visceral desire to ensure that no-one is left behind. He listens to people, he walks with them and above all he puts their future and the future of our state at the centre of every decision he makes. He is a generous leader who engenders the leadership of others. He listens to people to understand, honours their voice, experience and ideas, and works tirelessly to empower them to live their best possible lives.

Our Deputy Premier, my friend Susan, is so very clever, so very kind and so very determined. She knows why she is here, she knows what we must do together and she provides support to every member of our team to make sure that they can. Thank you, Deputy Premier, for your friendship and wisdom, and the incredible hard and insightful work that you undertook to help develop our vision.

A core part of our vision is our plan to achieve gender equality. Not long after the polls closed on 19 March, a key element of that plan came to fruition as we saw outstanding woman after outstanding woman declared elected. Fourteen women members on this side of the house were sworn in on 3 May, a day that made history—or herstory—and a day that fulfilled our commitment to bring gender equality in decision-making to life, a step forward that will make our parliament and our state a better place.

These are extraordinary women, whom I love calling friends and am committed to being there for. Congratulations, Lucy, Rhiannon, Erin, Nadia, Olivia, Sarah and Catherine. Thank you to each of you for your courage, your resilience and your work ethic, for growing our circle of women in this place, for always advocating for your communities and for people's lives to be better, and for always choosing to support other women. Your presence, shared wisdom, collective strength and camaraderie are transformative. It feels different in here already. Your presence here makes our

state stronger and will inspire South Australian girls to absolutely know that their place is in this house, or wherever else they wish it to be.

I am so honoured to have been sworn in as the Minister for Child Protection; the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing; and the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Together with these women, and indeed every member of our government, I am profoundly committed to creating a state in which your gender has no bearing on the opportunities available to you, a state which is renowned for equal opportunity for girls and women, that empowers girls and women to live their best possible lives, and that realises the benefits for all that an equal future creates.

I am driven to address inequality and ensure that women and girls can equally and actively participate in our economy and in every aspect of community life. Women are increasingly taking their rightful places in spaces traditionally dominated by men, including here in this house, as well as workers and employers across our state. We are progressing change. Our rights were hard-won, but we are not done.

Further and disproportionate pressure was put on women's employment and economic participation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government's commitment to addressing economic equality includes investment in industries which predominantly employ women, including the arts, major events and tourism. We will address women's economic equality through criminalising wage theft and strengthening our labour hire laws, and we will explore portable long service leave for the community sector and other industries.

I look forward to continuing to speak with representatives in many industries and across our community to progress economic equality, including with the finance and real estate industries, to explore ways to address the ongoing trend of women bearing the brunt of mortgages, loans and rent that go unpaid as a result of domestic violence.

We often hear that stopping violence before it starts is up to all of us. It is; it has to be. I will continue to relentlessly speak up and act to prevent and end domestic violence. I must, but we all must. I have determined that there are more voices, more actions from more people, especially from those who have been too quiet for too long. Enough is indeed enough. Change must be made because, like every woman, I am utterly sick of not always feeling safe when we walk to our cars through a park, home from the train station, and I am utterly sick of too many women not being safe at home.

I will be calling on everyone in this place not just to speak of their support for change but to be active in achieving it. It has been appalling to hear some of the commentary and actions toward women over the past year and half, including from those who occupied some of the highest offices in this land. This must change. Our government will tackle the gender inequality that lies as the root cause of violence and disrespect toward women, and we are committed to fast and holistic legislative reform to prevent and end domestic violence and to hold perpetrators to account.

We intend to move legislation to criminalise coercive control, to include the experience of domestic violence as a ground of discrimination in the Equal Opportunity Act and to include both mental health first aid training and an understanding of domestic violence in work health and safety education. We also intend to move legislation to investigate progressing paid domestic violence leave of workers engaged pursuant to the Fair Work Act of South Australia, to require those who were granted bail who have been charged with serious domestic violence offences to be electronically monitored as a condition of bail, and review legislation pertaining to consent to sexual activity.

Many of these bills were moved from opposition, but, sadly, in relation to a number of them, the former government simply refused to act. While it is crucial to utilise every available legal measure, prevention must be at the heart of our response to domestic violence. Our government will provide \$1 million in funding to establish southern and northern domestic violence prevention and recovery hubs to undertake work to support and empower women and raise community awareness around domestic and family violence.

We have committed to providing \$4 million to support women to start and grow their businesses. We will reinvigorate work abandoned over the last four years to support girls and women

in sport. Sport is so powerful. It keeps people active and improves physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. It gives many a wonderful sense of belonging, an opportunity to connect and form friendships, and enables communities to explore issues that our communities and world confront. It must be an exemplar of inclusion.

Our government is committed to growing participation, including of women and girls, people from diverse multicultural communities and of differing abilities, ensuring clubs and groups have access to the facilities and equipment they need to ensure everybody can participate. I will certainly keep this house abreast of developments in this area.

We are also committed to establishing policies and systems that focus on achieving equality in sport and enable codes, clubs and groups to positively welcome all and support volunteers and on ensuring South Australia embraces the opportunities that come through sport and recreation to bring people to our state and to bring people in our state together. I am energised to work alongside codes, clubs, players, volunteers and all who make up our sport, recreation and racing communities to ensure South Australians can participate in the sport, recreation and racing they love, compete and connect and enjoy community life through recreation and sport.

When we see women and girls being celebrated for being strong, skilful and physical, perceptions about the role of women in our community change. I am so proud to be part of a government that is serious about backing women in sport and will work to ensure girls and women can equally participate in the sport they love. This represents vast improvement from the previous government's cruel cut to the dedicated \$24 million Female Facilities Program and the Women in Sport Taskforce as well as their initial refusal to participate in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup bid until our community campaigned to reverse that shameful decision.

Adelaide's hosting of 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup matches will provide our government and Football SA a significant opportunity to provide a lasting legacy, to grow the game and to encourage young women and young men to pursue playing football, including at the highest level. I look forward to our re-establishment of the Women in Sport Taskforce that will advise government on issues preventing women and girls from fully participating in their sport in the way they choose. Sport is where people engage and it is, even more so than ever over the past two years, a lifeline for many.

The people of Reynell connect with one another through wonderful local sporting clubs, as do hundreds of thousands of people in communities right across our state. They are clubs that give them that sense of belonging, that enable them to do and be their best on and off their particular playing field, that include people in a community family that supports them when times are tough and that are filled with volunteers who work tirelessly to make matches, games and events seamlessly run week after week, year after year. I thank every one of them and look forward to working with and for them in Reynell and beyond.

Every South Australian child should be enabled to mentally, physically and emotionally thrive. I have a visceral determination to improve the systems, processes and procedures in the child protection space so that they can and to improve how we work with families to strengthen and support them before breakdown. Our vision is for all South Australian children and young people to grow up safe, loved and cared for.

To achieve that vision means tackling some of the most complex and difficult social issues and recognising the impact of intergenerational disadvantage and poverty. It means putting the welfare of children and young people at the centre of decision-making and actions. It means actively listening and genuinely hearing the voices of children, young people, their families, their carers and their communities as well as staff and providers. It means making active efforts to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in care, a situation that is paramount for me as minister to address.

Our government is resolutely committed to the Closing the Gap targets and in particular to working towards reaching target 12 by having a dedicated plan with Aboriginal people, a plan that includes empowering the Aboriginal children's commissioner to create an Aboriginal-led group to ensure Aboriginal voices are heard within the system, a plan that includes active efforts to ensure Aboriginal governance is embedded in legislation and to ensure Aboriginal families and communities

lead decision-making processes rather than only being enabled to participate in them, a plan that is about not just listening but also acting on what we hear to build a better, more cohesive, transparent system for all.

To build a child protection system for the future requires ensuring the system is joined up, responsive, transparent and accountable and that it nurtures learning and working together and engenders participation, empowerment and collective effort. Alongside those efforts, I am also determined to do what I can to change the discourse and community perception about child protection in a way that enables open dialogue and genuine, shared, honest exploration of the complex problems that we contemplate.

With a shocking one in three South Australian children coming to the attention of the Department for Child Protection at some point, a better way, with prevention and early intervention at the core of that way, must be found. We must strike the right balance between doing everything we possibly can to keep children safe always, which of course we must, and directing resources into strengthening vulnerable families.

Being able to achieve the vision in each of my portfolios and with my community would not be possible without a number of people who have supported and continue to support me, including at the recent election. I wholeheartedly thank volunteers, all of whom I am proud to call friends: the Uppill family, the Schirmer family, Katrina Bean, the Rootsey family, Bill Jamieson, Callum Barrott-Walsh, Cody Hastings and Jas, Renee Freeman, Di Newton, the Schultz family, Graeme Morgan, Harry Early, Hartley Abbott, John and Marisa Eitel, Johnno Gauci, Julie Copley, Llew Jones, Shayne Glasgow, Ed Gower, Tom Gower, Millsy and Simone, Luke Wagner, Mark Dibdin, the Howden family, Rex Moulds, the Wiese family, the Stead family, the Turner family and Ivy Aspinall, William Short, Andrew and Narelle Brown and family, Brendan Pyne, Robert Habel and Dallas, Don Hopgood, Gail Wakelin, Iris Leeson, Graham Lane, Sarah Lane, the Top Women Hiking Group (and during February the Top Women Letterboxing Group), Emma Little, Phoebe Hunter, Morgan Davis, Peter Jolly, Peter Hilhorst and many others.

I thank my absolutely incredible staff, all of whom are also friends. This group of young women are changing the world. They are strong, clever, organised, compassionate and brave. They inspire me every single day with their values, deep care for people and the world in which we live, their relentless passion for equality and fairness, and I could not do what I do without them.

Thank you so much to Hilsy (Hilary Wigg), Vixen (Victoria Clark) and more recently Lucy Ormsby, Kendra Clancy, Gaby Hummel and all in the ministerial office. My very special friends who are always with me traversing all our ups and downs together, thank you and so much love to you, Mary Hajistassi, John Iannou, Belinda Uppill, Katrina Bean, Katrina Schirmer, Bec, Kylie Heneker and Ilka Walkley from afar.

As always in this place, I act today with the people of Reynell in my heart and in my thoughts. I now bring them here with me through words. I wholeheartedly thank the extraordinary people of Reynell who on a daily basis inspire, motivate and support me to continue to work with and for them, to represent them to make sure their voices are heard. I am so pleased that we will be able to progress a number of the matters for which they have campaigned so long and hard.

Our community is one that cares about our beautiful coastline, one that knows the true meaning of equality, of fairness and inclusion, of what it takes to support people to access secure and decent jobs that enable them to meet the cost of living and live a decent life and why employment is so important. It is a community that loyally supports local business and wants to see them grow and that values quality and accessible health services, education, public transport and community services being there when they are needed.

Many in our community have a strong vision of what they want for their lives, the lives of their children and all children and families in the south and beyond, how they see our state thriving and surviving into the future and their vision, hopes and aspirations. I am humbled by our community's focus on doing the best for their families, for our community and our state. Ours is a community characterised by strength, kindness, resilience and compassion, an ocean loving, tight-knit community always willing to open its arms to those in need and to speak up and fight for what is fair.

Above all, we are a community that cares about each other. This characteristic of our community family is one that my own family felt so strongly eight months ago and in the months leading up to the election. Our community family was absolutely there for me and mine. Everyone who knows me knows how much I, our boys and our wider family absolutely love my husband, Charles—and why wouldn't everyone love him—even the member for Morialta's mum loves him. Before I tell this story, I reassure the house that it ends well and that Charles is still with us.

At the end of August, Charles ran in the Adelaide Marathon Festival. A couple of hours after he left, early on a Sunday morning to do so, I had calls repeatedly and rapidly from a private number. When I listened to the messages it was an emergency doctor from the RAH asking me to call as quickly as possible. I did and discovered that my beautiful Charles had experienced sudden and extremely serious cardiac arrest and that his heart and his breathing had simply stopped. It was a devastating moment when my family and I faced the possibility of losing him. Thank God we did not.

In his call, the doctor asked who was home with me. One of our beautiful sons was. The doctor asked us to come as quickly as we could, and I remember him asking who was the better driver. Amid my horror, I remember saying that both of us were actually pretty bad drivers but that we would get there somehow.

To cut a very long story short, Charles stayed with us because of the immediate action of an extraordinary young intern doctor, Jennifer Chataway, a brilliant nurse, Alison Cook, a team of off-duty medical professionals, and even a few veterinary nurses who immediately gathered around him as he lay on the road on the Morphett Street Bridge. They commenced CPR in shifts until an incredible team of ambos arrived and restarted his heart on the second defibrillation.

We met Jennifer and Alison a week later in the hospital and it was one of the most special moments of our lives. We will forever be grateful to them and all who immediately and without hesitation assisted. They literally brought Charles back to life. They are beautiful, generous and skilful and it has been amazing to get to know them. Again, forever we will be grateful to them.

I will also forever be grateful to our Reynell community family. As an MP, you always want to be there for your community. During those awful weeks last August and beyond, and indeed always, our Reynell community family has also absolutely been there for us. The many messages, calls, cards and to this day checking in on how Charles is going, speaks to who the people of Reynell are, to their enormous collective heart and to the deep connection between one another that we all have. I thank them for their incredible kindness and for the incredible support they have vested in me to continue as their member for Reynell.

Finally, I thank my family: my mum; my sisters, Alison and Sally; my brother Luke and his family; my husband, Charles; our beautiful boys, Che and Liam; and their partners, Megsy and Amy. There is a certain moment of relief as a parent with teenage boys when they somehow make it through some of the trickier years without their exploits leading to too much trouble. They make me so happy, they hold me at the best and worst moments, they love me and I love them, and they make my life. I am so proud of the young men that our sons have become. They are engaged, focused and kind, they have strongly held views, they are clever and resourceful. I am so happy because it is lovely to see when your sons meet excellent women and you see their relationships grow and you see them both being loved well and also loving those women well.

Again, thank you to my beautiful husband, Charles; thank you so much for coming back. I will leave it there.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (12:14): I will start my Address in Reply speech by acknowledging the Governor and the manner in which she laid out the agenda of the Malinauskas government. The Governor made a special effort to meet with all of us individually, which is something that I very much appreciated. She has also made an effort to get out to regional communities. She has been to Whyalla and other communities, and it was great to see the way that she hit the ground running. The speech contained a number of commitments that we made during the election and in the lead-up to the election. It is going to be a real privilege to see those commitments delivered over the next four years.

I want to acknowledge the electorate of Giles, a vast electorate with so many communities which have given me the privilege and honour to be re-elected—and it was a very handy swing. I

would like to put all that down to my charm and wit, but, alas, we know that it is always far more than that. As a local member you do what you can, but I believe that we went to the people with a powerful policy framework.

Not only did we go to the people with a powerful policy framework but we also went to the people with an amazing leadership team in both our Premier and our Deputy Premier and the other people who form our cabinet. It was a very unified team, a very focused team, and we did hammer a number of incredibly important issues which resonated in the communities I represent. Of course, one of the biggest of those issues was health.

The contrast was stark, between funding nearly \$700 million for a basketball stadium in the centre of Adelaide compared to eventually using that money to enhance our health system, and for those of us from regional communities we always have challenges when it comes to the delivery of health services. I am sure that there are many of us here from regional communities who have seen in some ways the decline of the services in regional communities, and there is a whole range of factors involved in that.

I could give some very personal stories when it comes to health services in regional communities. I was incredibly fortunate to have twins with my then partner, Kathryn, in Whyalla. Those twins were born prematurely, about five weeks prematurely. It required a caesarean birth. At that time, we had two resident obstetricians living in Whyalla who provided 24-hour care. They were on call 24 hours a day. So my twins, Liam and Sinead, were able to be born in Whyalla. That would not happen now. They would either have to go to Port Augusta or to Adelaide.

One of the obstetricians was somewhat famous—he had a whole documentary made about him by his daughter Heather Croall—and that obstetrician was John Croall. So not only did you have a professional like that who lived in your community and did not fly in-fly out on a Friday; he actually lived in and committed to the community. He was part of our community and made a contribution in a whole range of ways. His kids went to school in Whyalla.

We are seeing less and less of that in regional communities, in the health system and also across a whole range of professional spheres, and this is to the disadvantage of regional communities. It can mean the difference between life and death. The doctor who served Wudinna for so many years recently left, exasperated, had had enough—a very hard gig for a lone GP in a community.

But I remember Wudinna incredibly well. It was on one long weekend when we had gone fishing and camping down to the West Coast, and about 13 kilometres outside of Wudinna we were involved in a horrific car crash. There were four of us in the car, and the woman I was going out with at the time who was driving that car was incredibly seriously injured.

We had the volunteers turn up, the volunteer ambulance, the SES, the CFS, all doing their bit, but the crucial element was that there was a doctor in Wudinna. There was a doctor there to stabilise Veronica. If that doctor had not been there, the odds are she would have died. Now there is no doctor in Wudinna.

Regional communities are experiencing this loss of GPs. We saw the other day the stories that the backbone of primary care in regional communities, not just in this state but in other states, is at risk, with far more young people who are graduating with medical degrees not willing, for a whole range of reasons, to become GPs and not willing, for a whole range of reasons, to base themselves in the country. This is primarily a federal issue. The state can play a role, but it is primarily a federal issue. If it is not addressed or not fully addressed, the impact on regional communities is going to be detrimental.

We made a number of commitments in regard to health. There were the broader, system-wide commitments when it came to extra doctors, extra nurses, extra beds—and especially mental health beds—and they were all fantastic commitments. We also made a number of local commitments when it came to the electorate of Giles, and both Port Augusta and Whyalla are going to benefit from extra ambulance crews and they are going to benefit from transfer crews.

As a member, people were coming to see me about the incredibly long waits people were experiencing for an ambulance to turn up. This, once again, can put life at risk. So by 2024 there is

going to be a completely brand-new 24/7 ambulance service based in Whyalla. There is going to be a transfer crew; there is going to be a transfer crew in Port Augusta. In the Upper Spencer Gulf area, there are going to be 33 additional paramedics and ambulance officers. That is a really positive thing.

There is going to be some investment in Port Augusta Hospital, but clearly that hospital needs far greater investment than has been committed to date. There is going to be an ongoing range of issues when it comes to the provision of health services in our country areas and to people's access, when needed, to the specialist services and other services in Adelaide.

The Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) has been a perennial issue. When we were last in government, we increased funding by 33 per cent. That was a good initiative, but more needs to be done. We need to seriously look at PATS and see where else we can reform the system so that people from country electorates are not disadvantaged. They are always out of pocket when they come to Adelaide. What has not been reflected is the very large increases in fuel prices if people are driving. That is one issue.

There is also the issue about accommodation. People are nearly always out of pocket. If you do not have family members living in Adelaide, and you have to find hotel-type accommodation, despite some of the places you can go that are not within the hotel system, such as Greenhill Lodge and others—if you have to have a hotel room, you are going to be out of pocket. This all represents a barrier to country people accessing health.

One of the things that always stuck in my mind was a patient from Whyalla who was knocked back four times for PATS during the term of the last government. I am not having a go at the last government, by the way, because it had something of a happy ending, if you can call it that. This patient was knocked back four times for PATS, yet he had a terminal illness and needed to go to Adelaide because he could access two specialists there who would actually communicate, given a litany of things that had happened at the hospital in Whyalla.

Like I said, he was knocked back four times. I wrote to the then Minister Wade. I am not sure if it was part of the detail I sent him or the collective activity by a whole range of country members over time, but he had the decency to reform the PATS area so that when you do have a terminal illness you do not get knocked back.

Many country members are approached by people who have turned up to Adelaide and, at the last minute, their surgery or their visit has been cancelled. For some people from country areas that is incredibly difficult. One patient who has a profound disability had to go to Adelaide. They are totally reliant upon a carer, they are wheelchair-bound and the planning for that person to get to Adelaide is very significant. They turned up in Adelaide and at the last minute the appointment was cancelled. This has happened to a number of people.

Sometimes that cannot be helped—things do happen—but at other times a warning can be given. We need to flag when people are from country communities so that if surgery or other interventions are going to be cancelled, they get prior warning. You are dealing with a big system and it is assumed that you just live a suburb or two over, so we need to address some of those issues.

One of the big commitments made prior to the election, but the location was given during the election, was our commitment to building a hydrogen power plant in Whyalla. It is a 200-megawatt power plant, with a 250-megawatt equivalent set of electrolyzers and very significant storage. I was obviously very keen to secure that for Whyalla for a range of reasons.

I reflect on the fact that back in 2014-15 I did some work with the Melbourne Institute to see if we could get some funding from the private sector. I could secure local money—and I am not talking about state money but local money—to fund a study looking at Whyalla becoming a hydrogen hub. We wrote to 50 different companies. They thought it was an interesting idea, and all the rest of it, but there was no tangible commitment. We are talking about 2014-15. Here we are, some years later, and hydrogen is clearly the flavour of the year, and justifiably so, because the potential could be huge.

I was very keen to see the hydrogen power plant secured for Whyalla. The power plant element in itself is good: it is green, dispatchable power, utilising the massive renewable energy

resources in this state. The thing that excited me were the 250 megawatts of electrolyzers in Whyalla as a first major step into the hydrogen industry. I am sure you all know in this room that if you are using renewable energy to generate electricity, split the water, create the hydrogen, create the oxygen, you then have something you can play with in a really serious way.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr HUGHES: Yes. Anyway, you have something that you can play with in a serious way. Not only can you then burn the hydrogen in the peaking plant to provide electricity, but the thing I am really interested in is that you have an electrolyser producing hydrogen that then has the potential, once we build upon this technology, to green the steel industry. This is an incredibly big deal. South Australia is incredibly fortunate in having global quality solar and wind.

We are also incredibly fortunate, in Whyalla specifically, where we have anywhere between 650 million and over a billion tonnes of magnetite on our doorstep. Magnetite just happens to be more suited for use with hydrogen than haematite, which we currently export. The potential is huge, but it is going to be a step at a time. Currently, the country that leads when it comes to the use of hydrogen for the production of green steel is Sweden.

The hydrogen in steelmaking, in the metallic iron-making process, is a substitute for coking coal, and that is why we talk about it as green steel, which gives us that capacity to move away from the use of coking coal. This is not going to happen overnight, but it certainly can happen. We need to start small, we need to be doing those trials using hydrogen and using magnetite to get that real-world experience before ultimate expansion. That, of course, is all linked into the investment dollars that are going to be available hopefully—and I say hopefully—to modernise the steelworks.

I used to work in that industry, I know the people in that industry, and the workers express their frustration to me—especially if you are a fitter—about constantly having to patch up to keep the plant running. That said, though, the order books are full and they are cranking out the steel. They have been making a lot of money from the iron ore exports. However, irrespective of the ownership the fundamentals in this state are there: the renewable energy resources and the magnetite.

As I said, there is potentially up to one billion tonnes of magnetite on Whyalla's doorstep, but in this state the JORC reserve when it comes to magnetite is in excess of 10 billion tonnes. So we have the resources but we just need an almost Playfordesque-type vision, which could be delivered with strong bipartisan support. The integrated steelworks in Whyalla were commissioned back in 1965, so it is a dated plant.

Hydrogen is going to be good. We see there is a major conference in Adelaide over the next couple of days with respect to hydrogen. There will be a lot of international players there, because of course there is not just the power plant the government has committed to but also the potential for a whole range of other private sector projects in Whyalla and elsewhere in the state, such as over in Port Pirie. We need to grab the bull by both horns and go with this because the potential is huge.

A number of other commitments were made. One of the commitments in dollar terms is relatively small—and I want to see us lobby the new federal government to see whether they will match our funding—and that is the City Safe program in Port Augusta. The electoral boundaries decision in relation to Port Augusta was somewhat controversial given that it split the community in two. I get the western part and the member for Stuart, the Hon. Geoff Brock, gets the eastern part, but we will effectively work together.

The City Safe program was a small program. It is not a panacea: it is just part of what has to be a layered approach. When you speak to the community of Port Augusta, the issues about community safety, antisocial behaviour and crime figure very prominently indeed, and we do need to address that. Everyone has a right to live and prosper in a community where they feel safe.

I was speaking to some of the businesses in the main street of Port Augusta, and they have experienced a decline in business of around about 40 per cent, which is clearly not sustainable. So there needs to be a real cross-department effort, and an effort that also involves the federal government and local government in addressing some of the challenges that Port Augusta faces.

On the positive side, Port Augusta is going to get a \$30 million tech college. We all know that in the regions—and also in the city—there are massive skill shortages across all sorts of industry sectors, so a tech college is partly a way of addressing that, and especially a tech college linked to a high school. Whyalla is already in a good position, given our high school's co-location with the TAFE and also the university in Whyalla, to create an education precinct.

I will just touch on the school because that was a commitment we made when we were last in government. Given the timing of that commitment, it could have been cut off at the knees and the incoming Liberal government did not do that, so I have always acknowledged that. The school has some teething problems and other problems, and we will address those as time goes on, but that was a great initiative.

One of the other things we are going to deliver for Port Augusta—in fact, we have already indicated they will get \$750,000 this year and \$750,000 in the following three years—is \$3 million for the Arid Lands Botanic Garden. The argument I put to our people was that we fund botanic gardens in Adelaide, so why not Port Augusta with its very unique and very important offering when it comes to the arid lands?

It all has to be sustained by local ratepayers, and there have been issues around rates in Port Augusta, so this will help address that deficit the Arid Lands Botanic Garden was operating under. Hopefully, we can get to a point where some of that money will also go into improving the offering at the Arid Lands Botanic Garden. If you have never been there, it is well worth the visit. It is an exceptional place.

One of the other things I would like to mention is that one of the first things the incoming Liberal government did on getting into government—it was always #RegionsMatter—was to get rid of the longstanding registration concession for the unincorporated areas of our state, plus Kangaroo Island, Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy. Whether it was past Liberal governments going way back—not the latest one—or the Labor government, none of them thought to get rid of this registration concession because they all recognised that those people living in those communities, when it came to the cost of transport, faced costs that were way above those experienced in the city.

It was the distances travelled, the cost of fuel, which was always higher, the cost of servicing, which was higher, and overwhelmingly and exclusively, when you talk about the unincorporated areas and some of those other communities, the lack of public transport. You are incredibly reliant upon private vehicles. I was very proud that we have reintroduced that concession for those communities that do it hard when it comes to transport costs.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of having Clare Scriven in Whyalla in her capacity as the primary industries minister. It was about an issue that I was going on about for a long time, organising the petitions during the term of the last government, asking questions in estimates and writing to the two ministers who had that portfolio responsibility during the Marshall government, because this was a government that diluted the protection for the giant Australian cuttlefish. They diluted the protection, and for a period they even opened up the breeding aggregation itself to commercial exploitation.

Here you had something of global significance, and it was treated in a very simplistic manner as just a straightforward fishery issue. It was not a straightforward fishery issue. I thought it was disgraceful to dilute that protection, so it is one of the things that we have already delivered on. We have returned to the full protection that existed under the Weatherill government. That full protection was brought in in 2013 because of the collapse of the population.

We know that, of the commercial sector that exploited the cuttlefish when the aggregation was partly opened up, only two or three in the sector took out tonnes and tonnes of cuttlefish while tourists from around the world were diving just around the corner. The message that it sent was a really bizarre one.

Full protection has been reintroduced, so I would encourage you all to get up to Whyalla during these very cold months and go and hire a very thick wetsuit and dive in with the cuttlefish. If you do not want to get a very thick wetsuit, go on Cuttys boat tours. They now have a glass bottom boat, and they do a fantastic job in describing the life cycle of the cuttlefish and you get to see the cuttlefish from the comfort of a glass bottom boat.

There are some big issues apart from health that we face in regional communities, and one of them is housing. We made some commitments in the lead-up to and during the campaign to a new build and an increase in maintenance. I know that when we put in a freedom of information request to see how many empty houses there were in Whyalla Housing Trust houses, there were 126 at a time when people desperately needed accommodation.

The housing issue is profound, and I will be the first to say that what we are proposing within government barely touches the surface. This is not just a state issue: this is also a national issue. I do not have to tell you that in every state, in the nation as a whole, significant sections of our population face a housing crisis. If anything, I would say in this state that we need in some ways a reinvention of a 21st century form of the Housing Trust so that the Housing Trust is not just aimed at people in category 1 but has a broader remit.

I am probably not going to get any satisfaction in that particular area, but in the communities I represent, especially when you look at Whyalla, when you look at Port Augusta, nearly a quarter of the housing stock in Whyalla is the old Housing Trust stock. The average age of that stock would now be 50 or 60 years old, so there is a real issue about refurbishment, about maintenance, about more appropriate new build and also about assisting people to get on the road to home ownership.

When I worked in the steel industry in Whyalla, I had a Housing Trust house. I was not excluded because I was working. Some of the big projects that are planned will have impacts on the housing market in the regions. If you look at these big hydrogen projects, and I will use the federal government's figure, the previous federal government said that there was potentially \$13 billion worth of investment in Whyalla.

We have had market failure in our regional communities when it comes to the provision of housing, so it is going to take a housing vision to deliver not just for those people who are in category 1, which is incredibly important, but also for a range of other people. Once again, it was that vision about the Housing Trust—the Housing Trust was originally part of industry policy—and I think we should look at this and what sort of 21st century version it is possible to deliver on. That is going to require changes at a federal level as well because once upon a time, at a federal level, there was a commitment to public housing.

When you look at how the investment in public housing has collapsed nationally over the last two decades or so, and part of it was triggered by the changes with the federal state housing agreements during the Howard period, we are now left with the situation where it is a real struggle for people who work on low incomes and all those people on low incomes to find accommodation. That should be a basic right—the right to decent accommodation—because if you have that it means so much else.

I just want to conclude on one point. Still the most profound issue in my electorate is the need to close the gap. I look at the average life expectancy of people in the APY lands compared with that in Unley or Mitcham and it is absolutely huge. We are talking about a difference of 20 or 30 years. As a state, as a nation, this is totally unacceptable. It is a profound issue, and there are other profound issues there, and just because it is a long way away, we should not forget about it. It should not be out of sight, out of mind. In cooperation with the federal government, we need to address some of those profound issues that exist in some of our more remote Aboriginal communities.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:44): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Address in Reply. First of all, I would like to thank the Governor, the Hon. Frances Jennifer Adamson AC, for her speech opening the First Session of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament. I would also take this opportunity to acknowledge her service to both the state and our nation over many years and look forward to working with her over the coming years. I would also like to acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the land that this parliament is built and deliberates upon.

Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your re-election as Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate other members who were elected at the recent election, in particular those who were elected for the first time. I look forward to seeing you progress and grow as members of parliament.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by those members who are no longer in this chamber. Political life can sometimes be very unpredictable and unforgiving and at each election sitting members are never assured of returning to this place after the election, so I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution made by those members on both my side of politics and also the Liberal Party side of politics who did not make it back to this place.

This is my fifth election and my fourth re-election and on every occasion I never entered a campaign thinking that my re-election was a certainty. In fact, I can still recall members—I should say opposite, but they are alongside me—who, when I was in my first term, often would call me a 'oncer'. I remember reading in *Hansard* on a number of occasions that I was a 'oncer', so I have certainly proved those members wrong. The other thing is that I am still here and they are not.

Each election is different. There are different electoral boundaries. I do not have to tell some members in this chamber about the impact of different electoral boundaries. There are different electoral boundaries, different issues, different circumstances, different party leaders and different dynamics. All those things work together to bring different responses and different results at different elections. While I was hopeful of re-election at the recent election, I was surprised at both my personal and the party result we received. From a party position, while the result was very pleasing it did go a bit beyond what I expected, and that is a testament to the leadership of our party.

As I said, the statewide result is a testament to the great leadership of the state ALP at both the parliamentary and organisational levels and it is no secret that our party leader, the Hon. Peter Malinauskas, our Premier, is a person who is highly regarded in our community. He certainly was a person I was more than happy to have in my electorate at any time because I knew that every time he came to visit my electorate my vote would go up in my electorate. I am not sure that all MPs can say that about their party leaders—just ask some of the federal Liberal members.

Before I return to the Governor's thoughtful speech, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people who made my re-election possible. The reality is that none of us in this place are elected on our own basis; we have a number of people who support us, either as party members or volunteers or who believe in us at a personal level.

First of all, I must thank the people of the Light electorate for placing their trust in me once again, and in record numbers. My last result was my best result in an electoral sense, and I thank those people who voted for me in what is, if I am completely honest about it, not a natural Labor seat, so I am very appreciative of the people who were prepared to cross party lines and support me.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to my re-election by my campaign team. I would like to acknowledge Isaac, Pat, Max, Rebecca, Cody and Stefan, who sat on my campaign committee and worked many endless hours on weekends and nights to meet and discuss what needed to be done. I would also like to thank a number of volunteers in addition to my campaign committee, who made hundreds of phone calls, stuffed thousands of envelopes and at all times did it with a smile and did it for the cause. I would like to thank Joan, Maureen, Charles, Mary, Denise, Trevor and Terry, who amongst them have probably stuffed tens of thousands of envelopes and made thousands of phone calls to make sure the message from the Labor Party and me as a local member got out to the community.

I would also like to acknowledge my previous staff, because all of them have deserted me now to go into higher positions. I would like to thank my previous staff: Akram Arifi, who is now working for ministers in some capacity; my previous trainee, Ben, who was there for part of the time; and my new trainee, Hayden, who started in January. They worked in their own time to support me in the campaign—and on a trainee's wage, which is interesting, because they gave up a lot of their personal time to work on the campaign.

There are over 100 other volunteers whom I will not mention by name because I just do not have time, but I would like to acknowledge them for handing out how-to-vote cards, letterboxing, making phone calls, putting up corflutes, etc. to make sure the message got across. I would also like to acknowledge those people who were not members of the party or volunteers who took some of my corflutes down and souvenired them. In fact, knowing that would happen I actually had a competition to see who could make the best re-use of my corflutes in an environmentally sustainable way. I have picked a family who have now won a prize and will have dinner at Parliament House.

They have turned my corflutes into jigsaw puzzles—I am not sure if that is a message that I am a bit of a puzzle or whatever, but their kids do actually put me together from time to time.

I would also like to thank a number of people—and this is a big thank you, because often in communities it is one thing for people who are committed to the party to stick their necks out and support you, but it is something else for people in business, community life or sport to actually support a particular candidate, and at election time it comes with its dangers. I would like to thank all those people in small business in my community, those people who work in various community organisations, and those people involved in various sporting organisations who were prepared to personally endorse me as a candidate worthy of their support and election.

One of the first things I look forward to doing in this term of parliament is ensuring that all pre-election commitments made on behalf of the party are delivered to the people of the electorate of Light. I am reassured both by the Treasurer and other ministers that those things will be delivered. I look forward to receiving the budget on Thursday with these items listed in the budget, to make sure we deliver to those communities those valuable social infrastructure projects that are so important to so many in our community.

As one of the earlier speakers mentioned, election outcomes bring with them certain messages. It is certainly true that no election is won on one single issue, but there are a number of issues that actually influence electoral results. On my side of politics, I think our leader, Peter Malinauskas, was able to communicate a bold vision for the state—a vision which people clearly agreed with. I look forward to working with him and other members of my party to ensure that that vision is realised for the benefit of our community.

We had strong policies right across the board, whether it was creating jobs through the hydrogen plan, which actually not only delivers jobs but also creates a greener environment, which is very important, or in the regions. I look forward to that taking place. We have a range of policies that will modernise not only our economy but our education system and our health system and also make sure, as part of our role on this planet, that we leave this planet in a better, healthier position for the generations to come. The message from both our election in this state and the election at the federal level is that people do want action on climate change.

This is not just inner-city trendies, whom personally I do not have a huge affiliation with. These are people I spoke to in my community, not only young people but even people on the land. Farmers understand the environment, farmers understand why the environment is important to their livelihood and they understand that, whatever you call it, things are different and we need to address the contribution that people have made to our environment, to our climate. That was quite clear. Only those people who have no vision do not understand that message now.

I would just like to touch upon one thing that I think is very important. It is not only important for both the Liberal Party here who lost and the Liberal Party federally who lost at the last election recently but is true of all governments: you have to be careful of making sure that you do not start getting involved in hubris. Hubris is like a cancer in the political system, which people at the grassroots level understand. They understand when governments are not telling them the truth. They understand when governments are misleading them.

People understand that they want their governments to do the right thing by them and to be honest with them. They do understand that sometimes governments have to give bad news to the community. They respect you when you are honest with them, and they punish you when you treat them like mugs. When you behave with hubris, you treat them like mugs. Standing up at news conferences and saying repeatedly, 'Well, I know nothing about that,' may be smart politics, or may be seen to be smart politics, but I can tell you that to the person in the street it is not. People see, particularly amongst leaders, that is not a trait that is worthy of support.

While this message is initially for those parties who have lost government, I think it is also important to my government and my party—to make sure that we do not get involved in that sort of politics. That is quite clear. I will come back to that because the Governor's speech touches upon our adversarial system, how we need to work better together and what our community expects from us.

I will now turn to some of the specifics in the Governor's speech. I thought that the Governor's speech was very thoughtful and that some parts of it are worthy of being repeated here, to explain what they actually mean in terms of policies in this term of government. One I will just touch on very quickly is the first point she made. I will quote the Governor. In her speech, she said, when referring to us:

You each have your own loyalties, your own priorities, and your own areas of personal interest. But the necessarily adversarial nature of Parliament should not overshadow the far greater qualities that unite you all, most significantly your desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of South Australians as evidenced by your embrace of Parliamentary service.

What the Governor was asking us to do is go beyond party politics and put our community first on every occasion. That is very important. What I would like to finish on in a second, when I will ask leave to continue my comments, is that democracy has to be more than just the elections every three or four years. People demand a greater say in their communities. We need to work through that and we need to develop a much more participatory democracy. I now seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00

Bills

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC HEALTH (COVID-19) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

Petitions

ONE TREE HILL

Mr TELFER (Flinders): Presented a petition signed by 336 residents of Port Lincoln and greater Eyre Peninsula requesting the house to urge the government to reduce the speed limit from 60 km/h to 50 km/h on New West Road, Port Lincoln, from Duncan Avenue to Tasman Terrace.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Regulations made under the following Act—

Native Vegetation—Repeal of Regulation 23A—Clearance in Flinders Chase National Park

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

Regulations made under the following Act—

Rail Safety National Law (South Australia)—Reporting Requirements

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

Primary Industries and Regions, Department of—Review of the 2019 Management Plan for the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery—Outcomes Report—April 2022

By the Minister for Health and Wellbeing (Hon. C.J. Picton)—

Health Care Act 2008, Review of—Progress of devolved governance in the SA health system

Law Reform Institute, South Australian—Review of the Mental Health Act 2009—Interim Report—20 April 2022

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. G.G. Brock)—

Local Council By-Laws—

District Council of the Copper Coast—No. 7—Waste Management

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

Consumer and Business Services—Fair Trading Act 1987—Review of Ticket Scalping Provisions Report

Ministerial Statement

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR REPROFILE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:05): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The 10.5-kilometre Torrens to Darlington (T2D) project is the most significant project ever planned in South Australia. It is an enormous project, and we only have one opportunity to get it right. The Malinauskas Labor government committed to reviewing the current reference design of the project to make sure that it provides the best possible outcomes and minimises community impacts and unnecessary costs to the South Australian taxpayer.

The initial findings of the departmental review have revealed the project is nowhere near as advanced as suggested by the previous government. Some of the more significant matters uncovered so far include:

- an overly optimistic and unrealistic project program and spend profile which is not reflective of the actual status of design development, community engagement, utility service relocations and technical investigations, with no recognition of skilled labour and supply chain constraints being experienced nationally—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Did you give leave or not?

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and:

- tender and contract documentation not being sufficiently developed to meet the program procurement; and
- inadequate consideration and development of solutions which could achieve the same traffic benefits but impose lesser visual impact on the community, for example, the large overhead structures proposed at the Anzac Highway intersection and adjacent to the Brickworks Marketplace.

Mr Tarzia: Like the ones you built.

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Key items excluded from the project scope include:

- restoring the degraded sections of South Road above the tunnels to a fit standard;
- upgrades to key feeder routes supplying precast tunnel shells and for hauling excavated materials to allow for increased loading during construction;
- capacity upgrades to key intersections away from South Road which will experience traffic increases due to traffic choosing not to travel on South Road during construction; and

- upgrades to key intersections and road links necessary to cater for changes to traffic flows once the project is complete.

In June 2021, when the previous government submitted the early enabling works to the parliamentary Public Works Committee, the scheduled award date for the first main works package was advised to be in mid-2023. This would have resulted in major works commencing in late 2023. When the federal government funding was secured and announced in February 2022, a construction commencement date of late 2023 was restated.

The latest update to the project program prior to commencement of the review showed both the award of first major works package and major works commencing six months later than the 2023 date. I am advised that neither the initial nor revised dates were achievable. The work required to have this critical project in a ready-to-go state and the cash flows included in the previous budgets could never have been achieved. As a result, the time line for expenditure on the project needs to be adjusted to meet a more realistic assessment of when the money is likely to be spent. I seek leave to table a document.

The SPEAKER: The minister can table without leave, being a minister.

BROMPTON GASWORKS INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:09): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: The former Brompton Gasworks site is a significant parcel of land located on the fringe of Adelaide's CBD covering 5.81 hectares and is subject to a pre-election commitment by the former Marshall Liberal government to award preferred proponent status to MAB Corporation. Prior to the March election, the Labor opposition made a commitment to release the criteria and weightings for the development of the former Brompton Gasworks site to allow public transparency into the process. On 4 May, the state government fulfilled that part of our election commitment.

The government now moves to the next stage of this process with the appointment of AECOM to conduct the review into the decision of the former Liberal government to award preferred proponent status to the MAB Corporation. AECOM are a global multinational engineering firm specialising in supplying technical knowledge in the areas of design, engineering, construction and management, which covers the entire project life cycle. They have a deep understanding of the challenges of remediating heavily polluted parcels of land.

I have met with AECOM and stressed their authority to independently inquire into this process. The review is independent of government and will make its own determinations focusing on the process and suitability of the project announced by the former Treasurer the Hon. Rob Lucas. The review's scope of the review will compare the criteria used against:

- the original government approval of the Bowden project for both consistency and appropriateness;
- the master planning and market strategy of this project;
- the appropriateness of the methodology and the cost of the remediation strategy;
- consistency with the objectives of the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, which includes the use of the land, community considerations and the Planning and Design Code;
- the economic and community benefit is appropriately considered; and
- the 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy.

The review will aim to be completed within the six to eight-week time frame as previously advised to this chamber. Once the review is complete, the government will consider the report. The Department for Trade and Investment will manage the review, ensuring the appropriate separation for this process from the original decision-making agency in Renewal SA. This is yet another important

election commitment met by this government. AECOM have now started their review, and we await the outcome of their findings.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call for questions, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Graham Gunn, the second longest serving member of the House of Assembly and, of course, a former Speaker as well as a former member for the seat of Eyre and Stuart.

Question Time

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): My question is to the Premier. Did the government consult Infrastructure South Australia about the schedule for completing the north-south corridor?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:13): I suppose the real question is: why didn't the former government get some proper advice from the agency before making all sorts of pronouncements before the election?

I've got to say that the opposition leader is leading with his chin today. Rather than apologising to the people of South Australia for four wasted years—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —on the north-south corridor—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —they're turning up as if they are shocked, somehow surprised that it's not on track, that it's somehow not ready to be delivered, but, of course—

Mr Tarzia: Is that why you went into the studio during the week?

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley!

Mr Tarzia: You made that extra effort, Tom.

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

Mr Tarzia: Went into the studio: 'They'll go easy on me if I go into the studio.'

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I will let the ABC know that when they invited me in it was all because I was frightened of the member for Hartley. It is true: he is the only one we fear on this side of the house.

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I understand there is a point of order. I will hear the point of order under standing order 134. The member for Morialta.

Mr GARDNER: Sir, standing order 98 requires that the minister respond to the substance of the question, not debate. He has been debating. The question was whether the government consulted Infrastructure South Australia before deciding to delay this massive and important project.

The SPEAKER: The minister is not yet a minute into his answer. I will listen carefully.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I will explain to the previous government what ISA's role is compared to a service delivery agency like the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. Infrastructure South Australia and Infrastructure Australia, their role is to assess projects and their

viability and their worth. The job of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport is to deliver these projects and actually build them. There is a very, very big difference.

Interestingly, having gone through the design work that the previous government gave us, I thought I would give you a small vignette, sir, of what the previous government were planning to impose on the people of South Australia—just a very small little morsel so the people of this state can know exactly what it is they thought was construction ready. They were going to have an elevated right-hand turn coming out of the tunnels onto Anzac Highway from South Road that started from a three-lane highway inside the tunnels, coming to a two-lane exit being elevated—

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order from the member for Morialta.

Mr GARDNER: Standing order 98: it was actually a very straightforward question seeking whether the minister consulted with Infrastructure South Australia or not. He is debating the matter.

The SPEAKER: There is a little force in the submission that's been made to me. I will ask the minister to take a closer line to the question, although I do observe that previous Speakers have permitted a degree of compare and contrast or, put another way, some context.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: As the good people of South Australia who are travelling north in the tunnel and coming out to get onto Anzac Highway to go into the city, the previous government would have them come out onto an elevated roadway in two lanes, then, halfway up this elevated roadway, merge to one lane, midair, and then coming down onto Anzac Highway, not coming down on the side to be able to merge right. They had them coming down alongside the median strip to merge left.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hartley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It doesn't work. In fact, sir—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —the cautiousness—

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —of our engineers, their advice to me was, 'This would be highly ambitious.' The truth is they weren't ready. They would have queueing in the tunnels. The only thing they got right, and at the very end, was making the tunnels three lanes. Everything else is a debacle. We have to redo the reference design. We have to redo the community consultation. We have to go out and re-talk to the people of South Australia about what they are doing.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The former government were even planning to abolish—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —right-hand turns from Anzac Highway heading to and from the city.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is called to order. The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: They were attempting to close down Anzac Highway and make it basically only heading to and from the city without any access to South Road. They were making it up as they were going along.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: So, yes, we consulted with Infrastructure South Australia.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is again to the Premier. Did the government consult Infrastructure Australia before deciding to delay completion of the north-south corridor? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr SPEIRS: The Australian government committed to its half-share of the funding of the Torrens to Darlington in February after securing a recommendation from the Infrastructure Australia board that the project should proceed. This was in addition to the positive assurance review by Infrastructure Australia and a final business case commissioned by the South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport, which provided advice on a range of issues, including project schedule.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:18): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Unfortunately, however, the leader's question is based on a false premise. The premise of the question, of course, was that we delayed the north-south corridor project—when

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —in actual fact that's what you did. That's what the former government did because, had the former government actually undertaken the work that the minister has referred to and enunciated, then what we would know—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Had the former government done the work that was just alluded to, and in fact very deliberately and in a detailed way enunciated to this house by the former minister, had they done that work, this project would be in a far better position than it is today.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: And what we know, of course, is that when it comes to the north-south corridor more generally, those opposite don't have a single thing to show for it, not a single thing to show for it. When it comes to project delivery—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —in respect of the north-south corridor, there is only one side of politics—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —that can actually point to physical infrastructure that has been delivered.

The SPEAKER: Premier, there is a point of order. I will hear the point of order under standing order 134. Member for Morialta?

Mr GARDNER: Standing order 98: debate, sir.

The SPEAKER: Standing order 98, of course, contemplates that the minister—in this case, the Premier—will respond to the substance of the question. The Premier is very early in his answer and also has introduced the ingenious device of commenting on the premise of the question, which does allow him some additional scope as well. As I give latitude to the leader, I also give latitude to the Premier. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. So, as I was explaining to the house, when it comes to project delivery on the north-south corridor, we feel utterly comfortable with our record of delivery. If you go from north to south, it is somewhat of a story: the Northern Expressway; the Northern Connector; the superway project; the Regency to Pym project, which was fully designed—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —and funded by a former Labor government, then of course there is Torrens to Torrens—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey is warned.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —then we get on to the Gallipoli Underpass, then we get to Darlington, then we get to the duplication of the Southern Expressway—entirely delivered by Labor governments. If we are going to undertake a degree of compare and contrast, what have those opposite got to show for after four years of government? Nothing, absolutely nothing.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: So the last four years was a success, wasn't it?

The SPEAKER: Order, member for West Torrens!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hartley! The member for Hartley is called to order. Member for Morialta?

Mr GARDNER: Sir, with all the latitude in the world, that is debate, pure and simple—standing order 98.

The SPEAKER: There are, of course, substantial interjections from both sides, which I understand is perhaps inciting the Premier to provide a wider response to the house.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: To conclude my remarks, very simply, we are not delaying the project. We are doing what we have always done: getting on with delivering it. But what we have to do on this side of the house is play a lot of catch-up football because, of course, South Australians have had to endure four years of delay when it comes to this, four years of inaction, whereas we are going to get on with the task of doing exactly what we did in 16 years of government—and that is deliver action on the north-south corridor.

SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:22): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister inform the house about the response by emergency services personnel to the recent severe weather in South Australia?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:22): I thank the member for King for her question and note her strong connection to her King community as well as being one of the individuals in the community who was living through this severe weather of the last 48 hours.

Mr Speaker, as you are no doubt aware, South Australia has been inundated by severe weather over the last 48 hours, with the combination of extreme winds, high rainfall causing significant damage and localised flooding in many areas of the state, with the northern suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide the most affected.

In excess of 400 incidents were recorded over Sunday and Monday; approximately 65 properties have been significantly impacted by this storm. As the recovery from the emergency continues, I express our thoughts for those people affected. I am pleased to report that once again our highly skilled emergency personnel, led by the SES and supported by the CFS and the MFS, have responded remarkably to assist their fellow South Australians in need. I also commend SAPOL for their role in keeping people safe and managing traffic and responding to incidents caused by these dangerous conditions.

The response is entirely reflective of the excellent collaboration and coordination that our emergency services exhibit. While the severe weather warning remains in place today for damaging winds over a reduced area of this state, I urge all South Australians to remain vigilant, particularly during likely severe weather events that will occur further across the cooler months.

Yesterday, I spent some time at the SES State Control Centre to receive a briefing from senior staff, including the chief of the SES, and see firsthand the sophisticated operations of the SCC during this significant event. At the time, emergency services were responding to nearly 130 incidents, and the control centre was managing the deployment across the day of in excess of 150 SES volunteers, almost 300 CFS personnel and volunteers and numerous MFS strike teams.

South Australians can be confident we have world-class operators in charge of these major events. South Australians can also rest assured that we have some of the most highly skilled and dedicated emergency services personnel, both paid and volunteers, responding to incidents on the ground. Yesterday evening, I joined the member for King at the SES Salisbury station, where an incident management team was established, to see directly the incredible work being done to respond to local flooding, downed trees and property damage.

The member for King and I were glad to be able to thank so many emergency services personnel across a couple of hours in person last night and to learn about local conditions on the ground. We spoke at length to not only Salisbury crews but to SES and CFS crews from as far as Port Noarlunga, Mount Barker and Alma.

In particular, I want to thank Christopher Shaw, a Hills-Fleurieu District Officer; Stefanie Zakvzewski, Regional Operations Officer from the SES; the Salisbury SES Captain and good friend of the member for King, Anthony Gunter; and in particular I want to thank Julie-Anne Gunter, the wife of Anthony, for keeping everybody there at the Salisbury station fed through the day and through the night. As my colleague in the other place the Attorney-General would be pleased to note, the sausage rolls were impeccable.

Learning from these events such as those last night to mitigate future risk is a vital but less well-known function that emergency services will now perform in recovery. Today, the SES will be working with the City of Salisbury and Department for Environment and Water hydrologists to better understand the circumstances of localised flooding in this area. Work also continues to resupply consumables and sandbags to emergency service units and community self-help sandbag stockpiles.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of not only the government but I'm sure all members of this house, to recognise and thank our emergency services volunteers and staff for all they did yesterday and all they do on a daily basis.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Was Susana Fueyo Suarez asked to resign as Executive Director of the North-South Corridor Program Delivery Office? When she declined to do so, were her services immediately terminated?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:27): That's the purview of the chief executive. I

understand that she was terminated, and I will get the details, but I am not interested in attempting in any way to pass any judgement on that. People part company for all sorts of reasons, but we are embarking on a new round of consultation to try to make sure that we can reconnect with the communities that felt that they weren't listened to, especially in the electorates of Elder and Ashford—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and Badcoe—yes, my apologies; I have been around a long time. It is important that we reconnect with those communities and make sure that they are listened to, especially with the work on the reference design because I have to say I was not very happy with the level of consultation.

I know that many in the community were very unhappy with the level of consultation, hence all the groups that have popped up in and around all the major infrastructure works, starting with Hove, moving onto the north-south corridor with the two residents groups that started up pretty quickly. These are indications, I think, that not all was well with the consultation.

That is not to say that all the consultation was bad, but I don't have the reasons why that executive director was moved on or terminated, if that is indeed the case, but I will get back a report from Mr Whelan. I am not interested in any way in using the parliament to try to talk about whether a public servant was removed or otherwise. I will leave that for the member for Hartley.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:29): As a supplementary to that—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morialta!

Mr TARZIA: When did Ms Fueyo Suarez leave her position and what financial settlement has been made?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:29): I don't have that information with me. I am not sure that that is something that in terms of the financial package I would make public, but I will check with Mr Whelan about whether it's appropriate and I will check with the individual in question as well about whether or not she would like to have that made public.

I will let her know that the member for Hartley has asked and ask whether or not she thinks it's appropriate that that be ventilated publicly here in the parliament. I suspect probably not, but I will check. I don't have those details. I apologise to the member for Hartley that I don't have all the details of the terminations or resignations that occur in the department on a day-to-day basis.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:30): My question again is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Did the minister play any part in the departure of Ms Fueyo Suarez?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:30): No.

Members interjecting:

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

HYDROGEN SECTOR

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:30): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on what steps the government is taking to support the growth of the hydrogen sector in South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:30): I want to thank the member for Newland for her question. I think the member for Newland well understands the extraordinary opportunity that we have here in the state of South Australia surrounding the hydrogen industry. I know the member for Newland is keen on two things in particular: (1) is more jobs for South Australians and (2) is making sure that this government does everything we can to ensure we make a positive contribution globally—globally—when it comes to the decarbonisation of energy but, more specifically, the decarbonisation of heavy industry, and I thank her for the question.

You can't help but get the sense that as a global community we are on the precipice of extraordinary change when it comes to decarbonisation and the way energy operates. We are currently confronting two very significant challenges in western modern economies: the first one is the decarbonisation effort that must occur in order to avoid global warming by over 2°, and the second of course is the geopolitical difficulties that the world is experiencing at the moment. In no small part energy security is a component or a variable that underpins that instability. Hydrogen represents a very significant opportunity to address both of those challenges, and South Australia is really in pole position to capitalise on that opportunity.

As we speak, there are approximately 800 delegates at the Adelaide Convention Centre for the Australian Hydrogen Conference. This is a very important opportunity for key leaders within hydrogen to get together in person, exchange ideas and knowledge and develop relationships to continue to grow the industry. There is a very large delegation from Germany in particular, and also the Netherlands as well, because Germany, probably more than any other major economic power, is pursuing the hydrogen technological leap. They are doing this necessarily to underpin their heavy industry at a time they are seeking to become less reliant, particularly on Russian gas.

Here in South Australia, because of our coincident wind and solar resource, we know that we can be a global leader in hydrogen. All the work that we have done as a state around renewables puts us in a very strong position to take the next leap forward when it comes to decarbonisation technology, particularly around hydrogen. We went to the election with a very bold policy, a deliberately ambitious policy, with our Hydrogen Jobs Plan. There was no shortage of critics of this policy, particularly coming from those opposite, opposed to our Hydrogen Jobs Plan, opposed to our hydrogen jobs policy—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —and that is their prerogative. They can line up with the former Prime Minister, who compared the big battery with the Big Banana. They can line up with that side of the argument, or they can get on board quickly.

Today, at the conference I announced that the South Australian government has commenced a market-sounding process inviting local, national and international organisations to provide technical, system and commercial approaches, including around design and delivery concepts, to make sure we deliver our Hydrogen Jobs Plan on schedule, which is due to be completed by the next election. The market-sounding process will be open for six weeks, commencing today—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —well, that's before the election—and closing before 15 July. For all those who want to—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —register their interest and submit proposals, they can do so through the South Australian—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —Tenders and Contracts website at tenders.sa.gov.au. There was no shortage of interest in the room this morning at this opportunity. We are ready to deliver, we are ready to capitalise on this opportunity and we hope the rest of the state, including those opposite, get behind it.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:35): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Did the chief executive of the department advise the minister that Ms Fueyo Suarez was no longer a suitable person to hold her position?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:35): No, he did not put it in those terms to me. My recollection of the conversation was that that executive director was no longer employed by the department, but I will get a more fulsome answer. I don't think we are into humiliating people or making them feel as if they have been turfed out, so I am cautious about what I say in the chamber because it is covered by parliamentary privilege and it can defame people, and that is unfair. Of course, we must be responsible with parliamentary privilege, as I always have been.

NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:36): My question again is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. When Ms Fueyo Suarez was terminated, why was she not afforded an opportunity to farewell her work colleagues?

The Hon. S.E. Close interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:36): The Deputy Premier makes a very good point. The executive director in question does not report to me. That executive director reports to the chief executive.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Chaffey!

The Hon. B.I. Boyer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Wright!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am not quite sure what the point of the question is. I will find out about what the practice is when people separate from the department. I have no concerns with public servants interacting with each other and talking to each other. I have no issues with it, but this is not a direct report to me. In fact, the only direct report in the department is the CE and he is currently employed by the Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is on one warning.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, as former ministers would know, we don't hire and fire executive directors. For example—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —when a former Liberal staffer was employed as an executive director in the department, without a public call for the position, by members opposite—a former Liberal staffer—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I note the shadow minister interjects that he is very good. Well, perhaps he is, but you might have noticed that I don't have the power to hire and fire executive directors, and nor should I. So perhaps members opposite should think before they speak.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:38): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the house on the federal Albanese government's commitments to industry and innovation in South Australia?

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) (14:38): I thank the member for her question. We have a reasonable sense that the economy, although it is quite strong at the moment, with lots of government expenditure across many nations as a result of the expenditure through COVID, nonetheless has a lot of vulnerability, some of which is related, of course, to the extent of CPI and therefore the pressure on people's cost of living but also in the underlying structure of our economy, which doesn't bode particularly well for a prosperous future, particularly not one where we are required to decarbonise rapidly.

As we know, Australia has a pretty low, complex economy and it is very highly reliant on carbon. What that means is that, if we are going to be able to shift our economic base quickly and in a way that creates sustainability and prosperity, we need a government at both state and federal level that's prepared to be pretty active, prepared to intervene and prepared to come up with the kind of dollars and the kind of direction that make a difference.

The Albanese government comes in with a lot of expectations, a lot of hope and a lot of optimism. But one element of that is that they have committed to not only this \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund but \$1 billion of that will be about advanced manufacturing. South Australia is extremely well placed to take a large share of that, given that we have such advanced manufacturing, particularly associated with defence and space industry but also off the back of the remnants of the auto industry after they were chased out by a previous Liberal government.

One of the challenges that we have is that Australia is last in the OECD for manufacturing self-sufficiency. We started hearing about this need for having sovereign capability, being self-reliant, through COVID as if it was suddenly a new idea. Actually, most nations have been far better at ensuring a manufacturing supply chain that was sustainable and resilient. It was only when COVID hit that the Morrison government realised that it might actually cause a bit of a challenge. The fact that the Albanese government has come in with this as a clear goal to address I think bodes very well for South Australian investment.

In the discussion about this fund, they also point out that Australia is 15th in the world for innovation inputs, by which they mean essentially research, the kind of work that happens at universities in particular, but 33rd in the world for innovation outputs, by which they mean actually commercialising and turning that research into productivity and into work that creates wealth. That is a problem that occurs also in South Australia and one that we need to address.

What this \$1 billion will do—and we will do everything we can to get as much of that for South Australia as possible—is create greater access to capital for businesses to be able to accelerate their modernisation. It beautifully tailors with the commitment from this government to

have the manufacturing grants that mean that manufacturers will be able to get the kind of equipment or change the processes to be able to be more efficient and more productive and also the work we are doing at Tonsley with the Line Zero Factory of the Future, which is all about helping small businesses, supply chain companies in defence, to be able to accelerate their modernisation.

The \$15 billion that the federal government is able to put towards national reconstruction of course is mirrored by the \$100 million that was announced recently by the Treasurer in the Economic Recovery Fund, tailored exactly at targeting the problems in our economy that that require attention from government rather than the hands-off-the-wheel approach. I can assert clearly here that this government cares about complexity. It understands innovation and the need to turn it into a proper industry policy and to make sure that the workforce planning we do ensures prosperity.

I do have a lingering question as we get closer to estimates. I am not sure which shadow minister thinks that their job is industry and employment. I am not sure which; they don't seem to have any titles, so I am curious, when we get to sit down at estimates, who will be sitting on that bench.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There's a point of order from the member for Morialta.

Mr GARDNER: The minister is out of time and her commentary is completely irrelevant to the house.

The SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

The Hon. S.E. Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I understand, too, from the Deputy Premier that her answer has in any case concluded.

LYELL MCEWIN HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:43): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Given the demand at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, why did the government only promise 24 beds at the state election? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Point of order from the Leader of Government Business.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 97, sir: the question involves argument.

The SPEAKER: I will give the member for Schubert an opportunity to rephrase. I observe that she was about to seek leave, and it may be that a very minor adjustment to the question would sit within the standing orders.

Mrs HURN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Why did the government promise 24 beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital initially? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The former Liberal government committed to delivering an additional 48 beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. The Labor Party had only promised 24 and are now playing catch-up.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:44): I really welcome this question from the member for Schubert. Perhaps it could have been asked by somebody from this side.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It does give me an opportunity to talk about—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond is warned.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It does give me the opportunity to talk about this government's approach to investing in our health system, which is about adding additional beds to the health system—adding additional beds. We had the pleasure yesterday—the Premier and I, the Treasurer, the member for King, the member for Florey and the member for Playford—to visit the Lyell McEwin. What you see there is successive building works initiated by Labor governments. This was, 20 years ago, a very, very small hospital with a very small number of beds, and it has expanded and expanded.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta is warned for a second time. The minister has the call.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The stage C development that was completed about six or seven years ago by the previous Labor government foreshadowed that it would have in place the ability to expand beds at that hospital. So what did we see over the past four years? Expansion of inpatient beds?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: How many beds did we see expanded at the Lyell McEwin Hospital over the past four years?

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Good question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Good question. Inpatient beds: how many were expanded at the Lyell McEwin? Was it 40? Was it 20? It was actually zero. Zero additional inpatient beds—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —were expanded at the Lyell McEwin Hospital under those opposite.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please be seated.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Can we stop the clock in these interruptions? I'm going to lose my time to talk about this.

The SPEAKER: Minister, please be seated. The member for Chaffey can leave for 15 minutes under 137A and the member for Florey can join him.

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

The SPEAKER: The minister.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We went to the election with a very clear plan to expand inpatient beds right across South Australia, right across our metro system—in fact, 300 additional beds—because we listened to the doctors, to the nurses, to the allied health professionals and to the ambos—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —who said that they were under pressure, their patients are stuck in the emergency department and that's what is causing ramping. So we went with a plan for hundreds of beds in the system.

Ms Stinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Badcoe!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Importantly, part of that plan was for the doctors and nurses when these beds actually open, recurrent funding for the beds when they open, whereas what we saw from those opposite was, a few weeks before the election, having had four years and done nothing, a very rushed-out plan for about a third of the number of beds that we committed to without any funding for doctors and nurses to open those beds at all.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Not one dollar.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Our commitment is not only to open your beds but to do what you didn't do and actually have the doctors and nurses in place: 100 extra doctors, 300 extra nurses, 350 extra ambos. Our health system is under tremendous pressure. We need these beds to make sure that people can get the treatment that they require outside the emergency department, but we need the doctors and nurses to actually provide the care for people.

LYELL MCEWIN HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:48): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister advise whether the additional 48 beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital will be subacute or acute beds and what services to patients they will provide?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:49): We were delighted to be able to announce yesterday that we will expand that facility with 48 additional beds. I thank the Premier and the Treasurer for their support to do so.

We went to the election very clearly saying that these would be subacute beds, which is obviously a lower level acuity of beds. I think that the Lyell McEwin is interested in terms of working over the next few years, before the beds are eventually commissioned and opened, on whether there might be a mix of subacute and acute beds and having that additional capacity and operating facility over the next few years.

Very importantly, this is something where we are keen to get cracking straightaway. This is a project which I have raised both with SA Health and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network as a high priority, in terms of construction works to begin and to complete, because we need these facilities right away.

I have met with the doctors in the emergency department at the Lyell McEwin. I have been there myself and seen what they are dealing with, and they are dealing every day with patients who are stuck waiting for a bed inside the emergency department—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and because of that—which was a system that you started—and because of the lack of capacity for inpatient beds it means that they can't get through the hospital and they end up causing delays and blockages in the emergency department. That is inevitably what causes ramping, inevitably what causes delays in terms of patients who are waiting for a 000 call that can't arrive on time. The quicker we can establish these the better.

The floor print in terms of the facility, because of the foresight that happened back when the previous Labor government established the stage C redevelopment of Lyell McEwin Hospital, means that we can replicate that floor print over the two levels above the current inpatient building and below where the helipad is currently. There is a shell in place that will enable that work to happen. We are going to get cracking straightaway.

This is just one part of a very comprehensive plan, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Schubert will be very interested in seeing the Treasurer hand down this budget on Thursday and the comprehensive range of initiatives that this government is undertaking to address that access block and address the blockages in our system to create more capacity and make sure that the patients can get the care that they need on time.

LYELL MCEWIN HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister consider acquiring further land to expand the Lyell McEwin Hospital just as the previous Liberal government was considering?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is called to order. The member for West Torrens is called to order. The member for Badcoe is called to order. The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52): I really think I do need to change my PBN folder and call it 'Things the previous government were thinking about or said that they might do in the last couple of weeks before the election'. They had a whole series of briefs on everything they were going to do, that they were thinking about going to do, that they might have done and if only they had a bit more time they might have done.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: There was no action taken by the previous government in terms of acquiring that land.

Mr Gardner interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As I previously said, the Lyell McEwin is a hospital which has expanded and expanded under previous Labor government commitments and which is now about to expand again under a new Labor government commitment.

Clearly, there are issues in terms of the space available on that site. There is the potential for land, which has been identified by the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, and they have started discussions with the City of Playford in terms of whether we could acquire that site. I spoke only yesterday—when we were at the Lyell McEwin Hospital announcing the big expansion of beds at the hospital—with Ms Maree Geraghty, the chief executive of the hospital, and she has been undertaking those talks with the City of Playford.

Those talks are going well. We are hoping that will provide future expansion capacity in terms of the hospital because we now need to think not just about the next four years but about the next generation. This is something that the Premier has made very clear as part of our mission as a

government and making sure that we have the capacity for this hospital to grow into the future and to provide care for people in the northern suburbs who need it.

The other element of that is that it keeps pressure off particularly the Royal Adelaide Hospital because we know so many people from the catchment of the Lyell McEwin Hospital end up at the Royal Adelaide Hospital at the moment and, of course, not just from that catchment but also from country hospitals as well. People from the Mid North, Yorke Peninsula, often will end up coming to Lyell McEwin Hospital. It is at a crunch point in terms of services available on that site, particularly inpatient beds.

Having a future ability to expand, enabling proper master planning to be done of the health needs into the long term, is very welcome, and so I am very keen that the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network continue those discussions. Hopefully, we will reach a good arrangement in terms of working with the City of Playford to make sure that we can secure that future capacity because on this side of the house we believe in continuing to invest in our health services as a top priority of this government.

JAPAN AIRLINES

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:55): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. How is the state government developing its relationship with Japanese flag carrier, JAL?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:55): I thank the member for Badcoe for her question and acknowledge her support for Flight Training Adelaide located at Parafield Airport, which early next month will have new aviation cadets commence commercial aviation training at its industry-leading aviation training facility.

Earlier today, the Premier and I had the privilege to welcome J-Air cadet pilots Ms Nomoto, Mr Matsuda, Mr Kimijima and the managing director of J-Air, Mr Kotaro Kurono, and Japanese media outlets to our state parliament. Today's visit by J-Air and its cadet pilots marks a significant milestone in our state's relationship with the Japanese flag carrier, Japan Airlines (JAL).

The airline has a proud history in the domestic and international aviation industry, celebrating its 70th anniversary last year, while this year, 2022, marks its 10th year listed on the Tokyo stock exchange. J-Air, which is JAL's regional commuter service, services 17 destinations across Japan under JAL flight numbers. This June, the first initial beta courses will commence at Flight Training Adelaide, recommencing a long-term relationship between Flight Training Adelaide and J-Air.

Between 2006 and 2011, FTA trained a total of approximately 160 commercial airline pilots for J-Air until JAL underwent its corporate restructure prior to public listing. FTA is delivering the first of two beta courses to J-Air to conduct the Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau licence training. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Mr Pine Pienaar, the chief executive officer and director of FTA, along with the FTA Parafield chief operating officer, Mr David Troy, for their contribution and commitment to re-establishing this important relationship.

On completion of the two beta courses, FTA is looking to gain full JCAB approval to conduct training at FTA for J-Air cadets to achieve their Japanese commercial pilot licence and instrument rating. The ongoing certification program will make a multimillion-dollar contribution to the state's economy over its lifetime and demonstrates that global trade and partnerships are reawakening following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Investment in our state by respected multinationals such as JAL will continue to advance the Japanese aviation industry both in Australia and in Japan. We hope that this relationship, along with J-Air's burgeoning footprint in Adelaide, is the first step to having direct passenger routes from Adelaide to Tokyo, which prior to COVID-19 had some 60,000 travellers per annum and obviously that would benefit air cargo, tourism and international education.

I wish the FTA and J-Air's cadets all the very best with the commencement of this training program and look forward to these pilots making their first passenger flights on a direct JAL flight from Tokyo to Adelaide soon.

PRESCHOOL SERVICES

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (14:59): My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the government be providing universal access for 15 hours of preschool for all three-year-old children in South Australia in the year 2026?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:59): I thank the member for the question. It's a great opportunity for me to speak about the very bold agenda that the Malinauskas Labor government has set itself in terms of early childhood. The key plank in that agenda is the commitment that we have made to delivering three-year-old preschool. I think what we have said publicly is that we will have that begin from 2026. Of course, there are a number of very big issues that we need to deal with first in terms of making sure that we have capacity in the system for those three-year-old children who we hope will take up preschool.

What we have said—and we have modelled this largely on what is already happening in Victoria, where they announced a 10-year rollout of three-year-old preschool—is that we will do it in stages most likely. First of all, through the royal commission that we have announced, we will look at where existing capacity is, look at where it is not and put together a structured plan going forward about where we need to build more capacity so we can accommodate those three year olds.

I look forward to coming back to the chamber soon, I hope, with more news and updates for members of this place about who will be the royal commissioner and when the royal commission will start. Given that we have given ourselves a pretty ambitious time line in terms of three-year-old preschool beginning by 2026, I am conscious that we will need to get cracking.

But I make no apologies for the fact that this is a very ambitious piece of work. I think it's probably in fact fair to say that the movement of year 7 from primary school to high school was the biggest shift of staff and students that we have ever seen in the South Australian education system. That was handled by the former government. I think three-year-old preschool will most likely be the biggest structural change that we have seen to what we teach our young people.

There is a wealth of information out there—many members of this place, I am sure, will be aware of it—about the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child's life, in particular. I think 90 per cent of the brain development of a young person is complete by the age of five. We know that in terms of the best value a government can get in terms of where it spends its money, the best value we can get is investing in the early years and that's why we are taking this on, but it is a big task.

The member's question specifically pertains to whether or not we will be providing universal access—and, for many years there has been an agreement between successive South Australian governments and successive federal governments for 15 hours of free preschool for four year olds in South Australia. Of course, I welcome the news of a newly elected Albanese Labor government and I look forward, as the education minister in South Australia, to working with them to see if we can't come to an agreement about how three-year-old preschool will be funded as well.

CODE BLUE EMERGENCY CODE

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. How is the Malinauskas Labor government supporting rough sleepers who face severe hardship from extreme weather?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (15:02): Thank you very much to the member for Adelaide for that terrific question. She is a fantastic advocate for people who are rough sleeping and those who are helping people who are rough sleeping.

Last week, the weather forecast predicted some really rough weather to happen across the course of Sunday through to Wednesday. That weather certainly arrived with a vengeance. There was terrible rain, it was quite cool and the winds came at the same time. While the news was telling us to secure our backyards, the Malinauskas Labor team was happily out telling people who were sleeping rough that there would be a Code Blue over the weekend. The Labor Party started the Code Blue system in 2016, along with Code Red, under that minister at the time, Minister Zoe Bettison, in fact.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I am afraid the member for Chaffey is misunderstanding history, which is quite normal. I was very pleased on Friday when, well in advance of the weather coming in, this was announced so it gave services plenty of time to get extra staff, volunteers and supplies on board and also to get the word out to people who were on the street that there would be shelter available.

The Code Blue response does include a range of options. We have many across regional areas and in the CBD that provide overnight accommodation, including WestCare, the Baptist Church at Millers Court, in the western part of the CBD. Also, we have the Hutt St Centre and SYC's Foundry that offer extended hours so that people can pop in during the day to get extra help and support and also get assistance with ongoing referrals for accommodation and support to achieve housing outcomes.

Across the weekend, I attended the WestCare Centre, who were providing an excellent service on Sunday night and 18 people slept there. Nearly 50 people went in to receive a hot meal and some further supplies to help them stay safe. Then last night, WestCare provided support to another 52 people, with 25 or thereabouts staying last night. Dozens of other people popped into Hutt St and to SYC to get help.

Yesterday morning, at 6.30 I headed to the outreach service to join them, to go out into the Parklands, into stairwells, shopfront recesses and a whole range of places across the city to meet with people, talk with people that this outreach service was now able to identify by name, know their history and talk about the journey that they were working with them on trying to secure some ongoing permanent housing, which for many is a very difficult journey to achieve.

I note the member for Adelaide and our Premier are both very ardent supporters of the process to achieve zero homelessness across our state. As part of that, as members would be aware, we have started with that \$6 million extra funding going into homelessness services. They will be able to continue this great work moving forward.

I have made no secret of my genuine distress when the transition occurred to the new Alliance model, and that was way too fast. It didn't provide time for people to hand over the cases to the new service that were already under their care. This has meant a delay, but I am pleased to say we now finally have the outreach services that these people need. Thank you to everyone for doing such a great job this weekend.

PRESCHOOL SERVICES

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (15:07): My question is to the Minister for Education. How does the minister reconcile his last answer with Labor's policy commitments to the people of South Australia before the last election? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr GARDNER: In my last question, the minister—when asked whether preschool for three year olds would start in 2026—referred to a 10-year transition process in Victoria, he referred to capacity problems and he referred to potentially the need for a staged approach; whereas, amongst Labor's policy commitments, I quote: 'Labor's commitment to offer three-year-old preschool to all children in South Australia from 2026—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GARDNER: Given the interjection, sir—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GARDNER: —despite leave—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr GARDNER: I seek to quote again: 'Labor's commitment to offer three-year-old preschool to all children in South Australia from 2026', and backed up by Labor's election posters talking about universal access to preschool, their advertisements and their commentary and debates, why now is the minister walking away from a commitment to start this program for all children in 2026?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:08): I thank the member for his sudden interest in early childhood.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I'm not going to be lectured to by a party that went into the last election and didn't even have an early childhood policy—did not even have an early childhood policy whatsoever.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: More seat warmers than a Kia Carnival on your side.

The SPEAKER: The minister will be seated.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, there are only four minutes of question time remaining. I know you are eager to hear the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wright is called to order. Minister, if you wish to be here to answer, you will come to order. The member for Morialta on a point of order, which I will hear under 134.

Mr GARDNER: Standing order 127 prevents reflection on members and standing order 98 prevents debate. If the minister is embarrassed, he should apologise and answer the question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I am going to take in hand 98 only for the moment. I'm not sure that I necessarily heard words that would engage other standing orders, but nevertheless the minister is called to order. I draw the minister's attention to standing order 98 and ask him to chart a line close to the question.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I'm not embarrassed. I think what we are seeing here really is the world's lamest Jedi mind trick: this is not the former Liberal government you are looking for. You guys are unbelievable.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: It is our election commitment. We stand by it. I think the member just did a pretty incredible job of mischaracterising the answer I gave to his first question. What I spoke about in terms of—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: If you will let me finish.

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

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Just calm down.

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

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

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

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: My answer to the member for Morialta's first question, when I spoke about a 10-year implementation period and staging, was in reference to what is happening in Victoria, which, along with New South Wales and the ACT, are three of the other jurisdictions that are moving to having three-year-old preschool. Of course, we understand how important it is. The former Liberal government did not and did not support our policy and went to the—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: —March 2022 election without an early childhood policy at all.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: It is very easy to reconcile the answer I gave to the member for Morialta's first question. We announced that we would begin universal preschool for three year olds from 2026.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley! Member for Colton!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I know that it's too much to ask that they read—

The Hon. S.E. Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Port Adelaide!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: —the whole paragraph. If they read the entire paragraph, they would know that. The commitment we gave was that we would have a royal commission into how we best deliver it because we know it is a very big task. That royal commission will look at where capacity currently exists in our system to accommodate three year olds, who we hope will take up preschool.

It will also look at how we start it, where we start it and where the priority areas are, because we have some three year olds who have far more vulnerable family backgrounds who may benefit from an early start. These are all the things that the royal commission we have said will look at, so I have no difficulty whatsoever reconciling my answer. I think it's incredibly churlish by those opposite to start taking issue with a policy that they got absolutely nowhere near, an exceptionally important—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond! Member for Morialta! Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: —policy area to our state: early childhood. You didn't even have a policy before the election, you bunch of snoozers.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: You didn't even have a policy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: If it's so important to you, have a policy on it. Where were you? Still asleep!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The standing orders prevent quarrels between members.

*Grievance Debate***ELECTION COMMITMENTS**

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:13): Just two months into this new government and the cracks are already starting to appear.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SPEIRS: They laugh. The arrogance is there. Below the cracks is the arrogance; however, the honeymoon appears to be over. Labor went to the election with a range of lofty promises and now they are starting to step back from them, whether it is what we have just heard around early childhood education policy or their commitments to fix ramping or deal with the delivery of the north-south corridor or build a new \$80 million State Aquatic Centre in North Adelaide. They are bit by bit stepping back from these commitments, walking away from them, putting weasel words in policy documents as they try to step back from delivery. These were lofty promises, and we are starting to see them try to wriggle out of these commitments.

Let's start with their commitment to fix the ramping crisis. We saw it on corflutes up and down streets and highways throughout our state, and this has now been watered down from that categorical commitment to fix ramping to instead become a range of policies that will help fix ramping—the watering down of this iconic commitment. Coincidentally, at the same time we have stopped getting those daily ramping updates from the ambulance union, which of course were ever present in March. We hear anecdotally from paramedics and emergency departments across this state that ramping is worse than it has ever been. We are not hearing that from the union at the moment, and we are not hearing that from the government, but we know that it is the case.

When it comes to moving the goalposts, the big surprise from the upcoming budget is the north-south corridor. This is a project that, if delayed, will have catastrophic productivity commitment—detrimental outcomes for this state. It will result in tradies taking longer to get to jobs, it will result in freight taking longer to get to its destination and it will add to bills right across this state. It will add more uncertainty to businesses up and down that corridor and it will add more uncertainty to residents who live in that corridor.

We had a report from Infrastructure Australia, probably the most significant assessment body when it comes to infrastructure projects in this nation. The report said that this project was ready to go. This report was informed by the state Department for Infrastructure and Transport. In fact, we had an assurance report just weeks before the election saying that not only could this project be delivered on time but it had been developed in accordance with industry standards and that the actual duration of the project could be shorter than indicated in the project program.

Then, just weeks later, the same officers who were involved in writing the report that said it could be shorter than indicated in the program that went to Infrastructure Australia, these same officers and these same people, are now saying that the project has overly optimistic time lines associated with it—their time lines. The only thing that changed was the arrival of Minister Koutsantonis in this portfolio. He gets involved and the project starts to fall apart, and you wonder what these officers are thinking when it comes to providing different advice to Minister Koutsantonis than they would to Infrastructure Australia.

Another project the member for West Torrens is getting his mitts on is the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. We saw this Premier dive headlong into this commitment, saying that this would be done by 2026. Then, when interviewed on radio, the member for West Torrens says, 'That's an aspiration only'—another project drifting off into the ether. I think that the good people of South Australia are very soon going to have buyer's regret from what they are getting from those opposite.

LAMERTON, MR R.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:18): I want to use this time to honour one volunteer who has made an extensive impact in my local community. A true champion when it comes to volunteering, Rob (Bob) Lamerton passed away earlier this year, but he leaves behind a legacy not only to be proud of but for which we, the north-east community and the SA theatrical scene, are greatly indebted.

Along with his wife, Diane, Bob was a visionary and co-founder of the Tea Tree Players Theatre. He came here to South Australia as an English migrant, settling in Modbury Heights with his wife and young sons. He was greatly passionate about theatre but, with no real opportunity for live entertainment in the area at the time, Bob worked with the theatrical group called the Nomads, performing comedies at the AMP Theatre in Adelaide.

Bob wanted to bring some of that life and culture to our community and worked hard to bring live entertainment to the north-east. He dedicated time to researching local halls and developing plans to eventually launch the Tea Tree Players Theatre. For those who have not been, it is an absolutely beautiful theatre. It is both welcoming and elegant. For those interested, I encourage you to come visit this month for the world premiere of the socially distanced play written by another local legend, Damon Hill.

A lot of work went into turning the old Golden Grove hall into a theatre, and it was not without its challenges. Not having seating, a stage, lighting, sound equipment, props, costumes or scenery meant Bob had much of his work cut out for him. In fact, for a period of time I understand that the seating for the audience needed to be set up prior to each performance, as the hall had many uses at the time.

Bob did not let these hurdles stop him from getting the theatre up and running. He had the vision that the hall would be the perfect fit and he had the drive to bring live entertainment out to the north-east. Bob was absolutely determined to see the Tea Tree Players Theatre become a success. Whether it was facing naysayers at a community meeting—

Mr Pisoni: Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, a lack of a quorum has been brought to my attention. An absolute majority is not present. Please ring the bells.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister and members on my left, if they speak again will be leaving the chamber.

A quorum having been formed:

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Wright and the member for Unley will vacate for 10 minutes.

The honourable members for Unley and Wright having withdrawn from the chamber:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for King will be heard in silence.

Mrs PEARCE: Whether it was facing naysayers at a community meeting to form the group, finding support to get the theatre going or fires in the hall, Bob never gave up. He even lost employment because of his dedication and time given to the theatre. You see, his boss came to see what he had been up to and, upon seeing all Bob's hard work for the theatre, he concluded that no person could do what he did without having dipped into his work hours, and he refused to believe otherwise.

But even that did not stop Bob from giving up on his vision. He persevered through the toughest challenges to see the Tea Tree Players Theatre group become the overwhelmingly successful institution it is today. Having now been around for 46 years, the Tea Tree Players Theatre has over 1,000 members, staged over 300 productions and sold almost half a million tickets. That all stemmed from Bob's vision and hard work, along with Diane, who both dedicated countless hours to making sure it was a success.

I want to extend my sincerest condolences to Diane, Bob's family and the Tea Tree Players Theatre family. I also want to extend my thanks to Bob for the enormous amount of work he put into the Tea Tree Players Theatre and to the many volunteers like Bob across our state who make an immeasurable difference to our communities every day. For every aspect of the arts to thrive and survive we need people like Bob and Diane.

The arts must be valued for its benefits to individuals, our community and our economy. I know how tough the pandemic has been for us all and recognise that the arts industry was hit particularly hard, which is why I am proud that this government, a Malinauskas government, supports the arts and creative sector to rebound from the impact of the pandemic and once again become a sector in which there is confidence to take risks with new works, festivals and ideas.

We know the seeds of great ideas and future international stars initially grow and flourish in local community creative endeavours. We are committed to supporting and enabling them to thrive.

GLYNDE RSL SUB BRANCH

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (15:24): Today, I want to say a few words about Glynde RSL Sub Branch. They are obviously a fantastic group of local residents. Recently, I attended the annual RSL sub-branch dinner on 20 May. It was quite an auspicious occasion, as it always is. We had the privilege of commemorating the ongoing work of our current serving service men and women and also our retired service men and women.

At the dinner, I was joined by various guests such as Ms Jo-Anne Hanrahan, who represented Ms Cheryl Cates, President of RSL South Australia and Northern Territory, and also my good friend Councillor Kevin Duke. Kevin has been a long-time councillor of the City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters. He is a fantastic member of the local community and serves that position very well. He is very responsive to queries, and he certainly assists residents. There was also Mrs Mel Blondell, the Board Chair of Lutheran Homes Incorporated. Lutheran Homes is very much a growing community in my electorate, especially in the suburb of Glynde.

Also there was Mr Tim Chia, the CEO of Lutheran Homes Incorporated, and I was able to catch up with him for the first time. They really look after their residents, whether they be high care or medium care, they have great facilities and they really go out of their way to look after their residents. There was also Mr Neil Bradtke, who is the Secretary of the Glynde RSL Sub Branch and, of course, Mr Colin Hentschke, the President of the Glynde RSL Sub Branch, who gave a profound speech.

Before dinner began, we recited the ode, as we always do, made a toast to The Queen and also gave thanks as we celebrated and commemorated all the brave people in our local community who have served and continue to fight for our great country and democracy. During my time at the dinner, as the new member of parliament for the suburb of Glynde I was able to recommit my promises to the good people of the local area and reiterate my unwavering support to them.

They really are quite an active RSL. Whether it be through commemorating the service of men and women at the dawn services, whether it be on ANZAC Day or Remembrance Day, they really do a splendid job. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers involved with the Glynde RSL Sub Branch. They do so much for all the local residents: they give up their time each week at their various functions and they also do a whole range of fundraising through various aspects at the homes.

The assistance that staff and volunteers provide for currently serving but also ex-service personnel through the RSL's events and also members' programs is certainly very much appreciated and needed in today's world. When I have been able to visit some of these RSL clubs, sir, as I am sure you have also done as well, they certainly provide company and companionship not only for the returned service men and women but for their families as well.

They provide an amazing level of support and really do contribute to our social fabric. Again, I would like to thank the Glynde RSL Sub Branch for the privilege of commemorating and celebrating with them. I wish the club all the very best and look forward to continuing to support their functions and roles in the many years to come.

MOBILE PHONE TOWERS

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:28): I firmly believe the residential streets in our community should be known for their leafy green boulevards and character homes, not twin mobile phone towers, but that is exactly what telco giant Optus has been trying to construct in Prospect's

south-east. Last year, along with a number of my neighbours, I launched a community campaign to prevent a second 30-metre mobile phone tower from being erected near locals' homes.

Early in 2021, Optus lodged plans for the 30-metre tower to be constructed in the car park of Crowies Paints in College Avenue, Prospect. The proposed location of the tower is immediately adjacent to a residential zone, causing maximum impact to the residential neighbourhood. In fact, the proposed tower would be built directly up against the fence of another couple's home and just 72 metres from the existing 30-metre Telstra mobile phone tower in Ballville Avenue.

To put that in context, I am quite confident that I could kick a football from one mobile phone tower to the next if this mobile phone tower were constructed—and I am no Barrie Robran! Locals believe that it does not pass the fairness test to allow a second 30-metre mobile phone tower to be erected near their homes, arguing that it would significantly damage the general amenity and character of our neighbourhood.

A petition launched late last year attracted 200 signatures in a matter of days. We have letterboxed and knocked on doors and held a protest, the latter being covered by 7 News. I would like to thank my neighbours Karen and Enzo Pepe and David Lloyd, and many others, for their hard work on this campaign and also acknowledge the Mayor of Prospect, David O'Loughlin and many of its councillors, in particular Alison DeBacker and Kristina Barnett, for their support of our campaign.

While our community had an initial win in September last year, with the City of Prospect's council assessment panel calling on Optus to provide further information on its application, the telco giant continues to progress its plans for the mobile phone tower at the College Avenue site. Our community campaign has consistently called for an investigation into alternative locations for the second 30-metre mobile phone tower, saying that a concerted effort should be undertaken to find a more suitable site, not directly adjacent a residential area, that minimises the impact on local residents and the suburb as a whole.

Residents understand there is a need for telecommunications infrastructure, but the science should not be given the green light simply because Optus and the landowner are in agreement. Optus has deep pockets and resources to undertake a proper investigation into a more suitable location along Main North Road that minimises the impact on local homes. We encourage members of the community to join in our campaign against the construction of this twin phone tower.

The community has until midnight tomorrow (Wednesday night) to make a submission. You can go to the PlanSA website at www.plansa.gov.au and search for the application number 22010588. We acknowledge that it is a David and Goliath battle and, while we may not be a telco giant, we are a strong and connected neighbourhood and we have people power.

REGIONAL HOUSING

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:32): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and best wishes on your recovery from the ailment that has caused you to be in a sling.

Today, I would like to speak about housing, which unfortunately is an increasing problem in my electorate and one which my electorate office has had to deal increasingly with, which is most unfortunate for the large number of families who find themselves struggling either with homelessness or with the impending threat of homelessness upon them.

I am aware, after having done a little bit of research, that over the last 10 years there has not been a significant increase in the number of public housing stock in our part of the world despite what is quite obviously, for those who are taking notice, a dramatic increase in the amount of demand that is around this area right at the moment.

In 2010-11, approximately 380 public houses were available on Yorke Peninsula. In 2014, that made its way up to 398, and now in 2022 approximately 410 public houses are available. This is not enough and, after having a meeting with Housing SA and representatives from the minister's office just last week, we know now that 70 families are in category 1 waiting for a home on Yorke Peninsula. Of those 70 families waiting in desperate need for a house, only 35 vacancies appear on average. That means it is often a two-year wait on the category 1 waitlist for public housing, which I would submit is too long for people who are in such desperate need.

Obviously, this is a problem not just on Yorke Peninsula but across the state and across regional areas. However, of particular importance to me, and something I am passionately going to push to try to uncover a solution for, is the need to make the case for how smaller towns like Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta—and maybe even smaller towns again at Maitland and Minlaton and those sorts of towns—can have an increase to the public housing stock aside from what is being done in the bigger centres, like Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Whyalla, Murray Bridge, etc.

There is just as much need in our small communities—in fact, that need might be even more pressing—and we need to uncover a way in which we can ensure that need is addressed rather shortly. Just after my meeting with Housing SA and the representatives from the minister's office, I was also thrilled to host the principal of Wallaroo Primary School, Dominica

I had a chat with her in the presence of Senator Karen Grogan, whom I had the wonderful pleasure of meeting for the first time, about the impact it was having on her school and on schooling at large. Dominica was there as a representative of principals around the area and put forward their view on how it was all being addressed.

Wallaroo Primary School have had four students leave in just the last little period of time, which is over 4 per cent of their total enrolment. This is a school of fewer than 100 students, and over 4 per cent of them had to leave because of access to housing—a rental being taken away from them, being unable to access replacement public housing, anything of the like. That is a significant dent that has been put in their student body and the resources they have to account for and all the other things that go along with that.

There was a real concern on behalf of the schools that something needed to be done to keep those students in the area and also for those trying to move to the area, for family or friends or any other reason, to access more housing as well. I have to thank Dominica Thomson for putting on the record and making sure that both the senator and I were aware of the desperate need for further housing and the impact it was having on local schooling.

Senator Karen Grogan put forward what the new federal government have proposed for housing and a couple of the initiatives. She suggested there might be some opportunities for different sorts of initiatives from community organisations that might address some of these shortcomings. I would like to take this opportunity with the time I have left to put forward some of the initiatives that have been brought to me as the local state member of parliament that might help go some way toward addressing some of the issues.

I just recently had a meeting with the Kadina show society. They have a little bit of land at the back of their showgrounds that they think they could make better use of. They will be seeking, and I will be taking up on their behalf, an effort to ensure that the federal government can fund, or part fund at the very least, some of the initiatives to ensure that that block can be developed to provide the housing that is so desperately needed.

I have also been approached by a group. Unfortunately, their relative only recently passed away, but he had completed the process of subdividing a block, and all the utilities and amenities had been provided there. That block might well be an opportunity for a government body to buy up and build houses on it and make sure that block, which is now sitting vacant with all the utilities connected, could be used as government housing.

There are other initiatives that other people have approached me with. There are two really good examples. I will be taking them up on behalf of the community and look forward to doing my best to ensuring there is enough housing available for the people of Yorke Peninsula.

MURRAY, MS E.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:37): I rise to acknowledge the commitment of an especially dedicated person in my community. Emma Murray is the head coach of Hub Gymnastics, based at the Paul Murray Recreation Centre in O'Halloran Hill. Earlier this year, Emma was awarded the Young Women's Community and Spirit Award by the International Women's Day Committee of South Australia at the Adelaide Town Hall. The award recognises outstanding achievements and dedication of young South Australian women.

Emma was nominated by the wonderful member for Hurtle Vale, Ms Nat Cook, and is a truly deserving winner. It was no surprise to me that Emma won this award. She is a fierce advocate for her community and for gymnastics in the south. Over the past few years, I have witnessed Emma invite just about every politician she could to see their facilities, to see the talent of their athletes and to see the opportunity that would be possible if they could just get the support that they needed to expand and accommodate not just the 700 members already utilising the gymnastics club but the 500 young locals waiting on their waitlist to join this fantastic club.

I have also witnessed the look of disappointment and frustration on Emma's face every time she saw another footy club receiving grants and gymnastics missing out. But Emma's relentless dedication to her club and to the gymnastics community has secured Hub Gymnastics a \$3 million investment from this government as well as an additional \$1 million investment from the federal government. The expansion the club is planning will see the combined vision of her father, the late Paul Murray, and the club membership finally realised.

Like Emma, Paul, who was coach at the club for 23 years and a great advocate for the club and the gymnastics community. In fact, Paul was the first person to speak with me when I was elected Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga four years ago, advocating for his club and the much-needed expansion. It was a huge loss to the Hub Gymnastics family and the wider community when we lost Paul in 2021. He had an enormous impact on our community and will be dearly missed.

Earlier this year, the council renamed the facility the Paul Murray Recreation Centre in honour of Paul's significant contribution to the club and to the Onkaparinga community. I know that Paul would be so proud of what Emma and the Hub Gymnastics committee have achieved for their club. It is obviously not just gymnastics that runs through the veins of the Murray family but an unstoppable dedication to community.

The club has been a huge success over recent years. They have embarked on delivering new programs for the community. They offer school holiday recreation gymnastics to the public and primary school OSHC. The club also runs after school and in-lesson gymnastics programs under the Australian Sports Commission Sporting Schools program. More recently, the club has expanded its Kindergym program to include MiniGym as a pathway to their recreation program. The new upgrades will see the Kindergym further expanded to accommodate many more in our community.

The club says that everything they do is about achieving their vision of providing the best possible support to their gymnasts and the best opportunities for their club and community to grow. We are lucky to have Hub Gymnastics in our community and particularly fortunate to have community heroes like Paul and Emma Murray fighting for our community's fair share to secure quality sporting facilities for our young athletes.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

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) (15:41): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable Private Members Business, Other Motions, No. 21, set down on the *Notice Paper* for Wednesday 1 June to be taken into consideration during Government Business today.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

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 this house—

- (a) notes the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report confirms that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and current plans to address climate change are not ambitious enough to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial level—a threshold scientists believe is necessary to avoid more catastrophic impacts;
- (b) notes that around the world, climate change impacts are already causing loss of life and destroying vital ecosystems;
- (c) declares that we are facing a climate emergency; and
- (d) commits to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to zero net emissions.

I am delighted and honoured to be able to speak to this motion, in front of not only those people who are here today in the chamber but also the people who are in the gallery who have been significantly active and loud about the importance of declaring this climate emergency and also anyone who is watching from home who has been desperately waiting for the South Australian parliament to finally acknowledge the truth that we are indeed in a climate emergency.

It is a pretty easy thing to ask of a government, I think, to tell the truth and yet sometimes it is a little difficult for some. I do not want to belabour the challenges that we face in climate because nearly everyone not only knows it but gets it and understands the challenges. We have only had to look at what we have lived through in South Australia with the intensity of the fires on Kangaroo Island—an intensity that had not been seen before. They were difficult for firefighters to manage and caused catastrophic damage not only to properties and people engaging in primary production but also to a huge part of the wilderness of Kangaroo Island.

The drying of the Murray-Darling Basin and the flooding are also, perversely in some ways, part of climate change because, as you add more energy to the system, you get more activity in the climate, and it is devastating. It is important that we not only acknowledge that the climate has started to change, and there is built into the system far more change that is yet to come, but we also need to acknowledge the truth that this constitutes an emergency and then we need to act on that. I acknowledge, congratulate and thank the people who were involved in calling this to the parliament's attention.

Last year, I presented a petition of 10,600 signatures asking that we declare this emergency. It was coordinated by Margaret Hender, who is a magnificent South Australian, who simply said, 'We need 10,000 signatures? No problem.' People were queueing up to sign because they know how important it is that we are honest and that we are truthful about this. We tried before, of course: this motion was in the upper house a couple of years ago under the stewardship of Mark Parnell. The Labor Party in opposition supported it, but unfortunately it was not supported by the then Marshall government.

The political response to the reality of this emergency in Australia has been very disappointing for a very long time at the federal level. I think we can all breathe a sigh of relief that finally we have again a federal government that acknowledges the truth of climate change and is prepared to act on it.

While in South Australia the previous Labor government, from Rann to Weatherill, was intent on decarbonising our electricity sector, our electricity emissions, we had the person who has only just been turfed out as Prime Minister fondling coal in parliament as if it were a joke, as if the idea of carbon polluting the atmosphere were something to be mocked and, in fact, to be made a display of. That would not have been allowed here.

When we had a big battery in order to make electricity emissions more sustainably low carbon, in Canberra they mocked that as the 'big banana'. They had no clue about the importance of what needs to happen primarily in order not only to protect our environment but, significantly, to position the South Australian and Australian economy to take advantage of the need to decarbonise, to make ourselves the home of low to zero manufacturing, something that South Australia is within grasp of being able to do thanks significantly to the previous leadership of Mike Rann and Jay Weatherill.

When the Liberals were in government here, we saw not only the destruction of the environment budget, by the ripping out of \$34 million in the first environment budget under the then minister, but also a refusal to acknowledge the simple truth that this does constitute an emergency. This government understands that it is not enough to say that it is true: you also have to act. While we have many policies directed towards climate change, the absolute centrepiece is the nearly \$600 million being spent on the Hydrogen Jobs Plan. It is named that very deliberately.

This is not just about decarbonising our electricity production, it is not just about providing that firming capacity for renewable energy so that we are able finally to guarantee base load renewable energy electricity, but it is also about using that to create a new economy in South Australia—an economy whose time has come, an economy that will be based on our natural assets of wind and sun and a South Australian public that have long understood the importance of climate change and long wanted to see government respond and have themselves had solar raised on their houses and been pleased to see wind farms springing up across the state.

South Australia deserves to be the first place in the world that is able to generate a truly renewable electricity system that supplies a zero carbon manufacturing sector. That is what we deserve to see, but we do that by understanding why we are doing that, and we are doing it because humans have put too many greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and they are killing our planet. We need to be honest about that. The impact on biodiversity, the impact on primary production, the impact on people who do not have air conditioning and having extended heatwaves—these are all real. They are all already happening, and they will get worse if we do not decarbonise.

To decarbonise we need to be honest, and this motion is at last the South Australian parliament declaring that it understands the seriousness of this situation and responding to the pleas of the South Australian public to do so. I commend those who will be voting in favour of this motion and I commend, still more, the people, the public of South Australia, who have asked for this, who expect it and who look forward to embracing all the actions that will flow from this government to address climate change.

Mr SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:50): I rise to support the spirit of this motion but wish to move an amendment to the motion to strengthen it by, in paragraph (a), adding in the words 'including biodiversity decline' after the words 'catastrophic impacts', deleting paragraph (d) and inserting three new, much stronger paragraphs:

- (d) declares that a pathway to curbing these impacts will require swift action;
- (e) notes that addressing the changing climate presents significant economic, employment, innovation and technological opportunities for South Australia, and that these opportunities should be actively pursued and supported; and
- (f) commits to action to help restore a safe climate by:
 - (i) transforming the South Australian economy to zero net emissions by 2050 and to 50 per cent by 2030; and
 - (ii) quarantining the Department for Environment and Water from budget cuts.

The motion would read:

That this house—

- (a) notes the most recent Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change report confirms that greenhouse gases continue to rise, and current plans to address climate change are not ambitious enough to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels—a threshold scientists believe is necessary to avoid more catastrophic impacts including biodiversity decline;
- (b) notes that around the world, climate change impacts are already causing loss of life and destroying vital ecosystems;
- (c) declares that we are facing a climate emergency;
- (d) declares that a pathway to curbing these impacts will require swift action;
- (e) notes that addressing the changing climate presents significant economic, employment, innovation and technological opportunities for South Australia, and that these opportunities should be actively pursued and supported; and
- (f) commits to action to help restore a safe climate by:

- (i) transforming the South Australian economy to zero net emissions by 2050, and to 50 per cent by 2030; and
- (ii) quarantining the Department for Environment and Water from budget cuts.

These amendments are incredibly important from my point of view, and I speak on behalf of the entire opposition when I say that we believe we need to continue South Australia's bipartisan trajectory towards net zero by 2050, importantly pitching towards that 2030 goal of a 50 per cent reduction in 2005 levels of emissions by 2030.

We see that interim goal, which we announced in February 2020, as a powerful goad into action for community, for government, for business and for all South Australians to continue our journey of not just leading South Australia, not just leading our nation, but leading the world when it comes to our response to climate change and also grasping hold of opportunities. One of the great things that has happened over the last decade or decade and a half in South Australia is the ability to decouple the increase in carbon emissions from economic growth.

Historically, we thought for some time that we could not do that: we could not see the economy continue to grow and at the same time reduce carbon emissions. But what South Australia has proven through our work across parliaments, across governments and across political parties of both persuasions, is that you can grab hold of the economic opportunity, create those green industries and transition your economy to a decarbonised economy, creating lots of jobs, creating intellectual property and creating solutions, both in emissions mitigation and in adapting our society, because inevitably the climate is changing.

South Australia cannot stop that by ourselves, so we also have to adapt by greening our cities and towns, by finding ways to sequester carbon through blue carbon opportunities, by creating more resilience along our coastlines so that increased storm events can more likely be absorbed and have less impact on our communities and on our environment.

We believe in this and we believe in the spirit of what the Labor government are doing with this motion today, but we do want to see it moved beyond simply gesture: we want to see it moved to action because a climate emergency declaration by itself is worth nought. What we need is true action. We need to see investment, investment and conservation: investment to stop biodiversity decline because all too often we talk lots and lots about climate change but not enough about an even greater environmental catastrophe unfolding.

David Attenborough describes biodiversity decline as an even more urgent but related crisis. So I have asked for an amendment to insert 'biodiversity decline' into this motion so that we can step up and respond to biodiversity decline here in South Australia. We know that Australia has an abhorrent record when it comes to the loss of species of flora and fauna. We want to try to do our best to reverse those declines, to see our landscape rewilded and to create opportunities for those native species to both survive and thrive in our landscape.

I have also proposed an amendment to this motion to include the job-creating opportunities and the economic potential of climate change and responding to climate change, the opportunities that come with South Australia being a first mover in this area. I acknowledge the work undertaken by Mike Rann when he was Premier of this state and by Jay Weatherill when he was the Premier, and that was seamlessly continued when the Marshall Liberal government took office in 2018.

It was my great privilege to be the minister responsible for climate change policy and climate change action in South Australia for four years and now to be able to take that role into the leadership of the opposition, to maintain the shadow environment portfolio, to continue to carry the flag for this important portfolio, a portfolio that was all too often left withered and ignored in history in this state.

Another amendment I believe is so important is to say that to take real action, to veer away from simply gesture, we need to quarantine the environment department from budget cuts. When Labor were last in power, the environment department's budget fell by 60 per cent. The number of rangers working in our environment, in our parks, fell from 300 to only 93. We were up by 45 per cent. Again, we can go better, and I was delighted to hear that the Labor government are investing in Indigenous rangers in their upcoming budget. I ask them to continue growing our rangers workforce, to create a workforce of people who understand our national parks.

Twenty-one per cent of our state is held in the national parks regime. That is about the size of the UK when you put them all together, and that is a national parks estate which grew substantially during the Marshall Liberal government's time in office. Let's continue that journey. You cannot do it if you cut the Department for Environment and Water's budget. That entire budget must be quarantined. We must invest in the natural world. We must invest in the natural capital of our state because that will secure our native species. It will also secure the resilience of the landscape so that we continue to be a place which is highly livable so that we can continue to be a place that proudly produces high-quality food and fibre.

So, while the Labor Party have a terrible record throughout their 16 years in office from 2002 to 2018 in terms of the environmental administration in the state, there is a real opportunity now to build that budget and to create resilience in that budget so that we can respond to pressing environmental issues in this state. The budget is small in the scheme of a whole-of-state budget, which is above \$20 billion. The environment department's budget sits at around about \$300 million. It is a small budget, but it is an important budget.

We should aim to work together to grow that budget, to seek federal contributions to projects to grow that budget, to invest in a department which is there first and foremost to look after our national parks, to invest in conservation, to invest in biodiversity, and position our state as a leader in climate change policy and emissions reduction and in adaptation measures to set this state up for success in the face of the challenges of a changing climate.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:00): I rise in support of this motion, unamended, and in doing so thank the Deputy Premier for her leadership and advocacy both in this place and within our community to protect our environment and urgently address climate crisis. By declaring a climate emergency in South Australia, the Malinauskas Labor government is acknowledging that more must be done to address the risks posed by climate change. More must be done to mitigate the effects it is already having on our state's environment and our communities. More must be done to decarbonise our economy.

Today, we acknowledge that, while South Australia has a strong reputation for leading both our nation and the world when it comes to renewable energy, we must move to do more and we need to do it quickly. I am proud that for 16 years, under a Labor government, our state led Australia in renewable energy generation. We moved away from our reliance on fossil fuels and provided an example to other states of what could be achieved.

In 2002, it was the South Australian Labor government that set the 26 per cent renewables by 2020 target, harnessing the abundance of wind and solar resources our state has to offer. In 2007, it was a South Australian Labor government that introduced the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act, making South Australia the first state to legislate targets to reduce greenhouse emissions. In 2017, it was a South Australian Labor government that built the world's largest lithium-ion battery.

It has been Labor governments that have protected our environment, and we will build upon this legacy by taking ambitious and immediate action to address climate change. It will be a Malinauskas Labor government that builds a hydrogen power station, an electrolyser and a storage facility to generate clean energy and power new jobs and industry in South Australia. There is such an incredible opportunity available to us, and our Labor government is ready to take advantage of the international hunger for green hydrogen. We do this for our environment. We do this for our jobs. We do this for our economy. But, let me say again, we do this for our environment.

The Malinauskas Labor government's Hydrogen Jobs Plan will deliver three key elements: a 200-megawatt hydrogen power station, harnessing South Australian renewable energy to supply cleaner and cheaper power to South Australian businesses, factories manufacturers and miners, creating new jobs and helping attract new industry to South Australia; 250-megawatt electrical capacity of hydrogen electrolal electrolyzers, using excess renewable energy—so instead of switching off the solar panels and just letting the energy go to waste, instead of the need to remotely switch it off like that—to unlock a \$20 billion pipeline of renewable energy projects in South Australia; and we will deliver a hydrogen storage facility holding the equivalent of two months' operation or 3,600 tonnes of hydrogen, providing additional capacity when required.

The Malinauskas Labor government is also moving quickly to introduce legislation to repeal the electric vehicle tax that those opposite seem to think was a great idea. It truly just shows how out of touch the Liberals are. In a warming world, where we want to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, they make it more expensive for people to move to electric vehicles. We are repealing that tax because we want to encourage more South Australians to buy an electric car and reduce their emissions. We do not want to make it harder.

We have also committed to updating the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act to reflect short-term targets, consider carbon budgets and government adaptation plans; but this is just the beginning. The federal election showed us clear as day that Australians are demanding action on climate change.

Australians have spoken: they want action and they want it now. They do not want a 'I'll just leave it to the next guy' Liberal climate policy. They do not want climate wars. They understand that reducing carbon footprints is not enough. They understand that while our individual choices do make a difference, it is collective action and the power of government that will create the transformative environmental change we need to leave an Earth that our children can thrive on.

I hear them, and I hear the voices of those in my electorate. I hear the voices that come from the younger members of our community, who are genuinely scared for their future, young people like those fantastic activists in the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. I hear the voices that come from those who are worried about their grandchildren. I hear the voices of those showing their children why climate action is needed and fighting for them, like Australian Parents for Climate Action. I hear you. The Malinauskas Labor government hears you. Today, this parliament hears you. We are in a climate emergency, an emergency we must act upon today.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:05): I also welcome the opportunity to speak in parliament today about climate change and net zero. South Australia is one of the driest places in the world, so climate and rainfall have been an ever-present challenge to South Australia in terms of its growth, both economic and social. Just in terms of our water supply, a lot of it is sourced from the River Murray, which relies on rainfall throughout Australia. Effects of the warming climate from the Australian perspective involve reduced average rainfall and more frequent and severe heatwaves, which then make South Australia more susceptible to droughts and bushfires.

These are certainly challenges that should be taken seriously here in South Australia. Referring to the motion, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that have been released in 2021 and 2022 are in fact the sixth iteration of these reports, which give scientific and technical knowledge around climate change. One of those reports, the third one, Mitigation of Climate Change, does demonstrate the growth in greenhouse gases across the decades.

Starting in 1990, the overall carbon dioxide equivalent emissions were 38 gigatonnes, rising to 59 gigatonnes by 2019. If we break that down into different regions, which the report does, it shows that eastern Asia makes up 27 per cent of those emissions, North America 12 per cent and Europe 8 per cent. Breaking that down further, Australia's emissions in 1990 were around 630 megatonnes, decreasing to 530 megatonnes by 2019. Similarly, South Australia's emissions have reduced to 24 megatonnes in 2019, coming from around 36 megatonnes.

These reports highlight some of the really complex global challenges that come with mitigating climate change and that to some extent the temperature rises that have occurred since pre-industrial times may become permanent because of this huge growth globally. Consequently, addressing climate change has been a priority of the previous Liberal government and remains a priority to those on this side of the house because we certainly acknowledge the risks and challenges that climate change poses.

At the same time, South Australia is not the only jurisdiction facing these challenges; in fact, South Australia is better equipped to respond to the challenges but also to the opportunities of climate change, more so than any other Australian state and most other places in the world. One of the reasons is that our state has about 69 per cent of Australia's solar and wind-generating resources, which we can leverage to generate large amounts of renewable energy.

As such, as has previously been spoken about, we are in the process of transitioning our electricity system towards renewable energy, with at this stage over 60 per cent of the state's electricity generated from renewable sources. This certainly gives us a strong base to meet the challenges of climate change but, importantly, as the leader has pointed out, to frame it as being able to capture opportunities from low emissions and climate-resilient products and also the services and resources that come from that.

I have to emphasise that there is a commitment to reduce emissions and make sure that they are done at nation-leading target levels. That is why we saw the previous Liberal government not only put in place a clear path for responding to these challenges but also build a strong climate future, which is characterised, as I said before, by those nation-leading targets. There is also a desire to adapt and pursue climate change related opportunities, including engaging business and the market, because we know that produces growth here and then flows through to jobs.

The motion talks about plans, and in December 2020 the former Liberal government released its Climate Change Action Plan, which was developed with input from renowned climate change expert Professor Ross Garnaut. It covered the five-year period 2021 to 2025, and it focused on seven key areas that can provide a pathway to achieving those net zero emissions by 2050. It really did show that South Australia was on track to reach net 100 per cent of our electricity demand with renewable energy by 2030 and in so doing this gave us confidence as a government to set the goal of reducing the overall emissions in South Australia by 50 per cent by 2030, and you will see that the amended motion moved by the leader makes reference to that.

Additionally, because of this momentum and this plan and the vision it provides, it made it very foreseeable to achieve a level of renewable energy that would be five times more than the current local grid demand by 2050. It is important that, as we go through this transition to renewable energy, it needs to be done in an orderly manner, which not only generates clean electricity but, just as importantly, provides electricity that is affordable and reliable.

We had a number of focus areas to achieve that as a government, and one of those was fast-tracking the construction of the interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales, which would have a capacity of 800 megawatts or equivalent to 200,000 households. That would allow South Australia, as we build our renewable energy, to export it because, if we can only generate electricity to be used here in SA, it provides a cap on what we can create.

So, by being able to export it, we can get to that net 100 per cent quickly and also help other states in their decarbonisation efforts. More importantly, it also provides stability so that when it is not always windy here we can import it. However, as I said, by exporting more than we import we can have net 100 per cent renewable energy as well.

Another fantastic outcome was that it generated investment. It made other major world players—international and domestic players—want to invest here in South Australia: Neoen invested \$3 billion in Goyder South and Amp Energy invested \$2 billion. All-up, around \$7 billion worth of investment was already committed, and then that brought out further investments. It was a pipeline of not only plans for actual progress but also plans for generation capacity of upwards and approaching 16 gigawatts, which is over five times our current peak demand here. That is also creating nearly \$20 billion worth of investment. That is economic opportunity being leveraged by this orderly transition that has been set in place.

Other initiatives include the massive Home Battery Scheme, which saw South Australia over the next five years projected to have about 20 per cent of the household batteries in this nation here in South Australia, which not only reduces the costs for those households but, importantly, reduces the peak demand across the board and so reduces costs for all consumers in South Australia, and that is a way of keeping prices down as well.

In terms of being able to further grow economic opportunities, there are massive opportunities in using that renewable energy to create hydrogen. I will not go into the details of that, but we recognise that could be a key way for us to further grow investment in renewable energy. We worked with international companies and major domestic companies that are experienced in this field to attract the funding around the Port Bonython hydrogen hub. That is going to be a legacy of the

former government that will stand us in good stead for years to come. It will provide a massive way for other nations also to decarbonise, not just Australia itself.

I will quickly touch on the other elements the leader was noting. Yes, we can do mitigation techniques, but we also need to be realistic. I spoke around the global emissions at 59 gigatonnes, compared with 24 megatonnes—that is, 59,000 megatonnes—really, the percentage of South Australia. Yes, we can do our bit, but we need to be realistic. We need to adapt because we cannot necessarily control what other countries are doing. They are in various stages of development, and there may be other pressing needs that mean it is harder for them to decarbonise.

We did a great deal of work in terms of coastal protection. That is where rising sea levels will have an impact. Importantly, we also invested heavily in our national parks. I think over 20 per cent of the landmass of South Australia is covered by national parks, and that provides biodiversity corridors. I think that is another legacy, one in particular being Glenthorne National Park, the second national park in metropolitan Adelaide. That is going to be important from a biodiversity perspective as well.

The amendments the leader has moved really flesh out the importance of rapid action, the importance of actually setting targets as well, being quite specific so we can be held to account but also so that especially the younger generation, who want some reassurance, can see that we are taking action, and they can rest assured that we are.

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) (16:15): I thank everyone who has participated in this debate. They were wonderful contributions. I also thank particularly the member for Morphett, who brings quite an academic cast of mind. I understand he did extremely well in engineering and understands probably in a lot more technical detail than I do some of the mechanics that sit behind how we can unleash the power of hydrogen. I also acknowledge that the leader has always recognised that climate change is real. I am grateful that we have politics in South Australia where we are not arguing over that at least.

I will just briefly note that our side of parliament will not be supporting the amendments. We take that position for three reasons, because the spirit of the amendments is not unreasonable. There are three reasons why we will be opposing those today. It is a pity that we have to get into trying to change it and then having to oppose that, but I think these are important reasons.

The first is that we are caught between the repetition that sits here. Nearly everything that is in the amendment is effectively just reworking and embellishing what is already in the motion. It adds nothing. If we did so, if we decided we wanted to be a bit more verbose on the subject, we would be then inconsistent with the Legislative Council, where I understand the same amendment has been moved, but the intention of the majority is to oppose that, including crossbenchers from the Greens and from SA-Best. I see that the version that has been put here in fact says 'That this Council', so presumably it originated from the other place and has had found its way down here.

The second reason that we oppose these amendments is that it appears essentially to be suddenly a 'road to Damascus' moment of realising that perhaps it was the wrong thing to oppose this last time, when the Hon. Mark Parnell put it forward and the Labor Party supported it. Having found themselves on the wrong side of history, as one might think, there is an attempt to claim ownership. Rather than simply supporting the motion as it is and as it is going through the Legislative Council, they are trying to say, 'Well, we're better and we're putting some more words in, so that means it's ours as well.' I think that is a pretty poor reason to amend a motion.

The third reason is the degree of hypocrisy that sits in elements of this, in particular the identification of quarantining one part of government, the environment and water part, from budget cuts. This comes from a leader who in his first budget, as I mentioned earlier, cut \$34 million out of the environment department. In fact, he specifically took \$11.6 million out of climate change in the environment department, so the level of hypocrisy is almost breathtaking.

It was interesting that the rangers were mentioned. On the weekend my friend and colleague Kyam Maher and I were proud to announce that the budget will contain new money for 15 Aboriginal

rangers in South Australia, which will be significant for the Aboriginal community, for the rangers themselves, but particularly for the way in which visitors are able to experience and understand the importance of the cultural attachment and understanding of nature and of the country.

When the leader was the environment minister first, he came in with a commitment to have 20 more rangers, and the environment department absorbed those costs. It was not new money to say, 'Here, you are going to get some more.' They had to rearrange their existing resources and cut other things in order to fund those rangers.

So I think a third reason not to support amendments is if there is a degree of hypocrisy that is involved with them, and there is a pretty high degree of that. But let's leave that aside. That is a little distasteful, because what we want here ideally is bipartisanship. I am hopeful that in fact we will get support on both sides of the chamber for the original motion, assuming that the amendments will indeed fail.

What we are doing here today, if that is the case, is historic for South Australia and in fact is rare in Australia for a state-level parliament to decide that, in both chambers, it wants to acknowledge the truth of climate change, that in both chambers and on both sides of politics it has parties that accept the reality of climate change and are prepared to do something about it.

I will, I expect, be returning to parliament before too long with some amendments to the legislation that governs climate change in South Australia in order to be specific about targets. I think it is essential that we continue to drive our achievements. We should celebrate what we have done. We should drive our achievements forward, but we should above all be truthful, particularly with the young generation who already know what is going on, who already have a degree of fury with the inaction that they have seen to date, who want us to be honest and want us to act.

As a parliament, if we can do that, on all sides of parliament and in both chambers, then I think we can give some confidence to the youth of today that we hear what they are saying and we will be acting. I commend the motion to the house.

Amendment negatived; motion carried.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (16:22): Just before lunch, when I was speaking to the Address in Reply I got to the point about how we can strengthen our democracy and how we can ensure we have a much more participatory democracy to ensure more voices are heard.

One of the things we often hear discussed in the political debate and political discussion these days, and also generally in common, is the use of the word 'diversity'. I have no objection to using the word 'diversity'; we need to diversify our institutions. We need to diversify our political culture. We need to diversify to make sure that people from different backgrounds have an opportunity to participate fully in the political process.

The only caveat I would have to that is that diversity has seemed to have taken on a certain meaning, and I believe at times excludes one of the key groups in our community, and that is those who are economically and politically less powerful in our society, the people who are poor. When we talk about diversity, I rarely hear how we are actually going to engage with people who lack the economic and political power to participate in our process.

Generally speaking, those people who lack economic and political power also generally—and I say 'generally'—do not have good education. They generally live in certain suburbs. They generally live in certain housing, etc. So, if we are going to have a much more participatory democracy, a democracy that reflects true diversity, we need to make sure we tackle this group, the group that is hit the hardest when the economy is in decline, the group that is not heard when we have a whole range of reforms.

In this term, I will be endeavouring to work out how I as an MP—and I will call on other MPs—can ensure that we hear the voices of the poor in our community. These are the people who do not

get counted in the census because they are homeless. These are the people who do not actually write to newspapers for a whole range of reasons, including lack of confidence. They do not participate in the political process because they do not understand what is involved. More importantly, as we have an increasing amount of our democracy based in technology, this group of people is left behind even further.

I go to community meetings from time to time where I see a lot of white middle-class people rock up. I have no problem with that; that is fine, but it is not good enough anymore. We need to ensure that, if we are going to avoid the cleavages we see in America and some other countries, we need to reduce inequality in this country. We can only reduce inequality in this country if the people who are not listened to—the poor—do get a voice. It is in our interests to protect our democracy, to reduce inequality and to give greater power to those who have the least.

My plea is that when people start to talk about diversity in politics they make sure they include that group of people, which I believe is about 20 to 25 per cent of our population who live in poverty. Not only adults but their children do not get a voice. They are the ones who do not demand things at their school and do not do well at school, so that cycle continues. I go back to the next quote of the Governor's wonderful speech, and I quote:

Since the establishment of the first State Parliament, South Australia has benefited from the vision of Premiers with courage to do what is right and necessary.

We have had a number of those. Certainly, our current Premier is one who would fit that category quite easily. We have had premiers like Don Dunstan, who at the time spoke against what was the common view; we have had premiers like Playford, who at the time did bold things—and we will put aside for the moment the gerrymander. He nationalised energy power to create ETSA and he made sure that power and water were available to ensure that we had industrial development in this state. He also put a lot of emphasis on accommodation and housing for workers. So I am confident that our new Premier will be in that forum of premiers with vision.

We also need to understand that inequality hits a lot of people. There are many small farmers, there are many small business people, there are a range of people who are less economically and politically powerful. In the parliament before last, we addressed some of those matters when Minister Koutsantonis introduced a small business commissioner bill to ensure that small business that had problems dealing with big business had somebody on their side of the court. The bill, which was designed to support small business, was opposed by the Liberal Party. Years later, they saw the merits and added to that bill, which we supported as well. Farmers benefited from that action as well.

Another matter was brought to our attention by the Governor when talking about how we respond to the global pandemic, and I quote: 'That means improving our provision of mental health care.' I am sure there is not one MP in this place who has not had a phone call, a visit, an email or a letter from somebody in their electorate who is in dire need of specialised mental health care for themselves or their family or, in some cases, students in the school ground. I cannot speak for the eastern suburbs, which may be a bit different, but I can certainly speak for the northern suburbs and in particular Gawler, where there is a shortage in terms of the provision of mental health care.

If a person needs mental health care today in those areas, try to ring a GP in terms of primary health care and their books are closed. Try to find a GP who specialises in mental health care. We do have one in Gawler; we are fortunate—Dr Naomi Rutten specialises in mental health care. After three months of opening up her practice, she had to close the books. She has more patients than she can actually deal with, and she has had to close her books on mental care.

People have to wait six months or 12 months. If you are a veteran who has served our nation and you are looking for mental health care, often the answer is that, despite having a gold card, you have to wait six to 12 months before seeing one. For somebody who is experiencing poor mental health, six months or nine months or 12 months is the difference between life and death. We need to improve that. I am aware that this government has committed to improving the provision of mental health services and support to our schools and also has improved increasing the number of beds in our hospitals, but we have to go further than that.

We need to work with the new Labor government federally to make sure that we have a much better network of support for people in different parts of their mental health wellbeing. Unfortunately, at the moment we might have some services at the very primary care and at the very acute care when people end up in hospital, but there is not a lot in between. We need to address that. In fact, last week I held a forum with some young people in my electorate, and mental health care was one of the major issues that young people saw for youth, in terms of what they are facing and trying to get access to mental health care.

Moving along in the Governor's very thoughtful speech, the Governor goes on to say:

In short, South Australia has always been a State with an eye on the big picture. It is that intrinsic quality to our State's character that will guide us again now. For we are at another pivotal moment in history, in that we are faced with the most urgent national recovery project this nation has ever experienced outside of wartime.

I could not agree more, and this government will deliver on that. We have a Premier who has that vision. We have a Premier who said that he will govern not for this term and not for the next term but for the term after that and the term after that to make sure that we have infrastructure and policies for future generations.

I can understand why the current member for Morialta, the former Minister for Education, is happy about the new school in his electorate, but I can tell you that, for the tens of millions of dollars being spent in the eastern suburbs for this school, I can show you schools in my electorate that have had to be boarded up and the classrooms could not be used because of poor infrastructure. That is a disgrace in a community that already is vulnerable. The next generation is made more vulnerable by not having equal access to a quality education, and I am confident that this government will address those issues of inequality.

The Governor goes on in her speech to say: 'This is not a time to be timid. This is an opportunity, instead, for renewal.' I could not agree more, and this is a government that will do that. We need to not only commit to rebuilding our economy and transitioning our economy, to make sure that we are a carbon neutral economy, but commit to rebuilding our society. There are huge cleavages in our society and, as I said earlier, we do not want to wake up one day and notice this inequality and the social cleavages we have in our community too late, such as in America. How they deal with theirs, sadly, is through conflict. I think we need to make sure that we build and renew our society, one based on fairness, justice and real opportunity to all in our community and not just some in select suburbs.

I am getting towards the end. I would also like to draw attention to the Governor's speech where she talks about health. She states:

It also means that we need to look at the big picture and ask if current health arrangements are still fit for purpose.

That is a very important statement. We need to ensure that the health dollar reaches every person in need, but there are gaps. I am confident this government will deliver on that, but there are gaps in our health system and there are gaps in our palliative care health system. People have spoken to me about the right to have access to quality palliative care across the state. If you are a person, for example, who is housebound, try to get yourself a flu shot or vaccination of some sort. It is almost impossible to get somebody to come to your home and give you that necessary vaccination.

We need to address that. We need to make sure that health services are delivered to people where they need them. Often, the people who are housebound are older people or people with disabilities and those are the people who need those services the most. Often it is the aged. We need to address that, and we need to make sure that transport services get people who need health services from places like my electorate to the RAH, etc. People are now paying hundreds of dollars for a return trip to get access to a weekly cancer service.

The Governor talks about the education system, which I think is very important. Certainly we need to address that, and I am confident that the new Minister for Education will do so through his new programs tackling early childhood learning and also through technical education, etc. These programs will ensure that more young people get the educational skills they need to fulfil their potential. I think that is what we all want for human beings.

At this point, I would also like to commend the Compass Catholic college. It is not in my electorate—I think it is in Taylor—but it serves my region. It is a new college based on a model of actually reaching young people who have become alienated from the education system. The innovative program will ensure that these young people who have left the system will get back into education, get their SACE and hopefully have a foundation for a successful life ahead of them. The Governor goes on to say:

Of course, society is more than simply an economy, and any recovery cannot lose sight of what makes South Australia such a wonderful and vibrant place to live.

If that term has to have some meaning, we need to review and reform our planning laws. Universally, when you go to public meetings, whether it is of community members, applicants, consultants or developers, none of them are happy with the current system, which actually has a built-in conflict and disenfranchises people from the process and also builds conflict. I was at a meeting last night where everyone was annoyed with the current planning system. Not one person thought it was a great idea, so we need to look at that and look at ways of actually building a community in which everyone wants to live.

In closing, my hope is that in this term of government, this government, in conjunction with the recently elected federal Labor government, is able to reduce the level of inequality in this community. As I said, it is the greatest threat to not only people having good lives but also our society. I have covered quite a few areas. One area I have not actually covered is to thank one important group. I would like to thank my family. My parents had the courage to migrate from Italy back in 1963 to ensure that their children (my sister and I) had the chance of a good education and a good life, which we have. I am hoping that next year I get the opportunity to travel to Italy and stand where I stood 60 years ago when my family left Italy. I thank you and I thank my electorate for their support.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:38): This is an important opportunity for me to thank Her Excellency for her address to the parliament and the people of South Australia some few weeks ago upon the formation of this parliament, enunciating her government's agenda over the course of the next four years.

As Premier of the state, I was somewhat humbled to have someone of the calibre of Her Excellency sharing that vision as we embark on a substantial journey over the course of the next four years. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I thought I would make some references to some key components of the Governor's address and the government's agenda, as well as acknowledge the substantial contribution that a few people have made in order to give the South Australian parliamentary Labor Party the opportunity to be able to deliver on that agenda.

I think there were some defining themes at this year's state election but none more so than a desire from me and my team to ensure that we had a policy vision that was fully orientated towards the future of our state not just into the short term but also into the medium and long term. So much of that I think was desired by the people of South Australia on the back of what has been a very difficult few years with, of course, the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic presented. This was an unprecedented period during our lifetime, and those challenges have been substantial.

What I believe our people want more than anything else is a sense that the sacrifices that have been made throughout the course of COVID deliver a return into the long term, which means a policy agenda is absolutely necessary. That policy agenda should seek to address people's primary concerns and also their ambitions for the future.

When it comes to people's immediate concerns, none is more significant than having a health system that works. The very nature of a pandemic is that it elevates in our minds and our hearts the importance of health. The pandemic has reminded us in a very startling way and a very shocking way that we are nothing without our health. What we have seen over the course of the last few months, ever since COVID was let into our state in November last year, is that over 400 people have now lost their lives in South Australia as a result of that illness.

When we think about our health we go far beyond COVID. We look at the performance of our health system, which is under extraordinary strain not just because of COVID, not just because of the flu, but because of structural challenges that are embedded within the system and also the complexity associated with having a hospital system that taxpayers can afford but that delivers for

ever-increasing demand. The simple fact is that we have a growing population here in South Australia—we always have—but we have a growing population that is also now a rapidly ageing population, which means that demands on our health system are growing.

More than that, because of the extraordinary ingenuity of so many in our state, we have a health system that is also becoming more complex by nature. The healthcare service delivery that has been able to be undertaken in a First World economy such as ours is nothing short of remarkable. Nothing seems to be beyond the capacity of our researchers, our doctors, our clinicians, in performing the most extraordinary and remarkable feats in order to keep people alive and get them well. That brings with it, though, substantially more expense.

So we have a growing population, an aging population and more and more technological advancement and expense within our health system. People and the community rightly demand that those challenges are met by their government. They expect their government to make health a priority, particularly where they see a system failing. What they saw over the course of a four-year period was ambulance ramping increasing by 480 per cent and a response not being made by the government of the day. But, more than that, they saw an ambulance service that was no longer able to do the most elementary of functions in our health system, which of course is responding to urgent 000 calls.

People will understand that from time to time pressure builds on the system and sometimes calls might be responded to late, but when we go from an 85 per cent on-time performance for priority 2 call-outs down to a 30 per cent on-time performance people know something is wrong and something needs to change. We very deliberately went the election with a policy for substantial change in our health system, with the very determined effort to recalibrate a lot more resources to our public health system. I am very excited at the prospect of a state budget to be handed down in only two days' time that delivers on that commitment.

Just today, I had the great pleasure of being with the extraordinary staff at the Women's and Children's Hospital and hearing from them firsthand just how much pressure they are under but, more excitingly, just how anxious they are to get the additional staff that we are providing to them. This week's state budget will provide 48 additional doctors to the Women's and Children's Hospital—that is a massive increase in capacity—and an additional 12 senior nursing staff to the Women's and Children's Hospital. That equates to 60 highly trained professionals over and above attrition at the women's and kids' hospital in this week's state budget.

That is just one example of how determined we are to invest where it matters most within our health system. I understand that the opposition have, to quote one media outlet, 'slammed' us for that announcement today. Well, we stand accused and guilty of delivering on our election commitments, and we will continue to do that, particularly when it comes to health.

The second element outside health that has been central to our policy effort is what we do around education. There is nothing more important and empowering that a state government can deliver to South Australians than an education system that sets up the next generation of our people for the challenges coming down the line in the future. The labour market now is defined by competing with not the person next door or someone interstate for a job but rather someone overseas.

We now operate in an increasingly global labour market. That means that if we want our children to be able to enjoy the same standard of living we have, or even ideally one better, their ability to compete will be a function of their skills, their knowledge, which of course come from their education. On that score, tragically, South Australian students, much like students across the rest of the country, have been going backwards in comparison with counterparts overseas. Australia's education standards have been declining according to a number of metrics developed by the OECD.

I do not think that challenge, or the responsibility for that failure, can be apportioned to one side of politics over the other or just state governments or just federal governments. It is a national challenge that requires a national response. Nonetheless, on this side of the house we are committed to making sure that the state government does everything we can, so we developed probably one of the most substantial education policy platforms that has ever been taken to a state election. It is bold by nature. It starts from three-year-old preschool right through to the tertiary education system.

We are determined to establish a royal commission, which we will have more to say about in coming months, that guides the government's policy on delivering universal three-year-old preschool for every last young South Australian. Every bit of international research tells us that, if you are going to invest more money, do it in the early years. If you are going to put more effort in, do it in the early years. That is where you can get your biggest bang for your buck, and we are going to do exactly that. We are not having a royal commission to tell us what we got wrong: we are having a royal commission to tell us how to get it right. We are very excited to be able to deliver on that.

Outside early childhood education itself, there is also a lasting question that relates to our economy when it comes to early childhood care, the school day and the modern working life of the family. The simple fact is this: the nature of the working lives of parents, whether they be single parents or parents still together, is that it is completely different today from what it was when the school day was first developed decades, if not more, ago.

It is almost impossible for families with two incomes—I think it is almost impossible; I suspect most people would agree—to juggle having young children and two incomes: dropping children off, having child care, preschool, school, out-of-hours school care and two parents working. It is an extraordinarily difficult balancing act. The government has a role to play to try to make it just that little bit simpler in terms of accessibility, affordability and quality.

Our royal commission will thoroughly examine all the options around how we can deliver three-year-old preschool on a broader basis, how we can increase the take-up of four year olds to preschool and how we can ensure that the delivery of that program intersects more conveniently with the demands on working parents. This is a policy that is not just about delivering far better educational outcomes for young people.

That is the priority, but it is not just about that. It is also about increasing workforce participation within our economy, particularly amongst women. It is a sad truth that disproportionately the juggling act and the arrangements that are put in place for all the childcare arrangements and the schooling arrangements are worn by women. That is an unfortunate cultural reality that must be addressed.

However, as we graduate to ever-increasing levels of workforce participation amongst women in a range of different careers—increasingly more and more representation in professional careers—the state government must get behind that effort to make it easier, to change that cultural narrative, to make the responsibility not only equally shared between mothers and fathers but also facilitate service delivery that can underpin better outcomes for children and a greater degree of workforce participation, particularly amongst women, to make the life of a modern working family just that little bit easier. That is a better economic outcome not only in the immediate term, but it is also a better economic outcome in the long term.

Apart from the royal commission and the subsequent policy effort that follows, we are also determined to deliver five brand-new trade schools. We do not believe that you have to go to university to have a decent standard of living. I think that all of us in this chamber would be well familiar with the fact that there is no shortage of industries out there crying out for people with skills and trades, probably now more than ever before.

We have to change the narrative that you have to go to university for a better life. We have to change the narrative that you must complete school and then do a trade. We believe that you should have the opportunity to do both. We are re-establishing technical colleges in a school setting and building five new ones: three in metropolitan Adelaide and two in regional South Australia. We are very excited about that proposition. Only last night I was at a dinner with representatives of our building industry here in South Australia, and I was taken aback at how excited they are about that policy. There is a lot of work to be done in that regard and it is all well and truly underway.

Then we have the tertiary sector. We do not have a top 100 university in our state anymore. I believe that we can do better. We know that we can deliver a top 100 university again. We have been kicking the can down the road on discussions about university amalgamation in our state for too long—well, no more. We are going to have the discussion, we are going to have the debate and we will actively pursue higher education reform, including potentially in the form of amalgamation if it is in the interests of our state.

We are not interested in a debate defined by what is in the best interests of one institution over another, or one individual over another: we are interested in a debate and a discussion about what is in South Australia's interests. Our universities are ultimately established under state acts of this parliament, which means that we have a seat at the table, which means governments have a responsibility not to avoid being party to a controversial discussion. We should be leaning into it, and if we are not leaning into it we should be leading it, and that is why our government has a policy to do exactly that.

We want to work with the higher education sector in that endeavour, particularly universities, and I look forward to those discussions continuing in due course. With respect to education, it does not matter whether you are three years old or in tertiary study, we have a policy to realise all the potential of our young people, and nothing is more important to achieve than that.

When it comes to the challenges that our globe faces at the moment there are two big ones, and I have spoken about this at a few different forums recently, including at a hydrogen conference this morning. There are two big challenges of our time, and these are global challenges: one is decarbonisation of industry. This is happening now. This is not something that we are talking about in theory at some UN delegation somewhere.

Private capital is now shifting all their money into decarbonisation efforts. The race is on, and we are in pole position in this state because we have been first movers now for the better part of 20 years. We are on the precipice of achieving great things when it comes to decarbonisation through the hydrogen opportunity. We are not going to let this one pass us by. This is our moment, our chance. We are going to grab it. We are going to seize it.

The decarbonisation challenge is the biggest one of our time, and South Australia is at the forefront. The other big one, of course, is geopolitical instability and uncertainty. This is the riskiest time we have experienced in the better part of 30 years. Not since the Cold War have we had such a moment when there is reason for pause and concern about what is happening globally in terms of those tectonic shifts of power.

We currently have a situation that seems somewhat incomprehensible when you think about it. In continental Europe, one country is invading another. One sovereign government or country is invading another, and one of them is a Western liberal democracy. This is in continental Europe. It is an incomprehensible thought. This is happening on our television sets before our eyes, and a lot of people are paying attention to what the consequences of that will be. It will necessarily mean that we start to see more investment in defence, space and cyber. Again, what state in the federation is best placed to capitalise on that opportunity? It is South Australia.

You have two of the massive challenges around the world, the two big challenges before humankind at the moment, which are two challenges that South Australia is best placed to make progress on. We can confront the decarbonisation challenge like no-one else. We can step up to the plate and make a contribution to defence industry like no-one else, which means that we have an extraordinary opportunity before us. We want to make sure we grab that opportunity.

We want to look after people's health so they enjoy a decent standard of living, we want to invest in education to ensure that young people can participate in those industrial opportunities, we want to deliver real action on climate change so we can look our kids in the eye and say, 'You know what? We actually decided to do something about it and, by the way, you got more jobs out of the back of it.' We want to make sure that Australia is one of the best placed middle powers in the world to defend our democracy and everything we stand for by extraordinary technological advancements and, by the way, we can capitalise on that industrially at the same time.

This is our moment. This is our time. If not now, then when? If not South Australia, then where? This is something that we can all make a contribution on. We are absolutely determined to make sure that this government's agenda realises all that opportunity, but we are in a race. We are in a race against time, and that is why we are getting on with the task as quickly as we possibly can, including making the active decision to bring forward this year's state budget to be handed down on Thursday.

What I would say to everyone on my team is: let's stay together in this endeavour. Let's stay on task. Let's remember the big picture of why we are here. Ultimately, the people who put us here

are those who deserve the most thanks—and that is of course the people of South Australia. This is my opportunity to put on the record my thanks to the good people of Croydon. I cannot thank them enough for giving me the opportunity to be a member in this place.

First and foremost, we are local MPs, and constituents in suburbs such as Bowden, Brompton, Croydon, West Croydon, Devon Park, Croydon Park amongst other suburbs in my electorate, I cannot thank them enough for the opportunity. They are good working people. They are hardworking people. My electorate is unique. Everyone's electorate is unique, but no-one else in this chamber can say that 49 per cent of their electorate has English as a second language. I can. I raise my children in the United Nations of South Australia, and I am incredibly proud of it. There are not too many multicultural communities who do not live in the electorate of Croydon, and I want to acknowledge each and every one of them because they make our country a richer place.

In terms of other thanks I would like to put on the record, I do want to take the opportunity to thank the party office for their campaign efforts. They have given us the opportunity to be in government, led by Reggie Martin and his team, including Steve May and the new party secretary, Aemon Bourke. I want to thank my hardworking staff. The opposition was incredibly tough; it is not easy. My staff, led by John Bistrovic, I do want to thank for their service in the past but also their service into the future.

For those who have stayed on from opposition to government, they must be patient and determined individuals, which I want to acknowledge, but I also do want to thank the whole of the parliamentary team that you and I are lucky enough to be part of, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have an extraordinary outfit in South Australian Labor. You do not come back into government after one term unless you operate as a team where your own interests have to be second to the team's interests, and the fact that we have that culture is something that is special and worthy of preservation, and I think it is unique to the Australian body politic.

Other political parties, other parliamentary parties on both sides of politics around the country, know that we have something a bit special here and they want to work out how to bottle it. The truth is it has to be organic and it has to be authentic. There is not just one thing you do. It takes a collective effort to commit to that cultural ideal of putting your interests second to others. I am very lucky to be afforded the opportunity to be able to lead such an extraordinary team.

To all of the re-elected MPs, your results have been utterly astounding. I am reluctant to start naming all of them. But for re-elected MPs who took small margins and made them big margins, that is absolutely amazing, and there are a couple here. I can see the member for Badcoe and also the member for Mawson. Those results are an extraordinary endorsement of their hard work over the last four years and further back. I think they have every reason to be proud of their efforts.

Then there are our new MPs who are worthy of acknowledgement as well. I believe there were nine maiden speeches that were delivered. The member for Playford and the member for Taylor gave great addresses to this house in recent weeks, and then we had the addition of seven MPs who had to defeat Liberal incumbents, or in one case an Independent incumbent. I have to say the maiden speeches that were delivered by those seven incredible women were probably the proudest moment of my working life.

The member for Adelaide was the first cab off the rank and after she finished speaking, I thought, 'Oh no, how are the other six going to match that?' and in each and every instance they did. They delivered speeches that were all unique, all truly special, and I think we have a lot to be excited about in that regard on this side of the house.

The last people I want to acknowledge and thank I neglected to mention on election night, and that is Bob Neil from the Adelaide Uni Football Club—no! I am of course talking about my wife and children. This is a really tough business, politics; it is hard. It does not matter what your politics are or what your style of politics is, there is always a price that is paid by family and loved ones. I have not been home very much and somehow it all comes together, and that in no small part is because of the most extraordinary person I know. My wife, Annabel, is a professional herself. Her work ethic is truly second to none, and she has been such an amazing support to me and our three beautiful children.

There are moments in opposition when it does get a bit tough. You wonder how you are going to get through a particular situation, and you are anxious about the responsibility to your party and your team that rests upon your shoulders. There were a couple of times when that was probably obvious to Annabel at home. She was just the most incredible support to me, and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that I would not have been able to lead my team to victory without her by my side every step of the way. She paid a sacrifice putting up with my absolute focus and I do not know how I repay that.

I hope that in our time on this side of the house, lucky enough to be on the government benches, and in my privileged capacity as the Premier of the state, we are able to make some change that has a lasting legacy not just for my own children but for other children who are voiceless in the community. That is our ultimate test of success. We do not claim success now because we have won an election. We can only claim success if we are able to make a difference, no matter how big or small it is, for those people. I want to thank Annabel, Sophie, Jack and Eliza for the sacrifice they are making in that endeavour. My children are too young to understand any of this, and that is probably a good thing, but I want to thank them nonetheless for willingly giving up time with me.

All I can commit myself to do is my level best. I am very lucky to lead a great team, along with Susan, the deputy leader of the party, who has also been an extraordinary support to me. We regularly reflect on how lucky we both are to have this opportunity before us. We are determined to make the absolute most of it, so thank you.

Motion carried.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2022

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 May 2022.)

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (17:07): I am very pleased to speak on the Supply Bill, a bill that provides for the government of South Australia to continue to run programs, to pay public servants, to provide grants and to continue with infrastructure projects during the period from 1 July 2022 until the Appropriation Bill effectively cuts in.

The Malinauskas Labor government has come to power. We are now in the third sitting week and, with the Address in Reply having been dealt with, they would like to have the state budget this Thursday. Indeed, now we are offered a Supply Bill because they know the state budget—as happens every year—is never finished by the end of June, so in this house and in the Legislative Council that bill must be passed before its money can flow. This Supply Bill gets us through in the interim. That is its purpose and it happens every year.

The unusual thing this year is that the Supply Bill has been delayed so far, not just by an election but by three weeks of Address in Reply. If it were to be the case that the government was going to take so long with that, it is up to them whether the sitting calendar providing a record low number of sitting days—certainly a record low number in my time in the parliament—is provided. That is up to them to determine. We have this Supply Bill now and we will consider it. It is a large amount of money. It is an enormous amount of money—billions of dollars of taxpayers' money for the people of South Australia. The opportunity to scrutinise this bill and deliberate on it is a fiercely held one by the parliament and, as all oppositions do, we will give it consideration.

Obviously, the opposition will support the Supply Bill, but it is incumbent on the government, having the opportunity with this Supply Bill to put in place its agenda from 1 July, to deliver on its agenda, to deliver to the people of South Australia the things they promised to do. From a Liberal point of view, the people of South Australia voted for the Malinauskas Labor government in a disturbingly large number of seats, which is something that I think they will reflect on in four years' time if this government does not deliver on its commitments or indeed if this government determines that it is going to undertake policies that were never discussed before the election and that are contrary to the interests of the people of South Australia.

With this Supply Bill, the government has the capacity to govern. Every member sitting opposite, or even over there on the Labor benches, has a responsibility to their community to ensure that their ministry delivers what they said they would do when these members were pitching for election. I do not know how many of the members who are sitting in the chamber on the non-cabinet member benches for the Labor Party were aware that this government on coming to office would delay the north-south corridor project by at least a year. Judging by the Minister for Transport's answers in the house today, one can only assume that his real plans are to delay it for longer. Potentially, I have limited confidence in this project at all under the current minister. Maybe one of the others would do a better job.

They seem more interested in playing musical chairs with senior Public Service positions than on delivering projects for the people of South Australia, and this is problematic. We need a government focused on outcomes for the people of South Australia. Delaying the north-south corridor is more uncertainty for businesses that are operating along it and more uncertainty for residents who are now wondering whether their houses will need to be acquired under Minister Koutsantonis's new plans for whatever he proposes to deliver there—all enormous productivity losses for the state of South Australia going forward.

We want this corridor, the largest infrastructure project in South Australia's history, to deliver for South Australia for generations to come and start as soon as possible. There are enormous productivity benefits for our farmers trying to get their product to market and for people trying to get to jobs more quickly, whether they are working on domestic or commercial projects or indeed civil projects. This is a tremendously important project, and it is troubling that it is already being slated for delay by the new minister.

Today, in question time it was made very clear that universal access for preschool for all three-year-old children in South Australia will not be available in 2026. Again, I do not know how many of the Labor members sitting on the non-cabinet benches were aware that, allegedly, according to the education minister, if you believe him today, that was never part of the plan. However, the Labor Party provided their members with policy documents, including one where it is very, very explicit. It states: 'Labor's commitment to offer three-year-old preschool to all children in South Australia from 2026'.

It talks about some policy matters related to autism. It is very explicit that the Labor Party went to the people of South Australia with a proposition that they wanted three year olds in South Australia to have universal access to preschool, which is understood, by the way, as 15 hours of a preschool-style program. In South Australia, this would be overwhelmingly delivered in public preschools, although not exclusively. It can be delivered in non-government settings as well. A number of long day-care centres offer a preschool-style program, which is funded under the universal access scheme.

Either the Labor government needs to be clear with the people of South Australia about what its actual motivations and policies are or it fails the trust of the people of South Australia after the election. What we heard today was very clear. The minister set forth a series of what he described as big challenges to delivering three-year-old preschool for all three year olds in South Australia by 2026. He talked about the challenges of capacity.

The fact is that there are indeed—and this is true—a number of preschools in South Australia that have capacity to take more children, that could offer another day, for example. They have capacity to take more children. They could potentially take the three year olds tomorrow if they were all in attendance and the state government were willing to pay for it. Indeed, we have a number of preschools in our public system, and do not forget that the overwhelming majority of preschool programs in South Australia are in public preschools. We have a number of those preschools—and members may be familiar with them—that are at capacity now, where there is no more room.

Julieann Riedstra was a former chief operating officer, a former executive director of infrastructure in the Department for Education, someone who served Liberal and Labor governments over a respected career of several decades. We established in estimates last year, I think it was, that after her retirement she reminded me that she had put the capital cost estimate of delivering three-year-old preschool, certainly according to the public model or the similar proportions to what

are currently in the system in public preschools, in the hundreds of millions of dollars, just in capital alone.

Even if, as I think the education minister seemed to suggest on ABC radio a couple of weeks ago, you expect a large amount of the increased numbers to be in long day-care services with preschool-style programs there is still an extraordinary cost for the state budget: \$80 million to \$100 million it was estimated in the advice that was given to the former government. If the government consider the \$80 million to \$100 million in this program is the best way to enhance early childhood education, as they certainly seemed to suggest before the election, then well be it.

The first 1,000 days of a kid's life are utterly critical. We want that to be a focus of government policy and we want every cent of improvement to early childhood education to go to where it is going to have the most impact. That drove the decisions that we took as a government as to how we could best enhance early childhood education with every cent made available.

We will get to the Early Learning Strategy that we released last year a bit later, and I hope the new government will not be cutting it in order to fund some of its new commitments. At any rate, I do not think there is any doubt in anyone's mind on the Labor benches that they went to the election promising three-year-old universal preschool. In fact, I was with the former members for Newland and King and other members at the Modbury pre-poll booth before the election on a number of occasions. We had some friendly discussions about how politics was going. I do not know which one of the Labor members put up the post of Labor's plan for education with the big tick for universal three-year-old preschool—Labor's plan for election.

At the very least, even if it was not explicitly in the policy document, one might imagine that when Labor is talking about having a plan for education you can assume they are talking about the coming term of government—universal three-year-old preschool. There are some specific meanings in early childhood education that go with those words.

Universal access is a funding arrangement with the state and the commonwealth. It is where the commonwealth provides the extra three hours on top of the 12 hours that the state provides for four year olds so that there is 15 hours of preschool per week for all of our four-year-old children. In addition to that at the moment and for a number of years, certainly throughout the entire time of the Marshall Liberal government, we provided three-year-old preschool for all South Australian Aboriginal children and for children under guardianship.

In our Early Learning Strategy, which we released in the 2021 state budget, people can see that we were looking at further considerations for further areas. At page 23, we were looking at review policy settings for an additional year of preschool for developmentally delayed children. Today, in question time the minister in his answer identified—and he was right—that there are certain cohorts of students that will get more benefit from three-year-old preschool, because the thing is we have excellent long day-care services in South Australia, certainly with higher proportions of services going above the national average on the myChild website than most other jurisdictions, and we have a National Quality Framework that the Labor Party should be proud of. I think Kate Ellis was the minister who led the debate on it. It was delivered during the 2010-14 period of government, the Rann-Weatherill years.

They signed up to the National Quality Framework, during which time was required the introduction of teachers and more diploma and certificate-qualified staff in our long day-care services. This ensures that, while it may not always be a preschool-style setting that our three year olds are in, the overwhelming majority of our three year olds are in an early education setting that deserves our respect, and the educators who work in our long day-care services deserve our respect rather than being dismissed as some sort of second-class option for our children.

Those children are actually doing pretty well. Yes, we want them to do better, and we must work to do better. We must work on the developmental checks. Indeed, there are a number of them who will benefit from a preschool-work style setting specifically, a preschool-style program specifically. We have identified already Aboriginal children, children in guardianship, and the Marshall Liberal government put on the table children with a developmental delay. I recognise that there will be other vulnerable cohorts who are not getting all the benefits of that quality framework provided for long day-care settings.

Maybe there are different standards in some long day-care centres than in some preschools. The point I make is this: Labor has said that the answer is three-year-old preschool for every child. That means not what is currently being delivered, a combination of parental and commonwealth subsidies supporting those three year-olds in long day-care settings. There are some children who miss out, and they would always be better in a three-year-old preschool than not getting any of those early education opportunities at all.

Labor's promise did not go into this nuance. Labor's promise was universal three-year-old preschool in South Australia. This Supply Bill, and the budget to follow on Thursday, has the opportunity for Labor to deliver on its promise. Yes, it will take some work. The minister said the Victorian government, on which they based their modelling, took 10 years, or he is proposing over 10 years to roll out three-year-old preschool.

I do not really know how many of the Labor members here recall that in their talking points when they were going to community events saying that they would roll it out over 10 years, along the Victorian model, in a staged approach. I do not think that was in the Labor talking points because it certainly was not in their policy. Their policy—and I reference it again, Labor's commitment to offer three-year-old preschool to all children in South Australia from 2026—Labor's election posters, Labor's plan for education, universal three-year-old preschool. Today, the minister said, 'From 2026, we will look at start rolling it out and we will have a royal commission to tell us how.'

Before the election, when Labor announced their policy, we were interested in how they were going to deliver it. As established, depending on the model, if we are talking about all public preschoolers, this is hundreds of millions of dollars of capital in addition to the \$80 million to \$100 million a year in recurrent funding required to deliver preschool-type programs according to any of the definitions of are currently considered a preschool-type program.

It is a cost to the state government and it is a cost that I am happy to pay if it is going to deliver massive improvements to children's education and benefits for families. But Labor are not even actually now proposing to deliver it. They are shifting the language and talking about a staged approach, where certain cohorts might get there first because they have these capacity challenges to overcome. The royal commission was Labor's promise. Today, I asked the minister to reconcile his answer, which made it clear there was going to be this staged approach, with Labor's promises that all children in South Australia from 2026 would have access to three-year-old preschools. I switched around a bit, but it is nevertheless the quote.

I asked them to reconcile Labor's commitment to offer three-year-old preschool to all children in South Australia from 2026. He said, 'There is no problem reconciling it because our commitment wasn't that. It was that we would have a royal commission to advise us on how we could deliver that.' He said that the royal commission would investigate how to have this three-year-old preschool for all children, ideally from 2026. That is an aspiration. He talked about a lofty aspiration—that is fine.

The thing is that their election promise provided \$1 million for a royal commission. The last two royal commissions in South Australia, I note, cost five and seven times that amount, but we will forgive this government if they spend more on the royal commission than \$1 million because they must and it is clearly a key election promise to have this royal commission. If they spend only \$1 million it would be to the benefit of the Treasurer, but it will be a failure to the children and families of South Australia.

This royal commission's task, as explained by the Labor Party before the election, was to tell them how to deliver three-year-old preschool for 2026. It is a big task. We knew it was a big task. We said it would be expensive, and Labor said, 'We will have a royal commission to deal with it. We are supposed to solve all these problems.' I suspect that what has happened is that, since coming to government, the education minister has received advice that there is a cost, and to put that cost in the forward estimates would blow all of the current Treasurer's commentary about no more big projects, no more big expenses.

We saw him in *The Advertiser* today suggesting that further projects will be delayed. He will blow it completely out of the water. Eighty million dollars to \$100 million from 2026 is what the Labor Party will have to deliver on its election commitments, and they are not going to from the clear

responses from the minister today that they are squibbing on this promise to the people of South Australia.

It is a betrayal of the trust of the people of South Australia. As the Premier today was wrapping up his Address in Reply, just before I started speaking on the Supply Bill, I heard him talking at length about his description of his government's motivations to support families and children in South Australia. I commend his government for having that as an aspiration; it was ours. Early childhood was key in our government's focus priority areas, as was education.

There was never more money spent nor focused energy spent on reforms in a four-year period in school education in South Australia's history than in the last four years of the Marshall Liberal government. In early childhood education, we, too, had a strong commitment to reforming our delivery of early childhood education and potentially expanding the responsibilities for state government in this area.

The education minister in question time today said that we had no policy on early childhood. I put it to the education minister and those opposite that just because a policy is funded by government money ahead of an election, rather than waiting until the election campaign itself, does not make it any less a policy. I commend to those opposite, certainly the new members to whom I did not send a copy at last year's budget, the document 'All young children thriving and learning: South Australia's early learning strategy', which I believe is still on the education department's website.

It includes, from page 18 through to page 28, a series of measures, some 10 or 15 measures on most pages, identifying where we are going in early childhood. Some of them were immediately funded, some of them were areas for further research and some of them were 10-year aspirations. They are very important measures. Although they are now saying that we had no vision in early childhood education, I recall the Premier saying that \$50 million commitment was the best thing in Rob Lucas's last 2021 budget. Labor members who were here at the time may remember it in the talking points.

It was a solid body of work that was developed over a series of years aimed at targeting funding, and we accessed new funding from Rob Lucas, no less. We accessed new funding to target measures that would have a significant positive impact on children's development because it became very clear that the AEDC census data showed that, unlike most other states, in the period of the collection of data from 2009 to 2018 there was an increase in the percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains—between 2009 and 2018, the core years of the former Labor government.

In South Australia, children in a vulnerable situation increased from 23 per cent to 24 per cent. The only other jurisdiction that increased, by the way, was the ACT. Queensland saw a 3 per cent decline, Western Australia a 6 per cent decline and the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania all saw improvements on that developmental data. South Australia did not, so we put in place a series of measures that will address that, measures that will look at children's vulnerabilities for early support, early diagnosis and interventions and work with communities and NGOs. Groups like Raising Literacy Australia, the Smith Family and others were funded to engage in projects.

I very much hope that this new government will continue that work in the years ahead because it will have a big impact. I urge the minister to do so, and I urge him to fulfil his commitments to the people of South Australia on three-year-old preschool or at least have the decency to own up to the fact that it seems the Labor Party is walking away from that clear election promise.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (17:27): I rise to speak on the Supply Bill, a Supply Bill that will, with the Appropriation Bill, ensure investments and improvements in my community of Badcoe. For Labor MPs and supporters, we are living in very exciting times. With victory at elections comes the opportunity and, of course, the responsibility to do great things for our community. While much emphasis is put on elections, and winning them is obviously essential to delivering as a government, success at the ballot box is simply the very first step to creating real change and having real success and is not the goal in itself.

I am particularly excited about the great many projects that I, as the re-elected member for Badcoe, now have the opportunity to deliver for my community as part of a Labor team. Badcoe is a diverse community, featuring leafy streets and now multimillion-dollar homes, through to suburbs with families and individuals who need a helping hand, the kind of help that only Labor governments can deliver. The needs and wants across Badcoe are similarly diverse, and it is one of the very special joys of my job as the MP for the local area to serve so many different people from so many different backgrounds, each with ideas about our community and our state and how we can make it better.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who voted for me. I was very pleased after four years of hard work as your MP to win the seat on primary votes, something that has not been achieved before. Thank you for all the flowers and boxes of chocolates that arrived after my re-election. It is a testament to the generosity and kindness of people in my community I am so lucky to represent.

I would also like to assure you that I am an MP for everyone, not just those who lent their vote to me or their preference. Of course, I intend to win over those who voted differently over the next four years with sheer hard work, with compassion and understanding and by finding smart solutions to the issues facing my community, and there are indeed challenges ahead for people in Badcoe. Chief among those challenges is the north-south corridor upgrade. This is an enormous endeavour. At almost \$10 billion it is going to be the largest road project in the country and, frankly, it is not without intrinsically unfair consequences for Badcoe residents in order to achieve a greater good.

Almost 400 property owners have been informed that their homes or businesses are required by the government for the expansion, and for many people, though not all, that is a really tough pill to swallow. Put simply, people not only in Badcoe but also in West Torrens and Elder are making huge sacrifices for the infrastructure needs of our growing metropolis.

My commitment to local people has been this: that I will listen to you, that I will do all I can to make sure that you receive timely and accurate information, that I will raise your concerns and offer constructive advice and solutions and that where necessary I will fight for your rights to get the best deal possible in what is a less than ideal situation. That was my commitment in opposition and it remains my commitment as a government MP. My first obligation in this house is to the community that elected me, and I will continue to do that.

The Torrens to Darlington project is now under review by the new Labor government. That was an election promise and one that I am glad we are sticking to. It is an enormous project and there are many questions to ask and options to interrogate, and although there are tough decisions ahead, I am greatly encouraged and relieved that we now have a minister who is committed to listening to the people most severely affected by this project.

I sincerely thank my friend and colleague Minister Koutsantonis for listening to the concerns of my community in terms of the Anzac Highway flyover and the no right turn aspects of this project. I have also flagged the lack of information under the former government about which local roads would be cut off or diverted, as well as a litany of individual cases with specific concerns about their own properties that were not adequately addressed under the former regime. I appreciate that those matters are now being properly investigated.

This does not mean that there are magic solutions, and the options are being worked through carefully, but it is a relief after a lack of listening on behalf of the previous regime—at times, frankly, downright arrogance from the minister towards the people of Badcoe—that someone is finally willing to listen and assess the genuine issues that are being raised. It is really the least that any government can do.

I thank the minister and his staff, as well as the new leadership team at DIT, especially the new CEO, Jon Whelan, for already demonstrating to me and my community that they are listening and considering options to address our worries about the project. CEs are pretty busy people, so it was a sign to me of the change in direction that Mr Whelan himself has attended several community engagements now and fronted people directly and calmly to earnestly explain the projects in my area, their complexities and the options that are before the department and the community, and I

appreciate that refreshing new commitment to consultation and communication. I am sure that there will be ups and downs, but I hope that this concerted effort continues through the life of this lengthy and complex project.

I want to take this opportunity to make clear for all those affected residents in my community—that is, in the suburbs of Glandore, Ashford and Marlestone—who have received a notice of intent or who have received a letter notifying them that they would be subject to land acquisition processes this year that that remains the case. Put simply, if you live in my electorate and you have been advised that your property is to be acquired, that is not changing. Although the minister outlined over the weekend that the time line set by the former government was unrealistic and unachievable and had to be pushed forward a year and that there have been consequential corrections in the budget, that does not alter the stated land acquisition schedule for Badcoe residents.

I know that this is not the news that some people might have hoped for. I know that there were people who were holding out hope that their properties might have been spared, but I hope this information provides certainty and clarity to the people I represent. I know that clarity and certainty are so important for people who right now are making really big decisions about where their next home will be, how they will afford that and the timing of their move or, for that matter, the future of their business.

Likewise, for those who have reached agreements to stay in their homes until November 2023, this departure date remains. People will need to depart their homes permanently in late 2023 at the latest, or earlier according to the arrangements that they have made with their DIT case managers. This is despite the recent discovery that the previous government had not made adequate progress on the project to start major works in late 2023 and that it is more likely to be 2024 now. I hope this information also provides clarity for people facing acquisition.

Another aspect I have raised very loudly and publicly on behalf of Badcoe residents is the haphazard and inconsistent approach to allowing residents whose homes are being acquired to access rent-free periods where necessary. This rent-free period is not necessary for every home owner, but it is patently problematic for a person to be forced to sell their home to the government and then have to pay the government for the privilege of continuing to live in their own home, particularly when they face difficulty in immediately moving to another premises. It is also a bit of an affront to those who have worked hard to be mortgage free to then be again paying to live in their own home.

Last year, after a concerted campaign by local people, case managers assured residents that, if they needed, they could get a rent-free period after selling their homes to the government. Many people were happy to settle swiftly on the basis of that assurance. However, that approach changed at some point before the election and was not applied uniformly. So why is this approach and this policy of rent-free period availability necessary?

The fact is, unfortunately, we are in a really tight real estate market. It is not unheard of for a dispossessed resident to need to purchase a home that is dissimilar to the one that they have been forced to depart and requires renovation or modification to meet their needs. We are also not so flush with properties in this city that like for like can be achieved for everyone. But there are also a range of instances in which a rent-free period is a compassionate and practical approach.

To use some real-life examples in my community, there is a woman in her 90s who is having to move out the house her husband built for them with his own hands in the 1940s and into an appropriate aged-care home. Aside from the time needed to locate a place, it is quite sensible that she is given a chance to transition to that new location.

For another family, their adult daughter is living in their family home rent free while she deals with some complex health issues, and she needs time to find affordable and safe housing. The rent-free period will also assist a mother who is undergoing cancer treatment in my community and wants to be able to focus on getting well rather than on the pressure of buying and relocating to another home in a tight time period. This flexibility is also necessary for families who want their children to complete their final year of primary school or high school at the local school they have attended for years with their friends, rather than the upheaval of moving to another school far away.

It is necessary because the government should have a special regard for the circumstances of residents it is forcing out of their homes without any choice amid an unprecedented housing shortage and an overheated market. Put simply, this is not a sweetheart deal. It is a policy that deals with people as compassionately as possible amid an unfair situation in which they cannot stay in their own homes. It is certainly not an arrangement designed for people to turn a profit. It is a policy aimed at helping people who are facing pressures that are not of their own making.

This is an approach that was promised but not delivered, and in fact reneged, under the previous leadership. I am pleased that it will now be delivered, and I thank the minister again for listening to locals on this front and delivering a compassionate result.

For residents who are in this situation or who are unsure about whether they can access a rent-free period, they need only contact their case manager to discuss their particular circumstances and ask for the policy as it applies to them to be put in writing. The policy change has been issued within DIT and is now in force, so there should be no issue with residents raising this with their case manager.

I now want to turn to some other important election commitments in my electorate that will also be provided with the passage of this bill. Glandore Oval: I am so pleased that the Malinauskas Labor government has committed \$5 million to upgrading this complex. Least of which, and the reason why I am happy about that, is that the Glandore community is feeling the brunt of the South Road project at the moment and I think this will be a great investment that will contribute to lifting the spirits of people in Glandore and providing them with some much-needed recreational resources.

This will be a new multipurpose clubhouse for sporting and community use, as well as outdoor upgrades. We are taking a flexible approach to what is contained in the upgrade, and suggestions that I have had from locals so far have included dog facilities, walking trails, more trees, children's playgrounds and children's spaces, and conglomerating the existing outbuildings that are on the site as well as possible oval realignment.

We will be undertaking comprehensive consultation about what goes on at Glandore Oval, and I cannot stress that enough. It is critically important that the Glandore community, the residents there and the people who use the oval are informing what happens at that site. I am aware, unfortunately, of recent failures to consult on local government projects on the site and that has caused quite a bit of distress. I can tell people in my electorate that we will not be going down that path. We will be making sure that consultation is comprehensive and that locals are heard on this.

Does that mean that everyone will love every aspect of the project? Sadly, no. In my experience, even on highly successful and well-loved projects that I have previously delivered in my community, including Goodwood Oval and Weigall Oval, 100 per cent consensus has not been reached, and there is a bit of give and take that is involved with this. But I do believe that the community are more likely to be the ones with the great ideas and the solutions and we owe it to ourselves to consult properly. I am pleased to say that I will have information for our community shortly about the start of the consultation process and how that will be done, and I look forward to engaging with everyone about this project.

Secondly, the school zone: I am relieved and very excited to be part of a team that is going to deliver the reinstatement of the city school zone. This was a very hard-fought campaign that began in 2019, and I thank parents who worked hard to get this result back in 2019 and 2020, but really they did not give up the fight. They kept going right up to and including the election campaign, and I thank them for that dedication to their community and to their children.

We are going to achieve this by upgrading Adelaide Botanic High School and creating 700 more places, and that will enable the reinstatement of the school zone that was axed under the former government. That means nine suburbs or part suburbs will come back into the CBD zone, giving people the option they previously had of being able to access Adelaide Botanic High or Adelaide High. In my electorate that includes part of Marleston, Black Forest, Kurralta Park, Glandore and part of Clarence Park.

Consultation, information and Q&A sessions with families are now being organised and they will be advertised soon, and I look forward to announcing those details. This is a major change and there will be transition arrangements that will be discussed with affected families.

Plympton International College, I am delighted, is also going to be receiving a \$3 million upgrade and work is getting underway to identify traffic solutions in particular for that school. Not too long ago the RAA put it on a list of most dangerous school drop-off and pick-up points, so I am pleased that our government is paying some attention to that, to the safety of students, and improving traffic issues in that area of Plympton. We are also going to be looking at whether capacity increases are required because that school, I understand, is now reaching its capacity.

We will be once again consulting with the community about those improvements. I really think that these improvements at Plympton International College will complement some of the other investments that Labor is making in education in my area, which includes a \$1 million playground and outdoor spaces upgrade at Richmond Primary School. I was pleased to join the governing council two weeks ago to run them through the details of that.

Also, the long-awaited upgrade to Black Forest Primary: is \$5 million that was committed in 2017 by the former Labor government, but unfortunately not a thing has been done on site for the last four years. Later this year, I am looking forward to going down there and turning the sod to start that project which has been eagerly awaited by that growing school. There will also be improvements at Edwardstown Primary School and Westbourne Park Primary School, and the member for Elder and I are delighted about those improvements.

What has been committed to at Plympton oval is a master plan or a feasibility study. The reason we have done that is that everyone knows that the site deserves attention and that that work, unfortunately, was not done under the previous government. But there are several different options as to how we might go about addressing improvements that are needed at that site. This funding commitment from the Labor government is for that feasibility work to be done with a view to future investment in that site. That includes particularly upgrading the clubhouse, and we will also be looking at the facilities more broadly as far as parking and other community services on that land.

I am also really excited about other upgrades to local reserves, playgrounds and parks. In addition to Glandore Oval and Plympton oval plans, we are also upgrading smaller but no less vital green spaces. That is really important in Badcoe where we have a denser community, we have more development going on and unfortunately not everyone has access to much green space at their own home. Some families in my electorate are living in quite small accommodation with lots of kids, particularly new arrivals to our community, and there is a need for shared green spaces that we can all benefit from and ensure that kids can have a run around, dogs can have a run around and people can get some fresh air.

I am pleased that there will be upgrades at the Aldridge Avenue Reserve in Plympton Park and the Teesdale Crescent Reserve also in Plympton Park, new areas to the seat of Badcoe, and we will also see a community garden at the Beare Avenue Reserve. That came up after I was doorknocking and a parent said to me that she would love to see a community garden in Netley. She did all the work, putting the ideas together, and I was pleased to be able to support her in her bid for what is a modest amount of money but I think will make a great deal of difference to the Netley community.

Not all announcements require millions and millions of dollars. Some of the small ones are the most exciting, and that is true for the Edwardstown Oval big screen. This big screen will not just be a scoreboard for the footy, the cycling, the triathlon club, the South Road Cricket Club and the bowls—let's not forget the bowls—but it will also be able to host community movie nights. My electorate is pretty excited about being able to go there and maybe watch—

An honourable member: *The Sound of Music.*

Ms STINSON: *The Sound of Music* says the member. *Finding Nemo* has been a very popular suggestion as well. That will really bring together the Edwardstown community, and I am glad that that investment is being made.

There are so many more things in the seat of Badcoe that are being invested in. I am pleased to be sitting on this side of the house with my fabulous colleagues, many of them new, and delivering these amazing things, not just for people in my electorate but right across South Australia.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (17:48): Today, I rise to speak to the Supply Bill 2022. The Supply Bill is important to enable the continued operation of the Public Service of the state until such time as the Appropriation Bill 2022 has been passed through parliament. The bill is a necessity to enable our state's public sector to keep running. It proposes to allocate just over \$6.6 to enable state government agencies to continue to carry out their functions and duties: it is a necessary bill.

In speaking to the bill, it provides an opportunity to reflect on the important work of the public sector in our community and highlight where more work is needed. It is funding that enables our principals, teachers, student support officers and school grounds people to continue to work and be paid. It supports the ongoing operation of nurses, doctors, consulting specialists and support staff in our hospitals and community health centres.

It enables the ongoing operation of our paid ambulance and paramedic services and their support crews across our state. It enables our biosecurity staff to continue their work and our state-run natural assets to be managed and protected. In the context of the MacKillop electorate, it reminds me of the important work these Public Service units deliver and that there is, of course, much more that needs to be done.

Ambulance and paramedic services are a critical support for our regional communities. Much has been said in relation to ambulance ramping in the metropolitan area. This is an issue that must be addressed; however, I would like to take the opportunity to shine a light on the role of ambulance services and ambulance volunteers in my electorate.

We rely heavily on the goodwill of our volunteers of our community, and this can put significant stress on those who provide these services. Members of the Kingston community have recently once again highlighted this to me. There is no doubt that the Robe paramedics, who received ongoing funding under our government in the past term, provide a critical service to the local community extending from Robe to Beachport, Kingston and Lucindale. We need to see an ongoing commitment to these great professionals. It has been highlighted to me that more support is needed.

In our government, we rolled out two paramedics in Robe. They are on yearly contracts. Our health minister basically put on these two paramedics, one week on and one week off, and they have been highly utilised and sourced. They really do back up the shortage of GPs in the Beachport, Robe, Lucindale and Kingston area, and their expiry is due at the end of 2022. I really do hope that this new Labor government recognises the importance of paramedics and supports this initiative.

On the ambulance system, I do hope that with ramping in Adelaide—and I was privileged to sit on the Legislative Review Committee in the previous parliament and hear the review of the 46,000 petitioners on ambulance ramping—the Labor government does not just close down communication and highlight what went wrong. I do not think much has changed, but we do not hear it and see it in the news anymore. I hope the Labor government honestly solves this.

One thing I heard in this review and read in the submissions was that it is not a money factor; it is not the fact that there are no resources. We heard that there were 20,000 shifts of overtime paid to ambulances because they were needed to meet the needs of the city of Adelaide and surrounding areas. Perhaps that even included regional areas as well.

The point is that there must be a model, that there must be an expectation about good health services and an ambulance system that can provide and meet the needs of the community. I hope that this government foresees and looks seriously into where that lies, whether it be a better ambulance model somewhere, in some other jurisdiction in Australia or even overseas that will work better than the model that we inherited and that has been running badly since 2010—because that is how long ramping has been going.

Coming back to the paramedics, I have been made aware that the volunteer roster system only has six months to run. We know that the ambulance volunteers are well backed up by the paramedics because of the lack of volunteers in this region of Kingston, Robe and Lucindale; hopefully, these paramedics will continue to operate.

Local advice from the Kingston community is that more professional paramedics are needed in the community. It is clear that, whilst some new officers have been promised for Mount Gambier, the township of Kingston is nearly 170 kilometres from Mount Gambier and the allocation of resources that far away is unlikely to assist those who require a rapid ambulance response in the Kingston area. We need more investment in ambulance services to support our local communities.

Likewise, I am aware that the Mallee townships of Lameroo and Pinnaroo need more paramedic support. In this area, the community is working hard to seek more volunteers to support their vital ambulance services. The local ambulance committee are working hard to attract more volunteers, but they have identified that they need a fully paid qualified paramedic to fill the local ambulance roster. They have identified that the addition of a rapid response paramedic, equipped with a four-wheel drive, would significantly cut down the time it takes to attend to patients and take significant pressure off local volunteers.

All students, including early learning, primary and secondary students deserve a quality education. It should not matter if you attend a school in metropolitan Adelaide or in regional South Australia. Last year, I was pleased to see the release of the Country Education Strategy 2021 to 2028. Our regional communities are home to many great primary schools, high schools and area schools. Schools provide a great local hub for sports and communities and can be a safe and supportive haven for children who need support in their vital development.

We are hearing more frequently now of some of the adverse implications of the pandemic on student learning, making it more important than ever to ensure our education system is working to its best. In the regions, inclusive schools and a good education need to go hand in glove with other measures designed to attract and retain workers and their families in our communities. I am keen that we see additional investment in our regional schools and our education system to deliver the goals of the Country Education Strategy, which include:

- to support and ensure there is quality leadership and expert teaching in our schools;
- that our schools have access to the systems and support that they need to be effective; and
- that all our students have access to quality learning and pathway opportunities.

I urge the Malinauskas government to ensure there are adequate resources to support our regional schools to ensure the delivery of these outcomes for our students.

This gives me the opportunity to highlight what our previous government promised for schools in the seat of MacKillop. The Coomandook Area School, which is very close to my friend and colleague the member for Hammond, has a science lab that requires an upgrade. When I visited the Coomandook school, I noted that most of the buildings are 1950s and 1960s weatherboard, the science lab looked like it was of 1980s vintage and like it could even contain asbestos. It had holes in the benches, gas and water taps that did not work that well and the whole science lab had been condemned—well, if it has not, they are trying to just keep it going.

When in government, we promised them \$2.4 million for a new science lab that was for primary students right through to year 12, it being an area school. I am hoping that the new education minister and the Labor Party recognise this sort of infrastructure does need to be upgraded and that the money is found from the new Labor government.

That leads me to the Naracoorte High School, where I visited their music room. Again, it was a weatherboard building on blocks and one of the walls had subsided and sunk down. It had been deemed unfit for any student to enter. The school has 450 to 470 students from year 7 right through to year 12, with nearly all students engaged in the music centre, if they are allowed or wish to. It is well utilised and they do need a new music room.

The answer from the education system so far is to move them into a classroom in the centre of the school, surrounded by other classrooms. As anyone would know, a music room should be a little isolated or at least be soundproof so that the music does not distract other students. Again, I hope the Labor government will recognise these two pieces of infrastructure in the school system in

MacKillop. Obviously, we need moneys like this to make sure that our students have the right infrastructure and that it continues to be upgraded rather than falling down around our ears.

In our regions, schools support communities and communities support schools. I recently met with representatives from the Coorong District Council, who brought together representatives from local schools to discuss a range of matters impacting on our local school communities in the local districts around Meningie, Tailem Bend and Coomandook. We discussed school enrolments in the context of declining population and the transport arrangements to get students to schools. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (HUMAN REMAINS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:58 the house adjourned until Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 10:30.