

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5 July 2022

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

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

### *Bills*

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

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 June 2022.)

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:02):** I rise today to speak on the Civil Liability (BYO Containers) Amendment Bill. I am pleased to rise to speak in support of this bill. In doing so, I am proud to acknowledge South Australia's continued commitment to reducing single-use plastics and being a leader in this space.

The bill will enable businesses the option to allow customers to bring their own containers to take home food. This will reduce waste, while giving consumers and businesses more choice to opt in to an environmentally conscious lifestyle. This important step is one of many made by the Parliament of South Australia in recognising the importance of the principles of sustainable development in our state and the need to promote a circular economy model so we can afford future generations the same ecosystem services we currently enjoy.

Plastics are a key driver of climate change, with the materials used in the production process of manufacturing plastics consisting heavily of fossil fuels. In addition to this, the energy used to create these plastics is largely powered by fossil fuels, causing the entire global production and incineration of plastic to emit 850 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually.

After their use, 95 per cent of plastic items are discarded in Australia and only 13 per cent of that is recycled. The rest ends up in landfill and on the sides of our streets or in our waterways. Left exposed, these materials continue to emit fossil fuels when exposed to solar radiation in the air or in the water, all while taking up to 1,000 years to decompose.

This bill recognises this impact and the finite nature of our resources. It also recognises the importance of giving businesses and consumers a choice in driving a sustainable future in South Australia. It does not enforce a requirement but may give businesses a financial advantage through reducing food packaging costs, while enabling environmentally conscious actions.

As a qualified chef, I understand that it is unlikely to be able to suit all businesses, hence the choice to be involved. The idea that takeaway restaurants, where customers pre-order food, will be able to accommodate them bringing their own containers is likely to be a complex one and, as such, I appreciate the volunteer nature of the bill.

Speaking to my community, I know single-use plastics are a big concern both to residents and many businesses. This issue is particularly of concern due to the high level of terrestrial biodiversity we have in my electorate, with many native animals occupying our public parks. We are increasingly aware of the impact that plastics and microplastics have on fauna, including through ingestion by wildlife and changes in animal genes. This is a significant issue in Waite, as we are home to endangered species such as the southern brown bandicoot and the square-tailed kite, showing the importance of the bill in reducing harm to our environment.

This bill will aid in putting a stop to the endless cycle of emissions and pollution from single-use plastics by enabling South Australians to partake in a more sustainable lifestyle—a transition in lifestyle which has already been enabled by visionary leadership by our state with bans on single-use plastic bags, straws, cutlery and stirrers, as well as several polystyrene products. Our consumers' diminished dependence on single-use plastics is increasingly important with the ecological threats we are facing. I welcome the community embracing this change.

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (11:05):** I rise also in support of the Civil Liability (BYO Containers) Amendment Bill. Locals in the Adelaide electorate are incredibly passionate about the environment and acutely aware of the important role we can all play in reducing our individual impact on the environment in diverting plastics and food waste from landfill.

In many homes in my community, you will find kitchen caddies on kitchen benches and schools practising 'nude food', which is a term to describe packing lunch boxes with items that are not wrapped in Glad Wrap or are not pre-packaged. Every weekday you will find colourful ceramic and glass keep cups that have become a regular part of the daily coffee grind.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge locals in my community for their efforts, along with the many cafes, restaurants, schools and community groups that strive towards and encourage environmentally friendly choices and practices.

I want to single out one business in my electorate, that is, the Let Them Eat cafe in James Place. I was a regular to Let Them Eat when it was based in the Adelaide Central Market Arcade, when I lived in the city, and I would often visit there with my baby daughter, Audrey, and was always impressed by this small business's efforts in their campaign towards sustainability. These efforts were rewarded yesterday when Let Them Eat became the 42<sup>nd</sup> SA Plastic Free Champion. It was incredibly timely, given that we are currently in Plastic Free July.

This amendment bill is another important step towards supporting businesses like Let Them Eat to reduce the use of single-use items and food waste in South Australia. The bill will allow customers to bring their own re-usable containers to businesses like Let Them Eat to other cafes and supermarkets to take away food or package it up and transport their food home. It provides another layer of protection for these businesses by acknowledging that the liability for anything that goes wrong with the food purchased and transported in a BYO container will be with the customer of that business. Importantly, this means that businesses will not assume the liability themselves.

I do acknowledge that there are exceptions to the above rule—for example, if the business acted in bad faith or the person selling the food was aware the food was not fit for consumption or subject to a food recall order. It is also important to note that businesses could choose whether or not they would allow their customers to use bring your own containers. This bill simply provides the option; it does not impose a requirement on businesses. But I do expect that if the passage of this bill is successful through the house, we will see businesses in my community embrace the option because we know South Australia has been a national leader in this space.

In 2009, we were the first state to implement a ban on lightweight, check-out style plastic bags. In March last year, we were the first state to ban single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers. This ban extended in March this year to polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers.

In April this year, I had the great pleasure of joining our Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment, Dr Susan Close, at my local Woolworths in Walkerville to announce that we were the first state in Australia to have 100 per cent certified compostable bags in all our Woolworths stores. These bags replace the single-use plastic fruit and vegetable bags and can then be used in your kitchen caddy to collect your food scraps. It is these initiatives, combined with legislative changes like this bill, which provide clever and convenient ways for our community to divert plastics and food waste from landfill and build on our reputation for nation-leading environment policy.

I look forward to breaking out my finest Tupperware and bringing it along with me to my favourite local eateries and supermarkets in my electorate following the successful passage of this bill. I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:09):** I rise to offer my support for the civil liability amendment bill presently before the house. We know that food packaging waste carries an enormous

cost for our environment. The production of food packaging uses a significant amount of water and emits greenhouse gases that are destructive to our environment. Often, people will prioritise convenience over sustainability, making food packaging one of the worst contributors to Australia's waste stream. Single-use packaging contributes to enormous quantities of landfill, with one billion disposable coffee cups alone ending up in Australia's landfill every year, not to mention them ending up in our waterways and on our coastline.

A few years ago, most of us would not be caught dead carrying around a single-use coffee cup; in fact, we would often be shamed by our peers for reckless disregard of the environment. Most people would have a collection of carry cups at home for their morning coffee. It did take a little while for people to learn these new habits of grabbing a re-usable coffee cup as they headed out the door on their way to work, but we did see a huge change in behaviour, and the campaign to encourage re-usable coffee cups and other packaging items was certainly gaining momentum. Millions of single-use coffee cups were diverted from landfill as more cafes jumped on board, even offering discounts to their customers who brought their own coffee cups along.

Unfortunately, COVID and other perceived health risks put a stop to this. For good reason, we stopped bringing our containers from home. This was to protect ourselves, but it was also because there was too much liability for our businesses. The Civil Liability (BYO Containers) Amendment Bill will permit consumers to bring their own re-usable containers into businesses for their takeaways. In effect, the liability for anything that goes wrong with food purchased and transported in a BYO container will stay with the consumer. This means that businesses will not assume the liability themselves and they can embrace these campaigns to encourage people to bring in their own containers for use.

As we just heard from the member for Adelaide, South Australia has been a national leader in this space. We were the first state to implement a ban on check-out style plastic bags back in 2009, and I acknowledge our former government for ensuring we were the first state to ban single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers in 2021. This year, we have expanded the ban to polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers. This bill is an important step towards reducing the use of single-use items.

I would encourage anybody who has not had a chance to visit their local waste and recycling centre to do so. I am a big fan of the Seaford waste and recycling centre that was launched just last year when I was still involved with the Onkaparinga council. That centre services the City of Onkaparinga and Mitcham and Marion. It is quite incredible to see the huge amount of unnecessary packaging that comes through those doors and also the hard work of those who work in our waste and recycling streams, who work extremely hard to divert as much as possible from landfill.

I would like to congratulate Greens MLC Robert Simms on introducing this amendment bill to the Legislative Council. The cost to the environment of single-use items cannot continue to be ignored if we want to properly address climate change. We need to protect our environment, but we need to protect our businesses too. I commend this bill to the house.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:13):** I rise to support this bill. I do so briefly to indicate this reflects work done by the previous government. I acknowledge the work of the former Attorney-General in this regard together with the good work of the Hon. Robert Simms in the other place. It was work that was advanced to a point of readiness; indeed, it was on its way to passing this place in the previous parliament, with the goodwill and cooperation of all concerned, among a number of priorities at the end of the last parliament.

In a sense, if there was any legislation that was anticipated for commencement early upon our return, it was this legislation. In commending it briefly, I want to indicate that, in the context of what the leader did in the course of his previous ministerial capacity as Minister for Environment in bringing about the structure through which we will progressively do away with single-use plastics in this state and continue our state's leadership, in terms of reducing the amount of hazardous and otherwise recyclable material disposed of to waste—going all the way back to our early introduction of the container deposit scheme through to Minister Speirs, as he was, introducing the former government's initiative to phase out single-use plastics and to continue that phase-out via a structured process through cooperation with industry and the steady substitution of better products

in place of those single-use plastics—we will see that progress further and further over the years to come.

This piece of legislation in some ways is a neat corollary, in terms of day-to-day life, to say that we are focused on reducing the extent to which we have a culture of single-use, a culture of throwaway and a culture of consumption, and that instead we are moving to one in which we are conscious of the materials used in the products in which we have our takeaway food and drink, and, even more so, we are making choices consciously about the use of cups (I expect predominantly for the purposes for this act) and the materials that go into those cups and so on that we use repeatedly.

Pursuant to this legislation, I think it will now be a change of culture that we will see. We will not have a focus on a reticence that will be required from retailers to accept a bring-your-own product for fear of incurring a civil liability but, rather, culturally a move to embracing the use of these materials, the use of re-usable materials, as a matter of course.

Reflecting briefly in a comparative way on the culture of re-use, it is all very well to think about materials that can be recycled. The recycling industry will, generally speaking, bring the product back down to its component parts and then use that material to manufacture another product. It is not always that way. A comparative form of re-use we have seen in different parts of the drinks industry, particularly overseas—and it is one I lived through day to day in Sweden—is the use of a thick plastic bottle that would be returned to the place of purchase, washed and then refilled. The bottle that you bought off the shelf often bore the marks of having been through the wear and tear of multiple uses. It would be relabelled and put on the shelf having been washed, but it was all scratched up and showing that it had been used several times.

When we talk about recycling and re-use, it is not only a matter of reducing the litter and bringing products back to a recycling facility that can, as it were, boil them down to their component parts and rebuild, it is also very much about saying, 'Think about the materials that are in the products you use because it can be that that particular product can be re-used.' In this case, in a retail context we are now going to make it easier for the retailer to facilitate that because they will not have the associated fear of incurring civil liability, provided they do so in a sensible way.

This is a good measure, in line with other initiatives that were taken over the course of the last parliament by the previous government. I commend in particular the former Attorney-General and the Minister for Environment, as he then was, and now Leader of the Opposition in this place for this bill returning here. I commend its hasty passage through this house.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:21):** I also rise in support of this bill. It is a step. It is a small step, but it is a step nonetheless. To put it in some context, at the moment 11 million tonnes per year of plastic is being discharged to the marine environment. That is expected to massively increase over the coming years, with the estimate that, by 2040, 20 million tonnes of plastic will be discharged to the marine environment. That represents 50 kilos for every metre of coastline globally—that gives you an indication of the scale.

The big companies involved in plastic manufacturing have all flagged very significant increases in plastic production. We have a huge problem on our hands, the full scope of which we do not fully appreciate and the consequences of which we do not have full sight of. Time will tell. These are small steps. They are important steps, but they are small steps, and we should not lose sight of the fact that we have a major, major problem.

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:22):** I rise today in support of this bill. How often have we all gone into a supermarket and had that moment—I do not know if you have done this, member for Hammond—when you need to buy some olives and you think, 'Well, do I buy a container at the deli and get another single-use plastic, or do I buy a jar?' and have that little moral dilemma of, 'Is glass worse for the environment because of all the energy put into making the glass to then put the olives in?' It is exciting to be able to have this flexibility where I can take one of my Tupperware containers and get it.

It also really mixes up our Friday nights. At the moment, normally on a Friday night as often as we can—when I am not busy at a Kenilworth Football Club trivia night—I am at home with my family and we have our movie and takeaway night. Do you know what we get every single Friday because we are worried about all the plastic containers if we get anything else? We get pizza

because at least we can put the box into a green bin. So I am pretty excited that we are going to be able to mix up our Friday evenings, finally.

I want to thank the Hon. Robert Simms in the other place, who introduced this bill, and Deputy Premier Susan Close, in her capacity as Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, for introducing the bill in this place. This piece of legislation is sensible, good for consumers, good for workers, good for business and good for our planet.

Our land and waterways are being choked by billions upon billions of pieces of plastic waste. Australians are using 130 kilograms of plastic per person per year and recycling less than 12 per cent of it. It is pretty dire. Not only is all this plastic endangering our marine wildlife but the University of Newcastle recently discovered that most people are consuming up to 2,000 tiny pieces of plastic every week as a direct result of our own pollution. I think the member for Adelaide's face is appropriately disgusted by that fact.

South Australia has a proud history of being a nation and often a global leader in environmental protection and action on climate change. In 2009, we were the first state to ban plastic bags and, from March last year, we completely phased out the use of single-use plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery. We must continue to build upon this legacy, demonstrating the power of government in protecting our environment and combating climate change, while also encouraging individual consumers, workers and businesses to make environmentally positive choices without impacting their cost of living.

This bill will allow consumers to bring their own containers to purchase food—like olives—and reduce our reliance on disposable food packaging. The liability for bringing such a container will sit with the consumer rather than the business, ensuring that businesses that act in good faith and best practice will be exempt from any associated liability if something were to go wrong as a result of the BYO container. This shift in liability provides workers and businesses with the confidence to allow their consumers this choice, reducing business costs and encouraging less and less usage of single-use plastics.

Whether or not you are picking up a favourite breakfast roll or avo on rye from Our Food Project in Daw Park or a big brekky roll or nasi goreng from Sublime Cafe in Clarence Park, so long as these businesses decide to participate—and I am fairly sure they will, but if they do not, I am coming for you guys—you can do so with your own BYO container.

I was so glad to hear the member for Black declare this bill would receive bipartisan support in this place and look forward to its successful passage to deliver such a single and effective change to the people and environment of South Australia. I am also really looking forward to our potentially getting some Indian or Thai on Friday nights instead of our usual pizza. Thank you.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:26):** I would like to make a few comments in support of this bill and, like other speakers, thank the Hon. Mr Simms from the other place for introducing it to the parliament.

Whether it is in this bill or any other bill, when we talk about how to minimise resources we use to live and carry out our lives, we also need to talk about how we minimise the impact on our planet. Quite clearly, we have a moral obligation to ensure the impact that we as human beings have on this planet is kept to a minimum and that we hopefully leave the planet in a better condition than when we first entered it. We all have a contribution to make to ensure that we minimise the harm to our planet.

On the face of it, this looks like a very modest bill, but I think it is one that is very worthwhile and will make a difference because it is a whole range of little modest bills that actually change people's attitudes and values about the way we live. This bill goes towards that. As mentioned, we were the first state in the country to ban lightweight check-out style plastic bags. Last year, we also banned a whole range of single-use plastic cutlery and stirrers, etc., and we were the first state to introduce bottle deposit legislation. We have actually led Australia, if not the world in a lot of cases, on what we need to do to minimise our resource use by encouraging resource re-use. This is what this bill does.

It might not surprise you, but I am a bit of a coffee addict. I remember that a lot of cafes started to use their own glass containers, which you could re-use. I thought it was a great idea and I bought one. Unfortunately, COVID hit and that was banned, and the use of additional limited resources started again.

This bill will hopefully encourage businesses to promote their own business through re-usable packaging carrying their own brand, which is a good business practice. I certainly bought one and carried that coffee cup with me wherever I went, and people saw the brand. More importantly, it gives consumers a choice as well, and in this case consumers will be encouraged to re-use those containers for things like coffee and foods, etc., and businesses will respond to that.

As I said, even though on the face of it this looks like a very modest bill, it is actually a very good bill because what it does is remove a barrier from being implemented. One of the things businesses look at is risk, which is fair enough. With this bill, if a business owner acts in good faith then, through this legislation, the risk to his or her business is minimal in terms of any potential action. This will go a step further towards encouraging us, every time we do things in our lives, to think about our planet at the same time.

We need to reduce the amount of packaging. As an aside, online businesses are booming but the amount of packaging they use, which turns up at businesses and people's homes, is quite high. I am sure that packaging outstrips the amount of packaging incurred when one buys at the retail level. That is another thing we need to think about: how we reduce the amount of packaging we generate.

In terms of packaging at fast-food outlets, I am not sure how much of that is actually necessary. We need to look at why businesses use all that packaging, if there are other barriers to their reducing it or other risks that we can minimise for them to encourage them to reduce that amount of packaging. This bill certainly goes a long way towards helping in certain circumstances and should be supported. With those few comments, I congratulate the mover of the bill in the upper house and commend the bill to the house.

**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) (11:31):** I am delighted to close the second reading debate on this bill and acknowledge it has received support from across the chamber, which I am grateful for.

As many speakers have, I would like to draw attention to the big picture reason why we need to make every effort to reduce waste, particularly plastic waste, in our society. We are currently in Plastic Free July, and that gave me occasion to remind myself of some of the horrifying statistics about the waste of resources, particularly in the form of plastic, and also to remind myself not to be complacent that we are necessarily heading in the right direction, despite the warm glow of multipartisanship this bill has enjoyed.

In the first 10 years of this century, as a planet we made more plastic than in the entirety of previous human history—bearing in mind that plastic was invented only a little while ago. That says to me that we are, in fact, escalating our generation of this product, not decreasing it, as a planet. That has two significant problems. One is that even if it were that we never littered plastic, that it never ended up in the waste stream or in the oceans, we are generating greenhouse gas emissions through the generation of the product. It is oil, it is itself a hydrocarbon, and its creation contributes to our risk of runaway climate change.

Even if we were perfect at not littering, the creation of that volume of plastic is a challenge we need to meet, particularly when we are talking about the creation of plastic for the purpose of using it only once. The 'take, make and waste' idea has had its time and should have long since gone; however, it remains with us. Our approach to dealing with that is multipronged, and this bill deals with only a small but an important part of it, which I will return to.

The wastefulness of plastic sits alongside the way in which we have chosen, as a society and a species, to not just dispose of plastic after one or two uses but to then allow that disposal to find its way into the litter stream and into our oceans. By 2050, on the current trajectory, by weight there will be as much plastic in the ocean as fish life. That is a terrifying statistic, and not just one that I found on the internet but one that independently was repeated to me yesterday when I met with

the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It was a rather surprising element of the conversation, but in fact it should not have been because the shared challenge of climate change sits across all domains and all disciplines.

If we go to the ocean now and look at the surface, 40 per cent has plastic in it. There is not one square mile of ocean surface that is completely plastic free. We have taken this precious commodity, oil, we have turned it into a product that exists forever—every bit of plastic that has ever been made still exists on this planet in the form of plastic—and we have thrown it, essentially, into the ocean. That is a disgrace, and we must not, as I say, be complacent, that because we all feel that it is awful that it will simply go away or stop. We must take a series of actions.

The last government, to which I give credit, initiated the process of removing some single-use plastics. Yesterday, I launched the report from the Green Industries organisation that did a magnificent amount of consultation on the next phase of removal of single-use plastics. Over 3,500 South Australians chose to participate in that consultation, and overwhelmingly they want us to continue down the pathway of removing the option of having single-use plastics. By the end of the year, I look forward to being able to announce the pathway, the time line within which we will address more of those products being removed.

We also have the positive pull of businesses that are choosing to go plastic free and demonstrating to others that that choice works for them and for their customers. Yesterday, I had the delight of being at the cafe Let Them Eat in James Place—I think it is one of five or six premises that that business runs—that simply chose, when they established the business, to be plastic free. Then they discovered that there was such a thing as Plastic Free Champions, so they have become the 42<sup>nd</sup> Plastic Free Champion in South Australia, a program that I understand has essentially removed five million pieces of plastic that would otherwise, had those businesses chosen not to be plastic free, have been circulating and ending up, tragically, in the ocean.

This bill is another element of how we can assist, and that is not only to remove the risk associated, whether it was real, manifest or not, with businesses contemplating allowing people to bring their own containers to take away food. By the nature of this bill and talking about this bill, we are reminding people that there is that option; it is part of, as the member for Heysen said, the culture change that is required for us to think, 'I don't need to use an object simply once and throw it away—there are alternatives.'

This bill has a legal material difference that it makes, but I hope very earnestly that it also has a culture change opportunity as we talk about it through the mainstream media, through social media and when we go out to business to tell them about this change, that some, if not many of them, might encourage this shift.

I would like to very much thank the Greens as a party for introducing this bill several times, I think, over the years. I have a recollection of Mark Parnell having introduced it; I cannot recall where it ended, but I do know that the Hon. Robert Simms MLC, a member of the other place, has introduced this now twice. The first time, it went through in the last parliament in the upper house, and there is some mystery as to quite why it did not make it through in the lower house.

I note that there is an attempt somehow for this bill to also be to the credit of the Leader of the Opposition, the former Minister for Environment. I am not sure that it is possible to quite lay that claim, given that it did come down to this house and did not go through. In fact, there was some confusion about whether or not it was about to, but it did not, and parliament was prorogued before it was able to. We would already have this well in place had that occurred—an opportunity lost.

However, here we are, here it is and we are now able to not only pass this bill but do so in a way that every single parliamentarian has been able to support. I think that in itself sends a very clear message that we as representatives of the people understand what the people expect, that the people know that we understand the seriousness of the climate change and waste problems we face and that we are prepared to start to do our bit to address them.

Again, I thank the honourable member of the other place Rob Simms for his persistence in bringing this piece of legislation forward. I am delighted that I was able to take it as a piece of legislation and bring it in for debate. I am particularly pleased we have been able to get it through

before the break so that we can get on with making this real and also, as I say, talking about it in order to facilitate that culture change of take and waste—that is what we must leave behind collectively. I commend this bill to the house, and I thank all speakers. They all spoke very well.

Bill read a second time.

*Third 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) (11:41):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the presence in the chamber of the Hon. Tammy Franks MLC and the Hon. Robert Simms MLC of the other place.

*Bills*

**APPROPRIATION BILL 2022**

*Estimates Committees*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:41):** I bring up the report of Estimates Committee A and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I bring up the minutes of proceedings of Estimates Committee A and move:

That the minutes of proceedings be incorporated in the Votes and Proceedings.

Motion carried.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:42):** I bring up the report of Estimates Committee B and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

**Mr HUGHES:** I bring up the minutes of proceedings of Estimates Committee B and move:

That the minutes of proceedings be incorporated in the Votes and Proceedings.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (11:43):** I move:

That the proposed expenditures referred to Estimates Committees A and B be agreed to.

I rise to offer a contribution towards the estimates discussion and the Appropriation Bill in general. It is very easy to talk to because there is so much in it for our local community and for the state in general. With every dollar of government spending, from billions right down to the smallest amount, comes an opportunity to demonstrate to the community what government believes is important. As a Labor Party, we put our cards well and truly on the table at the election, and South Australians delivered a very clear message on how they would like to see our state's public money spent.

South Australians have shown us they are ready for a government that is committed to delivering better outcomes and better lives for all. Labor understands the true power and true potential of public spending, and our community recognises the importance of that understanding, even if members opposite do not. You can change people's lives for the better with any amount of money if that money is used wisely and in pursuit of public good.

Today, I would like to speak about the smaller spends right up to the very substantial ones. I will begin with some of the commitments that were made in my electorate of Hurtle Vale and across the southern suburbs in general. Firstly, I will talk to local parks, sporting clubs and organisations. Community infrastructure, sporting clubs and local organisations play very important roles in the lives of South Australians. It is a pleasure to support them.

In my electorate of Hurtle Vale, I am so pleased that we will be able to deliver the following. There is \$100,000 being committed for accessible play equipment in the adventure playground at the Wilfred Taylor Reserve. Before the 2018 election, the then Weatherill government committed \$1.3 million towards the development of that playground, which was consequently matched by the then Liberal opposition which became government.

We were very pleased that that commitment was followed through together, and we now have an excellent play space in the heart of my electorate. It is more of a regional playground and is visited by many people from all across the southern suburbs. However, the lack of accessible play equipment, not just in my electorate but statewide, has certainly been brought to my attention over the years.

It was first brought to my attention in my area by a local young man Thomas and his dad, Wayne Savage. I am really thrilled that kids like Thomas will soon have access to this space with additional play equipment available. I think there is one, maybe two pieces currently, so this is a great addition. Sue Sedivy of the Lions Club, Marilyn Russell of the Rotary Club, and Jeff Kaye of Kiwanis all committed before the last election that we would work together with the community and hopefully leverage more on top of that \$100,000 investment—from little things big things grow I think is the theory we are working on there.

We also had a commitment of \$250,000 to install a public toilet in the Byards Road Wetlands in Reynella East. That piece of infrastructure has evolved over several years and its usage has really grown due to parkrun and many other local communities like the Friends of Byard Road Wetlands, who have some very keen birdwatchers. Many people go to that area, but there are no facilities close by that people can use, so staying there for a long period of time creates a massive problem for runners before and after their event, as pointed out by people like Rachael Semler of the local parkrun group. I thank people like Rachael Semler and also, from the Friends of the Byard Road Wetlands, Gary Goland and Jenni Garden, who have all reached out to me over recent years. We managed together to secure that commitment.

There has also been a \$500,000 commitment to construct a dog park in a really large open space on Investigator Drive at Woodcroft. Dog parks are really beneficial pieces of recreational and social infrastructure, which I can vouch for after recently re-entering the world of dog ownership with a bonkers beagle that tears the house apart and leaves us special presents everywhere if she does not get out for a decent run. We do have to go quite a way for a dog park.

When people had been lobbying me over time, I did listen to them. I made that commitment to them well before I went into dog ownership and thought, 'Oh, yeah, I know what you're talking about.' That is going to be amazing, not just for the dogs but for the owners, for people to be able to connect. I know during COVID especially having places like that in the outdoors was really important for local communities. That dog park, when it does get established, will be much wanted, I am sure.

The Noarlunga United Soccer Club I think is one of the oldest soccer clubs in South Australia, and I think the toilets are too. In fact, it is pointed out to me regularly that there is actually nowhere you can properly wash your hands in the change rooms. Players who need to spend a penny, shall we say, do not have a good place to wash their hands.

Of course, we all want good hygiene measures, so I have been working with Monika Cadman, Chairman of the Noarlunga United Soccer Club. While we know there are a number of items that could do with refurbishing at that club, the chair of the Doggies, Monika, has been advocating very strongly particularly around the change rooms. That may well be the first piece of infrastructure that benefits from this \$1 million investment. I look forward to working with them on more.

Slightly further afield across the south, but not far from where I grew up, I am really proud to deliver, with the member for Reynell, a commitment to invest \$322,500 to improve amenities, lighting and irrigation at the Morphett Vale Bowling Club. Tony Snashell and Pat Dyer were delighted when the member for Reynell was able to get there and announce this commitment to that club. It is a very well-used club in the southern area. There is also \$350,000 for improved oval lighting, drainage and irrigation at the Morphett Vale Memorial Sports Complex in general. I look forward to working with the member from Reynell to see these upgrades delivered.

I know Michelle Glazbrook from the Morphies football club is particularly excited about these upgrades. The Morphett Vale Football Club is called the Emus and, for the historians amongst us, you will be absolutely excited to know that they are called the Emus because Morphett Vale was originally called Emu Plains, and so we have the Emus. I do not know if there were emus there—maybe—but it is one of those local bits of history. People are always a bit confused as to why it is the Emu Hotel and the Emus Football Club. It used to be called Emu Plains, so there you go.

Also, \$570,000 has been committed for upgrades to the Reynella Sports and Social Club. This will include some money towards the change room upgrades. The president of the cricket club, Brett Julian, who has been pestering us for a very long time, will be very pleased to know that this will contribute to new cricket nets. Currently, the cricket nets are located right near the driveway and all the little tackers who play cricket are running out and chasing the balls, so it is not that safe. I hope this helps them to improve that offering at the Reynella Sports and Social Club.

There are some other fantastic people there who are lobbying for improvements all the time, including Dave Denyer from the footy club; Tash Threadgold from the netball club; Marissa Payne from the Hub Netball Club; and Brett Julian, who I mentioned before, from the cricket club. Then there are stalwarts like Graeme Green and Suzanne Thomas from the tennis club, Peter Davies from the air rifle club and Peter Gooch from the bowling club. It is a really well-used space and a big community area. The actual space forms one of the bigger clubs in the south but the amenity could certainly do with some improvement.

Another big one in the south, which has been a bit of a sleeper for a while, is the Hub Gymnastics Club. We have made a commitment to deliver \$3 million to the Hub Gymnastics Club. My understanding is that there are some 500 or more kids involved in that club—it is quite huge. It is a very busy training facility, and this investment will mean that they can expand those facilities in line with their growth and help them to continue to be one of the more competitive gymnastics clubs in our region. Emma Murray, an incredible leader there, was delighted when the member for Davenport, the federal member for Kingston and I visited to provide that commitment to that club.

I will move on a little bit to an area that is in my portfolio that was discussed heavily pre election, and that is community centres. Community centres play a crucial role in keeping our people and neighbourhoods connected, a bit like sporting clubs, but particularly for people who can potentially be isolated. We have made a commitment to invest \$1½ million in a community centre in Aberfoyle Park that is very well attended and very busy. It will increase the floor space and help to further develop the facilities, providing a space for a wider range of programs in that area, including arts and youth programs.

We also listened when they asked us for some money towards some Men's Sheds activities they were planning. Men's Sheds came up in estimates; we talked about those. This particular men's shed has a \$40,000 commitment. I look forward to working out how they are going to deliver that within that space. The other thing in addition at Aberfoyle Park is the library. It takes some five to 10 minutes for someone with a disability to actually get into the library around a really convoluted ramp, so \$250,000 has been committed to improve disability access at that library—very important.

The member for Elder was a very strong campaigner around her community centre offerings in that electorate, and a new community centre will be established in Pasadena, where there currently is no community centre. That will be in partnership with the City of Mitcham. That will bring wonderful benefits, and I know from doing lots and lots of doorknocking in Elder that there are many people who will benefit from the use of a community centre.

We have also restored \$1 million that was cut out of the funding to the Adult Community Education program (ACE) that was cut under the Marshall Liberal government, and we are now

reinstating that so community centres can help to build that support capacity in their communities. It is much welcomed; it has been a very popular announcement. It will ensure that newly upgraded centres in entirety will be places where our communities can continue to learn, grow and develop.

These commitments to the community sector more broadly are part of a bigger set of commitments to improve community infrastructure and make South Australia a more accessible and inclusive state. I think roads and public transport comes up every time you get out in your community. It is one of the big ones that come through our offices.

Being a minister and on a different side in estimates, you do not get as much information or pay as much attention to the other estimates committees, but I know that we have a very strong advocate in terms of infrastructure in our Minister for Transport and in the regional roads minister as well. I think the conversations that we are having around ensuring our roads are maintained will see us well into the future.

Of course, well-maintained roads are critical for safety and productivity. There are some really important roads in the south that I know have had questions asked about them over time and a lot of media attention. One in particular is the \$10 million committed to upgrade Main Road, Cherry Gardens. There is a fellow by the name of Nick Villios who lives on Main Road, Cherry Gardens. Many of you would be aware of Nick and his relentless on-air conversations, but he also has a pile of this thick of documentation about Main Road, Cherry Gardens.

Nick rallies his neighbours and contacts local members and ministers frequently. He campaigned really hard for an upgrade. It was voted South Australia's fourth riskiest road in a recent RAA survey. The postie will not even travel on it because of the risk it poses. This project forms part of the \$150 million Adelaide Hills productivity package funded in partnership with the Albanese government.

There is also \$120 million over two years to fund an on/off ramp from the Southern Expressway at Majors Road. We have discussed this in many forums here in parliament. This was the current opposition leader's number one priority leading into the 2018 election. He had a video online. I have not checked lately, but it was on there until a few weeks ago. Labor is delivering this on/off ramp at Majors Road. It will make a difference to the traffic in Brighton at Hove, and the Hove crossing was another messed up and withdrawn commitment that still has fallout for the people who live in that area.

This on/off ramp will enable local traffic to access the expressway, and the Leader of the Opposition can thank us for delivering on that promise he made and then abandoned. There is also the \$125 million commitment to the full duplication of Main South Road between Seaford and Sellicks Beach, which is very important. As a retrieval nurse, I have attended some terrible trauma there, and I look forward to seeing that road finally corrected after many years.

An important announcement we made was free public transport for Seniors Card holders from 1 July, a few days ago. It means that so many people in my and other people's electorates are able to work, see family and engage in the community. It was always a bone of contention, particularly for the volunteers who would head out during peak hour to volunteer at the local hospital and have to pay for their transport. It is difficult to get people who can afford that additional cost: now they will not have to. It also provides critical cost-of-living relief to older people who are struggling to make ends meet. I am very pleased to deliver that along with cost-of-living concessions investments.

In terms of health, as a government we have very significant investments in the health system. The once-in-a-generation investment in mental health will deliver much-needed improvements for communities right across South Australia, and that will have a ripple effect. It will take time to get all these things in place, but this will absolutely improve the flow through hospitals and defer people from hospitals. It will ensure that people get the most appropriate placement within our healthcare system, and I know the Minister for Health and Wellbeing is absolutely homing in on getting these things delivered as quickly as possible. It will go a long way towards addressing whole-of-system issues, including ramping.

In southern Adelaide, we see an upgrade committed to the Flinders Medical Centre and to the Repat precinct. The partnership with the Albanese government will see a \$400 million expansion,

including \$161 million over four years to deliver 24 subacute beds at FMC, 136 extra beds and an expanded ICU. I do not know how many times we have expanded the ICU, but when I started working there I think it had 12 beds with a bit of overflow, and I think now it is built up to about some 36 beds. I am not sure what the total number will be here, but it certainly is a very large unit with excellent staff, a lot of friends.

There is also an upgrade and expansion of mental health facilities at the Margaret Tobin Centre, which will be much welcomed, as is the brand-new eye surgery clinic and the expansion to medical imaging services. All these things will assist with flow. If we could do a *Bewitched* and wiggle our nose or snap our fingers or do a bit of *I Dream of Jeannie* magic, then it would all be there today. I know that all of us here, from whatever political party, would wish that to happen because it would make life so much easier for all the people in our community, but it will take time.

Along with so many other investments, these really important commitments will have a real impact on health and wellbeing outcomes and I hope will rebuild a sense of trust in our medical system's quality and its responsiveness. You cannot put a price on the feeling of security that comes from knowing that when you need an ambulance to come, it will come and that when you need a hospital bed, you get a hospital bed.

I would like to thank all the members who participated in the estimates process to look at all these things across the week and a half I think it was. I also thank particularly my staff for assisting me in preparation. I found the process fairly low on stress and that was because of them and because of our excellent members of the Department of Human Services and the Housing Authority, so thank you very much.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:04):** I, too, rise to make a contribution for the appropriation of funds through the estimates process, another estimates once again. This time, obviously, we looked across the chamber at the incoming government and their priorities—and their priorities are all about themselves. I very much enjoy being a part of a number of areas in the estimates process, but what we saw was the sandbagging of areas of South Australia to fund election promises.

To achieve some of those election promises, we have seen many programs deferred. The government are kicking the can down the road. They continue to do that to fund their pet projects so that, as I said, they can continue to sandbag those seats they want to invest in in preparation for the next election. I urge South Australians to look beyond those sweeteners in some of those areas. This government continues, by preference, to govern for metropolitan South Australia, and we saw the regions continue to be pushed out of the way. It is concerning that, when we see a government exploit the inner circles of metropolitan South Australia, there are those who have to miss out.

Through the estimates process I started off with roads and infrastructure. Obviously, roads and thoroughfares are critically important areas, particularly for people living in the regions, and we need efficiency gains moving freight around South Australia. It is also about making sure that people arrive safely at their destination and making sure that we look at some of those programs. The member for Hammond, as regional roads shadow, and I as road safety shadow, looked at one another and thought it was hard to believe that the minister for roads and infrastructure, without even an adverse face movement, continued to take credit for the great work that the Marshall Liberal government had done.

What I saw was an ongoing funding stream into some of those Roads of Strategic Importance. One very important and dear to my heart is the Renmark to Gawler road: \$87½ million. It is a safety upgrade to a federal highway that has been neglected for a considerable period for time. The 80:20 split between commonwealth and state had seen a number of areas that had to be addressed, and I note that the former Liberal government did that.

The \$87½ million was to upgrade a section of the Sturt Highway between Renmark and Gawler. Under the former Labor government, two rail operating lines between Tookayerta and Tailem Bend and between Pinnaroo and Tailem Bend were taken out of action. That put more heavy mass-load vehicles on our roads, on our highways, and to address the increased number of trucks, we saw the former government upgrading safety upgrades.

The shoulder upgrades, the safety barriers, the intersections, the overtaking lanes, the parking bays, all the tactile marking and the signage are great legacies that need to be continually

maintained and continually upgraded. That is what we saw under the former Liberal government. To the credit of this government, they did not cease that ongoing program, and that is great to see.

There are concerns over a section of the Sturt Highway where we are still seeing, for good reason, a 40-kilometre speed restriction that has been in place for a long period of time. The newly appointed CE of DIT has given me a very clear understanding of exactly what the issues have been there. I just hope that we see a government now that will stop reducing speed limits and put an investment into the maintenance program of our roads.

We also talked to the minister about the Truro bypass, which is a \$202 million upgrade of the Sturt Highway. It is about implementing efficiencies into a freight network as well as a very busy corridor for passenger vehicles. We have seen some preliminary work done there, which is good. Sadly, those major works will not progress until 2026, but they are underway. The minister did give me an undertaking that he would look at the duplication of the highway. I would be very sad to see over \$200 million spent on a bypass that did not look at the feasibility or at the reality of what a dual lane road would mean to that section of Sturt Highway.

Along the way, we saw a number of projects. Sadly, as to the north-south corridor, when the now government was in government prior to the Marshall Liberal government, they did all the easy sections of the north-south corridor, then we came into government and we had to undertake some of those tougher sections. We now see the issue around the tunnelling. The hard, expensive bits of that north-south corridor again are now being kicked down the road. This can must have no paint left on it because we continue to see this minister, this government, kick that can down the road, to defer funding so that they can come back to their election promises. It is all about sandbagging some of those seats.

I note that the shadow minister asked some very good questions, some of them were taken on notice, and it will be very interesting to see when we get responses to some of those very good questions so that we can actually get on with upgrading our roads, maintaining our roads, building new roads and making sure that we continue to undertake the freight network that needs to happen here in South Australia.

If we look around to the freight corridors that used to be rail corridors, sadly they are very skinny when it comes to looking at the freight. We look at the east-west rail corridor that is antiquated. Sadly, we cannot get past the single-use or the single-stack container freight corridor that runs from the east to the west through the Hills and then over to the west. While we continue to put heavy loads on our roads, we put a heavy burden on our roads. So I say to the minister and the government that you have to actually stump up that program that continues to make our roads better, more efficient and safer.

From that part of the estimates process, I then move to primary industries. Obviously, primary industries and regions are very dear to my heart due to my living in the regions, being a former primary producer and coming from a family of primary production. Our former government did some great work. We had a reform agenda and we did a lot of that heavy lifting that the former government would not do. I say that they were pretty weak. I would not say gutless, but I would say weak. They were not prepared to make some of those hard decisions that needed to be made. The Marshall Liberal government had that reform agenda and I think we got on with it.

There were a number of tough decisions that had to be made along the way, whether it was in the fisheries programs, whether it was in some of those new and emerging industries within primary industries—agtech, for example. We look at carbon capture and carbon storage, and they are sectors that are the future of primary industries, particularly when it comes to government initiatives.

We know that industry by and large will embark on investing into their own businesses, but the government's role is about the R&D programs. It is about being the conduit to industry and the taxpayer feeling that their hard-earned taxpayer dollars are going into programs that are for their benefit: putting food on the table, making sure we can deal with climate change, making sure we can deal with that variable climate. The uncertainty of being a primary producer is always a challenge.

Over the estimates sessions, we saw that we have a minister who is, I would say, a little bit cute, who took questions on notice at every opportunity and was also very forthcoming in not giving

information, particularly with the questions asked. With some of the decision-making—particularly in the marine scalefish sector, some of that reform, the licence buyback, making that sector more sustainable and more viable into the future—what was worrying was the lack of science-based decision-making. Some of the tough decisions made by the former government have now been sweetened so that they can keep going on their merry way and do what they have always done, and that is make half-baked decisions.

That marine scalefish reform was a tough reform package, yes. There was some pain felt out there, but what we are seeing now is a minister who I think is ducking and weaving when it comes to making some of those hard decisions and following through with them. Over a long period of time, we have seen the former Labor government—and it now looks as though it is the same old Labor government—continuing to shirk its responsibility of making that reform agenda that is needed for the future of fisheries.

In forests, there was a huge opportunity for this government to invest in some of the efficiencies that are needed—road upgrades, bridge upgrades—so that we can see huge opportunities, investment opportunities. Obviously, water prescription has been a massive burden on the forestry sector. We are seeing uncertainty with the sale of forests to a private—

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Yes, they are a private operator. What we saw over a long period of time was a lack of auditing when that forest was sold. It was sold for a pittance by the government to this operator. They overharvested. We saw the grey area of putting a sawlog or a pulp log onto a ship and exporting it, and guess what? We have timber shortages in South Australia. We have timber shortages nationally.

I think a great question that needs to be asked is: why do we have timber shortages? Why do we have programs? I know that the rotations were brought from, some would say, 36-year rotations back to under 30 years. All of a sudden, the realisation was that, if they continued to keep harvesting as they were, we would see a serious interruption to supply, and we also saw what it meant to the future of timber supply in South Australia.

Along the way, we moved out of primary industries. We moved out of forests, fisheries and some of the programs I have mentioned. Sadly, there are departmental cuts. PIRSA is always a target for the Labor government. They continue to cut positions, cut programs and cut the departments and their capacity to be able to move forward and make sure those programs that we need in the primary sector, that we need in regional South Australia, continue to progress. Now, again, we are seeing the same old Labor.

As we moved past primary industries, we moved into health. I want to thank the shadow health team. There are three shadows, and I think they have done an outstanding job. The incoming government was promising all to everyone about ramping, nursing numbers, doctors and the emergency departments. All of a sudden, we had a problem on our hands. They promised everything to everyone, and they are slowly realising just how tough it is.

We still have a hangover from Transforming Health, and there is no doubt about that. What we continue to see is that the current government have invested quite heavily in mental health, and I think that is a good investment. Again, we are still waiting for a suicide ambassador to be appointed, we are still waiting for the suicide prevention council to be appointed and we are still waiting to see more funding and more of an emphasis put on substance abuse. Over time, South Australians will be awake to an incoming government that promised so much and, at the moment, are hiding under the couch because they know that there is a huge burden of pain coming to the South Australian taxpayer for what they promised and gave so much hope.

We moved out of health and looked at police and corrections. We looked at road safety. Sadly, we have seen a government that is not prepared to be more proactive in attracting police officers, people taking up the police force as a career. It is forecast that we will be 90 officers short in the upcoming year of recruitment. Again, that puts pressure on the existing staff, the existing officers on the beat. They are under the pump.

The issue there is that we have seen low morale within the police force. We are seeing a lack of ability to attract cadets through the cadetships, and the numbers need to be made up. The protective security officers who were used through the COVID period need to be reinstated. There needs to be some funding so that they can take the pressure off frontline SAPOL so that community expectations that their streets are safe are met and so that we have enough police officers making sure that community safety is front and centre.

There have been a number of issues particularly with the number of corrections officers. We have seen riots at Yatala, and we have seen riots in youth justice system just recently. It is a telltale that we do not have the officers, that we do not have the corrections personnel there to address what was an emerging problem—that is, the impact of COVID on those officers—and we have to move on.

What I would say with regard to SAPOL is that the estimates process exposed that the government is not doing enough. Withholding crime statistics has been another issue, and it continues to go on. Regional police stations continue to be and should be under the microscope. While we see a decline in SAPOL officers here in Adelaide, undeniable pressure is put on police numbers in the regions of South Australia. It puts an undeniable pressure on the viability of keeping police stations open in regional South Australia.

We have seen, as many regional MPs in this chamber would attest, the continual pressure on making sure that our regional police stations have a presence, making sure that we keep our regional communities safe and making sure that, as a government, they are responsible not only for keeping police numbers in Adelaide at a rate that is acceptable but for making sure that South Australians have the safety they expect.

One last thing that I would mention is Cobbie steam museum. The Cobdogla Steam Friends Society is seeing a defunding model coming into play. It is very, very sad. It is part of the history not only of irrigation but of SA Water, which was the E&WS. They are defunding that institution. It is home of the Humphrey pump, it is home of the traction engine and it is home of a great steam crane. Sadly, this miserable government are going to defund what is one of the iconic tourist attractions in the Riverland.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:24):** I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report of the estimates committee. This would have been my 13<sup>th</sup> year in estimates committees in this place.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That's newish.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** That's new, that's right. Compared with some people, I am new at it. I spent the first four years of course as a backbencher, which I will get to in a minute. It is a fairly thankless task, being a government backbencher in the estimates committees.

**Mr Whetstone:** Come on!

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Well, not as thankless as being a shadow minister, I have to say. I spent the following four years as the Chair of Estimates Committee A, which is now ably chaired by you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and then four years as a shadow minister (in the same predicament as the member for Chaffey) and, of course, this year as the whip. So I have seen it from most sides now.

I must say that I am looking forward to the traditional contributions to this debate in which people point out the flaws in the estimates system, the ways in which it can be improved, pointing to other jurisdictions, pointing to the Senate's estimates committee process in Canberra and going through how the estimates committee process could be improved and reformed. This has been going on for at least the last 13 years, over which time I do not think the estimates committee process has changed one tiny bit.

I look forward to those speeches. I expect the member for Morialta has some observations about that. Indeed, I sat with the member for Morialta briefly on a committee on committees of sorts, where we sought to look at ways the committee system generally, including the estimates committees, could be reformed. As I said, the basic format and process of the estimates committees has not changed. It has been very interesting seeing it from the eyes of the whip. I think I am one of

the few people—apart from you, sir, and the member for Giles—who is lucky enough to have been in the building for almost the entirety of the estimates process.

I want to thank the backbenchers who came in and, especially on the government side, essentially sat mute for most of the time. I want to thank them for that and for their forbearance in the rostering process and also for being so flexible. As the whip, I had to call upon people at quite short notice to change their rosters to come in at times and sometimes sit on committees which they did not have a particular interest in, as much as we tried to marry those things up. I do want to thank them all, and I look forward to next year when we hopefully have a more streamlined process.

The estimates committee process is an opportunity to examine the budget; we all know that, and that is what shadow ministers do. There is much less of a role for government backbenchers, but shadow ministers have an opportunity to examine the budget and look at the way the government—albeit a young government—is travelling. It is also an opportunity for those of us in the government to see how the commitments that we and our shadow ministry made on behalf of the government have come to fruition. I look at some of the projects in my own electorate.

The Adams Road-Yorktown Road roundabout, the member for Light may well be familiar with this intersection. The member for King certainly is. Anyone living in my electorate or in surrounding electorates, particularly in the electorate of King—One Tree Hill, Cudlee Creek and places like that—will be familiar with this intersection. It is essentially an intersection that is a feeder road that empties out the suburbs of Craigmore and Blakeview onto Yorktown Road and thence into the city or wherever they are going. It is one of the few feeder roads.

Other than Uley Road and Craigmore Road, it is one of the few exits from that very fast-growing area of Blakeview and Craigmore. For a long time, and indeed in the present, in the morning rush hour there are huge queues going all the way up Adams Road of people who live in Blakeview or Craigmore trying to get out and turn right onto Yorktown Road, past Eastern Park Football Club, to go about their business.

I was really happy to be able to commit to the people of my electorate, particularly the people of Blakeview and Craigmore, that we will construct a roundabout at that intersection. We will work with Eastern Park Football Club and the other clubs that use those premises to get the right design to ensure that traffic runs much more smoothly and that people who live in Blakeview or Craigmore have a much speedier passage either to work or wherever they are going.

As I said, there are other feeder roads out from that area. Uley Road and Craigmore Road are the two primary ones, but both of those roads become very congested in the mornings. There are schools, there are shops and there is the relatively new suburb of Blakes Crossing adjacent to Craigmore Road, and so those roads get very congested in the mornings and people who live in Blakeview and Craigmore are forced to use that Adams Road-Yorktown Road intersection. I am really pleased that the funding is there for this roundabout to be built, and I look forward to working with council, the Eastern Park Football Club and the other clubs that use that area to see it come to fruition.

Related to that, and in the same geographical area, I was pleased to commit the state government to paying for half of an upgrade to the little Dwight Reserve. This reserve is quite dear to me. It is very close to my parents' house and I grew up playing on that reserve on the way to school. During what passed for a lockdown, initially in South Australia at least, my kids spent almost every morning playing on that reserve. That has no bearing on the fact that it needed upgrading—it needed upgrading anyway, of course.

Part of that upgrade will involve not only improvements to the play equipment for the kids who use that playground but, I am advised, it will also go towards redeveloping some of the grasslands around the fairly temporary footy fields and cricket fields immediately adjacent to it so that people who use the clubrooms at Eastern Park Football Club can also use those grounds to train, to play their reserve games and so on. With the design of the roundabout, which I initially spoke about, it is hoped that the crossing across Yorktown Road, what is a very busy road, can be made safer for the people who use Eastern Park and those playing fields.

The upgrade will also include a pump track. For those of you who do not know what a pump track is—and I must confess I did not know until about two years ago when it was brought to my

attention—it is a track used by BMX riders. I must say it was news to me that the BMX community is so large, because they came out in force to support this project, and it is a place where those who ride BMX bikes and mountain bikes can ride. It is a special way of riding: they use the momentum rather than their pedals to ride. Pump tracks are an emerging way of recreation for young bike riders and I am really pleased that the state government, together with the council, is contributing half of the cost to see that project come to fruition.

Probably the biggest commitment, and one closest to my heart, is our contribution to the City of Playford's master plan for Argana Park. Argana Park is a central hub in the north for all sorts of sports. It is looking quite tired: the parking is terrible, the lighting is terrible and a lot of the facilities are very old. Again, it is a part of the world I grew up in. I went to school immediately adjacent to Argana Park and played my school soccer there. My son, Jimmy, started his soccer career there at Elizabeth Downs and then later returned as an adult to play for Elizabeth Downs Soccer Club.

On election day, when I was handing out for half the day at Elizabeth Downs Primary School, and Jimmy was helping me, I had a fairly high amount of recognition at Elizabeth Downs Primary School but nowhere near what Jimmy had. Every second person would walk up to Jimmy, talk about soccer and take the how-to-vote card from him and I am pleased to say that that particular strategy paid off well.

The Malinauskas government has seen fit to allocate \$1.115 million for new change rooms that can be utilised by the Elizabeth Downs Soccer Club, which I think is the largest of the clubs that use that particular sporting hub. It will also be used by the Elizabeth Netball Association and all the clubs associated with the Elizabeth Netball Association for whom Argana Park and the netball courts at Argana Park are an integral part of playing fixtures.

The female facilities, such as they are, are almost non-existent at Argana Park, so I am really pleased that this is going towards not only improving the change room facilities and toilets there generally but also making them very accessible for all the women who play netball and soccer. I know that the Elizabeth Downs Soccer Club is now putting a lot of effort into developing its female sides. Its younger sides are mixed, but it is moving into female sides at the older grades and in the first teams.

The Malinauskas government made a commitment to a local traffic management plan conducted by the Department for Transport in the relatively new suburb of Blakes Crossing. Blakes Crossing was developed by Delfin and is a good project that was developed on, I would say, the European model, where houses are quite close together. It is a very compact way of living, which is attractive to a lot of people. It means that proximity to schools and public transport and those things is quite close.

It is a pretty good model for housing but, in the South Australian context, what often happens with these types of developments is that there is an enormous amount of pressure on both parking and traffic management, and traffic movement generally, particularly when you couple that with the congestion along Craigmores Road I was talking about before, one of the only feeder roads out of Blakes Crossing. I am looking forward to that traffic management plan.

The idea is to get the department in and survey the local residents. I have spoken to local residents many times over the last 10 years—or however long Blakes Crossing has been there—about these emerging traffic and parking issues, including public transport issues, and the idea is to get the department in and clearly identify all those issues. Everyone has a view, of course, and all the residents have a view about what should be done, and this will be a process of compiling those complaints, working through them, seeing who might be responsible in the future for fixing them and what the solutions might be. I am very pleased the Malinauskas government was able to fund that.

Finally, the smallest project is one for a public toilet at California Reserve, Craigmores. Again, this may seem like small beer, but it is a fairly substantial playground in the middle of what is a growing suburb. The City of Playford has recently put a lot of effort into redeveloping that playground, and it is looking great. I was there recently with councillors Akram Arifi and Misty Norris to have a look at the work, and the City of Playford should be very proud of the work it has done there.

In the initial stages, the budget did not extend as far as a public toilet, but at the street-corner meetings and from the various contacts I have had with constituents around this playground it was certainly seen that public toilets were necessary. For various reasons, there are no public toilets in the adjacent shops and, as playgrounds do, the playground attract kids during the day and slightly older kids in the evening, and so on. A properly secure and self-cleaning toilet facility is absolutely essential, and I am very glad we can deliver that to the people of Craigmore.

Those are the local commitments. It was also interesting, throughout the estimates committee, to follow up on commitments made in my previous shadow ministerial portfolios, and it is really great to see that the current government is fulfilling all the commitments we made in those areas.

Following the bushfires in 2019-20, those devastating bushfires—which the member for Kavel and the member for Morialta, on the fringes there, would know well—there was the Keely review. There was an enormous amount of sympathy for our firefighters and for people living on the Hills Face. There was also a very quickly growing recognition that these were not normal events, that these were clearly driven by climate change, that this was what is colloquially being called the 'new normal'.

Both the Keely review, which was commissioned by the previous government in order to look into the causes and possible remedies for these types of bushfires, and the royal commission into natural disasters, which was established for much the same reasons but on a national level, made clear that climate change was the real issue and that, in any funding arrangements or planning arrangements for our emergency services, we had to absolutely acknowledge from the outset that climate change is real, that it is here, that it is coming on faster than ever and that our emergency services need to be prepared for that.

But, of course, immediately following the 1920 bushfires, and at the very point where that recognition of climate change was becoming very mainstream, COVID hit. One of the many terrible legacies of COVID was I think that it completely subsumed all other news and, as part of that, it subsumed the attention that was focused on bushfires and on climate change. That is why I am really pleased that the Malinauskas government has committed funding to the policies we developed in opposition, among them reinstating farm firefighting unit grants.

This is an issue very close to the hearts of the member for Light and the member for Mawson, who are very vocal in support of these grants. These were small grants given to landholders, farmers and so on, and they could essentially equip their utes and farm trucks with water pumps in order to assist the CFS in putting out bushfires. For whatever reason (we never quite understood what the reason was), the previous government in its first budget saw fit to axe this particular program, so I am very pleased we are reinstating it. It seemed terrible timing.

I understand there are issues with farm firefighting units; there is a view amongst some in the CFS that it is difficult to follow them on the fireground and difficult to coordinate their activities on the fireground. To its credit, the previous government did some work in that area, but we are at a stage now where it is a very good idea to reinstate those farm firefighting unit grants, and I hope they stay.

Another policy I am really pleased to see some commitment to, at least an analysis of what might be done, is night-time firefighting investigation. Currently, due to commonwealth restrictions on flying, there is almost no way that a firefighting aircraft can fly near a fire at night, and there are perfectly good reasons why this should be the case. But the Victorian government have gone through quite a lengthy process of looking at how this can be overcome. They have worked with CASA, the federal governing body, and come up with various protocols that, under certain circumstances, allow firefighting at night.

We know that with climate change and with the new ferocity of these fires they burn later and keep burning through the night. It is not a case of once the weather cools down at night or once the rain comes that these fires are out—they keep burning. Night-time firefighting is something we definitely should investigate, and it should be investigated further well into the future.

Another important commitment we made in the area of emergency services was to audit the ventilation in fire stations. Country members will know this well, but even in our local MFS stations

there is a particular problem with fumes and diesel particulate. When I was first shadow minister, there was an issue around PFAS, the dangerous chemicals within firefighting foam, and the health risks that posed to firefighters. As I made my way around the state talking to firefighters, I would raise PFAS and ask, 'Is this an issue for you? Is this something you're concerned about, your families are concerned about?'

Of course, they were. There was a very big concern, but overwhelmingly the concern was the diesel particulates. So I am extremely pleased that we have committed \$250,000 to conduct an audit of our MFS stations just to make sure that we know exactly what we are dealing with and that any fire stations in the future can be built with diesel particulates in mind.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (12:44):** I am pleased to make a contribution in response to the budget estimates process we have just gone through.

I acknowledge those ministers who provided the bulk, and in some cases all, of their time to opposition members. Not all did, but certainly in the majority of the sessions that I was in they did, and I thank them for that. I hope they will do so again next year, when there will be fewer opportunities to say, 'We've only just been elected. We're still working through the details. I'll take that on notice.' But certainly it added to the value of the process we have just been through. I acknowledge the chairs of the two committees, including you, sir, and, indeed, all those officers who assisted ministers in the preparation of their remarks.

I have spoken in the house previously about the arts portfolio and at length about early childhood—during earlier stages of the appropriation and the previous Supply Bill debate. I propose today to provide in 20 minutes or perhaps even less a summary of the time that the Minister for Education and I spent together, particularly on school education. Perhaps if our whip is kind enough to give me any grievance spots later in the week, we can talk more about TAFE and the Department for Innovation and Skills.

I had the opportunity to ask questions of seven ministers during the process, and I thank them, and I also thank the shadow ministers I might have been representing in this house for their assistance in preparing some of those questions when I was looking after their area. The first thing I would like to say about the Minister for Education is to congratulate him on maintaining commitments in the best interests of children, schools, young people and the state of South Australia, in my view, to a number of projects that were instigated under the former Marshall Liberal government.

The minister confirmed in the process of estimates that the Flexible Industry Pathways, for example, that were introduced under the Marshall Liberal government were a positive reform for our state. He committed to retaining them, along with the related endeavours under the VET for School Students policy, including the embedding of VET in years 7 to 10, the World of Work Challenge, the Student Pathways website and e-portfolios and the career counselling strategy work announced at the beginning of this year. The minister identified he hopes it will work well with Labor's new technical colleges, as, indeed, do we.

I think the minister characterised that when I became the education minister four years ago I did not take an approach of slashing and burning everything that was good that was done by the previous government, and he, indeed, also does not propose to slash and burn things just because they were created by the previous government. That is a commendable approach that is in the best interests of the South Australian children and young people, and the opposition leader and I have said we will always call out good behaviour, indeed, just as we will identify and hold accountable the bad behaviours when they come too.

I commend the minister for that, as I commend him for committing to continue the Marshall Liberal government's Music Education Strategy. The funding goes well before the Marshall Liberal government, but now is the time to again reiterate that every South Australian government continues to support the Primary Schools Music Festival, as we should.

The new government does not expect to see any changes to the Clontarf program introduced by the former government, and we hope that it will expand. The Shooting Stars program starting in Whyalla for younger Aboriginal girls will also go ahead. The chief executive confirmed that support for the International Baccalaureate Diploma at Unley High School, Norwood International High

School, Aberfoyle Park High School and Roma Mitchell Secondary College, introduced by the former government, will continue. He also confirmed that the Literacy Guarantee Unit and the year 1 phonics check will stay.

These are all good things for children and young people in South Australia, and I commend the government for progressing them still. I will be following up with the minister in due course over whether he is also going to align that Literacy Guarantee work with the work announced earlier this year of bringing in DIBELS as the standard measure of how our students are going in their early learning rather than the Running Record program, which is not based on the evidence-based science of reading. Hopefully, the minister will be able to confirm that in due course as well.

Then we get the Labor election commitments—the things that are new and how they interact with the system. Starting with the technical colleges, and we spent some time discussing the technical colleges, there is \$35 million for each of five sites, admitting there might be unders and overs. The government said that Findon will be built and operational by the beginning of 2024, with the other four in 2026.

The government does not yet know what qualifications will be offered or what the model of governance will be, but they do not want Findon or the others to be competing with Catholic Education, particularly the new Western Technical College recently built nearby. I was pleased the minister agreed with the opposition's suggestion that they consider working with Catholic Education for joint marketing and collaboration in identifying pathways for students interested in the offerings at either the Western Technical College that Catholic Education has just started, or indeed at Findon.

There may be differing governance models in place for each site depending on what the local needs are. At Findon, the chief executive confirmed that the technical college will be 'integrated within the school', noting that Findon will still offer generalist programs for years 7 to 12, with 200 places available in the technical college. What that exactly will look like is unclear although it seems to be a subset within the senior secondary school. The minister would not put a date on when the model will be decided and announced, but we will be interested and will continue to follow that up and ask questions.

I note that the education department website says that these technical colleges will accept enrolments from public and private schools. I went on to ask how that would work. Would a student stay enrolled at their original school but be able to access a course at the technical college? Would it be free, or would their parents have to pay? Would they need to transfer their enrolment altogether to Findon?

There was no clear answer, sir, as I am sure you will remember, other than there would be an option for the student to move entirely their enrolment to Findon. I am not sure that is what either you or the other Labor members going to election thought the promise would be. I think most people assumed that the technical colleges would provide a new offering available to all students rather than just being an expansion of the existing school, but we shall see. The minister took some questions on notice.

There is \$175 million funding for the capital in these projects, and that has been identified as new money into the budget. I again congratulate the minister on achieving that. It was a clear election promise of something new, and it is appropriate that it be new money, not using up existing resources. However, there is also \$33.8 million in operating costs for the operation of the colleges. We do not know exactly what it will be spent on, but we are aware it will be roughly even across all sites.

The minister said a small amount may potentially be directed towards head office, although he hopes not much, but the chief executive did confirm that this \$33.8 million the government will be spending towards running the technical colleges will be part of what the government identifies when they are accounting for the state government's contribution towards what is known as Gonski funding. Funding under the National School Reform Agreement determines how much will be spent on public school funding, and that has been in place since 2018.

In effect, the money going towards running these new technical colleges will be out of the money that was already in the education department's budget and has been there since 2018. It will be spent on this rather than on other things within public education. This is a government election

commitment. It is appropriate that the government delivers on its commitments. I am just clarifying where the funding is coming from: it is coming from within existing resources.

It does have a consequence of requiring the government to make decisions about what programs were going to be going ahead that will no longer be going ahead, or will be going ahead with a reduced amount of funding, or will be going ahead later. Indeed, the opposition is very eager to know which programs will not be going ahead or will have their funding cut, or will be delayed and deferred as a result of the government using existing resources to pay for their election commitments.

Other than one particular example I will get to in relation to the delivery of the response to the Graham report, there was very little information provided about what other decisions had been made and what programs might be cut. Indeed, the minister took on notice my question as to when the department and the minister will sign off on any decisions relating to which programs and services will be cut. We will certainly be following that up and look forward to finding out which programs and services within the education department will either be cut or delayed as a result of this decision.

Because the money for the technical colleges is coming from Gonski funding, it does raise questions about how that money can be applied to support students in non-government schools. Our Gonski contribution for public schools, from which this money is coming, is required to support education opportunities for public school students. The election commitment seemed to be for all students, as is repeated on the department's website, so that is going to be a challenge for those in the department who are working on it. There are some smart people in there, so I am sure they will work hard on it, and we wish them well because we want this to work for all students.

It was also confirmed during the hearings that the Department for Innovation and Skills certainly has not had much input into the design of these technical colleges. I asked the minister:

Are we able to identify over the forward estimates how many extra apprentices or trainees the technical colleges—take Findon, for example—are expected to deliver?

The awkward silence that followed was—well, sir, it was difficult to watch. It was difficult for you. You gainfully endeavoured to assist the minister by drawing me back to the budget, and I was able to, I hope, ensure that the budget was sought and identified in that. Then we had further silence and chat and eventually an answer from the minister. It was not meant to be a difficult question or a trick question.

I assumed there would be a briefing there, especially because for weeks Labor had been advertising how great these technical colleges were going to be because they would produce lots of apprentices. What became clear, though, is that the government at this stage is not able to and does not want to commit to any apprentices or trainees being part of the offering. I quote, 'We are certainly talking about, at the very least, pre-apprenticeships.' I quote again, 'These technical colleges will produce people who can go on and do apprenticeships.'

That is a goal for all our schools. We want all our schools to produce people who can go on and do apprenticeships. We want all our schools to produce programs that give students apprenticeship-ready, work-ready and uni-ready skills. We want all our schools to put in place opportunities for kids to try a trade, to try a doorways2construction program, to get involved in local business and industry.

We assumed that when the government was promising \$200 million into a new program and then advertising the number of extra apprentices it would make available to serve in plumbing businesses, like that of Ryan who is on our televisions, there might be at least one, or two, or three apprenticeships guaranteed out of these programs—but, at this stage, no guarantee of new apprentices.

In relation to the ads, the minister said, from memory, 'I do not think anyone spoke to me about the content of the ad. It's not something I've been involved in.' I want to be really clear: the opposition is enthusiastic for this government program to work. We want the skills shortages that are in evidence across our state, and which are facing many businesses, to be assisted. The government has put \$200 million on the table and we want that to work, and it may well be that the model the government is producing is going to assist.

I hope that we will not be taking students out of the workplace to keep them just in the technical colleges, but it could well be that it can work well so long as the business and industry partners are engaged and the department will help the government, I think, retrofit this policy into something very good, and I hope they do. But I make the point that government spent, it seems, a million dollars or more on TV ads saying that they would do something that they are actually not doing.

There was a lot of nuance in the answers we got from the government about what their policy was designed to achieve and how they were going to deliver it. There is no nuance in the TV ad, where the government have chosen to spend what I assume is at least a million dollars of taxpayers' money on TV ads, some in health and some about the technical colleges, and they say that there will be apprentices for plumbing businesses, like Ryan. I assume that the government have told Ryan that he is going to get apprentices out of this technical college.

I am sad to say that they are not, according to what the government has told us. In 2024, one of them is going to open and then students in years 10, 11 and 12 are not going to be doing apprenticeships, or there is no guarantee that they will, and that is a shame. It is a real shame the government is wasting taxpayers' money on these self-congratulatory ads.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do you wish to seek leave?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I will seek leave in a moment, but prior to the break I just want to identify that there was also \$24 million committed to the delivery of rebates for school students. That is also confirmed to come out of the Gonski allocation, which again is a prioritisation the government have chosen to make. We look forward to learning what they are going to be spending less on as a result. I seek leave to continue my remarks after the break.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

### **SUPPLY BILL 2022**

*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

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

*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

*Petitions*

### **GRANITE ISLAND CAFE**

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss):** Presented a petition signed by 58 members of the Victor Harbor and Granite Island Probus Club, and residents of greater South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to take action to facilitate reopening the cafe on Granite Island as soon as possible.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### **PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Regulation made under the following Act—

Landscape South Australia—Fees Notice

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Motor Vehicles—Conditional Registration

Passenger Transport—Vehicle Age Limits  
Rail Safety National Law (South Australia)—Fees and FOI

By the Minister for Energy and Mining (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulation made under the following Act—  
National Gas (South Australia)—Market Transparency

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

Emergency Services Funding Act 1998—  
Declaration for Vehicles and Vessels Notice 2022  
Declaration of Levy and Area and Land Use Factors Notice 2022  
Primary Industries and Regions, Department of—Management Plan for the South  
Australian Commercial Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery 2022  
Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Emergency Services Funding—Remissions-Land—Miscellaneous  
Fisheries Management—  
Blue Crab Fishery—Quota  
Fees Notice—  
Fishery Licence and Boat and Device Registration Application and  
Annual Fees—No. 2  
No. 2  
Lakes and Coorong Fishery—Quota  
Marine Scalefish Fishery—Quota  
Miscellaneous Fishery—  
Quota  
Quota—No. 2  
Rock Lobster Fisheries—  
Quota  
Quota—No. 2  
Vongole Fishery—Quota  
Work Health and Safety—Prescription of Fee

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Controlled Substances—Fees Notice—Pesticides  
Food—Fees Notice  
Retirement Villages—Fees Notice  
South Australian Public Health—Fees Notice  
Termination of Pregnancy—General  
Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products—Fees Notice

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

Regulation made under the following Act—  
Cost of Living Concessions—Fees Notice

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
SACE Board of South Australia—Fees Notice  
South Australian Skills—Fees Notice—No. 2

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

Local Council By-Law—

## Municipal Council of Roxby Downs—No. 3—Cats

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

Regulation made under the following Act—  
Liquor Licensing—Fees Notice—No. 2

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

Regulation made under the following Act—  
Planning, Development and Infrastructure—General—Certificates of Occupancy

*Ministerial Statement***SPURR, MR W.**

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (13:45):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON:** It is with great sadness that I rise in this chamber today to acknowledge the passing of a remarkable South Australian, William (Bill) Spurr AO. Mr Spurr, as many of you will know, is one of the most respected and admired public figures here in South Australia. His celebrated service to the South Australian tourism industry in particular is without equal. He was a pioneer who put South Australia on the map for interstate and international travellers while serving as South Australian Tourism Commission chief executive from 1998 to 2007, achieving record levels of visitation.

Being a very proud Blackwood High School student, he later went on to earn a Bachelor of Applied Science, a Bachelor of Economics and a Diploma of Teaching. Mr Spurr's illustrious career in the tourism and hospitality industry began when he was appointed executive director of the South Australian Hotels Association in 1981. He then went on to become head of the Tourism and Hospitality School at the Adelaide College of TAFE, a role he held until 1992.

Mr Spurr served as Adelaide Convention Bureau executive director for four years, from 1992. When South Australia lost the Grand Prix in 1995, the South Australian government turned to Mr Spurr to be its inaugural chief executive of Australian Major Events in order to attract and establish new events. Mr Spurr was incredibly passionate about the education sector. He was Chair of StudyAdelaide, formerly Education Adelaide, for more than 11 years, from 2006 to 2017, and again left an indelible footprint by way of establishing Adelaide as a preferred destination for international students.

Mr Spurr served on the Adelaide Venue Management Board for more than 20 years, including as the current chair, a position he held from 2015. He was also a valued member of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and Zoos South Australia boards. Mr Spurr was board director for the SeaLink Travel Group for 10 years, from 2007 to 2017; a Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee member, from 2014 to 2019; and an Adjunct Professor of Tourism at Flinders University. Mr Spurr was a Centenary Medal recipient in 2001 and appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2015. As stated, it has been a remarkable contribution and journey.

At just 75 years of age, William Spurr AO has gone far too early. He was a generous, warm and caring man and a mentor to many young professionals and leaders within our community. He leaves an extraordinary legacy. We say thank you to Mr Spurr for all his incredible contributions to our state. On behalf of the South Australian government, I express our condolences to his wife, Helen, his children, Debbie and Craig, and all his family. Vale.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan) (14:08):** On indulgence, sir, I would like to commend the minister for her acknowledgement of the great contribution that Bill Spurr AO made to South Australia over such an extended period of time. On behalf of the opposition, I offer my condolences and our condolences to Helen and his family. It goes without saying that few South Australians have ever made such a significant contribution like that of Bill Spurr.

I first knew Bill back in the 1980s, when he was at the Australian Hotels Association, so I have known him for the better part of four decades. At every single meeting I had with him, he was a passionate South Australian. He believed in our future. He wanted to do everything he could to make this place a better place—and that is exactly and precisely what he has done.

The minister has very thoughtfully and thoroughly outlined his contributions in terms of the event sector, the education sector, the tourism sector, the hospitality sector. He really did have such an influence not just in senior roles but also in the way he nurtured the next generation. He touched so many people's lives. He enjoyed helping people. He enjoyed giving people a leg-up so that they could achieve their full ambition.

When I became the Premier back in 2018, I invited Bill to become a member of the Economic Advisory Council. This was a group of six people who met completely and utterly free of charge. Bill, I think, attended every single meeting of the Economic Advisory Council, as well as his chairmanship, of course, of the Adelaide Venue Management, his strong links to StudyAdelaide in various capacities and the Adelaide Zoo. The last time I saw Bill was a couple of weeks ago when we travelled to the official opening of the new visitor centre at Monarto—another one of those passion projects that Bill had for South Australia. He absolutely loved it.

He motivated all those around him. He was, of course, awarded a Centenary of Federation medal back in 2001, but I think that we were all absolutely delighted in 2015 when he was recognised in the Order of Australia with an AO, which of course is one of the highest accolades we can bestow on an Australian citizen. I think that every South Australian felt very proud about that. He was a fun person. He enjoyed a laugh. He loved the hospitality sector, and he loved getting out and enjoying the wonderful hospitality sector we have here in South Australia. He was a genuine person. He was a hardworking person. He was a person of the highest integrity possible.

It was a shock when we learned about his stroke. It was a massive shock for all South Australians waking up this morning to the news overnight that he had passed away. As I said, he was an incredible contributor. Our former Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies said that there were two types of people in life: lifters and leaners. There is no doubt in my mind that, of course, Bill Spurr was a great lifter for our state and for our nation.

I pass on my sincere condolences on behalf of the opposition to Helen; his daughter, Deb; his son, Craig; and to all his family and friends as they deal with this very, very sad time.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11):** Also on indulgence and only very briefly because there have been very worthy statements made by both the Minister for Tourism and the member for Dunstan, on behalf of the opposition I also wanted to put on the public record our heartfelt thanks to Bill Spurr for his contribution to the business community here in South Australia and, more specifically, to the tourism industry development he led over the past several decades in this state.

I first met Bill Spurr around about 2008/2009 when I worked in the Cabinet Office in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet during which time he and Hieu Van Le—at the time the Lieutenant Governor here in South Australia—were involved in a task force to provide some assurance to South Australia's international student community following attacks on Indian students, which occurred not in South Australia but in Victoria and which had a knock-on very serious impact on the desirability for international students not only to visit but also to study in South Australia.

Bill's expertise was called upon because he knew the industry intimately. He knew the international connections very intimately as well, and he was able to provide firsthand experience to the Cabinet Office and to me in my role as an executive officer to that cabinet committee, which was seeking to provide stability and short-term input into how we could make sure that industry did not get knocked off its foundations in this state.

I kept in touch with Bill over the past decade and a half as I entered parliament and subsequently became a minister. My interactions with him in the environment portfolio were around an area he had substantial passion for, and that was nature-based tourism. It was an area of tourism development that we sought to take to the next level in this state, whether it be by finding opportunities for businesses to have sensitive interactions with our natural landscape—particularly

national parks—or advanced projects, such as the one that the member for Dunstan referred to in relation to the Monarto Safari Park Visitor Centre.

He was passionate about growing the sector. He was passionate about creating new pathways for people to enter the tourism sector and to see the sector diversify, particularly in more recent times around the nature-based tourism side of the tourism industry. He will be greatly missed but, as the member for Dunstan and the Minister for Tourism have said, he is someone who leaves a tremendous legacy in regard to South Australia's economic development and, particularly, leaves behind a tourism industry so much more sophisticated, so much more developed than it otherwise would have been without his very careful, sensitive and detailed approach to developing the sector over several decades. He will be missed, and I pass my sincere condolences on to his wife, Helen, and his children. Vale, Bill Spurr.

*Parliamentary Committees*

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:17):** I bring up the first report of the committee, entitled Cadell Training Centre (New Dairy Complex).

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Mr BROWN:** I bring up the second report of the committee, entitled Patawalonga South Gates Upgrade.

Report received and ordered to be published.

*Question Time*

**THOSPITALS, WINTER DEMAND STRATEGY**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government update its winter demand strategy to ensure our health system is ready to cope in light of the expected surge in COVID-19 cases? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** SA Health has just released the latest COVID-19 modelling that shows that hospital admissions are likely to skyrocket in South Australia by more than 50 per cent. At a time when our health system is under unprecedented pressure, this represents a huge risk to South Australian lives.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:19):** Thank you very much for this question, and it absolutely is important in terms of the state of our health system and, in particular, the lack of capacity that we have in our health system at the moment. One of the first things we did upon forming government was that the Premier and I sat down with SA Health, with Professor Spurrier and with the police commissioner and we asked that every possible hospital bed in the system be opened up.

We undertook a process whereby over 180 additional beds were opened compared with what it was before the election. Since then, we have been trying to find additional beds to open. The fact is that there are no additional beds because we have been left a system that does not have them in place. People might recall—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** People might recall—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The shadow treasurer is called to order. The member for Chaffey is called to order. The member for Morialta is called to order. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** People might recall, in fact, that the member for Dunstan early in the pandemic, very well supported by us in a bipartisan way, brought online the old Wakefield hospital, as well as the College Grove facility, to say, 'Here is our additional capacity that will be opened—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.' Of course, none of those beds were ever used and what happened to them? They ended the lease of those beds. So there are 180 beds that would be fantastic to have available right now, beds that were put in place, a new CT scanner was put in with a blaze of glory, with TV cameras and the like, and all the IT systems were reinstalled in the old Wakefield hospital—

*Mr Cowdrey interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Colton!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —yet the previous government decided to end that lease before we had opened the borders, before we had let COVID-19 into South Australia. So that has left us in a situation where we don't have those 180 beds across Wakefield and College Grove. We have committed in this state budget not 100 beds, not 200 beds, but over 500 additional beds into our health system. This is probably the biggest generational additional investment in terms of our health system that we have ever seen. In the short term, though, we are having to find where we can.

Just in the last few weeks, we have contracted with ACHA Group, who run Ashford Hospital and the Memorial Hospital, for an additional 28 private hospital beds that we are using. We are already using over 100 beds in the private system, we have now increased that by an additional 28 beds into the private system, we have opened up every possible bed we can in the public system and we are using beds in peri-urban hospitals as well.

Ultimately, we need to build more beds in our capacity across the system, which we are trying to do as soon as possible, but obviously that takes time. Any additional way in which we can open up additional capacity in the short term we will do. What we hear from those opposite is a lot of crocodile tears about the situation they left the health system in, and we have inherited, but no actual solutions that they are putting up. There's no proposition—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer is called to order. The member for Hartley is called to order. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** There's no proposition that they are putting forward. In fact, yesterday we had the shadow health minister out there saying, 'Well, Labor have worked out it's going to take so much longer to turn the system around.'

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** What they are saying is that actually they left it in a much worse state than we ever said it was, and it's going to take a lot longer to turn around than we said, is what the shadow minister is saying.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** So clearly there is an acknowledgement of the situation that they have left the system in.

**AMBULANCE RAMPING**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23):** My question is again to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Has the minister directed any SA Health agencies to ensure ambulances are clearing the ramp, which has led to the creation of internal ramping? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** An *Advertiser* article from 22 June states that doctors at Flinders Medical Centre reported that there was a constant bombardment from management to clear the ramp even if it meant putting patients in corridors, resulting in internal ramping. Furthermore, in a safety inspection of Flinders Medical Centre undertaken by SASMOA on 25 May, it was reported that doctors were being hounded by hospital executives to get patients off the ramp.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:24):** No. In fact, I can outline what's happened at Flinders Medical Centre, which is an issue that is outlined in an independent report that we received upon coming to government that was commissioned under the previous government.

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** This was a report by an esteemed doctor, Mark Monaghan from Western Australia, who is an expert in terms of flow issues in hospitals. He said very clearly, looking at what the previous government did in terms of what was called the Southern Health Expansion Plan (SHEP), that this program, which the previous Premier said was going to fix ramping—

**An honourable member:** Almost immediately.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —almost immediately—actually made ramping worse. It actually made ramping worse because what they did was to make the emergency department larger, not by extending the building but by reducing the number of inpatient beds in the hospital.

**An honourable member:** Genius!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Genius!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** So that led to no additional—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —capacity in the hospital overall, and it has only meant that the issues in the emergency department of access block have become worse. Upon coming to government and receiving those recommendations, the action that the government has taken is to accept those recommendations and ask that the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network implement those recommendations to make sure that flow can be addressed inside the emergency department.

Clearly, Flinders Medical Centre has been under increasing pressure over recent weeks because it has been facing both COVID and flu cases, whereas last year we had no COVID and no flu. Those issues, on top of the additional demand in the system, on top of a capital works program that an independent report said the Liberals made the situation worse, have clearly caused a significant number of issues in the emergency department of the hospital. We are working to address those issues as soon as possible.

We have been working with the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network, who have been trying to open up additional capacity inside the hospital. Obviously the Flinders Medical Centre is a significantly outdated facility now, which is something that in the last couple of months we have also been working on because we have also made a commitment, alongside the new federal government, to a major upgrade of the Flinders Medical Centre that will increase the capacity of the hospital not by a little bit but by a huge amount.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** There will be an additional 136 extra beds into—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** This is a project that was not going to happen if those elected—

*The Hon. B.I. Boyer interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Wright!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** If those opposite were elected, this project would not be happening and those additional beds would not be going into Flinders Medical Centre.

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

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Because we made a commitment and the new federal government has made a commitment, we are building that additional capacity. Clearly, the issue we see in our emergency departments—whether it is the Flinders Medical Centre, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, The QEH or Lyell McEwin—is access block within the hospital, where you have patients inside the hospital who can't get admitted to beds and who end up stuck in the emergency department for longer. That means the next patients can't come in and that means the ambulances get stuck and, ultimately, people can't get ambulances on time.

That access block issue is what our election commitments are devoted to, what our commitments that we have made on top of that are devoted to, and it is why we have opened up every additional bed we can across the system. It is certainly a proposition, agreed to by all the doctors and other groups, that we need to address the capacity in the system. We simply don't have enough capacity in the mess that we inherited from those opposite.

### HEALTH SYSTEM

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:28):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What action is the government taking to address the deep concerns raised by our frontline health professionals regarding the current state of our health system? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** SASMOA has reported in recent safety inspections of Flinders Medical Centre that there were no spaces left to see life-threatening cases, describing the ED as being in chaos, with a doctor advising, 'Today is the worst I have ever seen it. I seriously think that someone could die today.'

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:28):** I certainly share the concerns expressed by SASMOA in their statement yesterday, that these are very long-term issues where the previous government didn't listen to those concerns—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —that had been put in place, for a long period of time.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Colton and member for Flinders!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** That has led to a situation where we clearly don't have the capacity that we need within the health system. That is why we went to the people of South Australia with a platform to put in place over 300 additional beds. We have now increased that to over 500 additional

beds. We have already opened over 180 beds and now added to that by another 28 beds, bringing it up to 210 beds that we have put in place since the election.

To be honest, we are still listening and we are still trying to find out additional propositions from doctors, from nurses, of things that we can do in the short term with the limited capacity that we have inherited from those opposite. We will leave no stone unturned in terms of doing that. We have opened up every possible bed within our public health system in Adelaide. We have opened up additional beds in the private system. We have put patients into peri-urban hospitals.

But all of that is still leading to a significant number of people being stuck in emergency departments, and that is leading to the issues that the member has outlined from her statement from the doctors. We agree with those issues. We agree that more needs to be done. We have budgeted a record \$2.4 billion extra into the healthcare system—more doctors, more nurses, more allied health professionals but, more importantly, more beds.

We know what we have seen over the past few years is that the population has gone up, in particular the population of elderly South Australians has gone up, yet the number of beds that we have in the health system has not gone up. It has not gone up over the past few years and so—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —what we have to do is we have to catch up, and we have to open up additional capacity. That's why we have committed to a huge upgrade at Flinders Medical Centre. That's why we have committed to additional beds at Noarlunga, The QEHL—Lyell McEwin, where we have in fact gone further than we committed to at the election. We said 24; we have now gone up to 48 extra beds. We have committed a huge number of additional beds at Modbury Hospital. We have committed to more beds at the Gawler hospital.

We have also, sir, as you would be well aware, committed to tripling the size of Mount Barker hospital. It was great to be up at Mount Barker hospital last week with you, sir, and working with the local community, the local health advisory council, to make sure that we can as quickly as possible put on additional capacity. In fact, we have brought forward our spending in terms of putting more in the forward estimates so that we can bring that on sooner, because we know, when you look at a community like that, the growth is going up exponentially, but it has been stuck at 34 beds for that hospital for the past 20 to 30 years, which clearly has massively outgrown its capability.

So what we are seeing is additional demands of COVID, of flu, on our healthcare system. We are seeing demands of people's delayed care over the past few years where people haven't been able to get the care of elective surgery, primary health care that they need, screening that they need. That's putting additional demand on the system. People are coming with a higher level of acuity to our hospital system, but we don't have the behind-the-scenes ability to care for those patients, so they are getting stuck in the emergency departments, which is ultimately causing these issues, which is what our plans are all about fixing.

### HOSPITALS, CAR PARKING

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:32):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government reverse its heartless decision to axe free hospital car parking for our frontline health heroes?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is a point of order. Member for Schubert, please be seated. I will hear the point of order at 134.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** That question involved argument and debate, sir, and I ask the member to rephrase.

**The SPEAKER:** Very well. I will give the member for Schubert an opportunity to put the question again.

**Mrs HURN:** Thank you for the opportunity, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the government reintroduce free hospital car parking for our frontline health workers for the duration of the pandemic?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:33):** Of course, the decision that the member refers to was a decision made by the previous government to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Morialta, member for Colton, member for Schubert! The minister has the call.

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

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** The decision referred to was a decision by the previous government to make that tied to the state of emergency. Obviously, the state of emergency has ended—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Colton!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —and of course—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Of course, the other decision that was made by those opposite and the member for Dunstan was to increase the price of hospital car parking for staff by up to 130 per cent.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** So then we have more crocodile tears from those opposite about their decisions—

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

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We have been very clear about two things. One is that we have made the decision to prioritise more services—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is on three warnings.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We have made the decision to prioritise more services into our frontline hospitals—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert, you are on three warnings.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —more nurses, more allied health professionals, to make sure that they can get the support that they need to care for people. That is what has been raised consistently as the priority: to make sure that they've got the support they need on the frontline.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** And that contrasts very significantly with those opposite, who had a program of voluntary separations for frontline nurses during the pandemic.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Treasurer! Member for West Torrens! The minister has the call.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** So we had hundreds of nurses and other health staff made redundant during the course of the pandemic under those opposite. That is not happening under this government. We are investing in more health staff, more frontline staff; we are not making them redundant. The other thing—

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** You're just making them pay for car parking.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is on three warnings.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** The other thing that has been made very clear by the Premier and me is that we are very happy, and we've got a process underway, in terms of enterprise bargaining negotiations at the moment with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. We are very happy to discuss hospital car parking and negotiate along those lines as part of those negotiations, which I understand are underway at the moment.

But our priority is making sure that we invest in the health services that clearly a couple of questions before this were focused on. We want to make sure that we provide that care for patients and also that support for health workers who need additional staff to care for patients.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Torrens, I acknowledge the presence in the chamber of guests of the member for MacKillop, including Darren Peacock, CEO of the National Trust of South Australia, and members of the Kingston branch of the National Trust, including Alison Stillwell, Sharryn Tiller and Katherine McBride. Welcome.

#### *Question Time*

#### **COVID-19 TESTING**

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:36):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister provide an update on COVID-19 and influenza testing in South Australia?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:36):** I thank the member for her question and particularly thank all South Australians for the role that they have taken in the course of the pandemic in turning up to get tested to make sure that they can protect the rest of the community in relation to COVID-19.

Of course, the face of the COVID-19 testing program for a long period of time has been the Victoria Park testing drive-through station. This has been where a lot of us over the past two years have gone to get our test, lining up sometimes for very lengthy periods of time. The staff there have done an incredible job in testing South Australians. Obviously, that is an area of some iconic significance for South Australia, and this new government has some other plans for some slightly faster moving vehicles that will be travelling along that track than we have seen over the past couple of years.

SA Pathology and SA Health have been working significantly over the past couple of months to make sure—

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —that we can transition away from using the Victoria Park racecourse to using a different site in the city to continue that testing and also make sure that that track is freed up so that the Adelaide 500 can restart later this year. I am glad to say that that work has resulted in an excellent outcome. There were a lot of negotiations with the Adelaide City Council, and I thank them for their role in helping in this regard.

As of the end of last week, testing has transitioned from the Victoria Park racetrack to Edwards Park. This is in the southern Parklands of the city, accessible off Anzac Highway. That is where people will be able to access their COVID-19 tests at the moment. I want to thank everybody involved in SA Pathology for that transition. Importantly, this keeps the same capacity of testing that was in place at the tent at Victoria Park and makes sure that we have the ability to keep that testing going. There is also the ability to overflow into the adjacent Park 22, if we need that as well into the future.

Clearly, we are facing an increased number of cases that we are expecting to see over the next few weeks. SA Pathology and SA Health are working now to make sure that they update their testing capacity and review their plans in terms of making sure that we are going to have the ability to stand up testing as we see increased numbers. Of course, we also have the ability for people to still access rapid antigen tests from our pick-up points that have been run in conjunction with the emergency services staff. It is really important that we make sure that that capacity is there, and that work is being undertaken at the moment.

Importantly, as well, there has been work undertaken by SA Pathology to step up the work they can do in terms of multiviral testing. This is a test you can get that will test for 12 different viruses, including COVID of course but also including influenza. There are a range of other viruses, such as RSV and rhinovirus, etc., and we have been able to step up significantly the number of those tests we have been able to process.

Importantly, people can use the telehealth services to GPs to then get a referral to go through the drive-through at any SA Pathology site to get access to that multivirus testing. That is particularly important for people who might have other chronic health conditions, where that other range of viruses might be more important to know about than if you are, say, a younger person without chronic health conditions.

It is hugely important that we thank not only the people who are doing that testing but also the people behind the scenes in the laboratory for putting that together, and I want to thank all of them for their hard work.

#### **PORT ADELAIDE DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:40):** My question is to the Treasurer. Did the Treasurer absent himself from the government's decision to provide a local community sports club grant of \$750,000 to the Port Adelaide District Hockey Club of which he is vice-patron?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:41):** I can reconfirm to this place, as I have on several occasions, that I have met all my obligations as a minister when it comes to decisions that we have made since being in government.

#### **PORT DISTRICT FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:41):** My question again is to the Treasurer. When did the Treasurer relinquish his membership of the Port District Football Club, which has received a local community sports club grant of \$2 million?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:41):** I set out my memberships as they are relevant to my duties as a member of parliament in my register of member's interests. They are available for members opposite and the community to see.

### SOUTH ADELAIDE FOOTBALL CLUB

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:41):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Did the minister absent herself from the government's decision to provide a local community sports club grant of \$1 million to the South Adelaide Football Club, of which she is a member?

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:42):** Thank you for the question. It's the same question that you asked several times during estimates, and my answer is the same: like all ministers, I have complied with my obligations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Education, training and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the government's commitment of 100 new mental health and learning support specialists in our public schools?

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:42):** I thank the member for Florey for this very important question and for his advocacy for students and young people in the fair seat of Florey. Of course, as the Minister for Education, my primary concern—my number one priority—will always be the wellbeing of our students and our staff in our education system regardless of whether they are in the public system, the Catholic system or the independent system.

I have been very clear to say in my public remarks so far that if there were to be a theme from me, as the new minister in this role, it is to make sure that every time we are talking about academic attainment and academic results, which of course are important—I very much want to see our NAPLAN results in South Australia improve, and our PISA results, and the Premier has been very clear about his desire in those areas too—we can't expect those results to be trending up if the wellbeing of our students and the staff who teach them is trending down. That has never been more important that it is now 2½ years into a global pandemic.

That is why we took a very comprehensive package to the election to improve the wellbeing of South Australian public students and staff. That included a commitment to introduce an autism lead teacher in every public primary school, and every public Reception to 12 school as well; a royal commission into the early years to give best support to kids in the first 1,000 days of their lives—because we know just how crucial those first 1,000 days are—improving permanency for teachers; and, of course, 100 new mental health and learning support specialists in our public schools. We are not wasting any time in rolling these out. We know that we have to strike while the iron is hot. We know that the need is there right now, and we can't waste any time on delivering on these important commitments.

That's why last Tuesday I joined the Premier and the Deputy Premier in the seat of Port Adelaide at Ocean View College, a fantastic public school in South Australia, to announce the commencement of the rollout of the mental health and learning support specialists we committed to before the election. We were delighted to announce that 55 FTEs of the 100 new mental health and learning support specialists we committed to will be mental health professionals. This is because we know there are some really significant challenges out there at the moment in terms of our young people's mental health.

In fact, about one in seven children and adolescents aged between four and 17 have recently experienced a serious mental health episode in Australia. About half of all serious mental health issues in adulthood begin before the age of 14. I have also been really alarmed, as I am sure all members of this place would be, to hear stories and anecdotal data about children as young as eight or nine years of age with suicidal ideation. I know there are many parents in this place. I can't as a parent myself imagine anything more frightening than having a kid of eight or nine years of age who is contemplating taking their own life. We have to take action, we have to do it right now and we have commenced that.

We have announced that we will be having a pilot to make sure that the broader rollout, which will commence next year, happens as we want it to happen. We are doing a pilot make sure

that the specialists we are providing, as part of the 100 FTEs, the different professions and disciplines, are the right ones. That pilot in six clusters of schools will commence in terms 3 and 4 of this year ahead of the wider rollout next year.

Ocean View will be part of that pilot. I know that the member for Florey will be pleased to know that Para Hills High, where we visited together just on Friday, will be a part of it too, as will LeFevre High School, Seaford Secondary College, Parafield Gardens, Balaklava High School, Clare High School, John Pirie Secondary College and Penola High School, just to name a few.

The idea here, of course, is to do a pilot to make sure that we are meeting the need in those schools and that the disciplines and professions we are rolling out as part of this commitment are the right ones. I am really pleased that we have started work already so early in the life of this Malinauskas government.

### LOCAL CAR CLUBS

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:46):** My question is to the Treasurer. Did the Treasurer declare his interests when the government decided to provide funding of \$2 million in this year's budget and across the forward estimates to support local car clubs? With the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TARZIA:** According to his latest pecuniary interest statement, the Treasurer is patron of the Austin 7 Club of SA—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr TARZIA:** —and a member of the Street Machine Association of SA and the MG Car Club of South Australia.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:47):** I am a hoon, sir, patron of the Austin 7 Club—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —produced as a response to Henry Ford's Model T in the 1920s, some of them capable of exceeding 20 horsepower, the Austin 7s. I am a patron of that club by virtue of the fact that its clubrooms are located in Seaton in my electorate. Alas, I don't own an Austin 7, but perhaps one day. I find the line of questioning absolutely fascinating—absolutely fascinating—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** No—

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

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** The interjection was that the line of questioning was confronting. I won't say 'confronting'—

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer won't respond to interjections.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —but I will say 'bemusing' because the process is quite clear. We went to the election, having spoken with our communities over the previous four years, understanding what their needs and priorities were, and we reflected those in a suite of election commitments, not just—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —in our electorates—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hartley is on three warnings.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —but across more than 30 electorates across metropolitan and regional South Australia. Some in this place believe that's pork-barrelling. Some, for example, who are experienced in perhaps being an education minister and promising an \$80 million high school in your own electorate, might think it's a continuation of that sort of behaviour. I don't share that view.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens! I will hear the member for Morialta on a point of order under 134.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The minister was clearly imputing improper motive to me when he described the education minister and he described a commitment of \$80 million to a school recommended by the education department and supported by his own government as pork-barrelling. He described that as a form of behaviour and was clearly imputing it to me. I take offence. It is offensive. The minister should withdraw and apologise.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member has taken the appropriate course to raise a matter with me at the earliest opportunity. He has taken offence. Maybe it is difficult to infer from the comments that were made that in fact there was a reflection on the member. Nevertheless, the standard is subjective, and I invite the minister to withdraw and apologise.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Of course, sir, I withdraw and apologise. I realise that some of us have more delicate constitutions than others, and I don't want to offend the member for Morialta. I know that he is very sensitive to this matter, indeed, and I regret that I have offended him so greatly as to his behaviour when he was minister, so I withdraw and apologise for that particular comment.

We took a suite of election commitments to an election where not only were we up-front with our community but we were up-front with the South Australian community. We weren't shy about these commitments. We posted them all over social media. We made it clear to the television media—

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** We wrote to people as well.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** We wrote to people. We let them know exactly what was going on. That's what we did. Those opposite had their own priorities. There was the proposal for a new giraffe enclosure. There was a proposal to take a—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —asbestos and sulphur-contaminated lake—

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will be seated.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr TARZIA:** Sir, 98: debate, very clearly.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am listening carefully. I draw the Treasurer's attention to the question.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** There was the suite of our election commitments that had come to light because we had engaged with our local communities. We understood what their priorities were. As we have heard the Minister for Health articulate already today, largely that was about health, and of course with the budget there are not only an extra 550 beds funded in that budget but also a series of commitments across metropolitan and regional South Australia because we—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —had spoken with communities across the state. The members opposite say, 'Oh, in just particular electorates.' No, across electorates of Labor MPs, Liberal MPs, Independent MPs. I mention the substantial commitments made in Mount Gambier, for example, the substantial commitments made in Mount Barker and the substantial commitments made in Port Pirie—across electorates that Labor, even on a great day, would not expect to win.

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Like Bragg!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Chaffey, order!

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta! The Treasurer has the call.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** But I admit that we didn't adequately factor in the behaviour of our political opponents and, despite our wildest dreams—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hartley is on three warnings. The member for Hartley has the call.

#### SPORTS FUNDING

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:53):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. For what purposes will the following local sporting club grants be used: \$2 million to West Adelaide Hellas juniors and \$1 million to Kilburn West Adelaide Soccer Club?

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is called to order and warned.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:53):** Some of us are familiar with the activities of local sporting clubs in electorates across South Australia, and in particular those two football clubs, in order to improve their facilities.

I admit that, in the eyes of some, that may not have the same cachet as trying to position an asbestos and sulphur-contaminated former refuse site into a new recreation reserve in the north-eastern suburbs. That was the proposal that those opposite put. That is what they took the election. We decided—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —to support local sporting clubs.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Treasurer, please be seated. I will turn to the member for Morialta.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The proceedings in a point of order are clear under 134.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The question was very straightforward: for what purposes were two particular grants being put, and standing order 98 requires that debate not be entered into.

**The SPEAKER:** Standing order 98, of course, has been a matter that the member for Morialta and I have wrestled with for some time and I'm sure will continue to wrestle with. Treasurer, I draw your attention to the question. The Treasurer has the call.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** To those who were paying close attention, they might have noticed that I answered it precisely in the first sentence, but that must have eluded the member for Morialta—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is on three warnings.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Perhaps he was thinking about his new high school—who knows? But those funds, like funds that were committed to many other sporting and community clubs, were for a variety of purposes, and in those particular two instances were for the improvement of their facilities and their offerings to their members and to the local community. I don't see why we have members of the party opposite criticising a government of the day for committing and providing funds that it made election commitments around—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —open for choice to the local community in the most democratic process we know—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —which is an election—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will be seated. I will hear the point of order under 134. The member for Morialta.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Every convention about how 98 has been used in this house, and understood by Speakers—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —would see that this is clearly debate. He is criticising the opposition for matters that aren't even relevant to the question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** It is utterly against the standing orders and he should be pulled up.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Chaffey can leave the remainder of question time under 137A, 23 minutes.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Standing order 98 contemplates that in answering a question a minister or other member replies to the substance of the question and may not debate the matter to which the

question refers. To my mind, the substance invites reflection on the pith or the heart of the question but, as the member rightly observes, it also prohibits debate. Treasurer, I draw your attention closely to the question. I uphold the point of order.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** These funds are to provide improvements to the facilities and to the offerings of these two organisations, both to the members and to the communities in which they are located. I don't see why this line of questioning is being pursued, unless, of course, they don't support these initiatives by the government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** If that's the case, just say it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Which ones don't you support?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Hartley, please be seated. The member for Morialta is directed to leave the chamber under 137A. Member for Morialta, I have called your third warning several times, 22 minutes.

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

#### SPORTS FUNDING

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:57):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Are either or both the local sporting club grants, totalling \$3 million to the West Adelaide Hellas Junior and Kilburn West Adelaide soccer clubs, to be used to complete the Kilburn Sportsplex on Churchill Road, Kilburn, which received \$4.8 million in grants under the former Labor government but has remained unfinished?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:57):** As I said in my earlier remarks, these funds are to be used to improve those facilities.

**Mr Tarzia:** What for?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Well, he interjects, 'What for?' This is now the fifth time, and the member seems to think that I am referring to a PBN. Actually, the documents I have in front of me—and I'm happy to leave them here—are the details of the grants that were approved by the previous Liberal government around two of their grassroots sporting grants.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Hartley! Member for Colton! The Treasurer has the call.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Those opposite say that Rec and Sport independently assess those, and it makes me wonder why 12 of the 13 grants awarded went exclusively to Liberal electorates and one went to an Independent electorate. Well done! Keep digging! Try digging up!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** If you want openness and transparency, take your decisions to the people, to the community before an election, and ask them to cast their judgement—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —exactly as we did, and now they cast their judgement we deliver our election commitments. Because we are not rehabilitating an asbestos and sulphur-ridden contaminated dump facility, like those opposite committed at the election, because we are actually

upgrading sporting and community clubs that people actually use, we have been criticised for it. Is there any wonder they are over there?

### INDIGENOUS TOURISM

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:59):** My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Can the minister provide an update to the house about Indigenous tourism experiences in South Australia?

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:59):** I thank the member for his question and his continued interest in our exceptional offering of Aboriginal tourism experiences in South Australia. I am pleased to inform the house that we are seeing a surge in demand for new and authentic Aboriginal tourism experiences, from the Flinders Ranges through to the Fleurieu Peninsula. Operators have reported stronger than ever bookings as more visitors embrace learning about Aboriginal culture, creation of stories, songlines and connection to land.

As the country recognises NAIDOC Week, the South Australian Tourism Commission continues to work with tourism operators to further develop offerings and drive new markets to experience the world's oldest living culture. The SATC is continuing ongoing work on the Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2025, a framework that is being prepared and will be implemented to help grow, strengthen and diversify the sector. The SATC will work in consultation with Aboriginal-owned businesses and traditional owners to explore opportunities for the creation of new authentic Aboriginal experiences.

When we look back pre COVID, South Australia's Aboriginal tourism sector peaked at \$275 million annually, with an average growth of 5 per cent. As the world and our state reopen and we are seeing more people travelling and exploring, we are very much focused on promoting and marketing our unique Aboriginal tourism offerings to our key domestic and international audiences. The Malinauskas Labor government has committed \$45 million to the SATC's marketing budget, and we will be proudly spruiking this important sector of our industry in South Australia to complement the other unique offerings of our state.

As a state, we are fortunate that we have many outstanding operators who are delivering world-class tours and immersive experiences, but we know there is more work to be done. We need to develop more to identify new offerings and encourage the next wave of knowledge holders to share our state's rich history with visitors from interstate and around the world. This week, as we celebrate NAIDOC Week, the South Australian Tourism Commission will feature Aboriginal cultural experiences across its social channels and websites, as well as highlighting the state's top Aboriginal landmarks and experiences.

Mark Koolmatrie, founder of Kool Tours, has said that he is noticing a spike in demand for authentic Aboriginal tourism experiences. He is expanding his tour products, from two to offering five different tours across the Fleurieu and into Kangaroo Island shortly. He has told us that there is a huge market out there: people want to see Aboriginal culture and experiences firsthand and they want to break down the barriers, hear stories and understand country. During COVID, he saw people wanting to know more, 'The visitors are really engaged and ask lots of questions.' He said, 'They are pretty much seeing things for the first time and they like what they see.'

Ivy Campbell and her family have run guided tours on the River Murray near Nildottie for more than 30 years. She believes there's a growing market and Aboriginal tourism is on the rise. Like Mark, Ivy has seen an increased interest in cultural learning across the nation, and Ivy's family pride themselves on providing a safe and inclusive place where people can be genuinely curious and immerse themselves in culture.

Kristian Coulthard, the owner of Wadna, a tour company based in Blinman in the northern Flinders Ranges, said more visitors than ever were exploring South Australia's Aboriginal culture. He said, 'What we have in South Australia is an amazing opportunity, and we invite more people to understand and to share and to experience.'

### SPORTS FUNDING

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:03):** My question is to the Treasurer. How many of the government sport facilities grants were distributed in the financial year 2021-22, and how many of these payments were supported by finalised grant agreements?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:04):** Given the 2021-22 financial year only concluded on Thursday, it probably would take me a little bit of time to arrive at the most accurate number, but certainly the budget figures counted on the vast majority of them, if not all of them, to be executed and paid over in that financial year that has just concluded. I will take the question on notice and I will come back to the member with an accurate answer.

### SPORTS FUNDING

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:04):** Just to be clear, the whole question on notice, including those supported by grant agreements?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:04):** Yes, I'm happy to take that part of the question on notice as well. I know it has been a matter of particular interest for the member for Colton as to how these funds were to be paid and whether there would be grant agreements.

As we have discussed in this place during question time, it is the practice of providing funds to non-government organisations, whether they are sporting community clubs for purposes like the ones we are discussing, or whether it's for businesses for industry assistance or for regional growth funds for other purposes, etc., that there is a grant agreement entered into not only to require the recipient to use the funds for the purpose for which the grant was provided but to provide the capacity for some recourse for government if the funds either aren't expended or they are expended on purposes that were not the intention of the grant. I am happy to take that on notice as well.

### PORT PIRIE GREENING GRANTS PROGRAM

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:05):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister advise the house how the Malinauskas Labor government is supporting a greener and healthier Port Pirie?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (15:05):** I thank the member for the question. The state government is supporting a range of programs to make Port Pirie a greener and healthier town. The Nyrstar smelter in Port Pirie is an important part of South Australia's industrial base. The smelter has operated continuously for 130 years and employs 800 workers and supports a further 300 contractors.

The smelter also produces lead dust that can be a health hazard. That is why both Nyrstar and the state government invest together to address the issue. The South Australian Housing Trust recently announced a \$2.5 million project to complete lead abatement work on 42 public housing properties. This work will include removing old lead paint, removing contaminated topsoil, laying down crushed rock and improving the sealing of homes to prevent dust from getting inside.

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting the Upper Spencer Gulf with a range of my colleagues, including the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Minister for Consumer and Business Services, as well as the member for Giles. During the trip, I visited Port Pirie to announce the successful applicants for the Port Pirie Greening Grants. In addition to the work of the South Australian Housing Trust to improve the safety of homes, the Greening Grants Program is run by the Department of Human Services and helps community groups to improve the safety of public places.

Organisations were able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 each. I had the great pleasure of announcing seven successful organisations during my trip to Port Pirie. I was welcomed to Port Pirie by Phil and Julie Harvey, who are two of the cornerstones of the Port Pirie Community Garden—and a very impressive place that is. The garden was facing potential closure without extra help, so I was thrilled to let them know that their application for \$8,654 had been approved. The grant means that they can keep on producing everything from citrus and guavas to beans and even lettuce. Sadly, no brussels sprouts, which are one of my favourites—I know that is polarising.

**An honourable member:** Shame!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Yes, shameful—but I think they are going to now, actually. Luckily, being set on the site of an old tennis court, there are already high fences in place to protect the very valuable lettuces. Even more important than producing the food, the community garden brings older and younger members of the community together. It teaches children about the joy and importance of growing fresh and healthy food.

Other recipients of the grants included the Woodward Park Upgrade Committee, who received \$10,000; Uniting Country SA, who received \$9,695 to renew outdoor spaces at the Port Pirie Community Centre; the Port Pirie Amateur Anglers Association, who received \$10,000; the Port Pirie Equestrian Club, who received \$8,642; the Port Pirie Kennel Club, who received \$9,500; and the Mid North Archers, who received \$7,079. Many of the organisations will use funding to lay down crushed rock, which helps to suppress the dust, to establish new plants that both green the environment and help to manage dust.

These grants mean that locals can enjoy their outdoor spaces, play sport, engage in recreation and come together, not just generationally but as a community. Our government is a proud supporter of both industry and, in particular, our amazing regional centres.

#### COASTAL MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:09):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Has the minister, or the minister with delegated responsibility, taken any action to progress the review of options for sustaining our metropolitan coastline? With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** The minister admitted on ABC radio on 27 June that the review had not commenced, over three months into the life of this government. A climate emergency has been declared yet no practical action to address our frontline defence, our coastline, has occurred despite the significant risks of inaction and delay.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:10):** The minister who will be taking the responsibility for the review of the question of whether the pipeline is the best way to manage sand along the coastline has now been identified. By virtue of having a conflict of interest, I don't know what discussion has happened between the department and minister Maher, who is the minister in the other place who has that responsibility. I don't know what discussions have happened in terms of setting up the review.

But, given that the question appears to be a sense of urgency about responding to the challenges of the management of the coastline, I can reassure the public through question time about damage that has occurred recently along the coastline, significantly at West Beach but also a little further north and indeed at Semaphore South. That damage from the fairly serious winter storms we have had in the last month or so is going to be repaired in the very near future. The department is sourcing sand that will be placed onto those beaches in order to start to repair the damage.

#### COASTAL MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:11):** My question is also to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier passed on all responsibility for managing the metropolitan coastline to the Attorney-General or just the decision to halt and then extinguish the contract for the sand recycling pipeline?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:12):** As the chamber would understand, it's important that I am clear in not exercising any decision-making that might affect the pecuniary interest I have in owning a house, not on the esplanade, back from the beach, that nonetheless the Crown solicitors have determined would potentially be affected in its value by the activities that the previous minister was undertaking.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Therefore, any issues that relate to the arrangements of the interaction of the beach in front of where my house is I will not be taking any involvement for. Primarily, the question of course is this question of the review in order to determine the best source of sand in order to ensure that West Beach and other beaches nearby have sufficient sand on them to deal with the constant movement of sand off the beaches.

#### **COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:13):** My supplementary is to the Deputy Premier. Given that answer, has the minister maintained any decision-making responsibility for broader elements of the management of the metropolitan coastline?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:13):** I think I answered that in my previous answer.

#### **AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:13):** My question is to the Minister for Veterans Affairs. How does the state government provide support for Australian Defence Force reservists employed in the South Australian public sector?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (15:13):** I thank the member for his question, and I am sure I speak on behalf of everybody in this house here when I give the answer to that question. South Australian reservists have been instrumental in supporting emergency services and local communities in Operation COVID-19 Assist nationwide, in Operation Flood Assist in northern New South Wales, and locally in response to the devastating fires across South Australia during the summer of 2020.

However, these brave and hardworking women and men need the support of their employers to fulfill their important military commitments. This of course includes reservists employed by the government of South Australia.

Just last month, the member for Hammond, in his capacity of shadow minister for veterans affairs, joined me and others at the Adelaide Oval to attend an event highlighting the incredible work of our reservists and to thank those who employ these people. What we heard about the activities of our reservists and the support they receive from their employers was quite frankly remarkable, and I am sure the member for Hammond would agree with that.

I can assure the house that many things have changed from back when I served in the Army Reserves, although one soldier at the event at the Adelaide Oval told me they probably use the same armoured personnel carrier (APC) that I drove during the Army Reserve manoeuvres at El Alamein, near Whyalla, in 1972. I asked if I could take this vehicle that was on display at the function for a spin; however, he wouldn't give me any of the keys for some reason, and I could not get an answer from him.

The role of the Australian Defence Force Reservists has changed in recent decades from mobilisation to meet remote threats to that of supporting and sustaining contemporary ADF military operations. The host of the function we attended was Brigadier Graham Goodwin CSC, Commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade and Army Area/Representative South Australia, who himself is a reservist whose regular employment is as a senior police officer with SAPOL. He is a great man. He has also served at Port Pirie as the superintendent of police. This shows how the roles of reservists can include commanding a combination of regular ADF personnel and reservists.

Last month, the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment in South Australia signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defence, improving employment outcomes for reservists and building closer working relationships between employers and reservists. A determination from the commissioner reiterates commonwealth legislation protecting the

employment status and entitlements of employees absent on defence reserves service. These include entitlements for special leave with full pay for up to 20 working days in a 12-month period, and up to an additional 10 working days' paid leave in the first year of service as a reservist.

My department, Veterans SA, will continue their important work around employment, career planning opportunities and higher education pathways for current and former serving members and their partners, both within our state's public sector and across the broader community. This includes an education program for recruiters and employers to highlight the skills, knowledge and experience that reservists and veterans bring to the workplace.

At the function that the shadow minister, the member for Hammond, and I attended, it was a great opportunity to look at the opportunities of everybody there, and the morale and the camaraderie were absolutely fantastic. I can assure everybody in this house that the South Australian public sector recognises and values the skills and knowledge that reservists bring to the workplace. Our reservists deserve nothing less.

### COASTAL MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:17):** My question is again to the Deputy Premier. Does the minister believe that she is more responsible to the ABC than she is to parliament? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am listening carefully. Is there a point of order? There is a point of order from the Leader of Government Business. I will hear it under 134.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** This question is seeking the opinion of a minister, which has no bearing on her responsibilities to the house: standing order 96, sir.

*Mr Cowdrey interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Colton—unless you are making a contribution under 134. I will give the leader an opportunity to rephrase the question.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Why did she provide more information to the ABC in relation to the coast than she did to the parliament during estimates?

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

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Standing order 97, sir: the opposition leader is including argument by claiming someone gave more information than someone else without providing any evidence.

**The SPEAKER:** It is a matter of very fine judgement.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is a matter of very fine judgement. I ordinarily do give the leader a good deal of latitude. It is a matter of very fine judgement; however, I have given an opportunity to rephrase the question and, in those circumstances, I am going to uphold the point of order.

### Grievance Debate

### SPORTS FUNDING

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (15:19):** I rise today to express the opposition's absolute distress at what appears to be a classic example of pork-barrelling by this shameful Labor government: over \$84 million in sports grants, all most all of which has gone to Labor-held or targeted seats.

Mr Speaker, I am sure you do not need any reminder of how damaging pork-barrelling is to public trust. It drags everyone down, and it lessens the confidence that our constituents hold in us as representatives. That is why it is our duty as an opposition to probe the government, to ask

questions, to scrutinise and to call it out for what it is, which in this case is clear. The whole practice of distributing public money for political advantage rather than merit has been widely condemned by independent bodies right across the board, both in South Australia and across the nation, including by the Centre for Public Integrity.

On 2 June, in the budget we saw from this government that they had allocated over \$84 million to provide, and I quote, 'grants for infrastructure and facility upgrades to sporting clubs'. We simply do not accept the understatement of just how significant \$84 million is. It is a significant investment: \$84 million allocated, bypassing the standard grant assessment process—not assessed by the Office for Rec and Sport on merit and not open for all clubs to apply for.

Let me make it clear that we on this side of the house take no issue with delivering worthy projects for local communities where they stack up, but it must be done by the book with proper process, and this government needed to show vigilance and responsibility with handing out this money. Instead, what we have seen is that 69 of the 72 grants have been allocated to Labor-held or targeted seats—96 per cent of this funding has gone into Labor-held or targeted seats.

Furthermore, they bypassed a very strict standard assessment process for these grants. No third party laid eyes on these projects. There was absolutely no assessment undertaken—not by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, not by anyone. Instead, it was assessed by none other than the Labor Party before the election, and that is just not good enough. What is worse, members and ministers of this government hold positions of high authority at these clubs. Not only do they hold positions of high authority but they have been directly involved in making these decisions.

When we asked ministers about the Ministerial Code of Conduct, when we asked them whether they have declared a conflict, guess what? They cannot tell us. It is absolutely appalling. The Ministerial Code of Conduct is very clear. It says, 'Ministers should avoid situations in which their private interests conflict, have the potential to conflict or appear to conflict with their public duty.' So when you hold the key position of authority at a club, and you lobby for that club and your signature goes on the cheque that goes to the club, guess what? That club receives money, there is no third party to scrutinise the merit of that grant, then something smells.

The public will become cynical—and they have. This is an absolute scandal. We have already seen an admission of guilt by this government. After the blowtorch was applied to this issue, we saw that, despite the government originally calling these funds grants, guess what? Despite their own budget calling them grants, all of a sudden they have tried to reinvent history and now refer to them as election commitments.

On several occasions in this place and in estimates, I asked the Minister for Sport whether any ministerial conflicts have been declared. The government has refused to provide any evidence of individual ministers declaring conflicts of interest in relation to this issue other than to say that all obligations have been complied with. That is simply not good enough.

We on this side of the house know that members advocate for their communities. Are they worthy projects? Potentially. But where were the independent third-party eyes looking over these decisions? Members of parliament must avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest because if the public think that there is a conflict it drags us all down, it drags down this institution and it is a race to the bottom—and it is not on. So we will continue to ask more questions, we will continue to probe these grants further and we will continue to hold this government to account.

#### **ADELAIDE HILLS WAR MEMORIAL SWIMMING CENTRE**

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (15:23):** I wish to raise in the house the Adelaide Hills War Memorial Swimming Centre. The swimming centre is a significant recreation asset in my community. Amongst many other uses, generations of children have been taught to swim at Woodside. I record that in the 1960s, Mr Norm Semmler and Mr Graham Langbein recognised the need in the area for a pool where local children could learn to swim. There was at the time only a small pool at Oakbank Area School.

With support from the chairman of the then Onkaparinga District Council, Mr Fred Gale, a decision was taken to raise funds for the construction of an 82-foot by 45-foot pool. An elected pool

committee raised the funds by selling chopped wood, through debutante balls and by way of many novelty competitions.

The pool was opened on 28 November 1970 and relied heavily on a committee of volunteers as well as the Ladies Auxiliary to help with the general running of the pool and the manning of the canteen. A volunteer committee continues to operate the pool, assisted by a manager. My community is deeply thankful for the committee for its remarkable contribution.

As the facilities stand, the pool can only be used by my community during the summer months. A cover is required to limit heat loss during winter. The pool committee has obtained an engineering report, which would allow for a cover to be installed. Other improvement works are also contemplated by the report. The works will be completed in stages. I will briefly outline the stages for the benefit of the minister and the house.

Stage 1 includes a pool cover of 840 square metres and the relocation of existing solar panels, with a budget estimate of \$808,500. The cover would include vents to allow heat to escape in summer. Stage 2 would incorporate upgrades of the main entrance, canteen, change rooms, amenities, gym and office, with an estimate at \$948,000. Stage 3 would, amongst other matters, allow for two long sides of the pool to open to the pool grounds and, at this stage, it has a budget estimate of \$456,500. The combined works are estimated to cost \$2.2 million.

As I am sure all members will be aware, there are economic benefits to regional aquatic and leisure centres. For example, the average aquatic facility creates \$2.72 million a year in value to a community. I raise these matters early in the life of this government to place on record my support for upgrades of the War Memorial Swimming Centre. I have met with the minister, and I will invite her to visit the pool. I will be seeking support from the government to realise certain of these improvements for the benefit of my community.

I emphasise that it is absolutely vital that swimming lessons can be delivered in and around Woodside in my community during the winter months. It is unacceptable, in my view, that a small group of children over the winter months are unable to access swimming lessons. This is a matter I will continue to emphasise.

### **SHINE ON KINGSTON!**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:27):** I stand today to talk about Shine On Kingston! At the beginning of the year, my home town of Kingston hosted Shine On Kingston!, an event to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town's iconic lighthouse. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Cape Jaffa Lighthouse became a virtual landmark for Kingston and the South-East following a century of service when it was decommissioned and brought ashore in 1973.

Originally, the lighthouse was situated about eight kilometres offshore. It was known as the Wells Screw Pile lighthouse, as it was held and secured by being screwed into the dangerous Margaret Brock Reef. It had eight rooms, enough to accommodate two lighthouse keepers and their families, with enough stores to last several weeks. The brave lighthouse keepers, who worked to maintain the structure, rotated shifts, with three months on the lighthouse followed by one month ashore.

The idea to bring the symbolic lighthouse to shore was unprecedented. Moving the 41-metre high lighthouse landside was undoubtedly complex, requiring the Victorian-era construction to be dismantled and reassembled once on land. This seismic task made the Cape Jaffa Lighthouse the first in Australia to be dismantled and brought to shore. The lighthouse has since been recognised by the Kingston District Council and the National Trust of South Australia for its potential to revitalise tourism and promote maritime history in South Australia.

Currently, the lighthouse sits proudly near the foreshore in the Kingston town precinct. Volunteers of the National Trust were the drivers of the preservation of the lighthouse and did the work to bring it ashore. I was delighted to see the same resourceful spirit on show again from Kingston National Trust branch members, together with the Kingston District Council, who brought together the Shine On Kingston! event.

I credit both groups for their determination and success in drawing hundreds of people from the Kingston community and beyond to promote and enjoy the lighthouse. Shine On Kingston! was

held between 13 and 20 January, and each night the Cape Jaffa Lighthouse was lit up in different luminous colours. Planning the event amid the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the festivities were spread across four venues within the township.

Organisers of the event planned several activities, including a spectacular kite flying display on the Kingston foreshore. There was also a stunning lantern parade, which saw a turnout of between 200 and 300 people, and a sailing regatta on the bay opposite the lighthouse. However, the nightly illumination of the lighthouse itself was a definite highlight and attracted up to 200 people. Many enjoyed the spectacle so much they returned on following evenings. There is no doubt that the Cape Jaffa Lighthouse really did look stunning under lights.

The ability to achieve such a successful event is a credit to event organisers and a supportive community who recognise the importance of welcoming tourists to the region. I would like to thank the members of the main committee, Sharryn Tiller, Katherine McBride and Alison Stillwell (who are in the house today), as well as Maureen Andrews for dedicating their time, and to congratulate them on their success of this wonderful event. I would also like to thank Delphine Allert, Katherine Lisk, Elaine Starling and Pauline Johnston for their substantial input.

The Kingston branch of the National Trust and the Kingston District Council have assembled a business case to establish the lighthouse as a permanent tourist attraction for the Limestone Coast and to create a must-visit destination. They aim to expand on the potential of the lighthouse by upgrading the asset as a tourism and community hub. Key features of the business case included the establishment of:

- a visitor centre and meeting facilities;
- kiosk and toilet facilities, cafe and gift store;
- gallery space and outdoor exhibition spaces; and
- an exhibition of Meintangk dreamtime stores.

This project is an important one, which would provide a stimulus opportunity for the local area and the Limestone Coast. A partnership approach is needed to progress this opportunity. The Kingston Lighthouse has been a hidden gem within the South-East since it was brought ashore, and I am pleased that the National Trust of South Australia has seen fit to preserve and celebrate this historic lighthouse.

I would like to thank the National Trust of South Australia, including the National Trust's South Australian president, Paul Leadbeter, and also the CEO, Darren Peacock, who is also here today. I would also like to thank the National Trust's Kingston branch members and the Kingston District Council, as well as the business and community members, who sponsored the Shine On Kingston! event.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:31):** I rise to bring attention to something very important happening very soon in communities all across South Australia. I know that South Australians are definitely feeling election fatigue following both a state and federal election, and for those people in Bragg even a by-election. However, it is not over yet because there are local council elections right around the corner. They are fast approaching—in November.

I am sure that no doubt we will soon hear a strong campaign from the Local Government Association of South Australia encouraging people to put up their hands and run for local government. I would like all members of parliament to encourage their communities to think about local government as an option for themselves as well.

Many of you would know that I am the former Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga. I ran a term before I found myself here in this place, and it was an extremely rewarding experience for me. I have never done anything quite like it before, where you are able to have such a strong influence on your community and work with the people in your community and in your neighbourhood to deliver great things now and for the future.

I know that a lot of councils will work hard every four years to try to attract new people to run for local government elections, particularly more women, more young people, people from our Aboriginal communities and other diverse cultural groups. What we are trying to achieve in local government, much as we try to achieve here in state government, is to have elected members who represent the people they represent. We want to see a really diverse mix of people representing our communities at all levels of government.

In my electorate, I have a handful of councils: the City of Onkaparinga, the City of Marion and a little slice of Mitcham. I will certainly be working with their staff and elected members to do anything I can to promote the upcoming local government elections to make sure that we have a great suite of people putting up their hands to run.

I know that each of the councils, the LGA and the Electoral Commission will be running information sessions. People can get that information on the Electoral Commission website, the LGA website or their local council website. You can head into council in person and ask as many questions as you like of other elected members and of the staff. You can also tune in via Zoom and listen and learn as much as you can about the process and find out whether or not it is something that would be suitable for you.

I was really proud to have been able to deliver some pretty great things when I was Mayor of the City of Onkaparinga. One thing I was really proud of was introducing fortnightly green bins. The City of Onkaparinga was, I think, probably the last metropolitan council to bring in a fortnightly green service. They took it to council many, many times and struggled to get it up. It was one of my election commitments going in to be mayor, as well as for most of the other elected members who were elected that year. We were really proud to get that up, win it in the chamber and deliver a much-improved service for ratepayers.

Other things that were really important to the ratepayers included keeping rates low, so at Onkaparinga council we were able to introduce a long-term financial plan that ultimately capped rates at CPI and gave residents some relief at rate time. I know that they are still working hard to do that and to take the pressure off ratepayers as much as they can.

Local government is absolutely the closest level of government to the people and it is extremely rewarding because you are actually genuinely able to see the difference you make when you are there. I would encourage anyone who is thinking about it to get in touch with their local members, have a bit of a chat, find out if it is something that might be suitable for you and then go along and throw your hat in the ring and give it a go.

### NAIDOC WEEK

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:35):** The National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee has come a long way over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and now well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so much so that the acronym is now the name of what is a very important week of celebrations in our state and across the nation. NAIDOC Week runs from 3 July to 10 July and it has very much moved from what started out as a movement of protest and of bringing to bear a need to understand and to reconcile into very much a celebration and a week-long celebration it is again here in our state.

'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' is the theme for 2022 and didn't we see that on display yesterday at the NAIDOC awards lunch, and I was proud as one in a room of several hundred to show up. Can I say that there was particular joy for me to look across the room and see present there my federal colleague Senator Kerryne Liddle. Elected just now at the federal election, she is the first Aboriginal woman to represent our state in the federal parliament. It is a signature occasion that ought to be celebrated by all South Australians, and I cannot think of a better time and a better occasion than to do so in this NAIDOC Week.

Of course, as Kerryne would be quick to say, she is a great South Australian—now she will not say that herself because she is a modest and down-to-earth person. She is an Aboriginal woman and proudly so. She is an achiever in just about every field you can imagine in our state and across the country. Hailing originally from Alice Springs, she has made contributions in education, in media, in tourism.

She has been on the board of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. She has contributed to the energy sector as well as to the arts and social housing and, as well as that, to a deep understanding of Indigenous affairs in this state and our nation. I am proud to call her a friend and now a colleague.

As a former business owner and a senior leader in the private and public sectors, she will be a key member of the Liberal team and a major contributor, I am sure, to the federal parliament. She makes South Australia proud, and so I particularly wish to recognise her as one who showed up for our state and she showed up as recently as yesterday on that special occasion of the NAIDOC lunch. I want to take this opportunity to recognise those two recipients in the Premier's Awards yesterday at the NAIDOC lunch.

Firstly, Jeffrey Newchurch, well known to so many here, a proud Narungga and Kaurna man, was really moved in a deep sense by the recognition he received yesterday as a recipient of a Premier's Award. I honour his service to our community and the leadership he has shown for Indigenous affairs in our state.

The co-recipient of the Premier's Award yesterday, Kunyi June Anne McInerney, a Yankunytjatjara woman and well known to members in this place as a celebrated artist, was awarded for her contribution through the arts to healing, to understanding and to reconciliation. Both of them are ornaments to our state and were proudly on the stage yesterday to receive the Premier's Award.

NAIDOC Week continues from Tandanya all the way through our state in the course of the week, and I encourage members here to participate in and celebrate this occasion and in every way to contribute to further conciliation and reconciliation in our state and nation.

### ENDOMETRIOSIS

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:40):** In early June, I attended the South Australian ASMR Medical Research Week gala dinner, which many here also did. I was fortunate to meet some incredible scientists and researchers. At the dinner, I was sitting next to Dr Wendy Ingham, who has worked out of the Robinson Research Institute. She was researching breast cancer, but during our conversation we started talking about another condition known as endometriosis.

Today, I am going to talk about that. It may make some in this house feel uncomfortable but, sorry, I am not sorry, because the uncomfortableness will go away when you leave the chamber; however, the discomfort of those women who suffer from this disease never goes away.

I would like you to think back to your childhood when you fell over and hurt your knee and you put on a big bandaid and a day later you tried to remove it. You either did it quickly or you did it little by little—a little bit of pain. If you suffer from endometriosis, the inner lining of your body has a bandaid on it and it can take five to six days to slowly be removed.

It is not only that, but you also have excruciating pain followed by some dull pain and then excruciating pain. It can hurt your chest cavity, it can hurt your back, you are exhausted and you are emotional. Sounds pretty great, right? No. Not only does it happen singularly but it happens every single month for women who suffer from endometriosis.

For men here, you get a hall pass because it is secret women's business, or at least that is how it has been for many years—rarely talked about in public space or acknowledged as a credible issue or rarely invested in to help researchers work to improve the outcomes for sufferers. Let's face it: it is probably like this because it is a women-only disease. It does involve the growth of tissue, similar to what lines the womb, growing outside the womb, and when the body goes to shed it has nowhere to go, so inflammation occurs.

Normally in this house we have 16 women and, if we add together another from Hansard or the Serjeant-at-Arms, then we have 18. One in nine women suffers from endometriosis, so we should have two here in this house. I can put my hand up because I suffer from it. I have suffered from it since 2003, since I had my child, but it means another woman in this house also has it, but she might not know it yet. She might not have been diagnosed, even though she has been struggling. She has probably normalised her symptoms.

On average, it takes 6½ years to be diagnosed. Some women see their GP seven times before they are referred to a specialist. Some doctors are not quick to assist; some do not even have the training. Patients may be sent for an ultrasound, but it comes back all clear. 'Why?' you may ask. Are they making it up? No, it is because we only have two companies in South Australia that actually have the MRI facilities and the expertise to detect it. The MRI in question is not covered by the PBS, so it is expensive, and some women cannot afford it and suffer the pain in silence.

Currently, there is no cure, only pain management, and the pain can be so bad that even the strongest of pain medication barely dulls its roar. Hot water bottles are a given, avoiding alcohol and inflammatory foods can help, but the pain rages on, like an uncontrolled bushfire burning inside. Not many employers are willing to provide special leave, so sufferers go on to work feeling awful. They double over in pain, grabbing a nap in their break and trying to accommodate the painkillers they are on just to even stand up.

There is hope, however. As I mentioned, I met Dr Wendy Ingham. Whilst she is not an endo researcher, she did put me in contact with her fellow researchers who are, and last week I met with them to discuss what they are doing to help women with endometriosis. Professor Louise Hull, Dr Jodie Avery and Dr Beck O'Hara are all part of the Robinson Research Institute, and their mission is to make diagnosis manageable and timely and accessible.

They have developed a digital platform called EndoZone, which has been co-created with people who suffer from endometriosis. It is a website women can access to get up-to-date information on their condition. They can sign up to be participants in studies, get information to provide to their doctors about their symptoms and also get the support they need. It also has a section for clinicians and researchers to work collaboratively to better diagnose endometriosis.

They also have other projects they are working on, but they need more help. One in nine women have endometriosis. They need money, they need to come up with less invasive treatment and they need our support. With 830,000 women having endometriosis in Australia, it is time that we stood up and helped them.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:46):** By leave, I move:

That the Hon. A. Piccolo be appointed to the committee in place of S. Andrews (resigned).

Motion carried.

#### *Bills*

#### **PRIVATE PARKING AREAS (SHOPPING CENTRE PARKING AREAS) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:46):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Private Parking Areas Act 1986. Read a first time.

##### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:47):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Private Parking Areas (Shopping Centre Parking Areas) Amendment Bill 2022, which amends the Private Parking Areas Act 1986 to prevent paid parking at shopping centres with a gross lettable area of 34,000 square metres or more. The introduction of this bill meets our election commitment to introduce a bill into parliament to prevent paid parking at Tea Tree Plaza shopping centre, but it also seeks to assist both consumers and shopping centre workers and retail workers more broadly across South Australia.

As we return to post-COVID conditions, encouraging people to both work in our retail sector and return to bricks-and-mortar shopping, is important for our economy. The Private Parking Areas Act 1986, as it stands currently, provides for control to be placed on parking areas—for instance, time limits or disabled car parking spaces, as well as for breaches of those controls to be prosecuted as a summary offence. Amending this act is therefore considered to be the most appropriate mechanism to prohibit paid parking at shopping centres.

As it is currently drafted, the bill provides that the owner of a regulated shopping centre parking area must not, without the approval of the chief executive officer of the council for the area in which the regulated shopping centre park area is situated, charge a person a fee for the parking of a vehicle in the regulated shopping centre parking area. Before the chief executive of the council grants an approval, the council must consult with the local community and subsequently pass a resolution recommending that the approval be granted.

A regulated shopping centre parking area is defined as an area provided on land by the owner for the parking of vehicles used by persons frequenting a major retail shopping centre. The definition of a 'major retail shopping centre' is:

...a retail shopping centre where the total lettable areas of all retail shops (whether leased or available for lease) in the retail shopping area is 34,000 m<sup>2</sup> or more, but does not include the retail shopping area within the Adelaide CBD;

The benchmark for size of a major retail shopping centre for where the prohibition of paid parking will apply has been set at 34,000 square metres. This benchmark will capture the majority of major shopping centres that are zoned in the urban activity centre.

The bill does not apply to a major retail shopping centre located within the Adelaide CBD to prevent businesses that provide car parking as their core business from being captured by the new provisions. Paid parking in the CBD is necessary to support the variety of functions and services that a city needs and are available, including entertainment, recreational businesses and shopping.

The definition of a regulated shopping centre parking area may capture owners of land who are not the owners of the major retail shopping centre, such as smaller shops, and this is required to prevent owners from restructuring their organisations to circumvent the prohibition. Should this present an issue, it is envisaged that an approval could be issued by a chief executive officer of a local council that allows for fees to be charged. It provides flexibility at the local level. This bill places power on paid parking in the hands of local communities through their representatives in local government, and I would like to thank the members of Newland, King, Wright, Florey and Torrens for their passionate advocacy in this area.

I commend the bill to the house and I seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of Private Parking Areas Act 1986

###### 3—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause inserts certain definitions into section 4 of the principal Act for the purposes of the measure and amends existing definitions to include references to regulated shopping centre parking areas.

###### 4—Insertion of section 13

This clause inserts new section 13:

###### 13—Regulated shopping centre parking areas

This section prohibits the owner of a regulated shopping centre parking area (being an area provided for the parking of vehicles used by persons frequenting a major retail shopping centre) from charging a fee for the parking of a vehicle in such an area without the approval of the chief executive officer of the relevant council.

The chief executive officer may not grant an approval unless the council has recommended the granting of the approval by resolution.

Before passing a resolution, the council is required to consult with the community of the council on whether it is in the community interest for the proposed resolution to be passed.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G. Pisoni.

## **APPROPRIATION BILL 2022**

### *Estimates Committees*

Adjourned debate on motion:

That the proposed expenditures referred to Estimates Committees A and B be agreed to.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:52):** I am pleased to have the opportunity to continue my remarks in relation to the estimates committees from prior to the lunchtime break. Prior to the break, for those who are just picking up the parliamentary broadcast now or for those who have forgotten over the two hours intervening what was the pacy and exciting material that we were dealing with before lunch, we had just established, thanks to the chief executive, Martin Westwell, and the minister, the member for Wright, that the Labor Party was delivering on its election commitments, as is appropriate.

The funding mechanism they were using to deliver on their election commitments was indeed in relation to the school election commitments, at least the funds made available to the Department for Education as a result of the national school funding reforms, commonly known as the Gonski agreement. So, using those existing resources from the Department for Education, the department is now first delivering on the election commitments, as is appropriate, and secondly, doing a body of work within the education department to identify which programs and services should be cut or which deferred or which changed in some way to make the money available to deliver on those commitments.

We identified what a couple of those commitments were—obviously, the ongoing funding for the technical colleges, the funding to be made available to relieve families of \$100 remission on school fees for the next couple of years, and that was identified by Mr Bernardi and Professor Westwell, and this is all delivering on the government's election commitments.

What I am interested to know, and what I think people in education will be interested increasingly to learn, is the detail of what other arrangements are being made to create this funding. The minister was good enough in his responses to confirm a number of programs were proceeding as planned with no cuts proposed.

In my earlier remarks, I commended him and congratulated him on those: Clontarf and Shooting Stars, supporting young Aboriginal South Australians; the International Baccalaureate program at a number of schools; the Literacy Guarantee unit; the year 1 phonics check; the Music Education Strategy and a range of pathway initiatives such as flexible industry pathways; the World of Work Challenge; and VET for years 7 to 10 students, which will obviously work well with the technical colleges if it is designed well, as we hope it will be. All of those are staying.

There was one program identified that would have \$15 million over four years changed to \$15 million over six years, which is not a dramatic reduction in funding but it is a reduction in funding. In the coming weeks and months, I trust the minister will come back to the house in response to my question, which he took on notice, on what other programs there will be changes to.

In relation to this one, there is \$15 million over four years to respond to the Graham report into suspensions, exclusions and expulsions. The Graham report itself was a result of a compromise brokered by the Deputy Premier and the Greens spokesperson on education, Tammy Franks, and me to help us get through the 2019 reforms to the new education Children's Services Act. That was a good outcome.

It was a good report by Professor Linda Graham, an expert in inclusive education, who came down from Queensland. It was a substantial report with challenging recommendations, not all of which I agreed with as minister but many of which I was very enthusiastic about exploring to deliver for South Australian students, particularly that vast number of students with disability, who represent such a disproportionate bulk of those students who experience take-home suspensions or exclusions—not so much expulsions, because that rarely happens in South Australia. Nevertheless, Professor Graham established that these students were particularly at risk.

Aboriginal students, students with a range of needs, students under guardianship were represented in the proportion of students in this category, but if they had also a disability or were students just with a disability, they were the vast bulk.

There was \$15 million committed by the Marshall Liberal government over four years to deliver a response to this review and its recommendations. That has been stretched to over six. Some would describe this as a cut. The minister described it as:

...a big body of work, and I want to make sure that we get right. No doubt, whatever the model we end up with we will be, for better or worse, stuck with it for some time.

I am pleased it is going ahead. I wish it was over four years: it is over six. I am pleased to note the former government's commitment to an early win in this area for school-wide positive behaviour for learning being implemented. It is being implemented in 40 schools this year and next, and that is going ahead, with recruitment for schools currently underway.

Consultation on the decommissioning of flexible learning options is underway, with a set of recommendations going to the minister this month. We look forward to hearing more about those recommendations in due course. The house will be interested to know that the minister confirmed that the government has no plans to agree to follow through on the recommendation of Professor Graham to create an education ombudsman. I do not say that that is a bad response. It is a response that I think the Marshall government would have ultimately come up with, too, if we were still in government but, nevertheless, it is an interesting change of position from the Labor Party.

In relation to a couple of Labor election commitments, I note the workforce plan for teachers to teach specialist subjects. We asked when it will be finished, when it will be released and will it deliver on what Labor promised. The minister took the bulk of that question on notice, and we look forward to the response.

We had a discussion about the government's commitment to increase permanency rates in the teaching workforce by 10 per cent. The minister confirmed that, currently, there is 80 per cent permanency, according to departmental advice, but did seem reluctant to commit to delivering on the election commitment. I will quote:

My answer is that the department will undertake policy work to identify where the level of teacher permanency can be increased—

and then went on to say—

whilst still maintaining flexibility for schools and preschools to manage their staffing needs.

There is nothing wrong with that, except that it does not deliver on what was a pretty specific election commitment in Labor's seven-point plan for teacher quality. There are indeed no plans for significant changes to placement rights and we learnt that EB negotiations are expected to begin later this year but are to be overseen by the Minister for Industrial Relations, which was a similar arrangement to that which was in place last year.

As Minister for Education, during that time I copped some criticism from some for the Minister for Industrial Relations then leading that negotiation. I trust that those who criticised that arrangement will apply the same blowtorch pressure to the new government, but that is ultimately a matter for them.

In relation to early childhood, we had significant discussion about the early childhood royal commission and the Early Learning Strategy. It was a good discussion, it was interesting, it was nuanced and it was constructive. I am pleased the government is continuing with much of the work we announced last year during the announcement of the Early Learning Strategy. Well done.

Ultimately, no commitment is still on the table to have any offer of universal three-year-old preschool available to all families in 2026, as I believe was Labor's election commitment. There is certainly no money in the budget to expand the program. I am sure we will talk more about that and the other range of exciting issues that the Minister for Education and I discussed on that interesting day a couple of weeks ago.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (16:00):** It is with great pleasure that I rise to support the motion to note the reports from Estimates Committee A and Estimates Committee B. Can I say at the outset that I found the process this year to be a lot more enjoyable than I have in the previous four years I spent attending estimates committees as a member of the opposition. I am not sure whether it was because of the vantage point or the refreshing attitude of ministers to actually answer questions asked by people—who is to say?

It certainly was an experience where you found that ministers were a lot more open to engaging and responding than in previous years, when there was quite a lot of rancour in not only this chamber but also the other chamber during estimates committees. Hopefully, it was a pleasant experience, not only for those members who have been here for quite some time but also for the new members of this place who had their first experience of estimates. The chairs of the estimates committees—the Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Economic and Finance Committee—found their experience enjoyable, and they seemed to do quite a good job I thought in the chair. Long may they continue to provide that particular function.

When we talk about the reports of Estimates Committee A and Estimates Committee B, it is worthwhile not only reflecting on a series of numbers attached to a lot of different portfolios but actually looking at the initiatives behind those numbers and what those initiatives will be able to deliver to the people of South Australia, who, after all, are the people who have put us into this place so that we can deliver for them. I would like to explore some of the initiatives included in the budget so that we might be able to look behind those numbers and get more of an understanding of what in fact the report itself actually represents.

Starting with Health, obviously that was one area that was extremely important during the election campaign in March this year and also one that was extremely important in the budget that was handed down. We can see that the government has committed to 350 more paramedics and ambulance officers over a four-year period. Before the election campaign, I visited the Parafield station, which is in my electorate. It was in my previous electorate and it is in my current electorate. It is one of the state's newest and largest ambulance stations.

Even there, I found that staff were very much harried and very much suffering from a lack of resources. The previous government had obviously failed to provide enough for them. I know that they will find it particularly refreshing that the new government has provided so much in funds over the next four-year period along with a boost to some of the existing ambulance stations, making them larger and better equipped.

I am quite fortunate in that Parafield is extremely large and extremely new, but I know that some other stations are being upgraded. I am sure that is something that is very much welcomed by those local communities. The new stations will be at Norwood, Woodville, Golden Grove and Edwardstown, but the existing stations at Campbelltown, Mount Barker, Gawler and Victor Harbor will be completely upgraded. That will be a fantastic result for those other communities.

Over the forward estimates we are not just talking about increasing the number of paramedics. The government has also committed to 101 doctors and 300 nurses as part of the comprehensive plan we have to increase the capacity of our health system, which will help to make South Australia a much better place.

I also note something that is particularly dear to my heart: the Asbestos Diseases Society of SA is receiving an increase of \$400,000 over four years. It is an excellent initiative and one that I was very happy to support during the election campaign. It is a fantastic organisation that does a great job for those people who suffer from asbestos-related diseases. Not only do they help people who are suffering from the disease but they also help increase awareness of asbestos-related diseases, which is an extremely important issue. I have seen you, Mr Acting Speaker, at events they have coordinated.

Closer to home, one of the other things the government is doing in my electorate is providing 48 additional subacute beds not only at the Lyell McEwin Hospital but also at Modbury, two hospitals that are definitely worthy of increased support and resources, and I know they will provide better resources for our local area. For too long, it has been a problem of not enough services being provided for particular diseases or particular services in the area.

That extra capacity will allow us to increase the spectrum of services that we provide. It is an excellent initiative of the government. I was happy to support it during the campaign, and I know it is now something the local community will be excited to see delivered now that the government has changed. However, it is not just about staff. Staff are important, but staff need to have the infrastructure so that they can deliver services.

That is why it is a great announcement that the Modbury Hospital cancer centre will be established at Modbury Hospital at a cost of \$28 million over three years. This cancer centre will enable lots of residents in my electorate and across the north-eastern suburbs to be treated closer to home. Although there are fantastic cancer centres in many of our hospitals, it is great to see that service being provided at Modbury Hospital.

Those are some of the services the government is looking forward to providing in the health space over the forward estimates. It is not just about providing services such as health. It is also about trying to grow the economy in South Australia and also, hopefully, not only grow the existing economy but also move into new areas where South Australia currently does not have a footprint. That is why it is fantastic that the government is producing the Hydrogen Jobs Plan, with \$593 million over four years, to create state-owned infrastructure to provide the capacity for South Australia to export hydrogen overseas and to generate power in South Australia and be a state-owned enterprise.

I am sure all South Australians were disappointed to see the previous government sell off just for a quick buck the generators that the previous Labor government had bought. It is great to see the state government investing in this area now so that this new hydrogen facility can provide employment and export opportunities and also help provide downward pressure on power prices in South Australia.

That is part of the overall flavour of the budget—to provide economic development opportunities for South Australia. For example, one of the things we have is the Economic Recovery Fund, which is \$100 million over four years. That will enable the state government to fund new initiatives to promote economic growth and development opportunities in South Australia. It will help co-invest with business to provide opportunities for South Australians to not only find employment but to also grow new industries so that we can invest in the jobs of the future and not only the jobs of today.

Another announcement made earlier this week, which I know the Minister for Trade was very excited about, is the re-establishment of Brand SA, which is \$6.2 million over four years. I know everyone on this side of the house is very excited to see Brand SA return, to see us have pride in South Australian products and promote South Australians buying South Australian, instead of hoping that it happens all by itself, which seems to have been the attitude of the previous government.

That turns my mind to one of the other great announcements in the budget that was included in the reports of the Estimates Committees A and B, and that is the return of the Adelaide 500. As I was talking to people in the electorate of Florey during the campaign, they told me that they very much thought that it was a dent to South Australia's pride that they had a government that had decided to turn its back on this fantastic event. They were very much looking forward to the possibility of a Labor government bringing back the event.

That is why it is so good that it will come back in December this year. It is an event that has excited not only people who are interested in motorsport but also everyone right across the hospitality sector, to see people coming to South Australia and spending money here in our great state and providing employment for many people.

Another area of particular importance in the South Australian budget, which I know was explored during the estimates committee process, is that of education. I know that the important issue of the royal commission into early childhood education and care, which is being established

and which I know is funded to the extent of \$2 million over two years, will help to investigate the best way of delivering on the commitments that the government took to the election.

One that I am particularly passionate about is that it will explore how all families can have access to out-of-school-hours care at both preschool and primary school ages because we all know that in our busy lives the school day, which was set sometime in the past, does not fully cater to modern expectations. That is why, rather than sit back and wait and see what other people do or see what possible solutions people overseas or interstate come up with, we are going to have a royal commission to fully investigate how, in the South Australian context, things can be changed to properly deliver the services the people expect.

Not only have we decided to invest in that royal commission to make those recommendations but we are also investing in our schools. One of the things I am very excited about to see locally in my area is investment in two particular school projects, and one of those is \$1 million for a new gym for the Ingle Farm East Primary School, which was included in the state budget. I first visited the school over a year ago, and I was quite surprised to see that the gym had to be at least 30 or 40 years old. It is one of the smallest gyms I have seen at any school in South Australia and very much in need of a refurbishment or expansion.

I was delighted to be able to get the agreement of the now Minister for Education when he was in opposition, and also the Deputy Premier during the best part of the policy development process, to give funds to that school for a new gym. I can tell you that the community of Ingle Farm, and particularly those students at the Ingle Farm East Primary School, are very much deserving of that investment. This school needs that money and it needs these extra facilities, and I know that they will be very, very appreciative when it gets built.

Another thing I have to talk about in terms of school infrastructure is a project that is very dear to my heart because my children go to this particular school, and that is the new bridge joining the two campuses of the Mawson Lakes School across Dry Creek. For years, this project has been talked about. I wrote to the previous minister a number of times about this project to try to make sure that it was properly funded. Although I did get some way with him, I cannot say that he said no completely, but unfortunately the necessary amount of funds was not able to be provided.

I know that the school community is very excited that finally it looks like this project is going ahead and should be open next year, hopefully in time for the school year. Recently, during heavy rains the Dry Creek area around there was particularly flooded. Local roads were almost washed away. I think that for children to be expected to cross a small causeway, which is almost completely under water, during serious amounts of rain is absolutely ridiculous. I know that, on behalf of the local community of Mawson Lakes, we are all very excited to have a government that is now prepared to make that investment and see a proper bridge constructed.

Another issue that impacts a number of people in my electorate is that of public housing. A number of people have talked to me in the last few weeks about how excited they were to see such a large amount of money committed in the budget to public housing going forward. It is \$177.5 million over four years for the Public Housing Improvement Program, which means that those pieces of maintenance work that people have waited for, for such a long time in some cases, will now be able to be completed and should have an enormous impact on the lives of people in public housing.

Not only that, but finally some of the services that were cut by the previous government regarding homelessness have had their funding increased, namely, \$10.4 million over four years is being spent on supporting those homeless support services so that we might do something about addressing the increase we have experienced in rough sleeper numbers in South Australia.

Even pre COVID, those numbers were going up as a result of the previous government's cuts and changes in policies, and now that we are able to make a proper investment into providing services for those people who are sleeping rough in our CBD we should be able to see those numbers come down. I know that everyone on this side of the house is committed to doing so, and I expect that will be the case.

One of the other great initiatives contained in the budget, and I really do want to single out the Treasurer for his level of commitment to this particular policy, is that of the 3 per cent low deposit home loan scheme for first-home buyers. It is a great initiative that will see South Australians have

much greater access to assistance for deposits and help those people who have the incomes necessary but who have just not been able to save a deposit because of the way the rental market is at the moment.

I think we will see that this sort of innovative policy will help to address some of the crisis in South Australia's rental market and also in our housing market. While it is not a silver bullet, it will certainly be part of the solution. While we are talking about cost of living, one of the other things that the government has put into the budget (very well in my opinion) is the doubling of the Cost of Living Concession.

I know from my experience working in the human services sector that the Cost of Living Concession really makes a lot of difference to a lot of people in our community, especially those people living on low fixed incomes. To help address the cost-of-living problems in this year by doubling that concession for one year will help to address that. Again, it is not the solution to the problem, but it shows that the government is prepared to actually engage and try to help people, rather than simply say, 'Well, there's nothing we can do,' and not do anything about it.

This is very much related to, for example, the change we have made to the materials and services charge. I have to give the previous government the credit here: it was their election commitment first, which we decided to match. I know as a parent myself, with children in public schools, and also from my constituents who have raised this issue with me, that helping to reduce that charge now has had a good impact on families.

The same goes for the way that the budget contains initiatives to support communities out there and support community groups. I have spoken to a number of people from different multicultural groups about how much they appreciate the support the new government is giving them. For example, in the multicultural affairs space, \$16 million is being spent over four years to provide additional funding to support multicultural events and initiatives, and that level of extra support is very much appreciated.

We know that providing support services in those communities, especially communities that come from a non-English-speaking background, can be very difficult. It is very difficult for government to provide those support services. People often look to community groups not only to provide support and help during things like the pandemic but also to provide the support on an ongoing basis with finances and other things. Being able to provide funding for those organisations so that they can continue to provide the services to their community is not only something I know they really appreciate but also something I believe is very much at the heart of what this government does.

One of the other areas that is very important to providing support to our community is that of public safety. Some people have said there can be no greater right than that of safety, and perhaps they are right about that. It is good to see that the government has provided assistance to those people who are keeping our streets safe by providing the necessary funding to complete the work that was—well, 'started' is not really the word I would use—slowed under the previous government with regard to multipurpose load-bearing vests. Providing \$6.5 million over four years to make sure that all sworn officers have access to vests and storage facilities so we can make sure that those people who keep us safe actually have the resources they need to do their jobs properly.

I am also pleased that we provided \$924,000 over four years for the creation of the public sex offender register so that people in our community can keep informed about what is going on in their communities and can properly make decisions about the safety of them and their families. If I was talking about the reports from Estimates Committee A and Estimates Committee B, I would be remiss not to address a particular subject that I know is very passionately on the lips of those in the opposition and that is community and sports grants.

These community and sports facilities grants are something that I think we have done an excellent job in. I know, personally, that people in the community were talking to me before the election saying how much they regretted the level of support they—well, 'received' is not really the word—did not receive from the previous government, and so they very much wanted to see a government that actually was committed to helping out the local area I represent.

I am pleased that not only the Pooraka Football Club but also the Ingle Farm Sporting Club were able to receive commitments from the government to upgrade their facilities sometime over the next few years. I think they are excellent clubs and very much worthy of support. I make no apology for being an advocate for those clubs and community groups in my local area, and I will continue to be an advocate for those particular groups. I know that not only on behalf of those clubs but also on behalf of the local community in Florey that we are so glad to have a government that actually supports the local area.

We heard about how the previous Treasurer kept saying that he had ice water in his veins. I am so proud to be part of a government that has a Treasurer who does not have ice water in his veins but a passionate heart that supports the people of South Australia and their communities and does everything possible to make our state a better place. I commend the report to the house.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (16:20):** I take this opportunity to rise to make a few brief remarks, nothing too extensive, on the estimates process, which really brings to a close the budget process that has been before this house now for the last few weeks.

I think the estimates process is worth reflecting on. It could do with some reform perhaps in some ways, in terms of which members are allowed to participate in it from which chamber, but overall it does provide an opportunity to analyse and interrogate aspects of the budget. While it could probably be modernised a little bit, it does give us a chance to dig into the figures and learn a bit more about how the budget is structured and assembled and the rationale and motivations for particular decisions that the government of the day has chosen to take with regard to putting together and administering the finances of our state.

The budget estimates process I had the privilege of being part of was pretty genial in its conduct overall, whether it was between me and the Premier, me and the Deputy Premier in her capacity as Minister for Climate, Environment and Water or, in fact, the Minister for Small and Family Business, who I shadow as well as the shadow minister for that portfolio. It was a pretty reasonable level of conduct by all involved, in terms of undertaking that scrutiny and interrogation of the figures. I really do want to thank all those members and, of course, the public servants who were involved along the way in putting together material, much of which goes unused but aims to predict the sorts of things that will be covered through this process. By way of completion, I thank all those who were involved for their contribution.

I opened my estimates questioning with what I thought was quite a straightforward question—and it turned out not to be so much—in relation to a grant that the Labor government has decided to give to the Conservation Council of South Australia. I sought clarity on whether there would be outcomes associated with this grant, whether there would be a contract between the Department for Environment and Water and the Conservation Council and whether the outcomes and that contract would be made public.

It was quite a surprise, really, and perhaps a little symbolic of my overall questioning of the Deputy Premier, that that information was not forthcoming. I did not think there was necessarily a lot to hide as to the conduct and outcomes of a financial agreement providing \$1 million over four years to the peak body for environment and conservation in this state. I think the oft-used saying that sunlight is the best form of disinfectant certainly is relevant in this case. I was struck by the desire not to make that Conservation Council agreement public. As a consequence, it did beg more questions than answers as to whether there would be outcomes associated with that funding.

When it comes to the administration of the environment portfolio, practical outcomes—trees in the ground, species protected and areas of our state's landscape looked after in a sustainable way—should be at the very heart of that. Not to have revealed any outcomes or desired outcomes between the government's deal with the Conservation Council was disappointing. I asked if it was hush money, and that attracted some attention, but it felt to me that the provision of that funding could be used to placate the conservation peak body, and I think it was fair to ask that question.

The attempts not to answer questions continued with the Deputy Premier's decision not to answer any questions in relation to the restoration of West Beach and the pipeline, which had been proposed to recycle sand between the northern beaches and the more central beaches on our metropolitan coastline. While I totally understood that the Deputy Premier had declared a conflict of

interest in relation to this project due to the proximity of her home to the beach at Semaphore, I did present the opportunity for public servants to provide answers directly to me, as is quite often the case through the minister in the estimates process, but that was declined, and in fact it was partially blocked, I would assess, by the Chair at the time.

I thought this would have been a very valid and reasonable opportunity to ask questions about a project running into the tens of millions of dollars that seeks to overcome a very tricky environmental problem, that being the natural littoral drift between the southern beaches and the northern beaches of our sand, a natural movement interfered with by man-made infrastructure that obviously exacerbates erosion across our beaches.

We were very keen to dig into the government's plans as to the ongoing sustainability of our metropolitan beaches, notwithstanding the Deputy Premier's decision to declare a conflict of interest following Crown advice on this matter, and the opportunity to quiz the public servants on how this might be done in the future—would there be a replacement for the pipeline, what other possible technologies, techniques, built infrastructure might be being considered?

One thing that we are very concerned about is that heavily engineered groynes might be built along our metropolitan coastline, as you would see in parts of European beaches. That is not something that we would deem overly acceptable, and I do not believe the South Australian public would deem that as acceptable. These groynes are known to work in terms of capturing sand in a defined part of the beach, but that leads to significant scarring on one side of the groyne or the other and even worse outcomes for the coast. We were very keen to hear whether or not that would be ruled out by the government.

We were also keen to hear about how the review into alternative approaches for managing the central and northern metropolitan beaches might be progressed. Unfortunately, that was not forthcoming, so we will have to wait for the next Budget and Finance Committee. We are hoping to have a special Budget and Finance Committee called to seek the input of executives from the Department for Environment and Water and also, importantly, Green Industries SA.

Green Industries SA fund the solid waste levy, and there is a mechanism there for climate-related projects to be funded. That is how we were funding the sustainability of our metropolitan beaches, so it is necessary to require the executives from both the environment department and Green Industries SA to front that upper house committee and make us and the South Australian public aware of this situation that has been cloistered in secrecy.

Public servants have been gagged, and I felt very sorry for people like John Schutz and Dr Ian Overton, who were gagged through this process, unable to give frank and fearless advice to the parliament. Even more disappointing was the fact that while the Deputy Premier was unwilling to provide South Australia's people's parliament with information with regard to this project, she was quite comfortable, despite having declared a conflict of interest, to give an extensive summary about this situation to David Bevan and other presenters on 891 radio within days. So that was disappointing.

Again, there was a lot of secrecy, a lot of avoiding questions and the gagging of senior public servants in this state. I felt those public servants were deeply embarrassed by this situation. There was an awkwardness about the exchange and, clearly, they went back to their department feeling that the situation was far from ideal. Because we were not able to ask those questions, of course, we then cannot provide answers to the concerned residents of West Beach or Henley Beach South or Henley Beach, because this problem is rapidly moving up the metropolitan coastline, so more communities are getting sucked into the problem as it continues.

As the beneficiary of improvements to our metropolitan coastline undertaken by the previous Labor government, I live in one of those coastal communities, as does the member for Morphett alongside me who has benefited from the same infrastructure that we proposed for the metropolitan coastline to the north. Labor put that in on the beaches that I represent and that the member for Morphett represents, so if it is good enough for us—and it is good enough for us because we do enjoy the benefits of that—why should the residents of West Beach, Henley Beach and beyond be denied that and really see a significant risk to the viability and sustainability of their beaches going forward in the face of a change in climate, increased storm events and the like?

We had the hush money for the Conservation Council, and they are not talking about this either. The minister is not talking about it, but the Conservation Council are not because they have been given the money, so we are not hearing the real answers here. There was hush money for the Conservation Council, a lack of answers around the coastline, and this secrecy continued.

I had the opportunity to question the Premier on his portfolios and in my role as the Leader of the Opposition. I was quite concerned again about lack of accountability and secrecy in relation to the sports rorts scandal that is unfolding here in South Australia. That is, \$84.4 million was brought forward to be spent in this budget as sports club grants. On this issue, opposition questions were put to the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, and they were met with, in our view, a wall of orchestrated evasion.

The strangeness in my exchange with the Premier was particularly odd, in that I sought to ask the Premier the role of the Premier's Delivery Unit in the management of these grants. Of course, that is the unit headed by the former Labor Party candidate and staffer, Mr Rik Morris, who is now paid more than \$350,000 every year by taxpayers after that appointment, which was revealed in estimates occurred without any due process and no merit selection situation as would be expected in a Public Service position to give the public and the broader Public Service confidence that the right person was found for this job.

I asked the Premier what specifically the so-called delivery unit was doing with these grants and the Premier responded by saying, 'When you say sports grants, they are election commitments.' So I then asked him, 'Did the delivery unit prepare the cabinet submission recommending approval of these grants?' The Premier responded, 'Which grants?' I said, 'The local sports grants,' to which the Premier said, 'There is not a grant program there, just election commitments being delivered.' The sports minister was obviously prepped to say similar things in her answers and we had a very similar exchange take place, the minister responding following questioning in the vein of, 'Are you talking about election commitments?' It was exactly the same as the Premier said.

It sounds in some ways quite comical, but in fact it is very serious because the government seems to be saying that, because these were commitments made before the election, the administration of the grants after the election result does not have to follow the processes that would be normally required to provide public funds to third parties.

This has next to no accountability for the spending. Normally, these grants or commitments, if that is what the Premier wants to refer to them as, would be channelled through a Public Service process, and while there was an intention indicated by the government of the day to provide funds to a particular body, that body would still have to approve financial legitimacy, appropriate governance, potentially matching council by the property owner, which, in the very large number of cases, would be their local council. None of this was forthcoming at all for this process, and that is a real concern for us.

It appears that all these grants were committed to the recipients before the election, with their payment being made much quicker than would normally be the situation if the grants had been administered through the normal process, although the estimates process did not reveal the detail behind this process at all.

Moreover, the budget made these funds payable by 30 June 2022, only four weeks after the budget's introduction, when the full cost of that program was first revealed. This is despite the fact that the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing continues to advise the public on its website that grant programs often take many months to progress from the application stage all the way through to final notification. We have sought a list of grant recipients and the amounts provided because, after all, this is public money, not money belonging to the Labor Party.

The government has of course refused to provide this, but undoubtedly this is because the ABC has reported that 69 of the 72 grants that we are aware of were made in seats that the Labor Party held or has since gained at the election. There are significant concerns about the lack of information being provided into the public domain. Of course, we will continue to pursue this matter on behalf of South Australians until we get answers.

There were some other areas of real concern for the opposition that were revealed through the estimates process. I have talked at length in my budget reply speech about our deep concerns

about two major projects. One is the greatest building project in the state's history, which is the north-south corridor, providing that freight route through metropolitan Adelaide to get goods, services and commuters to their destination, whether it is work or home or somewhere in between. The delay in that project in this budget is of great concern.

Once again, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport abysmally failed to answer questions about this project, this critical state building project. A lack of understanding about the loss of productivity and the value associated with that loss of productivity continues and was not answered at all through the budget process. There is also great concern and a high level of ambiguity in relation to the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and the state-owned hydrogen power station which is proposed for the Upper Spencer Gulf region. These major projects were initiatives that the government really failed to provide any detail on.

As I said at the beginning, the estimates process is very useful to an opposition. It allows us to deeply analyse the portfolios that we have shadow ministerial responsibility for. It assists us with policy development down the track and enables us to do one part of our job, which, as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, as the member for Dunstan often liked to refer to us as, is to hold the government of the day to account. That is a key part of our job under the Westminster system. The estimates process does not always reveal the answers that we either want or seek to get, but it does give us a significant pathway to doing that.

While I have highlighted a few key areas of concern and potential problems that our state faces down the track with the administration of the budget by this government, I still think this remains a valuable process for the amount of information that you can glean from it. With that, I conclude my remarks, and I commend the estimates process to the house.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (16:40):** I am really pleased to rise to speak in support of this Appropriation Bill which, through the budget for 2022-23, sets the firm foundations to realise the Malinauskas Labor government's strong vision for South Australia.

In speaking to this bill, I thank the Treasurer, the Premier and their staff, and also agency staff, for what I think is their remarkable focus, determination and incredibly hard work to deliver the budget just a little over eight weeks post being sworn in after the state election. I believe that is an unprecedented achievement that speaks to the wisdom, the clear vision and the work ethic of all involved and to the clarity of purpose we brought to the election and have applied every day since. I again thank the Treasurer and the Premier, and I echo the comments just made about the reasonably respectful process that was engaged in by all who attended estimates committees. I thank them, all the parliamentary staff and all the agency advisers involved in it.

The implementation of this year's budget will see us start to drive change, improvements and investments across all parts of government, securing opportunities, fairness and hope for the future of our state and its people. This budget is about delivering on the promises we made at the election—promises that speak to the future we aspire to for South Australians to have. This budget prioritised health, with investments aimed squarely at boosting the capacity of ambulance services funding 350 more paramedics, new vehicles and ambulance station infrastructure, as well as delivering additional doctors, nurses and hospital beds with \$2.4 billion over five years of additional expenditure.

Through the budget, we are making a once-in-a-generation investment in mental health, with a record \$294 million to be allocated to provide better treatment for mental health patients through more hospital beds, expert care and support for families. Anybody who has had a loved one experience mental ill health and needed to access hospital care would know that this investment is life changing and potentially life saving.

The budget also laid the foundation for the education of children today, tomorrow and into the future, with an investment of \$630 million over five years in new education initiatives. This is a massive contribution towards building a thriving public education system that is accessible and equitable for everyone. This pillar of a strong economy offers opportunity for our children. Through this investment, we will fund new technical colleges, provide \$26.6 million for local school infrastructure upgrades, support continued universal access to at least 15 hours of preschool each

week, implement reforms, invest \$50 million for mental health and learning support in schools and provide \$28.8 million to appoint an autism lead teacher in every government primary school.

My family is filled with teachers; my son works as a student support officer. The broader family is filled with many teachers and other education professionals. Like all education professionals, every one of them is deeply dedicated to what they do in nurturing and developing our next generation. Also, every single one of them speaks of the incredible need that exists in our schools, particularly around mental health, around learning support and around support for children with autism. This investment is critical in providing additional support that is absolutely required. As I am sure the Minister for Education will speak about, we are also investing \$2 million into a royal commission into early childhood education and care.

It is very pleasing that this budget also placed a really strong focus on bringing our arts and live music sectors back to life. I was particularly thrilled that this budget committed \$3.3 million over two years to live music grants and a further \$1 million to support minor upgrades for live music venues. This is amongst a broader commitment to the entire arts sector in areas like the Fringe Festival, the Adelaide Film Festival, artist and arts organisation grants and the very important work of Support Act, with \$250,000 to provide mental health support services to people in the local music industry who are dealing with issues that continue as a result of work restrictions during the pandemic.

Like many in our community, my husband and I absolutely love live music. Second to seeing live music is listening to a favourite new or not so new band on vinyl at home, particularly those bands who hail from our state. These are bands that have shaped memories, that have shaped time with friends and family, newer bands that engender excitement as they are taking on the world or getting ready to take on the world. These are bands that, through this package of support, will have new opportunities open to them, as will the venues in which they play.

I would like to give a shout-out to some of those incredible South Australian bands that, like many others, will have the opportunity to apply for this really crucial funding. They include The Dunes, The Meatbeaters, CULL The Band, Fear and Loathing, Mum Thinks Blue, Teenage Joans, Bitchspawn, The Toss, Oscar the Wild, Hey Harriet, Ricky Albeck and the Belair Line Band, The Systemaddicts, Blood Sucking Freaks, Chelsea Manor, Young Offenders, Mum Friends, West Thebarton, Juliette Seizure & the Tremor-Dolls, Bad/Dreems, The Mark of Cain, The Molting Vultures, the Numbskulls, Horror My Friend, Jess Day, The Empty Threats and Green Circles, just to name a few. I wish every one of them and the many others continued success on local stages and beyond.

Like many in this house, in the community, certainly in our southern community and, I suspect, many on the other side of this house, I am delighted that this government is bringing back the Adelaide 500. This is a race that all South Australians can rightly be proud of. It has held a special place in the social and economic heart of our state, and I am so pleased that we have invested in bringing it back and bringing it back to the heart of our state.

I am really excited that this budget also supports our beautiful southern community, including an upgrade to the Noarlunga station—a much-needed upgrade that will make it safer—creating dedicated female facilities and upgrading the gym at the South Adelaide Football Club, investing in a number of the sporting clubs the member for Hurtle Vale spoke about earlier, helping to revitalise Beach Road and funding a domestic violence prevention and recovery hub in the south.

There is further investment to our southern infrastructure, including upgrading Main South Road for duplication between Seaford and Sellicks. In partnership with the federal government, we will be funding and on/off ramp from the Southern Expressway at Majors Road. Both commitments will make our roads safer, less congested and travel in the our southern community much easier.

I am so incredibly honoured to have been sworn in as the Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. I am viscerally determined to use the time that I have to make change that makes a difference in people's lives and that strengthens families and communities.

In my portfolio areas, our budget reflects our government's commitment to ensuring that equality of opportunity exists for everyone, with a particular focus on:

- increasing the participation of women in our economy and in every aspect of community life;
- advancing gender equality;
- preventing and ending all forms of violence against women;
- doing everything we possibly can to keep children and young people safe from abuse and neglect; and
- making sure that our most vulnerable children and young people are at the centre of our decision-making and actions and that they are empowered to thrive.

As I said during the estimates committee meetings, our government will be making investments where they really make a difference. Every South Australian child and young person deserves to be safe, cared for and loved. As a government and as a community, we must always do what we can to keep children safe. That is why we are investing an additional \$128.9 million over five years into our child protection system to meet the costs of caring for children and young people who enter care and to help ensure we can fulfil our responsibility to keep children and young people safe from abuse.

In this budget, we are making the required investment to meet need in the child protection system, including the cost of supporting children and young people in out-of-home care. Our budget offers an opportunity to forward plan and to provide surety for children's placement and care, while still, of course, relentlessly striving always for a slowing of the growth rate of children entering care in the first place.

Many in our community say that child protection is everybody's responsibility, that everybody has a role to play to ensure children are protected and that they are afforded every opportunity to realise their full potential in life. To do this, we must improve community understanding about the deeply interconnected issues that families experience: mental ill health, domestic violence, poverty and intergenerational trauma. We must change public discourse and focus to ensure we bring that mantra to life.

We must focus on strengthening vulnerable families so that they have the best possible chance of succeeding and keeping together. We will be doing this through aligning effort to ensure that families have the support they need. We will also be working hard to make sure that outcomes for children who are in care are improved. No matter their starting point, we want children physically, mentally and emotionally to thrive. How we achieve this must always be informed by the voices of those who most need our support: children and young people. In order to make a positive change, we need to amplify their voices through increased participation, advocacy and support.

Unfortunately, I was not asked in the estimates committee about those commitments we made to enable that amplification, but I am pleased to have the opportunity now to say that we are committing additional funding to improve advocacy and support for children and young people in care and leaving care, including, amongst other initiatives, providing \$800,000 to the CREATE Foundation to grow the voice of children and young people and, with those young people, to look at issues like sibling contact and relationships.

We are providing \$1.87 million over four years for the Child and Young Person's Visitor role. We are working with the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People to create additional mechanisms for young Aboriginal people to have a voice and provide opportunities for young people in care—or with a care experience—to have a voice through the No Capes for Change committee, and through an additional \$3.2 million in post-care services.

We are also focused on better supporting the extraordinary carers who open their hearts and homes and their lives to children and young people. They deserve support and respect and to be heard and valued, and that is why we are proudly investing an additional \$200,000 per annum to expand carer advocacy and support services. It is clear that the former government did not take the steps required to support the child protection workforce to do the incredibly difficult work that is required.

Through our efforts and the \$128.9 million of investment, as mentioned, in contrast we are working to fill existing vacancies and in doing so to improve staffing ratios. We are developing a

workforce plan in consultation with workers and their unions and community organisations to ensure sustainable, safe staffing levels for the future. We intend to initiate a campaign to connect students and other jobseekers with the incredibly important work in child protection.

This government is committed to investing in child protection—in its workers, carers and vulnerable families and in support for the children and young people themselves—as well as to pursuing continuous improvement in the way in which we all work together to keep those most vulnerable safe from abuse and neglect. We will be deepening and intensifying our collective work to improve outcomes for children and keep them safe. As minister, I am determined to move forward with targeted, aligned and active reform that seeks to both respond to the challenges and better protect children and young people.

Amongst many urgent actions required to meet the challenges in the system is the need to develop deeper community engagement with an understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of issues families face. Our collective endeavour sits squarely in a broader context of complexity and challenge. Meeting these challenges is difficult but, together, meet them we must. I am very proud that through this first budget we are making the investments needed to do this vital work.

As I have said many times in this house, sport and recreation is powerful. It keeps people active and it improves physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. It gives people a wonderful sense of belonging and opportunity to form friendships and enables communities to explore issues that our community and world confront. That is why we are investing in clubs and organisations, including through a \$13.2 million commitment to build female facilities at local sporting clubs to encourage more women and girls to become involved in the sport they love.

Through these investments, we can help ensure community members can participate in sport and recreation and enjoy community life through their chosen sport. We also want to make our state the centre of motorsport in Australia, whether it be through local car enthusiast or collector clubs or at a statewide level. We are funding \$500,000 per year for local car club grants, including managing the conditional registration scheme in addition to our significant investment to bring back the Adelaide 500 and an \$18 million commitment to the motorsport festival.

It is no secret from many words I have said in this place that, for many reasons, I have a long-term passion for addressing inequality and ensuring that women and girls can equally and actively participate in our economy and in every aspect of community life. This government has an incredibly strong focus on addressing the issues that inhibit girls and women from that equal participation and contribute to the horrific scourge of violence against women in our community.

Our government is profoundly committed to creating a state in which gender has no bearing on the opportunities available to you, a state renowned for equal opportunity for girls and women, that empowers women and girls to live their best possible lives and that realises the benefits for all an equal future creates. Our community is made stronger and better through gender equality in every aspect of life. We know that gender inequality is the biggest driver of domestic violence. That is why amongst a range of measures focused on preventing it we will be investing \$1 million over three years in the development of both the northern and southern domestic violence prevention and recovery hub to undertake work to support and empower women and raise community awareness about domestic violence.

Unlike what was discovered in previous estimates sessions, where the previous government admitted that no ongoing funding was attached to their safety hubs, we are investing in these new hubs and will continue with existing sites across communities. We are committed to ending domestic, family and sexual violence through legislative change, preventative actions and policies and options for recovery that help women stay safe.

We are establishing a gender pay gap task force, we are seriously backing women and girls in sport through the re-establishment of our South Australian women in sport task force and we have committed to a range of initiatives that support the economic participation of South Australian women, including the \$4 million Women in Business program that will provide a suite of programs that will be made available to South Australian female-owned businesses. There is so much to say that I cannot actually finish all my remarks, but I commend this bill and our budget to the house.

Time expired.

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (17:00):** As a new member to this place, it was a privilege to go through the estimates process and, especially with my shadow portfolio roles, to unpack some of the different details and aspects that were not readily available when flicking through the budget. I enjoyed the interaction with the ministers. At times, it was very conducive to good answers, but at other times it was far from it.

I was interested in going through the process of the estimates for Primary Industries and Regions SA and the minister's answers to some of the questions put to her. We saw in the budget that there were significant cuts to PIRSA. In trying to unpack some of the reasoning behind that, I was hopeful that there might have been some clear answers, but unfortunately we saw an indirect minister who was not able to clearly define where these cuts were going to be implemented.

We heard there were going to be cuts to four executive staff in PIRSA, including the deputy CEO role, with the other three roles as not yet identified. The deputy CEO role is actually the role the now CEO was in. Effectively, this means that the CEO of PIRSA is now performing the role he previously was as well as the tasks of the chief executive officer, as well as covering for three other executive positions. You cannot tell me that there will not be detrimental outcomes for us as regional South Australians because of these cuts.

We have existing funds that were raided to pay for the government's election commitments, including the Regional Growth Fund, which will now be used for political outcomes. It means that industries and applicants who might have been hoping that this fund was available will be sorely disappointed. In fact, the minister was not even aware of how much of the Regional Growth Fund would actually be remaining once all the election commitments were paid for.

We also saw through the estimates process that the operations of the pastoral unit will now be moved from the department in charge of primary production, into the environment department. Pastoral lands of South Australia are an important production area to the state's economy. Those lands have been well managed by lessees for generations. There has always been a balance made by those people actually on the ground to ensure that the environment is well looked after for future generations, whilst also maintaining a level of productivity. My concern now is if that focus is solely on environmental outcomes, rather than getting the balance right between that production and the environment.

Through the estimates process, I was responsible for the questioning of the Minister for Local Government. As a former local government minister and mayor, I had been hoping that the minister would have a working knowledge of the issues and challenges that are currently facing local government as well as the opportunities for future reforms. Unfortunately, the minister was evasive. He was not aware of the direct impacts of government policy onto local government with a number of questions I brought forward. There are a number of areas of potential reforms of local government that need strong leadership from the local government minister.

We also heard that the minister had received the very important report, entitled The Outback Futures report, highlighting that the report, in the words of the minister,

...gives a comprehensive picture of the issues facing people living in the outback and the challenges in providing services and support to our most remote communities. The government is considering its response to the OCA's final recommendations and will respond in due course, noting the importance of this decision for the future of our outback communities.

He also stated that the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) has focused on the delivery of the Outback Futures project, which is to determine the needs and aspirations of outback communities and how they will be best supported in the longer term.

At the same time as he was saying these words, he also confirmed that there would be a cut to the budget of the Outback Communities Authority. How will the OCA be able to deliver on the very important recommendations made through their report with a severely significantly diminished budget? Sadly, I fear people from our outback communities, who put so much into our state's economy, will be further disadvantaged by this budget cut from the Labor government.

During the estimates process, questions were asked of the environment minister about the arrangements for the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant project. Water is a subject matter that is significant for all of us, on Eyre Peninsula in particular. We have all grown up learning about the importance of the Tod Reservoir as the first significant water source, being the region's first major infrastructure project. We all learnt about the unique distribution network that delivered water across the peninsula, opening up the middle of Eyre Peninsula with a reliable water source, starting at the very south of our region and going all the way up to Ceduna and beyond.

We also learnt about the important underground water aquifer, the network that provides the peninsula's water needs and has for decades. Unfortunately, the water needs of Eyre Peninsula have put significant pressure on these underground water basins. In recognition of this, the previous Liberal government undertook this desalination project to provide for a water source that is not climate dependent and not solely reliant on rainfall for replenishing these aquifers. We cannot underestimate the importance of this project to the people of Eyre Peninsula, the people of my seat of Flinders, and to the significant economic contribution our region makes to the state's economy.

Importantly, after concerns from community and businesses, the former environment minister, David Speirs, made the decision to form the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Project Site Selection Committee. This committee was put together to ensure that local community leadership and businesses were involved in advising the government on the location and arrangements for the project. I was concerned to hear through the estimates process that the now environment minister has yet to meet with the chair of this site selection committee, despite its being one of the most significant projects of her responsibilities; in fact, she had yet to even receive a briefing about the project.

I highlight again to this place that the project to deliver a desalination plant on Eyre Peninsula is incredibly important for the long-term sustainability of the communities and businesses of Eyre Peninsula, both now and into the future. The perspective of the local leadership, which is represented through this committee, is incredibly important, and I urge the minister to engage with them. I also urge the government and SA Water to deliver this project in conjunction with the recommendations from the committee, as there is a risk that Eyre Peninsula will run out of water in the not too distant future. We need a project that is in the right location, that is of adequate size and that has community support.

The trade and investment department is an incredibly important one to our regions and our state, especially with the current challenging worldwide conditions in no small part due to COVID-19. With this in mind, I was surprised by the decision of the government to cut the plan to open a new trade office in Paris. During estimates, the minister highlighted:

Our annual merchandise exports to the EU are some \$980 million with our top three markets being Belgium, the Netherlands and then France, and our top exports being canola, wine and almonds.

Taking this into account, I was intrigued that the minister had decided that the best way to deal with these critical European Union markets was not through an EU member or mainland European office but through the existing trade office in London. I hope that this priority signal from the government does not put at risk these key export and trade markets across mainland Europe, which were highlighted by the minister through the estimates process.

During the estimates session with the Minister for Planning, I was again concerned with the words from the minister. He said that a significant proportion of the Planning and Development Fund was being allocated to deliver what he labelled as 'election commitments'. The Planning and Development Fund is put together with moneys that are collected from developers to develop open space across the whole state. It contributes to important programs such as the Places for People Grants, which is a competitive program able to be applied for by councils across the whole state which are looking at investing in strategic open space projects. With all these moneys now going to election commitments in target Labor seats, the rest of the state misses out.

Some of the questions we asked through the estimates process were left unanswered—many of them, indeed. The estimates process is the main opportunity that the opposition has to speak on behalf of their communities and to get real answers about what is in the budget. Going

through that process, it was highlighted to me very clearly that we need to make sure that we have a government that is accountable and transparent to our whole state.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:10):** I rise to speak on the estimates process, sadly from opposition. It was an interesting time, as has been discussed, where you try to get answers from the government. I am very privileged to be the shadow minister for veterans' affairs, emergency services and regional roads.

In regard to veterans affairs, it was good to quiz Minister Brock about what relationships the government is having with different sections of the veteran community. I certainly will be making sure that I interact with as many groups as possible, hopefully all the groups, involved with veterans affairs over time. It was good, as has been outlined in question time today, to interact with reservists and their employers at the Adelaide Oval last sitting week. We witnessed members of the Army doing a training exercise at Adelaide Oval and, as my brother used to say they were fully bombed up or kitted up with all the gear—vests, helmets, rifles, etc.

Some of the more interesting answers came during some of the emergency services questioning around MFS and CFS. When I was questioning the minister, the member for Cheltenham, around the new Metropolitan Fire Service pumpers that are coming online, he was espousing how great a Labor initiative they were. But I went back and checked because I was sure I was correct: these trucks were actually commissioned during the previous financial year under our government.

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** Yes, they will be delivered.

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** No, you have a look at the budget from 2021-22—

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** Order! The member has the call.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Twelve trucks—12 fire trucks were commissioned in that year. It got even more interesting when I asked where these trucks were manufactured. The minister said they were from a local manufacturer, which the member would know very well, which is Fraser. Fraser Engineering is based in New Zealand. They are built there. Yes, they have a servicing point here in Adelaide, but the trucks are built in New Zealand.

Also related to emergency services was the delivery of new fire trucks to the CFS, and I want to note that there were 63 vehicles that were commissioned under our government. They will be delivered later this year.

These involve nine quick attack vehicles, and they will be going to places such as Cherryville, Laura, Lower Inman Valley, Morgan, Norton Summit, Ashton, Port Victoria, Sellicks, Strathalbyn and Waitpinga. There are 10 type 1.4 tankers (1,000-litre tankers). They will be at Ashbourne, Bridgewater, Echunga, Greenock, Neales Flat, the State Training Centre, Streaky Bay, Swan Reach, Upper Sturt and Waitpinga. The minister made mention that he saw some smiles across the chamber. Well, the old Swan Reach 1.4 tanker was one I served on with some other people from the Mallee in the mopping up of the Kangaroo Island fires in early 2020.

There are 10 type 2.4 (2,000 litre) rescue tankers going to Cowell, Eudunda, Meadows, Mount Pleasant, Orroroo, Padthaway, Parndana, the State Training Centre, Williamstown and Wudinna. There are also 16 type 3.4 tankers (3,000-litre tankers) going to Angaston, Balaklava, Cadell, Coffin Bay, Eden Hills, Kapunda, Keith, Kimba, Littlehampton, McLaren Vale, Mil-Lel, Nairne, Owen, Port Broughton, Port Elliot and Tumbay Bay.

Then we get the big ones, the 12 type 4.4 (4,000 litre) tankers, going to Aldinga Beach, Brinkworth, Dublin, Haines, MacGillivray, Hamley Bridge, Lucindale, Roseworthy, the State Training Centre, Tailem Bend, Tintinara and Willalooka. There are five—I am not sure if they were in the mix.

*Mr Teague interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** There are 63 trucks, so they might have come through earlier. Five bolt water carriers are going to the Barossa, Caralue, Mid Murray, North Barossa and Victor Harbor, and a rescue vehicle is going to Lobethal—all commissioned under the previous Marshall Liberal government.

As I did during estimates, I will salute all the volunteers and all the administration staff involved in our emergency services. There are many thousands of volunteers. Just the CFS alone has around 13½ thousand. They do a great service to this state, and this country when they are asked to go interstate to fight fires. We must make sure that we keep them sustained and trained appropriately.

I want to pay tribute to chief officer Mark Jones, who is going home. I think I was at his first public event several years ago when he got here to Callington, opening a new training room at the Callington CFS shed. He had his wife, Liz, with him. There was an interesting break in proceedings. I wondered what the commotion was. There was a little lizard darting through the crowd in the room, which caused a little bit of delight amongst the crowd.

It is a tough gig heading up any of the emergency services, and I wish Mark well in his new posting back home in England. I note that during the estimates process, the minister said there will be not just a statewide look for the new chief officer but a national look, as well as an international look for the process going forward.

Another one of my portfolios is regional roads, and I note that the previous Marshall Liberal government worked on 4,800 kilometres of regional roads. There had been a huge backlog as so many regional roads were let go under the previous Labor government. They got rolled back to 100 km/h. That was the easiest thing to do when roads deteriorated—just take 10 kilometres off the speed limit. Some people might not think that is much. I know some of the academics especially say that it is safer at 100 km/h, but I do not know whether many academics are driving 60,000 to 100,000 kilometres a year, as country members do.

You need to get to places every day, every week of the year, apart from when you are here in parliament. For people from country communities, it makes a real difference to productivity. Yes, you have to be safe and you have to be aware, but the projects we instigated, especially across the eight roads that were stipulated in our time, are fantastic. I look at roads like the Ngarkat Highway and the Browns Well Highway between Loxton through to Pinnaroo and down to Bordertown—400 kilometres—and there is a 200-kilometre section of shoulder sealing. It is just fantastic work. They are roads that do not carry a lot of vehicles per day, only about 450 vehicles per day. They are road train routes and vital freight routes, especially for companies like Parilla potatoes at Parilla, which has new packing shed facilities that we assisted with a \$2 million Regional Growth Fund grant.

Another project that we put in our budget was to repair, upgrade and paint the Old Murray Bridge. We allocated \$36 million, and I soon noticed in the budget that there was an extra \$10 million going into that, so it is a \$46 million project. The Old Murray Bridge was finished in 1879, a long time ago, and it has been about 32 years since it was painted. There are a lot more environmental concerns about where those paint chips might go when you flick off the paint on the bridge. It reminds me of Ivan Venning, but that is another story. That was a great conversation in the house, but I do not have time to go into it, as it would take up the rest of my time. He had a little interaction with former Minister Conlon. I should get Ivan down there; he would probably save \$10 million on the bridge.

That project is much needed. There was a bit of a scare in the community that was perpetuated a little bit around the place: 'It's going to be terrible. The old bridge has to be shut down to one lane with lights and controllers on it for the traffic flow.' It is actually working brilliantly. I try to go over it every time I come in from Coomandook, and the longest I have waited is four minutes. They have done the stats, and it is somewhere around the 8,000 to 9,000 vehicle mark. About 500 more vehicles a day go over the Old Murray Bridge than the Swanport Bridge, which is obviously a heavy freight route through to Adelaide.

It is a great project and it is great to see it is well funded. We began it, and there is a lot of work going in to make sure that it is done properly. It is going to be 18-plus months in the making, but it is vital to keep that link route keeping Murray Bridge joined together. If it had been shut down,

with not having the bridge open, it would have been chaos for the community having to go out around Swanport Road, which is a 15-minute diversion, let alone having traffic banked up at the Princes Highway intersection out on the freeway.

I asked questions about the investigation of the South-East links into Adelaide. Multiple routes are being investigated there, so I applaud that. I note that our previous Liberal government alongside the previous federal government put huge amounts of money into projects, whether it was in the Hills or the Truro bypass up on the Sturt Highway. There was \$200 million put into the Sturt Highway and \$250 million was put into the Hahndorf roadworks to get trucks and heavy vehicles off the main street there.

I also note that there are ongoing investigations into the duplication of the Swanport Bridge, which has \$5 million allocated to it. That is sorely needed. That project is linked into the first five kilometres out of Taillem Bend heading south on the Dukes Highway, which involves a railway bridge. As part of the investigation in my questioning, that will be lifted and dual-laned to restart the duplication that has not happened for 40 years on the Dukes Highway.

I heard what was happening in the budget with the north-south connector route being delayed by the current Labor government by at least another year, well past the forward estimates. Major projects include the Dukes Highway, the Sturt Highway and certainly the Port Augusta Highway. The duplication that these roads need is expensive. Both the Sturt Highway and the Dukes Highway are \$3 billion each and they are both about the same length—about 190 to 200 kilometres. Those quotes will only go further north as time goes on. We certainly need to see that duplication for productivity into the future.

Another road I have had a little bit to do with for many decades is the Strzelecki Track, and I am hoping to get up there soon. I was up there a couple of years ago, and we instigated the sealing of Strzelecki Track. It is 472 kilometres. It is interesting that during question time—and I just missed what he said, and I thought he said something else—the member from West Torrens said it was a great Labor initiative. Stage I of the upgrade was completed in 2021, which was sections that included 84 kilometres. There are other stages of procurement going on and then planning for the last stages.

This is a vital connect route linking the south through to the Cooper Basin and pastoral lands there and not just that. If you are prepared to go up the dirt road on the Strzelecki Track as it is, you can head through to Queensland on bitumen now, on Adventure Way. Near Innamincka was being set up for bituminising two years ago, so that 30 kilometres between Innamincka and the Queensland border would be done, and from then on it is bitumen all the way to Brisbane. It is certainly good to see that work ongoing, and I certainly will not let the member from West Torrens take credit for it.

We need to make sure that we have plenty of money spent on regional roads. I did ask the Minister for Regional Roads what defined a regional road. I do not know whether someone thought I was setting a trap, but the member from West Torrens intervened and said they are all interconnected between urban and country. Yes, they do interconnect, but it is interesting that, when you go through the budget papers and look at what is defined as a regional road, it starts at Crafers, and I guess the other end would be just north of Gepps Cross, so there is a fair bit of the state serviced by regional roads under that definition.

I note that hundreds of millions of dollars have also been allocated to manage motorway projects and other projects on the freeway, which do need to be done. There is a bit of conversation at times about trucks on the freeway, but it is a freight route, and 40 per cent of the trucks that come down that freight route originate locally and are much needed—whether it is for bulky goods, food or other supplies—for people in the state.

Acknowledging that, it is amazing talking to people about how freight is going around the northern freight route, the northern bypass as it is called. Anything above a B-double—whether it is a B-triple, a B-quad, road train, two-trailer road train or in AB-double, which is essentially two long trailers and a short trailer—all have to go around the top. There are more companies doing that. Collins are running B-triples and other companies are running B-quads. Yes, it is further but there is more productivity per trip, so we need to make sure that we get all these upgrades done moving into the future.

I will certainly keep the government to account on what roads need to be upgraded back to 110 km/h. Many roads within 100 kilometres of Adelaide were downgraded during the time of the previous Labor government, and I look at roads around my way, whether it is roads linking Wellington through to Langhorne Creek and Strathalbyn, whether it is the link between Murray Bridge and Mannum, which will be very heavily used by the end of the year, when Thomas foods open up their meatworks there.

Getting back to emergency services, I note that another project in my electorate started by us, initiated by the member for Heysen, is the new SES shed in Strathalbyn, which is well underway. It was started under us. It will be finished in the not too distant future. It is a great service to the community.

We have some vital health needs in the area that need addressing area. One we have asked questions on in the house and made comment about is the emergency department at Strathalbyn. Yes, it is linked with aged care, but it must reopen to service not just people in Strathalbyn but also people from outer areas, whether it is Milang, Clayton or Langhorne Creek. We need to get it operating again for that community.

Another thing that both the member for Heysen and I are very keen on is to see where Kalimna is going. It was aged care, but the former Labor government basically kicked everyone out. It has been going through a long process—which we started—of evaluating what to do with this site. It needs to be a facility linked to the care of our older citizens. All members on this side are keeping a close eye on that because this was land that was bought by the local community through fundraising, as were the buildings on it. So there is lots to keep our eye on. It was an interesting estimates period.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (17:30):** I welcome the opportunity to speak more on the budget as part of the Appropriation Bill now that it has been through the estimates process. The estimates process gives all members of parliament, particularly those sitting on the committees, the opportunity to question various areas of the budget. I had the opportunity to sit in on the estimates committees involving the Premier, involving aspects of education via the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, as well as energy and mining, and finally questioning areas of the budget around defence and space.

As I said in my Appropriation Bill speech prior to estimates, I was really looking at investigating with more scrutiny areas revolving around the economy. I think I said in that speech that there was a lot of emphasis in the campaign from this government around health and not so much discussion around the drivers of what is going to grow the economy and support what is a significant spending budget that we have seen here.

Even before the election, you could see the economic headwinds coming out of COVID and the challenges involved around that as a result of the impacts on supply chains, and what those mean for inflation, and just changes in the workforce because of COVID. Since the election, certainly inflation has continued to surge and the cost of living has become really important. Added onto that is the war in Ukraine, which again is disrupting not only our supply chains but also cost of living, in terms of real issues around food and energy sources.

Inflation is surging. The March figures showed up at 5.1 per cent, and that is having a genuine impact on families and businesses in South Australia. The Reserve Bank in this environment are looking to increase interest rates to dampen inflation and get it back into the band they say is their target—that 2 per cent to 3 per cent band. We have seen the Federal Reserve in the US also lift interest rates very sharply. It is quite stark. Over probably nearly two decades, we have grown up with very low trending down interest rates; now they are jumping right up, and just today the Reserve Bank increased interest rates by half a per cent—by 500 basis points—and all that is impacting on businesses and families in South Australia.

There was not much in the budget for businesses in South Australia to help grow the economy. We know that growing the economy will help with those headwinds and it will help with continued employment because, of course, cost of living is a factor. Having employment is even more important to people to be able to pay their bills. Nothing I saw in the estimates process really changed my opinion on that at all.

Compare that with the previous four years of Liberal government, when there were structural initiatives to help with those cost-of-living costs—whether it be for household business, and I spoke previously about payroll tax and removing that for small business, with any business with a payroll under \$1.5 million not having to pay payroll tax; a reduction in the emergency services levy, that remission reintroduced to the order of around \$90 million per year; and also water rates, where changing the valuation of that asset base brought down a cost to households around \$200, with the cost to businesses even more and in the order of around \$1,300. These are all important measures which were put in place and which this budget takes advantage of, thankfully we say. But where is the next step? We do not see it.

I will talk a bit later in my contribution around electricity prices and the effect they are having on the cost of living. As I have said previously, the last four years of the Liberal government saw electricity prices come down by \$421 for the average electricity bill. Again, that is now starting to trend up, and that is really concerning. Those four years saw employment really take off, with over 41,300 jobs created in South Australia over the term. At the same time, the economy was able to make its way through very challenging conditions relating to COVID, to the point where, compared with other states—and it is fair to compare us with other states—we did have the fastest growing economy in the nation, at 3.9 per cent.

All this good work has put the budget in the position where, with all the headwinds that are faced, it gave strong GST receipts, increases in stamp duty receipts and increases in the mining space as well, which has gone some way to paying for \$3.1 billion of spending that is in this budget. Of that spending, I would like to take a little time to look into that. During the estimates process with the Premier, the leader asked questions around some of those spending programs. One of those, of course, is the grants to sporting clubs, how much was spent on those club grants and which electorates those grants found their way into.

In fact, it has been found that over \$84 million has been put towards these grants, and it has been said that they are election commitments. What was interesting around that is how much of that \$84 million found its way into the electorate of Morphett and how many sporting clubs in Morphett received that. The answer is zero dollars. This is shameful for the constituents of Morphett, seeing all that largesse with no consideration given to the sporting clubs in Morphett. In fact, an ABC analysis backs that up and shows that that is not uncommon for an electorate held by a Liberal member of parliament. The ABC analysis showed that, of the 72 sporting grants announced in the state budget, 69 were made to seats the Labor Party held or gained in the election, so no grants for Morphett.

In terms of the process around that, usually these grants have to be scrutinised by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, but they have confirmed that they have not assessed these \$84 million in grants for sports club upgrades; in fact, the normal processes have been bypassed. In election commitments, there are commitments made to various community clubs and to sporting organisations. Certainly, after the event it should be beholden on good governance that checks and balances are put in place that these grants can be of support to the club, that there is agreement from the landowner and the like; in fact, that was not the case here.

In terms of Glenelg, Glenelg East, Glenelg South, Glenelg North, Camden Park, Novar Gardens, Morphettville, Glengowrie and Park Holme, there is nothing for their clubs. They are not worthy of the attention of this government. It is a real missed opportunity and something that is disappointing for those clubs. Again, if I compare the previous four years of Liberal government, they were certainly not forgotten under the Liberal government.

Some transformative upgrades were made to some of the great local clubs in Morphett. As I mentioned before, there was money that went to the unisex change rooms at Morphettville Park Football Club. It is a fantastic club, and it has a fantastic women's football program and is one of the pioneers of women's football here in South Australia. The women are able to work and play alongside their male counterparts. That has really helped with numbers at the club and really helped with its success. In 2021, both the senior men and senior women won premierships in their divisions.

Another club that benefited from the former Liberal government was Glenelg Football Club. In conjunction with the federal government and the City of Holdfast Bay, they were provided with over \$480,000 towards a fantastic unisex change room that sits at the southern end of the football

club. That has been a fantastic addition to the club, which is growing in numbers. Its female football program is really benefiting from it.

I was at their club champion awards only a few weeks ago, and I congratulate Jess Bates on her fantastic season and winning the best and fairest for Glenelg for the second year in a row. The club spoke about what an absolute boost it has been for the whole female team to have those facilities right there. They were in a besser block building, which had one toilet and now with these new change rooms there are multiple toilets. The girls do not have to line up before a game, and they are really appreciative of that. They give credit to that in terms of what was again another fantastic year for them in the women's league.

Other clubs to benefit were PHOS Camden Netball Club, where money has been allocated to help them relocate to the same site as the PHOS Camden Football Club. They spent many years separated by Sturt Creek, away from each other. Now they are looking forward very soon to be joined up. Usually, the girls play netball there, with their brothers or sisters playing football, and now the parents can be at the one location.

That is some of the important funding which the former Liberal government provided and which is missing from Morphett in this budget, and the focus of budget for the constituents of Morphett is really chalk and cheese in comparison. It is certainly clear that this Malinauskas Labor government is not governing for all people in South Australia.

Previously, I spoke about some of the areas of my shadow ministry I am involved with. I did not get to speak so much about defence and space, so I take some opportunity to do that now. Defence and space are important economic sectors here in South Australia. We are known as the defence state, and it has really been a third pillar of our state's economy that has grown over the last century to take its place amongst energy and mining and also agriculture.

Closely aligned to that is space. There are massive opportunities in space because of the change in how space is able to be operated. Because of the miniaturisation, it has become much more amenable and available to commercial operators now. In fact, that is where a lot of the driving technology changes and innovation are occurring. Again, that really was a key focus of the former Liberal government, in terms of taking that opportunity for what is a new growth sector and making sure that South Australia leads the charge and be not only the nation's defence capital but also the nation's space capital.

In this budget, I see the good work of the former Liberal government just being taken on and not really added to. In fact, as I will get to in questioning, I have concerns around the appetite of this government to continue that momentum. We know that, while you can be at the forefront for a period of time, there are certainly other jurisdictions and other nations wanting to take our place.

I think the space sector is a fantastic opportunity for South Australia. We have Lot Fourteen, which is again a great initiative of the former Liberal government. It has attracted so many companies to South Australia, international companies bringing with them big, globally facing careers into South Australia. One of the key magnets of attraction in the Lot Fourteen precinct is the Australian Space Agency. That is really a credit to the fact that South Australia is seizing the opportunities in commercial space, hence the reason for its being located here. Of course, that is a government body, so it is there to regulate things, but having the expertise there attracts other like-minded businesses.

One of those businesses is Southern Launch and their ambition to perform a commercial launch in South Australia. They have done the test launch site at Koonibba, and they are looking to do space orbital launches from Whaler's Way in and around the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula. In estimates, we were able to find out that there are opportunities for launches to continue there. The Space Agency is waiting to give the permit for the next launch. A test launch was to be done there just before Christmas last year, so we are looking forward to that continuing.

Another great area of opportunity for South Australia is the Australian Space Park and what it could bring to South Australia. It would set up a Common User Facility co-located with some significant tenants; some are well known in South Australia and others have been attracted to what is going on here. Fleet Space Technologies is a fantastic South Australian success story. We also have Q-CTRL looking to set up here from New South Wales, which is a fantastic opportunity, as well as the other companies.

Again, from questioning the minister around what is going on there, it is not clear how fast they are moving. At the same time, yes, that Australian Space Park was able to take the opportunity of federal funding from the Modern Manufacturing Initiative but, likewise, New South Wales had a collaboration that was able to attract some federal funding from the Modern Manufacturing Initiative. Two space satellite manufacturing and space-related manufacturing facilities came out of that program. We want to make sure that South Australia retains its nation-leading status to continue to attract companies here. It is not clear that is the case.

Defence is also a really important area for South Australia, being the defence capital. There are some really good highlights during the 2021-22 year around the Collins submarines full cycle docking, the fact that the Boeing 737 deep maintenance facility will be located at Edinburgh, the continued full occupancy of the defence and space landing pad at Lot Fourteen and the ability to attract companies to set up a presence in South Australia in those two fields. Finally, there is the establishment of the South Australian nuclear-powered submarine task force to support what will be the Australian government's task force initiatives to really look into what is required to have maximum local industry content in South Australia for the nuclear-powered submarine program.

One of the key issues in relation to this program and also to the big shipbuilding program—in fact, all defence-related activities in South Australia—is around workforce, that is, attracting skilled workers to South Australia, retaining skilled workers and making sure they are not attracted to other adjacent industries. The challenge, which was clear from estimates, is the cuts and the efficiency dividends slated for non-frontline departments. This is where it is starting to hit home in areas which are vital to South Australia to grow its economy to be able to have a skilled workforce.

In the innovation industry and science department, under questioning to the minister it was revealed that there were cuts of \$11 million in this financial year but then there was uncertainty around what the cuts will be in the remaining out years of the budget. This \$11 million was out of a total department efficiency of \$20 million, then these department efficiencies continue on with about \$16.5 million targeted for 2025-26. So you can guesstimate—and the minister said, while not committing to anything—that that trend of cuts from \$11 million would probably flow through to those out years. It really begs the question: what emphasis is there on these workforce issues which are so important for making sure South Australia is still at the forefront?

Other questions revealed the minister has not yet met with her federal counterparts, the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Defence Industry, and I think there are concerns around the effort that is being put in to this department of space and defence. It is an important one for South Australia and it will certainly be my role to hold the minister to account in those areas.

*Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. S.C. Mullighan.*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (17:51):** Fear not, fellow members, I have changed my ways. We will not be here until 10pm. I just want to make a few concluding remarks on the Appropriation Bill. Can I thank the members for their contributions and their approach to the budget and the estimates process. It is always of interest to me to hear the way in which members across the chamber make contributions on the Appropriation Bill. We heard the member for Hammond and the member for Flinders reflecting on how the budget affects their electorates, and it has been similar with other members, and we have had ministers and shadow ministers who have made more particular remarks around portfolio areas that they have a keen interest in.

As I said when I introduced the bill to the house, it is clearly an important occasion for the government but an important line in the sand for the new Malinauskas Labor government committed to delivering all of our election commitments. I am very pleased that we have done that, trying to restore some confidence in the community in government, particularly after a trying last two years. I also want to thank all the staff who were involved in supporting the estimates process, in particular the staff from my department, the Department of Treasury and Finance, and also all the other agencies.

Can I thank the chamber staff, as well, and also Hansard and the whip. Thank you to everyone who made what is a very arduous process function as well as it did. I thank the members opposite as well as the chairs of the committees for managing the process quite well.

I want to make a few brief remarks on some of the issues that have been raised about the budget and briefly respond to them. As I said during question time, I find it absolutely fascinating that the opposition is choosing to spend its time criticising the government for keeping its election commitments, particularly keeping its election commitments to local communities. I also find it absolutely remarkable that the cheerleader in that respect is the member for Hartley. The member for Hartley made a contribution earlier today during the grievance debate where he criticised the government. I will paraphrase by saying that the election commitments, and I quote:

...bypassed a very strict standard assessment process for these grants. No third party laid eyes on these projects. There was absolutely no assessment undertaken—not by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, not by anyone. Instead, it was assessed by none other than the Labor Party before the election, and that is just not good enough. What is worse, members and ministers of this government hold positions of high authority at these clubs. Not only do they hold positions of high authority but they have been directly involved in making these decisions.

What is good for the goose is good for the gander, member for Hartley. Of course, the member for Hartley is an aspiring politician. Remember what Bob Hawke said about what it takes to be a successful politician: you need ambition, and you need talent, and certainly the member for Hartley is ambitious. He has committed exactly the offence with which he charges members of the government.

On his own Facebook page in January, there he is standing at one of the sporting clubs in the electorate of Hartley, to which he has a close affiliation, making a funding commitment. Then shortly after the election, in July 2018, he is standing with the former Premier, the member for Dunstan, and also the former member for Gibson, Corey Wingard, holding what purports to be a cheque. It is a large cheque with the official Government of South Australia logo on it, with the words 'Government of South Australia' in the official font and colour and typeface. It is a cheque to the amount of, and remarkably is signed by the member for Hartley and by Corey Wingard.

That is remarkable because these cheques, according to the member for Hartley's Facebook post, were for the Hectorville Sports and Community Club Incorporated and the Athelstone Football Club, or the Raggies, as he says they are known out there. It only takes a cursory look at the member for Hartley's declaration of interests to this place to point out that not only does he have affiliations with these organisations but he is the vice-patron of the Hectorville Football Club.

The member for Hartley comes in here criticising a vice-patron of a hockey club, which is not even located in my electorate, and there he is having done exactly the same thing—although not exactly the same thing; it is worse because he has purported to provide this organisation with a signed document that will confer the value of the money promised therein. He has given them a fake cheque—a fake cheque! To think that this person at that time was the Speaker of this place and then he was to be a minister of the Crown, and he is doling out fake cheques. Now I know where Rob Lucas got it from. It seems as though we have a party of counterfeiters. It is absolutely extraordinary.

I know we can be unkind to the member for Hartley, and there are all sorts of uncomplimentary references to memories of goldfish and all that sort of thing, but perhaps the member for Hartley could reflect on his own behaviour before he comes into this place or goes out to the media and starts casting aspersions on the character of other members. He could think very carefully about his own behaviour in this regard. That is the first thing.

The Minister for Health has pointed out the extraordinary front of those opposite and the crocodile tears over the efforts made to repair the health system. Remember, we had all the promises in the world before the 2018 election. There was all of the criticism of the former Labor government and that they were going to fix it. What did we see in the first budget? More than \$40 million of additional cuts to the health department, beds closed.

While facilities were expanded, they were expanded at the cost of beds, exacerbating the situation and leading to some of the circumstances that we find ourselves in now. So what did we do? We came forward with the budget this year to put \$2.4 billion of additional resources into our health system—not a bit more or a lot more, but an exponential increase on what had previously been provided by way of new budget investment in previous budgets.

Those opposite spend their question time saying, 'Health is a problem. What are you doing about health?' The problem with the opposition is that they are struggling to find their line and length

in opposition. To use a cricket analogy, it is like seeing someone with the accuracy of Shaun Tait bowling at the speed of Nathan Lyon: it is all over the place and, as we have seen to date, there is no wonder they are getting so little traction. That is not to say that those opposite sometimes do not raise important and valid points about how money is being spent and where it is being spent.

Given how often they tell the house—and I genuinely believe them—I am sure that those opposite care about the initiatives, programs and investments that have been made in their local communities, whether it is metro or regional, or programs that have been provided more broadly in government, they should be very pleased that this government is almost without exception continuing all those investments and doing more on top of that. The member for Morphett is right: we have had the capacity to do that. We have had the capacity to deliver all our election commitments and do more because we have had greater capacity due to increasing revenues, and that is a good thing.

Not only are we implementing our election agenda but we are not trashing the programs and initiatives put in place by the previous government. We are making savings, absolutely, because again like the commitments we made to local communities, they are our election commitments. If you are going to spend money in one place, you cannot assume that there will always be a flood and a deluge of additional revenue coming into the budget to enable that to happen. If you are going to spend more in one area, you have to make savings elsewhere, and that is the discipline of government.

The previous government had a policy of running an ongoing efficiency dividend in agencies, and of course there will be discussions about what the right quantum of that is, but that is an appropriate thing to do because it places pressure, not just on agencies but on ministers and the cabinet, to constantly re-evaluate their spending. If they want to spend more money on a new program or a new project, something that has not previously been funded, then we have to look at what is already being funded in government to see if efficiencies can be made.

That is appropriate budget management. I have to say once again: spare us the crocodile tears about the extent of some of the savings being sought in this budget. Those opposite, including those who sat in cabinet when these decisions were being made, when budgets were being decided and budgets were being presented to this house, do not have a leg to stand on. The quantum of savings those opposite promised and sought in their budgets, particularly in the first and the second budget after the 2018 election, were vastly above what we have outlined today.

The Leader of the Opposition complained about efficiencies in the environment department. Last financial year, he sought more than \$16 million in that year of new savings from his agency. Do not take my word for it; it is in the budget papers: Budget Paper 3, 2018-19 budget savings. It is there. PIRSA complained about savings in the primary industries department. They must be *Star Wars* fans over there because it was lightsabers at 10 paces when it came to the PIRSA budget under the former Liberal government.

While we have quarantined areas like health, education, emergency services, courts, TAFE and police from savings, you cannot say that was the approach of those opposite. They did not mind if they were frontline service delivery agencies or central agencies; they waded into all of them looking for savings. We are in a very different point in our state's progress with a different government that has different priorities.

We will not be administering the budget in the same way that they did, remarkably taking the axe to agency budgets while at the same time doubling the state's debt before the pandemic and then increasing it even further in response to the pandemic, running record budget deficits not because of the stimulus program but because of sloppy financial management.

You cannot tell me, Mr Speaker, that those opposite can justify a \$20 billion increase in the state's debt position while trumpeting that their economic stimulus program was worth only \$4 billion. Where is the other \$16 billion? I tell you what: it is not in further improvements to the north-south corridor and it is not in improvements to those regional roads, which the member for Hammond quite rightly pointed out are priorities for the state, because those projects largely have not been underway or completed let alone delivered.

That means the former Liberal government racked up debt through sloppy financial management, running deficits, cranking up the debt, and South Australians have been left nothing—nothing—to show for it. This is a good budget. I commend it to the house and I appreciate the support of all members.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (18:05):** I move:

That the remainder of the bill be agreed to.

Motion carried.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (18:05):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

At 18:06 the house adjourned until Wednesday 6 July 2022 at 10:30.