

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16 June 2022

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

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

### *Bills*

#### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2022**

##### *Estimates Committees*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:01):** By leave, I move:

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector (Hon. K.J. Maher) and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Minister for Forest Industries (Hon. C.M. Scriven), members of the Legislative Council, be permitted to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill.

Motion carried.

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 15 June 2022.)

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:02):** I rise to speak on the very important Appropriation Bill second reading. This is perhaps the greatest responsibility of this place—to consider and deliberate over where the budget allocations for our state go. The number one infrastructure issue that we face, obviously, with our diverse and broad landscape, is the road network, especially for me as the member for Flinders.

I was encouraged to see a small additional allocation in the budget under the Roads of Strategic Importance funding program, which was driven (no pun intended) by the federal government, looking at where the roads are across our country that should be prioritised strategically to look at what the needs are for not just now but into the future. The funding agreement put together between the federal and state government was one that was a true advantage to us, especially in regional South Australia and for us in Flinders.

There was an extension within the state budget to some of this funding stream, and I am encouraged to have a look at what opportunities there might be under this fund. I have been disappointed with the lack of transparency, from the perspective of locals, as to where this money is being allocated. I am hopeful that the good work that started under the previous government will continue with this small extra bit of funding.

The previous state government did an incredible body of work with some of the funds that were allocated on Eyre Peninsula. The shoulder sealing along the Eyre Highway, which is the main east-west national Highway 1 thoroughfare through my electorate, meant that there is a much safer passageway for the many trucks and vehicle movements that happen along that highway. The shoulder sealing that happened along the Tod Highway through the middle of Eyre Peninsula was one which our people had been calling for for a long time and were very excited to see happening.

We have seen overtaking lanes being constructed on the Lincoln Highway. We have seen the intersection between Flinders Highway and Tod Highway receiving an upgrade. These are all basic, important infrastructure works that have been enabled through the Roads of Strategic Importance funding. With the extra allocation, I hope to look at what opportunities there are to make sure that work continues—to look at the promised overtaking lane on the Tod Highway south of Cummins, to look at the important aspect of the transport expenditure for the streets of Port Lincoln. I have spoken in this place previously about the challenges that are faced within the City of Port Lincoln, especially around the Liverpool Street/Mortlock Terrace/Porter Street arrangements, where there are heavy vehicle movement interactions with domestic use.

We are living in a situation where roads were designed for a much smaller and much lighter load of vehicle than now needs to use those roads. We need to make sure we are providing for the modern transport needs of our communities, and that is no more pertinent to me than in those streets of Port Lincoln. I, for one, am going to be fighting to make sure that some of that allocation is put into making sure that those roundabouts, those intersections and those interactions, both domestic and pedestrian, are going to be appropriately designed not just for now but for the future as well.

There is also an opportunity to look at where this money can then enable other expenditure. For mine, the shoulder sealing work that has been done across the whole of the state, but particularly on Eyre Peninsula, is really important. The shoulders along the Flinders Highway, in particular between Streaky Bay and Ceduna—a long way from here—and also south of Elliston have meant that the roads we currently have to use are quite dangerous, and the interactions between caravans, visitors to our area and heavy vehicles as well as domestic use are becoming increasingly dangerous. Those are key priority areas for me as the member for Flinders as we look forward to what the next step of road expenditure is going to look like.

The investment into our education infrastructure and system is a really important one for us as a state. In the electorate of Flinders, by my count I have 29 schools all across the whole of Eyre Peninsula. One of them, Port Lincoln High School, got some infrastructure funding through this budget, which leaves a whole heap of other schools that we need to make sure we are also investing into.

I have spoken in this place about the importance of the next-step upgrade at Ceduna Area School, and that is of the special education class, which is an increasingly important need not just now—it is a very important need now—but, as I said, looking into the future. The special education needs of the Ceduna Area School have had to be accommodated in a building that was not constructed for that need. It was constructed as the school community library, and a great school community library it was. Because the special education classes had to be relocated into a part of that, and as that need has grown the community school library has been squeezed out.

We are getting to a point where in the very short term there is not going to actually be accommodation for that school community library within the school grounds. That is something that really disappoints me because a community such as Ceduna really needs that connection point. The special unique arrangements that come with a school community library mean that there is the opportunity for interactions across generations—the very young, the preschool, the schoolkids—working in the same area that some of the older members of our population are coming into to explore the many assets within the library. That is an essential community service within the community of Ceduna that we need to make sure continues.

That is why I have been a strong advocate for investment from the state government into an appropriately built, customised special education class at Ceduna Area School. As I said, the need is growing and the need is now, but it is going to be greater into the future. We need to make sure that this is the sort of strategic investment we are doing. I am hopeful, and the words that have been said by the education minister in previous weeks here are that we might be able to find some of the funding necessary for this special education class within the other school projects line in the education budget. This is something that is essential for my community in Flinders, especially for those in Ceduna.

We also see that there are increasingly outdated school facilities across the 29 schools in Flinders. We need to make sure that the expenditure we see within our state budgets is not just targeted at certain seats that might be able to swing an election but is targeted at the areas the state's

economy rides upon. As I said, and I will continue to say in this place, the regions put \$29 billion into our state's economy. We need to be investing some of that money back to make sure that that \$29 billion grows and does not shrink. We need to be investing in the foundations, the cornerstones, of what our communities need going forward—and education is a key one.

There is also a significant need within my community, and within regional communities as a whole, for more appropriate childcare services. It is a need I am looking to be a real champion for within this place. Although child care is a federal government issue theoretically, all levels of government have a real interest in making sure there is a system in place that supports people to get back into the workforce, and that is no more pertinent than in regional South Australia. There is an opportunity for the state government—especially through the education department, I believe—to play a key role in this challenge.

There is infrastructure that could be available for infrastructure owned by the education department, which could then be utilised within our small communities to provide a service. We need all three levels of government involved to make sure that the services that are delivered are going to be appropriate for what our communities in our regions really need. Child care is actually a handbrake upon our regional communities. Without that appropriate care, the full potential of our communities cannot be fulfilled.

I have spoken about health in regions in this place a few times already, and I was very encouraged to see within the state budget an allocation of \$2½ million dollars to the Yadu health service, the Aboriginal health service within the Ceduna area. It is not just Ceduna it services and it is not just the Indigenous population. It has doctors there who service much further abroad than just Ceduna and much further abroad than just the Aboriginal community. Yadu has been dealing with the situation of a degrading building, and it has got to the point where a significant portion of that building has not been able to be utilised.

I was really encouraged by the previous government's positive steps to make sure the tenure of that land was locked in place. I was proud to see that it was locked in place for 99 years, so there is certainty about any construction that happens within that footprint. That is why that next step was really crucial and the allocation that has been made of \$2½ million from this state budget will need to be matched with increased funding from the federal government. I hope that has been communicated from the ministers here through to the new federal government.

There is also an increasing need for investments into our regional hospitals and health delivery. Across Flinders, there are 11 hospitals as well as a number of Aboriginal health services across the many kilometres of my electorate. These hospitals service communities that are spread a long way apart but are so vital for our state's economy. We cannot expect people to travel hundreds of kilometres for a GP appointment they should be able to have within their community. We need to have a system that actually suits our needs.

A key part of the health system within our regions, and in particular for me in Flinders and those who are farther flung across the state, is the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS). Those of us within the regions know the acronym well; those within the metropolitan area may only know it when it is brought up by those of us within the regions. The previous government increased the scope and the scale of the accommodation allowance, which was an incredibly important step for those people who have to stay for periods of time within Adelaide or within the major centres when they or their family are getting medical attention.

The PAT Scheme is set up in recognition that service delivery across our state in the health sphere is not equal and that there is a need for those of us within the regions to have to travel long distances and often stay for long periods of time to be able to have access to appropriate health care. The previous government committed in the election campaign to doubling the fuel subsidy for those who have to drive long distances under the PAT Scheme. This was an incredibly important step, which is obviously reflected now by the increased cost of living and the challenges that our regional communities face when trying to gain access to not extra health care but the health care that we all should expect.

I am calling on the state government to put time and effort into putting together a proposal for the doubling of the fuel subsidy to mirror what the previous government had committed to within

their election campaign. This is not about politics: this is about getting people the appropriate health care that is needed. We are not here to play games. We want to make sure that people do not have a detrimental effect on their life because of their lack of access to health care, and I am afraid that is exactly what is happening within our regions.

We have many more negative health outcomes because of a lack of access to appropriate medical care within my communities. As the member for Flinders—and I am sure it is reflected in members across our region—I get comments and concerns from people within my community weekly about the challenges that they are facing with healthcare access. Some of those stories are incredibly hard for us as members to hear because they are people whose lives are cut short, or their quality of life is cut short, because of the lack of access to health care.

We need to make sure we are investing in the foundations of our community to ensure that the quality of life and the sustainability of life within our regions are continued because without that, without the regions, without that \$29 billion that the regions put into our state, our state is going to be a hollow shell.

I have spoken in this place about the breadth of the electorate of Flinders many times and the unique environment enjoyed by those who are there and those who visit my region. We have some 26 national parks, conservation parks and marine parks across my electorate and to see the Department for Environment and Water, which manages a complex portfolio of natural and built assets that are critical for the wellbeing and economic prosperity of all South Australians, have their budget cut by such a significant amount really was quite confronting and quite disappointing.

We need to make sure we are investing back into the things that make our state livable. With a coastline of over 2,000 kilometres, coastal protection in particular is an incredibly important subject matter for those in my community and I was disappointed not to see more funding for coastal protection, especially in light of the recent erosion events that have been faced by my community on Eyre Peninsula. It is certainly front of mind at the moment.

I was also incredibly disappointed to see a \$1 million reduction in the DEW safety burning program. This is pre-emptive work that is done to put in place safety measures that look after our communities, which minimises risk when it comes to bushfire, and there are many communities within this state that that risk is very pertinent to every single fire danger season. With a \$1 million cut within that budget, I am worried that is going to mean there is an increased level of risk for bushfire within our communities.

With \$29 billion going into our state's economy from the regions—I will keep on bringing up that number—the Department of Primary Industries and Regions is an incredibly important one to advance the prosperity and sustainability of our primary industries and regional communities, and that is why it was incredibly disappointing to see a nearly 9 per cent cut to PIRSA's budget.

The operations of PIRSA are incredibly broad. They cover agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, research and development through SARDI, biosecurity and forestry. They cover regional development, which supports South Australian regions to grow, diversify and prosper by fostering and supporting regional projects. We need to be investing more in our regional economies, not taking money out.

A subject matter that is dear to my heart is the over 60 jetties which line our coastlines around not just Flinders but the whole state. Those jetties are key pieces of marine infrastructure, and in my electorate, by my count, there are some 18 jetties, which are so important to our communities. The jetties around the state are owned by the state government, with around half leased back to communities through their councils, especially around regional South Australia.

Councils across my region and the state have put a significant amount of ratepayer funds into these very important pieces of community infrastructure through the years. The previous government started the important work of developing and planning for a draft state jetties strategic plan. This work needs to be accelerated. We have seen these pieces of infrastructure get to a point of degradation that means they may not be sustainable without significant investment from the state government.

The lease arrangements that were in place with local councils are soon expiring. Some of these are expiring in only a couple of years' time and it was incredibly disappointing not to see a specific allocation towards jetties within the marine infrastructure aspect of the budget. I really think there is a missed opportunity in the short term, but I hope it is not within the medium term, because the jetties around our state are incredibly important, not just for those who live there but for those who visit, those who come and spend time within our regional communities and within our metropolitan communities. We are a coastal-based state, with the majority of us well within driving distance of our coastline, and these jetties around the state are incredibly important.

One that is close to my heart is the Tumby Bay Jetty, which is iconic. It was one of the ones that was featured in the Australia Post jetty stamp program. There are only four across the country and Tumby Bay Jetty was one of them, so it was sent all around the country and all around the world on our envelopes. It has got to such a point of degradation that the council is investing significant funds, hundreds of thousands of dollars, but that is only for short-term measures.

We need a state government that is actually putting strategic funding into our jetties. We are getting to a point of degradation that soon we will not be able to turn back from. If we get to the point where we are losing these vital pieces of marine infrastructure, I think it is a dark day for us as a state. We need to make sure that that investment is something that is strongly planned for and delivered by our state government.

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (11:22):** On behalf of the communities within the electorate of Playford, I speak in support of the Appropriation Bill. For those at home, by and large this will enshrine the first Malinauskas Labor government's budget into law. It will bring a lot of good to my communities of Mawson Lakes, Parafield Gardens, Salisbury Downs, Green Fields and Paralowie. Health is a big concern to my constituents. While we do not have a major hospital within the electorate, we are in proximity to both the Lyell McEwin and Modbury hospitals. The recent news to double the number of extra beds at the Lyell McEwin will be reassuring to many of my constituents, who are rightly concerned about the ramping crisis.

I am particularly pleased that this \$58 million investment will ensure patients can recover in rooms with single beds. Given the hospital has just over 400 beds, the additional 48 is a substantial increase. I was very grateful to recently meet with Sinead O'Brien and Ray Blight from the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network. They were of the view that single rooms are key to a more efficient and effective health service, and I am pleased that this is the trend forward. This is a vital piece of the \$2.4 billion health investment by the Malinauskas government. It would have been substantially depleted if we had locked into an expensive and unnecessary basketball stadium.

I am also delighted we will see some significant improvements to public transport within my electorate. Not only have we seen the return of trains to the Gawler line but this budget also locks in free public transport to seniors, all day, every day. With unleaded petrol at the dizzy heights of \$2.40 a litre, I am sure 1 July cannot come soon enough for our seniors. During the campaign, constituents like Trevor Dalton pointed out the need for bus services to the boulevard section of Parafield Gardens. This is a new part of the suburb, which will benefit from six stops through a \$500,000 investment.

As mentioned in my maiden speech, I believe we need to make significant impacts around housing. The days of Adelaide being renowned as an affordable place to live are sadly slipping away. We are now in a situation where the median cost of a house in Adelaide is now eight times the median household income. This is having an adverse impact on both our rental market and newcomers hoping to have a piece of South Australia to call their own. The good news is that South Australians have elected a government that is trying to make a difference, and I congratulate Minister Cook on her agenda to improve public housing in South Australia.

While there will always be more work to do, even if the impact is small, every new house built as part of a public housing program helps alleviate inflationary pressures in our private markets. The Malinauskas government will spend \$177.5 million over the next four years to grow and upgrade our public housing stock. I understand this will deliver 400 new public housing homes and bring another 350 up to standard so that they can provide shelter for families in need.

It will also launch a maintenance blitz on a further 3,000 homes to provide safe and suitable accommodation. As I walked through the suburbs I represent in the election campaign, I could see public housing in need of some extra TLC. I look forward to working with the minister on making a difference within my community on this vital front. Whenever it is needed, I will also be lending my voice to her in the hope that we can build on this. Facilities at The Pines Primary School have been an issue for some time. This budget locks in Labor's \$1 million commitment towards a new gym. I look forward to working with the school community in delivering this long-overdue upgrade.

On a separate, but still important matter, I note the significance this bill has in funding our emergency services. The north of Adelaide was hit two weeks ago with a damaging low-pressure system that brought torrential rain, flooding and a mini tornado. Quick to help out my community in its time of need were volunteers from the SES and CFS who were on hand during the most unsavoury hours.

Led by Anthony Gunter and Chris Noble-Banks, I say my heartfelt thanks to local units for their selfless acts that cleared away water passing into homes, flooding and fallen trees. These volunteers selflessly give up their time to make a difference. They do not do it for money but, in the process, they earn our respect and appreciation. I am particularly pleased that one of the first acts of this new government was to renew the value placed in our CFS and SES volunteers through the signing of their respective volunteer charters. This budget will now help enshrine those commitments.

I feel it is important that we also note and place on the record where we sit fiscally. I am doing this in the hope that we can have a more truthful discussion about debt, rather than the nonsense spruiked by the Liberal Party when they were in opposition between 2002 and 2016. For years, they maintained that Labor was reckless when it came to spending and that they should be seen as some kind of superior fiscal manager of the universe.

They have had four years in government and their record is not pretty. If they are going to play that card again, I will be there to remind them every step of the way that they inherited a government balance sheet with a total net debt level of \$12.95 billion or 63.5 per cent of total government revenues. In reaffirming the words of the Treasurer:

...in their 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.

It is easy to hide behind the pandemic, and I know they will do whatever they can to favourably manage this misperception, but we also know that debt was forecast to nearly double even before COVID came to town. While it will take some time for us to get back to pre-Liberal figures, the good news is that this budget projects that the ratio of revenue to debt will decline over the forward estimates.

The state government is the biggest buyer of goods and services in the state. I was particularly impressed by the Treasurer's commitment to revisit our procurement policies. In my time in the Northern Territory, I saw similar policies enacted by the Gunner Labor government with great success. Their Buy Local Plan gives local businesses greater opportunity to tender for and win government work.

Local businesses will be the big winners if government can change its purchasing habits in favour of local suppliers. Echoing the words of David Waylen from the Salisbury Business Association and the fantastic sign he has me waving, it is important to 'go local first'. I know the Treasurer highlighted a 5 per cent change to spending will boost our economy by over \$400 million per year, but I hope, for the sake of local businesses, we can go further.

I have chosen to highlight just a few examples of why the budget matters to the people living in the electorate of Playford. It will deliver enormous value to our communities, be it in health, education, housing, public transport, emergency services or small business. These benefits are enormous, and I am happy to commend this bill to the house.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:30):** I rise today to speak on the Appropriation Bill 2022 regarding the 2022-23 state budget. Of course, my country colleagues are always quick to get on the record the extraordinary economic contribution of South Australia's regions, which sits around \$31 billion for the last financial year, which is no mean feat. In my own electorate of Frome, we are the third largest

contributor to the economy, representing \$4.5 billion of the gross regional product, punching way above our weight, I think, for a region.

In recognising what contributes to that \$4.5 billion, it certainly is an interesting food bowl. There are canola crops, and we have broadacre farming. Durum wheat features significantly and supports the great businesses of San Remo and Pangkarra. A number of farmers grow hay, and we see through Balco, Gilmac and JT Johnson a very strong hay exporting contribution from the Mid North. There are livestock and merino wool, and we are known for the horticultural food bowl of the Adelaide Plains. Last but not least, there is our internationally renowned wine from the Clare Valley.

**An honourable member:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PRATT:** Hear, hear! With the state budget handed down last week, I am naturally disappointed with the lack of funding for projects in my own electorate of Frome because every MP should always want more. Given that the Labor Party's state election candidate for the 2022 election probably still lives in the western suburbs and did not ever make an effort to cross the Gawler River, it is not surprising that Labor has quickly forgotten a seat it does not hold.

By the government's own budget overview document, their definition of the Mid North region is in fact Port Pirie, and it is not even close. Perhaps the government needs to include a map in next year's budget. While Rik Morris sits up in the dream factory known as the PDU—we call it the Premier's Delivery Unit—I would like to know what deliverables the voters of Frome can expect from a government that has promised to service the state regardless of postcode.

We have seen a cut to PIRSA of almost \$16 million or nearly 9 per cent, which is a real kick in the guts to regional productivity. It is certainly a crucial agency, and any loss of funding is unforgivable. South Australia's regions and primary industries are certainly critical to the state's economy, supporting our export sector and providing significant employment opportunities in my electorate of Frome.

We certainly know that the cost of living has gone up yet again, but Labor has definitely failed to deliver a reprieve on that front. We see many South Australians struggling in this cost-of-living crisis. Meanwhile, the government in their wisdom decided to allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars to advertise their own budget's existence. Someone was paid to come up with this zinger: 'Budget 2022—this is for you.' But who else would it be for? We paid for it. Like the certainty of death and Labor government taxes, budgets get handed down every year to those who fund it. Sadly, we cannot rely on Labor to provide an equitable distribution back to our regions.

Every driver and freight operator has been hit by fuel hikes generally but, to add insult to injury, we see there is no expanded financial support for critically ill patients who rely on PATS. It is a common topic for regional MPs in the house, certainly on my side of the house, because it is a much-needed service. By contrast, the Marshall Liberal government was blind to political boundaries when it came to funding the regions for the last four years, and I am proud to tell anyone who will listen the significance of the funding and investment that took place over that four-year period to improve the lifestyle of many people, including my own.

As I said, it was blind to boundaries, and it delivered over \$100 million across at least five electorates represented at the time by Liberal, Labor, and two Independents. This was \$100 million allocated not for major infrastructure but for pools, schools and clubs. As the shadow minister for wellbeing, I certainly have a healthy appreciation for the social return on investment in funding for community health, sport and recreation.

I will take an indulgence to expand in some way on what that \$100 million breakdown was because, as I said, I am proud of it, but I think it goes to the heart of what governing for regional South Australia looks like. To celebrate the funding in the new seat of Frome, of which I am the proud member, I note that we saw \$30,000 going to Auburn Primary School, \$3.2 million allocated to the Balaklava pool, \$2,000 for Booborowie Netball Club, \$5,000 for Burra Junior Cricket Club, \$5 million allocated to a renovation of Clare High School, and \$31,000 for the renowned Clare Riesling Trail.

For the Clare Oval redevelopment, there was an allocation by the former Minister Wingard of \$880,000. The Dublin saleyards—a significant contributor to our economy—received \$11 million.

Eudunda Sports Club was a recipient of \$200,000. The Barns at Freeling, which is a fabulous asset for the locality, received \$360,000. Gulnare, a lovely little town north of Clare, received \$5,000 for the football club. Hamley Bridge Primary School scored \$60,000 as it should. We saw in Jamestown, at the showground, a \$400,000 investment.

Kapunda Football Club received \$267,000; Long Plains Netball Club, \$142,000; the Mallala Football Club, \$250,000, and I round it up and round it down; Manoora Primary School, \$30,000; Riverton Bowls Club, \$21,000; Robertstown Netball Club, \$6,000; Roseworthy and Saddleworth primary schools, \$20,000 and \$30,000 respectively; the Spalding Oval, \$146,000; Tarlee Primary School, \$400,000; and Thompson Beach coastal fencing, where the samphire coastline is a little hidden treasure, \$75,000.

Two Wells Bowls Club received \$200,000; Wasleys Community Group, \$5,000; and Watervale Bowls Club \$25,000. All I have done is hit up all the towns. Most towns received funding for more than just one project, and, as I elaborated earlier, this is \$100 million across the Mid North—not Pirie—where pools, schools and clubs were the winners.

That is why we will continue to govern from opposition—because we are the responsible party, the party of regional SA, the party of substance. We will always be ambitious and aspirational for South Australia whether in government or now in opposition (just for a short time anyway) and that will never change. We were an innovative government, and we will continue to pursue advancements that progress our economy and our way of life.

I make a pointed note of the Marshall Liberal government's and in fact Premier Marshall's own initiative for Lot Fourteen and the vision that that will continue to deliver for South Australia. We see that as a centre of excellence, and certainly the innovation and invention that are coming from the space and defence sectors have really led to an innovation in agtech. The farmers in my own family are certainly serviced by data from satellites, drones, and GPS apps that will now directly benefit the economy through primary industry.

To conclude, I call on the Labor government to honour its promise to be a government for all South Australians and to fulfil our Liberal election promises to regional SA, and some of the much-needed infrastructure projects such as eight regional helipads, including my town of Clare; a \$2 million facility upgrade for the Kapunda Primary School; and a \$1.2 million upgrade to the Jamestown Community School.

As country Liberal members, we continue to expound on PATS (the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme), and the importance of at least doubling that subsidy. I hope the government gets sick of hearing about it until they decide to do something. We will continue to call for more funding for regional roads—and I recognise the role Minister Brock, the member for Stuart, will play in that space—and, finally, a continuation of investment and support for local country businesses, because regions matter.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:40):** I rise to support the Appropriation Bill, which is an important measure so that some 100,000-odd public servants can get paid and a whole range of very important services can be delivered across our state. More importantly, this sets out what is a landmark state budget for South Australia that delivers on the incoming Malinauskas government's election commitments, which have focused significantly on our health services.

This budget delivers \$2.4 billion of additional investment into SA Health: opening more hospital beds, employing more doctors and nurses and paramedics across the whole system, opening more ambulance stations and building a new ambulance headquarters, expanding the services that will be provided at the new Women's and Children's Hospital and providing upgrades for country hospitals across the state.

Everywhere you look there is significant investment in terms of health services, which is a very significant challenge in terms of the huge delays patients have been facing in getting the services they need. Ultimately we need more capacity in the system to do that, and this budget starts our process of delivering. As health minister, that is something I am very excited about.



Today, I want to make some comments in relation to some of our local events, particularly local implementation of what this budget means and our investments and election commitments in terms of the electorate of Kaurana. I am very proud and honoured to have been re-elected again to represent the people of Kaurana—this is the third time now—and I will work hard for the people of my electorate every day in this parliament to make sure we can deliver services and improvements that people need in our local area.

I am delighted that this budget now invests additional services in our local area. One of the key issues for our area is investment in Noarlunga Hospital, and this budget will deliver an additional 24 beds into Noarlunga Hospital to make sure we can provide additional care for people. These will be focused on mental health services—which, we know, are a significant blockage in our health system—in terms of people getting access to the care they need and making sure they can get through the emergency department and do not suffer that access block, which is what leads to ramping.

We also have a number of very important announcements and commitments that have been delivered in this budget in the local area; importantly, upgrades to the Noarlunga Football Club and new clubrooms for the Seaford Storm Netball Club, which has been doing an excellent job in our area as well.

One project I am really excited about is finally coming to fruition, and that is the duplication of Main South Road between Seaford and Sellicks Beach. This project was originally in the 2017-18 budget, but no work has happened on it. In fact, the project was scaled down over those past five years and was going to include only one lane one way and two lanes the other way between Aldinga and Sellicks Beach. To most people in the south, it sounded like yet another failed one-way Southern Expressway plan for the south.

This budget will fix that by having two lanes each way for the outer stretch down to Sellicks Beach and also additional grade separation to make sure that we do not replace one roundabout with another roundabout, leading to significant delays. We are actually going to get on with the job of delivering this road, unlike the significant delays we have seen previously. It is certainly an issue that is raised constantly with me.

Also, we are starting work in terms of returning our public transport—our train services, the Seaford rail service—back into public hands. The Seaford rail network and service is something that so many people in the south rely on. The concern and outrage from the community was so bad in terms of the privatisation of those services under the previous government. I think that there is significant delight in the community that we will now see them return to public hands.

In addition, we are now delivering a \$2 million upgrade to the Noarlunga train station. This is a train station that is old and past its use-by date. It has had issues repeatedly, including escalators being out of service, not for days at a time but for months and months at a time. This upgrade will deliver new escalators at Noarlunga train station, new services, new amenities and lighting to help the security at that station. I am looking forward to seeing the upgrade of that station being delivered.

There are a number of other local supports and grants being provided to the community. One is in relation to working with the council on Beach Road, which is such a key part of our local area in terms of Christies Beach, and making sure that we can improve the amenity of what people receive at that road.

A smaller announcement funded through this budget that I am excited about is support for the Disabled Surfers Association SA, which is a great organisation that runs at Moana Beach and helps people with disabilities for free; this is not some high-charge operation. It is volunteer-run and helps people who have disabilities to get on a surfboard in the ocean. You have to see the smiles on people's faces when they experience catching their first wave. It is absolutely delightful.

This is an organisation that had been denied access to state government sporting funds. In fact, I raised this with the previous minister, Corey Wingard, who fobbed it off and denied their requests, all because they are part of a national organisation, even though all the people are based here in South Australia. They have a national ABN, and that ruled them out of any funding. Well, we

are now providing funding to help with their equipment, and I know that they are absolutely delighted about that.

We are also upgrading a number of school crossings, which we know are an issue for people in the local area, particularly when you have busy drop-off and pickup times. At South Port Primary School in Port Noarlunga South and at the All Saints Catholic Primary School in Seaford, we will be putting in place new, updated school crossings to improve safety for parents and, more particularly, for children at the key drop-off and pickup times at those locations.

Again, I am delighted with the campaign that we have run. We ran a very positive campaign. We ran a campaign that was focused on delivering on the key issues that people had in the community, primarily health services and also local amenity services. We did not see much of a campaign from the Liberal Party. I thank all the candidates who put their name up to be part of the campaign that we saw recently.

I would like to thank some key people who played important roles in the work we have done locally, in particular two people who ran my campaign, Josh Harmer and Kylie Douglas. Josh, who has now come to my ministerial office, is an incredibly smart person who did a great job in spearheading the campaign. Kylie Douglas is absolutely one of the people who you will meet with a heart of gold, and she worked her guts out in spreading the Labor message, just as she has done in previous campaigns across the south. Her entire family helped, in particular Alistair and the whole Douglas-Byrne family.

Alistair Douglas, Laura Byrne, Lachlan Byrne and Cameron Douglas all contributed so much to our campaign and ultimately helped to achieve a Labor government in terms of their huge efforts. I cannot thank them enough for all the hard work they have contributed. They backed it all straight up with the federal election immediately afterwards. I would also like to thank Eloise Atterton and Phoebe Loy from my office, and Lucy Ormsby, who previously worked in the office. They have all provided great service to our local community. It is a huge task to provide those services.

We also want to thank a number of people who helped out in terms of the campaign, including Naomi Piper, Christina Slater, Alex Dalton, Nathan Fiedler, Kaylan Scurrah, Jordan Fell, the entire Kaurna sub-branch for their assistance; and people such as my friend Jesse, who flew in from interstate for the day to help. They have all done an incredible job.

In particular, I would like to thank as well my now Chief of Staff and former adviser, Gemma Paech, who did an absolutely incredible job during the past election campaign, in the past four years and subsequently now. She is absolutely one of the most passionate, hardworking and intelligent people we are lucky enough to have in the labour movement. I am so thankful for her service in helping our movement, particularly in my office, and developing our health policies that have been so successful in terms of the election campaign, and now we are looking to make sure that they are absolutely successful in rolling them out and delivering them.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my wonderful, committed, absolutely brilliant and intelligent wife, Connie, who some would say is long-suffering because of our service here. It has often been said that we are the volunteers and our partners are the conscripts to life in politics. Connie has gone above and beyond, even going to the point of helping put together our polling booth rosters and the like. She has done an incredible job to support me.

Particular thanks go to my wonderful children, Anna and Alex. I do not know if they quite understood what this whole election campaign was all about. They were a bit disappointed when the federal election campaign was on and there were not posters of me up: 'What was that all about? Who are these other people who dare to have their posters up?' I thank them for their support. I know it is a balance for all of us who have young kids in trying to make sure that we devote as much time as we can to our really important work, but also as much time as we can to our families and dedicating time to that. I want to thank them for the sacrifices they make so that we can help make a contribution here.

I am looking forward to the next four years. We now have an incredible platform upon where we can deliver for the people of South Australia, deliver on the platform we were elected upon, and we are all very excited to get on with the job.

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (11:53):** I rise to speak in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2022. As a regional MP, I have my eyes firmly fixed on the detail of the budget, with a focus on how investment supports my regional electorate. As members of parliament, we have the weighty responsibility of understanding the needs for investment of our state and ensuring investment is delivered to support our communities and grow and sustain our economy. I want to highlight that investment is made for all people, not just a segment of our community that happens to live in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Our regional areas are extensive. The MacKillop electorate alone encompasses an area of more than 34,000 square kilometres. Our communities and businesses conduct their daily lives by travelling many kilometres to work and to school. We travel extensively for health services, our work and our play, be it football, netball, hockey, tennis, cricket, bowls or other sporting pursuits. Many of our services are centralised in regional centres. We travel for banking, financial services, office supplies and shopping.

Our communities and businesses are diverse. We are fortunate to have strong agricultural and primary industry sectors at the moment. When the fortunes of agriculture are good, this flows into our economy. When things are not travelling as well, the effects also flow on to our economy. When trade relations do not work in our favour, there are direct repercussions to our economy.

We have labour shortages. My electorate is crying out for workers in a range of fields. We have a shortage of homes that are available and affordable for workers and their families. We have constraints on housing and services that are acting as impediments to people moving into the electorate. This further impacts the worker and skills shortages we already see, from meat processing workers to teachers, mechanics to GPs. The housing shortages are contributing to our regional labour shortages.

Our regions also have sectors of our community who need assistance. Of concern is homelessness in our community, both hidden and in plain sight. We unfortunately have families who experience domestic violence and need support. We have people who need access to assistance to address mental health challenges. We have families with complex relationships who need assistance. Our services for many of these people are centralised or thin on the ground. People have to travel to Adelaide or to regional centres to receive the support they need.

The picture I describe is that of diversity. Our regional communities are economic powerhouses—vibrant, innovative and resilient—but our communities, families and individuals also need support underpinned by government assistance. In this way, we are no different from our city cousins and should not and cannot be ignored. In terms of this year's budget, I need to both acknowledge where investment has followed a government election commitment and highlight some concerns I have with the investment proposed under the budget handed down on 3 June 2022.

The MacKillop electorate and our southern neighbours in the Mount Gambier electorate are both the welcome beneficiaries of a range of health funding initiatives. There is no doubt that investment in health has been welcomed by the community of the electorates that cover all the Limestone Coast as a region.

The health investment for MacKillop includes \$8 million investment in the Naracoorte hospital. I have no doubt that my constituents—doctors and hospital staff alike—will appreciate this investment. The investment in the Naracoorte hospital is much needed and it is important that this commitment has been made. I note that the Naracoorte hospital has been on the waiting list for replacement or a major upgrade for 20 years. Under the previous Marshall Liberal government, I know we spent \$3½ million on the ED and a sterilisation unit, and this was welcomed. However, the \$8 million that has been proposed by this new government will also be welcomed.

The Keith and District Hospital has been allocated \$5.3 million to provide a sustainable operating approach for the hospital over the next four years. I, like many others in the Keith community, have been pleased to see this commitment. I look forward to better understanding how this investment will be integrated into the services delivered through the hospital. One of the challenges for this investment will be to see how it will add value to the service delivery model that has been under discussion in the Keith community. I understand that this matter is under active consideration.

The MacKillop electorate will no doubt also reap the benefit from investment in the electorate of Mount Gambier. The investment of mental health beds for the Mount Gambier hospital is one such area. We have a shortage of mental health support and mental health beds in our region. It is a tragic and unfortunate situation when constituents in my electorate are waiting for a hospital bed and mental health support in the Mount Gambier hospital. It is my hope that the investment in mental health beds in Mount Gambier is accelerated and that this investment is accompanied by appropriate staffing levels so that members of our community can receive the support they need locally. I also note and welcome the separate investment in drug rehabilitation beds and the emergency department at the Mount Gambier hospital.

Additional ambulance services for Mount Gambier and the Keith community have also been provided for in this budget. Our community will very much welcome the additional officers in this crucial area. Like many regional locations, the MacKillop electorate is in need of additional ambulance resources to provide a core service to our community. Only recently I have spoken in this place on the key role volunteers play in ambulance services.

As highlighted earlier, our regional areas are extensive. Unfortunately, the addition of much-needed services does not assist all. For example, the Lameroo Ambulance Committee has told me that over the past 12 months the town had 190 call-outs, utilising just four volunteers. As a comparison, Pinnaroo, approximately 40 kilometres away, has had more than 200 call-outs with 14 members. Consequently, the Pinnaroo volunteers have had to cover many Lameroo call-outs, which can significantly delay response times and places a higher demand on volunteers.

The Lameroo ambulance committee has a plan to increase the number of volunteers to fill the local ambulance roster. However, what the district also needs is a fully paid qualified paramedic, equipped with a four-wheel drive vehicle, who could also assist the local hospital and doctor as required. A rapid-response paramedic would significantly cut down the time it takes to attend to a patient, particularly when responding to accidents on-farm that are inaccessible to traditional ambulance vehicles.

The allocation of additional paramedics is needed for locations such as Kingston, Pinnaroo and Lameroo. Our regions really rely on volunteers, who are being pushed to breaking point. However, while I am grateful that my electorate has seen some much-needed investment in health, I am aware that other regional areas have missed out on new investment in health. We know there is much more to do in many of our regional electorates.

I also hold concerns in relation to other aspects of the budget, which include investment in our regional roads. The MacKillop electorate has roads in a state of decline that should not be ignored. I return to my earlier points about the level of travel that is required in our regions. With this level of travel for personal, work, business and freight needs, we need a regional road investment program that continues and expands the investment started by the Marshall Liberal government.

Investment is needed to underpin the condition of roads and the safety of those who travel on them. Under the Marshall Liberal government, I was pleased that inroads were able to be made on road priorities across the electorate, including investment in the Clay Wells Road and the Ngarkat Highway, not to mention the Penola bypass. The works were priority because of the failure of the former Labor government who, instead of fixing roads, chose to reduce their speed limits. Never was the low priority of our regional roads so evident than under the former Labor government. Let us not see a return to the neglect.

Ongoing work is needed to repair the Princes Highway. I was very pleased to see the addition of \$20 million over the next two years allocated to this work in the current budget. Ongoing work is needed to address the bitumen patchwork on the Southern Ports Highway between Beachport and Millicent and beyond. Also, ongoing work is needed to repair Rowney Road, the Bordertown to Naracoorte road and many more, plus also the Mallee Highway, just to name a few. It is a folly to kick the can down our damaged roads, which are badly in need of substantial investment.

Investment in mobile phone towers is also critical for our businesses and the connectivity of our community and its safety. I have heard too many stories of near misses and desperate circumstances, including on-farm accidents where people have been unable to access reliable phone

coverage. I have unfortunate stories about services that are non-existent or patchy, service standards that should be met that our metropolitan cousins take for granted.

I have a ludicrous example of where a mobile phone customer was unable to be contacted by their service provider when they had sought to complain about their mobile phone service due to poor connectivity. For many people, their mobile phone is a critical piece of equipment in transacting their business. Calls missed can be work lost, sales forgone, delays caused and business operations impeded. It is for these reasons that I am concerned about what the budget holds for the future rollout of our mobile phone coverage that is so critical for our regions.

The Marshall Liberal government provided much-needed investment in mobile phone service. Together with the federal Liberal government, we were able to make some ground on this important issue. With our telecommunication partners, the Marshall Liberal government were able to have mobile towers installed at Keilira, Legges Lane and Avenue Range west of Lucindale. During this period, the federal liberal government also saw the installation of Tower Road, Kybybolite and Kalangadoo towers.

Our blackspots remain too extensive. We need ongoing investment in this area. In MacKillop, I have been advocating for prioritisation of Sherwood to the east of Keith. The lack of phone coverage in this area was laid bare during the 2018 Sherwood fire. In addition, the areas to the west of Penola and Coonawarra, around Maaoupe and Mount Burr and across to Furner and up to Kangaroo Inn, are also badly in need of improved mobile coverage. The Wrattobully area that sits to the east of Naracoorte is another priority area. It is a highly productive and intensively farmed area that needs better mobile coverage to underpin the operation of businesses, logistics, wine grape and livestock production systems.

The instigation of a cross-border commissioner, funded through this budget, is an area of work that I sincerely hope brings benefits for my electorate and communities across the border. The Limestone Coast's proximity to the state border means that many in our community live their lives across two states. For my constituents and members of the cross-border communities who live in Victoria, our local governments and the state governments have a range of matters which would benefit from better coordination in areas such as schooling, school buses, health care, just to name some.

If we can achieve better collaboration and coordination in the area of transport and roads that link across our borders, it will assist businesses and our communities. I would hope that the cross-border commissioner would support the review and prioritisation of initiatives associated with the Green Triangle Freight Action Plan. I look forward, with some measured caution, to the creation of the commissioner's position. It is a position that needs to add value and not bureaucracy for cross-border communities.

The forestry sector is a foundation industry in the Limestone Coast. It continues to provide generations of employment opportunities and is a source of critical wood supply nationally for our building sector and a range of other industries. The sector has rightfully received funding in this budget. For the sector's future, we must continue to invest in science and innovation to ensure this sector thrives.

We still have many challenges before us that require investment. We need ongoing funding streams for the upgrade of jetties, to support councils and to manage coastal erosion. We need provision to manage biosecurity threats to our agricultural sector. We need investments in our aging school infrastructure. Our students and teachers need world-class facilities. We need investment to support vulnerable people who will be overwhelmed by increasing costs of living. We need to coordinate local, state and federal governments to respond to our housing crisis. We need social housing in the MacKillop electorate. There is unmet demand for housing.

In summing up, in talking to the Appropriation Bill 2022, I think it is going to be very interesting with this new Labor government over the next four years. The Marshall Liberal government worked through a pandemic that saw immense economic turmoil and uncertainty. We have seen a massive amount of money spent on infrastructure around the state. It is going to be interesting.

The first point to note is that, usually after a Liberal government, when a new Labor government rolls in the financial means and availability of funds for expenditure would, let's say, be more accessible than the new Labor government has found on this occasion. We have debt levels about which I think even Labor are now saying, 'Where is the limit and how do we move forward, and how do we actually manage the finances?' Interestingly, we have seen some delay on projects—major projects like the north-south corridor and the Flinders Medical Centre upgrade, just to name a few.

It would be nice to recognise that while our economy is, you have to say, booming at the moment, we are seeing huge inflationary pressures, interest rates going the wrong way for those who have to meet interest rate payments, whether it be for business or housing, and there is an immense amount of concern out there. I hope that the Labor government recognises that government is there to support, perhaps manage, but certainly not get in the way of an economy that is trying to recover from a pandemic and economic uncertainty.

This pandemic was on the world stage, so it is a worldwide economic issue. We are seeing a war in Eastern Europe that is causing even more uncertainty. We are seeing energy costs going through the roof. We are seeing the costs of resources like coal and gas and crude oil hit new heights, and this all adds to what I call the government's need to be very cautious.

One of the things I will say is that if government does not have to be in the game of building and competing with the private sector, it probably should not be at this stage. We know that the private sector is struggling to find employees, it is struggling to find workers to fulfil just basic operations that are around our great nation, but particularly here in South Australia.

If the government are going out there and continuing on with major infrastructure upgrades, they are competing with the private sector, and that makes it even harder on the private sector. For example, if we have these major builds going on, particularly in Adelaide, then these builds in the regions cannot take place as easily as they would if they did not have to compete with the Adelaide infrastructure spends.

Although we as a Liberal government in the last four years kept our economy going, tried to maintain a level of employment that did not desert vulnerable workers, kept the infrastructure upgrades into major projects that we probably needed, this government actually finds itself on the other end of the spectrum, where the pandemic is unfolding, unravelling and we are moving on. I hope that it realises that it may not have to go out there and spend huge amounts, billions of dollars, on infrastructure, competing with the private sector, which is already struggling to find the resources that are in short supply around the world, let alone Australia and South Australia. It will be most interesting to see how that pans out.

The language we have heard from this new Malinauskas Labor government is that the regions matter. I talk about the Limestone Coast in particular. I just mention the strong working relationship I have with the member for Mount Gambier and his strong advocacy for the Mount Gambier community and the fact that we are one, MacKillop and Mount Gambier, on the Limestone Coast. However, we need a strong government that actually looks after this region. We need good infrastructure. We have already seen good money being spent on health, and long may we see continued investments in these areas.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the measure of your government over the next four years is what this budget represents towards roads. I hear that there is about \$460 million in the budget. It will be interesting to see how it is matched and worked with the new Labor federal government and the extra funds that will come forth from the Labor federal government to match the funding that your new Labor state government have allocated. I am hoping that there is funding for MacKillop, with some of its roads and infrastructure that are falling apart faster than they can be maintained.

Just to give you an insight, we had a meeting with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport in November last year. Our roads during the last winter were falling apart. In a wet winter, the road surface was falling apart faster than it could be maintained. We were seeing working crews coming in from Victoria, trucks working on South Australian roads, working for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport in South Australia because the very crews that were meant to be looking after the South Australian roads could not keep up.

This is the state of roads in regional areas, and it is unfortunate. I wish we could have seen more money in the four years that we were in government. We did seek a massive amount of expenditure on some major roads, as I highlighted in my speech earlier, but there are more roads to do and the maintenance is ongoing. Our list of priorities for regional investments is long. We need ongoing investment that delivers for all our regions.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (12:13):** It is always interesting following the member for MacKillop. He says a lot of things that I will agree with—some of the things about just letting the market rip, not necessarily, but certainly a number of other elements. All of us from country South Australia probably have at the back of our mind that this is a very metro-centric state. When the predominance of the people in this chamber on both sides are from the city, a real effort has to be made to ensure that people in regional communities get the services that they deserve, that there is real equity and there is real access. Elements of this budget do address some of those issues.

I guess that, in my mind, as a member with the largest state electorate, and a state electorate that now no longer has Kimba and Cowell, so is predominantly mining, resource processing, the pastoral industry and tourism, you are always on the lookout for what is going to support the diverse Eyre communities within the electorate and help address some of the challenges. This applies especially to our more remote communities, which are often forgotten, and they should not be.

It is clear in the budget that there is a strong emphasis on investing in health. The amount of extra funding to be invested in the health system in this state is \$2.4 billion, and that would mean additional doctors, additional nurses, importantly additional beds, and especially additional beds for people with mental health issues. That will benefit not only the metropolitan area but also the regional areas.

I think it is incredibly important that, wherever possible, we see whether we can generate the resources that are needed out in regional communities when it comes to health services. However, we know that a whole range of procedures happen in the large metropolitan hospitals because of the complexity and because of the specialisations of the teams involved, so overall investment in the system benefits all South Australians. Of course, you want to see specific examples in your own communities, and there are a number of examples of those in this budget that I will touch upon.

Another area where there was significant investment—over \$600 million in new investment—was in the education system. Some of the elements of that were very important, especially around support services in the education system. This is something that is often a real challenge, especially in country areas when it comes to mental health support counsellors, when it comes to speech pathologists and when it comes to occupational therapists.

We know that, during the last four years, one of the criticisms that teachers made was about the sheer complexity and time they had to put in to get these resources—and often to go nowhere. We are simplifying that while at the same time making a really strong effort to recruit the specialist services that we need. We need to make sure that those specialist services then are not just available in the metropolitan area but that they get out into the regions, and it would be great to see more of those specialist services, those specialist people resident in our regions. I think that is an incredibly important initiative.

Another important initiative is the five new technical colleges throughout the state: three in the metropolitan area and two in our regions. We all know that there are huge skill shortages across the state and across the nation, and it is something that needs to be addressed. I could speak at length about how—and I think there has been fault on both sides here—over an extended period of time the TAFE system was treated in this state. I know a number of people I know in TAFE—really skilled people, really skilled lecturers—became deeply demoralised.

It is great to see these new technical colleges, and it is great to see the new federal government's initiatives when it comes to TAFE and the free places and the places that are not going to cost the students in areas of technical need. We need to do far more in that space, and we especially need to do that in country areas, because in country areas TAFE plays an incredibly important role. It is great to see these five new technical colleges, and they need to work, obviously, closely not only with the high schools in their regions but also with the TAFE sector, which needs to be reinvigorated.

There was an agenda of privatisation, partly by stealth, with the previous government. We need to recognise that TAFE needs to form the backbone of our vocational education system. There is a role for the private sector, but there is a very strong role for a strong public education, vocational education provider.

They were some of the big issues. It is often interesting, when you listen to what is almost a mantra, that sometimes it skips over a lot of the details about how Labor really bowed out in the regions. I would contest that; I could shower the opposition with a lot of detail about why that is not the case.

I found it really interesting when it came to some of the priorities. We talked about health as being a major priority and we contrasted it with the basketball stadium. I thought it was incredibly interesting that the now opposition were in there backing a basketball stadium and the people from the regions were in there backing a basketball stadium when there was this desperate need out in the country for health services, just to name one of the desperate needs.

When you spoke to people out there in the country, and when I spoke to people in the communities in my electorate, they would just shake their heads at a basketball stadium for the central part of the CBD. It was great to see us cut that project off at the knees. The money that would have eventually been spent on that project will now go into our health system, along with the additional money that is needed. That \$2.4 billion over the next four years in our health system is going to be incredibly important.

One of the other things that is going to be incredibly important when it comes to our health system is what will go on at a federal level and the meeting with the premiers. The premiers are asking for \$5 billion in additional funding nationally for the health system in order to partly address the vandalism committed by the Abbott government when it tore up the federal-state health agreement. It tore it up and applied a different formula, which ended up costing the public health system nationally and in this state billions of dollars. That is something that needs to be addressed. The federal government needs to come to the party and at least commit that \$5 billion.

I will go through some of the initiatives in different parts of my electorate. I now share Port Augusta with the member for Stuart, and we will be working closely together to make sure there is delivery of the election commitments to both the seat of Stuart and the seat of Giles when it comes to Port Augusta. When we are talking about health in Port Augusta, there is going to be an upgrade at the hospital. I am hoping that is just the start because more money needs to be spent on the hospital in Port Augusta.

There was a very significant upgrade of Whyalla Hospital and some additional services were provided, so we do need a significant upgrade in Port Augusta as well. When the Whyalla upgrade happened, we also upgraded the hospitals in Port Lincoln and the Riverland, and I think we also spent money in Mount Gambier—strangely enough, out in the regions where apparently we do not spend money. That hospital upgrade will be welcome news.

Another additional thing that is happening in Port Augusta is the extra ambulance services. In the Upper Spencer Gulf, there are going to be 33 additional new ambulance officers and paramedics, and that will make a difference. There will be extra ambulances, and between Whyalla and Port Augusta there are going to be two new transfer crews and new shifts. That will address the complaints I was getting as a local member about the long delays in accessing the ambulance service in Whyalla and Port Augusta. That additional expenditure, which we want to have in place by 2024, will be a real plus for the Port Augusta community.

I have mentioned technical colleges. There is a \$35 million expenditure in Port Augusta when it comes to technical colleges. I do not need to repeat again the need to bring online those vocational services and skilled people we need across the spectrum in trades, technicians and trainees, so that is a real plus. In addition to that \$35 million, there will be \$6 million in recurrent expenditure for the technical college in Port Augusta.

Another area of expenditure in Port Augusta was the Arid Lands Botanic Garden. It has depended almost entirely upon local council money, yet this is something that is unique. This is an attribute for the state and, I would argue, for the nation, yet the ratepayers of Port Augusta had to fund it themselves at a significant deficit.



Once again, it raises the question that those of us from the regions ask: while something of a similar nature in Adelaide gets funded—a number of botanic gardens are funded in Adelaide—why not this unique Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta? It was good to be able to come to the party and to provide \$3 million over the next four years. I can assure you that the volunteers who do a lot of work in that garden were more than happy with this initiative on the part of the Malinauskas government.

Another important element in relation to Port Augusta was City Safe. When it comes to antisocial behaviour and criminal behaviour—City Safe was not on the criminal end of the spectrum—the City Safe program that was in place did make a difference. It was based more on relationships than anything else. We have committed funding to the City Safe program. It was interesting to watch the argy-bargy with the previous government about funding, about this and about that. We just cut through all that and did the right thing by the people of Port Augusta.

Whyalla was a significant beneficiary when it comes to the hydrogen plant. It was interesting listening to some of the people opposite. Obviously, they want to see major investment in regional communities, and Whyalla, out of all the major regional communities, has been through probably more ups and downs than any other regional community. It is a community that once upon a time stood at over 33,000 people and is now under 22,000.

It is a community that seriously needs to diversify its economic base, and here we have the largest state commitment in many decades to a hydrogen plant, electrolyzers and storage in Whyalla and what do we get from the opposition? Attack, attack, undermine, undermine, undermine. The power plant, especially the electrolyzers, will form part of the much bigger hydrogen story in Whyalla—hopefully, a story that will eventually integrate the steelworks and its massive magnetite resource on its doorstep.

The approach to the hydrogen plant reminds me of the approach that was taken to the big battery in this state—a big battery that was denigrated, especially at a federal level by the Coalition, calling it the Big Banana and all sorts of other things. But it was a project that ended up delivering beyond expectations when it came to grid-related services, so that was a real plus for this state.

There is also a commitment to extra ambulances and the sport hub in Whyalla. Something has been said about the sport hub, and I notice that Whyalla was one of the places picked out. The reason there is funding for the sport hub in Whyalla is that when we were in government we funded the sport hub in Port Augusta when it was a Liberal seat, we funded the sport hub in Port Pirie when it was an Independent seat and we put funding into other sport hubs around the state, so a lot of the other stuff has been done. Port Lincoln was one of the early ones, with Ravensdale. I am not sure what funding went into that from the state. It was so long ago it could have been a Liberal state government back then, because that was the first of the sporting hubs on Spencer Gulf.

In the community of Roxby Downs, we have allocated \$300,000 to a community shed. We also allocated something to the Roxby Downs Community Club, a not-for-profit. I have just written to the minister. That club is in all sorts of trouble, and I have asked for an investigation into what has led to this trouble in Roxby Downs because we could see a not-for-profit, a very significant asset in that community, slipping into private sector hands, which is something that the community is not keen to see happen.

Also for Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy and all the unincorporated areas, we have reintroduced the registration concession. For people in those communities, that is a 50 per cent reduction in their registration for light vehicles and for heavy vehicles a 40 per cent reduction. That was one of the first things the Liberal government cut and yet it talked about regions. These are some of our more remote regions, where transport costs are a hell of a lot higher than in the metropolitan area and a lot higher than in the areas of our state nearer to the city. That is a real plus for those communities.

When I was up in the APY lands with the now Premier, the health minister and the Aboriginal affairs minister, one of the things that was raised when it came to Gayle's Law was, yes, it was great that we pushed through Gayle's Law in the parliament—the tragic circumstances that led to that were terrible—but there was no funding for the escorts or the support people. That had to come out of the medical budget of the organisation up there. It was great to see the now Premier in action. With just

a couple of moments' thought, at an executive meeting of the APY lands, he committed to funding that, so that those escorts did not come at the expense of the delivery of health services in the APY lands. That was a real positive.

I want to also get onto the PACE program, the money that we put into mineral exploration in this state. It is one of the things that often goes unheralded. Labor has a really proud history in this area, because the era of magnetic surveying of the state to look below the sedimentary layer for mineral wealth was initiated when Frank Blevins, a former member for Giles, was a minister many years ago. I think it was initiated back in 1991 and it has more or less continued in various forms since. I would acknowledge that the previous government also funded the exploration effort. It is one of the best investments the state makes, given the return on the dollars invested.

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (12:33):** I rise to make a brief contribution to the Appropriation Bill. I will turn my mind back a little to a bit over 12 months ago and the disappointment that my community felt with the state budget—\$2.3 million for the entire Limestone Coast specifically in the state budget. Granted, there were other buckets of money that we needed to compete for at a state level.

Instead of sitting back and feeling sorry for ourselves, what we decided to do was get on the front foot, consult deeply and regularly with key stakeholders and pretty much put together a Future Mount Gambier and district document that we could take to both major parties and sit down in a constructive way and talk about Mount Gambier's future and the investment that at a community level we saw was vital to move our community into the future.

After extensive consultation, I want to really acknowledge the Mount Gambier city council, the District Council of Grant, the Regional Development association and, to a lesser degree, the Limestone Coast Local Government Association. We looked at all the plans that were in place and tried to coordinate a document that would encapsulate the main elements of those plans and consolidate it into one document going forward.

That led to the Future Mount Gambier and district document being developed. It was an \$85 million ask at that stage, highlighting key areas like forestry, housing for all, infrastructure investment fund, tourism, cross-border commissioner, TAFE, drug and alcohol services and mental health services, just to name a few. It really spelt out what the investment was, where it would be targeted and then the benefits leading from that.

Once that document was put together, I sat down with the leaders of both major parties and stepped them through what this document actually meant, and answered any questions but predominantly talked through the opportunities for South Australia with investment in the Limestone Coast. I think all our regions are highly productive areas and can contribute greatly to the wellbeing of our state, and investment will unlock that potential and that growth that all South Australians will benefit from.

I was really pleased in August of last year, after the invite went out to all the leaders, including minor party leaders, to launch this document in Mount Gambier. The leader of the Labor Party showed an interest, rocked up and listened firsthand. My only concern was that it was still during the COVID days and we had a cap at the venue of 100 people, and we had responses from about 120 to 130 before we could cut it off. There was great interest in this.

August in Mount Gambier is sometimes not the balmiest of weather, but on that night the leader of the Labor Party certainly met and spoke with our community leaders about how important this document was in informing the foundations of our community moving forward. I reiterate that the invite went out to all leaders, even minor party leaders. From there, we see in this state budget a large number of commitments that I think have been generated predominantly from the Future Mount Gambier document, and it is really pleasing to see.

This is not my document: this is our community's document. I am not standing here taking any credit for it. The City of Mount Gambier strategic plan covered many of these things, so did the District Council of Grant's strategic plan and so did Regional Development Australia's strategic plan. All I did was combine and consult on that so, really, this budget is recognition of all those plans, some of which were collated into one document.

I want to talk a little bit about what some of this will mean. I was at a forestry awards night on Friday and somebody sat next to me and said they were from Victoria lobbying the state government. They asked, 'What would be the three things that you would talk about if you were in my position talking to the Victorian state government?' It caused me to reflect a little bit on that.

The forest industry 20 years ago would be unrecognisable today. Things have moved on so much: the technology, the skills base. If you walked into a modern-day mill, such as a OneFortyOne mill now, it is almost 'spot the human'. It is highly technical, a rapid rate of knots producing a high-end, quality product. So I drilled it down to investment in innovation and investment in skills because the skills workforce in 20 years' time in the forest industry is going to be unrecognisable to us today.

Skills and innovation are two of the key things in this state's budget, with an investment in our forest industry for the innovation hub called the centre of excellence. The technical college that is going to be built in Mount Gambier but will service the whole Limestone Coast and the \$5 million upgrade to the existing TAFE facilities is that investment in the skills going forward. We have to make sure that that money is spent appropriately and gives the best return on the investment for our industry.

There are also other investments, such as the investment in fire towers. The greatest risk to the forest industry is fire. A fire will wipe out entire plantations—35 years' worth of investment gone in a single day. Serious investment in early detection and early response is vitally important. It is so pleasing in this state budget that this government has actually listened.

That is a theme that I will talk about briefly. I see this state government as not a government that thinks it knows it all, particularly in my region. It has been prepared to come down, listen and adapt plans where there could be improvement made, and the technical college is one example of that. Initially scheduled to be at a high school, there were some problems with that. Putting it at TAFE will really open that technical college up to the entire Limestone Coast as it will be owned by all the schools, not just one school.

Fire towers are another example where the state government has listened to the community's concern because fire protection is not just a forestry industry issue: it is a community issue. Most fires do not start in a forest. They start on farmland or out of forests on the side of a road, for instance. If a fire gets hold, our communities are at serious risk. So, whilst it is an investment in the fire towers, it is also an investment in protecting our community.

The cross-border commissioner is something that I have been belting on about for many years. I think it could be six-odd years. I have previous party room papers that I have presented. Again, we have a government that is prepared to listen. Whilst it is for the entire border regions right around the state of South Australia, particularly for my region and the member for MacKillop's region, we have a unique opportunity, and I am unashamed to talk about it.

Some of our potential lies in Victoria because they have a bigger population base and they are located right on our doorstep. We would be crazy not to engage actively with the state of Victoria for our community's benefit and, in essence, the state's benefit. I will give one example. From Mount Gambier, it is about two hours to Warrnambool versus pretty much five hours to Adelaide, so it makes sense that some health-related services could and should be accessed by our community if they cannot be delivered in Mount Gambier. We need ways of working with the two health bureaucracies to make sure that the experience for our community is maximised through accessing services in Warrnambool.

People would say, 'Well, how does that benefit South Australia?' It takes a load off the Adelaide hospital network if we are able to work with the Victorian health services, particularly Warrnambool, which is a large centre. That takes a level of coordination. That is just one example of a role the cross-border commissioner I see as having. I could go back to forestry and I could go back to a lot of industries where there is great opportunity for South Australia by tapping into the 4½ or five million people who live in Victoria, some of whom are close to the South Australian border.

Again, in this budget we have initiatives that people initially might not actually understand the importance of. One that comes to mind is the ambulance response. For three years, I had ambulance officer after ambulance officer in my office talking to me about how stressed and stretched that

service was because of chronic underfunding, so I was really pleased that there is a \$7.4 million contribution to our region for the employment of 24 new paramedics and another 24-hour shift. Again, it takes the stress off, and the retention of paramedics will be higher because they are actually getting the support that they need.

As to crayfishing, this is an area where there is not a lot of love in some parts of the community because there is a feeling that most crayfishermen are pretty well off. Well, the last two or three years that the industry has been through, and if you are not a generational crayfisherman—i.e. you have bought in, in the last decade—your break-even point is about \$55 a kilo for crayfish. It is no real surprise that the price fluctuates from between \$50 and \$60, so some days they are losing money even when they go out and other days they make a slim amount.

A contribution of a 50 per cent reduction in the fees they pay to PIRSA will make a huge difference. What it will mean is that outside industries or companies cannot prey on family-owned businesses who are on their knees and take their licence or buy their licences out at rock-bottom prices, and that actual licence holder lives overseas or is a multinational company that is not residing in our area. It is a very important initiative not really understood by many, but this will keep family businesses within families of the Limestone Coast and that money staying in our region.

There are other examples. New Zealand is one where the multinational corporates wait for these opportunities, buy at rock-bottom prices and then dictate what will or will not happen, and all profits leave the country and end up overseas, let alone leave our communities. I am very grateful for this budget. I think it is a fantastic budget, and I am really excited to see what the community of the Limestone Coast does to not just pay back but really contribute back to the state.

There are some areas that I think can still be improved. I do not think the government should be expected to do everything for everyone. It worries me that we are entering a society where everything is blamed on the government and everything is expected of a government. I think one of the opportunities is how a government can activate and enable community contribution, and one of the areas where I see it most importantly is in our health system.

There are hospitals just over the Victorian border that will raise \$200,000 or \$300,000 a year—that is the community who will raise that—to put back into the hospital. That does not happen in my electorate because those who would be prepared to do that see it as money going into a black hole that lives up in Adelaide, and we never see a return on that for our local Mount Gambier hospital. There are opportunities there, where money raised locally is quarantined for the Mount Gambier hospital, or any other hospital in our electorate, and spent back there.

The empowerment of volunteers in our hospitals is an area that needs encouragement. When I was growing up I knew a lot of people who volunteered in the hospital sector, and now it is virtually nil. When I talk to people about that, there is a feeling that they are almost discouraged. There is so much red tape and bureaucracy that they cannot be bothered. Actually, the hospital itself perhaps gives a feeling that it is more hassle than it is worth. However, I see volunteering as another area where government can enable and activate community engagement—in particular, going forward, in hospice care, giving dignity to our community who are at end of life, having those support structures around them.

Of course, the government plays a major role in enabling private enterprise and private money coming into regions. There is a lot of good work that has happened in that space but, again, it is an area where I see continued effort from a government attracting private dollars into the Limestone Coast as beneficial not just to our community but also to the state. Overall, I am extremely pleased with this budget. I think it will unlock a lot of potential that has been held back in the Limestone Coast region. I am excited to go forward, and I think there are still areas we can work on.

Tourism is the greatest untapped industry in Mount Gambier and on the Limestone Coast, and it is an area that needs focus on product development. You have to have a reason to go to Mount Gambier. I have spoken with Rod Harrex and the SATC before about stopping spending money in doing room upgrades: nobody is going to travel to Mount Gambier because they are going from a four-star room to a 4½-star room, but they will go to Mount Gambier if there is a zip-line or a tour on the beaches. There are products they want to experience from a tourism point of view.

I am really excited to work with the tourism minister to unlock that potential. A lot of it will be private capital coming in that will provide those products and experiences for people coming to Mount Gambier and the greater Limestone Coast region. There is great opportunity, and it is an exciting time to be living on the Limestone Coast. I am really looking forward to the next four years. I think this is the start of a jobs bonanza: move to the Limestone Coast, there are good jobs there, and help build the community.

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:53):** I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill. The allocation of funds into our communities is such an important part of parliament, and as part of the Marshall Liberal government I was very proud of what we were able to do to support my community in the four years we were in power. About \$125 million worth of funds went into my community over those four years, and we saw some great projects come to fruition.

We saw the redevelopment of the three surf lifesaving clubs in the district, which are amazing. The Port Elliot one opened late last year and is the crowning glory for surf lifesaving clubs right across South Australia. The facility there is amazing, and I was privileged to be there a few weeks ago for their first function. It is certainly a challenge for small organisations to do these big builds. They had become so committed to the build itself that it took them about six months to afford the cutlery to be able to have a function in their facilities. They have been able to have their first function now that they own some cutlery. It is pleasing to see it actually taking place.

There have been other great spends, and education certainly has been a great spend in my community in the last four years, including the money that was spent in redeveloping the Mount Compass Area School, a school that I attended in my primary school years. To see the development there is fantastic. When I first became the member for Finniss, going back to the visit the school was a bit like going back to exactly when I had left. I was not even sure whether the buildings had been painted since I had left, that is how neglected it looked. But now they have a great facility; much of the school has been rebuilt. It is a fantastic opportunity for the people of Mount Compass to have such a great new facility.

One of the things I am really pleased about is the project I have probably had the longest involvement in. It goes back to my days prior to being a member of parliament, when I was sitting on the Investigator College board and seeing what they would like to do with their Goolwa campus. An opportunity arose to have discussions with the state government, in opposition at the time, which then led to the successful opening of a new high school, Goolwa Secondary College, this year. It is a fantastic school. The work that has been done, the \$10 million that has been invested in upgrades, has certainly delivered a fantastic facility for the people of Goolwa.

All my life, and for much time before that, the community there have been crying out for a high school. They are a community who had to leave their town to finish their education. It has certainly been a drain on that community for many years. To now have the opportunity to have people stay to finish their schooling in Goolwa will be of great benefit. This year there are only year 7s and year 8s at the school; it will gradually increase up to year 12 by 2026. To see that school come to fruition will be fantastic.

Getting back to the budget, it is really pleasing to see the ongoing commitments that are being honoured going forward, including some upgrades to the Victor Harbor South Coast District Hospital. It is a great thing to see the money that is going to be spent in upgrading the emergency department from six beds to 14 beds and to see the existing emergency department converted into a renal unit. It is great to see that the commitment by the Marshall Liberal government is continuing to make sure that happens. It is very important for the community.

It is also pleasing to see the investment in the ambulances in the region, with the promise of a new ambulance station in Victor Harbor as well as the continuation of the commitment of the Marshall Liberal government to upgrade the Goolwa Ambulance Station. It is certainly important that we actually see those facilities upgraded for the community.

It was pleasing, I guess, to see one other bit of infrastructure, but that was the only other commitment, and it was some investment into TAFE upgrades—some money that is being shared between Victor Harbor and Mount Barker. But this budget is generally disappointing for the community of Finniss; it is certainly not delivering a great deal for my community. However, my

community has certainly had some money invested in it over the last four years. I look forward to the opportunity to make sure we lobby for what we need in the seat of Finniss.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Andrews.

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

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Independent Commission Against Corruption—Received or Deceived? Managing and monitoring the conduct of government contractors [Ordered to be published]  
Members, House of Assembly—Register of Members' Interests—Primary Returns—Registrar's Statement 2022

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

Summary Offences Act 1953—

Dangerous Area Declarations return pursuant to section 83B—Report for Period—  
1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022

Road Block Authorisations return pursuant to section 74B—Report for Period—  
1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022

*Ministerial Statement*

**COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE CHIEF OFFICER**

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:01):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** I rise to advise the house that the Chief Officer of the CFS, Mr Mark Jones, has advised me that due to family circumstances he is unable to extend his term when his contract ends in September this year. Recently, I met with the chief officer, and he advised me that the tyranny of distance had led to him and his wife to determining they should return to their home in Britain.

Like many internationals who came to work in Australia in South Australia before the COVID-19 virus was heard of, their expectations of returning home regularly to see their family and friends were dashed as borders closed and safety restrictions were imposed worldwide. Instead of an exciting experience in another country, many people suffered long-term isolation from those closest to them and the inability to genuinely share in the new experiences they were set to enjoy together.

Mark Jones was appointed Chief Officer of the CFS in 2019 before overseeing the response to the significant fire season faced by South Australia that year. As the house well knows, that year the first serious fires were at Cudlee Creek followed by the devastation on Kangaroo Island.

The chief officer has advised me that he has greatly enjoyed his time in South Australia, and we as a government and, I am sure, the entire community and this house thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of our state. I wish him well in his future endeavours, and I understand opportunities are already beckoning in his home in England. Mark Jones will be a loss for South Australia, but I understand the call of family that sees his return to the United Kingdom.

I advise the house that I have initiated a recruitment process to replace the chief officer to be led by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. The commissioner has advised me an international search should be undertaken but, of course, all suitably credentialed local and national applicants should apply.

*Parliamentary Committees***ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:03):** I bring up the first report of the committee, entitled Emergency Services Levy 2022-23.

Report received and ordered to be published.

*Question Time***ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTOR**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:04):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Does the minister still oppose the establishment of South Australia's power interconnector with New South Wales? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** During the past four years, the minister was constantly critical of the establishment of this interconnector regularly describing it as presenting a massive risk to South Australia that would rip off consumers. This was despite expert industry advice that this project will increase reliability, competition and supply while driving down prices and attracting billions of dollars of investment and hundreds of jobs in major renewable projects along its route. This interconnector was promised by Labor 20 years ago, but it took the Marshall government to ensure that work got underway.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:05):** I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to provide a quote of the last four years where I opposed the construction of the interconnector.

**The SPEAKER:** I am not—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! While the standing orders—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for West Torrens! The leader and the member for West Torrens will cease their exchange. Members will know that ministers have a wide latitude as to responding; however, that response does come very close to breaching the standing orders.

**ELECTRICITY NETWORK**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:06):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Having been energy minister for seven of the past 11 years, does he take responsibility at all for the current challenges faced by the national electricity network? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Over the last four years, no customer hours were lost in South Australia due to energy supply shortfalls, compared with the more than seven million customer hours lost during the previous term of the Labor government when he was energy minister.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:06):** More front than David Jones—more front than David Jones. The climate denialists opposite, who have with their colleagues in Canberra sustained the climate wars of the last decade, have the gall to get up today and say anything about what is occurring. New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria are relying on coal for their production. A commonwealth government actively intervened in the market to keep that coal online and halt renewable interventions—and here we are. This is the chickens coming home to roost of Liberal ideology. To cover their tracks, members get up and say somehow, being in opposition for the last four years, it's our fault that this has occurred.

If members opposite had not noticed, Our Energy Plan that was implemented from 2016 and supported by members opposite maintained system stability and still does to this day with one fundamental change: we now no longer have backup sovereign generation—one big difference. So we won't be lectured by members opposite. I do point out that I really wish—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —well, actually, I don't wish—

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** But the truth is that so poor was their energy policy, so rejected—

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morphett!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —by the community, within the very city is the last coal-fired generator that existed in this state that was closed by a previous Labor government, that the then Deputy Premier and energy minister lost his seat and I think lost every booth in Port Augusta. The people of South Australia know that there needs to be a transition to renewable energy. The only people left are the 13 members opposite.

#### NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:09):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Is the minister prepared to identify the generators that he alleged in his ministerial statement yesterday are deliberately withdrawing from the market?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:09):** Well, unfortunately, we don't have the requisite line of sight. I am acting on advice from AEMO. I had a meeting with the AEMO board and the CEO, Daniel Westerman, who informed me and the South Australian government that what was occurring is as a result of the price cap. Generators were deliberately withdrawing from the grid, not bidding in and waiting to be directed. That was the advice from AEMO. The problem we have, of course, is that these generators that are privatised—they are owned by the private sector—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Taylor!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —operate in the interests of their shareholders, not in the interests of the people of South Australia or their customers. They act to get a return for their investors.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Tom Playford realised that this system, in an essential utility like electricity, is unsustainable. That is why he held a royal commission, and after that royal commission he nationalised the electricity assets in South Australia and put them under the control and care of the Electricity Trust of South Australia, where they sat for a long period of time and where it was the objective of the South Australian government to create an oversupply of electricity—cheap, affordable power—that allowed manufacturing and industry to flourish: Holden, Chrysler, Mitsubishi, the steelworks, Nyrstar. We had foundries, we had business, we had enterprise.

Of course, the moment they entered power in 1997, after promising not to privatise our energy assets, they privatised our assets. They privatised ETSA after lying in an election campaign saying that they wouldn't. The architect of that privatisation was Rob Lucas—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*



**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —and he sold those generators, and when he sold them to ensure he would maximise the sale price—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is a point of order, which I will hear under 134, but before I do I will call the member for Taylor to order and the member for Wright. The member for Florey I saw interjecting. He has the misfortune of being well within my line of sight.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The question was actually reasonably narrow on this occasion, perhaps unlike the first two, and the minister is debating.

**The SPEAKER:** I will ask the minister to take a line closer to the question.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Unfortunately, through that privatisation, all the powers that energy ministers had to direct generation on, to view contracts, to understand, to have a line of sight, were removed by Mr Lucas. Why? To increase the sale price of electricity assets. In fact, my advice is that we were the only jurisdiction to do so that privatised their assets. Some of those powers were only returned by the previous Labor government in 2016 after the statewide blackout.

So we don't have the requisite tools to know exactly which generators they are, but I am acting on the advice of Daniel Westerman, who told me that generators are deliberately withdrawing their supply in order to be directed on. It's in the papers, it's in the *Financial Review*, it's in *The Australian* and it's on TV—just turn them on or buy one.

#### ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTOR

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Does the minister stand by his press release of 24 January 2020 in which he said in relation to the interconnector that it presents 'a massive risk', and he went on to say that 'South Australians are getting ripped off.' Why are South Australians paying nearly double for this interconnector than people in New South Wales? Those are the quotes, Mr Speaker.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:13):** I also point out that it doesn't say 'opposition', and I still ask the Leader of the Opposition to provide evidence of his statements to the house that I opposed—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Morialta! The member for Hammond and the member for Chaffey are warned.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** That's the nicest thing you've ever said to me.

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** South Australians are paying for this \$2.4 billion interconnector that we were told would cost \$1.2 billion. We were told that it would be ready and operational before the last election. Is it operational? No, it's not. Has it blown out in costs? Yes, it has.

*The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** What are the benefits? Well, we're told the benefits are a massive investment in renewable energy in South Australia. How many wind farms were built over the last four years? Two. This interconnector is hooking us up to a jurisdiction that has black thermal coal. That was their plan.

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond is warned for a second time.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The investment test that members opposite supported, the base case for that test, is that South Australia close all its thermal generation in exchange for building this interconnector. Members opposite signed up South Australia to shut down every single gas-fired generator in the state in exchange for being connected to New South Wales. That was the deal members opposite signed up for.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** By doing that, they leave South Australia completely reliant—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —on other states for our thermal capacity. That was their plan. We can only hope that when the interconnector—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —is built that the RIT-T does not come out to be true and some thermal generation remains. Of course, we would have had thermal reserve generation in place had members opposite not privatised our 250 megawatts of backup generation, and that was a folly that South Australians are paying for right now.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### **MOUNT GAMBIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:15):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister provide an update on the technical college to be built in Mount Gambier?

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:15):** I thank the member for Mount Gambier for this very important question, and I of course thank him for his advocacy for his local community. I know that any members of this place who have spent some time in the South-East will know what a fantastic advocate he is for his community and that he is also a very wise source of advice around the priorities for that area and what this government needs to be doing.

On my first regional trip after being sworn in as the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, I ventured down to the South-East and started with a trip to Kingston, where I was happily joined by the member for MacKillop, who made a special trip from Adelaide that morning to join me at a meeting there with the Kingston District Council and local community members to discuss a very important issue that has been bubbling along there for many years around a lack of access to child care. I am hopeful that we will have a positive announcement together on that soon.

On my first trip to the South-East and Mount Gambier as minister, I spent some time with the member for Mount Gambier to talk to him about the very substantial election commitments that this Malinauskas Labor government has made in the Limestone Coast area and to get his thoughts on how best we deliver those and how best we roll those out. If the community forum that we held in Mount Gambier as part of country cabinet last week is anything to go by, I can tell you that the residents of the Limestone Coast are incredibly excited by the election commitments that this government has made. We were turning them away at the door. It was quite remarkable.

I spent some time on that trip not only talking to the member for Mount Gambier but also taking the time to speak to industry down there. I met with UniSA, TAFE SA, McDonnell and Sons, and OneFortyOne timber mills as well. I spoke to them about making sure, in respect of the technical college that we have committed to building in Mount Gambier, that not only does it provide a pathway

for young people in the Limestone Coast area from years 10 to 12 to go through, finish their SACE, learn a trade and then go into the workforce, but also, very importantly, we need to make sure that we use this technical college to address the very acute skills shortages that we are currently experiencing all over the state and particularly in regional South Australia.

I was pleased to receive advice that I know the Premier received from the member for Mount Gambier as well as part of the discussions that we had with him about where we might best place this technical college. For those who know Mount Gambier, it is a regional city that has two large public high schools. The Malinauskas Labor government is very keen to make sure that this \$35 million technical college, which will be there for the whole Limestone Coast area, is seen as a community asset that is owned by the entire community.

Our ambition is to make sure that we have young people in the year 10 to 12 years, not just from Mount Gambier but from the broader region, come and use this technical college. The advice that we received from the member for Mount Gambier—and I was pleased to receive complementary advice from local industry, TAFE SA and UniSA—was that we should build it and co-locate it with the TAFE campus already there in Mount Gambier. I should point out that we also have a commitment, which the Premier and I reaffirmed last week, that we are going to be upgrading the TAFE SA campus at Mount Gambier to the tune of \$5 million.

I am pleased that we will be going ahead with the technical college for Mount Gambier. It will be co-located on the site where there is available land there now with TAFE SA and UniSA. It will create an education precinct. It will create opportunities for us to make sure we have all the supports around young people who not only might be coming to use that technical college but might be coming to use UniSA or TAFE SA, to make sure that they can and that we attract people from outside the Mount Gambier area and, more broadly, the Limestone Coast area to use what is going to be a fantastic community asset for the Mount Gambier and Limestone Coast area.

#### **ADELAIDE COASTLINE ELECTION POLICY**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:20):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Did the Deputy Premier provide input into Labor's Adelaide's coastline election policy?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:20):** Yes, I did.

#### **ADELAIDE COASTLINE ELECTION POLICY**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:20):** Supplementary: in light of that, and given questions surrounding the Deputy Premier's conflict of interest regarding the sand recycling pipeline, will Labor revisit the Adelaide's coastline election policy? With your leave, I will explain.

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

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order, member for Heysen. I will hear the point of order under 134.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Standing order 97: questions are not to involve argument, sir. In posing his question, he claimed a conflict of interest.

**Mr TEAGUE:** With leave, I will explain, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** I will hear you, member for Heysen, in relation to the point of order, but may I say that I am having difficulty hearing you at all, so it may be that you just rephrase the question and then, if necessary, the Leader of Government Business might raise a point of order at that point.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Perhaps I will take the opportunity to rephrase the question at the same time and speak up. Will Labor now revisit its Adelaide's coastline election policy? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Prior to the election, Labor produced the policy document to which I have adverted, titled 'Adelaide's coastline'. Since then, the Deputy Premier recused herself from any decision relating to the pipeline due to what has been described as a potential conflict of interest.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:21):** I think we need to be clear about the difference between a collective party position that is taken to an election—an election that, in this case, the Labor Party won reasonably successfully. One of the policies that was part of the offering was indeed relating to the management of the coastline. There is a distinction between a participation in a discussion about the development of a collective policy position prior to an election from opposition and the very serious role that is taken by someone as a decision-maker in government.

On coming into government, as I have been clear, I sought advice on whether there was any potential or perceived conflict of interest with my being a decision-maker relating to specific decisions relating to sand anywhere near where I live. Given the advice was that it could be perceived, my house not being very far away from the beach where there has been an enormous amount of trucking movements under the previous government, it would be better for me to declare that I had a conflict of interest as a decision-maker and therefore ask that another minister take my role.

With the pipeline, as the shadow minister has referred to specifically, that was not a project that was run by the department that I am now minister for and therefore the appropriate minister, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, undertook his decision-making and brought it to cabinet and I of course was not part of that decision, having declared a conflict.

#### **ELECTRICITY GENERATION**

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (14:23):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. What is the benefit of state-owned backup generation, and are there any alternative views?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:23):** I thank the member for her question. I can inform the house that, yes, there are many benefits to backup generation. The national energy market is failing. South Australian constituents are afraid of rolling blackouts that are going to occur and they fear they may be left in darkness. The current fear that they have is entirely avoidable.

You could argue that the current challenges are unprecedented, but we have seen a stressed network before. Indeed, on 24 January 2019, an operating incident occurred in the NEM. Demand for electricity in Victoria and South Australia was higher due to record temperatures in both regions and thermal generation capacity was heavily restricted in both regions. This caused load shedding in Victoria, but South Australia was protected. How, you might ask? How was South Australia protected?

On 24 January 2019, South Australia still had sovereign generation capability. We had the control of 250 megawatts of generation—South Australian horsepower that could turn on and protect South Australians from blackouts, put in place by the previous Labor government. On that day, those generators ran at full capacity and ensured that South Australia was spared from rolling blackouts. The Victorian government could not do the same for their constituents.

Despite the generators showing their worth, members opposite thought it would be a good idea to sell them and not only did they sell them but they leased them for 25 years. Times of stress are not unprecedented. Our plan was to ensure the security of South Australia's energy during such times. The Liberals' plan was to make a quick buck. How did it go? I can tell you that the turnkey cost of those generators was \$226.7 million—brand-new generators. Not a bad price to ensure energy stability and security of supply in South Australia. What did members opposite then sell them for? They sold them for nearly \$10 million less. The former Marshall government described—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Like ETSA is a lease? Like that lease?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The former Marshall government described Labor's original plan to restrict the use of the generators to emergency backup as a shocking waste of taxpayers' money. The former government told us these units would no longer be considered in an emergency; it would be available in the grid to be used. How is that working out? Nearly half of these generators are mothballed—not operational and not available to the grid. Members opposite signed a contract for emergency backup and they assured this house that we would still have those generators available for backup, but of course they are not during winter periods. They didn't foresee that there might be issues in winter. So, once again: they sold ETSA—

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morphett!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —lost an election, got back in and then sold our generators again.

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** If we had these generators at our disposal, we could guarantee supply for our constituents and guarantee stability for our businesses. Members opposite are part of the guilty party who sold these generators.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I understand the point of order has been withdrawn, but I do observe that the member for Morphett is now on two warnings.

#### MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:27):** My question is for the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Does the minister find it acceptable that the current design for the Southern Expressway on/off ramps at Majors Road cuts through Glenthorne National Park?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:28):** I am a friend of the environment: I closed a coal-fired power station that members opposite wanted me to keep open.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It didn't seem to bother the Leader of the Opposition when he was advocating the on/off ramps at Majors Road. All of a sudden—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Perhaps, it was like a Saint Paul of Damascus moment when he is on the road and he sees probably Majors Road and says, 'Wow, what a great idea. Hang on, no, I can't get the funding out of Treasury—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —therefore, I will change my mind.'

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** 'I can't get the money out of Treasury because, for whatever reason—

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

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —the former Treasurer wouldn't support this election commitment.'

**The Hon. D.J. Speirs:** Because he wanted to protect the echidnas.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** No-one said ever about Rob Lucas.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We are very conscious of making sure that we have the lightest possible touch for this, but it is also important that we minimise emissions from vehicles and the Majors Road on/off ramp will minimise traffic travel and will stop the extended travel distance people in that cohort of suburbs have to travel to get into the city. It will actually shorten routes.

I think members opposite are probably not really going to fight this battle that hard because, when this intersection is built and it is operational, given the results of the most recent election campaign federally and the polling booth results within the members of the opposition's own electorates, the endorsement of this project is pretty overwhelming. I suspect members of parliament who ignore their constituents' wishes do so at their peril.

#### MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:30):** My question is again to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Has the minister investigated how many trees will need to be felled to construct the Southern Expressway on/off ramps at Majors Road?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Frome, member for Unley! Order, member for Wright, member for Hurtle Vale!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:30):** The final plans have not yet been determined and therefore exactly the way in which the configuration will be managed is yet to be clarified. My department is certainly actively involved in helping to determine that with an eye to preserving as much healthy native vegetation as possible.

*The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I understand it is possible that part of what might be taken up is at the moment a car park, so I think the idea of presenting this as being something going through a major national park—I don't know, like putting seven soccer pitches in the middle of Belair National Park, for example—is not really necessarily equivalent. We will be working through, making it as light a touch as possible.

#### MAJORS ROAD UPGRADE

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:31):** My supplementary question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Can the minister explain to the house the process that would need to be gone through to excise that portion of national park from the park to facilitate the on/off ramps?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:31):** I am sure that the former minister is well aware of the process

for undertaking that. We will do what we need to do legally in order to make that work but, as I say, we are not there yet because we are trying to work out the best configuration.

#### THAILAND BURMA RAILWAY

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:31):** My question is to the Minister for Veterans Affairs. How is recognition being provided for veterans who, as prisoners of war, were forced to labour on the Burma to Thailand railway?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (14:32):** I thank the member for his question. South Australia can be justly proud of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk. As we all know in this house, its construction was our state's flagship project during the centenary of ANZAC commemorations. The walk was dedicated on 23 April 2016. Many of us in this room will remember fondly the late Bill Corey OAM, a World War II veteran and Rat of Tobruk, who cut the ribbon, flanked by then Premier Weatherill and our state's Governor, His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC. I am aware that the member for Dunstan and the member for Chaffey were also in attendance in keeping with the bipartisan nature of the veterans portfolio.

Following the dedication, members of the veteran community have been attempting to have pavers added to the walk that would recognise prisoners of war of the Japanese held as slave labourers in Thailand. During the recent state election, the Labor Party made an election commitment to install Thailand pavers on the walk. After being sworn in as the Minister for Veterans Affairs, I was approached by veterans seeking to have Thailand pavers installed on the walk. After meeting with veterans and giving careful consideration to the matter, I announced on 22 April that Veterans SA had begun discussions with Adelaide City Council to deliver on the commitment. Veterans SA have liaised with Adelaide City Council, and Tillett Memorials have been engaged to produce the pavers and install them.

I know all members of this house respect the service and the sacrifice of all generations of Australian service men and women who have defended our values and our way of life in wars, conflicts and peace operations throughout more than a century of service. During World War II, more than 22,000 Australians were taken prisoner by the Japanese at various locations throughout South-East Asia. Many were to serve as slave labourers on the infamous Thailand-Burma railway, where some 2,646 perished as a result of starvation, forced labour, maltreatment, disease and malnutrition.

The laying of this paver is particularly appreciated by Mr Keith 'Chook' Fowler. Keith is the last surviving member of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion captured on Java and is believed to be the last former prisoner of the Japanese to survive in South Australia. Keith, or Chook, is closer to 102 than 101, and I was very privileged to meet him on 26 May to show him the design of the pavers that will be installed on the walk. Before the lunch I had with Chook I had wondered what sort of a person he would be, how we would have a conversation, about his mobility and things like that, but his attitude, his awareness and his mobility were absolutely fantastic. It is a testament to his dedication and a tribute to his lifestyle.

I know Chook applauds this overdue recognition of all his 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> comrades and, more broadly, all those Australians who lie in graves in Thailand. We intend to unveil them on 15 August, Victory in the Pacific Day, and, health notwithstanding, front and centre of that occasion will be Mr Keith 'Chook' Fowler, a truly great Australian and proud representative of all those who suffered as prisoners of war in Thailand. Lest we forget.

#### FLU VACCINATION

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:35):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government reimburse those South Australians who paid for the flu vaccination before it was free for all and who have proof of purchase? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** The government is promising to reimburse \$100 to families who have already paid for their school fees but has so far refused to do the same for those who have had the flu vaccination before it was free for all.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:36):** Thank you very much for the question. We have been very clear about this: this is a scheme that has been put in place for the first time here in South Australia, and around the country other states are putting it in place for the first time. It is running during June to allow people who haven't had the flu vaccine to come forward, get access to a free flu vaccine and be protected this winter.

It is not intended, nor is there the ability, to go back and provide payments to people who have already received the flu vaccine previously. They have received the vaccine through a variety of different means: there are workplace vaccination programs, there are general practice vaccination programs, there are pharmacy general practice programs. There is no ability that we have as a state government to go back to those records and find individual people.

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** What we are doing is we are now providing a mechanism where we can provide those free flu vaccines through GPs and pharmacies. They will provide them for free and they will keep a record of those. They will then provide an invoice, essentially, to SA Health in arrears, and we will provide that payment in arrears. This is essentially the same operation that is now rolling out in other states and territories around the country as well.

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** As I said, this has been put in place for the first time in South Australia, and I think it is a great move to help encourage the vaccination rate to increase. What we have seen is that it is encouraging people to come forward and get vaccinated. In the past couple of weeks this has been in operation we have seen over 145,000 people come forward to get their flu vaccine.

It is fantastic to see that level of vaccination increase, but we want to see it increase even further, so I appreciate the opportunity to tell the house—and I hope all members can spread this message to their community—that there are appointments available through pharmacies and GPs and to come forward and to get the protection. It is good not only to protect you but also to make sure you stay out of hospital—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is warned for a second time.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —and reduce the pressure on our overburdened health system and on the doctors, nurses and other staff who are working in our health system this winter.

We know there are increasing numbers of flu cases. In the last week, we saw over a thousand cases of the flu in South Australia, and the average age of those cases is 18. That means that essentially half those cases are children, so it is important that people get their children vaccinated as well. This is the first time ever that this government has brought in that you are able to get your children above the age of five vaccinated at pharmacies as well. So it is not only free but there is greater availability of appointments to get your children vaccinated. For children zero to five, you will be able to do that through your general practitioner.

We want to see those rates rise, particularly amongst children, to help protect them, particularly given that we haven't really had much of a flu season in the past couple of years. It is really important, because there will be a lower level of immunity in the community, that we increase those vaccination rates as much as possible. For people over the age of 65, who have always had access to a free flu vaccine, we are very positive—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —that this campaign has helped to increase those numbers as well. We are now up to 77 per cent of people over the age of 65 who have come forward to be



vaccinated, which is fantastic, but we can do even more. There are still two more weeks to run of this campaign. We are encouraging people to do so. We have also launched a new online and radio advertising campaign through SA Health to get that message out there more, to get people to come forward during this campaign, get vaccinated and protect their community.

### FLU VACCINATION

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. When will the government be releasing the cost-benefit analysis for the free flu vaccination rollout for all South Australians? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** The Premier stated in an interview with the ABC prior to the announcement that he had asked the minister to go away and assess what the cost-benefit analysis is on the free flu vaccinations.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:40):** I didn't expect that we would come here and hear the opposition oppose the free flu vaccine that we seem to be hearing in question time today.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Unley, the member for Morphett! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We have been very clear. The Premier asked me to rapidly prepare advice to the cabinet—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley and the member for Schubert will come to order.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —in terms of rolling out a program in terms of the cost benefit, and we provided advice to the cabinet. Obviously, that's cabinet-in-confidence.

**Mrs Hurn:** Where's the cost-benefit analysis?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is on two warnings,

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I can give you the hot tip that cabinet approved running this program on the basis that we believe the benefits outweigh the cost. Hence, we are making sure that we are providing these vaccines and we are encouraging—

*Mr Cowdrey interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Colton!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —people to come forward to get protected—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —because—

**Mr Cowdrey:** Where have we heard this before?

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —each and every—

**Mr Tarzia:** Dr Chris.

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —vaccine that can help prevent somebody getting the flu is ultimately going to help stop somebody ending up in hospital. This is the first time that this program has been run on a whole population basis in South Australia. Previously to now, what has happened is that the National Immunisation Program would provide free flu vaccines—

**Mr Tarzia:** You're making it up.

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —to a limited number of people—people over the age of 65, zero to five year olds, people who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, pregnant women and also people with chronic health conditions. There is obviously a large cohort of people who didn't meet the criteria, and they are now able to access the free flu vaccines through this program. Obviously, at the end of this we will have to do an analysis to see how this went but—

**Mrs Hurn:** You didn't do one in the first place.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** As I said, we did. What we need to do is look at how this program ran—and I think other states will be doing that as well—in terms of our planning for next year. With two more weeks of this program to run, we want to get the message out there: it is available. We are seeing pharmacies in particular have sufficient availability for bookings, for people to come forward, get their vaccines and get protected. That's why we are now running a campaign, to make sure that we promote this, so that people know they have the opportunity to come forward and get protected.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister advise what progress is being made in identifying and appointing the member for the Suicide Prevention Council?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:43):** As people know, the previous parliament passed the Suicide Prevention Act, which is something that contained fantastic bipartisan support. In particular, I note you, sir, and your advocacy with regard to that legislation and your previous role as the Premier's advocate for suicide prevention. We now have a process underway that is being led through Wellbeing SA along with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and the Mental Health Commissioners.

A public call went out for people to put their hand up to be a member of the Suicide Prevention Council. We are now going through an interview process. I think I got an update about this only two days ago, and a number of interviews have taken place. A short list is being considered, and that will receive the appropriate consideration of cabinet soon. This is something that is very important to set up.

I really want to take this moment to mark not only your service, sir, in previous roles advocating in this area but also the role of the Hon. John Dawkins, who is no longer in this parliament, who was the first advocate for suicide prevention and helped establish the Suicide Prevention Council. He is somebody with whom I have been actively meeting and having discussions since my appointment as the Minister for Health, in terms of how we establish this council and how we take forward that work that he started to make sure that we do everything we possibly can to help prevent suicide from occurring in South Australia.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION ADVOCATE

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:44):** Supplementary to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Does the minister intend to appoint an advocate for suicide prevention?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:45):** As people would know, that's the Premier's appointment. I understand from my discussions with the Premier that he is actively considering who that appropriate person would be. We will have that appointment in place for when the council is appointed at the end of that process.

The act of parliament says very clearly that there should be a member of parliament, who is not a member of the executive, who is a member of that council. Obviously, I think it makes sense for that person to be the advocate. That is a matter that will be finalised relatively shortly as we are finalising the membership of the council.

### AUSTRALIAN POLICE MEDAL

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:45):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister inform the house about recognition of the contribution made to the South Australian community by members of South Australia Police who recently received Queen's Birthday Honours?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:45):** I thank the member for his question. It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of all members in this place, to recognise the worthy recipients of the Australian Police Medal, those individuals who were recognised as part of this year's Queen's Birthday Honours celebrations.

Three SAPOL officers from diverse operational backgrounds have been recognised this year and awarded the Australian Police Medal. The South Australian community is incredibly fortunate to have such incredibly capable and committed police officers serving us and them. Constable Deborah Gibson has served as a Victim Contact Officer within the Major Crime Investigation Branch for the past 14 years, most recently supporting victims' families through some of the most traumatic experiences imaginable.

Constable Gibson has been recognised for her unwavering support for victims and readiness to go above and beyond the call of duty. The strong ongoing bonds that Constable Gibson has developed with the families and loved ones of victims is a testament to her compassion and her dedication. She is a credit to herself and the uniform that she wears.

Superintendent Paul Roberts has led the Far North Local Service Area, which constitutes 73 per cent of South Australia's landmass, since 2016. He is responsible for the provision of police services throughout this area, which includes the APY lands, Olympic Dam, Woomera Test Range and the Moomba gas fields.

Superintendent Roberts' management of the COVID emergency, including his leadership in establishing the remote and vulnerable communities zone emergency management group, played a key role in keeping the community safe in the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Roberts' longstanding and distinguished service to communities of the Far North, particularly Aboriginal communities, is something that he is proud of, and I know we all are proud of.

Senior Sergeant First Class Grant Watterson is a widely respected leader overseeing prosecution services to diversion court, Nunga Court, Family Violence Court and Youth Court. Senior Sergeant Watterson displays the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and care for all those engaged in the justice system.

With today's busy world and myriad things competing for our attention, we do not always have time to focus on recognising those amongst us in our community who serve and protect so diligently and with such professionalism. I welcome this opportunity to extend my thanks and the thanks of the government to these three individuals for a job well done.

I also recognise that these three individuals represent the broader police force and that there are countless other officers working hard in often challenging circumstances to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community. For that, I also extend my thanks to the South Australian police community and their families.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT INQUIRY

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:48):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister please inform the house how long a commission of inquiry into train and tram operations will take?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:49):** That is a good question. Hopefully, not too long. It will depend on the complexity of the contract negotiations with Keolis Downer and the commissioner we appoint ultimately.

I do not expect it to be a very long process, but one of the key recommendations, which we talked about before the election, was an investigation into any break clauses and whether they were unusual or extraordinary in standard government contracts. And if there are, those public officers

involved in that will obviously have to deal with the consequences of that because if any government put in extraordinary clauses that are unusual in standard contracts for break clauses—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —that would be unusual, and it could be close to maladministration or misconduct. But we will have a look at that, and the commission of inquiry will report back to the cabinet and let us know exactly what has occurred, and if there are any examples of that in those contracts, obviously there will have to be further action from there, but we will get to the bottom of it very, very quickly.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hartley has the call.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Taylor! Member for Wright!

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT INQUIRY

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:50):** My question again is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister please advise the house who will take part in the commission of inquiry into train and tram operations?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:50):** That is yet to be announced, and when it is announced I will personally call the shadow minister and let him know who the eminent person is who will be conducting the commission of inquiry.

**Mr Tarzia:** Every phone call is a gift.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Every phone call is a gift, yes, and I will be putting out a press release. There are a number of people the government are considering for the position. The department will be involved ultimately as well. The commission of inquiry will also look at not just trains and trams but also the viability of bringing our buses back in. We will be looking at experts, because we haven't had buses in our government fleet—that is operationally—since the Diana Laidlaw days, when we had another program of privatisation by members opposite.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I did point out, sir, that it is unparliamentary to speak in foreign languages in the parliament.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I could reply in Greek, sir, but I suspect—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —everyone would understand what I was about to say.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Efaristo.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** No, it wouldn't be efaristo, no. There will be, obviously, involvement from the department and officials from SAPTA, and, of course, the eminent person who will be conducting the inquiry who will have the requisite skills in contract law to get to the bottom of any unusual clauses put into the contracts.

**KEOLIS DOWNER**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:52):** My question, again, is to the minister. Has the minister received any advice as to the costings of contract termination with Keolis Downer?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:52):** Yes.

**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE**

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister advise of the Malinauskas Labor government's plan to improve access to services and support for those diagnosed with motor neurone disease?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52):** Firstly, I often acknowledge the member, but I really would like to acknowledge the member for Davenport in this regard because I know how passionate she is and how this awful disease has impacted her family, and I thank her for asking this question and for her advocacy on behalf of motor neurone disease sufferers across South Australia.

Motor neurone disease is a progressive neurological disorder that destroys motor neurons, the cells that control skeletal muscle activity, such as walking, breathing, speaking and swallowing. MNDSA is a non-government organisation which operates in South Australia and which provides incredible support for those living with motor neurone disease. However, it has done so without regular state government funding up until now.

Over 65 year olds account for approximately 65 per cent of MNDSA's clients. However, if they are diagnosed over 65 years old they inexplicably get very little access to support compared with if they are diagnosed below 65 years old because of the way the NDIS works. That cut-off means the world of difference to an MND sufferer. You are either provided a whole range of services or you go on to an aged-care, at-home waiting list, and sadly many, many people suffering MND die before they receive the appropriate level of support through the aged-care system. That is where people such as MND step in to help. In fact, 80 per cent of South Australians living with MND who are over 65 when they were diagnosed pass away before receiving the appropriate level of federal support through the aged-care system.

I was very pleased to attend the MNDSA Walk to D'Feet MND, and I was joined by the member for Davenport along with the Minister for Education, supporters of MND and advocates across South Australia. It was fantastic to see that this day raised \$109,000 for MNDSA. I was very delighted to be able to inform those assembled supporters that this is a state government that is going to step up and provide support for those people who are suffering.

This government in this budget, delivered by the Treasurer, has committed \$2.4 million over four years to provide MNDSA with support for specialist care, treatment and equipment to improve the quality of life for people living with MND. In practical terms, this means \$500,000 a year to establish a team of health professionals to assist those people over the age of 65 with MND. These are the people who are unable to get immediate support through My Aged Care. We will help them through MNDSA to get that care.

This will involve occupational therapists, a physiotherapist, a speech pathologist and an allied health assistant. We will also be helping them with \$100,000 a year to allow MNDSA to provide rapid access loans for equipment, such as breathing devices, mobility devices, communication devices and everyday living aids. This will not only assist those living with MND to access the equipment they need when they need it but also assist in the management of their condition, preventing avoidable hospitalisations.

Like many not-for-profits, COVID-19 has impacted MNDSA with difficulties in raising support, and that is why we are so keen to help. I really want to pay tribute to Karen and the whole team at MNDSA for the work that they do. I would particularly like to acknowledge Mr Graham Johnson, who is an MND sufferer and has been a passionate advocate to us when we were in opposition. He tried to advocate this to the previous government as well. We have listened, we have acted and people suffering MND are now going to receive significantly more support than they did previously.

### TRADE OFFICES

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:57):** My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the minister confirm whether the government will close any trade offices? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain, sir.

Leave granted.

**Mr COWDREY:** A significant saving task of more than \$4.7 million was outlined for the Department for Trade and Investment in the 2022-23 budget.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:57):** We won't be closing any trade offices.

**Mr Whetstone:** Just de-staffing them like last time.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We won't be doing that either. We won't be closing any trade offices, but clearly every arm of government has to do the heavy lifting in order to provide a responsible budget.

### LIMESTONE COAST TOURISM

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:57):** My question is to the Minister for Tourism. How is the government working with tourism operators in the Limestone Coast to grow jobs and the state's visitor economy?

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:58):** I thank the member for Gibson for her interest in this area. Along with the members of the Malinauskas Labor government, I was delighted to spend time in the Limestone Coast last week. It is one of the most beautiful places in South Australia. I have been down there fairly regularly, and I am delighted to meet again and again with the people involved in tourism.

There are more than 800 businesses involved in tourism in the Limestone Coast. I suggested that we get together for a round table, and I would like to thank the member for Mount Gambier, who is listening, I am sure, and his office for assisting me to get that group together, as well as Biddie Shearing, who has been a Limestone Coast tourism lead for quite some time. She shared with me that she is moving on to get a job with the Mount Gambier council. Tourism will still be part of her focus, but we wish her well in that new form.

There were more than 20 people who joined me for that round table, and it was a really diverse group of people from all areas of the Limestone Coast. Some were involved in wine tourism, experiences and accommodation, the arts community and agritourism as well.

While it has been an incredibly challenging time, and I have spoken in this house many times of the uncertainty that tourism operators have felt in the past two years, I have to say there was incredible optimism. People who are involved in tourism love what they do. They love talking to South Australians and people from interstate, and eventually, more and more, people from overseas will come back, and they love showing them what we have to offer here.

There is great optimism but, no doubt at all, there are some challenges as well, and skill shortages are something—I don't need to tell people here that tourism and hospitality, but also agriculture have had some challenges around getting people. This has been particularly hard in tourism, where the uncertainty meant people exited the industry and found other jobs in other industries. Therefore, we are very keen to get them back.

That's why in the budget there was additional money for TIC SA (Tourism Industry Council of South Australia). We have put another \$400,000 per year with two areas of focus; the first is business capacity and capability building. They do some fantastic work building on what they did before, but during COVID, of providing training, often online, from people all over South Australia, just in time training, particularly when it came to keeping people safe during COVID, but about increasing their bookability and their accessibility as well.

While we were down in the Limestone Coast, we had the opportunity, not just at the community cabinet, which I think more than 300 people attended—it was a magnificent event—to go

out, and I went to the Kilsby Sinkhole. For those of you who have been there before, it's an amazing natural sinkhole in a bit of farmland. Graham and Jo spent time to talk to me about the asset they have.

There are very serious cave divers who go down there, and our police train down there every year as well. While cave diving is not for most of us, anyone can snorkel and so they have incredible attractions to do there. They are looking forward to increasing their accommodation. I had a great time talking to them and I highly recommend their Sinkhole gin.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Frome.

### **MOUNT BARKER HOSPITAL**

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:02):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think you will be pleased. My question is for the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister confirm whether the new Mount Barker hospital will be rebuilt on a different site from the current one, and, if so, which site has been secured?

**The SPEAKER:** That's an excellent question.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:02):** Thank you, sir. Both you and I, I am sure, always appreciate the opportunity in this house where we can talk about this government's commitment to the new Mount Barker hospital. This is going to be a real game changer for the people who live in the Adelaide Hills, where we know that the population is going up and up and up, particularly in the Mount Barker region but also in associated communities, such as Nairne, where there is additional population growth as well.

We have seen that the number of beds at the Mount Barker hospital has been flatlined at 34 beds for decades and decades, despite that population growth. So we have announced—and it was in the budget last week—a \$220 million investment in a new Mount Barker hospital, of which we are bringing forward money into the forward estimates of \$127 million (off the top of my head) of investment into the forward estimates to get that working.

What we said when we announced this project before the election was that our preference was for that to be on the existing site, but we are going to consider whether a greenfield site will be considered as well; we are going to consider both options. However, our preference was for the existing site because, very clearly, if we can build it on the existing site that gives us the ability to open more beds, open more services sooner than if we built it at a new site and we have to wait until the whole project is complete to provide that additional capacity.

When you are looking at a project that is obviously going to take a few years to build, that is a significant period of time when the population in Mount Barker is growing quite rapidly now and we need those services in place at the moment. It is clearly our preference to build it on the existing site; however, we are examining the options of a greenfield site as well. Progress is continuing.

I met with the infrastructure team in SA Health only this week to talk about the progress they have underway in terms of the planning for this project, getting teams on board to help with the design and assessment of the project as soon as possible because we don't want to waste a minute in providing those services for the Adelaide Hills, which is very different—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am listening carefully.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —from the approach we had from the previous government. In fact, there was a video that went online a few days before the election from the member for Heysen and the former Minister for Health Stephen Wade, who were talking down our commitment to the new Mount Barker hospital. The former Minister for Health even went as far as to suggest that he thought this might be a waste of taxpayers' money.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is a point of order, which I will hear under 134.

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Frome! I will hear the member for Morialta.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Standing order 98: we asked this question in the hope that the minister would spend four minutes talking about this important project in your area and what the government is doing, and he is wasting some of his time and the house's time talking about the former government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member well knows that the test is substance, and there is a good deal of substance in the answer.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Very clearly, there was concern from those opposite that this might be a waste of taxpayers' money. I can assure members that this is absolutely going to be well worth taxpayers' money—investing in the people who live in Mount Barker, in new services for people, in tripling the number of beds at that hospital and in making sure the people in the Adelaide Hills can get the care they need.

#### *Grievance Debate*

### **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:06):** There is no doubt that the National Electricity Market is facing significant challenges at the moment, to the point where the Australian Energy Market Operator has had to suspend the market due to skyrocketing wholesale electricity prices. AEMO has warned of potential forced blackouts across the NEM across the eastern coast and also here in South Australia.

Unfortunately, South Australians have experienced these uncertainties before, with the statewide blackout in 2016 and, over and above that, also continual forced blackouts for a number of periods either side of that blackout. In fact, in the 2014 to 2018 term of the former Labor government seven million customer hours were lost. They were hours lost for households and they were hours lost to business.

Today, I had the pleasure of joining Andrew Ferguson, owner of fantastic South Australian business Ferguson Australia, to discuss the impact of this uncertainty on his business. Ferguson Australia deals with lobster. We know they have been affected by the trade issues with China, but they also depend on reliable electricity, electricity for tanks of water which these lobsters stay in after they are caught live. If the tanks cannot circulate and filter water, resupplying it with oxygen, within half an hour to 60 minutes these lobsters can be stressed and die, so of course making sure reliable energy is there is important.

In the statewide blackouts, they were affected heavily for three days, especially in their Port Lincoln processing plant. Luckily, they had diesel backup, but they had to get diesel petrol to make sure those backup generators could run, so that caused them a great sense of stress. Coming into this new crisis or experience, we have to make sure the grid is reliable.

When the former Marshall government came to power in 2018, that was certainly a key focus. We put in place a very sophisticated energy solution to make sure that was the case—the Home Battery Scheme and grid-scale storage to really try to get that grid stability. Fast-tracking the interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales was also a key tenet towards that. The result was that between 2018 and 2022 we had zero customer hours lost through forced load shedding, so this is a fantastic show of support for those plans that were put in place by the former Marshall government.

As to capacity, when we came to government another thing we experienced was this rushed purchase of diesel generators by the former Labor government. The Livesey report showed it would cost South Australian taxpayers \$609 million over the lifetime of these generators that were only there to run maybe once or twice a year. We wanted to put them to use because we know that to give grid stability we need to have this generation capacity running much more frequently. We did that.

We leased those generators out to Nexif and Iberdrola, and they have been put to work. They allow these fantastic companies, who are looking to produce mass-scale renewable energy,



which is intermittent, to have this dispatchable capacity. It then allows them to be a base load generator. It allows them to bid into base load contracts for our big energy users: BHP, Woolworths. In fact, just in May, the Premier himself was at a photo shoot with Woolworths when they announced they were going for a 100 per cent renewable energy source powered by these generators, yet there he is, trying to scare people by saying this was a bad decision.

I will also mention that they are available to dispatch energy into the grid at all times. They can be directed by AEMO to support the grid. In fact, during summer, that six-month period when a lot of peak demand occurs, we put in place that they cannot do maintenance. No matter what, generators need to have some sort of maintenance in place, and that does happen, but what we have today is the majority of these generators running.

We are back to the playbook of the energy minister, where he would rather blame someone than take responsibility—the same energy minister who saw us through the statewide blackout. You cannot trust this energy minister.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:11):** Today, I would like to speak on the importance of engagement with local government elections, continuing on from the Minister for Local Government's ministerial statement read to the house yesterday. Of course, 2022 is the election year for South Australians, having been to the ballot box twice already for the state and federal elections and having the upcoming local government elections in November. I would like to reflect on my own time in local government, where I was privileged to represent the Balmoral ward in the City of Tea Tree Gully for the past three years.

The minister did put it very eloquently when he remarked that local government is 'the sphere of government closest to the community', and I could not agree more. Although the jump from local government to state government is large and the two spheres are governed in very different ways, I have had a three-year head start in community representation, and in that period of time I have been lucky enough to get to know the wonderful schools, churches, community groups, sporting clubs, service clubs and not so wonderful septic tank system in the north-eastern suburbs.

The seat of Newland falls entirely within one council area, the City of Tea Tree Gully, and I am incredibly grateful for the support from that council and for the relationships that I have formed there. I would like to make a particular mention of outgoing CEO John Moyle for his service to local government over many decades and send my best wishes to incoming CEO Ryan McMahon, who will take over as the CEO later in the year.

As a councillor, there were two things I valued more than anything. The first was our bus tours. Every few months, the councillors got on a minibus with the executive team and toured the city to see council projects, road upgrades and sporting clubs. Being involved on this level was so important, as was seeing the progress of projects we had committed to for our community.

I was also privileged enough often to be allocated the role of name reading at citizenship ceremonies. Last week, I was lucky to return to Sfera's in Civic Park for a Tea Tree Gully citizenship ceremony, as was the member for Morialta, not as the council name reader, unfortunately, but as a guest speaker. There is nothing that makes me prouder than being part of the moment when a resident becomes a citizen, and I cherish those ceremonies, those discussions with new citizens and the warmth and pride in their eyes when they are officially declared not only Australians but Tea Tree Gullyans.

I would like to put on the record my thanks to the council staff for their role in putting on those ceremonies as well as the wonderful staff at Sfera's, who put on so many of our community events. Being elected to the Tea Tree Gully council in 2018 at the age of 22 was at that time the greatest privilege of my life. It was also a time of change and renewal for not only our council but councils across the state.

In our council, we had five women elected for the first time ever. We also had two female ward councillors elected in the same ward for the first time. In fact, across the state 40 per cent of ward councillors elected in 2018 were women. In Tea Tree Gully we also saw two women under 30 elected for the first time ever, a woman under 30 never having been elected before.

Female candidates increased in 2018, from 28.6 per cent to 33 per cent, and 42 per cent of mayors elected in the 2018 council elections were women as well. I would like to make a specific mention of the former mayor of Onkaparinga, the member for Davenport, who was elected in that election and who has since joined us in this place.

I would also like to acknowledge the number of members in this place who have served in local government over the span of many years—and I hope I do not miss any. The members for Hartley, Light, Morphett, Black, Flinders and Davenport have all been elected members at a local government level—

**An honourable member:** And Unley.

**Ms SAVVAS:** —and Unley—as have the Minister for Local Government and, many, many years ago, the Minister for Planning. I am sure they would all agree that local government is an incredible opportunity and also an incredible privilege—

*Mr Hughes interjecting:*

**Ms SAVVAS:** And, of course, the member for Giles, who I missed as well. I knew I would miss someone, particularly someone in the room. I am sure they would all agree that local government is an incredible opportunity and also an incredible privilege to represent the 68 councils and hundreds of communities across South Australia.

I thoroughly encourage participation in the upcoming council elections, not just by voting but by standing, and I will make myself available to any person who wants to talk about standing for local government. I hope to see a particularly diverse range of candidates coming up and some very healthy competition in my home council come November.

#### STATE ECONOMY

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:16):** A lot has changed since the election, and not for the better when it comes to the South Australian economy. Just hours ago, the ABS released the latest unemployment statistics. Nationally, it is steady as she goes, but here in South Australia it is a very different story.

South Australia's unemployment rate has risen to 4.6 per cent and is now, standalone, the worst in the country. This is a far cry from December last year, under the former Liberal government, when we had the lowest unemployment rate since records began in 1978. It is disappointing news for South Australia, and I fear that this government have no real plan to create local jobs. Their own budget, which was handed down just two weeks ago, forecast that the jobs growth rate was to plummet from 3.25 per cent to just 1 per cent over the forward years, and we are starting to see this come to fruition.

More broadly, when it comes to the unemployment figures, worryingly the unemployment rate here in South Australia was 6.5 per cent, and South Australia also now leads the nation in this category alone. Our participation rate remains the lowest on mainland Australia at 63.2 per cent. However, the worrying news is not just contained to the unemployment rate.

Business confidence has taken a U-turn, for lack of a better term. Since the election, 20 points have been wiped off the business confidence rating, as maintained by NAB as part of their Monthly Business Survey. The Treasurer was very quick to try to take credit for nation-leading business confidence just weeks after the election, and in his press release he chose to use the trend data points to demonstrate this. Of course, the trend set takes into account previous monthly results and also reflects the work of the former Liberal government policy.

In reality, the April NAB result reflected an 11-point drop in business confidence, and earlier this week we found out that the May results reflect another nine-point drop. Now our business confidence rating is just six points in the positive and, on the monthly stats, we no longer maintain the highest business confidence in the nation. We have dropped to mid-pack. That is 20 points of business confidence erased since the Labor Party and Peter Malinauskas came to power. We know the cost of living and the cost of doing business have risen and are still rising. Inflation, interest rates, lettuce, petrol, groceries, putting food on the table—the greatest misses of this recent budget was the lack of broad-based relief in terms of cost of living.

I genuinely hope that these trends start to turn around. It seems as though business in the state does not have much confidence in this pro-business Labor Premier. The Premier's answers so far have involved pushing out major job-creating infrastructure projects. The debacle that has taken place in the last week, with regard to the return to work amendments, only further adds uncertainty for business. It certainly does not create confidence. It has upped costs or most likely will up costs. How much those costs are going up we do not know. We need to wait to see some detail. We need to see some third-party analysis.

The Liberal Party has always prided itself on our economic credentials and job creation, bringing industry to South Australia. There is no better testament to that vision than just down the road in Lot Fourteen. We have seen the development of new industries. We have seen young people instead of leaving South Australia coming to South Australia to see their futures. We need business confidence to be high in the state. We need businesses to understand that the cost of doing business in this state is competitive. South Australia is a great place. We need to make sure it maintains that status moving forward.

### COOBER PEDY COMMUNITY

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:21):** I rise today to talk about the community of Coober Pedy in the Far North of the state, a genuinely unique community, and that is no exaggeration. It is a community with its own very particular challenges, and those challenges especially apply when it comes to the provision of essential services.

I will give a little bit of a potted history of Coober Pedy as an opal mining community. Once upon a time, it had a progress association and it relied upon a lot of voluntary effort. The community had a different dynamic in those days. It evolved into a fully elected council that was in place for many years but, unfortunately, a whole raft of issues accumulated for that particular council to the point where the previous government dismissed the council. That had my support. It was a process that started under a Labor government.

I guess I somewhat pre-empted the process on ABC radio, when I said that the council in Coober Pedy should be sacked. Two weeks later, I was up in Coober Pedy meeting the council, a very long meeting, but in some ways a worthwhile meeting. It is not that I was not without some sympathy for the council and the challenges they faced, with revolving door senior officers, revolving door mayors and a very small population from which to draw council members. The council had its issues.

Making all this far worse was the fact that this was the only council in the state, the only council of its size in the state, that was expected to provide the water supply and treatment process. It had to run that process itself at its own expense. People in Coober Pedy had to pay three times more for their water than elsewhere in regional South Australia or the metropolitan area. At the moment, they no longer have the generators—that has been outsourced—but they do have a distribution and retail system.

For a community of this nature, for a council of this nature, to sustain these particular essential services is just not possible. Coober Pedy will not be able to resolve this issue without state government support of one sort or another.

I have publicly advocated for SA Water to take over the water supply and treatment in Coober Pedy. SA Water provide that service in every other regional community. I have also argued, on the basis of equity, that the people in Coober Pedy should pay the same price for water as other people in regional South Australia and the metropolitan area. There will be a cost associated with all that, but it is about us all being South Australians and, when it comes to essential services, all being treated in an equitable fashion.

The debt level that the Coober Pedy council has is somewhere between \$9 million and \$10 million. They are not going to be able to resolve that; they do not have the rate base in Coober Pedy. It is a socio-economically deprived community. As I said, it is a remote community—a community with a whole series of challenges.

We have to shrink the council down to basic municipal services. They should not be shouldering the burden for water supply and they should not be shouldering the burden for electricity

distribution and retail, and they have demonstrated over the years that they do not have the capacity to shoulder that burden, so we do need intervention.

We might well find that we get to a point, if we do not intervene in what is an important community in our Far North, where people there might well walk away from the utilities that are needed. The previous government put the administrator in and then just left him to hang out and dry. Intervention is needed.

#### **GRANTSKALNS, MS C.**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:26):** I would like to share with the house the sombre but also in some ways celebratory news that Carolyn Grantskalns, the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Independent Schools in South Australia, is retiring come the end of the year—potentially, early next year. Her retirement has been announced in the last 24 hours, and it is appropriate to place on the record the outstanding career of service she has had to education, particularly supporting the educational needs and opportunities for young South Australians over a lifetime of service.

Carolyn Grantskalns began her teaching career in public education as an English teacher and history teacher; an outstanding communicator then and now and an innovative leader in particular with a developed expertise in understanding the needs and opportunities for junior, secondary and middle-school students. The opportunities for the development of a child's potential through those middle-school years is something she became a national leader on. She moved from the public sector to the Independent sector in the late 1980s, I believe 1988, and in 1990 she was appointed to the very prestigious and highly sought-after role of Principal of Wilderness School—a position she held for 16 years, until 2006.

She was a national leader in girls' education, recognised as such right around Australia, and in the professional development of staff—something that is absolutely taken for granted. Its importance is completely understood everywhere now, but in the 1990s the professional development of Carolyn's staff identified the understanding that she had of its primary importance in the delivery of a quality education at the school that she led. She was also a very effective recruiter of staff for the benefit of her school and the girls at Wilderness.

During the time that she was at Wilderness, she was variously chair of the Industrial Relations Committee of AISSA, the president of AISSA and a member of a number of boards: the tertiary residential college, St Ann's, the Teachers Credit Union (then known as SATISFAC) and the National Council of Independent Schools of Australia.

In 2006, she was appointed Principal of Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School in Essendon, Victoria. In addition to that role, she also held positions of chair of the Victorian branch of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia and membership of the AHISA board, treasurer of Girls Sport Victoria and board member of the Centre for Strategic Education. She then came back to South Australia, for which we are all very grateful.

In 2013, she became the Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools, a role she has held for the last decade and will hold until her replacement takes over, likely early next year. In that role, she has developed an extraordinary reputation for the support she has been able to give to principals and schools, the way that she has supported strengthening of the governance within schools, the support she has provided to quite a number now—an increasingly growing number—of new independent schools that have been able to establish with advice and support from Carolyn and the team at AHISA.

She has provided support to the broader South Australian educational symptom through a range of ways: a participant in the sector heads, which meet regularly, certainly during my time as minister; and looking to advance educational sector outcomes for all students. In that role, I particularly want to pay tribute to the work she did during the coronavirus pandemic, when around Australia education was in so many ways utterly chaotic in 2020 and 2021.

South Australia alone kept schools open not only in the public sector but also in all other sectors, and Carolyn's role was ensuring that the independent sector, along with Neil McGoran and Catholic Ed and Rick Persse in the education department, was singing from the same song sheet.

That removed the risk of mixed messages to parents, students and staff, and that was tremendously important.

She also serves Australia through the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority Board. She is the deputy chair of the Education Standards Board. She has served on the Teachers Registration Board and so many other boards. She is a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and, perhaps most importantly of all, she is a devoted fan of the Norwood Football Club, the Redlegs. I think that everyone in the chamber at the moment would thoroughly endorse that sentiment.

*S.E. Andrews interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Nearly everyone. Carolyn has led an outstanding career of service to education, to children and young people, to families and to schools and staff around South Australia. We wish her well in retirement. I know her family will be glad of her more. I know that she will find many further ways to contribute to education in South Australia in the years ahead.

### GAWLER LINE ELECTRIFICATION

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:31):** Sunday 12 June marked the welcome return of services to the Gawler line after an agonisingly long 18-month hiatus. Some saw this as exciting, others were more relieved that the inconvenience was finally over. By most accounts, the day was fun with bands, markets, free rides and food being served up and down the line.

Just before I begin, I want to pass on my thanks to all the people who were involved in working on the project. I see that it was a big, long ride and appreciated by all of us. Sadly, though, I needed to sit this one out, as I was a COVID close contact. For better or worse the people of Playford have elected a train buff as their local member, which made the day that little bit harder for me. I felt it wise to make do with the noise of the occasional horn being heard from my bedroom window.

While the day was a happy one, the journey getting there was far from pleasant, with the project completely mismanaged by the previous government. An initial closure of just a few months ballooned out to a year and a half. This was coupled with a cost blowout, with final costs tipped to be around the \$900 million mark. In that time, those commuters who did not give up on public transport were subjected to long, congested substitute bus rides.

While balloons were handed out on the opening day, in many ways ballooning seemed to sum up the whole project. It may be a small gesture, but it was decent at the very least to ensure that the substitute buses were free for northern commuters. Unfortunately, we had to wait for the election of a Labor government to rewrite that wrong. The other casualty throughout this project was unfortunately the truth.

For months, my constituents waited patiently to hear from former Minister Wingard on when exactly the train was returning. We lost count of how many times the date changed, or we were deafened by silence when one could not be provided. It might seem outlandish, but this fiasco, compounded by actions of the previous government, suggests they do not really like anything that runs on rails. Forgive me if I do not pronounce this properly, but I can assure you that I have practised. The term is called siderodromophobia. I am not sure whether there is a cure, but maybe it is a few terms in opposition. However, broadly speaking, this is the fear of trains or railways. Examples of the ills include:

- defunding of the *Overland*;
- no further tram extensions;
- attempting to sell the Aldinga railway corridor;
- cancellation of the Port Adelaide spur line;
- privatisation of our trains and trams;
- cancellation of GlobeLink;

- closure of the Eyre Peninsula grain network;
- disconnection of the Barossa line at Kroemer's corner; and
- abandoning the mythical right-hand turning tram.

If this list were not so exhaustive, anybody would think I was joking. This spreads even further into the federal sphere, with the then Prime Minister and his assistant minister, Jamie Briggs, pulling their initial funding of the electrification project back in 2013. Given these examples, you would understand why commuters felt the previous government was hardly taking the project seriously. The Gawler line is one of our community's greatest assets, but there is no point having a fantastic asset if it sits still and does absolutely nothing.

Through no fault of his, news from Minister Koutsantonis that commuters would have to wait until June for the opening was not what many wanted to hear, but on the flip side there was widespread relief that finally someone was telling the truth. It is great that we finally got there in the end. With the final delivery of 12 electric sets in 2023, we can look forward to putting this sorry saga behind us. As the fleet becomes electrified, the north is finally getting the cleaner, quieter and faster service that it actually deserves.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:36):** I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 5 July 2022 at 11am.

Motion carried.

#### *Bills*

### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2022**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:36):** I rise today to make my contribution to the Appropriation Bill before this place, the first and hopefully only three to go. There are many questions that the opposition has in regard to this budget that we will tease out over the coming estimates process, but some key pertinent questions that come to mind to start with are: where is the vision? The second is: did the Labor Party commit themselves to election commitments so far that they had no ability to pivot or to address other issues that are facing South Australians today and that will face South Australians into the future?

During the election campaign, the Labor Party could not go anywhere without spruiking their plan for South Australia's future. They talked about their jobs plan, yes, yet it appears that, outside a \$100 million fund with no jobs target or a hydrogen jobs plan that is by all accounts years away, if ever, there does not appear to be a clear and coherent plan for job creation here in South Australia contained within this budget. Just yesterday, we heard that one of the main programs that the Marshall Liberal government took forward over the last four years of government, the Growth State agenda, had been completely ditched by the Premier, and he was happy to do so.

This budget delivers \$700 million of cuts to government services. It pushes out infrastructure spending, with the attempted fig leaf of needing to review plans. As we learnt yesterday in question time, a soil test on the new Women's and Children's site disputing the original results does not even appear to exist. The budget is underpinned by significant increases in state tax revenues and federal tax revenues.

This really demonstrates the strength of the economy and of the economic rebound that was achieved by the former Liberal state and federal governments. Despite the Treasurer's constant refrains of how supposedly poorly the South Australian economy was performing under the Liberal Party, he sure was happy to bank and quickly spend the additional tax revenues that came to him.

In the Treasurer's budget speech, there was yet another example of the hubris this government has not developed but has shown from day one. In the opening sentences of his budget speech, the Treasurer suggested that business confidence had improved in South Australia just because of the change in government. For starters, the Treasurer was referencing the trend figure. This captures the previous survey results, a reflection on the policies of the former Liberal government. Had he referenced the current monthly figure, he would have noted an 11-point drop in business confidence from positive 26 points to 15 on the April NAB business confidence survey.

Sir, I know you might be keen to hear, but with regard to the May result, released in recent days, what do you think happened, Mr Acting Speaker? Another drop in business confidence, dropping from the plus 15 result in April to now just plus 6, a further nine-point drop. I did not see a press release from the Treasurer on this month's survey results; I have not seen one yet. The Treasurer was handed nation-leading business confidence at 26 points and under the Labor Party's watch 20 points have been wiped off the business confidence rating already, dropping us back to mid-pack on the current monthly results.

Where are we now in regard to trend? We are still ahead of the pack, luckily. As I said, this largely reflects the confidence provided by the previous government's policies, but we did record a 2 per cent drop, reflecting the actual numbers recorded under this government over the previous months. I have heard commentary and those opposite talk frequently about how this budget was about inspiring confidence. Well, we will see. At the moment, we are just getting more of the same old Labor.

The Treasurer also gave the Liberal Party and the former government no credit at all for any of its management of the COVID pandemic. I do not think you have to stretch or search too far to see that our economy performed better, rebounded faster and outperformed most other jurisdictions not just in the country but in the world. It is a record that we stand by. It was difficult and it was unprecedented. Nobody had a manual for dealing with the health and economic crisis that COVID presented, but there is no doubt that we performed, comparatively, very well.

One of the biggest missed opportunities came from this budget. Again, it appears that the Treasurer almost looked exclusively to deliver the election commitments that were made by the previous government in the lead-up. While those of us on this side completely understand that there was a mandate given to this Labor government to deliver on the promises that were made, particularly in the health area, were these commitments of such a magnitude that allowed no flexibility to change or to address the issues that were coming to face us?

Other states have released their state budgets over the past number of weeks, and we have seen many of them take up broad-based cost-of-living measures to assist with the rising issues in terms of cost of living that are facing not just South Australians but our country more broadly. Other states have addressed this through different mechanisms of energy concessions, toll concessions and other levers.

It is entirely true that there are different options for state governments to address these issues. For instance, the Marshall Liberal government, on coming to power back in 2018, were keen to try to address some of these issues in terms of cost of living because we believed at that point in time that the cost of living and the cost of doing business in South Australia had only skyrocketed under the previous Labor government.

We returned the remissions in regard to the emergency services levy—a broad-based cost-of-living initiative. We fixed the water pricing rort that had been in place for many years under the previous government, again a broad-based cost-of-living initiative to help the vast majority of South Australians. We reduced payroll tax for small business with a payroll threshold under \$1½ million, completely eliminating payroll tax, one of the least efficient taxes and a tax that only disincentivises hiring more South Australians, reducing the cost of doing business here in South Australia. Our record speaks for itself in these areas: we have always been committed to ensuring that the cost of living and the cost of doing business in South Australia is addressed and addressed in a broad way.

The Treasurer also spoke about some of the initiatives that were in the budget, including the main initiative, the lowering of the cost of materials for school students in South Australia—an election

commitment made by the Liberal Party that the Labor Party matched, I may add. While we 100 per cent support this initiative because we proposed it, given the economic climate and how quickly things are changing we did see an opportunity, as other states did, for more broad cost-of-living relief for South Australians.

There was a reason that the Liberal Party made such modest commitments at the most recent election: so that we had the flexibility to respond. How quickly things have been developing from the broader economic perspective is almost at a level that many have not seen. Last night, the US Federal Reserve increased their base cash rate by 0.75 basis points, or three-quarters of a per cent, which was the biggest increase in over 40 years. Obviously, the RBA recently upped the cash rate here by 0.5 of a per cent, or 50 basis points. We understand that the central banks are very quickly trying to rein in the situation in regard to inflation, which we have not seen running this hot for a significant period of time.

You can add in the further complexities of rising gas prices, as a result of the conflict in Ukraine and the sanctions that have been imposed, and the impacts of supply chains that are still being felt as a result of the COVID pandemic. We know in particular that shipping lanes have been impacted for quite some time. The evidence that was presented to the Economic and Finance Committee during a recent inquiry of the last parliament really did step out for us in great detail the significance of the impacts to supply chains from the COVID pandemic.

We had ports that were closed and not accessible, based on a shortage of workers. There were ships that were being stuck in quarantine facilities. There were shipping containers that were being returned empty or stuck in countries that were not theirs. These issues that have resulted in significant increases in things like building materials—pushing up the cost of building a house—are real and are going to be here for a period of time, the impacts of which, from a fundamental household perspective, have been hitting and hitting very hard.

In his budget reply speech, our leader set out a number of things, in terms of our legacy perspective, that the former government was proud to achieve. Those highlights included the increases in residential construction work in South Australia. We were leading the nation while the rest of the nation was going the other way.

Given the member for Unley's interest and passion in this area, we saw more than 3,300 employers take on an apprentice for the first time. This change in apprenticeship and direction in terms of the training sector was set to turn around what had been, and could not be described in any other way, a complete demise, with a 66 per cent decline in commencements in the last six years of the Labor government, between 2012 and 2018.

These changes that were undertaken in the training sector are absolutely pivotal. We know that people are changing jobs more frequently and quickly than they ever have. We know within South Australia, with the change in industries and sectors, we have a number of people and job opportunities that will be available in the coming years, but there will need to be training to make sure that they are ready to find and fulfil those opportunities that lie in front of them.

In terms of jobs, we just saw the release of the most recent set of ABS statistics. What is very clear is that this budget lacks a short-term real jobs plan. We have touched on the fact that a \$100 million fund with no jobs target has been created. I must admit, a similar program, the job creator program or something similar that the Labor Party rolled out just prior to the last election to effectively subsidise jobs, had significant issues that were called out.

The other jobs plan within this budget is around hydrogen. From the good work of the Marshall Liberal government, we do value the importance of the hydrogen sector and what it will mean for our future. Where we differ is the fact that we see an opportunity to leverage billions of dollars in private investment, to shift that risk away from the taxpayer. We know that the Upper Spencer Gulf is the place to build this, we know and have set in place a plan to establish a world-class hydrogen hub in Port Bonython, but to say that this is the fix to jobs in the short term is ridiculous. We know from an engineering perspective that there is no way this project is starting anytime soon, so the jobs that this will create are many, many years away.

I will move to conclude my remarks given that there are only four minutes remaining to me. If you wrap up this budget as a whole, it looks to me to be single-minded. It achieved the outcome of



funding Labor's election commitments, but make no mistake that there is a big difference between funding commitments and delivering commitments. Ultimately, it will be the people of South Australia who will judge on what is delivered, not what has been allocated through a budget process.

This budget has been underpinned, has freed up the money to deliver these commitments, by \$700 million worth of cuts to public services, most of which were not outlined in the budget papers, based on how quickly the budget was prepared. It was also underpinned by the economic recovery and the strong economic conditions that the Labor Party were presented with when they came to power in March this year. This is evidenced entirely by the of significant upwards forecasting in GST revenues, in state government taxation revenues, across every tax. This was limited not just to payroll, not just to stamp duty, not just to gambling revenue. The vast majority of state taxes delivered significant windfalls that were spent by this Treasurer to deliver the election commitments the Labor Party made.

It was also achieved by pushing out large job-creating infrastructure. So when we see ABS statistics that show that jobs need to be a priority, that jobs need to be created, the questions have to be asked: what is the price we pay, what is the price our future generations will pay, what is the price those young people who are in university now, who are about to leave to join the workforce, will pay for the Labor Party continuing to push out these large job-creating infrastructure projects?

I look forward to the estimates process so that we have the opportunity to delve more deeply into the detail and get some clarity around what these cuts mean for South Australians. I think it is probably very well summarised to say that this budget was one that was, in some ways, boring, that did not provide any surprises, but that also did not pivot to address the challenges facing South Australia now.

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:57):** I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2022. At the forefront is the commitment we made to South Australians for significant investment in our health system. Included in this is a record \$294 million allocated to provide better treatment for mental health patients, with additional hospital beds, specialised care, and much-needed support for families.

A total of 100 new inpatient mental health beds will be delivered across the health system to improve patient outcomes as well as to address the ambulance ramping crisis by reducing pressure on our emergency departments. Each of these 100 new inpatient beds will be provided in a single room to create a better environment for patients and staff to best support treatment and care. These additional beds also provide more capacity for paramedics to transfer patients into emergency departments as soon as they arrive at hospital—unlike under the previous government, where mental health patients were too often confined to waiting in ambulances as ramping hit record levels.

These additional health services for mental health patients are part of a greater package that the Malinauskas government is delivering. Children and teenagers will now have access to 100 new mental health and learning support specialists who will work at public primary and secondary schools to ensure both students and teachers get the support they need. The mental health care package also includes an extra six specialist mental health nurses at the Women's and Children's Hospital, five more child psychiatrists and 10 more child psychologists at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

We will also deliver more support for public community health teams, allowing them to reach more South Australians in crisis, including:

- prioritising mental health voices in the Lived Experience Leadership and Advocacy Network;
- SIDS and Kids SA boost to support bereaved families;
- investing in the MATES in Construction program, which delivers innovative and evidence-based suicide prevention and mental health programs to the building, mining, energy and construction industries; and
- mental health training for pharmacists to allow them to identify and respond to the early warning signs of mental ill-health.

A key priority for this government is to deliver greater capacity in our healthcare system. The Flinders Medical Centre services the people of Gibson, so the joint commitment between our state government and the federal Labor government for a significant upgrade is most welcome. The much-needed \$400 million expansion includes 136 extra beds, an upgrade and expansion of mental health facilities at the Margaret Tobin Centre, a brand-new eye surgery clinic, expanded medical imaging services and an expanded intensive care unit. This extra capacity of beds and additional nurses and doctors will help to reduce ambulance ramping, which goes hand in hand with our commitment for a long-overdue upgrade for the Marion Ambulance Station.

Our government has been listening when it comes to cost-of-living pressures. The Malinauskas government's first state budget is delivering targeted cost-of-living relief to those who need it most. Amid the rising cost of everyday expenses, with petrol prices surging and inflation rising, this budget delivers cost-of-living relief to pensioners and other Centrelink recipients, low-income earners, school parents and people living in regional and remote South Australia.

Our 2022-23 state budget includes doubling the Cost of Living Concession for eligible households to up to \$449, free public transport all day every day for eligible seniors and a \$100 subsidy, for eligible school parents and caregivers, off the materials and services charge for the 2022 and 2023 school years.

This budget takes the first steps in delivering a plan for a better future for our children, with the creation of a royal commission into early childhood education and care and investing in education infrastructure upgrades. The royal commission will examine how we can better support children in the first three years of life, how universal quality preschool programs for three and four year olds can be delivered in South Australia and how families can have access to out-of-school hours care at both preschool and primary school ages.

For older students, Labor will build five government technical colleges—three in metropolitan Adelaide, one of which will be built in Tonsley, and two in regional South Australia—that will connect existing secondary schools and be associated with the TAFE campus. They will crucially set up young people for the rest of their lives by making sure they are learning the modern skills needed for the future and getting their high school certificate. We know that investing in our young people is crucial to ensuring that they have the best start in life.

The state government has committed to a new self-cleaning toilet block at Ballara Park Reserve. This reserve is co-located with the kindergarten and, as such, has high use by young families. This work will be an addition to the upgrade of the park by Marion council and the recently elected Albanese government. The election of this Malinauskas state government and Albanese federal government also enables funding delivery for the upgrade of the Warradale Park Tennis Club. This funding will support the Warradale Park Tennis Club to improve its venue's facilities as well as ensuring clubrooms meet all occupational health and safety requirements.

The club will be in a great position to continue to meet the needs of its members and its guests, to grow the club and maintain and foster close community ties. An important aspect of the Warradale Park community tennis club is that it is not exclusively for the use of tennis players and their families, but it also welcomes of the community groups into utilise its facilities. This upgraded project will also enable the club to be sustainable in the future by enabling it to increase its revenue base by hiring out the proposed all-weather, multiuse first floor.

Another project to be delivered in partnership with the federal Labor government is the on/off ramp at Majors Road, a project that the previous Liberal government was paralysed by. Congestion on Brighton Road has long been a concern for the residents of Gibson, a concern which the previous government was unable to deliver a solution for. The on/off ramp is a critical piece of infrastructure, as the ramp will make an enormous difference to the residents of the southern suburbs.

Another election commitment which was announced a long time ago, and one which we will finally see realised, is ending the trains and trams privatisation. Residents of Gibson are frequent users of the Seaford train line and regularly advise me of the reduction in the quality of service since privatisation took hold. As such, we look forward to the \$1 million for 2022-23 to fund a commission of inquiry to advise the government on the return of the train and tram operations back into public

ownership. As Peter Malinauskas said our state Labor convention at the time that this was proposed by the previous government:

A private company would not work in the interests of public transport users...It makes no sense to hand this over to a private network who will make it less efficient and more about profit...We need public transport to be a key service operating in the interests of people, not in the interests of an overseas shareholder.

In my first speech, I spoke about my passion for the arts and my concern that as a sector it is too often overlooked for much-needed support to ensure viability. In light of this, I am keen to outline the budget measures that have been announced, including:

- \$3.3 million over two years for vouchers and grants to get live music back into pubs, clubs, small bars, restaurants, cafes and other smaller venues;
- \$1 million to provide 200 grants of up to \$5,000 for venues to undertake minor upgrades to cater for live music and other performances;
- \$500,000 to help support the return of live music to the Royal Adelaide Show after a hiatus of 20 years and to support local artists and performers who have done it tough during COVID-19;
- \$8 million over four years to allow the Fringe to host a headline anchor event each year, provide resources to effectively market the event interstate and overseas and to also support the Fringe's grant program to continue to support new and emerging artists coming to the event;
- \$8 million over four years to boost funding to arts and artists; and
- \$2 million over four years to support the Adelaide Film Festival becoming an annual event.

This is a comprehensive list of programs supporting arts organisations and artists in South Australia, and our Labor government is able to deliver on all of our election commitments.

I look forward to the realisation of delivery of these important projects and seeing this Malinauskas government improve the lives of South Australians and, in particular, the people of Gibson. I commend the bill to the house.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:07):** I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill, which really is an important bill that comes before parliament each year to debate the state budget. The state budget is a document that really does indicate the priorities of the government.

One thing that is very evident to me on reading through the budget is the lack of focus and ambition for the economy of South Australia in this year's budget. This is not entirely unexpected, though, because there really was minimal economic policy taken to the election by the Labor government despite the massive economic challenges that face this state, whether that relates to our coming out of COVID and working our way through that or the inflation that is now coming across the globe to Australia.

A lot of it relates to issues to do with COVID itself. Whether it is because of massive government stimuluses or supply chain disruptions, it is causing big headaches around inflation. It has an impact on the cost of living for ordinary families and for businesses that are struggling to make ends meet. No focus was put on that during the election, and then it falls out when we look at the budget documents that were handed down only two weeks ago.

We can contrast that with the years of the Marshall Liberal government, when we relentlessly focused on keeping the cost of business low, keeping the cost to South Australian households low and making sure that that environment, those economic settings for the state, was really setting the state up into the future as well. We know that when we keep the costs down, it certainly helps drive economic activity because it attracts businesses to the state, it helps existing businesses grow and expand and it also makes more disposable income for households to then go off and enjoy what is a fantastic part of the world to live in—South Australia. We have the most livable city in the nation, and Adelaide is the third most livable city in the world.

Some of those initiatives that were undertaken to give lower costs from a business perspective included the payroll tax exemption for small businesses. Basically, those with a payroll of less than \$1.5 million, which encompasses just about every single small business in the state, has no payroll tax. That allows those businesses to invest more in their business, to employ more people and, in turn, to help their business grow.

Another initiative that was really important to help both businesses and householders alike was the \$90 million per year remission to the emergency services levy—again, keeping costs down. That fantastic initiative effectively, on average, halved the ESL bill for households. Another significant improvement to help with cost of living was the reduction in water rates that occurred. We saw an average saving of \$200 for households and for businesses it was even more significant, with roughly \$1,300 per annum, which, again can be used within their business.

At the moment, we are going through massive challenges with the electricity grid. Our government really set about stabilising the grid, making it reliable and, in turn, reducing prices. That saw electricity prices for the average electricity bill reducing by \$421 over those four years. This was really all about getting those fundamentals right and getting the underpinnings for the economy to allow it to grow.

At a bigger level, though, the strengths of this state are significant in terms of economic key industries. We wanted to make sure that those industries were able to grow and prosper because we are in a global environment. Not only are businesses competing amongst themselves here in South Australia but they are having to look nationally, they are having to look globally, but why wouldn't you? If you want to have a bigger customer base, there is no better customer business than where we are located in the South-East Asia region.

It is a growing region, with massive population growth, and a lot of that is moving into the middle class that wants goods and services that can be provided by South Australia. When we looked at what those potential exports would entail in terms of goods or services, some of the key sectors that make up approximately between 90 per cent and 95 per cent of our exports were in nine key areas, which we labelled the growth state sectors.

We have those foundational sectors that have set this state up from its first European settlement days. The food, wine and agriculture sector is worth \$23 billion. Energy and mining is a very important sector, and then also more recently the defence sector has really set this state up as the defence state. Closely aligned to defence more and more is space and the opportunities there, and of course that is very high-tech as well. There are certainly opportunities in the high-tech space.

As to technological advancement, there are massive opportunities in the health and medical industries as well. At a more service-level base, there are fantastic opportunities within the creative industries, and, as I said, being the most livable city in the nation, there are great opportunities here for not only tourism but also our knowledge base and our fantastic universities and tertiary study options. There are great opportunities in terms of international education.

As I said, there are great opportunities for exports. As a government, we worked hard to really try to ratchet this up by bringing more money into this state. One of the fantastic ways we did that was through our trade office network. When we came to government, there were four trade offices. By the time the four years had finished, there were over 15 trade offices, which effectively gave South Australian businesses representation by these trade offices following the sun.

Starting off in the US, there were three trade offices and then, moving through into Asia, we had trade offices in Japan and Singapore. These were key areas, as well as adding additional representation in China. China is certainly a big market but, when we look at the challenges we are facing with market access issues, we have other opportunities now.

India is certainly very prospective, so we have trade offices in India, over in the Middle East in Dubai and moving through into Europe. With Brexit, and the UK and the EU going it alone, it is certainly important to have direct representation in Europe. We did that via a Paris trade office and then, in terms of our London Agent General, we looked to give that a key trade and investment focus and beef that up.

Especially when you think of the fact that there was no international travel available during COVID and the challenges there, without these trade offices it would have been a real handicap for our exporting businesses. Alternatively, these trade offices really worked hard and you could see that the proof was in the pudding. For the first time in the state's history, in July last year we had \$13 billion worth of overseas goods exports, and this continued on. That is over a rolling 12-month term. That continued on month after month, in August, September, October and continuing on. The most recent figures in March show that overseas goods exports for the 12 months to March of 2022 was \$13.7 billion. This is a fantastic result and is bringing money into the state.

Other areas in terms of the investment space where the government worked really hard was trying to drive businesses to come here, set up and invest here and grow jobs. A specific example is in the high-tech sector, where there are some fantastic opportunities because of the work that is going on in artificial intelligence, in cybersecurity and in the space area.

We had massive global firms set up here. Accenture set up, bringing 2,000 jobs; PwC expanded here, adding 2,000 jobs; Cognizant looked to set up here, with over 1,600 jobs. Other names with big injections of jobs were Deloitte, Amazon Web Services, Google, MTX. Amazon Web Services and Google are the top four and top two companies in the world that have set up here in South Australia. Combined, that has created over 7,000 jobs by having them land here in South Australia. They are high-paying jobs and certainly they are very attractive to all ages but of course to the younger generation who want to set up in South Australia and have a globally focused career based right here in Adelaide.

Overall, in the four years of the Marshall government we saw over 41,300 jobs created. In December last year, I think it was, the unemployment rate hit a low level of 3.9 per cent, which had not occurred since records began in South Australia. That is fantastic for business and it is fantastic for our younger generation, compared with what we see in the budget now, where estimates are of employment growth of only 1 per cent compared with this significant employment growth. That really shows concerns about what is in this budget around growing the economy going forward.

I could talk more on that, but overall that resulted in South Australia having the fastest growing economy in the nation, at 3.9 per cent. This is the first time that South Australia has led the nation, and this was important for the state because this strong economy gave us strong GST receipts, big increases in stamp duty receipts and increases in royalties from the mining space. No doubt that has paid for some of the \$3.1 billion of spending that is in this budget by the Labor government. It is not only that spending though.

Our focus was always that having a strong economy allows you to then provide those services. I do not see that here. I just see hanging on the coat-tails of the good economic work of the Marshall government to pay for the commitments that Labor made in the election. There was no policy effort put in. In fact, what we see is cuts to non-frontline departments to pay for these massive spending commitments.

Realistically, a lot of these non-frontline departments are in the areas of key economic enablers. I talked about the efforts in trade and investment. We see a \$4.7 million reduction in budget there rolling through across each year to being \$4 million over the final four years. There are big deductions in energy and mining as well.

It is worth spending a bit of time on the energy and mining space. I am the shadow minister for that area. It is an important economic area for the state, as I said previously. It is worth about \$9.2 billion to the state's economy and the state government collects royalties from mining. For the 2021-22 year, royalties were estimated at \$368 million, according to the budget here. Because of the continued focus on that, that is expected to rise in the following year of the budget. It creates exports of over \$5 billion into the state. That is money coming in that helps grow the economy.

When I look at some of the highlights of the 2021-22 budget they really jump off the page in terms of one of the key focuses of the Marshall government, which was to lower electricity prices, to make electricity more affordable, but also more reliable and clean at the same time, making sure we get the balance right. We had some fantastic schemes: the Home Battery Scheme; the Switch for Solar scheme, which was working magnificently; and the Grid Scale Storage Fund. I talked about reliability and grid stability. That allows for dispatchable electricity to be stored because we know

that, while we do have fantastic renewable energy resources here, we need to make sure that it is also dispatchable, which then allows it to be more base load.

Those schemes worked successfully. The Home Battery Scheme saw a big uptake in batteries—over 200-megawatt hours of capacity. That is a big chunk of capacity. The solar panels on household roofs are well over a gigawatt now and we have 200-megawatt hours of battery capacity to go with that. That really helps stabilise the grid, especially when people are coming home and turning the lights on. That is where the pressures are in the system as well.

In the budget, these fantastic programs have been cruelly cut—the Home Battery Scheme, the Switch for Solar, the Grid Scale Storage Fund, and even programs to help roll out the electric vehicle program. We have the smart charging for electric vehicles. Car owners want to charge their car, which of course they are going to do. They want to charge their car, plug it in. Having a smart charger allows the car to be charged at times of low demand in the grid.

We do have an issue around that grid. Again, grid stability projects have been cut with nothing to replace them. At the same time, we are now in a real energy crisis around Australia and around South Australia. There are big issues at play, but there is nothing in place in this budget to address them in the short term. Instead, what we see is blame going on. That is not going to solve the problem; we need to work well.

I have talked about interconnection and the benefits of that before. I will not go into that. I have talked about the Port Bonython hydrogen hub. That is a fantastic announcement that the Marshall government has delivered to the state of South Australia to set us up to be a global hydrogen domestic supplier and exporter of choice. We have seen big investment attracted because of that, with \$13 billion of potential investment from significant global industry leaders here into South Australia to roll that out.

I have spoken about that a lot before, but the reason for labouring the point is that, whilst we agree that hydrogen is an important future fuel or future energy source for this state, rather than working with industry and, as I said, leveraging \$13 billion worth of investment, Labor's plan is to go it alone and spend \$593 million of taxpayer money, compared to the \$30 million that the Marshall government put up to attract that \$13 billion, to put towards an experimental hydrogen plan. It has not been delivered before in the world. There are some really serious questions around even that pricing. It comes with the claim of 3,600 tonnes of liquified hydrogen stored in tanks for \$31 million, \$220 million for the 250-megawatt equivalent of electrolyzers and \$342 million for the 200-megawatt combined-cycle turbine. Those costings are dubious.

But what is particularly interesting about this was that it was flagged as a jobs plan. If you look at the jobs, the policy document itself says that this is aimed at unlocking \$20 billion worth of investment in renewable energy. That is investment that is already here that the interconnector unlocked. I have spoken at length in this house about the interconnector and the investment it has attracted. We have a pipeline of renewable energy projects in South Australia, either committed to and approved or being planned. They are already in place and this policy sneakily tries to Hoover them up and lay claim to those jobs that have been created by the Marshall government.

So there are questions around the jobs, even around the extent of the export jobs that are there and also how the pricing of electricity is occurring. Is that going to change conditions? We know a lot of modelling says that, if energy is reduced, it is of course going to create jobs. What is going on with electricity there?

Importantly, I think the shadow treasurer made a very firm point. Both parties agree on the fact that there is the opportunity for hydrogen, but is doing this scaring off private investment? Could a private investor come and invest in South Australia in hydrogen projects? Does governments stepping in scare investors off? We want to attract investment here. I have spoken before about the massive attraction and investment that went into South Australia and was delivering and creating jobs as well.

I have not had a chance to speak about another important sector in this Appropriation Bill that I am also shadow minister for in terms of space and defence. I note that, post the estimates committees, there is a further opportunity to speak more on this bill. I will take the opportunity at that stage to go through some of those key areas and maybe further findings after questioning, but what

I would say is that I look forward to the estimates process and will see how that goes to really work through what the economic focus of this government is. Is it there for South Australians? Is it going to provide for South Australians in what are challenging times and not just for the next few months? I think the economic circumstances are going to be around for quite a number of years.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:27):** I rise today to speak on the Appropriation Bill and provide my support for the bill. It is a sum of \$6,628 million, which is appropriated from the Consolidated Account for the Public Service of the state for the financial year ending on 30 June 2023.

I rise today to talk about the budget and what it contains. This is a budget that is timely because it is what we need in South Australia and also what South Australians voted for on 19 March. In preparation for the election, we spent lots of time talking to different people about where we need to put our resources, what is important for the state to continue to grow and what is important for us in this time of recovery from COVID.

I certainly had the opportunity to hear from my constituents about their concerns regarding health. I also had the opportunity because the Legislative Review Committee in the former parliament had an inquiry that was started because there were more than 10,000 signatures on a petition tabled in this house concerning resourcing for our paramedics and our ambulance system. The reality is we had got to a point here in our state where that lack of trust was increasing. When you needed to call an ambulance, when you needed help, they simply were not going to get there in time.

During that time in the Legislative Review Committee inquiry, we heard about many stressful experiences from people whose loved ones could not be helped in time. There were equally stressful experiences from the health professionals working in this area. It was not just paramedics. We had representatives from nursing and the doctors as well, talking about system issues but particularly talking about a lack of resourcing that we have here.

Before us today, as we talk about the Appropriation Bill, we see that, as a brand-new Malinauskas Labor government, we have put health first and at the front of our budget, with 350 more paramedics and ambulance officers, 101 more doctors, 300 more nurses and 326 extra hospital and mental health beds. That is \$2.4 billion over five years in additional health expenditure. It is important to put that right at the beginning when we are talking about the budget because this is what South Australians were most concerned about.

When we put out our election policies, we talked about it, we shared it with people. Whether it was at a street-corner meeting, a knock on the door or putting out information, we know that this was the number one issue they were concerned about. Of those 350 more paramedics and ambulance officers, there are 278 paramedics and 72 ambulance officers. But we know it is not just about the people to deliver services: it is about the infrastructure around them, so there is \$120 million over four years for a new ambulance headquarters to be built in the CBD. That will include a new city ambulance station as well as the headquarters.

An issue that was raised with us, not just in the committee but many of us have heard it when talking to constituents or potential constituents, was the need to have wider support, the upgrading of stations and new stations. In this budget, there will be four new ambulance stations in priority areas across the metro area at Norwood, Woodville, Golden Grove and Edwardstown. Another four existing stations at Campbelltown, Mount Barker, Gawler and Victor Harbor will be completely rebuilt and expanded and a further 10 stations will be upgraded.

This is necessary support contained within this budget to make sure that we are looking at a system-wide improvement to reduce this issue of ramping to support our emergency departments and to support the whole system. We are looking at 101 new doctors—that is to recruit additional doctors, including specialists—and 300 additional nurses. That is something we are really focusing upon.

In recognition of what has been such a challenging time within our state, within our nation and across the world, we knew that the health savings that were put into the forward estimates were simply not going to be achieved. This is the reality of coming to government, to say, "You have got

this going forward, and it is simply never going to get there.' So there is health savings relief for \$400 million over five years as well.

Another thing we have seen is that it is not only about increasing within the system and supporting resources, having more specialists, having doctors, nurses and paramedics, but it is also about how we support our community to protect themselves. The decision has been made to have free flu vaccinations for this June. We were asked questions here in question time, but it is very obvious: we know that we are less protected because we have not had flu here for two years. It is one of those issues where we know that a very difficult flu season will increase the numbers of people in hospital and therefore deepen the challenges we already have.

When we look at the other areas, a particular focus for me has been requests from those members of my community who have needed to seek out support for mental health, their concerns that there were not enough mental health beds. This has been raised with us, and it is something that will be covered here. For my own area, we announced there would be 48 subacute beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, which will help relieve pressure to that system in the north. There is also some support around homelessness discharge beds, with 20 homelessness discharge beds provided in partnership with the not-for-profit sector, offering patients experiencing homelessness a stable recovery as well.

When you look at our budget, health is there. It is incredibly important for us to have health support in the CBD area, the metropolitan area and the regions as well. We have made some particular commitments in Mount Barker to the mental health beds and to the Mount Gambier hospital and drug and alcohol detox beds as well. We have also announced the rebuilding and extending of Mount Barker hospital.

This is something that resonates with all South Australians because the issue of ramping is not just in the metropolitan area. Often people needing to come in from their regional areas to the city experience ramping when they get here as well, so the more we can upgrade their facilities and support them, hopefully the more we can prevent some of the longer waits when they get here.

There were some pretty exciting things that we took to South Australians, and they supported us. One of those particular areas, in terms of jobs and the economy, was the hydrogen opportunity. Very early on, in opposition we went out talking about our Hydrogen Jobs Plan. It is about powering new jobs and industry, and we want to be at the forefront of it. We know that we have natural assets here that put us in the greatest position possible for the increase in this market.

We are going to establish a new hydrogen facility, including electrolyzers, a combined cycle turbine plant and hydrogen storage capacity in the Whyalla region. We are going to harness the excess renewable energy to create power generation, flexibility and export opportunities. It is electrolyzers, it is storage and it is turbines. We were very clear and we were very open with South Australians that this is an industry that needed leadership and investment to make happen, and we made sure that South Australia was going to be leading this opportunity.

Within the budget, there is also \$30 million towards a clean hydrogen industrial hub at Port Bonython, and that will lead to about \$140 million of estimated total investment, including investment from the commonwealth and the private sector as well. This is an opportunity in terms of a clean, green energy future and also an opportunity about jobs. One of the key things for me is creating this expertise that we can use throughout different industries in South Australia. We can become an area of excellence in hydrogen production as well.

We recently announced that we will have a \$100 million Economic Recovery Fund. That will fund initiatives to promote economic growth and development opportunities in South Australia. It is really important that we have the ability to partner with industry, to work with industry, to continue to grow and develop, and what we have seen recently is disruption to supply chains, and some real thinking about the kind of Australia we want to be. There have been a lot of conversations about sovereign capability, about doing more and about being more independent. We want to make sure South Australia is at the forefront of that. We also know that not all businesses had equal interruptions because of COVID and the global pandemic that we experienced here.

The Economic Recovery Fund gives us a moment of reflection. It gives us a moment to reconsider the type of economy we need to have to be sustained going forward. We know the world



is looking at itself differently. We know that people were quite challenged, particularly when logistics were interrupted and continue to be interrupted, and in getting base materials that we need in our production.

I am really pleased about the election of the Albanese Labor government. I think this is a time, over the next decade or more, I hope, to really look at sovereign capability, to look at what we can do in Australia. It is really important that we think global and are connected globally, but at the same time you cannot be completely dependent when you want to be a country that produces things, that makes things, and you want to be a modern economy.

In this area of jobs and economy, in my own portfolio we are boosting tourism marketing to \$45 million over four years. I have spoken in this house many times about the incredible challenge the last two years have been for tourism and hospitality. I have had many phone calls from business owners whose life virtually came to a standstill in March 2020, particularly those focused on international tourism.

I will give the previous government recognition: they took up our advice about the Great State Vouchers and did eight rounds of it, and they recognised that the industry was suffering. But, really, it was the uncertainty during this time, particularly with border closures, that meant it was very difficult to make business decisions. Could they keep their staff on? If a staff member left, would they be able to recruit someone of that calibre and experience again? During this time, many people had to sell assets. I had many conversations with people who said they lost all their savings. It was very hard at times to stay optimistic about the future.

Tourism is a fantastic industry. At its peak, before COVID-19, it was worth \$8.1 billion. We had an aspirational target—and we still do—to reach \$12 billion by 2030. The reality is that we lost 24 per cent of the tourism industry value. That is a big hit. People left the industry because they had to—they had no choice. We need to go through a period of building back the industry. Each and every other state in Australia is facing the same issue, as are many other countries throughout the world. We need this boost to our marketing because it will be incredibly competitive. We have to get out there and look for that tourism dollar.

We know South Australia has beautiful options and experiences. We have great places to stay. We have beautiful wildlife, beach life, food and wineries. We know that we have fantastic festivals, world-renowned festivals. Our ambition is to always fill up the calendar. Next month, Illuminate Adelaide will be here for a whole month. It is a great connection of AI, art, tech and music. There are events you must pay for, but there are also lots of free events. It will light up our city for a month. In a time when people traditionally tend not to come out, this will make our city alive, and I think that is something to look forward to. There is also \$40 million for the major events fund, and that is to fund new events, coexisting-owned events and business events in South Australia.

I was also very pleased that we were able to support the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia. They already had some funding from the Tourism Commission, but we have added \$1.6 million over four years to their funding. The focus of the funding is to support tourism businesses, to increase their business capability and to increase how they do their business better. Many of them are micro-enterprises. They spend a lot of time working in their business because they are quite a small enterprise, but we are trying to support them to continue to work on their business as well.

This business capability training will be delivered in a very timely manner. All of us here have experienced many a Zoom meeting over the last few years, or a Teams meeting. We have used this technology to our advantage, and particularly now that we have 60 per cent of our visitor economy spent in the regions we have seen quite a reversal—40 per cent in the metro and 60 per cent in the regions—so this is a great time to continue to support and stimulate tourism investment throughout South Australia.

A key part leading up to the election was our commitment as a government to bring back the Adelaide 500. It was probably the second issue after health, one of the key things that people raised with me. My dear constituents were thrilled when we announced that it is coming back, and so I am very excited to see that that is in the budget.

In the time I have left, I want to reflect on something that is particularly important to me, and that is education. It is very much in line with our election policy for the future. The reality, as our now Premier spoke about, is about lifting the standards of education. If we are going to compete in a world where science and technology are key components of that, we need to lift our numeracy, our literacy and our coding—but we are not.

The reality is we have to face that and change it. One of the best ways that we can lift here is to look at those first thousand days of a child's life. That is why in this budget you have information focused on universal quality of preschool programs for three and four year olds. We also want to support families so that they can support their children in their education endeavours, looking at access to out-of-school-hours care at preschool and primary ages.

We will support the royal commission looking into the best way we can support three year olds having that access to preschool. This goes together with our announcements around school upgrades, the mid-year intake and, of course, the five new technical colleges. That is a recognition that going to university is not for everyone and that it is just as important to have access to great vocational training and skills as well. I offer my support for the Appropriation Bill and I look forward to it passing the house directly.

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:47):** I rise today in support of the Appropriation Bill. I am incredibly proud of the budget our Labor government has handed down, and I really look forward to all these great policies being implemented. One part of this budget is around early childhood education. In the lead-up to the election we committed to a royal commission into early childhood education and care—which is \$2 million over two years.

I know a number of people, when they hear the words 'royal commission', might be thinking, 'Not another one,' but this is actually really important. The early years are crucial to a child's development and, while some people are able to provide the education that child needs, others are not and we want to be able to provide enough support for every child to be able to receive the best education possible.

My understanding is that Aboriginal children and children who are under the guardianship of the minister are already able to access kindergarten as three year olds, so it is clear that we do recognise that there is value in that early education. We would like to see that extended to all children. That will also enable us to identify any concerns there may be for that child's development a bit earlier on, and it means that we are able to give them the best start in life, which is incredibly important.

It is really tricky managing kindy hours, as I know the member for Adelaide can probably relate to. My family was able to make it work. We are a family of two parents and one child, so you would think we would be able to wrangle it but we really struggled. Our kindy hours were 8.45 to 2.45, and it would not have been possible for us to send our little one to kindergarten last year without the incredible support of my parents, especially my dad, who always did the Wednesday afternoon pick-up and then took her to French. That was a terrible idea because she was way too tired after kindy to be going to French as well, so we ditched that early on.

Every Thursday last year, my incredible neighbours took our little one to kindy after we dropped her off at 8 o'clock and then picked her up every afternoon as well and cared for her until my partner or I were able to be with her. That was an incredible gift, and I would just like to shout out to the wonderful Megan and Matt Spokes and their children Harry and Belles for helping us out so much last year and making it possible for our little one to attend kindergarten.

We know that not everyone has that same level of family, friends and neighbourly support, which is why we want to have a royal commission to figure out how this can work and how we can support all families to be able to access whatever care they need to surround that education setting to make it all possible.

Another exciting part of this budget is our commitment to live music. I am a huge live music fan, and before COVID we had an incredible live music culture and live music scene. I invite the Minister for the Arts, whenever she likes, to come to a gig with me. We have incredible venues. We have the Cranker (Crown and Anchor), the Lion Arts centre, Jive, The Jade, the Exeter—I am going to keep going if I do not stop. There are many excellent live music venues, particularly in the electorate of Adelaide, and I was really pleased on the weekend to enjoy some live music.

My partner is in a couple of bands, so on Friday night I got to see him play with Diplomat at the Crown and Anchor. It was a bit of a shock to my system after not going to live music for so long. His band started at 11.30pm, which is about two hours past my bedtime. The following night, he got a former band together from more than 20 years ago called Rash, and they played a gig at Jive with Adalita, who some of you might know from Magic Dirt, as well as Brisbane-based band Screamfeeder. It was excellent seeing them all, and it was amazing to be back in the live music scene in Adelaide.

I am really pleased that this budget includes some support for live music. We have \$3.3 million over two years for vouchers and grants to get live music back into pubs, clubs, small bars, restaurants, cafes and other smaller venues. Additionally, grants are available for medium to large-scale music events and festivals. We also have grants for minor works in venues. Up to 200 venues can apply for up to \$5,000 to undertake some minor upgrades to help cater for live music and other performances.

We also have \$250,000 in the budget to develop a live music mental health support act, to provide a mental health support service to South Australian musicians, managers, crew and music workers who are dealing with the issues brought on by work restrictions during the pandemic, which we all know were quite substantial. In addition, we are also putting in \$8 million over four years for an arts grants fund, which will boost funding to artists and arts organisations.

There is a lot in there, and I think we can feel very excited and confident about the live music scene going forward. Please put the date 14 October into your diaries because Diplomat will be playing again. So get it in there—I would love to see all my colleagues there. I will be there, and I will also maybe have a nanna nap that afternoon so I last the full evening.

More locally, we have some fantastic investments in health. Obviously, the budget included a lot of health funding and support. Specifically, in Elder, it includes an upgrade to the ambulance station in Mitchell Park, the Marion ambulance station. It also includes a new ambulance station in Edwardstown. There is funding in partnership with the federal government for additional beds at Flinders hospital as well as a huge upgrade. A lot of that hospital has not changed since I was born there some 35 and a bit years ago, so that is quite exciting. Also, importantly, there is a new 24-bed unit at The Repat.

Also locally, we have an upgrade happening at the Clarence Park Railway Station. This is a station that sits on the border of the seats of Elder and Badcoe. It is something that the member for Badcoe and I fought very hard for. It is quite an unsafe railway station. The crossings do not have any gates and there is also a kindergarten just across the road. We are really keen to get this work started so we can install pedestrian safety measures as well as do some other upgrades, which will be determined through community consultation as to exactly what they are, whether it is bike storage, additional lighting or perhaps some beautification. I am happy to get my paintbrush out, but I am sure somebody else is probably better equipped. We are really looking forward to getting that work done in Clarence Park.

In Clarence Park, we also will be restoring the Adelaide High School zone, so some people in Clarence Park will now be eligible to send their children to Adelaide High or Botanic High. Still in the education space, I was really pleased to be able to get funding for upgrades to a number of schools in my area, and that includes Westbourne Park Primary School, Edwardstown Primary School and Clovelly Park Primary School.

Clovelly Park Primary School has had quite an issue where, because of an issue with the electrical system or the energy system, they are not able to have their computer server running at the same time as the air conditioner. There has been quite a lot of pressure on the staff and the students in trying to manage that and in making sure they can keep everyone comfortable. We are going to address that situation so that students, staff and teachers at Clovelly Park are able to have a comfortable place to work.

Another commitment in this budget is an upgrade to AA Bailey Reserve. We will be working with the City of Mitcham council on this one. In particular, cars would normally like to park around the soccer pitch to watch games, particularly in rainy weather. At the moment, though, the drainage is so bad around the oval that people cannot park there because it floods and is quite unsafe. We

would like to get that all fixed up so that, instead of a number of cars having to be out on the suburban streets in Clarence Gardens, they are actually able to park around the oval. It also means that they do not have to stand in the rain, so it is win-win for everybody.

As well as the Clarence Park Railway Station upgrade, we will also be upgrading Woodlands Railway Station, which is another one that beautifully sits on the border between Badcoe and Elder. That is a station that is in dire need of an upgrade. A lot of people were really excited about it when they found out that an upgrade was happening. We will again be working with the community to consult on exactly what that upgrade looks like and how quickly we can get that work started. I will also be regularly speaking with the relevant minister, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

Rozelle Reserve is an absolutely gorgeous little pocket of green space that sits in the beautiful suburb of Melrose Park. When I was doorknocking in Melrose Park, a number of people raised Rozelle Reserve with me and the need to revitalise it a bit. There is funding in this budget to upgrade Rozelle Reserve, and I have been in conversations with the City of Mitcham on this upgrade. I will also do some more community consultation to determine exactly what we do there in terms of the playground, potentially a barbecue and whatever else the community might see fit.

Colonel Light Gardens West Tennis Club is just on the other side of Winston Avenue from Melrose Park. It is over in the bit of Colonel Light Gardens that is actually on the western side of Goodwood Road, which not everyone is always aware of. It is a little special pocket of Colonel Light Gardens that sits over there, and this tennis club is a beautiful little community with great people, including the president, John, who is an absolute delight and also runs an incredible innovative business called FuseTech.

We will be improving the facade, the fencing, surfaces and clubrooms at the club. We are really looking forward to getting that work started too. I was hoping that we could maybe get some courts done before the season starts again in October, and maybe we will. Maybe time has not quite run out. Also in Colonel Light Gardens, we will be putting up a heritage-style arch at Ludgate Circus, which is on the corner of Goodwood Road and Grange Road. There is currently one at Oxford Circus, which is on the corner of Springbank and Goodwood roads, which some of you might have seen diagonally opposite Springbank Road. We will be putting an arch there as well, which will be really beautiful and create a gorgeous welcome to the area of Colonel Light Gardens.

We will be upgrading the entrance and doing surface upgrades at Reade Park Lawn Tennis Club. It is a great community. I am really grateful to Tom Twelftree, who has spent a lot of time talking to me about the club and its needs. I am really looking forward to working with the broader community to ensure that these upgrades really improve the look and feel of this facility and that it is a bit more in keeping with the area because Colonel Light Gardens is obviously a beautiful suburb and this club is not a beautiful looking club at the moment.

Also in the area, just next to Reade Park Lawn Tennis Club, is the Colonel Light Gardens Bowling Club. I am very grateful to Kevin there and the rest of the team, who have been very welcoming to me. I even got to have a little bowls lesson recently, which was much needed. I have played a fair bit of night owls at Edwardstown Bowling Club, but I have never been that great, so it was very good to have that time to learn a bit. An instructor from Hawthorn Bowling Club, just out of my electorate, came over and helped and gave us all some pointers. If anyone else is interested in getting their bowls skills up, I am happy to see if I can pull you over to Colonel Light Gardens sometime soon.

Mortlock oval is a beautiful community space and home to the Colonel Light Gardens Football Club and the Goodwood Baseball Club. We will be renovating the facilities there, including much-needed women's change rooms. At the moment, a number of women try to get changed in their cars and in the car parks, and we do not really think that is acceptable. We are really looking forward to getting that work done.

I have had such joy over the last more than 20 months, as the candidate for Elder and now the member for Elder, speaking with different community groups and community clubs about what they are doing and about their members and about what they need. Again, it has been a pleasure working with the football club and the baseball club in this instance about their requirements. I am

really looking forward to getting this work done in a way that again pays homage to the area they are in in Colonel Light Gardens.

One issue that came up a lot when I was doorknocking in Mitchell Park, particularly the section of Mitchell Park behind Hamilton Secondary College, was that the fencing behind the college is now locked most of the time and that the southern end in particular is always locked. This has meant that Mitchell Park has basically been cut in half. Part of the community is not able to access the rest of the community easily because there is a railway line on the other side, so they are required to go back down Daws Road and then turn left onto Marion Road, just walking, to access other parts of Mitchell Park.

This is a real shame, particularly with the Mitchell Park Sports and Community Club opening in coming weeks. It makes it really difficult for those Mitchell Park residents to actually engage in those facilities and use them. I am very pleased that we have committed to addressing this issue. I have been working with the Minister for Education and will be working with the community and the school to develop a solution so that we can make Mitchell Park whole again.

Over in St Marys, we have committed more than \$500,000 to upgrading various green spaces. Whether that might be planting more trees in one space, adding some new play equipment to another, we are really open to exactly what that looks like. We have so many good green spaces and so many great opportunities in the area. I have already started having conversations with people in that part of our community about what they think they would like and what would be of most benefit. I have also been working with the council on this, and I am really pleased with how those talks are going and looking forward to getting back out into the community of St Marys to make sure we get these areas as schmick as they can possibly be.

Not far from St Marys, over in Pasadena last November, the City of Mitcham purchased the old Sea Scouts hall with the intention of turning it into a community centre. We committed \$500,000 to help those efforts and the federal Labor government has also committed \$300,000, so together we will be able to spend \$800,000 and anything that the council puts in as well to develop a community centre in Pasadena that will service in particular Pasadena, St Marys and Panorama and potentially also Bedford Park, over in the member for Davenport's seat. That end of the City of Mitcham area will be well serviced by this, and I am really looking forward to seeing how that plays out.

Also in Pasadena is Springbank Secondary College. The sports complex there is the home of the Sturt Sabres Basketball Club as well. It is used by the school and the club. We committed funding for air conditioning because at the moment there is no air conditioning for the basketball stadium. At particular times of the year, it gets pretty difficult for people to be able to play, and sometimes games are just called off. We are going to put new air conditioning in there and also add solar panels to help deal with running costs, and also it is the environmentally friendly thing to do.

I did a lot of doorknocking across the whole electorate; we doorknocked it all and it was excellent, but I did a fair bit in Mitchell Park, and the good people of Mitchell Park spoke to me a lot about the need for some toilets at Maldon Avenue Reserve. I know toilets are not something people get too excited about—except for the member for Newland; she loves talking about toilets and waste—but we will be putting a toilet into Maldon Avenue Reserve, which will enable people to go there and stay there and use it.

People who use the Linear Park pathway along the edge, if they are going for their bike ride or going for a walk and they really need to go, there will be that option there, which will be beautiful because there is also a great park, great green space and a barbecue. All that is really missing to make it a space where you can spend a number of hours is a loo.

Keeping on toilets, the Tonsley Innovation Precinct is a space that is incredible for business, incredible for study and education, and it is also a space that locals know is where a lot of children learn to ride their bikes. It is a huge, concreted area that is under cover, and so it means a lot of families go there with their children, and just let their children ride around without the risk of any traffic. The only thing they are missing is, you guessed it, toilets. The toilets are closed over the weekend, so we are going to be making sure that public toilets are available to the community so

that they can stay there for a bit longer. We will also install some water fountains—not water fountains to look beautiful but water fountains so that people can have a drink while they are there as well.

I have spoken of them previously, but I also want to mention again the Kenilworth Football Club, which will be receiving funding through this budget for their new scoreboard, nets behind their goals, a new playground, ice baths, an outdoor kitchen and a number of facilities that are going to make it a much easier place for the club to be able to operate, which I am really looking forward to. We will also be upgrading CC Hood Reserve in Panorama, and in Panorama and Pasadena we also have included funding in this budget to improve some footpaths and also build new ones, so that it makes it an easier place to get around. I am really proud of this budget, and I am looking forward to voting in support of this bill.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (17:07):** I rise to support this bill and this budget because there is so much in it for the people of South Australia. It is terrific to see a budget that reflects every promise made by Labor Party candidates right around South Australia at the 19 March election.

They were promises gleaned from information we had gathered from the people in our local areas by going out and listening to the people and finding out what it was that was really important, what it was that was lacking in their local areas. Some of these things will be worth tens of millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars, but other things might be as little as \$18,000 for an air-conditioning unit at the Willunga Show Hall. All of them are vitally important for people right across the state.

I know that in my own area all of cabinet went out and doorknocked back in December 2016. We doorknocked Aldinga, and we listened to what the people wanted. In the following budget, we did two of the three things they wanted; the first was to build a brand-new school for 1,650 students. I am really happy to say that that opened at the beginning of this year. The other thing the people of Aldinga and Sellicks wanted was the duplication of Main South Road, from Sellicks down to Seaford. What we saw on that project—even though we had fully funded it in the 2017-18 budget and the 2018 Mid-Year Budget Review that came down in December 2017—was a real lack of action by the Liberal government.

They got in, they stole money off the project and they gave it somewhere else (we do not know where it was), they got some federal funding and they said that it was going to be a bigger and better project. Then they came out with their drawings, and there was going to be a new roundabout, there were going to be two lanes in one direction, and one lane in another direction between Aldinga and Sellicks. You were not going to be able to turn right from Aldinga Beach Road to head down to Sellicks and the Victory Hotel and on to Kangaroo Island, Myponga and Yankalilla. It was just so reminiscent of actions by Liberal governments past. They gave us the one-way expressway and thought that we should be happy with that down in the south.

For those four years the Marshall government was in power, we had really once again become the forgotten south. So we had to go in there with a pledge for an extra \$125 million to take out their proposed roundabout at Aldinga Road and make it an underpass/overpass to align Aldinga Beach Road and Aldinga Road and to make sure, as any thinking person would, that if you are going to do a proper duplication you have two lanes going both ways all the time. We have had to commit extra money because of the money that was taken out of that project during the time of the Marshall government.

Further south, we will be building three overtaking lanes between Myponga and Cape Jervis. Anyone who has travelled that road will know that it can get a little tight, a little frustrating, for drivers. We have a mix of big freight vehicles taking freight backwards and forwards to Kangaroo Island, and we have tourists. For the last couple of years, we have not had too many international tourists, but they will be back soon enough.

Driving on the wrong side of the road for them can be a bit daunting, so quite often they will be sitting on 70 or 80 km/h, and there are not a lot of really safe places to overtake. I am looking forward to working with the local community to find out where they think these overtaking lanes will be, along with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, who have the engineers to give us expert knowledge on what should be done.

We did doorknocking in December 2016. We had the school—tick, we delivered it in the 2017-18 budget. We also came up with the money for the duplication of Main South Road. The one thing, which we could not afford at the time and which people also wanted but was third on their list, was an extension of the rail line from Seaford to Aldinga. It was a federal Labor government, with Anthony Albanese as the infrastructure minister, along with a state Labor government, that delivered the electrification and extension to Seaford.

We are keen on extending the rail. There was always a plan, sometime in the future—not the near future but sometime in the future—if the government of the day thought it was appropriate and affordable, to extend the rail line to Aldinga so that there is a corridor in place. In 2018-19, the then Marshall government did a whole lot of community consultation. In every map they put up they had the rail corridor. They had the station on Quinliven Road, in between the brand-new school and the Cardijn College Galilee campus. It was there for everyone to see.

People thought it was a good idea, and people like me put in a submission that you would do a cut-and-cover, so that you would take Quinliven Road and Port Road over the top of the rail line and drop the rail line back down, as it is in Noarlunga and Seaford, so that you could have walkways over the top. You would have a lift to get people up to and down from the platform. Everyone thought, 'Tickety-boo, we like that bit of it. We've got some issues around other parts of the development plan,' and people were able to feed in, either directly at the two consultation sessions or online through the online portal that Renewal SA set up.

All this happened and none of us ever heard anything back about the consultation. We all had a jolly time on the Tuesday night at the library and on the Saturday at the school, but we never heard anything back. Then, last year, I was starting to hear whispers that the place where the proposed station would have gone had been sold off to Cardijn College. I could not get a straight answer. I came in here and I asked the minister. I got an evasive answer and was told by the transport minister, who was then in charge of the train network, that it was not his responsibility. He had no idea what was going on. I thought there might have been something that we did not know about, and it took us to get into government.

I want to thank the Minister for Planning for being right across this local issue. Obviously, he must have asked some questions and sure enough the site where the train station might have gone had been proposed to be sold to Cardijn College. We love Cardijn College, a great local school, and we want to make sure that as a government we work with them so they can fulfill their expansion plans because that is really important for the local area. It will probably be behind the school, hopefully, if that works for them, rather than beside it, so we can keep that corridor open.

If you sell off the land that faces Quinliven, it means you would have to take a train and tunnel it under the school and pop it up the other side or just not build the school in the first place. They had also put the land behind the school to the south of the proposed new school building on the market to be covered with houses, which would have meant that we could never do it.

We do not have the \$2 billion to build that extension down to Aldinga from Seaford at the moment, but that is not to say that in 10 years' time or 15 years' time or 20 years' time a future government will not. We went to the election with a pledge that we were for the future, and you are not for the future if you allow the present to mess up the plans that people in the future might have. I want to congratulate and thank the Minister for Planning for stepping in and for taking back the corridor so that one day we may have this train extension to Aldinga and perhaps even to Sellicks.

In this year's budget, every promise that we made in the electorate of Mawson was delivered. I want to go through and give a little highlights package. We have \$1.3 million for an Aldinga skatepark and \$825,000 for Aldinga Sports Park unisex change rooms. I will be at Shark Park tonight. It is schnitty night and it is the draw where we work out who the winner is of the cash prize each week. There will be \$150,000 for an Aldinga swimming pool study, and I want to thank all the people who were a part of that group who would love to see a swimming pool in our local area.

The footy and cricket clubs at the McLaren Vale Sporting Complex will get \$105,000 for an irrigation upgrade. The Tatchilla Lutheran College to McLaren Vale bicycle and walking path is worth \$1 million. It is going to allow a bunch of kids to be able to walk or ride to school. It is not far to

go. It is only a kilometre, but it is so dangerous on that road that most of them get dropped out there by their parents or have to catch a bus whereas they will be able to ride now.

There is \$3 million for a cycleway shared-use path between Aldinga and Willunga. Kids from Yankalilla Area School were in here on a school excursion and they were a bit grizzly about some of the conditions. I said, 'This is how politics works. Go back to your school and write me letters and tell me what it is that you want, and we will see what we can do.' We promised \$200,000 in the lead-up to the election. I got to go down and talk to the kids again and give them an update on what was happening. They get \$200,000 for an upgrade.

There is \$450,000 for Aboriginal heritage cultural mapping on Western Fleurieu Peninsula, a Cape Jervis traffic management study to make it safer down there at the SeaLink terminal and \$50,000 for the Maslin Beach Community Hall upgrade. These community halls are so important to local areas.

At Second Valley, I dressed up as a koala for a quiz night. I went to the bocce night there dressed as the Sultan of Second Valley. It is the place where everyone comes together and has a really good time. They do not have a pub there. They do not have a sporting club or anything like that. They make their own fun around the community club. I reckon the kitchen is the original kitchen from the fifties when the hall was built, so there is \$50,000 there. Myponga Memorial Hall, Maslin Beach Memorial Hall, the bowls club at McLaren Vale, Yankalilla Bowls Club, the KI Racing Club and the McLaren Flat Community Club all get some money to upgrade their local facilities, as does the Cape Jervis Progress Association for their clubrooms.

A bunch of kids came to me at the football. A young fellow said, 'Mr Bignell, Mr Bignell! Us kids want new jumps down at the BMX track.' I said, 'Righto Haydo.' Haydo is 11 and his little mate Seth was there. Haydo said, 'My dad built those when he was a kid. He got his shovel out,' and all this sort of stuff, 'and they built them and no-one has repaired them since then.' His dad is in his forties now. I said, 'Alright, Haydo, you send me an email and I will come and have a bit of a meeting with you and your mates.' So he sent me an email. Mum and dad did not even know. He is 11.

Anyway, we go down and we have a meeting at the site. I said, 'The first lesson you are going to learn about wanting to get new bike jumps for your BMX track is patience because we are going into a world of bureaucracy at local government and state government levels and you are going to get so much pushback with, "You can't do this, you can't do that".'

Then we got the mayor down there, the mayor who is now the member for Davenport, Erin Thompson. She came down and some people from the council, and they got on board. We had \$15,000 worth of soil donated by Sarah Constructions, who were building the local school. In this budget, I am really pleased that Haydo, Seth and all those young fellows get \$20,000 and the council is going to build some better mounds for them.

The kids at McLaren Vale got onto it as well. They saw what was happening at Willunga, so they hit me up and they get \$20,000 as well. It is these little things, as well as the big hundreds of millions of dollars projects, that really make a difference in our local community. I love our local community, I love the sporting clubs and I love everyone in them, and I will fight to the bitter end for every single cent I can get for the people of Mawson, the sporting clubs and all the organisations.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (17:21):** I would like to make a few comments in support of the Appropriation Bill. The first thing I would like to point out is that from my point of view the Appropriation Bill is more than just an economic statement. Of course, there are a lot of financials in the budget itself, in the Appropriation Bill, but I think it is also important because it speaks to the priorities and values of the government that delivers that budget. That is very important. This budget is very different from the previous budget.

A future federal Labor budget will be very different from the previous Morrison budget and that is because our values are different and our priorities are different. It is important to understand that when you hand down a budget. It is talking about what is important to the government, how that government sees its community, its society and what sort of society it wants. For example, if you are giving huge tax deductions to multinational companies, as the commonwealth government does, it speaks a lot to your values and what is important, especially when we have people living in substandard aged-care facilities in Australia.



The budget is actually more than just a financial document. It talks about the government's priorities, the government's values and what sort of society it wants. How we prioritise expenditure is very important. From my point of view, the Labor government stands to create a much more fair and equitable society and one which is more compassionate as well. I think this budget does that, and I will provide some details as to how it does that in terms of our priorities and how it prioritises the needs of the most vulnerable in our community to make sure that nobody is left behind. In doing so, this budget also acknowledges that we need to have economic activity to create that wealth so we can redistribute funds to support those in need.

When you look at this budget, the things that come to mind are quite clear: health, education, the environment and jobs. They are the key themes in this budget and they are the things that are dear to Labor values. They also speak to the things we think are most important to ensure that people in our state have a quality of life irrespective of the postcode they live in. This is what this budget does. It delivers health services, improves education opportunities, improves the environment and helps to create jobs in those areas to make sure that every child born in this society and every person has the chance to reach their full potential.

Some of the overviews in terms of health are that we are funding 101 additional doctors and 300 additional nurses. That is important because one of the major issues that we have been dealing with over the last four years is ramping at our hospitals. Building additional ED space is important, but it does not get rid of ramping. Having additional ambos is very important, but it does not get rid of ramping. What gets rid of ramping is having more doctors and nurses to deal with patients who come into the health system and having money to fund beds and the doctors and nurses who look after the people in those beds.

We have also introduced free flu vaccinations, which I think is very important from an equity point of view, to make sure we encourage people to do it, and also because we will hopefully have fewer people in the queues at our hospitals and in our health system as well. It makes good economic and health sense to do that. Of the 326 extra hospital and mental health beds we are going to create over the life of this, there will be 16 additional subacute beds in the Gawler Health Service. Those additional health service beds in the Gawler Health Service mean that when people come to the ED and present to the hospital, they will have a bed and they can be processed. Again, the queueing and the waiting times at our hospital services will be reduced.

The 350 paramedics are very important to make sure that, when things go wrong in your life, you know there will be somebody there in a clinically safe period of time to make sure you get the best possible health care or get to the best possible health facility as soon as possible. Those 350 paramedics are extremely important. I am very happy to hear that some of those 350 will be coming to Gawler. They will be part of a new additional shift, a new unit, in the Gawler ambulance service. We have one ambulance service in Gawler at the moment, so when it is out of town, we have no or limited coverage. People have had to wait for hours.

There has been some evidence to suggest that some lives have been put at risk because of poor response times, not because of the ambos themselves but because the resources are not there. You cannot be in two places at once. If you are ramped at the Lyell McEwin, you are ramped at the Royal Adelaide Hospital or you are transferring a patient from the Gawler Health Service to another health facility, it is just not possible to be in two places at once, so I am very pleased to hear that we are getting an additional full-time unit in Gawler.

In total in terms of health, we will be spending an additional \$2.4 billion over the next five years. That is a huge investment in the wellbeing of our community, and we will start tackling those problems we have seen with our health services over the last four years during the life of the previous Liberal government.

Education: most people, I would say, would accept that having a good education can be a life changer. It is simple. It certainly was for me. My opportunity to go to a good public school and go to university made my life different. Without that, I would have a different job, perhaps fewer opportunities and perhaps less income. There are a whole range of things that come from that. Having equal opportunity to access the best possible education is so important.

It is one of the main reasons my parents left Italy, to ensure that we as children had the best opportunities possible, and our education system did that. When I compare my own life with my numerous cousins in Italy—and they are numerous because mum was one of 10 children and dad was one of five children—our lives are very different. Also, the lives of my sisters are very different from those of my cousins in Italy who stayed there.

Education is very important. It is something that I am very supportive of. What I try to do is work with my schools to make sure that every child has the best opportunity to have the best education possible. So what are we doing in that area? We are building five technical colleges to acknowledge that we need a broad range of skills in our community to make sure that the economy works well.

We need a broad range of skills to reflect the abilities and preferences of people in our community. Not everybody wants to go to university. Not everybody thinks that studying economics like I did is exciting. I did, but a lot of other people would not find that exciting, and I can understand that. We need to make sure that people have opportunities to be the best people they can be by providing those different educational opportunities.

We are providing more mental health support in our schools. Those children who are not present at school—and I do not necessarily mean physically present; those children who have some mental health issue or a whole range of other pressures, anxieties, etc., who are not present at school—are not learning. When you speak to teachers, when you speak to young student leaders as I have been, when I engage, for example, my youth advisory panel and we talk about what is happening in their schools, they tell me there is no point in teachers trying to teach when some of their students are not present because of a whole range of issues. This mental health support is so critical to make sure that our young people are fully engaged in their education to get the best they can out of it.

We are also going to provide more support for students with autism, which is very important. Again, this is what I talked about a bit earlier. This budget reflects the sort of society and the sorts of values our party has. We want to make sure that every child, irrespective, has the best opportunity to be the best they can be as a person. That means having access to the right educational services.

The royal commission is to look at how we actually improve our early learning, early education for three and four year olds. The research is quite clear: those children who have better access to early learning opportunities do better through schooling, do better through life, and so we need to make sure that, irrespective of which postcode you live in, you should have access to the best possible early learning opportunities possible. That means also looking at out-of-school hours care.

We need a new educational system, a schooling system that reflects the modern family. We still have a system of education that has not actually changed much in terms of the basic structure since I was a student at school, and that is quite a few years ago. I think that schooling based on models of the 1950s and 1960s needs to change. The world has changed, families have changed, family needs have changed, so we need to make sure that the education system changes and that the way we structure our schools meets the needs of our families in our communities.

We are making a huge investment in TAFE again. It is no secret that TAFE was run into the ground by the previous government. At times, they talked about the competitive model, that TAFE should not have an advantage against the private sector, and they actually put money into the private sector. But I found it curious that the competitive model meant TAFE could not offer programs in certain areas. For example, they could not offer business studies in metropolitan Adelaide. They could not offer a whole range of other programs in certain areas. Only the private sector could. How do you have a competitive model when one of the competitors is actually not allowed to compete in the marketplace?

We are redressing that imbalance again to make sure that we are investing in those areas which are of great need, particularly the caring services. It is no secret that there is a huge shortage of people in the caring service, whether it is in the disability sector or the aged-care sector—a whole range of different caring services. We need to make sure that we have properly trained people in those areas to make sure that the people they are looking after have the best service. We also need

to understand that we need to pay these people money too. For the job they do, they do not get rewarded enough. They provide important services and they need to be rewarded for that.

In the environment, there are a whole range of programs that are listed there. I will not go into detail, but there are whole range of things that reflect this government's commitment to the environment, this government's commitment to an understanding that climate change is real and there are things we can do at the local level to reduce our carbon footprint. There are a whole range of things we can do through Landcare programs and other programs that we can have to reduce our carbon footprint and therefore create a cleaner society and one that creates less waste.

There are simple things like the new electric trains, for example. I got one last night on the way home. I was so pleased. It was clean and warm. Electric trains are quieter, cleaner, less costly. They have additional benefits of actually reducing the cost of living for people as well.

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

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That was on Sunday I did that, yes.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** Order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** On Sunday morning, I was up and caught the first electric train that started at Gawler Central station. I was there at 6.25 with hundreds of other people. During the day, I think thousands of people came out to see the new electric trains. I then had to come into the city for the official opening, and obviously I had to go back to Gawler again on the train. It was great.

The next thing I have to speak about very quickly in the few minutes I have left is jobs. Jobs are so important, so critical. Our leader has, on a number of occasions, talked about the importance of jobs and the dignity work provides to people's lives. It would not be a Labor government if it did not put jobs as one of its key priorities. The \$593 million Hydrogen Jobs Plan is good for the environment, good for industry and good for jobs.

There are a whole range of other programs in terms of arts, music, the Fringe, live music. Housing is another important area, and we are investing \$177.5 million over the next four years to build new homes and refurbish existing housing stock to make sure people can get a roof over their heads. We have an \$18.6 billion infrastructure program; of that, \$7.83 billion will go into roads, which are important. This is not only building important infrastructure but also creating jobs.

At the local level, I am very pleased to say that every commitment I have made to my community will be honoured in this budget. Every promise I made on behalf of the Labor Party, now the Labor government, will be honoured in this budget. There will be \$60,000 for disability infrastructure at a playground at Apex Park, and \$100,000 for improvements to playgrounds at Bacton Street, Evanston, and Gawler West.

There will be \$2.5 million to improve parking and the kiss and drop off zone near Mark Oliphant College to reduce congestion and improve road safety, \$30,000 for shade for the playground at Nolan Reserve, Munno Para, to provide a safer playing area, and \$380,000 for a pedestrian crossing at Redbanks and Weyland Roads to improve the safety of students from Xavier College—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** A very important project. There is \$600,000 for a new playground at Reid, one of the suburbs of Gawler. That is very important as well because that has poor infrastructure. There is \$530,000 to upgrade the Tambelin Station car park for a kiss and drop zone. At the moment, it is just dirt, but we are actually going to get a proper area, and that will promote public transport, which is very important.

There is \$250,000 for a veterans' shed or garage at Willaston to be co-located with the Willo's Men's Shed, and there is \$4.8 million dollars for netball courts for girls and young women in Gawler who play netball. There are 15 or 16 clubs who play in that association, and it is a very important investment. There is \$1 million for the Gawler Soccer Club for a synthetic pitch.

We will also be undertaking a feasibility study to see whether a Barossa tourism train could be a viable option for the future with private investment, and we will also be undertaking traffic management east/west studies for Curtis and Dalkeith Roads to improve traffic management in those areas in my electorate.

It does not stop there: there is more. There is over \$2 million for a new SES station in Gawler for community safety, something the Liberals talked about but we are going to do—we are going to actually deliver on that. One thing about this budget is that what we have promised is what we are going to deliver, and that is why we got elected.

Bill read a second time.

*Estimates Committees*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (17:39):** I move:

That this bill be referred to estimates committees.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I move:

That the proposed expenditures for the departments and services contained in the Appropriation Bill be referred to Estimates Committees A and B for examination and report by 5 July, in accordance with the timetables distributed.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I seek leave to incorporate the timetables in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2022

TIMETABLE FOR ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

DAY ONE AT 9.00 AM

Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Department of Energy and Mining (part)

DAY TWO AT 9.00 AM

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Defence SA

DAY THREE AT 9.00 AM

Courts Administration Authority

Attorney-General's Department (part)

Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)

Electoral Commission of South Australia

Administered Items for Electoral Commission of South Australia

DAY FOUR AT 9.00 AM

Department for Education

Administered Items for the Department for Education

Department for Innovation and Skills (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Innovation and Skills (part)

DAY FIVE AT 9.00 AM

Department for Environment and Water

Administered Items for the Department for Environment and Water

Department for Energy and Mining (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department for Innovation and Skills (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Innovation and Skills (part)

Defence SA

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

DAY ONE AT 9.00 AM

Department of Treasury and Finance

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department for Health and Wellbeing

Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health

Wellbeing SA

DAY TWO AT 9.00 AM

Department of Human Services (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Human Services (part)

Legislative Council

House of Assembly

Joint Parliamentary Services

Administered Items for Joint Parliamentary Services

State Governor's Establishment

Auditor-General's Department

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

DAY THREE AT 9.00 AM

South Australian Tourism Commission

Minister for Tourism

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Department for Child Protection

Department of Human Services (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Human Services (part)

Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

DAY FOUR AT 9.00 AM

South Australia Police

Administered Items for South Australia Police

Department for Correctional Services  
South Australian Country Fire Service  
South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service  
South Australian State Emergency Service  
Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)  
Administered Items for the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (part)

DAY FIVE AT 9.00 AM

Department for Trade and Investment  
Administered Items for the Department for Trade and Investment  
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)  
Attorney-General's Department (part)  
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)  
Department for Innovation and Skills (part)  
Administered Items for the Department for Innovation and Skills (part).  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)  
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)  
Department for Innovation and Skills (part)  
Administered Items for the Department for Innovation and Skills (part).

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I move:

That Estimates Committee A be appointed, consisting of Hon. A. Piccolo, Ms Andrews, Mr Brown, Mrs Pearce, Mr Pederick, Mr Tarzia and Mr Whetstone.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I move:

That Estimates Committee B be appointed, consisting of Mr Hughes, Mr Cowdrey, Mr Fulbrook, Hon. J.A.W. Gardner, Ms Hutchesson, Ms Hood and Hon. D. Pisoni.

Motion carried.

## **CIVIL LIABILITY (BYO CONTAINERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (17:41):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to move this amendment bill in this place to the Civil Liability Act 1936. The purpose of the bill is to grow our circular economy and limit the use of single-use plastics in South Australia. We know that food packaging waste is a significant contributor to climate degradation and environmental pollution. The data tells a chilling story. Half of all plastic is used once and then thrown away. Globally, at least eight million tonnes of plastics leak into the ocean each year. The United Nations has declared the plastic pollution of oceans a planetary crisis.

These plastics do not break down. They simply become smaller microplastics, which have been found in deep oceans in the Antarctic ice and ingested by human beings and other animals. We cannot continue to consume at this rate but must learn to live more within the capacity of the natural world. Protecting our biodiversity and responding to climate change is the great challenge of our time. This means we must learn to embrace the circular economy and re-use rather than exhaust our finite resources.

For this reason, we have already banned the use of single-use items such as straws, cutlery and polystyrene cups in South Australia. I pay tribute to the former environment minister for his leadership in that legislation. We were the first state to ban the use of single-use plastic products, demonstrating our collective leadership. In 2009, we were the first nation to implement a ban on lightweight check-out style plastic bags. It is therefore logical that we continue to limit waste and empower consumers to make environmentally positive choices with this bill. Without diminishing the significant role that governments must play in acting on climate change, we must certainly all contribute to protecting our environment.

This bill will permit consumers to bring their own containers to purchase food. In the same way that many South Australians already bring their own coffee cups to cafes, under this bill they can bring their own containers for takeaway food items. By bringing our own containers, we can reduce our reliance on disposable food packaging. The liability for bringing re-usable containers will sit with the consumer rather than with the business. This means that businesses can be reassured that, as long as they are acting in good faith regarding the products they serve, there will be no disadvantage to them for customers who use their own containers if something goes wrong.

The business will only assume civil liability if they knew the food was unsafe for consumption, that it was subject to a food recall order, or if the use of the container is negligent or unlawful. Businesses may choose whether or not they will allow consumers to bring in their own containers. However, we know that South Australian businesses are acutely aware of the need to reduce waste and want to contribute to the climate change response. This bill will simply provide them with the confidence to do so and may even help to reduce the significant cost of packaging for business owners.

This bill is good reform for businesses, consumers and the planet. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Hon. Robert Simms in the other place for introducing this legislation, and before him the Hon. Mark Parnell, who first introduced this legislation during the years between 2018 and 2022.

I believe that this bill speaks for itself as the logical next step to reduce food packaging waste. We have asked a lot of our planet, but we are reaching the threshold where our demands for unlimited resources can no longer be met. We must be responsible actors for ourselves, our wildlife and our waterways. We must all make better, environmentally conscious choices. Government must enable businesses and consumers to make these choices, and I am hopeful that the members of this place will support this bill, as has occurred in the other place, and that we will be able to change the law for the good.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (17:45):** I rise in support of the Civil Liability (BYO Containers) Amendment Bill 2022, and I thank the Deputy Premier in her capacity as Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for indicating the government's support for this piece of legislation. This is a sensible, fairly straightforward piece of legislation, which was introduced into the other place by the Hon. Robert Simms, with work done prior to Robert's work by the Hon. Mark Parnell, who obviously retired a few months before the last election.

It is just sensible legislation, and it really builds on South Australia's tremendous heritage when it comes to dealing with plastic pollution, and all forms of pollution in fact. We know that South Australia has led Australia, and often the world, when it comes to dealing with waste management and resource recovery and developing in more recent times a circular economy, and that transition of language from dealing with pollution, with rubbish, to waste management, to resource recovery, to now what we call, in much more positive language and much more opportunity laden, the circular economy.

This piece of legislation builds on that great heritage because it says, very simply, that when people go to an organisation like a deli or a butcher, or someone selling products where you can take your own BYO container, the business that is receiving that to put food items in will be exempt from any liability that might be associated with something that happens thereafter with the material within that container.

I have simplified what it is all about, but it basically means that once this legislation is passed it will be much easier for businesses to receive bring-your-own containers without worrying that there

might be some civil liability associated with it. This is a good thing because it will encourage people to bring their own containers. It will see fewer disposable single-use plastic containers used, and we do see delis and butchers, and places where we buy veg and various salads and things like that, as one of the last bastions of consistent single-use plastic use in our state.

If you go back to the late 1970s, South Australia was the first place to bring in the container deposit legislation. In fact, Victoria will only catch up with that scheme next year, some 45 years after we brought that in in South Australia. In 2008, we saw South Australia become the first place in the world to ban the lightweight single-use plastic bags at point of sale. Then in 2021, we saw the single-use plastic ban, which will come in in various phases, but it started off on 1 March 2021 with drink stirrers, plastic straws and plastic cutlery, and we are seeing the impact of that approach already. We are seeing the amount of plastic on our beaches, in our creeks and in our parks reduced, and really reduced in a tangible way.

Only a couple of days ago I was reading an article in *The Guardian* that showed that in the last few years—and it is not attributable to our most recent legislation, it is more around awareness-raising and this consistent approach to litter reduction and resource recovery over the last decade or so—we have seen a 30 per cent reduction in the plastic pollution being found on our beaches around Australia.

That is a CSIRO study that took a benchmark year in 2012-13 and followed that up in 2018-19 and we saw a 30 per cent reduction in the litter found in those areas—some areas more than others, and the best area was a 73 per cent reduction in plastic pollution. These sorts of pieces of legislation send a powerful signal to the community, are a goad to action and give people permission in some sense to do the right thing by our environment—not just individuals and communities but also businesses as well.

This is good legislation. I want to thank the Deputy Premier for indicating the government's support. I want to thank the Hon. Robert Simms in another place for initiating this and stewarding it through the Legislative Council. This is a great piece of legislation. It has complete bipartisan support and I hope will pass into the statute books and make that difference for our natural environment in South Australia. It is an example of all parties working together once again to benefit our state's environment, and I am proud to be part of a place that can do that.

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (17:51):** I rise to speak in support of the Civil Liability (BYO Containers) Amendment Bill. This is a bill to permit consumers to bring their own re-usable containers to businesses and to take away their food in such. This bill will remove the frustration of so many consumers who want to do the right thing but also, importantly, will be protecting businesses and removing them from any liability.

I have long been a keen advocate of sustainability and also with regard to food services. In fact, a few years ago, as a regular patron of the food court at the Adelaide Central Market, I noticed that a lot of the outlets there were starting to serve all their meals in takeaway containers, plastic containers, where it used to be crockery. I investigated this by speaking to a number of the small business owners there.

What had happened was that the landlord had taken away the central kitchen and none of them had any space in the back of their outlets to do their own dishes, so they thought the only opportunity then was to bring in single-use plastics. I took it upon myself to run a petition and walk around the food court of the market to put a little bit of pressure on the landlord to bring back the central kitchen so that we could have a sustainable food service in the food court of the Adelaide Central Market.

Businesses still have a choice and they will be able to choose whether or not they allow consumers to bring their own containers, but I suspect that consumers will be very keen to attend to practices that enable them to bring their own containers. This bill is an important step towards reducing single-use items. Whilst so many individuals and so many households do whatever they can to protect the environment, there are always those who do not do the right thing, and so we find that takeaway food and beverage packaging makes up more than one-third of litter found on our beaches.



We know that half of all plastic which is produced is designed only for single use. This bill will help us reduce that significantly. We know that food packaging waste carries an enormous cost for the environment. The production of food packaging uses a significant amount of water and emits greenhouse gases and, once disposed of, contributes to large amounts of landfill as well as ending up in our waterways and on our beaches.

South Australia has long been a leader in this space and, in 2009, we were the first state to implement a ban on lightweight check-out style plastic bags, but there is still much to be done. We were the first state to ban single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers from 1 March 2021, and then from 1 March 2022 the ban was expanded to polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers.

I encourage all in our South Australian community to embrace the opportunities that this bill brings and also the fact that there is no obligation on businesses. They will no longer assume any liability and can have confidence moving forward to enable this practice to occur. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

### **ANIMAL WELFARE (JUMPS RACING) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

### **NATIONAL GAS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (MARKET TRANSPARENCY) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2022**

*Estimates Committees*

The Legislative Council gave leave to the Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and the Public Sector (Hon. K.J. Maher), and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries (Hon. C.M. Scriven) to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill, if they think fit.

At 17:57 the house adjourned until Tuesday 5 July 2022 at 11:00.