

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 2 June 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 the parliament is assembled and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2022

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 June 2022.)

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:01): I rise to offer my support to the Supply Bill presently before the house. I am excited to be part of a team that is putting people at the centre of everything that we do, a team that will never stop fighting for what is important: a better health system, better schools, opportunities for local businesses and jobs, much-needed protection for our environment and, overall, a better future for South Australia.

This government is prioritising what is important for South Australians. I know our communities will be excited to see a record investment in our health system and I am particularly pleased that partnering with the Albanese government will see \$400 million spent on the Flinders Medical Centre, including 136 extra beds, an upgraded intensive care unit and an expansion of dedicated mental health and older persons' facilities.

Whilst like many other areas the Davenport electorate has an aging population, the demographic is changing and there are lots of families with little kids, just like mine. Parents in Davenport or anywhere should not have to worry about moving into the catchment of a particular school. All our schools should have the resources they need to be great schools, and kids who need a little extra help with their learning should not be left behind because of limited resources.

We know that building a fantastic education system is the best way to set up our state for a strong future. That is why we are making investment in education and skills a priority. A notable component of this funding that I am particularly excited about is the \$50 million we are investing towards 100 extra speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and counsellors in schools for our kids who need a little extra help.

This is something that is raised with me time and time again by local parents, carers and teachers. Kids are often identified as needing a little extra help in these areas, but then they wait months, sometimes longer, to get the support that they need. Just imagine the learning and relationships that they miss out on in that time. I cannot wait to see this delivered and benefiting the kids and families across our state.

Earlier this week the parliament finally acknowledged the real threat of climate change, and with important words like that of declaring a climate emergency comes the need for real action. It is vital that this government invests in clean jobs and clean energy with the construction of a new hydrogen power station, and that we abandon the former government's electric vehicle tax. Now is the time to incentivise no and low emissions transport, not scare people away with new taxes.

People have gone through two of the hardest years in this state's history and the pressures of the cost of living grow every day. No matter what point of life we are at, we are all feeling it. It especially broke my heart when my own children started noticing their own classmates' struggles. In our own neighbourhoods, kids are going to school without anything in their lunchbox or with very little

for breakfast, so I am extremely proud to be part of a government that has committed \$1 million to boost the school breakfast programs over the next four years so that no child has to start the school day hungry.

I am pleased to be part of a team that recognises how important a leg-up can be, a team that has committed to doubling the Cost of Living Concession for pensioners and low-income earners because people should not have to choose between turning their heater on when they get home from work or a hot meal for dinner. I hope and trust that this increase is of much-needed assistance to the 185,000 or so people it is designed to help because no-one deserves to be left behind.

I am particularly proud that as a member of this Labor team I have been able to secure some great wins from my electorate of Davenport. A key priority for my community is road safety. That is why we have committed to funding safety improvements at three local school crossings, including Aberfoyle Hub Primary School, Craighburn Primary School and Pilgrim Campus School.

We have also committed \$10 million to the much-needed upgrade of Main Road, Cherry Gardens. Despite a tragic fatality in 2018 and being listed as SA's fourth riskiest road by the RAA, it was never made a priority by the former government, so I know that the community are particularly relieved to know this government's commitment will see the road widened and resurfaced and roadside hazards removed and guardrails installed.

Supporting grassroots sport is also a big priority for both my community and this government. We have committed \$1 million to upgrade the Happy Valley Sports Park, which includes improvements for footy, cricket, netball and lawn bowls. There is also a \$3 million commitment to upgrade the Paul Murray Recreation Centre to support Hub Gymnastics, the largest gymnastics centre in the south.

That will help them to expand their facilities and not just support the 700 strong membership they have now but also support the 500 on the waitlist. There is \$300,000 for Serpentine Reserve at O'Halloran Hill. This will see the refurbishment and reconfiguration of cricket nets, the addition of lighting to the car park and some other upgrades around that space.

The Happy Valley/Flagstaff Hill area is becoming extremely well-known for its beautiful open space and trails, so I am pleased to commit \$1 million to complete the final stage of the Minkarra link trail, linking the northern and southern trails and promoting healthy communities. And, of course, our furry friends want to enjoy our beautiful open spaces too, so we have committed \$150,000 to expand the Minkarra dog park to include a separate section just for the little dogs so they can play safely and socialise in a smaller setting.

The Hub Library at Aberfoyle Park will benefit from a \$250,000 upgrade to improve pram and wheelchair access, an upgrade for which locals have advocated passionately for some time. The Aberfoyle Hub Community Centre will receive \$1.5 million to expand the centre and its incredible services, as well as an additional \$40,000 for a much-needed men's shed.

Finally, located in the electorate of Davenport but set to bring benefit to many, particularly those down the hill in the electorate of Gibson, is the joint state and federal commitment to build an on/off ramp onto the Southern Expressway at Majors Road. This project aims to reduce drive times and make the south more accessible as well as reduce traffic flow to Brighton Road.

We are a government that wants to deliver for all South Australians but, importantly, we are also government that has a handle on managing the economy and that supports an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (11:08): It gives me pleasure to be able to rise as Leader of the Opposition to make an address today in relation to the Supply Bill. There is no doubt that we do live in unusual times, challenging times, times of great uncertainty. These times, while characterised most acutely by our last couple of years moving through the COVID-19 pandemic, are now going to be built on by the great economic challenges which we feel are headed our way. That is what the experts tell us. That is what we are seeing across the world in western economies. South Australians and Australians will need to steel themselves for difficult challenges ahead.

We know that interest rates are on an upward trajectory. Predictions about very significant rises in interest rates by the Reserve Bank are likely in the coming weeks and months, as inflation gives us something to worry about and as a whole range of other challenges, including housing shortages, skill shortages and global circumstances with regard to our relationships with traditional international trading partners, have question marks over them.

This is a time for South Australia to be agile. It is a time for South Australians to innovate. It is a time for governments of all persuasions and at all levels to respond to this exceptional uncertainty which, if not managed effectively, could create very significant problems for the most vulnerable South Australians and for South Australian small and family businesses in particular, leading to increased unemployment, uncertainty as to whether rent and mortgage payments can be covered and great uncertainty as to whether government priorities can be fulfilled.

It is in this very difficult set of circumstances that we find the Labor government presenting a budget later today and managing a state to which they made a whole range of commitments during the most recent election process, which we believe they have an election mandate for. Of course, as an opposition, while always presenting our alternative vision for the state, we will be working exceptionally hard to make sure that their mandate is fulfilled by the completion and the delivery of election commitments.

There is no doubt that in the face of very challenging economic times with great global uncertainty, and with issues such as housing and skill shortages in the mix in South Australia, perhaps more pronounced in South Australia than anywhere else, delivery of the government's election promises will be considerably more difficult. Our job will be to keep them honest. Our job will be to keep an exceptionally close eye on what they have promised and on the delivery time frames around that. That is the role of an opposition.

So it was with great concern that Her Majesty's Opposition has seen in recent days and weeks the government retreat from a whole range of their election promises. They used weasel words and policy documents released with the 'For the future' logo on them in the lead-up to the election. We saw those glossies, those that were printed and those that were PDFs online. We saw the continual presentation of very lofty commitments, but if you dig a bit deeper into both the policy documents and the most recent rhetoric from the Premier and particularly the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, we see a retreat from those commitments.

One of the most concerning retreats that we have seen in recent days has been around the north-south corridor. We know that the north-south corridor is a nation-building piece of infrastructure. In South Australia, its impact is multiplied many times over in terms of the capacity to move around our capital city and to move freight, commuters, tradies and people going about life in Adelaide and South Australia, moving them around our city. We do not have a north-south highway in this city. That is the fault of planners going back many years. It is the fault of many governments making decisions that did not see that developed.

Long before my time, there was something called the MATS plan, which had particular ambitions around a north-south corridor. That land was then sold off. The commitment to create a north-south corridor dates back some 20 years in terms of recent history. It started with the Gallipoli Underpass at South Road and Anzac Highway, which began when I was a teenager, and we are now seeing that this project will not be finished until, depressingly, almost my 50th birthday.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: I know.

Ms Pratt: It's a long way off.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: It is a long way off. My entire adult life has been taken up with—not personally but in terms of infrastructure planning in this state—the delivery of this project.

The most difficult part of the north-south corridor is the section between Torrens and Darlington, or Darlington and Torrens as I see it as someone who lives in the southern suburbs. That is the hardest bit, it is the trickiest bit, it is the bit with the most property acquisitions, it is the bit with the most impact on the day-to-day lives of South Australians. It is also the bit that will have the

greatest productivity uplift when it is completed and, because it is the area that has the most productivity uplift when completed, it is the area, the section, which must continue at pace.

We know that when we came to office in 2018 there was not so much as a business plan for the completion of the Darlington to Torrens section of South Road—not so much as a business case—so we had to develop that. We had to seek international expertise as to how this project could be fulfilled, and we went about our business doing exactly that. It is a difficult project. It does involve a huge number of property acquisitions, and that in itself comes with complexities, emotions and challenges to individuals and businesses, but we got on and we did that. There were difficulties associated with aspects of that, but we committed to it.

Now we see the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport back to his same old ways. Every project he touches seems to turn into a particular form of disaster, and we see this situation unfolding with the South Road north-south corridor. The idea of pushing this project out by a year and knocking off a component of the expenditure beyond the forward estimates has very significant consequences. On one hand, you could say that it has positive budgetary consequences for the government, freeing up revenue to spend on election commitments, but this project, this state-building project, this nation-building project, if delayed, has substantial productivity loss associated with it.

We have not seen a figure from the government in terms of what that productivity loss will be. Will it be tens of millions? Will it be hundreds of millions of dollars as we prevent and put barriers in front of people getting to and from work and moving freight around South Australia and beyond? If you cannot move seamlessly through the capital city, that will have significant consequences for the bottom line of many businesses, particularly businesses that spend significant amounts of time on the road and those that move goods and services around our city.

We have the productivity angle of this, but we also have the great uncertainty that is created for businesses and residents along South Road. They have had a cloud of uncertainty hanging over them for the best part of two decades, and now that will be extended into the future as well. We see the design thrown up in the air. We know that designing these roads is exceptionally complicated, so there will be potentially delays, I believe, beyond just one year if we are looking at a redesign, particularly the areas that are found within the member for West Torrens' electorate in the northern part of the Darlington to Torrens section of this significant project.

This is a project the alarm bells are sounding on. We have had a senior executive sacked from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport who was personally involved. She was a critical staff member in terms of the involvement in this. We have seen public servants change their advice midway through this project. A change of government has, for whatever reason—and I likely would attribute it to a change in political masters—seen a 180 in terms of the advice from reports that went to Infrastructure Australia and Infrastructure South Australia just months ago saying that this project was ready to go.

Now, for a range of reasons, and we will find out more as the weeks and months progress, this project has been assessed in a 495-word briefing as being not ready to go ahead. There are major question marks over that advice. There are major question marks over the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport's personal involvement in these decisions. There are answers that this house and this parliament will need to hear in due course.

We saw a retreat on a commitment around providing early childhood education for three year olds, an election commitment that that would be completed by 2026. Now we have seen a retreat and a question mark put over that. We have seen a question mark put over the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, and we all know about that press conference, we know too much about that press conference back during the election campaign and we saw too much during that press conference. Now we have the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport contradicting his Premier and saying that this project is an aspiration to be completed by 2026.

We look forward to seeing what the government have to say about this in the budget today, but there is question mark after question mark after question mark over these lofty election commitments that were pitched forward during the election campaign. Of course, then that brings us to their commitment to fix the ramping crisis. Now the words have changed and the weasel words have emerged. Now they are saying that this is all about helping to fix the ramping crisis.

The rhetoric during the election campaign was all about the silver bullet—elect the Labor government, they are the silver bullet, they will fix ramping—and now it is about helping to fix ramping. How much more will that rhetoric recede in the coming weeks as we enter what we worry will be a very difficult flu season, overlaid by the remaining challenges of COVID-19 and the challenges facing our frontline responders in this state. Ramping is going to get worse. We know that and we see that, and the anecdotal evidence from the paramedics who are speaking to us is very much that ramping is amongst the worst that it has ever been right now in June 2022.

Will it get worse into the future? The projections are that, yes, it will. We are now hearing about possible cancellations to elective surgery and the uncertainty that creates for people who are living with pain and suffering every single day, and now that might seem not critical surgery, but very important surgery to individuals and families, delayed for an uncertain period of time. This is all because the government have failed to deal with ramping as they said they would on coming to office and created unwieldy expectations around this matter.

Changing tack a little, I am only the Leader of the Opposition because, first and foremost, I am a local member. I would speak for everyone in this house, no matter what position they hold, when I say that I am sure the emphasis and the commitment to our local electorates is something we always have at the very forefront of our mind as community leaders, as people who have been elected to the South Australian parliament to represent a particular geographical area.

In my case, I am exceptionally proud to be able to represent the electorate of Black, the area I have always called home since moving to Australia just short of 20 years ago. Suburbs like Hallett Cove, Trott Park, Sheidow Park, Seaview Downs, Seacliff Park (now that I have started to name them, I have to name them all) South Brighton, Seacliff, Kingston Park and Marino—I have done it. I am always quite grateful that there are only nine or 10 suburbs in my electorate.

I wonder if the member for Heysen could name all the localities and little communities in his electorate or the member for Frome or Flinders. It is much easier for me to work around the map in my head, starting in Hallett Cove and circling round them. Anyway, I digress. It is an incredible honour to be able to represent that community, my friends, my family and the people I have associated with for the last two decades. To be able to stand here and represent them, that job for me comes first. It comes before being the leader of the Liberal Party, and it comes before being the Leader of the Opposition, simply because I could not be the 44th Leader of the Opposition if those people did not back me on election day in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

I take that job as a local representative very seriously and I was so pleased during my time as a cabinet minister and as Minister for Environment and Water to see so many projects associated with livability and quality of life delivered in the electorate that I represent, none more so than Glenthorne National Park, which is a project that will change the DNA of the southern suburbs forever. It is a generational environmental project that will not only enhance livability and people's access to the great outdoors, which of course benefits physical and mental wellbeing in countless different ways, but also cool the city in the face of a changing climate. It will create habitat within our urban environs: in the same way that Belair National Park does in the foothills within the urban environment, this will do at the very heart of the southern suburbs.

Technically, Glenthorne National Park sits in the suburb of O'Halloran Hill, a very small suburb by population but a very large suburb by area. We now have this project unfolding where trees and shrubs are being planted, and wildlife is returning to these areas and enjoying this immense open space which connects from Happy Valley Reservoir in the east through to the beach and the protected areas around Marino Conservation Park, with its remnant coastal heath, and Hallett Cove Conservation Park, with the incredible geological heritage that is present there.

Seeing Glenthorne National Park unfold in recent years has been hugely satisfying for me and many members of the community—the members of the community who have fought so hard to stop the suburb of Glenthorne being created. We know at least half of that property would have been lost under early versions of Labor's plan for that place. We said that if we took power in 2018 we would save it from Labor's housing plan and the uncertainty that sat around it and that we would turn it into a truly thriving urban national park.

Last winter, 93,000 trees and shrubs were planted on that site and today there are walking trails, car parks, picnic areas, access points, a wetland area and stormwater treatment facilities in terms of natural swells are moving through that property. The state's largest nature playground, a partnership between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the City of Marion, is unfolding. In the coming weeks, that project will be completed, welcoming families and young people into that place to connect with nature, to get into the great outdoors.

It is a great project but we must keep the momentum on it. I have seen positive signs from the Labor Party, but we need to make sure that spite—because it was not their idea—does not see the rug pulled out from under that project. We do not want to see rangers who now serve the whole southern suburbs, and all the parks in the south, from that site. We do not want to see numbers cut, because we know that when Labor were in office from 2002 to 2018 ranger numbers fell from 300 to 93. The frontline workforce for our environment—the people who passionately care for it, who build up expertise, who welcome visitors to our parks and protected areas, who support friends groups—we cannot risk seeing their numbers catastrophically cut again.

I hope that that will not occur in this budget. I am hopeful because the government have made some overtures that conservation will be quarantined from cuts. I have said the whole department ought to be quarantined from cuts because this is an important department. It is a small department. It is a department that punches above its weight. It is a department responsible for managing about 23 per cent of the landmass of our state on a budget of little more than \$300 million per year.

So let's hope that it is respected and given increased capacity, not less capacity, in the upcoming budget, because we know that in the face of a changing climate and in the face of a decline in biodiversity and in the face of more people wanting to access the great outdoors for physical and mental wellbeing purposes, we need to create these safe opportunities for South Australians and visitors to do so.

Another component of the vision for Glenthorne National Park is the Field River valley, an area of land that extends behind the suburbs of Trott Park, Sheidow Park and Hallett Cove Heights and follows a river that is largely unchanged from the course that it followed—not quite, but largely unchanged—since European settlement here in South Australia. This is a wilderness within suburbia, and it connects Glenthorne directly to the coast to the south. There is an opportunity to turn that into another section of Glenthorne National Park, potentially the Field River Recreation Park or similar.

Just before the election we were able to secure the Field River valley, a highly degraded environment but with huge potential, for the people of South Australia by buying it from its private owners. That project will see hundreds of hectares of once inaccessible and degraded open space come into the park system and ensure that that area is there for nature and there for people. We have a vision to see that area cleansed of weeds, for the river course to be rehabilitated, for native species of plants and animals to be rewilded into that area and for access through a linear trail of sorts following the river behind those suburbs through to Hallett Cove Beach.

This is a project that requires bipartisan energy and bipartisan focus. It requires community engagement and involvement, and I hope the government will join me in working with Green Adelaide, the organisation which has a relentless focus on creating a cooler, greener, wilder, more climate-resilient capital city. I hope that the strategic imperative around protecting the Field River valley, bringing it to life and maximising its environmental potential, will be realised under this term of government. I will continue to talk about the Field River valley and a bigger vision forward, but I need to be able to partner with the government of the day to be able to fulfil that. This has to be bigger than politics.

To the east of Glenthorne is Happy Valley Reservoir, a hugely successful project that has seen that once locked away body of water now opened to the public for recreation and enjoyment—and how successful it has been. We have seen hundreds and hundreds of people every day, up to 2,000 people a day in summer, visit the Happy Valley Reservoir precinct, circumnavigate the 11 or so kilometres around it and enjoy kayaking, fishing, picnicking, birdwatching, running, just spending time with family and friends in this really beautiful and unique place for nature and people within suburbia.

The project is not quite finished, though. We have plans to put another car park off Happy Valley Drive, create more opportunity for seating and shelter, barbecue areas and accessible access to the water. Stage 1 has been completed. It opened in December 2021, but I do hope the government continues with that project and continues to provide the service and amenity with that reservoir on the eastern side. That will be important to provide people with safe access to the reservoir and keep that commitment alive.

I know that Labor were so hostile to the opening of reservoirs, so anti it—opposition for the sake of opposition. Hopefully, they can see the benefit of this project now and they will continue to invest in the amenity of that place and welcome more people into that environment.

It is a great honour to be a local member, whether it is seeing projects like the Hallett Cove R-12 School have a significant construction project leading to renewal through new classrooms, new learning spaces and new administrative spaces; whether it is the upcoming upgrade of Woodend Primary School in the south of Sheidow Park, a fantastic school; or the school with the best view, potentially in the world, which is Seaview Downs Primary School, which is getting a \$15 million rebuild. I really hope that the government commits to that one and keeps that project on track. That school is entirely—apart from the hall that was built in about 2010—made up of transportables. The roofs are leaking, the plumbing is broken and the stormwater is dodgy.

The rebuild we announced last year to completely renew every building apart from the recreation centre is critically needed for the Seaview Downs community. I will be watching very closely that now that the Labor Party are in power they do not cut that project. The community I represent in Seaview Downs, in the north of my electorate, desperately wants to see that project go ahead.

One project they do not want to see go ahead, though, are these on/off ramps at Majors Road. This is a project that at first glance is a good idea but, when you dig into the feasibility study, when you see how much it costs, when you see the design that will run a concrete and asphalt track through Glenthorne National Park, you realise quite quickly that this project is not worth doing. It is not worth the money and it is not worth the environmental destruction. Woodland birds, echidnas, kangaroos and koalas will see their homes wiped out by a track of highway that is more than a kilometre long driven through this national park.

We declared a climate emergency here just a couple of days ago, yet this government is contemplating concreting a national park. When you talk to the people in the community I represent, this is a project they do not want. In question time yesterday, the member for West Torrens quoted swings to the Labor Party in surrounding booths. Kingston, the closest booth to the on/off ramp, had one of the smallest swings to the Labor Party. There was clearly a swing to the Labor Party across that seat. It was minimised at the area closest to this on/off ramp.

Not only that but, while Labor were touting this on/off ramp in the seat of Boothby to the north and claiming this furphy that it will reduce traffic on Brighton Road—which, by the way, to the residents of the seat of Gibson, it will not; the modelling suggests it will not because Brighton Road and the north-south corridor take people to different destinations—Amanda Rishworth (and I congratulate her on her elevation to federal cabinet yesterday) was not touting it in Trott Park, Sheidow Park and Hallett Cove because she knows this project is not that popular locally.

If the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport wants to overrule the environment department and their advice, overrule the Deputy Premier and her feelings and concrete a national park, he will have a very significant fight on his hands because we do not want to see thousands of trees in our community cut down to save people a couple of minutes on their commute.

It would be far better to put that money into advancing the north-south corridor, which has just been delayed by at least a year to do some shonky smoke and mirrors business with the budget, and far better to put the Majors Road on/off ramp money into that to advance the project further north than creating even more chaos with these on/off ramps. It is a foolhardy project, and it is an arrogant project, and I have no doubt it will be pushed on by the most arrogant minister in this government.

I do not want to end on an arrogant note, so I will stop speaking about the member for West Torrens. I want to thank every single person on my side of the house for their contribution to

the recent Address in Reply and also now to this Supply Bill as they give those speeches over the coming hours.

Our side of the house is absolutely committed to keeping this government honest. We will watch their every move, we will challenge the arrogance and we will pitch an alternative vision for the state of South Australia. We will start that today with our analysis and our contributions to their inaugural state budget as a new government, and we will continue that relentlessly into the future.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:39): I rise in support of the Supply Bill. The safety of motorists and CFS volunteers has been under threat in Upper Sturt for some time. The sweeping bend on which the CFS station is located encourages drivers to increase speed as it is in the decline of the hill. For several years, the volunteers lobbied the previous Marshall government to install an emergency warning light to warn oncoming traffic that a fire truck may be leaving the station.

Fire trucks are upwards of three tonnes when fully loaded and are slow to take off. It is only a matter of time before a motorist on a cold and foggy evening, like it was last night, will pull up too late and collide with a fire truck, injuring both the driver and, likely, the volunteers. When the issue was constantly raised with the then Marshall government, the only offering was a small sign saying 'fire station', not exactly an adequate warning that you may be coming across a fire truck pulling out in front of you.

Towards the end of the term of the previous Labor government, an emergency light sign was installed on the eastern approach. It works well, and so it should have been something that was an easy approval for the Marshall government; however, there was no appetite to provide the light. In fact, I am still waiting for a response from the then emergency services minister to a letter I wrote to him about the issue on 23 September last year.

Fortunately, earlier this year I invited the then shadow emergency services minister, Lee Odenwalder, to the station, and it did not take long for him to see the inherent danger and commit funds to install the emergency warning light if Labor was to form a government. Now, thankfully, the appropriate emergency sign will be installed and, as such, it is important that the funds are released to be able to help and protect our local volunteers and community.

The Blackwood Recreation Centre has been an important community sporting hub in Waite for many years. It often sees more than 4,000 people use it every week, be it basketball, gymnastics, netball, fitness centre usage, taekwondo, etc. The centre has been in limbo, as it has been trying to negotiate a lease with the Mitcham council. Mitcham council in turn has been trying to negotiate with the education department.

During the election campaign, Liberal candidate Alexander Hyde was quick to announce he had fixed the issue himself, even after parachuting in some time after I had met with the centre and with the help of Emily Bourke MLC, who had been applying pressure on the then education minister, now shadow education minister. The community had also been begging for a resolution. It was interesting that the government waited for their own candidate to be announced before announcing there had been any movement on the lease agreements.

On 23 January, the centre was very excited to hear that, according to Minister Wingard, 'Alex had already hit the ground running' and had managed to solve the long outstanding issue regarding the lease between the education department and the Blackwood Recreation Association. To the surprise of no-one here, the lease arrangements were not resolved and are currently ongoing, leaving the most patronised leisure facility in my electorate in limbo.

With the assistance of the Minister for Education, the rec centre are hoping that the lease will be finalised soon so they can get on with doing what they do best—serving our community. The rec centre is eager to expand their site, to increase the size of the fitness centre and other improvements. I was pleased, along with the now sports minister, the member for Reynell, to commit \$40,000 toward a master plan for the centre, so that they can finally begin the necessary planning for expansion once the lease is signed. The centre will then be able to provide expanded services and continue to be an important part of the Waite community.

For many years now, the Belview Heights Oval has been in a poor state. Tony Greig himself would have lost his keys and quite likely his whole hand in the cracks that open up there over summer.

Mr Telfer interjecting:

Ms HUTCHESSON: Yes. The oval is adjacent to the Belview Heights Primary School and is utilised by several local sport teams. The local community also benefits from the oval, as it is a council asset. I was pleased to be able to work with council to realise the need for the oval to be upgraded to have better drainage, turf, car parking, landscaping and to commit the necessary funds. The Belview Heights community will now have an oval that they can be proud of, and cricket and soccer players will not be in fear of falling over due to the cracks.

During our election campaign, it was clear that the community was very concerned about the state of our health system, so much so that they overwhelmingly voted to fix it. Whether it is 300 more beds, 100 more doctors, 300 more nurses and ambulance drivers, stations and vehicles, the need has never been more urgent. Many in my electorate rely on the Flinders Medical Centre both for treatment and as an employer. It urgently needs an upgrade, as it is old and tired. Several community members spoke to me about their experiences. They always say that the Flinders Medical Centre staff, the doctors and nurses, take incredible care of them but that the environment they need to stay in whilst at their lowest is very sad.

I was pleased to let them know that the state and federal Labor governments will be going into partnership to upgrade the hospital. With a bad flu season upon us, many are already succumbing and COVID is still rampant in the community. Any delay in being able to fund our commitments to the health system will be an indictment on those voting against the passage of this bill.

The electorate of Waite has one of the oldest national parks in the state, Belair National Park. We also have other conservation parks, such as Waite Conservation Reserve, Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, Blackwood Forest and many more. These are well maintained by an incredible group of volunteers known as the 'friends of' groups. They work tirelessly, this year alone racking up over 5,000 hours of volunteer work across the state, clearing weeds, caring for native vegetation, collecting seeds, etc.

Labor has made a commitment to increase funding to these groups to help them continue their work. On the weekend, I was fortunate to attend their presentation day and was able to thank the volunteers for the work they do. They are always wanting to do the best they can, and this funding will assist them to do the important work that they do.

The cost of living is impacting many across our state, especially our seniors. Allowing seniors to travel for free on public transport will bring some relief. Whilst it is currently free between 9am and 3pm, this leaves seniors scrambling to get back on the bus before or just near 2pm so that they are not caught short without a valid ticket. Seniors in my community applaud this initiative, as they will now be able to enjoy a full day out rather than having to get home by 3pm. They are also excited to hear that if they want to take their bikes, they will not have to pay for those either.

There are many other policies that benefit the members of our community of Waite, and I hope to be able to let our community groups know that these projects can start sooner rather than later. As such, I move to support the bill.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:46): It is my privilege to be able to rise to speak on this Supply Bill and to recognise that it is indeed a very important bill when it comes to not just the present but the future of our state. The way this place and the government make their decisions around expenditure is a really important aspect. I really want to highlight today in my words how important it is for the people of Flinders in particular.

We have seen significant expenditure on our infrastructure and roads under the previous Liberal government, working in conjunction with a federal government that was actually willing to invest into its regions. We have seen upgrade works on the Eyre Peninsula highways, which have changed the standard of life for people who travel those highways. There are hundreds of kilometres

between destinations. I note the opposition leader was talking about the few suburbs within his electorate; there are many different localities with many kilometres in between them over my way.

We have seen significant investment into shoulder sealing along the Tod Highway, which is the highway that goes through the middle of Eyre Peninsula, delivering people, freight and visitors as well from Port Lincoln through the centre all the way to the Eyre Highway at Kyancutta. The shoulder sealing work that has been done on the Tod Highway has meant that there is actually opportunity for safe passage not just for people but, as I said, for the freight that travels that road. This simple yet so effective investment into our regional infrastructure is so important.

We have also seen shoulder sealing happening on the Birdseye Highway, making that a safer freight route for those using it. We have seen overtaking lanes and intersection upgrades on the Lincoln Highway and Tod Highway. This is all investment that adds to the livability and safety of our communities. We need to be considering, as we are working through, where the next priorities are for investment into our communities, making sure that these sorts of things are taken into account.

For me, the priorities on Eyre Peninsula and in the seat of Flinders for the next step are on the Flinders Highway, which is on the western side of Eyre Peninsula and is now getting significant freight and significant visitor numbers. The caravans that are traversing those roads from Ceduna through to Streaky Bay, Elliston and all the way down to Port Lincoln have been too numerous to count over the last few years, especially as people have taken the opportunity to explore their state and explore our country.

Some of those sections of road cannot physically handle two caravans passing each other, so the shoulder sealing work that is necessary, especially for my mind between Streaky Bay and Ceduna and south of Elliston, is really important. We see drops of a number of centimetres off the edge of the road, which ends up being a pretty unsafe way for people to be travelling. I really encourage the government to make sure that it continues to invest into regional road networks, especially in the seat of Flinders.

There is also opportunity to be investing money into the streets of Port Lincoln. The design and structure of those streets were built for a time when there was a lot fewer vehicle movements and a lot fewer freight movements, and those freight movements were in trucks of eight tonne rather than the 100 plus that now traverse those streets. There is a real opportunity for the state government to work with the City of Port Lincoln to make sure that the design for the future of this thoroughfare through Port Lincoln is done well and done appropriately for the future needs of those communities.

I am talking particularly around Mortlock Terrace, which comes in from the western side into Port Lincoln and Liverpool Street, which goes through the middle of the commercial area in Port Lincoln. Currently, we are having significant domestic residential users, including some 2,000 schoolkid movements, through that time every single school day interacting with those AB-triple road trains I speak of. This is a situation that is untenable, and unfortunately the time will come when there will be an accident in those areas. As the member for Flinders, I want to make sure that investment happens before such a terrible accident occurs.

I have been really encouraged by the way the previous Liberal government invested into all parts of our state, not just key marginal seats trying to win over voters that tend to swing government but actually in the whole of the state. I really want to commend the previous government's State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership program, which delivered projects for councils in conjunction with state government across the whole state.

In my electorate, we have seen projects such as the City of Port Lincoln's Foreshore Redevelopment project get a funding of over \$3½ million, which council is matching fifty-fifty. We have seen the District Council of Ceduna put in a council-wide public amenities improvement project—base infrastructure, which is so vital for communities and which has been enabled by state government investment.

We see the District Council of Tumbly Bay with its investment in the Graham Smelt Causeway culvert. We have seen the District Council of Elliston invest \$850,000 for its stormwater upgrade. Once again, these are basic community infrastructures enabled with strategic state government investment. That strategic state government investment can then unlock councils that are willing to

make partnership programs work and actually be proactive in bringing forward projects from their long-term financial plans. This is wise and strategic investment across our whole state—as I said, not just in marginal seats to swing voters.

We have also seen significant education investment, especially within my electorate of Flinders over the last four years. It was my pleasure to be in attendance at the opening of the Port Lincoln High School upgrade and the Cummins Area School upgrade. We have also seen significant funds put into the Ceduna Area School. These are the basic foundations for community within our regions. If we do not get the basics right, we cannot keep our people there.

Investment into our education is really key in our rural communities so that we can give the kids the depth of education they need to be able to invest back into our community and to make sure they have the skills to make our community sustainable into the future. I really encourage the government to be considering that breadth of investment going forward. Two education projects in particular I want to highlight within the electorate of Flinders are really front of mind for me. The first one is the Ceduna Area School's special education class.

As I said, we have already seen significant investment into the Ceduna Area School, and the next crucial step is to get this special education class in place. At the moment, the need is growing exponentially in Ceduna for a custom, properly built special education class. The need is growing, and it is in a low socio-economic and Indigenous population that really is crying out for attention from state government. As the member for Flinders, I will be very proactive in working with the government to make sure that this opportunity is realised.

It is a two-fold opportunity. If this special education class is funded, then the opportunity for the space that has been slowly been taken away from the school community library will be able to be reinstated, and school community libraries within my region, within my electorate, are really crucial to be able to provide for communities that cannot afford have a standalone library.

It also produces the opportunity for collaboration between generations. We see people of all ages coming to the school community library, engaging with programs that build those bridges between generations. That is something I am a strong supporter of, and I have always been a strong supporter of the school community library scheme.

Health is the number one challenge for us in regional communities and investment into our health network really needs to be constant and ongoing. I was really encouraged when the previous government invested into the Rural Generalist Program in recognition that it is a real challenge to be able to, firstly, recruit GPs into our regional communities and, secondly, to ensure that they have the breadth of knowledge and understanding of the broad expectation that there is for GPs in our community.

There is no opportunity for specialised areas when you are a GP in regional areas. You are dealing with people from the very start of their life to the end of their life and everyone in between. That is why that Rural Generalist Program was really key to making sure that the knowledge and expertise which are taught to our students who are looking at going into general practice suit the need for our regional communities. We need a health system in our regions that is suitable for our needs, not just now but into the future.

I was encouraged to listen to the member for Giles when he was making his Address in Reply speech to mention the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme, or PATS for those of us who actually know the scheme who are out of the town. PATS arrangements are a recognition that the level of medical service delivered within our regions is not equivalent to that of our cousins in the metropolitan area. There is always a need for people from my region, from the member for Mount Gambier's region, from the member for Frome's region, from the member for Giles' region, those of us further away to actually have to travel into Adelaide or into the major centres to get that medical care.

This was a scheme that actually subsidises some of that travel and accommodation, and I encourage the government to consider mirroring the commitment the previous government made coming into the election, to double the fuel subsidy within the PAT scheme. The fuel subsidy obviously is very pertinent now. The cost of living and the cost of fuel have been rising exponentially, and that fuel subsidy has not changed in its base number for way too long.

That is why that scheme going forward needs to be invested in continuously and I will be encouraging the Minister for Health to look at that PAT scheme as something that is a base foundation for what we in regional communities need to have sustainable communities. We need to be ensuring the quality and sustainability of our regions going into the future because they do give so much to us in our state. In my Address in Reply, I did mention the number of \$29 billion. That is the amount our regions pump into the state's economy.

The regions are adding so much depth and quality and dollars into our economy, and we need to make sure that is mirrored back with investment from the government, especially into investment into our regional industry. We have seen the previous Liberal government invest in our industry, especially in the primary production industry. We have seen a real focus from previous members and ministers for agriculture into agtech and the opportunities we have to maximise the potential of our agricultural industry.

Farmers are at the cutting edge of technology and, as we are dealing with a challenging changing climate, there is always the opportunity for us to do things better. The product, both the quality and the quantity, that is produced by our farming communities continues to grow because those practices, which government can enable through the development of ag technology, continue to get better and better. The crops that have been produced on the rainfall that is coming continue to astound me.

The previous government also invested into the fishing and aquaculture industry, one which I highlighted previously in this place as so important to my community in Flinders. The last government invested in the South Australian Seafood Growth Strategy, something which actually brings together industry across different fisheries, the many different vast, diverse fisheries with the different individuals who are involved in it to actually look at where we are as a state with our fishing aquaculture industry, our seafood strategy and where can we be next.

What do we need to be investing in to maximise the opportunity that we have in these key primary production areas? Once again, it is the investment into the foundations of our community, especially into our regions, which is really important. I have been excited by the development of potential hydrogen industry opportunities, especially over on Eyre Peninsula, and I will be working closely with the member for Giles, my neighbouring electorate, to maximise that opportunity for us on Eyre Peninsula. There are also exciting mining opportunities and export port facilities. As a state government, we need to be investing into our accompanying and enabling infrastructure such as roads to maximise these opportunities. It is government's role to enable industry to reach its full potential.

A project that is close to the heart of all people from Eyre Peninsula is water. The project that has been advanced by the previous Minister for Environment and the previous member for Flinders is the Eyre Peninsula desal project. I encourage the government to make sure they continue on and invest into the opportunities that that will open up. A quality water supply is really important for those of us on Eyre Peninsula. We do not rely on the vast litres that come from the River Murray. There is a small section of my electorate that is serviced by River Murray water, but the vast majority is serviced by water which is sourced from underground aquifers in the southern part of Flinders.

This aquifer system source has been under pressure from the growing need of my community. In recognition of that, many years ago it was recognised that a desalination plant was really key to having a climate-independent water supply for Eyre Peninsula. When the previous government made a significant commitment of funds to make sure that that project would be delivered, the whole Eyre Peninsula was happy.

The process has been challenging, and getting the locations and the arrangements right is key. The previous member for Flinders, Peter Treloar, is now chairing a community committee that is tasked with making sure that the location and the arrangements for the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant are in place and are going to suit our needs—not just now, but for the future as well.

Having reliable water, reliable electricity, reliable health care and reliable education are the key foundations for community. We need to get these right for electorates such as Flinders in our regions to make sure we are sustainable into the future. Something that has also been prominent is

the shortage of housing within our regions. There is a real role for government to play in investing in incentives and programs that actually enable regions and our state as a whole to thrive.

The state government, using the levers that they have to maximise the opportunities for this growth, making sure they are investing in things like child care and regional development, enabling private industry to come in, and not putting barriers in place but actually removing barriers and making it easier has a real key role. When we are looking at the Supply Bill and the funds which are distributed, these are really key focus areas for me and my people in Flinders. I trust that the Premier will stick to one of his Confucius-like quotes which I noted on Twitter: 'Your prospects in life shouldn't be determined by your postcode.'

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (12:03): I thank the house for the indulgence to speak today, not only in support of the Supply Bill but about the wonderful Newland electorate. There were a number of election commitments that will have an impact on our community in the north-eastern suburbs, and today I would like to outline my priorities and our government's priorities for the community that we all know as the Gully.

Every day, I hear stories from residents in Modbury and Hope Valley about the decision they made to purchase houses or enrol their kids at local schools near Modbury Hospital: residents like Dave Bock, who lives within five minutes of Modbury Hospital with his wife and three young girls. I had the great pleasure of introducing the Premier and the Minister for Health to Dave and his family earlier this year, when he bravely shared with us the story of waiting for an ambulance for his toddler Milly when she was struggling to breathe. Stories like Dave's are why the Labor Party came to the 2022 election with a focus on health.

We have prioritised our health system, not only for patients but for frontline workers, over an inner-city Riverbank arena. The health system has been overloaded and under-resourced across the state, and that is no exception in the north-east. In the lead-up to the 2022 election, the provision of services at our local hospital, Modbury Hospital, was under attack. We know on our side that a key component to fixing the ramping crisis is better triage and treatment of patients presenting with mental health concerns.

The previous government, instead of committing to Modbury Hospital, spent the campaign period claiming the previous Weatherill government's \$91 million commitment as their own and standing by a decision to remove mental health services from Modbury Hospital. They stood by their decision to demolish Woodleigh House at Modbury under the guise of an expansion of a different service at the Lyell McEwin.

We listened to our community, and we committed not only to keep the service but to rebuild it and to expand mental health services at Modbury Hospital by 24 beds. We also committed to build an extra 48 subacute beds to relieve pressure on the emergency department and will build a cancer centre with 12 treatment spaces at Modbury, providing cancer treatment services in the north-eastern suburbs for the very first time.

In addition, we have committed to an extra ambulance station at Golden Grove to relieve pressure on the Redwood Park station currently servicing the entire Tea Tree Gully area and beyond. We are also supporting grassroots mental health support by committing \$100,000 to the local Talk Out Loud suicide prevention service at Ridgehaven, and to early learning and development by increasing funding at the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library.

We also know in the Labor Party that the best way to invest in the future of health for South Australia is by raising strong, healthy kids. Across the state we are committing to local sports clubs, particularly those with strong junior programs to support fitness, mental health and community. In the Newland electorate we have not one but three competitive football and cricket clubs. We have committed \$150,000 for a master plan of the Tea Tree Gully football and cricket clubs for an eventual upgrade of their clubrooms, as well as better car parking and wayfinding across the Banksia Park sports area.

On the same site, we have committed to a \$3.5 million rebuild and upgrade of Tea Tree Gully Gymsports, an incredible sports club on Elizabeth Street represented by not one but seven separate gym sports including competitive artistic gymnastics, trampolining and tumbling. Right next door, we

have committed \$2.7 million to brand-new clubrooms and a pro shop at the Tea Tree Gully Tennis Club. I am particularly excited to see the changing face of the Banksia Park sports area and the long-term benefits for our junior athletes in particular.

Further, we have committed \$1.2 million to the Hope Valley football and cricket clubs for a facility upgrade including a deck extension, storage sheds and renewed cricket training facilities. We have committed \$2.5 million to the Mighty Modbury Hawks for a full new clubroom facility which will include four unisex change rooms, umpire rooms and a function space.

We have also committed \$167,000 to the vital work at Pathway Community Centre and Clovercrest Baptist Church. Pathway Community Centre is an incredibly vital service for residents in the north-eastern suburbs and beyond. They offer financial support as well as counselling support and partner with a number of organisations to provide food hampers for those in need. Earlier this year I was truly humbled to spend the day at Pathway helping to prepare food hampers with Fatima in the kitchen and serve their food hampers out the front with Kaye and John Flack.

Our commitment will allow Pathway to have a permanent pergola so that those seeking assistance can not only wait under cover for their hampers but sit together and eat together in an inclusive and warm environment. I thank Pastor Mike Stevens for his continued work at both Clovercrest and Pathway and look forward to seeing our commitment come to fruition.

Last but certainly not least, after 40 long years we are transitioning 4,700 houses from the outdated Tea Tree Gully Community Wastewater Scheme to SA Water mains. We are bringing the residents in Tea Tree Gully not into the 21st century but the 20th century, and I am incredibly proud.

In our council area, where I was formerly a Tea Tree Gully councillor, there are approximately 4,700 septic tanks affecting over 8,000 residents in the suburbs of Modbury, Hope Valley, St Agnes, Fairview Park, Banksia Park, Yatala Vale, Ridgehaven, Surrey Downs, Redwood Park, Vista and Highbury. Of the 4,700 tanks, 4,000 or so are in the seat of Newland, with others spattered across the seats of Morialta and Wright.

On 3 June 2020, before even having a candidate for the seat of Newland, the Labor Party announced a \$92 million plan to scrap the CWMS and connect residents to SA Water sewerage after more than 40 years on the system. It was the Labor Party who first committed and fully committed to bring those residents into the 21st century. On 10 June, exactly a week later, the Liberal Party committed only \$65 million to a transition project, leaving residents and the Tea Tree Gully council with uncertainty about how and who would be paying for the third stage of the project.

We held a significant period of community consultation. In January 2022, we announced that not only would our government convert residents to SA Water mains but we would scrap the \$745 CWMS levy to the council from 1 July this year. That means that our residents, no matter what stage they are in the transition plan, will no longer pay hundreds of dollars more than those residents on SA Water mains. Some of those residents are on the same streets. There is a particular street that I think of often—Elizabeth Street in Tea Tree Gully—where there is in fact only one house on septic tanks, and then another 50 or so houses of SA Water mains before it returns to the tank system.

There are 76 separate systems of septic underground in Tea Tree Gully, combined with a really complex design of soakage trenches, standalone tanks and SA Water pumping stations as well. It was our commitment that all residents would become SA Water customers for their sewerage services from 1 July, no matter what stage of the transition they were in. This will provide immediate savings to the average household of hundreds of dollars per year.

Residents under our plan will also pay no remediation costs as a result of converting their property to the SA Water sewerage network, which means they will not have to pay for ripping up their driveways and swimming pools. Labor will also create a dedicated customer service unit within SA Water to provide information and clear time frames to Tea Tree Gully CWMS residents. I am incredibly proud of these commitments, and I thank the Treasurer for prioritising the residents of the north-eastern suburbs in the Supply Bill today.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (12:12): I rise to speak in support of the Supply Bill. It is an important bill for the people of South Australia. It ensures that our communities can keep ticking and our state

can keep ticking, and of course I offer my support of this second reading. Even as a new member to this place, I understand that the passing of this bill is a somewhat standard, uncontroversial practice.

I was reflecting on the remarks of our shadow treasurer, the member for Colton, who summarised this bill quite well, which was that, for lack of a better comparison, we are essentially providing a blank cheque to government—a \$6.6 billion blank cheque no less. In speaking on the Supply Bill, it is a great opportunity for me to reflect on some of the achievements of the former government and some of the enormous investments that were made into my community.

For the first time in decades, regional communities like mine within Schubert were back in the spotlight and valued again, seeing unprecedented levels of investment and opportunity flow into our community. In the four years under the former government, there was a seismic shift from a city-focused government to a true recognition of how a flourishing regional South Australia means a flourishing state economy and, indeed, a much stronger state. It made me enormously proud to see the former government investing in the regions through our local sporting clubs, through schools, through open spaces and, indeed, into our regional roads.

We also made a firm commitment to build a new Barossa hospital after 16 years of Labor inaction with real money on the table for the first time in many decades—a point that I will soon come back to. We invested millions of dollars into local job-creating infrastructure, whether that be schools from Paracombe to Keyneton, sporting clubs from Gumeracha to Angaston, tourism facilities in Eden Valley and everywhere in between or even opening up our reservoirs in the southern Barossa for families and tourists alike.

It is a move that is significantly boosting pride and job opportunities in Williamstown, Lyndoch and Kersbrook. It was such a simple idea with incredible benefits. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Millions upon millions of dollars were being invested in our community, and there is an opportunity in today's state budget to continue this money flowing into the regions.

What we saw from the former government was a great working relationship with the regions, working with our regions and with our communities and not against them. Enormous progress was made on a number of issues but, of course, there is always more work to be done and there are always many more challenges to rise to, whether it be the impact of trade sanctions by China on our exports, delivering a water security solution for this generation and the next, strengthening our regional workforce or continuing to protect and preserve the character and heritage of our community.

I do hope that the passage of this bill will see better health services and facilities for our region so that our loved ones can get the care and treatment that they deserve closer to home. This brings me back to a topic very dear to my heart and to the residents of the Barossa, and that is the Barossa hospital. Our community has been extraordinarily patient when it comes to the delivery of this hospital. It has been spoken about for decades, for well over 30 years and, frankly, it is time to get on with it. It has been spoken about for many decades.

My first piece of correspondence was to the new health minister seeking an urgent guarantee that the new government would continue with the progress of the former Marshall government to build that hospital. It will not surprise you that I have had no reply as yet, but, luckily, the diligent and very hardworking paper, *The Leader*, has followed up and we have secured a commitment to continue with the hard work done by the former government.

The Labor government have a shocking track record of sitting on their hands when it comes to the Barossa hospital and, indeed, many other projects right across regional South Australia. They sat on their hands for 16 years in office—from 2002 to 2018—and left the cupboard absolutely bare. Contrast that with the action of the four years of the Liberal government and not only was there a commitment to build the hospital but, for the very first time, there was cold, hard money in the state budget towards its delivery. The money was for the finalisation of the detailed plans, for the land purchase and for the start of early works.

Clinical service experts are already in the field working diligently and planning what services will be in that hospital. This work will confirm the final capital and the ongoing cost of the project, which of course will need to be in future budgets. That is how advanced this project was under the

former government. More than that, there was a significant body of work already done for site selection, with the purchase imminent. Every day I am in this place, I will fight for the delivery of this project on behalf of the people of Schubert. Their passion is my passion, and I genuinely believe that this is an issue that is above politics.

In closing, it would be remiss of me to miss this opportunity to reflect on the hardworking people in our Public Service, not just those in my electorate of Schubert but indeed those people across our state: our frontline, our doctors, our nurses, our paramedics, our police officers, our emergency services personnel and our biosecurity staff, just to name a few. These people do a remarkable job in keeping the community safe and our economy strong, and we thank them for all their work.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (12:18): Labor went to the election with a plan, a plan for the future, a plan for not just now but for the next generation. Now, as the Malinauskas Labor government, we get to put the plan in motion. As I am sure was missed by no-one, a core component of our plan was to improve our health system and fix the ramping crisis. Ramping increased by more than 400 per cent under the former Liberal government and saw response times blow out. Instead of pretending the problem did not exist or opening new beds at Flinders while actually closing the same number of beds in another part of the hospital, we committed to addressing the problem because South Australians want to know that if they need an ambulance they will get one as quickly as possible.

Labor committed to an additional 300 beds across the hospital system to help move patients out of emergency departments, reducing the bed block that is the cause of much of the ramping. Of course, we know beds are not much good without staff, which is why we also committed to recruiting an additional 300 nurses and 100 doctors as well as 350 more ambos. That recruitment work began in the first few weeks of our government. Doctors, nurses, midwives and ambos are being targeted through a recruitment drive to get extra healthcare workers to fill vacancies across the health system.

South Australian graduates are included in this recruitment drive, with up to 1,200 nurses graduating from South Australian universities, and we will offer more than 100 internships for graduate paramedics across the SA Ambulance Service every year, more than doubling the standard rate of 48 per year. This will help to ensure our nurses and our ambos stay in South Australia and deliver care in our health system. As well as focusing on local graduates, the recruitment drive will target healthcare workers across the nation and overseas.

We also know that if we want to address the ramping crisis, we need to improve mental health services. The need for more mental health services is raised with me consistently across our community, and it is clear that the mental health of many declined over the last couple of years with COVID lockdowns, increased isolation and additional pressures in workplaces, schools and universities. The pressure on our mental health system is real, and Labor is committed to addressing it.

The 300 extra beds for our hospital system include the biggest investment in mental health in more than a decade, with \$182 million for 98 additional mental health beds. The former Liberal government closed 30 mental health beds near the end of their term and ripped funding from community health services, services that are aimed at keeping people out of hospital. Our plan for mental health support also includes 20 additional mental health community Hospital in the Home beds, helping people to recover and reducing the chance of them needing to be readmitted to an emergency department.

We also have a focus on the mental health of young people. When working at Headspace, the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, it was very clear to me how in need services for young people are and how beneficial early intervention can be. We are opening 10 new beds at the new Women's and Children's Hospital dedicated to mental health treatment for children. We are recruiting more child psychiatrists and psychologists, and we are boosting mental health care in the community.

People in Elder have also raised concerns with me about the support available in schools for young people, which is why we will also be delivering a team of 100 specialists into SA schools to ensure children get the specialist support they need. Isn't it wonderful all the things you can achieve when you do not spend \$662 million on a stadium?

I am also very happy about our plans to support three pharmacies across Adelaide to open their doors overnight. This means they can provide medication and care when South Australians and their families most need it while also helping to reduce pressure on our hospitals. When our little one's fever shot up to 40.8° in the middle of the night recently and she was refusing to take liquid Panadol or Nurofen because it turns out COVID made them both taste extra bad, I was frantically trying to find other options.

If I had not found a supermarket open at 2am that happened to have chewable tablets and if I had needed additional advice and support, we would have taken her to the emergency room. These 24-hour pharmacies will make such a difference. With one in the northern suburbs, one in the southern suburbs and one in central Adelaide, people can get what they need when they need it and, as in our circumstance, reduce pressure on our emergency departments.

These are just parts of our extensive plans for the health system. We are committed to giving the SA Ambulance Service what it needs to respond to urgent cases on time. By providing more ambulances, more staff and state-of-the-art infrastructure, our ambos will have what they need to provide emergency care to South Australians when we need it.

I am very pleased that for Elder this includes an upgrade to the Marion station in Mitchell Park and a new station in Edwardstown. Our ambos are the people we look to for help in the most difficult times. They are the people who work in incredibly challenging and stressful environments, and they have been put under so much additional pressure over the last few years. We must support them in any way we can.

While health was the primary concern for many in my electorate, there were a number of local issues also raised with me. Whether I was standing at someone's doorstep, talking to them on the phone or chatting at a train station, school or shopping centre, I listened to our community and advocated for commitments to projects that were raised with me time and time again. One such project is a redevelopment of CC Hood Reserve in Panorama.

In March 2021, the now Premier and I announced that a Labor government would deliver \$1 million for an upgrade of this reserve. It is such a big, green, beautiful open space surrounded by homes, and we want to make sure that it is as good as it can possibly be and truly meets the community's needs. Some of the ideas that were floated with me included a new playground, better lighting, more benches to sit on, a netball and/or basketball ring and a skate park. Now we get to drill down into these ideas—and more—and start our planning.

The council is currently holding consultations, which I encourage members of our community to get involved in. We want this redevelopment to reflect our community's views, needs and wants, so the council needs to hear from them. While CC Hood Reserve has the potential to become a wonderful outdoor hub for the community, we have also committed to developing a more sheltered, all-year-round kind of community hub in Pasadena.

Late last year, the City of Mitcham purchased the old Sea Scouts hall in Pasadena with the intention of it becoming a community centre. Our Malinauskas Labor government will be providing \$500,000 towards this project, and I cannot wait to see it come to fruition. I attended a drop-in consultation event a couple of months ago and there was just so much excitement for what this centre will mean for our community. Lots of ideas are being thrown around, from a book club, to a community garden, to a playgroup, many different card games (like bridge and 500) and much more, and I am so happy to be a part of a project that is focussed on bringing our community together.

A hop, skip and a jump away from there is the Kenilworth Football Club. The Kenilworth Football Club is such a special part of our community made up of committed volunteers. When I visited a few months ago to meet with John Schulz and Ric Bowyer, I heard how much blood, sweat and tears they and others have put in. For example, when they heard of a pub in town getting a new kitchen they went to the pub and carried the old commercial ovens down all the stairs to put them in their club. I suspect that quite literally blood, sweat and tears went into that one.

I also joined them for one working bee, where we needed to move a heap of pavers from one part of the complex to another, and there was definitely a heap of sweat that day. Knowing how committed the volunteers, players and families are to the club makes it extra exciting to know that

they will be receiving \$540,000 for upgrades from our Labor government. This upgrade will go towards a playground, an outdoor kitchen, landscaping, a Tesla battery, ice baths (which a lot of the footy players are superexcited about), nets behind the goals and an electronic scoreboard.

I now know from experience just how important this electronic scoreboard is. On Saturday afternoon, I volunteered to manage the scoreboard. Never have I focused so intensely on a game in my life. The Kooks did so well that there were a number of times where I had finished taking off the numbers and getting the new ones up that there would be roars of cheers and I would have to quickly re-do all the numbers again, and I kept practising and making sure that I got my six times table right.

I got very, very lucky on Saturday. It was bucketing down for most of the day, but about 30 minutes before the game started the sun came out. Whilst I did need to go up that ladder and stand exposed to the elements on that high platform, I was only exposed to some beautiful warming sunshine. It is a pretty tough job on a sweltering day, a windy day or a rainy day for volunteers, so I really look forward to getting that new scoreboard as soon as possible.

From more hospital beds to a new scoreboard at the Kenilworth Football Club and everything in between, I am so proud of our plans for our state and our upcoming projects in Elder, and I look forward to sharing more of them over the coming weeks and months as I continue working for our community.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Hon L.W.K. Bignell): Thank you, member for Elder. Great work on the scoreboard. You might not know the answer to this quiz, but there are two scores that are the same goals and points equals totals as if you multiple the two numbers: 7.7 (49) and 2.12 (24).

An honourable member interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER (Hon L.W.K. Bignell): You're welcome. Now we will go to the member for Frome.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:28): I happily rise to speak in support of the Supply Bill, and I am grateful for this opportunity to bring a focus to the beautiful electorate of Frome.

For the 2022-23 financial year, the government is seeking \$6.6 billion for agencies to carry out their functions and duties until the Appropriation Bill is introduced and passed through both houses of parliament. The amount covers all departments and agencies that receive appropriation to ensure that the government can continue working during a set supply period, which will be from 1 July 2022 until 31 October 2022, or until the Appropriation Bill is passed. As the house would appreciate, the amount is calculated based on four months of actual appropriation during the previous year.

The Supply Bill does not include funding for new projects. It keeps things running in the public sector, where moneys are appropriated from the Consolidated Account for the Public Service of the state until the Appropriation Bill comes into effect. I have enormous respect for the expertise and corporate knowledge of our Public Service, and I thank them for their dedication to serving all governments according to their own code of ethics as issued in accordance with the Public Sector Act 2009. Their professionalism and service to government are modelled by the Commissioner of Public Sector Employment, Erma Ranieri, and I thank her for her leadership.

I also recognise the work of those in the public sector who support the Mid North region and the residents of Frome. In my own shadow portfolio areas of regional health, aging, preventative health and wellbeing, I commend those professionals who work hard to deliver services that are vital and often limited the further from the city one travels.

In the lower house, I am also the pair for human services and note that the minister made mention in her own reply of the urgent need to address housing supply issues. I welcome immediate solutions on this chronic national problem from both state and federal Labor governments. Every member has the responsibility in speaking to the Supply Bill to highlight their priorities for their residents and, in Frome, I speak often with locals about housing, workforce, roads and health.

I hope today that we see a commitment from the Malinauskas Labor government to match our Liberal commitment to regional helipads, which ensure that when country people need an urgent medivac to a city hospital, they get it. I hope today that we see a commitment from the Malinauskas

Labor government to match our Liberal commitment to increase funding to the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme, as was so passionately argued by the Labor member for Giles and the member for Flinders in this house yesterday. It has been well ventilated, and I am sure that members on this side will come back to that scheme many times over.

I hope today that we see a commitment from the Malinauskas Labor government to match our Liberal commitment of ongoing funding in regional roads. We know we were left with a backlog of \$750 million of road maintenance and repairs. In partnership with the Coalition federal government, we had achieved so much, but there was a lot more to do. Roads connect us all and ensure we get safely to work, to visit family, to move stock and to get to our health appointments whether they be local or city side.

Sadly, where these issues of roads, workforce recruitment, housing and access to services cannot be resolved, my conversations with locals quickly turned to mental health. It lurks in every corner of our society and, in my opinion, no family is untouched by it. Many speeches have been given in this place laying claim to moral imperatives, but none has a higher claim to the definitive term than the spectre of a looming mental health crisis.

'Moral imperative' is a term that was first fashioned by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant, who described this imperative as 'the link between pure reason and acting correctly'. Surely it means doing the right thing. A failure to address the need for services, funding and investment into wellbeing, mental health and suicide awareness will guarantee the decline of every other aspect of our community.

I note today that we anticipate more details from our state Labor government on much-needed funding for mental health across the whole state. I welcome any investment in this space, including into our second biggest city of Mount Gambier on the Limestone Coast, but our state is vast and our needs are many, so I will continue to call for ongoing funding into more rural and remote areas of our state. Mental health and wellbeing impact every corner of our society and my passion for, and interest in, this space goes back many years to the beginning of my teaching career.

I held a role for many years as a primary school counsellor, and it was an honour and a privilege in that role to explore for my professional self as well as for the school community what it means to teach and to support students to understand resilience, to teach antibullying programs, to invest in and learn more about restorative practice, which I note sits across the curriculum of many schools in South Australia but has also been a framework used by OARS, an offender rehabilitation program.

I note that in this space there is much to do, but I certainly commend the former Marshall Liberal government for its legacy. The legacy of that government is evident across regional South Australia, and in the electorate of Frome I was proud to extol the virtues and the commitment to regional South Australia, where investment into new Frome alone was over \$100 million in those four years.

I also commend the former Minister for Education, the member for Morialta, and his department at the time, the Department for Education, for its commitment to investing in mental health services in schools. I note in particular a pilot program that is ongoing across the state and in the region of the Mid North. Mental health practitioners are currently on site at some high schools, notably Clare High School, Balaklava High School and John Pirie High School.

Through this trial, they will be providing support to students through early intervention and referrals to external agencies, as well as developing onsite mental health literacy for a whole school community. I cannot commend that highly enough. In my hometown of Clare, I also note that Clare High School, through its own initiative, is working with the extraordinary Kade MacDonald Foundation and running a program in this space.

A personal experience I have as a volunteer in Clare is a commitment to the Broken Hill Country to Coast Lifeline initiative. Clare is the only town in South Australia that currently hosts a model that I continue to celebrate. We have two fantastic social workers who are allocated to this service, and it is one of a kind in South Australia. We understand the pressures that people can be

experiencing through anxiety or depression, including certainly the delay that comes from waiting for an appointment with a local GP or the referral to a specialist.

Members of the Clare and Gilbert Valley townships—and in fact anyone across the state if they were in our fantastic town of Clare—can just walk in. This is separate to the Lifeline phone support; this is a bricks-and-mortar centre that allows people who are having a bad day, looking for a chat or experiencing anxiety with technology and filling out forms—and we have all been there—that early intervention aspect so vital in the space of mental health services.

This same institution in Clare supports one of 50 suicide prevention networks across the state, an initiative of Wellbeing SA. In Clare, I am a proud member and volunteer of our own suicide prevention network, an SPN that we have proudly called Trailblazers. I think its name speaks for itself, but it recognises that the Clare and Gilbert Valley is synonymous with the Riesling Trail, the Heysen Trail, the Rattler Trail, the Lavender Trail and, most importantly, a new addition that I am sure every member will appreciate, the Wine and Wilderness Trail. We are a region of trailblazers. Certainly for the residents of Frome, or the Clare and Gilbert Valley, we noted a couple of weeks ago National Volunteer Week. It is organisations like this where volunteers are crucial.

I mentioned Wellbeing SA, and I want to come back to that just briefly in celebrating the Marshall Liberal government's work supporting, through the member in the other place, the former Minister for Health Stephen Wade and his diligence, commitment to Wellbeing SA.

As COVID had its impact on our planet, we all had to explore what it meant to be living with COVID and how even through lockdowns we could support our own mental health and open our world, so the Marshall Liberal government did just that. I note that in the leader's own address the member for Black touched on some very important initiatives of the former Marshall Liberal government, one of them being that the Marshall Liberal government was a government of opening things, for want of a better word, rather than closing them down.

We established the national park in the member for Black's own electorate, Glenthorne National Park. He made reference to the fact that over 20,000 trees have already been planted, and I make special note of the fact that I planted six of them. I would hate to see them concreted over. But in the context of mental health and opening our world, I think it is really important in my response to the house today that we continue to explore what it means to support and encourage people to exercise, to get out into their natural environment and to receive the benefits back through their own mental wellbeing through those activities.

In the electorate of Frome, I note that through the former Liberal government's commitment to opening reservoirs the Bundaleer Reservoir near the neighbouring town of Jamestown has been a fantastic initiative. The local Youth Advisory Council in late December, through the Goyder council, offered a come-and-try kayaking day. I relish the opportunity to continue to support the reservoir in all the wonderful ways it can contribute to positive wellbeing activities for locals.

Continuing on the theme of the former Marshall Liberal government and positive initiatives around mental health, I note the important role of the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention. Notably, those roles were held by the former President in the other place, John Dawkins, the member for Heysen and the member for Kavel, our current Speaker. I recognise their contribution where they were committed to shining a light on early intervention and awareness.

During that same term, in December 2021 the Legislative Council passed important legislation in the Suicide Prevention Bill, which was a national first. I am sure that frontline workers in this space will watch the progress of that bill, and act when it becomes operative, with great interest.

I really am labouring the point that I have a strong passion for investment in mental health and its connection and importance to people who live in rural and remote South Australia. It is not just a moral imperative; there is a productivity and an economic consequence for governments that ignore this space. It is priority funding from birth to death, in my view. I am sure that everyone in the house can relate to the broad demographic that has been impacted by mental ill health and the benefits that we all share when we are feeling well.

With no preference to the following cohorts, I want to draw the house's attention to the vulnerabilities that we might see with prenatal mums and anxious new dads, with preschoolers who sadly are coming into their educational environment with anxieties that perhaps were never identified in the past, or with students, whether it is through bullying or pressure through the curriculum or just through the nature of becoming teenagers and young adults. There is an aspect of anxiety and depression that we see within our professional cohort.

Certainly, public housing tenants and anyone vulnerable as a renter at the moment would be concerned about their current status. I note a particular commitment to our aging through my shadow portfolio. There are too often stories of our elderly experiencing abuse, a financial burden or impact by family members sometimes.

I begin to conclude my theme of welcoming any investment that governments can make in the space of mental health. As the member for Frome, I certainly am sensitive to the remoteness and isolation felt by country people suffering mental ill health.

All the issues and priorities I have raised today contain two common links. Firstly, improvements and investments in these areas of roads, health, mental health, housing and workforce recruitment would genuinely improve the everyday lives of people within the electorate of Frome and more broadly across regional South Australia. Secondly, it is now for the state Labor government to fund those improvements and services and, when it comes to ignoring regional South Australia, they have form.

I strongly urge the Labor government to genuinely engage with my community of Frome, as I will endeavour to engage with the government, and to raise issues with ministers so that we may all deliver outcomes for regional South Australia. I remind the house again that across at least five old electorates or in the formation of the new Frome, the Marshall Liberal government funded \$100 million of initiatives across pools, schools and clubs, and that is the standard that has been set.

As ever, I am eternally grateful to the electors of Frome for the opportunity to represent, advocate, negotiate and celebrate their endeavours, concerns and innovation and I support this bill.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:46): I rise to indicate my support for the Supply Bill presently before the house. This is an important bill designed to allow the continued provision of public services in South Australia. It also provides me with an opportunity as the member for Adelaide to outline the commitments made to our community during the recent state election.

The state election in March was about which party had the right priorities for our state and a plan for the future. There was no greater illustration of this than on the front page of the *Sunday Mail* on 27 February this year, which read, and I quote, 'Labor pledges \$120m for an ambo HQ as Libs promise zoo upgrade'.

The Labor leader, now Premier, announced Labor's plans to address the ramping crisis by investing in a new CBD ambulance headquarters and the recruitment of 350 extra ambulance officers and paramedics. The then Liberal government—now led by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Black—announced plans for a giraffe enclosure and fishing in the River Torrens. As much as I like fishing, I do not believe we were going to have a carp-led recovery of our health system.

When ambulance ramping increased by more than 480 per cent during the term of the former Marshall Liberal government, I knew which policy was the right priority and so did the people of South Australia. It is why, in its very first cabinet meeting, the Malinauskas Labor government scrapped the \$662 million basketball stadium and directed every single dollar to our health system instead—because that is the right priority.

A Malinauskas Labor government is investing in more ambos, more nurses, more doctors and more hospital beds. My family knows the importance of a strong healthcare system than a lot of other families in my community, which makes it so important, and I am so proud to be speaking on these commitments today. But you should never forget where you come from, and my regional community made me who I am, what I value and what I fight for for my own beautiful community today. It is why I am proud our investment in health also includes \$100 million for country health, in particular an \$8 million upgrade of Naracoorte hospital, where my three brothers and I were born.

We are also investing in a new Women's and Children's Hospital and in more resources for the current Women's and Children's Hospital, where I gave birth to my beautiful daughter, Audrey Scarlet, six years ago. As a parent who has joined so many others in the emergency room of the women's and kids' with a sick child, I know Labor's plan to invest in both a new hospital and more resources for the current hospital is welcomed by so many families in my community. It was a privilege to join the Premier, the Minister for Health and the Treasurer at the hospital this week to announce our investment in more doctors and nurses for the current women's and kids.

As well as hearing directly from midwives and nurses, like Julie and Carolyn, about the positive impact this investment will have on staff and patients, another highlight was definitely meeting brand-new babies, Charlotte and Amelia, and their proud parents. Meeting our next generation really highlighted the importance of prioritising the long-term health of our state too, because the Malinauskas Labor government understands that the best way of keeping people out of hospital is preventing them from having to go there in the first place.

As an extension of our health commitments, we are committed to investing in community infrastructure that builds stronger communities by keeping people local, keeping people healthy and keeping people connected, with commitments like bringing back a sport, rec and community hub at the former Walkerville YMCA site and investing in a new state-owned aquatic centre. We need to get our kids and grandkids as interested in gymnastics and netball, in swimming lessons and in water play as they are about iPad screens, YouTube and TikTok.

The former Walkerville YMCA site was a bustling community hub visited by 60,000 visitors every year until its lease was not renewed and the INEA YMCA had to move out in December 2020. Having knocked on almost every door in Walkerville, everyone had a story to tell or had a connection with the Walkerville YMCA site. The closure was devastating for the community. To this day, the site sits empty for no good reason, but not for long.

As the Labor candidate for Adelaide, I committed \$5 million to upgrade the site and work with the Town of Walkerville to ensure sport, rec and community services are returned to our community at this site. As the member for Adelaide, I cannot wait to hear the sound of sneakers squeaking on the floorboards, the bouncing of basketballs and children's laughter at the centre once more.

Under the Marshall Liberal government, we almost saw the same fate of the Walkerville YMCA befall our Adelaide Aquatic Centre. Early into my candidacy for the seat of Adelaide, I recognised that the Adelaide Aquatic Centre had become somewhat of a political football, from the Crows' bid to the band-aid solutions and squabbles over operational funding. This, along with a patchwork bit by bit approach of the current centre, put it in a state of decline and at risk of closure.

I am proud a Malinauskas Labor government will end the blame game and invest in a new Adelaide Aquatic Centre that recognises the centre for what it truly is—a regional facility, largely serving the north, north-east and west. A purpose-built aquatic centre will keep people of all ages—from babies through to seniors—fit, active and connected to community, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. We will take the Adelaide Aquatic Centre off the Adelaide City Council's hands to establish a state-run regional facility because this is the right priority.

I am often heard proudly speaking about growing up on a farm in a regional community, where we were brought up to value our natural and built heritage and never take for granted our open green spaces. It is why we will be restoring protection to Helen Mayo Park on the Riverbank, the site of the Marshall Liberal government's \$662 million basketball stadium. Helen Mayo Park was part of the former Marshall Liberal government's proposed rezoning of the Riverbank, which was described at the time as the biggest attack on our Parklands in their history.

We will also invest in open green space opposite Scotty's Corner and an upgrade to Pash Park in Nailsworth and Collingswood. A Malinauskas Labor government will guarantee the ongoing tenure of the National Trust in Ayres House and enshrine in legislation the Ayres House act. Our Deputy Premier made it a priority within our first three weeks of office to cancel contracts signed under the former Marshall Liberal government to construct government offices in Ayres House.

I have always wanted to live in a community where it takes around two hours just go down to the main street to buy a carton of milk or a loaf of bread, and I found that in my beautiful local community of Prospect. Some of our iconic main streets, though, like Hutt Street and Melbourne

Street, have been doing it tough in recent years. Banks have left and there has been a decline in foot traffic. It is why I am stepping in with a \$4 million main street reactivation fund for Melbourne Street and Hutt Street. I am working with locals, traders and the City Council to reactivate these iconic main streets and support local small businesses. I would like to thank the City of Adelaide and the Rt Hon. Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor for her counsel and her work in this space.

Our investment in main streets is designed to give confidence to existing small businesses and new small businesses looking to invest or establish their own bricks-and-mortar presence. We also want to make it easier for commuters and visitors to visit these iconic main streets by better promoting the free City Connector bus. We will create art on wheels by wrapping the Connector Bus in local artists' work, allowing visitors and commuters to more easily identify the free service and hop on to explore our city.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my community because it was locals' voices I listened to at the doors, at street-corner meetings, while visiting our local small businesses and at forums and town hall meetings that helped shape the local commitments that I proudly speak of today and that I look forward to seeing funded in today's state budget. I support this bill.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (12:56): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Sitting suspended from 12:57 to 14:00.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2022

Message from Governor

Her Excellency, the Governor, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as may be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Budget 2022-23—2022 Estimates Committee Schedule

By the Minister for Education, Training and Skills (Hon. B.I. Boyer)—

SACE Board of South Australia—Annual Report 2021-22

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call questions without notice, I recognise the presence in the gallery today of the Hon. Ben Wyatt, former Treasurer of Western Australia and the first Aboriginal Treasurer of any Australian state or territory.

Question Time

TRANSFER OF CARE DATA

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:02): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. When will the government be releasing the monthly transfer of care data for May?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:03): As we have committed to do so before the election, and we have been doing consistently in the few months afterwards, we will be releasing the transfer of care data. That will be happening in a timely way

within the next few days. This is something which we will be providing publicly and will be doing very differently from what happened under the previous government.

It is worth looking at what happened under the previous government because there was no regular release of this data. There was no regular release whatsoever. In fact, journalists had to go regularly to the government and ask for this data; in fact, they would ask the press secretary to the then Premier, who is now—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes.

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

The SPEAKER: Minister, there's a—

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We will do it every week if you want to keep asking the same question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a point of order from the member for Morialta, which I will hear under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: It's the practice of the house that when a member or a minister is referring to another member of the house, which the minister clearly is, he do so by the appropriate title.

The SPEAKER: I am listening carefully. The minister, of course, is aware of the standing orders. It's a day of quite some theatre and also great significance, budget day. Members and ministers are reminded of the standing orders.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It is worth reflecting upon what has happened in terms of the release of this data. Here we have the shadow minister, who previously was the press secretary for the previous Premier, who previously was the person who would be denying journalists access to the particular data.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The question was really specific: when will the government be releasing the monthly transfer of care data for May 2022?

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, we are very early in the minister's response. I will listen carefully.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The answer is that we will be doing it in a much more timely way than happened under the previous government because it is worth reflecting upon the timeliness of the release of this data.

For instance, if you look at what happened on 18 November 2021, there was a release of data that went back to August, and so that was 84 days later that data was released—84 days. I am advised that on 26 August 2021 there was data that was released that went back to May 2021. So that is a significant period of time; in fact, that was data that went back 111 days. I am advised that on 7 May 2021 there was data released that went back to February 2021—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and I am advised that was 212 days—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Human Services is called to order.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —that there was data released.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Human Services will cease interjecting. Minister, there is a point of order from the member for Morialta. I will hear the point of order under 134. The member for Morialta on a point of the order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sir, it was a specific question without provocation. Standing order 98 requires that the minister answer the question without entering debate. The compare and contrast has gone on for half of the time allocated. The answer is a very simple one up to the minister.

The SPEAKER: There have been a number of points of order, member for Morialta, from yourself. The first was in relation to a range of other standing orders—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Human Services is called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Chaffey! The first wasn't directly in relation to the substance of the question; the second was. The minister's answer to me was that he would turn to the substance. He then provided some compare and contrast, and I understand the minister is now moving to the substance of the question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Very clearly, the practice had been to wait and to wait and to wait to release this data and then often to drop it out to a particular journalist here and there.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: He is defying your ruling. You instructed him to return to the substance of the question, and the minister has continued in exactly the same vein that he was before your ruling.

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, I did not make a formal ruling; instead, I offered some guidance to the minister. I remind the minister that he must chart a course close to the question. The minister.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you, sir, and the question was: when will the data be released? Well, if you look, we have these boxes here that show it is No. 2 on the date here. So we have a question of: why is it not being released in two days? But under the previous government, under the media and communications—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —leadership of the member opposite—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —we were waiting over 100 days—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —for the same data.

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That would have been over 100. The data will be released, as we have committed to do so at the election. It will be released in a timely way—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and in a much more timely way than those opposite released this data. The truth is—

The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell: That's the best they've got.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That's a very good point from the member for Mawson: this is the best that they have because they don't want to talk about the actual issues because we are the ones addressing the issues.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Mawson, the member for Morphett, the member for Chaffey! The member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98. The minister's reflection on the member for Mawson's contribution on the structure of the question couldn't be less relevant to anyone in South Australia.

The SPEAKER: I am listening carefully. I uphold the point of order.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The truth is that our hospital system is under continued pressure because we do not have the resources, and in 55 minutes the Treasurer is about to come here and deliver a budget that invests in addressing the issues for our health system. We have opened up every single bed we possibly can, but we need to have more—

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

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —beds and hire more doctors and nurses to address this problem that we have inherited to turn the tide on the issues of ramping and access block in our system, and we are looking forward to doing exactly that.

TRANSFER OF CARE DATA

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:09): Where can members of the public access this information?

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Badcoe, member for Mawson!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:09): I believe I had this question a few weeks ago. The information has been released regularly in press releases. They are available through the Premier's website and, in addition, there's actually—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —real-time data which is available on the Ambulance Service's dashboard.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert and member for Morialta, order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I encourage the member for Schubert, this is her only line of questioning this parliament, to log onto that, to go on to sahealth.sa.gov.au and find that data. The other thing that they might want to do is actually talk to some frontline health professionals like we do on this side of the house and that little bit of that side of the house—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We do. I remembered you this time.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: When you talk to the health professionals, they will tell you very clearly that there are significant problems in the health system that need addressing.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta, a familiar interlocuter on points of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sir, I have many opportunities provided by the minister. Standing order 98, the question was actually specific to where members of the public will find the data in question. The minister is now no longer anywhere near it, the monthly data in question.

The SPEAKER: The standing order doesn't require the minister necessarily to be as specific as the member might contemplate. Instead, it introduces the question of substance, what is at the heart of the question. The minister will chart a closer line to the question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The question was in relation to where information can be found, and I was encouraging those opposite to speak to frontline health workers—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —so you have the information that we are now releasing—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —information we called for the previous government to release. We promised we would do it and we are now going to continue to release the information. In addition, it is the live information that is released. In addition, if you want to go and speak to some frontline healthcare workers, they will tell you the issues. The other thing that I found interesting is the member for Schubert has been retweeting some of the live dashboard information of—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes, interesting—she has found it. The retweets she has been doing are of the regular number of people who are stuck waiting in emergency departments for a bed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Schubert, you will refer to the minister by a proper title.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: And I agree: this is a huge problem. This is the problem that we were elected to address. We have opened up every additional bed we can to address the problem, but we do not have any more beds that we can open because those opposite left us in a situation without a significant investment to do so.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta is called to order and warned. The member for Chaffey is warned. The minister for Human Services is warned. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In 51 minutes, the Treasurer will be coming here to deliver a generational investment in addressing the health care of this state, addressing that access block which causes the ramping, which causes the ambulance delays, and this is a government which is determined to fix that situation.

FLU VACCINATION

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:13): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What steps is the minister taking to ensure that South Australians are not being improperly charged for their flu vaccinations? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: On ABC radio this week, Port Augusta resident Gayle said she was surprised when she presented for her vaccine appointment at the local pharmacy only to be told that she would have to pay for it.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:14): Firstly, I want to thank the pharmacists and the general practitioners across South Australia, who are doing their absolute best to make sure that people are vaccinated for the flu. I'm not going to support the attacks that we're hearing from those opposite on the pharmacists of South Australia in terms of the work that they're doing to protect South Australians from the flu.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This government have embarked upon a first in South Australia, which is providing free flu vaccinations for the first time.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Schubert is on one warning.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This didn't happen last year or the year before or the year before or the year before that. This is happening for the first time. We are working with general practitioners and with pharmacists in terms of delivering this program. From the beginning, we have asked in terms of patients, in terms of working with pharmacists and general practitioners—I saw the transcript that the member for Schubert is referring to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —which I understand the pharmacy was following up in terms of addressing that situation. I thank all those pharmacies who in a short period of time have been changing their systems and making sure that they can provide these vaccines for free. We are working with pharmacists and general practitioners to make sure that this can happen, that people can get access and that they can be vaccinated.

The truth is that we are seeing an increased number of flu detections in South Australia at the moment, particularly influenza A. There are now over 1,800 cases of the flu—and that's only those who have been tested. I'm sure there are actually many more out in the community. We know that of these we have detected about 10 per cent have actually been hospitalised. This is another element of pressure on the health system; it has been increasing over the last couple of weeks. At the same time, we know that only about 33 per cent of South Australians have been protected from the flu. The vast majority of people over the age of 65 have done so—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —I believe about 69 per cent of those. But what we are seeing is a particularly large number of cases in younger people. The median age of people who have been detected at the moment is only 19 years, which shows that about half the people are children. Where we have had previously, consistently, a free flu vaccination program for children under the age of five, only 13 per cent of under five year olds have used that vaccine so far.

So through you, Mr Speaker, we are really putting out the call to South Australians to come forward to get access to that vaccine. There are many, many hundreds of ways to do that through general practice and through pharmacies at the moment. I want to thank all those general practitioners and pharmacists who have been working with SA Health to put in place this new system in a very rapid period of time.

SKILLS SHORTAGES

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:17): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister advise how the South Australian government are supporting local companies to address skills shortages?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:17): I thank the member for Elizabeth for this important question, and I thank him for his longstanding advocacy of businesses in the north as well. I was thrilled to have the opportunity just yesterday morning to finally visit and do a tour of the R.M. Williams factory in Salisbury South with the Deputy Premier and the member for Ramsay—who callously took Salisbury South back into her seat from the seat of Wright at the last election—and announce that the Malinauskas Labor government is supporting two new training pathways to address critical skills shortages that companies like R.M. Williams are facing.

We know that R.M. Williams is an iconic South Australian brand. I have no doubt there would be many pairs of boots and belts in this place right now. You may not know that R.M.s actually exports to more than 15 countries around the world, but unfortunately a skills shortage, which they are suffering at the moment, has meant that right now they are unable to even just meet their basic domestic demand. It should go without saying that we must do everything we can to support businesses like this—not just to be able to meet their existing local demand but also to be able to export and grow and expand.

But before I get to how we are addressing that and how the Malinauskas Labor government is going to achieve that, there is a very special story that I would like to tell the chamber here today. It is the story of 21-year-old Chloe Fabian from Mallala, who gets up 5am every day to drive the 45 minutes to the factory where she works on manufacturing R.M. Williams boots with her father and her sister.

Chloe has a very big ambition. Each boot starts as a single piece of leather and it passes through an incredible 80 sets of hands before it is complete. Chloe's ambition is to learn all 80 steps that would make her the first woman to be classed a master craftsman of the iconic R.M. Williams boot. I can tell you, and I am sure the Deputy Premier and the member for Ramsay would agree after joining me for the tour yesterday, and having the opportunity to speak to staff, that it is not an easy process. Making these boots is still a very physical process because it is a traditional and authentic method that is used, but I can tell you that Chloe absolutely loves the work and is really showing the blokes how it is done.

This is obviously an amazing story in its own right. It shows us why it is so important that as a government we do everything we can to offer training pathways for people like Chloe to get the skills that they need to meet their ambitions and also make sure that local employers and manufacturers like R.M. Williams actually have the skilled workforce they need to be able to meet their existing demand and grow and expand. Unfortunately, that support has been lacking.

When R.M. Williams' owner Twiggy Forrest came and visited the factory last year—and people would remember that was not long after he brought R.M. Williams back into Australian hands—he said that we have lost the skills here in Australia necessary to help R.M.s manufacture their goods onshore. I am pleased to say that the Malinauskas government is backing our local manufacturers, and we are backing local jobs.

The Certificate III in Leather Production will allow R.M. Williams to upskill existing employees as well as train new workers through a traineeship pathway. As well as the Certificate III in Leather Production, we are also introducing a new textile and clothing production worker traineeship, which is aligned to the Certificate III in Applied Fashion Design and Technology. I am advised that R.M. Williams will need a staggering 600 to 800 additional workers in the next five years alone. These training pathways will mean that more than 400 of those jobs will stay right here in South Australia so we get to hear lots more fantastic stories just like Chloe's.

FLU VACCINATION

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:21): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister explain why the government refuses to utilise COVID vaccination centres for the rollout of free flu vaccinations for all South Australians and not just those over 65?

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order from the Leader of Government Business. I anticipate that it may be argument.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, sir.

The SPEAKER: Very well. I will give the opportunity to the member for Schubert to rephrase the question.

Mrs HURN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister advise the house on whether the government will utilise COVID vaccination centres for the rollout of free flu vaccinations and not just those over 65?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:22): The issue is in terms of the vaccines themselves.

Mrs Hurn: They can do it in WA.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Schubert!

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In South Australia, the vaccines have been distributed, so we in SA Health are not sitting on a massive stockpile. We have distributed over half a million vaccines through the National Immunisation Program to GPs and pharmacists. In addition to that, GPs and pharmacists have ordered significant numbers of their own private stock for people who are not eligible for the National Immunisation Program, so the vast majority of vaccines are already out with GPs and in pharmacies right now.

In fact, the pharmacies are saying to SA Health, saying to me as the minister, 'We are asking for your assistance in terms of trying to obtain additional supplies, given that there is significant likely need and desire from people to become vaccinated.' We are actively in the market for vaccines, as SA Health, to try to buy as many now from the private market as we possibly can. We are absolutely keen to work with the pharmacies who are looking for our assistance in terms of providing and making sure that they can continue their supplies right across South Australia, particularly across regional South Australia, where they have such an expansive network.

As minister, if I were to say, 'Actually, we're going to divert a whole bunch of these now,' that's only going to add to the issue in terms of being able to make sure that those GPs and pharmacies have the supply. If we are able to obtain sufficient supply where that is no longer an issue, then we absolutely will be able to spread that further, but we want to make sure that we are working with our GPs and pharmacies to make sure that they can get as much supply as possible.

They have the vast majority of the supply already, and there is a limited amount that we will be able to obtain, particularly when you consider that everybody in Australia is now on the hunt for influenza vaccine. All the state governments are now actively trying to buy as many as they can. We have bought some. We will be working with pharmacies and general practitioners. I suggest from my discussions with organisations such as the Pharmacy Guild that they are very keen for us to work with them in terms of providing that supply. If we were to divert that, then that is only going to cause issues in terms of their ability to provide these vaccinations.

ELECTIVE SURGERY

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:25): My question is for the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister advise the house whether cancelling elective surgery is part of the government's winter demand plan?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:25): I will tell you what is not part of our plan: the wholesale cancellation of all public and private elective surgery except for the most urgent, which is what happened—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in January and February this year. Elective surgery numbers in South Australia grew to over 4,500, which was the highest that we have ever seen in this state. It was previously criticised years beforehand as outrageously high at some 1,700 or 1,800. Since coming to government, we have now reduced the overdue elective surgery waiting list to about 3,300 (off the top of my head, but I can check the exact figures) from the 4,500 that it was when we came to government. That is a significant reduction that has happened.

Initially upon coming to government, the Premier and I were briefed by the then Chief Executive of SA Health, the Chief Public Health Officer and the police commissioner in terms of the situation of COVID. What we were told was that it was a very serious situation in the hospitals, where elective surgery had had to be cancelled just before the election and there had not been any notification to people about that.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In contrast, I have been very clear to this house, as I was in a ministerial statement in the last sitting week, that because of the pressure on the system there are hospitals at the moment that are having to cancel elective surgery. This is incredibly regrettable and we absolutely do this as a last resort, but there is a significant demand on the system at the moment that means that has had to occur at some of the major hospitals, particularly the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre.

That is an issue because we do not have enough beds in the system. We simply do not have enough capacity in the system at the moment. We have opened up every possible bed we can across the system, and we need to build more beds to make sure that we can provide the capacity in the system to make sure that people can get the care they need. In 36 minutes, there will be a significant plan delivered in this parliament to address those beds that are needed in the system to make sure that there is capacity for people to get the treatment they can.

We absolutely regret any cancellation of elective surgery that has had to occur. It is done as a last resort. I don't want to see it happen because the more it happens the more pressure inevitably comes onto the system. People's delayed care quite often will end up as an emergency department visit down the track. I think that is one of the factors that we are seeing in the health system at the moment. People's delayed care, either delayed surgery, delayed outpatient appointments or delayed screening, means that they are coming to the emergency department for that care, often in a more advanced state of their condition than would have been otherwise.

That really does have an impact. It is regretful that that has to happen. Unfortunately, it is having to happen at the moment, but this is why we are so keen to invest in our health services, to build more beds and to make sure that people can get the care that they need.

COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE, APY LANDS

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:29): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister inform the house about how the Country Fire Service is working with communities in the APY lands to increase fire safety in remote areas?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:29): Thank you to the member for Giles for this question. I note the member for Giles' longstanding commitment to Aboriginal people in this state. He is an incredibly strong advocate for Treaty with Aboriginal peoples. As the member with 497,000 square kilometres of South Australian outback and regional communities, I note his keen interest in the delivery of services on the APY lands. I also note Reconciliation Week, as we all have in this place already.

As part of the commitment of the CFS to the provision of services in our remote and regional communities, in May this year the CFS Outback Rural Team conducted three basic firefighting trainings to train 24 new brigade members from a number of local communities, including members from Pukatja, Kalka and Amata. These newly trained members will now be able to provide vital support to their new home brigades across the APY lands.

Providing adequate firefighting support to communities in the APY lands has unique needs derived from several factors including remoteness, limited communications, and the importance of understanding important cultural and community needs. As part of their commitment and dedication to supporting APY communities, the CFS has a devoted regional officer, the Regional Officer Outback Areas, based in Region 4 Headquarters in Port Augusta. I know the member for Giles and the member for Stuart have both attended there recently.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Half each. The objective of the officer is to achieve a greater level of fire safety for outback communities in South Australia to meet their unique needs, including those within the APY lands.

As a pivotal part of his duties, this officer regularly meets with key stakeholders, including Indigenous communities, in order to develop and ensure the implementation of fire mitigation strategies such as hazard reduction burns. This important engagement also provides the opportunity to meet with Indigenous rangers and traditional owners to explore how to incorporate different cultural practices into training to be more proactive and to protect and safeguard communities from significant fire events.

This CFS initiative is a valuable opportunity for all parties to learn from and work with one other by incorporating modern technologies and firefighting practices with millennia of history and connection to country and connection to land. Australian Indigenous communities have cared for country for many thousands of years, and respecting and incorporating this knowledge in our state's fire management practices is a privilege and an asset.

I am proud to say that Mintabie was the first CFS brigade implemented in the APY lands in a 1987 plan under the then Labor government. While this brigade has since closed due to the closure of the town, the CFS now has five gazetted brigades across the APY lands who are committed to protecting the lands they call home.

Our government is deeply committed to acknowledging, supporting, working with and respecting the views, the knowledge and the history of our Indigenous peoples, and this is an example of the South Australian emergency services sector creating meaningful partnerships for meaningful outcomes.

PORT LINCOLN HOSPITAL

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government commit to the funding of appropriate security measures at the Port Lincoln hospital to protect those delivering vital medical services to the community? With your leave, sir, and with that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: There have been a number of reported incidents of violence at the Port Lincoln hospital over the last number of months which have left those caring for patients feeling at physical risk in their workplace. Additional security measures have been put in place at other comparable regional hospitals.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:33): I thank the member for Flinders for his question. I can in fact provide a slight correction to when he said that issues have been happening over the past couple months. In fact, issues have been happening over the past few years.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That's right. I think maybe even more.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That's right, 36 months maybe. There have been some really serious issues at the Port Lincoln hospital in terms of security at that hospital, including some noted cases where nurses have been assaulted at that hospital, which is extremely concerning to me, then as the shadow health minister and now as the minister.

As was said, there has been action in terms of some other country hospitals and security arrangements in place there. We haven't seen that action at the Port Lincoln hospital, and this is something that has been raised with me repeatedly by residents in Port Lincoln and also by representatives of the staff there, particularly the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

That is why before the last state election we made a commitment that we would undertake a wholesale review of security arrangements at the Port Lincoln hospital to make sure that we can look after those who are looking after us, which I think is absolutely what government should be doing. That was not a promise or a commitment that I believe was matched by those opposite before the election, but we will be delivering that. We will be undertaking a review of the arrangements at the Port Lincoln hospital because we want to make sure that the staff there are protected and that all the appropriate arrangements are in place for their security.

In addition to that, there is a lot more work to do for security of health staff right across the system, and that's why we also made a commitment to working with frontline nurses, doctors and allied health professionals, particularly with the ANMF. They have been raising this issue repeatedly for the past few years and have been calling for a 10-point plan to be put in place in relation to nurse security as has been put in place in states such as Victoria. We saw a continual resistance by the previous minister to put in place an arrangement for the security of staff similar to what has been in place in Victoria. We will be addressing that as well.

Our frontline healthcare workers are absolutely invaluable. They do an incredibly difficult job, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. Of course, there are always going to be risks that cannot be mitigated, but where we can take action to mitigate those risks then we absolutely need to do everything we possibly can to do so.

CEDUNA AREA SCHOOL

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the government invest in the Ceduna Area School's need for a purpose-built special education classroom, which is the crucial next step in this significant regional school grade. With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: The Marshall Liberal government invested \$4 million in the Ceduna Area School in 2021 to deliver significant upgrade works across the whole school, and a further investment would deliver this necessary special education class which would also allow for the return of much-needed space for the Ceduna community school library for this community.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:37): I thank the member for this really important question and note that we have had a couple of conversations already since the member joined this place about this very important issue. I might just, if I could, give a little bit of background about how the Ceduna Area School community library came to be in the predicament that it is in now.

The potted history, as I understand it, is that from 2012 the school converted one end of the library into a learning space for students with disability. By 2018, they had to then convert further space in the library because there was a growth in the need for special options placements at the school, and that growth has continued. Of course it is important that we meet that need, but what it means for the library long term is that there will be no room left for it essentially because the special options class will be taking up the remainder of the library space.

Can I say from the outset that, as someone who grew up in a country area myself—and this was actually a topic of conversation last night when the member for Chaffey and I visited Berri Regional Secondary College—I understand that public school facilities, particularly in regional areas,

including in South Australia, are not just a school asset but also a community asset because those assets aren't otherwise there.

It is not like in metropolitan areas, where there is a library a few suburbs away or a sporting gymnasium or a performing arts centre. So when our public schools have things, which is often the case and it is the case at Berri Regional Secondary College as well, like a community library co-located with the school, I understand that there is an onus on us as the government to try to not only provide for those special options places, to provide for the growing demand in those special options places at schools like Ceduna Area School, but also preserve the assets so they are there not just for future generations of school students but also for the community. Very soon after being sworn in as the Minister for Education, I tasked the education department with trying to find a fix for this.

It won't be a cheap one. We are talking in the range of millions of dollars, but I am confident that we can find a way here and that we can land a situation where we do have space for growth in special options places at the school into the future and we can preserve the very important library space there. In the spirit of bipartisanship, I will be very happy that, if we can land that, I will be heading to Ceduna as soon after that as I possibly can, and I hope the local member will join me there to share in the good news with the community.

MURRAY BRIDGE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL REHABILITATION POOL

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:40): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister tell me when the heated pool at the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital will reopen to those who use the pool for hydrotherapy and rehabilitation? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PEDERICK: Constituents have contacted my office who use the pool and are missing its use, such as—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

Mr PEDERICK: —Joan Coppola, who has many chronic diseases, such as arthritis, and with the recent—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PEDERICK: I will start again, sir. Constituents have contacted my office who use the pool and are missing its use, such as Joan Coppola, who has many chronic diseases, such as arthritis and, with a recent joint reconstruction, relies on the heated pool. Olivia Zulian has children with physical disabilities and relies on the pool for therapy. Marjorie Hodgeman is disabled and finds the pool easy to do exercise in and needs the rails to help her get in and out. Sue Mickan uses the pool to ease her arthritis, and Lonny Wright, who has cerebral palsy, also uses the pool. Can the minister commit to keeping this vital pool open?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:41): There is a problem in the premise of the question that I was asked in 'Can I commit to keeping the pool open?' because, unfortunately, it was closed by the previous government. It absolutely is unfortunate—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in terms of the impacts that has had on people. I presume that the member for Hammond, when speaking to his constituents about it, has expressed that he was part of a government that closed that pool. I hope that he has explained—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —about the pool. In fact, I believe it was closed on 23 November—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —last year. The pool was closed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I do know this has impacts on the community, the closure of the pool under the former Marshall Liberal government. This is something that I have raised with the local health network that covers the area. I am looking forward to receiving their advice in terms of the issues of reopening that pool, including particular maintenance issues that have been unaddressed over many years previously. I do think it is important to put on the record that this is not an open pool, as was suggested by the member for Hammond, but it is actually closed and was closed in November last year.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. How is the Malinauskas Labor government investing in local sporting and recreation clubs?

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) (14:43): I thank the member for this question. In doing so, I note the member for King's tireless work in her community supporting and advocating for improvements at local sport and recreation clubs alongside local volunteers who work so hard week after week to bring sport to life for local people.

Can I also note that the member for King is both a champion for local clubs and people and indeed a champion netballer for the Golden Grove-based Northeast Zodiacs, where she was the summer season 2020-21 best and fairest for her extraordinary skills in her wing defence role. With the member for King and other local members, our government will be delivering on our commitments to improve and upgrade facilities across the north-east, including contributing to an upgrade at Magill Oval, at One Tree Hill and the Tilley Reserve project.

The member for King and all members of our government know how powerful sport and recreation is and what it can bring to communities across our state. It keeps people active and improves physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. It gives many people a wonderful sense of belonging and opportunity to connect and form friendships and enable communities to explore issues that our community and world confront, and more than ever over the past two years it has been a lifeline for many.

It is crucial to the fabric of our state that funding for sport and recreation through peak bodies, state sporting organisations and local clubs, enables people to equally and actively participate in a sport that they love with appropriate infrastructure to support them to do so. Our government is focused on improving the quality of life for South Australians by investing in sport and recreation organisations and facilities—organisations and facilities which communities themselves have identified as needing improvement and which have been advocated for so strongly by local members shoulder to shoulder with the big-hearted volunteers from these clubs who deeply care about the people in their communities they bring together through their particular sport or recreation.

Along with these investments in local sporting facilities, our government is also supporting the growth and development of our excellent state sport and recreation organisations and industry support organisations through the state's Sport and Recreation Development Program. This program will help these organisations to develop their strategic priorities and also assist with building capacity and leadership, as well as policy development in their respective sporting codes. Applications for this program will open tomorrow and funding will be payable to the successful organisations in July.

I invite these sporting organisations to put in their applications, and I look forward to updating the house about the outcomes of this important grant program. I also look forward to further

announcements about grant programs and to continuing to work with members to support clubs and all that they do to include people, give them that wonderful sense of belonging and support them to do and be their best on and off their particular playing field.

I certainly thank all members who advocate so passionately for sporting bodies in their local areas and look forward to working with all members of the house as we deliver infrastructure projects across communities.

STRATHALBYN HOSPITAL

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:47): My question again is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister tell the house when the Strathalbyn Hospital emergency department will reopen?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:47): This is a good question because this was yet another element of our health system that was closed under the previous Marshall Liberal government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: What do they say about the salmon that jump onto the hook?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Elizabeth and the member for Morialta!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond! The member for Hammond has asked his question. Let's hear the answer.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In fact, I can advise the house that the Strathalbyn emergency department was not closed recently, like the former Liberal government closed the hydrotherapy pool, but was closed back in March 2020.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The question has been asked.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth! The member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I can also provide assistance for the member for Hammond that it was closed over 800 days ago—

An honourable member: 800 days?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes, 800 days.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: And he kept talking about it 700 days after that.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This is a serious issue for people in Strathalbyn. I would like to have the opportunity to have a further discussion with the member for Hammond about what advocacy he has done, if any, over those 800 days in relation to the reopening of the emergency department.

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order. I will hear it—

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for West Torrens! The member for Morialta on a point of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98: this was a respectful, straightforward question that the minister is now debating.

The SPEAKER: The minister is permitted, having regard to the approach taken by former Speakers to introduce a degree of what was described by those Speakers as compare and contrast and which I describe as context.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It is a genuine offer to the member for Hammond. I would love to sit down with him and hear what advocacy he has put in in relation to this over the past 800 days.

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We are absolutely committed to in fact expanding health services in Strathalbyn, and I think people will be delighted to know in approximately 13 minutes the Treasurer will be coming to this parliament with a plan to put the first ever staffed Ambulance Service into Strathalbyn. This is a very important service to address significant—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I know it is disorderly to address interjections, but it is so tempting when the member for Hammond says it was being built under us.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: Rubbish, complete rubbish.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: There was absolutely no budgeted staff going into Strathalbyn. Under those opposite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —it was going to remain a volunteer station. We will be putting in paramedics, paid crew, coverage for that region in terms of ambulance services that they need because we believe that this is a critical issue to improve the services. In relation to the emergency department, we will continue to get advice in relation to the local hospital network board. It was appointed by those opposite in relation to when that can be appropriately reopened, addressing both the COVID and the workforce issues of that hospital, but it has been closed for a significant period of time.

This is a government that is now going to invest in additional services into Strathalbyn because we know that there have been some very serious issues in that community with a lack of ambulance services available, the number of deaths that have been reported publicly. We don't want to see the those sorts of issues happening again because of delayed response times to emergencies. That's why in 12 minutes' time, there will be investments going into Strathalbyn and their health care.

AUGUSTA HIGHWAY

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. I wonder if the minister might update this house about the government's plans for the duplication of the Augusta Highway as it progresses through Lochiel? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: The duplication of the Augusta Highway is progressing apace towards Lochiel and some members of the community are still in the dark about how those four lanes will fit through the existing road corridor.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:52): I want to thank the member for Narungga for his question, a keen advocate and a successful advocate for infrastructure in his local community. He has done a lot for his local community in terms of infrastructure, and I am very keen to see how this program has progressed. I have been asking the department for updates. I note that the member is very keen to get a better understanding about how this integrates with the local community.

Consultation is being undertaken on a continuous basis with the local community to make sure that we get this alignment correct and right. I give credit to the former government on the work they did to duplicate to Lochiel. The question is that the Augusta Highway ends up in a place called Port Augusta and it is important that we look at the options of continuing that duplication. It is a road of regional importance, it does open up our regional communities and it's a very important commodity in the Gawler Craton called copper, a critical mineral that will assist greatly in the transition to a low-carbon future.

I know that local communities throughout regional South Australia are very keen to see more work done on duplications of our highways in regional South Australia. I think duplication of our highways is a very important matter that we need more work done on. Unfortunately, a lot of planning work for the rest of the route hadn't been completed, so I am very keen to see that work done. That's not a criticism of the former government; it's just a statement of fact.

I am keen to work with the local members throughout that community, including the member for Narungga, the member for Stuart, the member for Frome and of course the member for Giles, because this is important—and the member for Flinders, who got here by the skin of his teeth. He just got here, a near-death experience, still suffering some post-traumatic stress from the election campaign.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Flinders!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It's okay. Don't worry, it's over now.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Only 3½ years to go.

Mr Pederick: You wouldn't even know where Ungarra was.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What was that?

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond! The minister will not respond to interjections. The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I'm sensing some more post-traumatic stress from other members who also faced near-death experiences during the last election campaign. It seems to me that the voices of regional South Australia will be heard by this government. I'm not making any commitments for this budget, which will be delivered very, very soon by the Treasurer, but I do commit to the member and the house to keep him and his community informed about upgrades to the Augusta Highway.

I do make this commitment: if members have suggestions that they want to make about alignments, about interactions within the community, about the Augusta Highway, my door is open. I am more than happy to work with regional communities on regional highways because they are vitally important for regional economies. I thank the member for raising this question and I thank him for keeping it on the agenda here in the parliament. It is the first question I have received as transport

and infrastructure minister about a regional highway, so I thank the independent member for Narungga for that question and for keeping regional roads on the agenda.

ELDER AND DAVENPORT ELECTORATES

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. How is the Malinauskas Labor government delivering on its election promises to foster communities and improve disability access in Davenport and Elder?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:56): I thank the member for Elder for this question and for her relentless advocacy, along with the member for Davenport, in relation to improving community facilities and access to those within their communities. This question does sound a lot like the very tough questions being asked this week by those opposite, giving us an opportunity to talk about all our election commitments and how we are going to deliver them over the next few years. It provides a great opportunity to contrast Labor's comprehensive, deliverable, effective policies with those that were missing prior to the election.

In the lead-up to that election, I spent many weeks, months and years knocking on doors and talking with people in both of these incredible members of parliament's electorates, listening to the voices of community members, listening to things that mattered and things that they wanted improved in their communities. I talked about many things that we could do to make their community better. We made many significant commitments in housing, health, education, industry and the environment, but we also made promises about their local communities.

In the heart of Davenport, we have committed \$1.5 million to upgrade the community centre at Aberfoyle Park. This provides many opportunities every week for hundreds of local people, some of whom are quite senior, to gather and connect to alleviate some of the loneliness that exists in homes across the suburbs. We will be increasing floor space at the centre, further developing the facilities that are already available there for many other great programs.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The exchange between the member for Schubert and the member for West Torrens will cease.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: These include arts programs, youth programs and, as I said, seniors' programs. Within that centre there will also be \$40,000 committed to provide a space to undertake men's sheds activities, which was asked for by many, many people in the area.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. N.F. COOK: People in our community who have a disability do face enough barriers to access and inclusion, so when that happens at a place like a library it becomes very obvious that something must be done about it. We have committed \$250,000 to be invested in the access to the Aberfoyle library, where it can currently take five to 10 minutes for someone with a mobility issue to get to the door. That will make a huge difference.

In Elder, there is going to be a brand-new community centre. This community centre is being established in partnership with the newly elected federal Labor government. I can't wait to see the City of Mitcham and their plans, to see the Pasadena Community Centre be built and then populated by people in the local community who can use the fully equipped kitchen, function space and storage centre. It will be a place where the whole community can get together and alleviate loneliness, build relationships and improve their lives.

We know that as we recover from COVID this is more critical than ever. If I can steal a quote, which I have heard from our Premier many times, we talk about COVID being the earthquake with mental health being the tsunami. That is going to be manifested in situations such as loneliness and other secondary health incidents that we see occur in our community. I know that community centres will be able to be part of what is a solution for these terrible consequences of the global pandemic.

The SPEAKER: Before I call for a final question, I update members in relation to questions asked in this session of parliament—160 questions have been asked: 34 by government members, 124 by members of the opposition, two by the crossbench and a further question today.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Could the minister explain to the house what step-by-step processes she has put in place with her department to ensure that critical cases get urgent attention? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: On 18 May 2022, *The Advertiser* reported that a 13-year-old child living in a child protection department facility was found unconscious for five hours after ingesting pills allegedly sold to him by a teenager. The article reports the minister as having stated, and I quote:

On becoming Minister, I immediately commenced rigorously examining systems, procedures and processes to ensure that improvements are made with and for children in care, and have already commenced making change. My stringent focus on this work will absolutely continue.

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) (15:01): I thank the member for his important question. On becoming minister, I made a deep commitment to be as open as possible about the complex and incredibly difficult issues that children and young people and their families face and the complexities that impact child protection.

It is crucial that as a community we are honest about the significant challenges faced and that our community discourse identifies the problems we encounter. Getting the balance right between always ensuring early preventative action and intervention to strengthen families, and that balance between removing children when they are unsafe in their family homes, is at the core of this complexity.

In contrast to the previous minister, I intend to tackle getting this balance right. I intend to speak openly about those issues, and I encourage others to do the same. It can, of course, be difficult to give detailed particulars about individual children, particularly when criminal proceedings are occurring. However, I will provide as much information as is appropriate to balance the need for transparency and the need to also protect children's privacy.

It was and is devastating to hear about the trauma that child had experienced. That child has been firmly on the radar of the department for some time, and I have received updates about his situation since the first week of my becoming minister.

It is really important, as the member has articulated, to make sure that when situations like this arise that we do, as I stated in this place and as I also stated in the media, rigorously examine systems and processes and procedures to ensure that improvements are made with and for children in care. I have, as I have stated in this place, and as the member rightly pointed out, begun to make those changes so that those processes are better.

From day one, I began to ask repeated questions about procedures—for instance, relating to notifiable incidents and about a number of other procedures. We know that former Judge Rice found that, in relation to the previous minister, there was 'significant failure' on the minister's part in relation to the previous minister's practice for being notified about incidents and for inquiring into support in relation to those incidents.

In contrast, immediately on becoming minister I asked for information about the existing notification procedure that was in place post the Rice review, and I immediately made changes to improve that procedure. I made it abundantly clear that I wish to be advised about particular incidents and also about what actions have been taken when incidents do occur, what support systems were in place and being provided to the young person, whether appropriate statutory authorities were involved and, every time, what system improvements could be made, including any preventative measures that could have been implemented.

I asked many, many questions and also asked the department to ensure that the immediately improved critical incident settings were implemented. I relentlessly questioned the department to seek assurance that children and young people who have experienced an incident receive the care and support they need and that all relevant statutory authorities are involved. At each and every weekly meeting, I ask about those systems, processes and procedures, and I will continue to do so.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I recognise the presence in the gallery of friends of the parliament.

BUDGET PAPERS

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:06): I lay on the table the following 2022-23 budget papers:

Paper 1—Budget Overview
 Paper 2—Budget Speech
 Paper 3—Budget Statement
 Paper 4—Agency Statements—Volume 1
 Paper 4—Agency Statements—Volume 2
 Paper 4—Agency Statements—Volume 3
 Paper 4—Agency Statements—Volume 4
 Paper 5—Budget Measures Statement

I move:

That the Budget Statement, Agency Statements and Budget Measures Statement be published.

Motion carried.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2022

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:07): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the year ending 30 June 2023 and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:08): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to present to the house the 2022-23 state budget, the first budget delivered by the Malinauskas Labor government. I present this budget at a crucial time for our state. Our state continues to transition to life beyond COVID after more than two years of dealing with the pandemic.

Since the state election, the government has taken more direct management of COVID, restrictions have continued to be lifted, the community and businesses are returning to normality and confidence has improved. Sectors hardest hit by restrictions, especially hospitality and tourism, are experiencing strong trading conditions, retail sales are high and the housing construction industry has experienced unprecedented demand.

The last two years have seen more than half a trillion dollars of both fiscal and monetary stimulus deployed to sustain economic activity and jobs across our nation—the greatest economic stimulus in our nation's history. As a result, the economic recovery has been far stronger than could have been hoped for only two years ago. South Australia has also benefited from this national stimulus. Our economy has recorded strong economic and employment growth in recent months.

Yet this unprecedented stimulus and the resulting economic performance have also camouflaged concerning trends in the state's economic performance over the past four years. Each

year since 2017-18, our economic growth rates have slowed under the former Liberal government, culminating in the worst economic performance in the nation in 2019-20, with an economic growth rate of minus 1 per cent.

It was disingenuous of the former Liberal government to boast about leading the nation on economic growth the following year, without acknowledging the poor performance in the years prior. Our state has recorded the equal slowest wage growth of all states, well behind recent rates of inflation, meaning a decline in real wage growth for workers. Our unemployment rate, though pleasingly lower in the past 12 months, remains either the worst or second worst in the country as each monthly result has been announced.

Our share of national exports has fallen, and even our bumper crops over the last two seasons have not reversed this trend. Our share of higher-productivity industries like manufacturing continues to fall as a proportion of our economy, and major industrial opportunities like defence shipbuilding and submarines have been delayed. Even before COVID-19, our state was beset by challenges.

So now, at this pivotal moment in our state's history, we should not seek to return to life as we knew it before the pandemic. Indeed, to do so would be a grave mistake and a wasted opportunity for South Australia. The recent state election saw a clear choice presented to the community: a choice between taking our state back to where we were before the pandemic, or a choice that recognised the challenges confronting our state and a comprehensive plan to tackle them—a plan for the future.

The Malinauskas Labor government was elected on the basis of a comprehensive reform agenda across all areas of government endeavour. Election commitments were made to fix the ramping crisis engulfing our health system, re-invest in education at every level, address our chronic skills shortages, take advantage of our energy future, support the community with cost-of-living relief, maintain Labor's record as the party of infrastructure delivery, and in many other areas.

I am pleased to say today that our budget upholds every one of our election commitments. The challenge of doing so, however, has been made more complicated by further pressures arising since the state election. The combination of conflict in Ukraine, record fiscal stimulus and sustained low interest rates have contributed to price inflation not seen for decades across Australia.

While households and businesses face huge additional pressures on their finances, the government confronts not just higher costs for goods and services but wage pressures and rapid escalation in infrastructure delivery costs as well, and the government does so with a balance sheet burdened with record debt levels, operating deficits and the largest infrastructure program in the state's history still to deliver.

The previous Liberal government inherited a government balance sheet with total net debt levels of \$12.95 billion, or 63.5 per cent of total government revenues. In its last budget, the former Liberal government projected debt to reach \$33.6 billion, or 129.6 per cent of total government revenues, by 2024-25. In other words, we saw debt forecast to increase by \$20 billion, and a doubling of our net debt to revenue ratio.

Concerningly, this was not simply an effect of COVID. According to the former Liberal government's own projections, debt was forecast to nearly double even before the pandemic and then increase further as the former Liberal government responded to the pandemic. The \$20 billion increase in debt under the previous government is not explained by the \$4 billion economic stimulus package it claimed to deliver and it certainly was not racked up on infrastructure development, particularly the north-south corridor. Instead, it was the result of poor budget management.

On coming to government, I was briefed by Treasury that if the budget continued to record operating and infrastructure spending growth at levels incurred by the previous Liberal government, operating deficits would continue to be recorded post the budget years, and debt would reach nearly \$65 billion by 2035. The cost of servicing that debt, even at forecast interest rates, would be so high as to prevent additional spending in health, education, policing and other priority areas.

The challenge for the government in delivering this budget and all our election commitments was to do so while minimising further impacts on the state's finances. While the previous state

government boasted about a credit rating upgrade from AA to AA+ early in its term, it was curiously silent on the downgrade to 'negative watch' as a result of its more recent budget. Put simply, the state budget must be put back on track, and this budget commences this important work.

The 2022-23 budget not only delivers on all the government's election commitments, it also returns the budget to surplus. The budget delivers a net operating surplus of \$233 million in 2022-23, with operating surpluses forecast across each year of the forward estimates growing to \$643-million by 2025-26.

A net operating deficit of \$1.7 billion is forecast for the current year 2021-22, an increase from the deficit of \$1.59 billion forecast by the previous government, as additional costs for COVID-19 management as well as support for businesses and community organisations have been approved. This budget forecasts total infrastructure spending of \$18.6 billion over the next four years.

As a result of this level of investment, total government sector debt is projected to increase across the forward estimates to \$33.8 billion as at 30 June 2026, a slight increase from the last Liberal Government's forecast of \$33.6 billion a year earlier, at 30 June 2025, in its last budget. Stronger economic conditions nationally have increased the nation's GST collections, boosting our state's revenues. The budget has benefited by approximately \$900 million of additional GST revenues over the forward estimates, as previously reported. However, the Commonwealth Grants Commission has revised our state's share of the pool significantly down in its latest assessment.

This amplifies the risk to the state's finances by the changes to the GST distribution arrangements made by the previous Coalition government, described as, quote, 'a massive win' for South Australia by the former Liberal government. Next year, these revised arrangements will mean our state will be \$289 million worse off than under the original GST deal made in the year 2000. This loss is masked by a temporary 'no worse off' commitment that ends in 2027. South Australia, like other states and territories, faces a severe revenue shortfall in the future unless this is remedied.

Since the 2021-22 Mid-Year Budget Review state taxation revenues have been revised up by \$340 million in 2021-22, mainly due to higher conveyance duty collections, and by \$640 million over the period 2022-23 to 2024-25, reflecting underlying strength in payroll tax, gambling taxes and other stamp duty revenue collections.

Importantly, this budget keeps Labor's commitment at the last election to impose no new taxes or tax increases. In total, the budget provides an additional \$2.1 billion over the next four years for new operating initiatives in the general government sector. A further \$792 million is allocated in 2021-22, mainly for additional COVID-related expenses in Health and SA Police. New investing initiatives in the general government sector total \$3.4 billion over the next four years, in addition to \$44 million this year.

I am pleased to report to the parliament that the net cost of the government's election commitments is \$3.1 billion, almost exactly as outlined during the election campaign. The budget also provides support for some of the initiatives approved by the former government since the Mid-Year Budget Review, including funding for business support payments, the \$65 million for the plant protein manufacturing facilities, and \$19 million for a new space industry hub at Adelaide Airport. Unfortunately, a further \$127 million cost blowout on the Gawler rail electrification project has been recorded on the former government's botched management of this key infrastructure project, with costs now \$842 million or nearly 40 per cent over the original budget.

The government has also chosen to fund \$1.2 billion of unfunded cost pressures in agencies over the period from the current financial year to 2025-26 ignored by the previous government which, if left unattended, would have impacted service delivery. This includes COVID-19 pressures in health and police, and additional costs for caring for children and young people in care.

Front and centre amongst election commitments we made in health were those designed to put an end to the ramping crisis that ran out of control under the former Liberal government. Not only are we funding the \$1.1 billion of election commitments in health, as we outlined at the election, we have provided SA Health with a further \$648 million to respond to COVID both in 2021 and also next year in 2022-23 to manage the public health response, including ongoing PCR testing capacity, vaccinations, additional hospital beds and the rapid antigen testing program.

The previous Liberal government had \$800 million of savings allocated to SA Health through to 2024-25. While the government remains committed to improving the efficiency of our health system, we have provided SA Health with an additional \$400 million of funding over five years in this budget to reduce the savings task left to it by the former Liberal government.

The Malinauskas government is also proud to provide \$124 million of funding to deliver our commitment to recruit an additional 350 ambulance staff, including 278 paramedics and 72 ambulance officers. The budget also allocates \$65.4 million for 101 additional doctors, including specialists, as well as 10 additional child psychologists, to ease pressure on doctors and medical specialists across our system. Importantly, this includes recruiting more of the doctors that graduate from our state's universities.

We are also funding 304 additional nurses across the health system to support both the new hospital beds that have been funded and also to better staff existing areas of need. Importantly, we have also committed to legislating minimum staffing ratios for nurses, ensuring they have the safe staffing levels and support they need protected by law.

Over the next four years, the budget provides \$2.95 billion for infrastructure spending in health, with \$1.44 billion allocated towards the cost of the new Women's and Children's Hospital over the next four years. We remain committed to delivering this project, including adding 50 additional beds to the project to ensure the hospital has adequate capacity to cater for future growth in demand. The final cost of this project is still being reviewed by the new government.

We are also adding 326 beds to our health system in both metropolitan and regional South Australia at a cost of \$540.9 million. This includes 98 new beds for mental health, 50 additional beds at the new Women's and Children's Hospital, 48 beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, 48 additional beds at the Modbury Hospital, 24 additional beds at the Flinders Medical Centre, 16 additional beds at Gawler Hospital, 22 new beds for drug and alcohol rehabilitation and detox, as well as 20 homelessness discharge beds.

In addition, the budget also provides \$161 million to commence construction for a southern Adelaide hospital expansion, which will deliver an extra 136 beds at the Flinders Medical Centre and a further 24 beds at the Repat. The total cost of this is \$400 million, jointly funded on a 50:50 basis with the commonwealth government. The budget also allocates \$127 million over the forward estimates period to commence construction of a new Mount Barker hospital, with a total construction cost of \$220 million. Once completed, this will increase hospital beds in Mount Barker by a further 68 beds. These two commitments take the total additional beds in our health system funded by this budget to 554.

The budget allocates \$120 million to construct a new CBD ambulance headquarters, including a new city ambulance station, in addition to \$67.2 million for four new ambulance stations, with a further four to be rebuilt and 10 to be renovated; \$46 million is provided for regional hospital infrastructure upgrades at Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte and Kangaroo Island; and \$28 million is to establish and commence a new north-east cancer centre at Modbury Hospital.

In total, the budget provides an additional \$2.4 billion to SA Health over the 2021-22 to 2025-26 period. This is an extraordinary commitment to health facilities, services and staffing levels in our state—the single largest allocation of health funding of any budget in the state's history. We are in a position to fund these measures, not only because we believe this is the highest priority for the South Australian community but because we also choose not to proceed with a \$662 million basketball stadium. We have allocated all of these funds set aside for the stadium—and much more—for these health initiatives, as we committed to do at the recent state election, because it is the right priority for our community.

The Malinauskas Labor government understands the need to invest in our education system to improve educational standards to lift the long-term productivity of our workforce. This budget provides \$208.8 million for five new technical colleges. Forming part of the secondary government school system, these colleges will give school students a real choice to learn a trade and start doing it while they are at school in dedicated facilities.

The budget also funds the expansion of Adelaide Botanic High School and Roma Mitchell Secondary College by 1,000 students, with \$118.8 million over the forward estimates, as well as \$26.6 million to upgrade school infrastructure at 19 sites across regional and metropolitan South Australia.

An amount of \$72.4 million over three years has been allocated to deliver the government's election commitment to reintroduce a midyear intake for students in government preschools and schools, with preschool students commencing in July 2023 and reception students in July 2024.

The Malinauskas government understands the imperative to better support students and staff with mental health needs in our government schools. This budget allocates \$50 million across the next four years to provide 100 additional mental health and learning support specialists for this purpose. A further \$28.8 million has been allocated to appoint an autism lead teacher in every government primary school to better support children's learning.

The budget also provides \$2 million to establish a royal commission into early childhood education and care to examine how universal quality preschool programs for three and four year olds can be delivered in South Australia, and how the school day can better meet the needs of working families. In addition to the five new technical colleges, the budget provides \$52.9 million over the next four years for improving skills in our workforce. Initiatives include:

- \$12.7 million to enable TAFE SA to return to delivering training in aged care, disability and early childhood;
- \$11.9 million to continue the state's share of funding under the Skilling Australians Fund National Partnership Agreement, while a new agreement with the commonwealth is finalised;
- \$8.8 million to fund courses where industry has identified skills shortages, such as bricklaying, saw-doctoring, concreting and chefs in the hospitality industry;
- \$5 million to upgrade the Mount Gambier TAFE; and
- \$4 million to restore funding cut by the previous Liberal government in adult and community education.

The budget also allocates \$1 million to establish a university merger commission to advise the government on a potential merger of the state's universities. It will engage the leadership of the three universities and be led by an eminent commissioner appointed with experience in higher education to also engage across the sector, with business leaders and the community.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it is essential that we maintain our support of infrastructure and initiatives that can support long-term sustainable economic growth. As the nation experiences surging wholesale electricity prices, driven largely by soaring coal prices and the failure of national energy policy over the last decade, South Australia remains at the forefront of energy transition. Once again a Labor government prepares to take the next nation-leading step in securing our energy future—one provided by cheap, green, dispatchable electricity with our Hydrogen Jobs Plan.

The budget provides \$593 million to construct a 250-megawatt hydrogen electrolyser facility, a 200-megawatt hydrogen power station and a 3,600-tonne hydrogen storage facility in the Whyalla region.

The budget provides a further \$8.3 million over four years to support the implementation of the hydrogen plan in the Department for Energy and Mining and \$30 million towards a clean hydrogen industrial hub at Port Bonython, as part of a \$140 million partnership with the commonwealth government and private industry.

The budget also provides \$100 million to establish a new economic recovery fund to support initiatives that promote long-term sustainable economic growth and development. The fund will include our election commitment for a \$10 million manufacturing grants fund.

The budget allocates \$45 million over four years to promote South Australia as a tourism destination to interstate and overseas markets and \$40 million for a new Major Events Fund so our state can continue expanding its event offerings to both residents and visitors.

Front and centre will be the reinstatement of the Adelaide 500. The budget allocates \$18 million next financial year in 2022-23 for the event to be held in December and \$70.2 million over the next four years. The government will also be supporting the Adelaide Motorsport Festival with \$5.7 million of funding over the next four years.

Brand SA will be relaunched to promote South Australian businesses, after it was cut by the former Liberal government, including an I Choose SA campaign in partnership with local retailers, with \$6.2 million of funding over four years, as well as \$4.2 million of funding to re-establish the state's investment attraction efforts, again cut by the former Liberal government.

The budget also provides \$4 million to establish programs to back women in small business in South Australia, to improve skills and support for female business owners. The government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the state. Next year, we are estimated to spend over \$8 billion. One of the easiest ways we can boost our state's economy is simply to spend more of taxpayers' money supporting South Australian businesses providing these goods and services. Time and again, we saw the former Liberal government send money interstate, needlessly denying local businesses and workers the opportunity to supply government.

If the government can change its purchasing habits away from interstate and overseas businesses to local suppliers by only 5 per cent, it will boost our state's economy by \$400 million a year. We will work hard to impose better purchasing requirements across government agencies. The budget provides \$2.8 million over the next four years for a range of new programs including better promoting opportunities to supply government, reporting on government procurement spending on South Australian and non-South Australian goods and services, and increasing staffing for the Office of the Industry Advocate to help companies win government work.

Labor is the party of infrastructure delivery in our state. Whether it is hospitals, schools, roads, water, energy, it has been Labor governments that have transformed our state in recent years. This budget continues that legacy. The budget contains an \$18.6 billion investing program over the next four years, with \$3.2 billion of this towards the completion of the remaining sections of the north-south corridor. The current cost remains at \$9.9 billion, while the Department for Infrastructure and Transport continues its review of the project.

Major construction is now estimated to commence in 2024, and this inexcusable delay in the progress of this critical project by the previous Liberal government has meant that construction work has been re-timed, and with it, the forecast expenditure from the state budget. It would be wrong to think that this relieves budget pressure; commonwealth revenues for the project have also had to be delayed as a result.

Other major transport infrastructure projects funded in this budget include:

- \$400 million in partnership with the commonwealth for upgrades on Marion Road between Anzac Highway and Cross Road;
- \$125 million to reinstate the commitment to the full duplication of Main South Road between Seaford and Sellicks Beach;
- \$120 million in partnership with the commonwealth for an on/off ramp from the Southern Expressway at Majors Road;
- \$75 million in partnership with the commonwealth government for the next stage of the managed motorway program on the South Eastern Freeway;
- \$51 million to reinstate the construction of a port rail spur on the Outer Harbor Line; and
- \$19 million to improve public transport to Mount Barker and the Hills.

The budget also provides \$1 million next financial year, in 2022-23, for a commission of inquiry to advise the government on the return of train and tram operations back into public ownership.

The Malinauskas Labor government also recognises the extraordinary pressure the current housing market is placing on vulnerable South Australians trying to get a roof over their heads. The state budget invests \$177.5 million for a public housing improvement program to deliver:

- 400 new houses to increase capacity in our public housing system, with 250 of these to be constructed in metropolitan areas and 150 in regional areas.

Of these, 50 new units will be built in a new 'common-ground' style homelessness transition accommodation facility in Adelaide's CBD to help more homeless South Australians off the street and into secure, long-term accommodation, and \$4.4 million over the next four years will be provided for intensive support services to help ensure the transition from homelessness is successful.

A further 350 public houses that are currently untenanted will be substantially refurbished to bring them back to tenatable standard, around 100 of which will be located in regional areas. A further 3,000 existing houses will be updated in a maintenance blitz.

\$6 million over four years is provided in grants for homelessness support services, including to Catherine House, St Vincent de Paul and the Hutt St Centre, all of which lost contracts from the previous Liberal government to provide homelessness support services. The public housing improvement program provides additional funds to existing housing construction and maintenance initiatives already funded in the South Australian Housing Authority's budget.

In total, over the next four years \$557 million will be spent building 1,750 new homes and refurbishing 6,250 others. To better support first-home buyers, HomeStart Finance will develop further low deposit home loan options for them to access. This will enable first-home buyers who are purchasing a newly constructed home or building a new home to borrow with just a 3 per cent deposit.

The budget also provides \$128.9 million to meet additional costs for caring for children and young people in state care and a further \$5.6 million in grants to non-government agencies to assist in providing care for vulnerable children and their carers and young people who have left care. A further \$1.9 million is provided for a Child and Young Person's Visitor Scheme in residential care.

Soaring inflation is causing financial stress on many South Australians, and I am pleased to outline the budget that today includes a range of measures to ease cost-of-living pressures, including:

- \$39.3 million in 2022-23 to double the Cost of Living Concession amount per eligible household, increasing from \$112.30 to \$224.60 for tenants and Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card holders, and from \$224.50 to \$449.00 for eligible home owners;
- \$24 million over two years to provide a \$100 subsidy to government school parents, caregivers and independent students for the school materials and services charge for each of the 2022 and 2023 school years, which will include a refund of \$100 for amounts already paid for the 2022 school year;
- \$5.2 million over four years to provide free public transport for eligible seniors on Adelaide Metro services 24 hours a day seven days a week, expanding them from existing arrangements, where free travel is only available to seniors outside of peak periods;
- \$1.8 million over four years to continue the government's mandatory fuel price transparency scheme, requiring all fuel retailers to publish their prices to enable motorists to find the closest cheapest fuel to them; and
- \$2.9 million per year to re-establish the registration concession for owners of vehicles in remote regions such as Kangaroo Island, the District Council of Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs.

Not only does the budget contain no new government fees or taxes, the indexation rate for government fees and charges has been limited to 2 per cent in 2022-23 and the emergency services bill for a median-valued metropolitan residential property will increase by around 2 per cent in 2022-23.

The budget provides significant funds for a number of local sporting clubs, community groups and councils to improve sport and recreation facilities across our state. This starts with providing:

- \$82.4 million over four years to take ownership, rebuild and operate the Adelaide Aquatic Centre following community consultation into the site for the new centre;
- \$84.5 million in local sporting club upgrades;
- \$68.1 million in community infrastructure grants;
- \$13.2 million in female facility grants for local sporting clubs; and
- \$16 million in multicultural grants to support events and initiatives, including language schools.

The 2022-23 state budget is also funding key measures and election commitments aimed at keeping the community and those who work to protect South Australians safe. The budget provides:

- \$13.3 million this year to continue additional policing efforts required due to COVID-19;
- \$6.5 million over four years for additional multipurpose load-bearing vests to better protect all sworn police officers against ballistic and edged weapons;
- \$8.8 million in additional funding over four years for the justice system to manage prosecutions arising from Operation Ironside;
- \$3.1 million over three years for measures to crack down on child sex offenders, including tougher penalties for those who exploit and sexually abuse children;
- \$924,000 over four years to establish and maintain a public sex offender register;
- \$4.2 million over four years to build two new police posts at Indulkana and Pipalyatjara, as well as additional funding for the Fregon police post; and
- \$1.2 million over four years for the Port Augusta City Safe program.

We are also restoring \$800,000 over four years in funding cut from the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service by the previous government, and also \$2 million over four years for victim support services.

The 2022-23 state budget is delivering key election commitments for South Australia's environment and biodiversity. These measures total \$25.4 million and include initiatives to recruit 15 Aboriginal park rangers, provide native vegetation grants to private landowners, support the Conservation Council and Friends of Parks, and establish a new biodiversity unit within the Department for Environment and Water. It also includes \$2.1 million over four years to employ a commissioner for the River Murray in South Australia because there will be no capitulations under our watch.

I am pleased to say this budget also invests heavily in our regions, with \$1.5 billion in new measures over the forward estimates including:

- \$593 million for the new Hydrogen Jobs Plan in the Whyalla region;
- \$305.7 million for improvements to regional health services, including the projects across regional South Australia I mentioned earlier;
- \$27.4 million for additional health services in Mount Gambier; and
- \$58.6 million for more regional paramedics and ambulance officers, and new and improved regional ambulance stations.

The government is also supporting the South-East by investing \$2 million to create a cross-border commissioner as well as \$6 million to develop a long-term forestry research and development capability at Mount Gambier, and \$2 million over three years to develop a forest products domestic manufacturing and infrastructure master plan, with \$2 million to improve fire towers. Also provided is

\$13 million for the continuation of fruit fly eradication efforts in 2022-23, following ongoing reported outbreaks in the Riverland.

In addition, the Malinauskas government has already appointed a Minister for Regional Roads who will oversee \$467.4 million for regional transport and infrastructure improvements. We have also committed to recommencing the country cabinet initiative, axed by the former Liberal government, the first meeting of which will be held next week.

The budget delivers on the government's election commitment to require savings of \$165 million in 2022-23 increasing to \$192 million in 2025-26, or \$714 million over the forward estimates. On coming to government, I was alarmed to be advised by Treasury that the former Liberal government's Jobs and Economic Growth Fund, a time-limited grants fund meant for businesses and industry, was in fact being used in part to fund operating programs of some government agencies. This is unsustainable and this practice must be stopped.

A number of programs have been cut, and this has reduced the savings task on agencies subject to an efficiency dividend. Further, some other existing programs that are not the priorities of this government have also been cut, and this has further reduced the remaining savings task across agencies. Importantly, agencies including health, education, police, child protection, courts, TAFE and emergency services, which deliver frontline services to South Australians, are not subject to these savings.

The budget also requires the reduction of at least 50 full-time equivalent executive positions. Agency chief executives will have flexibility to deliver savings and will not be required to pursue FTE reductions aside from the executive staff reductions. While the Budget Measures Statement outlines the impact on full-time equivalent staffing if half of the overall savings task were achieved by separating staff, this is not a requirement.

It is this government's view that there is significant opportunity to instead reduce costs on temporary and labour hire staff, consultant and contractor expenses, travel and office accommodation costs and so on. Let me be clear: the Malinauskas Labor government values our public sector workers. Over the last two years in particular, they have done an outstanding job protecting our state and maintaining vital public services. We will not simply be cutting public service numbers in pursuing our savings.

Overall, the measures outlined in the budget will support an additional 1,434 full-time equivalent staff over the forward estimates by 2025-26. Additional FTEs for health services, including commitments to 350 more paramedics and ambulance officers, 304 extra nurses and 101 more doctors and specialists, are supplemented by additional staff in the child protection and education portfolios.

The government chose to deliver this budget at the traditional time of June so it could immediately start the work of delivering on our election commitments to the community. There is also no time to lose in beginning the work of meeting the challenges that are before us and seizing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank those who have contributed so much to deliver this budget. First, to the Premier and my cabinet colleagues, I thank them for their support over the last nine weeks. To Under Treasurer, Rick Persse; Deputy Under Treasurer, Tammie Pribanic; head of budget branch, Tricia Blight; and the multitude of Treasury staff who have worked tirelessly since the election, thank you. The professionalism and dedication of Treasury has always been remarkable and that continues today.

To my Chief of Staff, John Atkinson; executive assistant, Rachael Colegate; and the rest of the team in the Treasurer's office, thank you for the extraordinary work since the election. I would also like to thank poor old Adam Todd for his assistance in recent weeks and especially today. He is media adviser not only to the Premier but to the Treasurer on budget day.

And last, to my wife, Antonia, and our children, Ben, Isaac and Olivia: you allow me to spend endless hours poring over budget papers and submissions, attending functions and press conferences, and I know that means I am less present at home than we would all like. I thank you for your endless love and patience.

I am pleased to finish by saying this budget delivers on all the government's election commitments, returns the budget to surplus and introduces no new taxes. It begins the hard work of restoring the state's finances, ensuring that, while we provide extra funding for priority areas and frontline services, we reduce our spending elsewhere. We took an ambitious agenda to the community at the last election. We did it identifying the right priorities for our state. We did it for the future. This budget provides the resources to deliver on this agenda. I commend the budget to the house.

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

Leave granted.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

2—Commencement

This clause provides for the Bill to operate retrospectively to 1 July 2022. Until the Bill is passed, expenditure is financed from appropriation authority provided by the *Supply Act*.

3—Interpretation

This clause provides relevant definitions.

4—Issue and application of money

This clause provides for the issue and application of the sums shown in Schedule 1 to the Bill. Subclause (2) makes it clear that the appropriation authority provided by the *Supply Act* is superseded by this Bill.

5—Application of money if functions or duties of agency are transferred

This clause is designed to ensure that where Parliament has appropriated funds to an agency to enable it to carry out particular functions or duties and those functions or duties become the responsibility of another agency, the funds may be used by the responsible agency in accordance with Parliament's original intentions without further appropriation.

6—Expenditure from Hospitals Fund

This clause provides authority for the Treasurer to issue and apply money from the Hospitals Fund for the provision of facilities in public hospitals.

7—Additional appropriation under other Acts

This clause makes it clear that appropriation authority provided by this Bill is additional to authority provided in other Acts of Parliament, except, of course, in the *Supply Act*.

8—Overdraft limit

This sets a limit of \$150 million on the amount which the Government may borrow by way of overdraft.

Schedule 1—Amounts proposed to be expended from the Consolidated Account during the financial year ending 30 June 2023

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.A.W. Gardner.

Parliamentary Committees

COVID-19 DIRECTION ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:50): By leave, I move:

That S.E. Andrews and Mrs Hurn be appointed to the committee.

Motion carried.

*Parliamentary Procedure***SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:50): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 11am.

Motion carried.

*Adjournment Debate***MATES IN CONSTRUCTION**

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:51): On speaking to the adjournment of the house, it is an opportunity to speak about matters of importance. I want to talk about the relationship between MATES in Construction and the Marshall Liberal government and claims made by the Premier last week when he was attending the fundraising lunch, where he claimed that there were funding cuts to MATES in Construction from the previous government. It was simply not true.

I will explain the arrangements that were in place when we came to office. The CITB granted in 2018-19 a funding grant to MATES in Construction with a total value of \$53,200. That was a General Awareness Training program, \$28,200, and Life Skills Toolbox training, \$25,000. Prior to this, I am advised that MATES in Construction received about \$10,000 a year from the CITB. The CITB is a board independent of government. MATES in Construction have confirmed that they applied for funding—at that time—under the South Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants Scheme and other methods of funding.

The Department for Innovation and Skills met with MATES in Construction at that time, when that one-off funding finished, and a request for \$150,000 of funding for the following year was denied by the CITB. We were keen to discuss how MATES in Construction could work in with our Skilling South Australia program, so the department met with MATES in Construction to talk about new opportunities to work with industry, including broader industry groups, because we thought the program could be rolled out to apprentices across the industry through the Skilling South Australia program to help deliver mental health and suicide prevention programs for apprentices. I am advised that the meeting was, in fact, a positive meeting.

It is also interesting to note that the claims made by the Premier completely ignore the letter that was sent by MATES in Construction to the then minister responsible for training, the Hon. Susan Close MP, who was the Minister for Education and the training minister at the time. The letter states:

I am writing to you today in your capacity as Minister for Education and Child Development and for Higher Education and Skills regarding a shocking statistic that exists in the construction and engineering industry.

Of course, we all know that is the case. Suicide rates are higher in South Australia than in other states. The letter goes on to explain how MATES in Construction is a not-for-profit organisation, and they requested the state government at that time to join in their fundraising target of \$200,000. In other words, they were asking for a grant of \$200,000.

I was advised at the time by those involved in MATES in Construction that there was no response from the minister to the letter, and instead the letter was passed on to SafeWork SA, I believe, and the request was denied. So the claim that there were funding cuts to MATES in Construction by the previous government is totally wrong—totally wrong. The Department of Transport at the time was providing \$25,000 a year. That was a two-year agreement that continued. That program was not cut and there was a one-off grant for particular projects by the CITB in that 2018-19 year.

It is disappointing that the Premier would politicise such a sensitive issue in our community. There is probably not a person in this chamber who would not have a personal experience of somebody who has died by suicide. The facts are that the department, when I was the minister, was very focused on working with MATES in Construction on a fee-for-service basis for their services

right throughout the sector. The claim by the Premier that there was a cut by the previous government in this program is simply not true.

BADCOE ELECTORATE

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:57): Can I start by commending our Treasurer for his very first budget. He is certainly a man who was made for the moment, having spent quite some time as Chief of Staff and adviser to the former Treasurer Mr Foley, and also some time in the private sector, in financial services with Deloitte, as well as much other experience. I congratulate him. It is a difficult task, but we on this side of the house are very proud that he and his team have put the budget together and unveiled it today.

I take this opportunity to draw the house's attention to a few aspects in what is a very detailed budget that I think the people of Badcoe will be particularly thrilled about. Among them is the Forestville Hockey Club. The Forestville Hockey Club, according to this budget, will be getting \$2 million of new funds for their new hockey hub, which we hope to build at Unley High School, and also they will be utilising \$1 million that the previous Labor government—almost five years ago now—committed to under the synthetic pitch fund.

What happened to that? Five years ago, money was committed for that hockey club, which desperately needed that new facility. That money was meant to go into a new facility that was committed to both by Labor before the 2018 election and by the Liberals. But then, once they got into government, there was no room for Forestville Hockey Club anymore in that project, and about 12 to 18 months ago the good people of Forestville Hockey Club, who had worked tirelessly for many years for their new base, found out that they were being kicked out of the new project.

Not only were they kicked out but no alternative was provided for them whatsoever—no other location, no new place they could go to, considering that the decision was made to boot them out. That was an election commitment of the previous Liberal government, and it was incredibly disappointing to see that that was an election commitment that was broken.

But enter the Labor team: not just me as a strong advocate for the Forestville Hockey Club but also the now member for Waite, the member for Elder and also the federal member for Boothby, as well as Labor's candidate for Unley, Ryan Harrison. We all banded together to support Forestville Hockey Club and ensure that we could come up with some sort of alternative. They are pretty smart cookies there at Forestville Hockey Club, and they had not given up. They had looked at a number of options, one of which is a new base at Unley High. I am delighted that this budget will now deliver on a promise that was committed to way back in 2017 by both parties, but it will be Labor that delivers this.

Hockey is a growing sport, a fantastic sport, and this hub will be the new home for players not just right across the southern suburbs but also right across the metropolitan and even regional areas, as people come down from regional parts of South Australia to play with the mighty Forestville Hockey Club Panthers. I wish them all the best for the rest of their play this year. I look forward to joining with my colleagues and going and visiting them at their current facility, which is all the way out at Gepps Cross. We really look forward to seeing them in their new home at Unley High School and seeing a long-held promise delivered.

I would also like to draw attention to another project that is whizzing away. It is going to be happening very, very quickly and that is the Millswood Croquet Club's upgrade. These guys have also been working really hard and quite ingeniously to be able to attract the funds for what is a fairly modest improvement to their clubhouse. They have a project that totals \$600,000. They managed to get \$200,000 from the federal government, \$200,000 from the City of Unley—and we thank them for that investment—and now, with Labor coming to government, the final instalment of \$200,000 will be delivered and it is in this budget.

That is very exciting for the good people of Millswood Croquet Club, a club that has been there for decades upon decades and boasts champions in croquet. If you get the opportunity, do come down. You may find me with mallet in hand. I find that my performance is somewhat improved on a summer's day with a glass of champagne in hand; however, maybe I just need to practise a little bit more. I thank the team there for involving me, and I look forward to coming down and letting you know about what is in this budget for people in Badcoe.

CHAFFEY ELECTORATE

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (16:02): I would like to rise and talk about a couple of events up in Chaffey, and great events they are. The Riverland Sportsperson of the Year Award was introduced back in 1961, when the winner back then was Kevin Harrington, who was a great cricketer and golfer. The awards have gone on to bigger and better things since those days—no better sportspeople, but the event is much bigger and encompasses all shapes and forms of sport in the Riverland.

Recently, I attended the 55th presentation, and it was an outstanding achievement. Obviously, you, sir, being a past sports journalist, would understand the rich history of champion sportspeople in the Riverland. We talk about Ebert, Light, Ricciuto, Fielke and Lindner as footballers, but we also have significant Olympians. We also have significant athletes who have come out of the Riverland and were brought up on those flood plains.

This year, the Mallee Junior Sportsperson of the Year was Bailey White, a great young sportsperson in both athletics and AFL. Also, the Steve McFarlane Contribution to Sport Award went to Lynton Scott. He has umpired over a thousand games of footy, so he was just an outstanding contributor to footy up in the Riverland. The John Ormsby Coach the Year was Dan Leuders in hockey, and he has done an outstanding job for hockey over a number of years. The Graham Charlton Legend of Sport went to Michael Farrent. Michael has been an outstanding contributor to sport in the Riverland for such a long time.

The sportsperson of the year award went not to a mainstream sport but to Josh Wallent for water skiing. We all know that the Riverland has a proud history, with the Fieldhouses and others, of champion or Australian champion water skiers. Josh, who hails from Morgan, has done an outstanding job to be named Sportsperson of the Year. Congratulations to all the winners, outstanding as they are.

I also want to talk about an award for the COVID-19 checkpoint champions. Kym and Karen Eckermann were jointly named as the Lions Club of the City of Adelaide and SA Police 2022 Citizens of the Year, thanking police, health and frontline staff over the last 24 months. They are Lindsay Point residents and were recognised for their tireless commitment. Obviously, being a border community had significant issues, living on one side of the border and trying to get to the other side with border closures, so they have done a great job. The couple provided hot food and cakes, fruit, scones and even firewood for SAPOL at some of those checkpoints and ADF personnel at the Lindsay Point checkpoint. They did a great job as checkpoint champions.

As to National Volunteer Week, we had many contributors to volunteering, but I want to make mention of Val Fewster of Berri. Val has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to community health. She has been everywhere for a very long time. She was a counsellor for the Australian Breast Feeding Association for 42 years, where she made an outstanding contribution. Since 2012, she has been the chair of the Riverland Community Response to Eliminating Suicide, the CORES program. I remember the first meeting I attended with her for the formation of CORES. She has done an outstanding job and is still there at the helm doing an outstanding job.

She has been a Riverland Community Suicide Prevention Network volunteer since 2015. She has been volunteering at Meals on Wheels for the last seven years, as well as the Riverland Regional Hospital. Congratulations to Val: you have done an outstanding job. I think she is also ably supported by her husband, John.

Sean Arnold of Waikerie was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for 2022, with 40 years of service to the Country Fire Service and he has done an outstanding job. I think he is only 45, so he started young—no, he is a bit older than 45, but he does not look much older than that. He is a registered umpire with the South Australian Cricket Association and gives effortless time and commitment to the Waikerie community.

He was also a founding and life member of the Waikerie Ramco Cricket Club, as well as a life member of the Ramco Footy Club. He is also a trainer, and he is head chef there on Thursday

nights. He has done an outstanding job as well as volunteering at the Loxton Show Society. I give him kudos for the great work he does. I commend all the volunteers in Chaffey.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Hon L.W.K. Bignell): Now we are going to cross to someone who is usually sitting in this spot but is on the floor of the house right now. I give you the Marvel from Kavel.

ADELAIDE HILLS HAND SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (16:08): Members, I wish to acknowledge and raise in the house the 50th anniversary of the Adelaide Hills Hand Spinners and Weavers Guild. The guild preserves and teaches traditional handicrafts and keeps alive small industries of immense significance. Members of the guild work with wool and alpaca fleece, silk, cotton, mohair and angora. They produce knitted, woven, felted and crocheted items including scarves, bags, hats, rugs and blankets.

It was a privilege to be present at the Littlehampton Peace Memorial Hall to commemorate the guild's important anniversary with guild president, Gaye Becis, and many other guild members. I wish to record in this place that a 50th anniversary blanket has been produced, principally with beautiful natural fibres and with an Australian theme. Many guild members worked on the blanket, though I understand it is appropriate to acknowledge in particular Ms Sandy Soul, whose passion and commitment to her craft ensured that the project was initiated and seen through to completion.

As members of this house will know, the Adelaide Hills Hand Spinners and Weavers Guild is one of several groups around South Australia that are affiliated with the Hand Spinners and Weavers Guild of South Australia. While many guild members have been attending the guild for years, there are several new members, including an increased number of men. Of course, COVID has had its impact on guild meetings. I know that guild members are very pleased to be able to return and meet together.

May I add, on this special occasion, the names of the committee of the Adelaide Hills guild so that in time, perhaps in another 50 years, members may reflect on this record: Gaye Becis, president; Pam Stringer, vice-president; Linda Gowing, secretary; Elizabeth Robertson, treasurer; Samantha Lane, librarian; Moro Nossar, the workshop coordinator; Adele Pring, editor; Colin Colquhoun, equipment coordinator; Claire Hutchesson, the fibre and dye buyer; and Lorraine Nicolle, the trading table operator. I acknowledge, too, all other members of the guild.

As I remarked at the Littlehampton Peace Memorial Hall, traditional handicrafts are deeply valuable to our community and our state. They form part of our cultural heritage. Before the Industrial Revolution, these skills were essential to the manufacture of clothing and textiles. In the new colony of South Australia and in the Adelaide Hills, these skills were and are highly prized.

As I said at another time, with no less feeling, I have been honoured to form friendships with members of the guild and remain inspired by their energy and creativity. I thank them for their work, which is essential to preserving and celebrating traditional and valuable craft skills in my community for the benefit of our state.

I also take this opportunity to remark on significant budget commitments to my community. We have secured a number of important investments for the Hills including:

- \$127 million over four years for the Mount Barker hospital from total project costs of \$220 million. As I understand it, a decision must first be made to build on the existing site or to choose a new site. I am still frustrated that the former government never committed to this project in the campaign or at any earlier time, with the result that a lot of planning work needs to go into this project now;
- \$150 million for an Adelaide Hills road safety package;
- \$75 million for the Freeway Managed Motorway Project stage 2;
- \$12 million for freeway safety upgrades;
- \$29.4 million over four years to improve transport to Mount Barker and the Hills, including \$12 million to establish a new dedicated express service fleet and depot;

- \$500,000 for the government's promised Mount Barker transport study; and
- funds to rebuild and expand the Mount Barker ambulance station. Site costs are to be determined from statewide package costs.

As well, the new government has agreed to fund other programs important to the Hills, including:

- \$2 million over four years for farm firefighting unit grants;
- \$975,000 for electronic monitoring of arsonists using e-tags;
- \$250,000 to investigate night firefighting technology. This is particularly valuable in very steep terrain in the Hills;
- \$3.1 million over three years for a biodiversity unit, including to help bring back birdlife to the Mount Lofty Ranges;
- \$1 million over four years for government notices in regional newspapers. This is particularly significant in my community;
- \$1.4 million to ensure the continued operation of the *Overland* train service—part of our railway heritage; and
- \$28.8 million for autism support in schools.

I have also been strongly arguing for free 24/7 travel for seniors on public transport and this has been funded in the budget at a cost of \$5.2 million. Overall, there is a very substantial investment being made in my community and I am very pleased that that investment has been made.

At 16:13 the house adjourned until Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 11:00.