

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### Thursday, 8 September 2022

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

**The SPEAKER:** Honourable members, we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: PATAWALONGA SOUTH GATES UPGRADE**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:01):** I move:

That the second report of the committee for the Fifty-Fifth Parliament, entitled Patawalonga South Gates Upgrade, be noted.

The proposed works are the upgrade of the south gates in the Patawalonga Lake system located in Glenelg North. These gates retain the water level within the lake system and keep the natural banks submerged. They maintain water quality and support marine life whilst allowing recreational use of the water and safe harbour of boats and other vessels. The original south gates structure was built in the 1950s and consisted of five gates and a lock. Since that time, a number of additional works have been completed.

The current eight gates are made from steel that shows signs of corrosion, and the deterioration will continue over time. Due to the south gates' poor condition, most of the operating budget goes to the repair of breakdowns, which limits the funds available for preventative maintenance. The proposed works will replace the five gates in the worst condition as well as install electrical panels, a new drive train and local control to all gates.

It is clear that a healthy, functional lake system is vital to the quality of life of residents. Upgraded gates would benefit not only these residents but also the many tourists and visitors who enjoy the iconic shoreline all year round. Proper functioning of the south gates is therefore needed to support the short and long-term economic interests of the region and the state.

The overarching goals of these public works are the efficient management of stormwater and the maintenance of a safe and healthy lake system. This project will protect the health of this ecosystem well into the future and minimise the threat of flooding to surrounding suburbs. It presents a long-term, cost-effective and operationally efficient solution for the Department for Environment and Water. The estimated capital cost of the south gates upgrade is \$6.1 million. Construction is scheduled to commence in December 2022, with the work completed in June 2023.

The Public Works Committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Patawalonga south gates upgrade. The committee is satisfied that the proposal has been subject to the appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for examination of projects as set out in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Based upon the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (11:04):** I also take the opportunity in parliament today to speak about this important report from the Public Works Committee regarding the Patawalonga south gates upgrade. These gates are the southern gates in the Patawalonga Lake system, which is in Glenelg North, which is of course in the electorate of Morphett. It involves replacing five of the weir gates.

It is very important not only to those in the Glenelg North community but to Glenelg as well. They probably see it importantly as a key linkage between the Glenelg North peninsula and the busy Glenelg Jetty Road precinct. It provides a walkway between these two great communities, really connecting them together. As I said, it is about a kilometre north of Jetty Road, which of course many people like to visit, especially on the weekend.

Additionally, you have the fantastic Coast Park throughout most of our metropolitan beaches and certainly through the electorate of Morphett, going from Somerton Park, all the way through Glenelg and up to Glenelg North. Many people on their walks or runs or even rides use this walkway made by the weir gates. If that weir gate or the connector were not there, the other option would have to be to go along the Patawalonga Lake system and over the Michael Herbert Bridge, so you can see how important it is. That adds kilometres onto the trip, and I will touch on that a little bit later in my submission.

Fundamentally, what this upgrade will be about is the health of the Patawalonga Lake system and also flood mitigation to help protect many of the surrounding houses. Before the weir was built, certainly in pre-European settlement days, the Patawalonga itself was, of course, an estuary. In fact, it was the first place where the initial fleet that came here—the *Buffalo* and the *Cygnets*—located fresh water as they went up the coast. Looking for that, they saw the Patawalonga outlet and realised that there was fresh water here and a potential settlement, which then became Adelaide.

So, from that perspective, at that time it was an estuary surrounded by a lot of sand dunes, which then made its way back through swamps, effectively, to firmer land. In fact, the Old Gum Tree, where we have our Proclamation Day ceremony and where the colony of South Australia was proclaimed, is a fair way inland and the trip was made there following the Patawalonga along into what is now Sturt Creek.

You can see it is a key freshwater system or estuary system and it is in fact really the drain of a lot of our creeks from the Adelaide Hills. We talk about the Adelaide Hills as being a big green island. Of course, that rain has to go somewhere and the way that a lot of those creeks work is that they make their way out to sea via this Patawalonga Lake system.

There are two important tributaries. Brownhill Creek starts in Mitcham. Many will see it as it goes through Unley and down along past Sir Donald Bradman Drive and along the airport. Many will see that creek, or what is really now a big cement drain, make its way along Sir Donald Bradman Drive and along Tapleys Hill Road, before meeting the Patawalonga Lake system near the Glenelg baseball fields.

Joining the Patawalonga system at the same point as another important creek system is the Sturt Creek. It starts its journey in the Hills and then makes its way through my electorate, going through Morphettville, Glengowrie and then Glenelg North. Sturt Creek itself is now lined with concrete, so it effectively allows for a rapid movement of water, which is good to keep water flooding at other points in the Sturt Creek but means that it makes its way into Glenelg quite quickly, which sees a large body of water make its way into the Patawalonga Lake system, meaning there is the very real risk that flooding can occur.

As I said, it was initially an estuary. The storms in 1948, which saw those famous pictures of the Glenelg jetty being destroyed and also significant coastal damage, were the impetus for the weir gate to be set up to help protect this lake system and the coastline, which resulted in the weir gate system being opened in the 1960s. Since then, it has been doing its job, really keeping the Patawalonga Lake levels up, otherwise it would be much more dependent on natural rainfall.

Before these weir gates, one of the other aspects of being able to raise these lake levels is that it also covers the natural riverbanks, which were a source of what was quite an offensive smell, according to reports at the time, so it is another important reason for making sure that these lock gates are maintained to help mitigate those issues. The net result of these elevated wall levels is a terrific amenity for the local community, with wide paths right around the Patawalonga, and it also allows kayaking to occur. In fact, local dolphins make their way up there as well, so there are certainly some spectacular sites in the Patawalonga, so it is very important to the community.

The lake system operates as a tidal system. As the high tide of the ocean occurs, the weir gates are lifted, which allows water to come into the lakes, and then the gates can be closed. On a low tide, through the Barcoo Outlet, it allows for a lower tide and the water to then flow back out again. That keeps it functioning on a day-to-day system. You can see that these weir gates are used not just as a one-off; they are actually used on a regular basis, so their maintenance is important. Unfortunately, a lot of the maintenance at the moment is just repairing rather than preventative. The upgrades for these gates is much welcomed.

I will quickly talk about flooding to show the impacts of flooding. In 2003, there was significant flooding around the Patawalonga because of maintenance issues with the weir gates. It ran into the millions of dollars; some reports have it upwards towards \$20 million of damage. The necessity that these weir gates operate effectively you can see and the impact it can have on the surrounding Glenelg North householders.

More recently, in September 2016, a potential big flooding event there coincided with a king tide, which is quite often the case when there are storms and tide lift. As I have explained before, to get water out of the system we need to make sure the water levels in the lake are higher than those at sea. A king tide reverses that. In fact, the water coming down the Sturt Creek was coming at a rapid pace at the same time as a king tide. Luckily, it ebbed at the right time, within an hour or two, otherwise flooding would have occurred. So you can see how important it is that these gates are functional at all times.

If I can touch on the work to be done, it really is important that it be done, and it is welcomed. I was able to present to the committee to make sure that the community is consulted about this. The walkway is important. I emphasised the need to have a temporary walkway for the pedestrianisation to connect the two communities while this is occurring. I believe that to be the case. Importantly, also, those at the lock at the Patawalonga, which allows commercial operators to go in and out, need to be able to continue, so consultation needs to be done with those business operators while cranes are being used to put in place the gates to make sure they can still operate their business, which is really important.

This upgrade is much welcomed. It is \$7 million, and that funding is coming from the \$4 billion COVID stimulus package provided by the Marshall Liberal government. This project is an important project set up and put underway by the former Marshall Liberal government. It is going to be much welcomed by the community. I am happy that it has been recommended to continue by the committee.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:14):** I just briefly want to make a correction. It was remiss of me not to point out that member for Morphett had attended the committee hearing on behalf of his local constituents and expressed his support for the project. I want to thank him for coming, and I want to thank the members of the committee for their deliberations.

Motion carried.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE: SCHOOL FUNDING PETITION**

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (11:15):** I move:

That the report of the Legislative Review Committee, entitled 'Report on House of Assembly petition No. 96 of 2021—school and preschool funding for children and students with additional needs', be noted.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S UPGRADE SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:15):** I move:

That the third report of the Public Works Committee, entitled Women's and Children's Hospital Upgrade Sustainment Program—Addendum, be noted.

The Women's and Children's Hospital is the leading provider of care for children and birthing women in South Australia. It is also the main referral centre for complex paediatric surgical conditions for South Australia, the Northern Territory and various regional centres in Victoria and New South Wales.

Each year, more than 30,000 people are admitted and some 5,000 babies are born at the hospital. In addition, more than 250,000 people come to the hospital as outpatients.

The Women's and Children's Hospital Upgrade Sustainment Program was first presented to the committee and reported to this house in December 2018. The original scope of these works has been delivered on site over the past three years and was completed in May 2022. However, since the commencement of the original works, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the health needs of South Australians. This includes a significant increase in the demand for the paediatric emergency department and intensive care units.

In response, scope variations to the upgrade sustainment program were proposed by the Women's and Children's Health Network and approved by the then government in December 2021. Two of these variations include proposals for public works.

The first proposal is a clinical upgrade of the hospital's adolescent ward, which in recent years has seen a consequential change in patient demographics, along with a rise in eating disorders and challenging patient behaviour. Currently, staff efforts to de-escalate situations and interact positively with patients are hindered by a lack of space. New multipurpose rooms are proposed to offer space for de-escalation, education and meetings. A larger and dedicated dining room is also planned, with food preparation facilities suitable for those with eating disorders.

The second public works proposal relates to the partial relocation and expansion of the paediatric emergency department. The relocation of the administration unit within the department will provide improved printing and reception areas, ergonomic design and audiovisual capability, as well as a dedicated staff kitchen and breakout area. An expansion of the existing emergency extended care unit and fast-track treatment areas will provide 10 new treatment spaces with dedicated toilet accommodation, positive flow to minimise infection and transmission of airborne viruses, and improved accommodation in line with modern, contemporary models of care.

The Women's and Children's Health Network worked with key stakeholders and clinical staff to develop these scope variations. Given their scope and urgency, it was determined that fit-out works can be most effectively delivered using existing hospital sustainment works contracts managed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. This approach will make use of established stakeholder relationships and systems knowledge, fast-track the completion of design and construction works, appropriately manage risk and reduce the administration burden of multiple contracts.

Quarterly updates on the progress of these public works will be provided to the committee through the Department for Health and Wellbeing from September 2022 onwards. The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the addendum to the Women's and Children's Hospital Upgrade Sustainment Program, including receiving oral evidence from Mr Brandan Hewitt, Executive Director of Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Mr Chris Hamer, Project Team Leader of Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Mr Phil Robinson, Executive Director of Corporate Services for Women's and Children's Health Network; and Mr Gary Hazel, Studio Director at GHDWoodhead.

The committee is satisfied that the proposal has been subject to the appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for examination of projects as set out in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:19):** I would like to thank the member for Florey for giving a pretty good summary of what we heard in Public Works just this week. I would like to make a few contributions to this important report, which outlines all the sustainment works that happened, of course, under the Marshall Liberal government.

We did have a very comprehensive plan when it came to upgrading the Women's and Children's Hospital. The reason we did was that we simply could not allow the current Women's and Children's Hospital site to go to rack and ruin whilst we were forging ahead with our plan to build the new Women's and Children's Hospital. I would like to touch on our commitment to the new Women's

and Children's Hospital because it is going to be a really critical piece of infrastructure that we build here in South Australia.

The sustainment works that were completed were done in two stages, as the member for Florey has outlined: an initial block and then a second block, which was ticked off by the former Liberal government in December last year. It was worth a whopping \$83 million, which is quite remarkable, and followed upgrades to the mental health ward, theatre suites, the ED and neonatal nurseries, as well as engineering and ICT infrastructure upgrades over the last four years.

I would like to put on the record a couple of things that, from my perspective, have provided exceptional service to the women and children who use the Women's and Children's Hospital and what they got out of the \$83 million sustainment works:

- we created an outdoor space and high dependency area for the Mallee Ward;
- we expanded the treatment space of the neonatal nursery to provide better access for families and staff;
- we improved the triage area;
- we added dedicated mental health assessment spaces and three multipurpose consultation spaces for the paediatric emergency department;
- additional doctors, nurses and mental health staff were recruited to improve access and flow, which really did have a notable impact;
- additional medical staff were recruited to support peak demand and provide a seven-day service during the evening—of course, it will not come as a shock to this house that the evenings are very much the busiest time for the ED;
- we refurbished operating theatres;
- we upgraded adolescent wards;
- we upgraded biomedical equipment; and
- additional nurses and medical resources were allocated to the Michael Rice Centre for Oncology.

We had really positive feedback from the families who received such services, and it was a fantastic investment by the former Liberal government.

As I mentioned, we had two stages of sustainment works, and there is a question mark over whether a tranche 3 will be required because, as members may be aware, the current government has put the delivery of the new Women's and Children's Hospital on ice. What we should be seeing on the Women's and Children's Hospital site now is shovels on the ground preparing for construction—which, under the former government, was ready to rock and roll in the later part of this year.

Not only is there a delay in the construction but we also do not know when it will start and therefore we have no idea when it will be finished. We specifically asked at the Public Works Committee this week whether SA Health, and indeed the government, foresees a need for additional money to be injected into the current Women's and Children's Hospital. Much like the former government's absolute commitment to ensuring that the current Women's and Children's Hospital site does not go to rack and ruin, we expect that same level of dedication from this government to ensure that the Women's and Children's Hospital site maintains a quality standard of care for women and children in South Australia.

We certainly look forward to getting updated quarterly about the progress made on the sustainment works, and I would certainly like to add my support, again, to all the work that the Marshall Liberal government did in this space.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:24):** I want to take this opportunity to thank the member for Schubert for her contribution.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR DARLINGTON UPGRADE PROJECT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:25):** I move:

That the fourth report of the committee, entitled 'An inquiry into the north-south corridor—Torrens to Darlington tunnels', be noted.

On 4 November 2021, the Public Works Committee resolved to inquire and report into the impact of the Torrens to Darlington (otherwise known as T2D) phase of the larger north-south corridor project aimed at addressing traffic congestion. The inquiry received 17 written submissions from property owners, community groups, local residents, academics and the South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport, also known as DIT.

On 16 December 2021, 15 witnesses appeared at a public hearing at Old Parliament House held in conjunction with another inquiry on intersection works and compulsory acquisition. Although there have been significant developments in the Torrens to Darlington phase of the north-south corridor project this year, the report examined evidence provided in November and December 2021.

The proposed reference design at the time incorporated the combination of tunnels, lowered and ground-level motorways, as well as overpasses and underpasses at key intersections. As such, the report presents a snapshot of the project at a specific point in time.

The previous committee of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament launched this inquiry to evaluate the effectiveness of DIT's processes and consider their impacts on the community. It found that the department's handling of the T2D project created confusion, anxiety and doubt in the community, and undermined trust between the public and the state government.

The inquiry focused heavily on the compulsory acquisition process. The committee heard that 393 residential, commercial, industrial, local government and state government properties would be acquired for the T2D project. At the time of the inquiry, property owners had only recently received their notifications and the process had not progressed to the valuation stage.

The committee heard that residents and business owners received inadequate explanation of the rationale used to select properties for compulsory acquisition. Witnesses and submitters provided evidence of one or two homes left to remain standing on streets or entire blocks while all other properties were to be acquired. The remaining home owners expressed significant anxiety over diminished property values and reduced rental incomes.

Those issued with notifications of acquisition expressed great concern with DIT's methodology for calculating fair compensation payments given recent movements in the real estate market. Home owners worried their payments would be too low to purchase like-for-like homes in the same areas, making it difficult to remain close to their schools, family and community.

The T2D project's lengthy time line had the potential to result in unfair compensation for home owners, considering that the period between valuation and acquisition could be years. This report provides an opportunity for DIT to implement cultural change in their interactions with the public. The committee heard evidence of a mismanaged communications process, with some residents first hearing about key project information from the media, not receiving responses to their inquiries, or signing up for distribution lists that never provided project updates.

DIT handpicked community and business reference groups to inform the reference design but failed to provide adequate information that would have vested them with agency. A major complaint consistently voiced was that DIT withheld the reference design from the reference groups and the public until all the property owners impacted by the compulsory acquisitions process had been notified.

Witnesses and submitters, with little opportunity to voice objections or agency to change the design, felt the consultation process was a pointless fait accompli. The inquiry also evaluated the alignment and position of the tunnel exits and entrances, also known as portals. DIT proposed these for Clovelly Park and Glandore for the southern tunnel and Hilton and Torrensville for the northern

tunnel. The committee heard community objections to building the portals in these locations, considering the risk they posed to important and longstanding community organisations, such as the Torrensville Bowling Club and the Black Forest Scout Hall.

Overall, the committee examined evidence from an uncertain community fearful of leaving their neighbourhoods behind or staying to face prolonged disruption to their lives. The inquiry found that DIT exacerbated stressful situations by mismanaging their public engagement and consultation process and withholding information from the community.

The committee makes 13 recommendations to improve DIT's communication processes: promote genuine consultation on all DIT projects, ensure property owners will not be disadvantaged by long time lines, prioritise community input and enshrine greater clarity in the Land Acquisition Act 1969.

On behalf of the majority of the committee, I would like to thank the property owners, community groups, resident DIT staff and the Hon. John Darley for his valuable perspective as a former Valuer-General of South Australia. I would also like to highlight the contribution of the member for Badcoe for independently surveying her electorate with the inquiry's terms of reference. I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to the members of the previous Public Works Committee in the Fifty-Fourth Parliament for their work on the inquiry.

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (11:30):** What can I say? This particular project is nation-building infrastructure. There is a golden opportunity for this government to complete the north-south corridor to make sure that the people of the south and the south-west can get to where they want to go as soon as possible—whether it is to work or whether it is to spend time with their families. Instead, what do we have? We have a government that has sat on its hands for far too long in relation to this project.

We know that this is nation-building infrastructure. We know that this particular part of the north-south corridor is the most complex part of the north-south corridor, and that is why this government has left it far too long to do something about it. We know that independent bodies like Infrastructure South Australia and Infrastructure Australia had this project locked and loaded, ready to go and gave it the tick of approval.

The only thing that changed was the government of the day and the minister of the day. Unfortunately, the government sees fit to continue to tinker around the edges and change the design of the final part of the north-south corridor. We know that every single time you do something like this, what happens is the price goes up. The former government had half the cost factored in by our government and the other half by the federal government.

We know, unfortunately, given the shortage in supplies of material and also labour, that this project continues to blow out, both from a time point of view and a budget point of view. We are calling on the government to get on with the job and finish this project. My learned friend the member for Florey talks a little bit about anxiety. What does not help anxiety is continuing to sit on your hands, continuing to not make a decision, continuing to not issue the tender, continuing to keep people in the dark—whether it is commuters, who want to know what is going on, or whether it is businesses, who are already doing it tough out there, that do not know whether they are going to have a lease in the next year or two, or if they will have a business in the next year or two and, of course, residents.

We know that property prices have continued to rise and hold their value. Quite frankly, unless the government come to the table and get on with this job and communicates with these residents—where are these residents going to go? We know that over 390 properties have already been acquired to facilitate this project. We understand that you have to crack an egg to make an omelette, but the government need to get on with this. They cannot continue to delay this project, because what we are seeing at the moment is too much panic, too much anxiety.

What did the government do? As soon as they came in, the executive director of the project, a lady I have enormous respect for who has world-leading expertise, was obviously sacked from the project. The CEO of DIT was, of course, also moved on. That is a real shame because we know that there was a whole range of corporate knowledge that those two individuals had and that has been

thrown out the window. That has not assisted with certainty and getting on with this project in an expeditious manner.

This is nation-building infrastructure, and the government has to get on with the job of delivering this project so that residents have certainty, so that businesses have certainty and so that commuters know what is going on. Anyone who has been alongside that part of South Road knows that the delays are far too extensive at the moment.

There is a way to fix it, and that is by completing the north-south corridor that, once completed, will lead to an over 70-kilometre stretch of continuous motorway. It will be nation-leading infrastructure and the government has to get on with finishing the job. We say end the unnecessary delays in the project, end the unjustified and unnecessary movement of staff and end the cost blowouts—get on with it and fix it.

The member for Schubert and I have made some comments in dissent of the majority. It is important that the minority is not smothered by the majority. It is really important for this state that we have a strong opposition. That is why the member for Schubert and I will continue on this committee to hold the government to account to make sure that they make good decisions in the best interests of all South Australians.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:35):** I thank the member for Hartley for his contribution to the process and also acknowledge that he was kind enough to circulate his minority report out of time rather than just tabling it.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: INTERSECTION WORKS AND COMPULSORY ACQUISITION**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:35):** I move:

That the fifth report of the Public Works Committee, entitled An Inquiry into the Intersection Works and Compulsory Acquisition, be noted.

On 14 October 2021, the Public Works Committee resolved to inquire and report into the impact of five intersection upgrades on residents and business owners, focusing on the compulsory acquisition of property by the state government. The specific projects were:

- the intersection of Cross and Fullarton roads;
- the Glen Osmond Road-Fullarton Road intersection upgrade;
- the Main North Road-Nottage Terrace junction upgrade;
- the Mitcham Hills corridor-Old Belair Road upgrade; and
- the Portrush Road-Magill Road intersection.

The inquiry received 38 written submissions from home owners, businesses, community groups, academics and the South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). On 16 December 2021, 15 witnesses appeared at a public hearing in Old Parliament House. The committee heard evidence from those directly involved in the compulsory acquisition process, those affected by demolition of acquired properties and those impacted by intersection work projects.

Witnesses and submitters highlighted a range of issues specific to each of the projects. The removal of the Urrbrae Gatehouse was the key issue raised regarding the Cross Road-Fullarton Road intersection upgrade. Major issues for the Glen Osmond Road-Fullarton Road upgrade included the removal of right turns by the Arkaba Hotel, the redirection of traffic down side streets and the lack of bicycle infrastructure.

The Main North Road-Nottage Terrace junction upgrade received minimal responses from the public. The problems stemming from the proposed installation of a roundabout and slip lane at the intersection of Old Belair Road and James Road were the biggest design issues for this upgrade. The committee makes 13 recommendations to improve fairness, enhance transparency, provide more accurate compensation, boost communication, mitigate against financial loss and deliver a true process of community consultation.



The inquiry shone a light on the compulsory acquisition system, its implementation and its effects on the community. It highlighted a flawed process that disadvantaged home and business owners. The report found that home and business owners struggled to locate similar premises in the same neighbourhoods with compensation payments that did not always reflect market value. The committee heard compelling evidence from owners of neighbouring homes, whose properties decreased in value due to new positions on corners or main roads or who suffered from increased noise from the removal of sound buffers.

The inquiry unearthed further financial issues. Home and business owners could only access compensation after vacating the premises, leaving them exposed to financial outlays prior to moving. The committee also heard that DIT paid the stamp duty on a home owner's next property only if purchased in the ensuing 12 months. Factors such as property prices, competing purchasers and inability to locate an appropriate property to suit their needs could push a property owner beyond this time limit and cause them significant financial loss.

DIT's community engagement processes damaged the relationship between government and the public. Witnesses and submitters consistently criticised the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for failing to engage in a process of true consultation. The committee heard evidence of home and business owners providing feedback that went nowhere, requesting key project information, such as traffic data, to no avail and receiving no response to their questions. Residents and community felt disengaged from a process where decisions seemed to be made regardless of their input.

An important outcome was recognising that South Australian businesses were comparatively disadvantaged under the compulsory acquisition process due to their complex situations. This report provides an opportunity to help the business community by working with those affected by compulsory acquisitions and learning from their experiences.

Overall, the committee encountered residents and business owners doing their best to navigate a complex process under enormous stress. Adopting the committee's recommendations should improve fairness, enhance transparency, alleviate financial burdens and mend the relationship between the government and the community.

Giving communities and individuals a voice was an integral part of this inquiry. On behalf of the committee, I would like to extend my gratitude to the individuals, businesses, community groups and organisations who took the time to submit evidence to the inquiry. The committee commends them for their admirable resilience and strength of spirit. I thank the witnesses and the members of the public gallery who travelled to Parliament House to attend the hearing. I particularly highlight Dr Yengin from the University of Adelaide whose research contributed greatly to the report's findings. I also thank the members of the previous Public Works Committee in the Fifty-Fourth Parliament for their work on the inquiry.

Motion carried.

### *Bills*

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEFAULTING COUNCIL) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 7 September 2022.)

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:42):** I rise in support today of the Local Government (Defaulting Council) Amendment Bill. This is something that is close to my heart, given I represent the unique community of Coober Pedy. As members would be aware, the previous government had moved the council into administration, I think back in January 2019, and it had the full support of the opposition at the time. The process to move the council into administration started under the Weatherill government with the investigation by the Ombudsman and subsequently the Auditor-General. The Ombudsman's findings you would have to describe as damning when he said—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**Mr HUGHES:** Yes. He identified serious failings and irregularities, and he went on to say that it was the most serious example of maladministration that the Ombudsman had seen at the time. So we are talking about a serious set of circumstances that led the Coober Pedy council to be placed into administration. As the local member, I was not pre-empting processes, but much earlier than the proclamation about administration ABC radio asked me a very direct question one day about whether the Coober Pedy council should be sacked. I thought I would give a very straight answer to what was a very straight question. I said, 'Yes, the Coober Pedy council should be sacked.'

Two weeks after that, I was up in Coober Pedy and the council wanted to meet with me. I had a very long meeting with the council, and it was a good meeting. It had a bit of a frosty start maybe, but it was a good meeting because I have always had some real sympathy for the position that the Coober Pedy council, notwithstanding its faults, and the community found themselves in. We are talking about a remote community. We are talking about revolving-door CEOs of variable quality, revolving-door senior officers, a whole bunch of mayors over a relatively short period of time and a very small rate base, so there were a number of things going on in Coober Pedy.

When you look at the socio-economic status of Coober Pedy, it paints a difficult picture. The median weekly income in Coober Pedy is \$498 compared with the state median personal income of \$734. When you look at household income in Coober Pedy, the median is \$764 compared with a median in the state of \$1,455. So here we have a combination of a whole set of circumstances: a low rate base, socio-economic disadvantage, revolving-door CEOs and the constant difficulty remote communities have when it comes to getting people of sufficient calibre to assist them to meet the challenges they have.

We ended up appointing Tim Jackson as the administrator. Subsequently, this chamber went into administration for a year, which is what happened under the Local Government Act, and we had to amend that again to extend. What we are doing here is to extend still further. It might not go out to 2026 if we can resolve some of the issues that are faced but, given that sort of picture I have painted of Coober Pedy, we are expecting that remote community, with all these challenges, to do something that other councils throughout the state do not do: not just provide basic municipal services but also provide essential services.

They provide water. The saline water is accessed from an aquifer, pumped to Coober Pedy to a desal plant and then distributed with what might be called a unique distribution system. I think it is a credit to the workforce that they have managed to keep this sort of running over the years, despite the lack of sufficient resources at various times.

The other thing they are expected to do is provide the distribution network for electricity and the retail element of electricity, and there have been failings in both areas. As an electricity retailer, they are not able to smear hardship provisions over a big customer base. There were people in that community on really low incomes often owing up to \$10,000 in unpaid electricity tariffs, and you can imagine living in Coober Pedy: heat in summer and very cold in winter, so there are some real challenges.

I have had a very basic line that has pre-empted any government position or any cabinet position. I have had it for a long time now, and they can listen to me or not listen to me: Coober Pedy has to be shrunk. The council has to be shrunk to basic municipal services. The water supply and distribution need to be outsourced, and my preference would be for SA Water to pick up that responsibility because SA Water pick up that responsibility nearly throughout regional South Australia.

There has always been an important principle at work when it comes to the supply of water to regional communities, and that is equitable pricing, so that someone in Ceduna pays the same amount of money for their water as somebody in Adelaide. If SA Water do take over in Coober Pedy, that principle should be applied to Coober Pedy, just as we do with electricity.

I do recall as a candidate in 2013 for the 2014 election having a very dim view of one of the Labor ministers, Michael O'Brien, who cut the subsidy to remote communities when it came to electricity. The impact that had was dire, so as a newly minted candidate I got Labor to reverse that cut. To add insult to injury—and he is not here now, so I am more at liberty to say this stuff—on radio he said, 'If those people don't want to live there, they don't have to live there.' I said, 'Wow! They

could all move to the eastern suburbs with him, to one of the most affluent suburbs.' I have an incredibly strong egalitarian ethos and I think that, irrespective of where you are in country South Australia, you should be treated in an equitable manner.

I was very proud of the fact that we reinstated the full subsidy so that it now matches what was the AGL standing contract. Maybe there are a few nuances that we should address when it comes to that, given the nature of the electricity market and what might be available to consumers in the metropolitan area and other regional communities when it comes to picking and choosing. They are not going to be able to pick and choose, but maybe we should have a look at linking it to what was the AGL standing contract.

Clearly, if we are going to get back to a fully elected council in Coober Pedy, we have to shrink Coober Pedy down to basic municipal services. I know there are a number of options that have been put. The administrator was keen that SA Water buy the water assets, but the state would be acquiring a liability, so I think the council's debt, which is significant, is going to have to be addressed in another way because if SA Water do acquire the assets, and that is not guaranteed, some investment is going to be needed.

As I said, I believe that we should be introducing parity pricing in Coober Pedy so that the people of Coober Pedy pay the same for water as the people in Adelaide. When you consider the figures I talked about—median household incomes and personal incomes—to me it is a no-brainer. Why are we treating such a poor community in this incredibly shoddy way?

I want to sing the praises of the Minister for Local Government because Geoff gave a commitment to me that he would visit Coober Pedy as soon as possible once he was elected to government, and he has done that. He went up there, had a community forum and met with a whole range of people and he is going back again in the near future.

I was up there a few weeks ago and I would like to thank the Serbian Orthodox community and the Greek Orthodox community for their amazing hospitality over a weekend when we celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Serbian underground church. If you get an opportunity to visit it, it is an amazing underground church. Geoff has taken a very active interest in Coober Pedy and hopefully our diaries will align when you are next up there, minister, as that would be a good thing.

Another thing we have done as a government, in recognition of the challenges that Coober Pedy faces, is put together a high-level task force to look at the electricity issues, to look at the water issues and to look at the challenges that Coober Pedy faces so that we can come up with some solutions. As I said, I have been very clear publicly about what direction I think it should go in, but the high-level task force might come up with some other options that make sense as well.

I think this community has been treated unfairly for too long and we do need to address it. As I said, we do not expect any other council in the state to do what this incredibly poor community is expected to do, so it is time for a change. I look forward to the recommendations of the task force. We need to get on with it so that at some point, hopefully before 2026, we can reintroduce fully elected local government in Coober Pedy.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:54):** For those who are following along in terms of the process of debate in the house, I will make a couple of things clear. To anyone who was following the order of business today, they might be forgiven for thinking that here we are yet again seeing this government come along and introduce and jam legislation through with no notice, like they did yesterday. This is not quite in the same category because it is an hour or two more, I think.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** An extra 16 hours.

**Mr TEAGUE:** I think there might have been an extra 16, the deputy leader is reminding me. I do not know whether to regard that as an incremental improvement or if it is just more evidence of signs of the times. It might be that is just a corollary to what was really an outrageous situation that we were having to deal with at, as I understand, the Premier's behest yesterday and, certainly, the opportunity for the minister yesterday to hold us to all steps of debate in relation to the plebiscite bill, and somewhat late into the evening, as members will recall, although in the absence, it turns out, of the Premier, who was socialising elsewhere.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Heysen, there is a point of order, which I will hear.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** On a point of order, sir, it is unparliamentary to reflect on a member's presence, or absence otherwise, in the chamber.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully. I do draw the member's attention to the standing order.

**Mr TEAGUE:** I am happy to address the point of order in relation to reflection on a member's presence or absence from the chamber. That is certainly not the relevant context here. The presence or absence of the Premier from the state in the course of a sitting day is something quite different from the presence or absence of the Premier from the chamber in the course of a parliamentary sitting day, and that is the relevant sense for the purpose of the standing order.

The electors, indeed all South Australians, are entitled to expect that their members of parliament are in the parliament during the course of the sitting day. Whether or not they are in the chamber is a question for the standing orders. For the Premier to decide to go and socialise in Canberra while he is keeping us all here to jam a bill through the house is a matter of some note; it is somewhat remarkable. That is what we were all here dealing with last evening.

**Mr Telfer:** We carried that load.

**Mr TEAGUE:** My colleague the member for Flinders and I, and the Minister for Local Government, were engaged in debate, among others, in the course of that evening's process. I say that because, in order to get to debate that bill and for the government to move a suspension of standing orders necessary to progress, what we saw yesterday was a series of orders of the day that were dealt with by leave so as to introduce into *Hansard* the second reading explanation and the explanation of clauses. The minister did so and, by leave, those remarks on the second reading, together with the explanation of clauses, may be found by members—although not more widely than that, unfortunately, for the time being—in the confidential and subject to revision first run of *Hansard*.

For those who are following the debate outside this place, for those reasons there was not the opportunity for them to receive and digest the second reading explanation, as they might have in the ordinary course. That includes the constituents of the member for Giles, who has just made a contribution, and in particular those residents of Coober Pedy affected by all of this. I listened carefully to the member for Giles, and he indeed has a particular and important perspective on the history of these measures.

Not so as to spend time on the technicalities, it is just important, in my view, to make clear that we are here dealing with this bill, albeit in an orderly way to the extent it was not necessary to suspend standing orders to progress debate today. We are at least in circumstances where not very many people have had the opportunity to have heard from the minister about the bill. Not very many—it is limited to those of us in this place, if we have had the chance to read the first draft of *Hansard* this morning. We are now being expected to deal with the bill more or less straightaway. So that is the way the government is proposing to conduct itself in relation to this particular matter, and there it is.

The context also has in common with the bill that was jammed through yesterday the context of local government elections that are soon on their way, insofar as this bill is going to have an effect on what would otherwise be a sunset on the current administration and stretch it out through the balance of the next term and, as I understand it, preserve the holding pattern until elections due in 2026. But, as the member for Giles says, that provides simply an extension of that window within which to assist Coober Pedy's administration to get the house in order, so to speak. We all hope, I think, that that might be done with expedition.

In my brief time as Minister for Local Government, this was very much a matter of ongoing concern. It is, of course, a set of circumstances, the most timely elucidation of which has just come from the member for Giles. There are all sorts of challenges and problems that are associated with the administration in Coober Pedy. It needs to be brought back on track, and the sooner the better.

There may be an opportunity further to interrogate just exactly where that has come to over the course of the minister's time, but what we are seeing—at least on the face of this bill—is the determination of the government that they have not had enough time and that they are not going to

be proposing allowing a return to ordinary elections. So we are going to see this unusual set of circumstances continue at least beyond the otherwise scheduled November elections.

With that context in mind, it is very much a set of circumstances in which the questions we might have, and might have to take the opportunity to ask in the course of this debate, are again jammed into a pretty narrow frame, unfortunately, because of the nature of the scheduling of the debate on the bill. I do not know, but I hope that the member for Giles, as a member of the government side, has had all the opportunity he requires to satisfy himself about the contents, purpose, desirability and so on of the bill at this time. That is of particular importance as the local member, but it extends to all of us, including my colleague the member for Flinders. It is somewhat regrettable that we are therefore having to engage in an interrogation of the current state of affairs within what looks like will be another relatively narrow frame.

With those brief remarks, and hopefully having provided some clarity about the context and timing of the debate for those interested and those who are directly affected, who might otherwise be wondering where this has come from and why we are here today, I look forward to the opportunity to ask any questions that might be possible to be advanced in the course of the further debate. Of course, I join with all members, no doubt, in urging that the administration work be done with professionalism and dedication towards the current and future wellbeing and best interests of all those who call Coober Pedy home.

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (12:07):** I rise in support of this bill. For the benefit of the member for Flinders, I can inform him that Coober Pedy is a beautiful spot, which I have visited on numerous occasions, and I do hope this is a situation we can fix expeditiously.

As the minister outlined in the house yesterday, this bill will extend the period of administration for the District Council of Coober Pedy until the local government periodic elections, expected to be held in 2026. It will also cause the periodic election for the council, for which voting closes on November 2022, to cease to be held.

To understand why this is necessary it is worth considering why the District Council of Coober Pedy was placed into administration on 24 January 2019, when the Governor issued a proclamation declaring the District Council of Coober Pedy to be a defaulting council pursuant to section 273(5) of the act, and appointed Mr Tim Jackson as the council's administrator. While I was not in the house at the time, members may recall that the declaration for the district council as a defaulting council was made in response to a report from the Ombudsman released in July 2018. This found that the council's management of a power-purchasing agreement with EDL (the power generation for the town) was the most serious case of maladministration that he had seen.

This report invited the then minister to consider exercising his powers under section 273(2)(c) of the Local Government Act to recommend to the Governor that the council be declared a defaulting council. The Ombudsman's report was further supported by an examination of the council by the Auditor-General, released in December 2018. The examination revealed longstanding and systemic issues with the council's financial governance and administration. These issues with respect to the council's administration have become clearer over the past few years. In summary they are:

- no controls over council expenditure over the three major functions it delivers: municipal services, water and electricity retail services;
- a high cost for water services, which is exacerbated by the very poor state of the water distribution network and which has a history of serious water leakages; and
- difficulties in attracting and retaining senior council staff.

An example of this is that in the two years prior to being placed into administration council had engaged five chief executive officers on a permanent or acting basis. Both the Ombudsman and the Auditor-General commented on the difficulty of attracting and retaining skilled and experienced staff to Coober Pedy and the impact this has on the council and the Coober Pedy community. This has continued over the period of the administration.

We should also not overlook the lengthy history of mismanagement of the essential services the council is responsible for. While this is best evidenced by the 2018 Ombudsman's report I referred

to earlier, a separate 2021 report also found that council had historically poor practices in recovering unpaid electricity debt. Significant debts held by the council to the Local Government Finance Authority of around \$8 million meant that the council has been unable to access financing options to resolve significant issues, including necessary investments in its water assets. Additionally, the council continues to have significant arrears of around \$2 million with the town's electricity generator.

As the minister explained, Mr Jackson has made significant improvements to council's financial governance and general administration, and for that he should be congratulated. However, there remain significant concerns about whether council is ready to have an elected-member body returned at the 2022 periodic local elections this November.

I am aware that work will continue to find a solution that will work for Coober Pedy. It will take time, and it is very important that one of our most remote communities be supported through the development of considered and appropriate local governance and services that best suits its needs.

The extension of the administration is intended to allow for this. I know that the local government minister has committed to visiting Coober Pedy regularly to provide the community with support as it works through this process, and I know that he will prioritise taking the views of the local community back to the cabinet table. I commend the bill to members.

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:12):** I rise to speak on the Local Government (Defaulting Council) Amendment Bill. As already mentioned, obviously I have not had significant time to consider this bill. It was introduced to the parliament only this week—indeed, only yesterday. Once again, there has not been an opportunity for a thorough consultation process for the opposition to form a formal position on this bill.

The challenges that face the Coober Pedy council and community have been recognised for a long time and have already been spoken about by some of my learned colleagues here in this place. We are talking about a community that is incredibly isolated, and thus arrangements have developed that are unique to their council. Coober Pedy is a town that is located over 800 kilometres north of Adelaide in northern South Australia, which is a beautiful part of the state. Although the community of Coober Pedy may be small, it is incredibly diverse and has incredible ethnic diversity.

The council has local government authority for Coober Pedy and its surrounding area and, in addition to the regular functions that a normal local government authority may have to undertake, the council itself provides essential services to the people of their communities, such as electricity and water retail services to the district. The council is responsible for the sale and supply of those services, and it also is responsible for the connection of their customers to the electricity and water supply and the maintenance of those connections, as well as the bills to their customers for their electricity and water usage.

We have already spoken in this place about the findings of the Ombudsman, which concluded that the council inappropriately managed electricity and water accounts and debts in a manner that was unjust, unreasonable, wrong and contrary to law. The Ombudsman found that it was apparent that the council had been unable for quite some time to manage its electricity and water retail services in a way that was financially viable, giving the council itself an added burden and thus leading to it being put into administration.

The Ombudsman report also found that the payment of debts for essential services in Coober Pedy had in fact been propped up by a native title fund, with many community members otherwise not in a position to contribute financially to their electricity debt. The subsidy program in place, which has already been mentioned in this place, the Remote Areas Energy Supply Scheme, was also found to be clearly not sufficient to bridge the gap between the cost of distributing electricity and water to Coober Pedy residents and then collecting the revenue for these services.

In light of all those details, it was the recommendation from the Ombudsman that alternative options for electricity and water supply to Coober Pedy be considered and that the state government reviews whether there are alternative options for the supply of electricity and water in Coober Pedy that would place less of an administrative and financial burden on the council.

These challenges went even further back to 2015, when the arrangements for the retailer were put in place by the Labor government at that time. The details around those arrangements, too,

have had plenty of discussion in the time after that, both privately and publicly. I do not want to look back for too long because these issues have been well ventilated both in the community and in this place.

An administrator was put in place during the previous term of the government in 2019 to manage and deal with this situation, and I certainly supported that. This bill was to extend an administrator at this point and, in reality, we may not have any choice. On behalf of the opposition I would like to personally commend Tim Jackson and his work as the administrator since being appointed in 2019 and his attempts to continue to engage with the community throughout that time using community-wide surveys and the like. He has put in efforts to try to make sure that the community is engaged with the process even though he is a government-appointed administrator.

The challenges at Coober Pedy are understood. The minister has received the advice from the administrator about what he believes are the best arrangements which should be developed. I hope the minister recognises his responsibility and also has the capacity to obviously help influence his Labor cabinet colleagues to act, such as the energy minister and the water minister.

Coober Pedy does need a sustainable, long-term solution in place and also to have that expedited, to have it in place as quickly as possible so that there is an opportunity to have the community members of Coober Pedy have their democratic representatives back in place on their council. We need to make sure that Coober Pedy has every opportunity to thrive into the future and have that community leadership put in place. As I said, I hope that process is done thoroughly, appropriately, sustainably and also in an expedient manner.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (12:18):** I thank all the speakers on this bill: the member for Giles, the member for Heysen and also the member for Playford and the member for Flinders. First-up, I just want to clarify a couple of things. It has been brought to my attention and I was asked if there were any briefings offered to the opposition in this regard. On 15 August, I personally approached the shadow minister, the member for Flinders, and asked him if he wanted a briefing. I explained that I could not give him the bill until I introduced it to the parliament, which I did. I have email copies of that.

When I gave my second reading speech on Wednesday, I personally went across to the other side to the member and asked him if he wanted a briefing on the amalgamation bill that went through yesterday and he said yes. I said that at the same time we would give him another briefing on the Coober Pedy issue. My information is that we did have that opportunity and a meeting was arranged and the member for Heysen was there and also the member for—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Excuse me, the bill was going to be on the plebiscite and there was also the opportunity to have a briefing on the Coober Pedy bill. The bells rang and both members had to come back to the parliament. My information is that the member for Heysen came back for further dialogue and the member for Flinders did not.

It has been a journey. When the previous Labor government was in office, issues were identified about Coober Pedy. There is an ongoing issue there and it has been festering for many years. We then had to go through a process. As the shadow minister and members opposite understand, the minister at the time cannot just put a council into administration. It has to go through a process. We were going through that process, but with a change of government and the new minister coming into office in 2018, the new Liberal government then placed the council into administration.

In relation to that, it has been a journey. There are a lot of challenges up there. The water issue has been mentioned. They have to produce their own water and also their own power. They are in an isolated location and it is a big challenge up there. We need to work with them to get on top of this.

It has been asked, 'What is the minister doing now?' I ask, 'What was done in the last four years when they were in administration?' I compliment Tim Jackson, the administrator; he has had a challenging time, but he has done a very good job. There have been slight improvements, but there

are still challenges to overcome and we need to identify those challenges. We need to identify the issues with the water and the opportunities going forward. The only way we are going to do that is to work collaboratively.

I would like to know what assistance the Local Government Association gave that council in the last four years. The member for Flinders was the President of the LGA at that particular time. As the member has indicated, we do not want to look behind us. What we have to do now is start looking forward. We have a challenge here.

I have been to Coober Pedy. I said I would go up there. I have spoken to the council, I have spoken to the new CEO, I have spoken to the administrator and I have spoken to various groups. I attended a public meeting in the Greek Club. They are very frustrated people because they have not heard from anyone from any government for 3½ to four years. I did go up there and I took the Ombudsman with me so he could explain the process to those people so they could understand what was going on.

We now have the council elections coming up, but if we do not continue the administration we do not feel that the community is ready to go on to elect a council at this stage. The bill allows the administration to continue up to the November 2026 election. We in this house have to work with the community to make certain we get a solution up there. We need to identify what the issues are, look at how we can fix it all up and then get that council back under elected members very quickly.

The reason for putting the bill through quickly is that people were previously elected at the November 2018 council elections. Going forward, the administration took place in 2019, so the previous government had to terminate that council. I do not want that to happen again. I have made that quite clear in my press release of 15 August. I have also made it quite clear to the people of Coober Pedy that we are going through a challenge here, and I have already indicated to them that we need to get this bill through so that these people do not nominate for council only to have it withdrawn.

My information is there are two people nominated for council under the Electoral Commission. At the moment, we are in the caretaker period. We have personally spoken to those two people and explained the situation that if this bill goes through—and this bill needs to go through, irrespective of any arguments whatsoever. This bill has to go through and then we can explain to those two people that, yes, we appreciate them coming forward as two councillors for this area. We will congratulate them on their commitment to Coober Pedy and their community, but we will then have to cease their nomination and then work with the opposition here. I have indicated that I will work with the shadow minister. We will work with everybody to make certain we get on top of this issue.

We can come in here and bluster about lots of things, but we have to have the concerns of the people of Coober Pedy to make certain about this. Let's get this out of the way and find a solution. It has been stated to me that the government just puts up \$20 million or whatever it may be. Does that fix the root cause of the issue? No, it does not. It still has whatever the issue is; we need to identify that. I know the shadow minister said it is a waste of time putting in another task force.

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** You did not say it in here, but it is on the radio. However, let's move forward. We have the relevant ministers, SA Water and ESCOSA on this committee. We need to identify that, and these are the people we need. We should have done this three or four years ago. Members of parliament here, let's consider the health and wellbeing of the people of Coober Pedy so that we get this bill through. Let's all work together to ensure that we have the best opportunity to get on top of this here for the future security of Coober Pedy.

Coober Pedy is an absolutely brilliant place. It is unique. It is isolated, but it has a lot of history. They have some fantastic people up there and what we need to do is work with them. The current administrator, Tim Jackson, has done a fantastic job. He has indicated that he does not want to continue on, so we are in the process of advertising for another administrator. I, as the minister, will be working very closely with the new CEO, I will also be working very closely with whoever the new administrator is, to ensure that we get the best opportunities. I will also be visiting Coober Pedy



on a regular basis, more than I can say for the previous government. The other thing is: let's get this bill out of here and then we can get the legislation through and we can get on with our lives. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

*Personal Explanation*

**MEMBER'S REMARKS**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:27):** By leave, I seek to make a personal explanation pursuant to standing order 108.

Leave granted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are limited to what you can say, you understand that, if you have been misrepresented in some way.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Leave has just been granted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is correct: leave has been granted. It is also not an opportunity to redebate the whole proposal. Member, the floor is yours.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Yes. In remarks just now, the substance and sentiments of which I largely wholly endorse, the minister made reference—and I would not otherwise bring up the particulars—to briefings that were afforded or otherwise to members on this side of the chamber. As far as I am concerned, it is important that I put on the record that the briefing that I was offered in my relevant portfolio capacity in relation to the plebiscite bill was a briefing that was provided to me and attended by me along with the member for Flinders and some staff. It was a briefing that I appreciate the opportunity to have been given.

It was at 3.30pm on Tuesday 6 September, earlier this week, and it afforded me at least that opportunity to engage in some dialogue in relation to the scope and purpose or otherwise of the plebiscite bill. It is important that I make clear on the record that at no time was the opportunity afforded, nor did I informally take it up, to engage in a dialogue or otherwise in relation to this bill, which is unsurprising because it is wholly outside my current shadow portfolio responsibilities. That is by way of further context to the remarks, providing general context to the way in which this bill has come before us today.

*Bills*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEFAULTING COUNCIL) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (12:30):** I thank all members again for their contributions. I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Motions*

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

**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) (12:31):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges and congratulates the 55 South Australian athletes who competed at the 2022 Commonwealth Games on their achievements, dedication and hard work in representing their country on the world stage;
- (b) recognises the achievements of all medallists who helped Australia finish on top of both the gold medal and overall medal tally in Birmingham;

- (c) recognises all the performances of South Australian athletes who, individually and as teammates, won 23 gold medals, including—
- (i) Sophie Edwards, Chloe Moran, Leigh Hoffman, Matthew Richardson, Matthew Glaetzer, Georgia Baker, Rohan Dennis and Maeve Plouffe (cycling);
  - (ii) Christopher McHugh and Paul Burnett (beach volleyball);
  - (iii) Jessica Stenson (marathon) and Kurtis Marschall (pole vault);
  - (iv) Tahlia McGrath, Megan Schutt, Amanda-Jade Wellington and Darcie Brown (cricket);
  - (v) Matthew Temple, Meg Harris, Kyle Chalmers, Madison Wilson and Zac Incerti (swimming); and
  - (vi) Sarah Klau (netball).
- (d) acknowledges that the Commonwealth Games are the ‘friendly games’ where para and able-bodied athletes compete on the same stage, promoting inclusivity and achievement through sport; and
- (e) recognises the huge sacrifices and part played by parents, family members, partners and friends in the lives of all athletes, whether it be at the elite or community level, to support their loved ones in their achievements.

I am so very pleased to have the opportunity to rise today to move this motion. In doing so, I wholeheartedly and with pride acknowledge the 55 South Australian-based and born athletes who recently so beautifully and so skilfully represented our country at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. I thank them for their participation and the excellence with which they represented our state and note the pride that we all share in their many achievements.

I also acknowledge their years of dedication, training and resilience that allowed them to compete at this elite level. You are an inspiration to us all. I pay tribute to all who back these outstanding athletes: coaches, officials, administrators and others who are integral members of our Commonwealth Games team and indeed of every sporting success story.

Of course, I acknowledge and deeply thank the loved ones of these athletes who unconditionally give their love, support and encouragement and enable their loved ones to pursue their sporting dreams. It was absolutely thrilling to watch and cheer for these fine South Australian athletes from afar and to witness the culmination of their incredibly hard work. It was also really lovely to learn more about their personal journeys, to catch glimpses of their families on the screen and to see their joy in seeing their loved ones doing what they love at the highest level.

South Australia has always proudly been a state that exceeds expectation in terms of representation and achievement in the sporting arena, and these games are a shining example of this. As a state with around 7 to 8 per cent of Australia's total population, South Australian athletes made up almost 13 per cent of the Australian Commonwealth Games team, numbering 55 of the 433 athletes, and they did so very much more than making up the numbers. These outstanding athletes brought home as individuals and as members of teams an amazing 23 gold medals.

The gold medallists included Sophie Edwards, Chloe Moran, Leigh Hoffman, Matthew Richardson, Matthew Glaetzer, Georgia Baker, Rohan Dennis, Maeve Plouffe, Kristina Clonan and Caitlin Ward, who won their medals either at the velodrome or on the road as cyclists. They included Chris McHugh and Paul Burnett for beach volleyball, Jess Stenson in the marathon, Kurtis Marschall in the pole vault and Tahlia McGrath, Megan Schutt, Amanda-Jade Wellington and Darcie Brown as members of the women's cricket team. They also includes Matthew Temple, Meg Harris, Kyle Chalmers, Madison Wilson and Zac Incerti for their efforts in the swimming pool; Sarah Klau, as part of the Diamonds netball team; and Tom Wickham for the Kookaburras hockey team. Their achievements were remarkable, and their efforts were often supported by SASI.

The highly credentialled South Australian Sports Institute played a crucial role in the journey of these competitors and it continues to produce and hone the skills of so many athletes from a number of sporting disciplines. At Birmingham, there were six SASI-based swimmers in the Australian Dolphins swimming team, who won 11 medals between them. The Aussie beach volleyball program, based here in Adelaide with SASI, proudly saw Chris McHugh and Paul Burnett win back-to-back gold medals, successfully defending the medals they won on the Gold Coast in 2018.

The Australian track cycling team also has its national training centre based in Adelaide, and our cyclists achieved a magnificent total of 13 medals.

SASI graduates Maeve Plouffe, Sophie Edwards, Chloe Moran and SA-based Georgia Baker smashed the Commonwealth Games record in the team pursuit with a winning time of four minutes 12.234 seconds. All three of the SASI graduates competing at the Games were discovered as part of the SASI talent search testing program, which identifies and matches young athletes in years 7 to 12 to sports that best fit their physical make-up and which has a proven track record of producing world-class performers.

I attended one of the most recent testing sessions at Sacred Heart College with the member for Gibson during the last school holidays, and we both ventured to take on the running test. For me, it is always a great opportunity to have a go at these types of things and enjoy the experience. I am still waiting for the offers to join a development squad; I suspect I will be waiting for a very, very long time.

In 2016, I also took part in the testing with Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing Australian lacrosse champion chief executive, Kylie Taylor. We tested ourselves for cycling and also found out that neither of us was likely to be lining up to ever represent our country on the track or on the road at any future elite events in that discipline either. It is fantastic, however, that more high school-age students from across South Australia are getting the opportunity to test their athletic ability through these sessions.

What I have no doubt about is that we will see some of these excellent young people who go out and have a go take their place in our elite sporting ranks in the future. Again, SASI plays such a key and important role in this identification, development and support of elite athletes in South Australia. I thank Wes Battams and his team at SASI for everything they do to ensure our athletes are in the best possible condition and have the necessary supports around them to succeed at the national and international level.

There are so many outstanding performances at the Games to speak about. Time will only permit me to celebrate a few here today. I particularly want to mention the stellar performances of two athletes with a connection to our beautiful southern community—Megan Schutt and Tahlia McGrath, who were an integral part of the gold medal winning women's cricket team.

Megan grew up in Hackham West and attended Wirreanda Secondary School. With the support of her family and friends, Megan found great success playing cricket, starting on the suburban streets in the south and then taking her place in local clubs. As a right-arm fast medium bowler, Megan has achieved great success domestically and internationally and we in the south and everywhere else are incredibly proud of her.

Tahlia McGrath also has connections to the south and has had an amazing career with the Southern District Cricket Club and the Adelaide Strikers, as well as being a key member of our outstanding national side. I remember seeing Tahlia play when she must have been about 14 or 15 at the Southern District Cricket Club at Bice Oval in Christies Beach, and she was absolutely remarkable. She shone then and she continues to shine on the international stage. Megan and Tahlia, both of you made us very proud, and we were all thrilled to see the incredible success of you and the rest of the women's cricket team at these Games.

Another highlight performance amongst many at the Games was our very own Jess Stenson, who showed incredible perseverance and determination to outlast a high-quality field of women to triumph at the end of the 42.2 kilometre marathon. Marathon runners are not born; they are products of years and years and years of work, which normally begin very early on. Jess began her sporting pursuits as a wrestler and competed from around nine years old until she was 21. She also played basketball and made the SA Country under 18 team. Once Jess focused on athletics—and although she was good at whatever sport she put her mind to—it was running that always drove her.

Jess has had a formidable career in marathon running ever since she ran the 2010 City to Bay event, coming home first to the cheers of a parochial and appreciative South Australian crowd. She competed in the City to Surf in Sydney and placed third and also won the National Cross Country Championships in Brisbane. Jess moved on to half marathons and then marathons, and she ran her

first marathon in Japan in March 2012 before qualifying for the London Olympics, then wowing us with her performance at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, where she finished with a bronze medallion in two hours, 30 minutes and 17 seconds.

Jess's marathon CV also includes winning the Melbourne Marathon, competing at the 2016 Rio Olympic marathon and running the greatest time ever by an Australian woman at the 2017 International Amateur Athletic Federation World Championships in London. She then ran the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games marathon on home soil and came in at third place, with the winner only one and a half minutes ahead of her. If the world was not watching by then, it certainly is now.

Following her second bronze medal in successive Commonwealth Games, Jess took time off to become a mum, and in November 2019 Jess gave birth to her beautiful son, Billy. Jess has kept up her training, but when the COVID-19 pandemic stopped the majority of international events in early 2020 that plan to get a qualifying time hit a bump, and soon after the opportunities to qualify through the domestic races also dried up. The Games were postponed to 2021, but a stress fracture in her leg eventually kept Jess out of the team for Tokyo. Following that disappointment, Jess set her sights on the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the chance to become the first Australian marathoner to win medals at three successive Commonwealth Games.

Jess lined up with Aussie teammates Eloise Wellings and Sinead Diver, and early on they ran together, but at the 30-kilometre mark the race got serious and Wellings and Diver, along with the rest of the leading pack, dropped back leaving Jess in the leading group with two women from Namibia and Kenya to fight for the medals. With about 20 minutes left to run, Jess was able to kick and drop off the two competitors to go clear at the front. She held on to cross the line to very emotional scenes, and I am sure there were Australians watching in person and on the broadcast with a tear in their eye.

In the television interview after the race, Jess Stenson revealed that Eloise had helped her with the win because one of her drink bottles at around the 30-kilometre mark did not have her energy gel attached and Eloise gave Jess hers. This is an embodiment of the spirit of the Commonwealth Games and the true teamwork that takes place to get athletes to the pinnacle of their careers. I know many of us—I certainly was—were up watching Jess win, cheering at our TV screens and celebrating her great success. It was also really lovely to see footage of her family and friends sharing in her success both in Birmingham and closer to home.

Jess is a person I have always admired not only for her amazing sporting success but also for the way she generously cares, nurtures and supports other athletes, in particular aspiring athletes who look to her for inspiration and advice. She is an outstanding athlete and an even more excellent person. It was a great delight to work with Jess on our previous South Australian Women in Sport Taskforce and to have her insight and leadership about the promotion of women's sport and about how together we can address any barriers that prevent women and girls from taking their rightful place on the sporting stage and pursuing their dreams.

I also pay tribute to the inspiring performance of Madison de Rozario who won the Commonwealth gold in the T53/T54 marathon, defending her title from the Brisbane Commonwealth Games and displaying the awesome power and skill of wheelchair racing.

It was a great Games for female athletes and it was absolutely thrilling to see so many of them come home with medals and, in doing so, inspire girls and women, boys and men across the country. When we see women celebrated for being strong, skilful, powerful and celebrated on the world sporting stage, it is transformative in terms of how we see women and how we see the roles of women. That gives us an excellent opportunity to tackle all sorts of other issues through sport.

I also thank and congratulate the incredible, lovely and indomitable Katrina Webb OAM on the role that she played on the Commonwealth Games Australia team executive. Katrina is an inspirational athlete who is a three-time Paralympian and Commonwealth Games silver medallist. She joined the Chef de Mission, Petria Thomas OAM; Commonwealth Games gold medallists Sharelle McMahon and Anna Meares OAM; and Commonwealth Games Australia's team performance general manager, Tim Mahon, on the Australian team executive for the Games.

Katrina always does South Australia proud and it was wonderful to see her achievements in this role. It was really lovely to see how she engaged with athletes and enabled them, through her, to tell their stories—not just about their careers as athletes but also their personal journeys to get to the Commonwealth Games.

I love watching the Commonwealth Games. It is great to watch elite athletes compete in so many sports that we do not always get to see on our regular broadcasting. In particular, I loved seeing the weightlifting. Of the many sporting pursuits that I dreamed I may one day be on the world stage in—

**Mr Pederick:** You can lift heavy things.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** —yes—weightlifting was amongst those dreams that also were never, ever realised. It was absolutely wonderful to see, rightly, the inclusion of para-athletes competing during the same time, particularly in the pool, at the velodrome, at the athletics and on the bowling greens. The inclusivity of the Commonwealth Games is unique, and bringing all these wonderful athletes together strengthens community attitudes to parasport, encourages people with a disability to be involved and shows absolutely what is possible.

Again, sport is powerful; it shifts attitudes and understanding, and the Games did this in abundance. We had an amazing group of parasports athletes from South Australia who competed in Birmingham 2022, alongside their other counterparts, in sports such as track cycling, lawn bowls, table tennis and swimming.

Caitlin Ward, as pilot for Jessica Gallagher, competed in the women's tandem B over 1,000 metres and also the women's tandem B sprint events. Beau Wootton also competed in the men's 1,000-metre tandem B sprint and time trial. Amanda Tscharke was part of the table tennis team and competed in the women's wheelchair. Isabella Vincent swam in two events, the women's 100-metre backstroke S8 and 100-metre breaststroke S86. Chris Flavel was a guide as part of the men's bowls doubles pairs, and Matthew Northcott was a guide in the mixed pairs. Congratulations to all these incredible athletes on what you have achieved and on being such an inspiration to other aspiring athletes and to us all.

In acknowledging all the athletes who competed at the Games, I sent congratulatory letters to the South Australians in the team and was so pleased that John Lamont and his team were able to pass them on to the athletes in the village in Birmingham. I thank John and his team at Commonwealth Games Australia for their assistance with this and also for the regular daily updates they provided to ensure that we were kept up to date with the performances of our athletes.

None of these incredible athletes achieved their success without the support, love and encouragement of their support teams. Whether it be their coaches, trainers, nutritionists, physios, club officials, mentors, their parents, partners, children, family and friends, these achievements are always a team effort, and I again pay tribute to everyone behind the scenes who supported these athletes on their journeys.

As a parent I know, as many of us would, of the many hours put into supporting our children in their sporting endeavours: volunteering as coaches, driving kids to training, getting food together for half-time and all the other countless activities that help our loved ones get active and involved and, in some cases, pursue their sporting dreams to the national and international stage. To all those wonderful supportive people I say, 'Thank you.' You should be rightly proud of your loved ones, as we all are.

In closing, I thank all the athletes who competed at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games for their efforts and the way they represented our country and our state with such distinction. They are great role models for the boys and girls, young women and men who aspire to replicate their efforts and feats of excellence in the future. Their persistence and courage was on show whenever they competed, and it is a great lesson for aspiring athletes that hard work and resilience are the foundation of great performances such as the ones we saw from so many competing in Birmingham. Let us hope these Games inspire many South Australians to aim for Brisbane 2032.

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (12:51):** I rise today to support the motion and to congratulate the 55 South Australian athletes who competed and made not just our country but also the state of South Australia extremely proud.

Sir, you would know that it is a fantastic feat to represent your state in sport. I am not sure if you know, but I did represent our state in Irish handball after attending Rostrevor College. I think there are only two schools that play Irish handball, CBC and Rostrevor College. Unfortunately, we are not recognised by the Commonwealth Games but, who knows, maybe one day.

It is a great pleasure to be here with so many sports lovers on this side of the chamber, like the member for Schubert who, I know, was an outstanding netballer who has represented the state and our country with pride. Of course, netball was at the Commonwealth Games.

The Commonwealth Games are indeed an important institution for Australia as well as for the countries with which we share this fantastic event, which promotes diversity, inclusivity and also mutual respect between nations with a shared history. As we have heard, 55 athletes across 17 different sports, including new program additions from the women's T20 cricket to mixed synchronised diving and basketball, represented South Australia—and represented us well.

Within our national Australian team, 34 of the athletes selected were current South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) scholarship holders or graduates. That is why we found it very important to continue to invest in our SASI facility, to continue to invest in facilities like our centre at Gepps Cross for soccer, or football—whichever you like to call it; you, sir, probably like to call it football, like me—with over \$400 million in investment since we were in government before the March state election.

We really tried to do what we could to make sure we continued to invest in the future of our athletes, because the leaders of tomorrow are here with us today, and it is really important that we continue to invest, especially in the junior sporting areas as well.

A total of 40 athletes from South Australia made their debuts at this year's Commonwealth Games, and they did not let us down, as we have heard. The youngest was 16-year-old para-swimmer and Tokyo Paralympian Isabella Vincent, who actually resides out my way. I had the pleasure of congratulating her when she was selected, if I am not mistaken.

We have heard the names of our South Australian athletes who competed, but I would like to take a moment to expand on some of those achievements in further detail, and I know a number of us on this side of the house would like to make further contributions showing how much we care about this particular topic.

South Australian multi-Olympian Jessica Stenson won her Commonwealth Games gold medal in the marathon in Birmingham, overcoming much adversity. What a story! She has pushed on. She is a powerful individual, a powerful mother and an inspiration to all South Australians—men and women, but especially women. I have seen her on many occasions running in the eastern suburbs, and I have never dared to try to keep up with her when she has overtaken me on roads like Kensington Road. What an absolute inspiration she was. To see her gallant efforts recognised was such an emotional time and we were so proud of her as South Australians.

Rohan Dennis, of course, claimed his first gold, topping the field in a men's time trial in road cycling. Rohan is another local lad whose brother, if I am not mistaken, lives out my way. Kyle Chalmers—whom I have also had the pleasure of meeting in this very chamber—won us three gold medals in the 100-metre freestyle relays, both men and mixed.

Maeve Plouffe, another SASI graduate, managed to clock the second fastest time in the women's pursuit qualifying, which is an absolutely tremendous feat. We should be very proud of our track cyclists as we know that multiple records were broken and medals won in this field. Matthew Glaetzer, another local resident out my way, won two gold medals in the Keirin men's team sprint. Matthew's is a particularly inspiring story because it was his first Commonwealth Games coming back after recovering from thyroid cancer.

What you learn about these athletes is that they are almost superhuman. They are amazing human beings, whether it is through injury they have had to overcome, or other things that have happened, they really have dedicated so many hours, days, months and years getting to the top of

their craft. We take our hats off to them, as well as their support system—their families, their friends, the trainers and all the people who contribute to the one per centers behind the scenes. I would also like to recognise, of course, the most successful Paralympian in Australia's history, the member for Colton. I am sure he will also make a contribution on this motion.

There is no doubt that our athletes serve as an important inspiration to us all, especially to our young people—an inspiration to chase your dreams and overcome adversity. I could highlight each achievement of our outstanding athletes because there are many, but their fame and their achievement reach far beyond this place. It is really important that we continue to invest in them so that young people growing up see these athletes and want to be like them, which also lifts our spirits and our standards. Obviously, we cannot speak enough about the benefits of sport and recreation on people's health.

Once again, I would like to congratulate our 55 South Australian athletes. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to our country and our great state as well.

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:57):** I rise in support of this motion and convey my congratulations to all who attended and represented Australia at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games in such an inspiring way. To become a Commonwealth Games athlete takes years of commitment and dedication. Early morning training sessions, often multiple training sessions through the day and strict diet requirements allowing our athletes to be in top condition are only the start of what it takes to reach this level, all while juggling full-time employment.

As a child, I used to love watching the Commonwealth Games on the TV, mostly because Australia always did very well, and it would also often inspire new sporting interests in me—not always my parents favourite thing, as it often resulted in the need for new sporting equipment. As a parent now myself, I know the cost of having a child keen on sport. It can be extreme, and I can only imagine what it takes to support your child through to an elite standard.

Family plays a big role in supporting our athletes. Getting up early to drive them to practice, ensuring they have what they need to be successful and supporting their athlete when they are not. Performing sport at any level is met with the highs and lows of winning and losing, so the psychological support athletes need to manage this is very important.

Speaking of winning, at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, South Australia was well represented, with 55 members who are either South Australian or SA based resulting in a haul of 23 gold medals, 11 silver medals and eight bronze medals, equalling 42 altogether, with South Australia contributing to 24 per cent of all medals.

I was really proud to see our women's cricket team win the inaugural T20 women's gold medal. They are really are the best in the world, and it was wonderful to see them on the podium, including our own Tahlia McGrath, Megan Schutt, Amanda-Jade Wellington and Darcie Brown. Tahlia was lucky to be there after having tested positive for COVID not long before the game started. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.*

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **PAPERS**

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Child Protection (Hon K.A. Hildyard)—

South Australian Child Protection Expenditure (from the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services 2022)—Report—June 2022

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

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:01):** I bring up the second report of the committee, entitled An Inquiry into Embedded Networks in South Australia.

Report received and ordered to be published.

*Question Time***CANBERRA PRESS GALLERY MIDWINTER BALL**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:02):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier think that it is more important to attend a black tie gala in Canberra than to attend the South Australian parliament? With your leave sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Today, it was reported in *The Advertiser* that, and I quote:

...Peter Malinauskas has flown out of the state while parliament was sitting to attend the Canberra press gallery's glamorous fundraising ball.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:03):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question because it presents an opportunity to reflect on the size of the opportunity that is coming the state's way as a consequence of the commonwealth's unprecedented investment in military infrastructure in our country at this time.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley! Member for Schubert! The Premier has the call.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** As the members of the opposition are well aware, the commonwealth is about to embark on an over \$100 billion program on the procurement of the most complex machines in the history of humanity, in effect. That presents not just a major opportunity in terms of work and investment in the state; it actually presents a very substantial opportunity to dramatically increase the economic complexity of our industry and skill base here in this state.

It is absolutely essential that at every opportunity either I get or members of my government get to be able to engage with the commonwealth on the delivery of that program we grab it. It is not just about that program. There are active discussions between both the state government and the federal government that directly go through Minister Marles' office.

I was very grateful for the opportunity to be invited by the Deputy Prime Minister and the defence minister to spend some time with him yesterday afternoon and yesterday evening. It was a welcome opportunity to grab. Of course, it was an opportunity that was always going to be in full public view. No particular kudos to the opposition for establishing something that was well and truly on the public record. I was very grateful for the opportunity.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Just so the opposition is completely clear about this, please rest assured that any time I get the opportunity to be able to bend the ear and get the time of the Deputy Prime Minister and the defence minister I am going to grab it. I am going to grab that opportunity every single time because we are not going to let this one go through to the keeper. The size of the moment and the breadth of the challenge are not lost on us. One of the critical engagements that we have sought to undertake with the commonwealth—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!



**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —over recent months goes to the fact that unbelievably—and I was genuinely surprised to learn this coming into government—currently there is no comprehensive strategy or plan for the procurement or development of the skills and the workforce that is going to be required to deliver the nation's naval shipbuilding program. Neither at a state level or a federal level do we have that—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —comprehensive plan. So I went to the Jobs and Skills Summit—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta, order! The member for Morphett is warned. The Premier has the call.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I went to the Jobs and Skills Summit last week with a very clear objective to make sure that we establish a task force—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the Minister for Police!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —to actually deliver that comprehensive plan. I am very grateful for the fact that we got the commonwealth to commit to that, a joint task force to actually deliver a plan.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Finniss!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** It was unfortunate, unfortunate from my perspective, that I actually didn't get the opportunity to spend time—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —with the Deputy Prime Minister last week because he was in fact in France.

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** So I took the opportunity to grab that moment in time this week and I would do it again.

#### CANBERRA PRESS GALLERY MIDWINTER BALL

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06):** A supplementary to the Premier: what was the total cost to taxpayers of this trip, including any staff costs?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:06):** No staff were in attendance with me. I went by myself. As the Leader of the Opposition should well expect, all my travel arrangements will be subject to the appropriate proactive disclosure requirements.

Since the Leader of the Opposition sees fit to ask this question again in the context of parliament sitting, I can't help but note the fact that it is a very peculiar approach for the Leader of the Opposition to take because the Leader of the Opposition's principal function in the context of his parliamentary duties is to be present for question time, yet the Leader of the Opposition himself elected to go to a conservative photo opportunity and miss out on question time.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Ministers to the right and left!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, who made a conscious and deliberate decision to forgo his principal function in the functioning of the parliament—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —and actually miss a whole day of parliamentary sitting in order to attend a conservative photo opportunity—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —I missed a couple of hours—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mawson!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —in order to undertake an important function—

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

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —and advocacy on behalf of the people of South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### CANBERRA PRESS GALLERY MIDWINTER BALL

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:08):** My question is to the Manager of Government Business. Can the minister advise the house if any other government members attended the Midwinter Ball in Canberra yesterday?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:08):** I can report to the house that only one member of the government attended the Midwinter Ball yesterday and that was the Premier, which was appropriate. The leader of the government, the leader of our state, went and met with leaders of industry, the Prime Minister, the cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition, crossbenchers, members of the Senate—the leaders of our country.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It makes me wonder about—

*Mr Cowdrey interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, shadow treasurer!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —the thought process that goes through the opposition's mind when they ask these questions, the strategic thought process that goes through—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Heysen!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —the tactics of this—

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —given that—

*Members interjecting:*

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

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

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, please be seated. I will hear a point of order from the member for Morialta under 134.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Standing order 98 goes to debate. When the minister says words like, 'It makes me wonder about the tactics that go through the opposition's mind,' and goes on, there is no possibility that these are matters relevant—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Florey!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —to his portfolio, his duties to the house or, indeed, the question he is debating. He is debating a question which was actually quite narrow, and he is talking about something that is irrelevant and debate in any case.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will listen carefully. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It makes me wonder if they do actually think about the questions they are going to ask—and the media—given that the member for Dunstan is not here. One Premier not in parliament, appalling.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Another Premier not here, that's okay.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** You're a genius—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —and it reminds me—

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, please be seated.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Chaffey! Member for Morialta, please be seated for just a moment. I will hear from you under 134.

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is on three warnings. He continues to interject. The member for Chaffey will leave the chamber under 137A for half an hour.

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is called to order. The Minister for Education is called to order. Member for Badcoel! Members on both sides will be departing today. There is a fresh energy and vigour following the winter break. Member for Morialta.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Thank you, sir. He's banged to rights: it's straight forward unparliamentary to reflect on a member's presence. As it happens, the member for Dunstan is using one of the many pairs sought and granted by members of the government today.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is a substantial point of order. It raises a concern that I myself have had, and that is that the nature of the debate so far in question time, only a few moments in, does tend to reflect on the presence or otherwise of members in the house.

There was some discussion in relation to this point earlier in the day. The member for Heysen put an oblique point that, of course, the presence or otherwise of the Premier in the state or otherwise is a matter of substantial interest to the opposition. I see that. I also see standing order 127 that prevents digression or personal reflection on members.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I apologise. I won't be mentioning the member for Dunstan's absence in the parliament again. I don't know why the Leader of the Opposition wasn't invited to the Midwinter Ball. I don't know why there is potentially another tantrum going on about not being invited to the Midwinter Ball. I don't know why the Leader of the Opposition, or any of the—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert knows better.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —shadow ministers didn't invite the Leader of the Opposition to the Midwinter Ball. Perhaps it's because they know what we know what they all know—that this temporary Leader of the Opposition isn't a long-term operative.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Take it easy!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Take it easy. Don't get angry. Calm down.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Breathe. Breathe. Breathe.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am reminded of scripture, Matthew 7:5: 'You hypocrite, first remove the beam out of your own eye and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's.'

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will hear the member for Morialta under 134.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** I reiterate my earlier point of order. I think that we're done now.

**The SPEAKER:** I hear the member for Morialta. I have in mind standing order 127. I uphold the point of order. I am going to turn briefly to the minister and bring the minister to the question.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I never knew that scripture would offend members opposite, but there we go. I have to say—

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —that I think the Premier did us a great service yesterday fighting for South Australia, being there, making sure that South Australia—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —is at the centre of the discussions of our nation. I think it really is becoming a little bit embarrassing—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —about the Leader of the Opposition continually—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —having these little—what's the term I'm looking for when you're not invited to something?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Standing order 127.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Perhaps it is. I will hear the term.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I don't know what their tactic is. I am sure there is something there deeper in the draughts game that the Leader of the Opposition is playing but, quite frankly, it is unbecoming.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I acknowledge the presence in the chamber of representatives of Hirata Industries and Kanematsu Corporation, together with representatives of PAL System from Japan.

#### *Question Time*

#### **MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14):** My question is again to the Premier. What is the Minister for Human Services doing today? Sir, with your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

**The SPEAKER:** Leave is sought and I anticipate it will be granted, but I do remind the leader of standing order 127.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Yes, I think this one is in the public interest. The Minister for Human Services sought and was granted a pair for the entire day of parliament today to attend the Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting and dinner in Canberra. However, the opposition has now been advised that the first duty attached to this trip is dinner this evening. Flights are still available now and would get a member to Canberra in time for this event, leaving time for question time.

**The SPEAKER:** Public interest is different from public affairs. I am going to rule that question out of order. However, I would give the leader the opportunity to rephrase it, if he is able to confine it to public business.

#### **MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I will take your advice. My question is again to the Premier. What public duties is the Minister for Human Services undertaking today which enable her to miss question time?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:15):** On 8 August, the Government Whip asked for a pair request from the opposition for the Hon. Nat Cook to attend in Canberra, and the reason was the Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting and dinner. The pair was granted on 16 August. The opposition knew that she was going.

I have also attempted to attend the energy ministers' conference after a question time where I had to leave early—I think it was a question time—and I missed our connecting flights because the direct flights to Canberra were such that I missed the dinner. For those of you who think that the dinner is just about the food, those who have been ministerial conferences know that the dinners are not about the food. The dinners are about where the business is done, and it is very important that ministers are there in advance of the dinner—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —and that they are there to meet with their counterparts who do all arrive early. We have granted pairs, when we were in opposition for those four long years, to government ministers who wanted to travel to Canberra for their ministerial meetings, knowing that they needed to be there in advance of the dinners. This is normal practice. The Leader of the Opposition knows this, for his brief time as a minister, then as a public servant. Members opposite who were ministers know this is the practice. We sought a pair from the opposition and they granted it. If it is the wish of the opposition to remove that pair, then do so, by all means; if not, what's the point?

#### PRIVATE EMAIL ACCOUNTS

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier rule out either he or any of his staff in the Premier's office using personal email accounts for government work?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17):** Yes, an important question, and I would like to thank the shadow minister for education for it. It is absolutely critical that all of my team, the entirety of the cabinet, abide by the State Records Act, including the appropriate use of emails.

#### PRIVATE EMAIL ACCOUNTS

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** I thank the Premier for his answer. My question is again to the Premier. Can the Premier assure the house that other than circumstances described in the house yesterday, no other minister or member of ministerial staff in his government has used private email accounts or servers to conduct any government or ministerial business?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:18):** I thank the member for his question. Yes, I can confirm that it is my expectation that all appropriate public servants, government staffers, cabinet members—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —abide by the State Records Act.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

#### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Morialta, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr Paul Vella and Ms Celestina Vella, guests of the member for Playford.

*Question Time***PRIVATE EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** Thank you, sir, for the opportunity. My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier investigate the extent to which the Minister for Human Services or staff in her office have used private email addresses for work purposes?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:18):** I thank the member again for his question. Naturally, my office has been in discussions with the Minister for Human Services just to understand her position as she described it in the parliament yesterday. I think the Minister for Human Services knows fully what her requirements are and she is well aware that it is our expectation that she complies with them, and my understanding is that's exactly what she has done.

**PRIVATE EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:19):** Given the Premier's answers and the investigation that his office has done to this point, is the Premier confident that the Minister for Human Services and her staff have not contravened any aspect of the State Records Act and have complied with all cybersecurity and record keeping obligations on them as minister and ministerial office?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:19):** On all the advice that I have received, I have no reason to believe otherwise.

**LAND TAX**

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:19):** My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house on the status of the 2019 land tax reforms and the delays in issuing bills?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:20):** I thank the member for Torrens for raising this important issue today because I know that many of her constituents, like many others, were impacted by these reforms and the difficulty in getting accurate bills out to property owners.

To place it in context, sir, you may recall that in 2019 the previous Liberal government indicated that they would be making changes to the land tax regime here in South Australia. The effect of those changes, it became apparent over some weeks, was that some property owners would collectively suffer an increase in land tax liabilities of more than \$100 million a year, and that was due to changes to aggregation arrangements and also changes to land tax applicable to land held in trust arrangements.

This was an extraordinary revelation at the time and led to the then government not only committing to follow through with those reforms but also proposing a series of other reforms in order to offset the impact of higher taxation on South Australian property owners; that is to say that, while several thousand South Australian property owners would collectively be paying an extra \$100 million in land tax, there were very generous tax cuts provided to property owners, including those located overseas and interstate, who owned more than \$2 million and \$1 million of land.

These were complex changes that led to RevenueSA having a devil of a time trying to get accurate bills out to affected property owners; in fact, in May of last year, the former Treasurer had to come to the parliament and seek a legislative change in order to give property owners, and in turn RevenueSA, more time to make declarations about their landholdings in order to get accurate bills out.

You might recall that a couple of months ago I gave an update to the house about how many bills were still to be issued for the first land tax year that these changes took effect, the 2020-21 financial year. Even at that time—I think it was in May of this year I gave my last update to the house—since the state election, there were over 6,000 bills still to issue. I am pleased to advise that, in recent weeks, RevenueSA has caught up significantly on getting some of those overdue bills out. I am advised that, as at 30 August this year, there are 347 land tax bills that still remain outstanding for the 2020-21 financial year and 726 bills that remain outstanding for the 2021-22 year.

It is an extraordinary situation that RevenueSA had been pushed into. It was a badly thought-out, quite frankly vote-losing policy that continued to generate bad publicity for the previous Marshall government right up to the election. It was poorly sold to the public, and to this day a significant number of our supporter base is still very angry with us—hang on a minute, those are not my words: they are the words of Christopher Moriarty and John Rowley, as reported in the Liberal Party's election review—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —just showing how incompetent and damaging the former regime was to the South Australian Liberal Party.

### **GREATER ADELAIDE FREIGHT BYPASS**

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:24):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister advise whether the recent South Eastern Freeway round table considered expediting the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass Planning Study in order to reduce the number of trucks on the freeway and local roads, including Portrush and Glen Osmond roads?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:24):** Wow! I think I just saw the future. Sorry, too soon?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, sure. That is a good question, and we are looking at multiple aspects. The problem is going to be that the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass won't deal with the majority of the problem. The majority of the problem is not the heavier vehicles, the larger vehicles; they know how to deal with the decline. The problem we have is people moving freight to and from the Adelaide Hills who want to go directly into the city where their customers are. The Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass won't deal with those issues, but it is an important part of solving the problem.

I do congratulate the member. He wrote to me offering some suggestions, as did the shadow minister, who wanted to be involved, as did you, Mr Speaker, who, when I say 'wrote', rang, spoke and rang. Yes, he was quite forceful in his presentations; however, it is good that we are getting lots of community feedback. I note that the previous government ruled out a third arrester bed and now Flippy has decided that it is a good idea to bring it back in.

I think that we are going to have a holistic approach to this. We are going to speak to the experts. The round table is not the end of the consultation; it's the beginning. The problem is that some of the engineering solutions to the immediate problem will take time to implement, which will not remove the problem. There are some things we can do faster, like relocating the intersections at the bottom of the freeway.

The truth is that, when this freeway was built, it was poorly designed. Post the tunnels, there is a continuous decline all the way down, culminating in the intersection at the bottom of the hill. It is almost unique in Australia in terms of its danger. Generally, the people who come a cropper on that intersection either (1) have never used it before or (2) have deliberately decided not to use the arrester beds because of some other issues that are occurring, either in the back of the truck or on the truck, or some licensing issue.

There are a lot of myths about using arrester beds. One of those myths is that there is a substantial fee for removal of the vehicles from the arrester beds. There is no fee. There is no fee and it is important that we get that message out to South Australians that, if you are using the South Eastern Freeway decline and you cannot control your vehicle, there is no penalty in place for using the off ramps.



There is a lot of survival optimism from drivers who do lose control who think they can save it. The advice we had at the round table was that pretty much from the moment the key is put in the ignition—

**Mr Tarzia:** Thanks for the invite.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We didn't want it to be political. There are lots of people—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —who wanted to attend, including the Speaker and local members of parliament. We decided not to have parliamentarians there, other than the minister, but not because I don't want you involved in the process. I do want the opposition involved in the process, which is why I'm not being combative in my answer; I'm actually being cooperative, but if you would like me to be combative, I've got a couple here ready to go.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We are looking for a cooperative solution here, but I think the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, to answer the question, is accelerating, but it won't fix the problem. It is one part of the solution.

There are a number of solutions we have to have here in place and even then—even then—after everything we have put in place, it still won't rule out the possibility of someone still thinking that they can save their vehicle and still plough into an intersection or, if they get past that intersection, they take the problem further down Glen Osmond Road, which is catastrophic because now we are talking about homes, schools and shopping centres. We have to try to put in as much infrastructure and other policies to try to make sure we can minimise the risks. Congratulations on your first question. You will remember this day because it was me.

#### MAJORS ROAD INTERCHANGE

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:28):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister inform the house of the progress of the Malinauskas government commitment to build the Majors Road interchange, including any advocacy undertaken on the project?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:29):** I've been waiting for this day for a long time. Community consultation is in. It's like election night. I don't want to call it too early, but 750 respondents to our survey. If you believe the Leader of the Opposition—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Flinders!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —I am sure you would believe that the respondents would be overwhelmingly negative.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** People wouldn't want it. The locals wouldn't want it. I can report to the parliament that, as a result of the consultation, 65 per cent of the respondents have overwhelming support for the project—65. That's higher than your margin—not very good.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** You would dream about 65 per cent.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** These are numbers that are mentioned in hushed tones in corridors, 65 per cent. I have to say that there were some concerns raised by a minority of people, and they were legitimate concerns. There were concerns about the impact on Glenthorne Farm, noting the previous designs—

**The Hon. D.J. Speirs:** Glenthorne Farm is a national park.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Sorry?

**The Hon. D.J. Speirs:** It's a national park.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is, but—

**The Hon. D.J. Speirs:** You wanted to build on it.

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Noting the previous designs show a considerable impact on Glenthorne Farm National Park, the department is pursuing, on the basis of the consultation, a design that has minimal if any impact on the park, and it will ensure that there is no significant impact on vegetation. Again, I think it demonstrates the Premier's approach to community consultation that he has asked all of us to pick up and champion. It's an approach to infrastructure projects, it's to listen, to take into consideration the important feedback from our communities and local community leaders. I want to quote some community leaders about what they think about this Majors Road on/off ramp. One said:

The Southern Expressway cuts through our community...there is no convenient access point for residents living in Sheidow Park, Trott Park, O'Halloran Hill and Hallett Cove.

I agree. Another community leader said, 'As a local who—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Colton!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** He said:

As a local who uses the expressway often, I know firsthand the benefits that access to the Southern Expressway would deliver for thousands of people living in the surrounding suburbs.

Do you know who that was? The Leader of the Opposition. He went on to say this:

You have my commitment that a Liberal Government will deliver much more than a 'feasibility study', we are 100% focused on delivering this project with design works budgeted for early in the term of a new government.

I am trying to think of a Disney character that doesn't have a good memory. I know the Leader of the Opposition—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Can you give me one? Is Nemo a Disney character?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Standing order 127.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Is Dory a Nemo character?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, 127; I ask you to keep it in mind. Standing order 127, personal reflection on members.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, sir. I won't make any adverse reflections on the Leader of the Opposition and his previous remarks. That would be inappropriate, but it is fair to say that the Leader of the Opposition's local community want their project. They want this project. The question they have is: why doesn't the opposition?

**TORRENS TO DARLINGTON PROJECT**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:32):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister confirm that he is still committed to completing the Torrens to Darlington project as the final piece of the north-south corridor?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:33):** Yes.

**NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:33):** Further question to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport: does the minister believe that the successful push for wage rises by the CFMEU affects the final cost estimate of the north-south corridor completion?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:33):** I know that the shadow minister is not a student of demarcation and union affiliations and union coverage. I have some bad news for him. The CFMEU have no coverage on tunnel building; it's the AWU, a different union, bit embarrassing. Since we are talking about threats to the project—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hartley is warned.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley, you are on your third and final warning.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The biggest threats to this project—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley, order! The Treasurer and the member for Hartley will cease their exchange. The house will not tolerate quarrels across the chamber. Minister.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** If only people would follow my example, sir, we would get along all that much better.

The biggest threats to this project are escalation costs and the appalling reference design left to us by the previous government. I can't overestimate the damage that the former reference design left us. The idea that people would use the tunnel coming off Darlington—you've got to understand that the Darlington Interchange accepts traffic from three major arterial roads: the Southern Expressway, Main South Road and Flagstaff Hill Road, and they then go into one major arterial road heading north-south.

We are the last city not to have a north-south motorway. We are the last one in the country. We are the last city state to use a grid network to move our traffic across our network, and it is getting to the point—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Hang on, you might want to listen here.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We need to make sure that the tunnels, when they are built, are used, otherwise we are not able to encourage people to use the tunnel. One of the reasons that people might choose to avoid the tunnel is the exit points. The reason you use these roads is to be able to get from A to B. Most people who are coming from the south who are using the north-south corridor want to end up in the CBD or thereabouts. If the exit points on Anzac Highway, Richmond Road and James Congdon Drive are not properly done, people will not use the tunnels.

The previous government had a one-lane exit out of the tunnels, elevated, landing in the middle of Anzac Highway, with traffic merging left. That would have caused queuing—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please be seated. The member for Hartley can leave the chamber under 137A. He in fact had four of three warnings.

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

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The problem we would have had is there would have been queuing in the tunnels. The worst problem would have been that we might have spent over \$10 billion on a tunnel that was redundant from the day it was opened, because people wouldn't be using it because of the queuing to get out. It would have caused congestion in a tunnel that is designed to decongest our network. It was a disaster. It was an absolute disaster.

**Ms Stinson:** Another one-way expressway.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, another one-way expressway.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Badcoe!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We are doing the diligent work we are meant to do with a new reference design to make sure it can work. We will do that and deliver that for the people of South Australia.

In terms of escalating costs, inflation is running at 6 per cent, I understand, potentially hitting 8 per cent by the end of the reporting period. The Reserve Bank is doing everything it can to try to deal with the inflation by increasing interest rates. This inflationary pressure is impacting every major infrastructure program across the country, not just us. We are not unique; we are not an island.

**Mr Cowdrey:** The Treasurer said it wasn't affecting your budget at all.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Colton!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It's fair to say that the war in Ukraine is throwing up a lot of—

Time expired.

### FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:37):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What action will the government take to ensure that South Australia doesn't lose frontline health workers to the Eastern States? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** The Victorian government recently announced that they will pay for the university course fees for more than 10,000 nursing and midwifery students. This, of course, follows the New South Wales government, which is paying \$3,000 thank you payments for their frontline workers. Yet here in South Australia, this government is stripping the most basic of incentives: free hospital car parking for frontline workers.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:38):** I thank the member for her question. This is a government that stands with and stands by nurses and wants to support them by providing more nurses to work in our public health system. We took an extensive range of policies to the election, and central amongst them was the idea and the fact that nurses are significantly overwhelmed in terms of the pressure on them because of the workload and the lack of staffing in our hospitals. We need to invest more to make sure that the nurses are there to provide

those services. So we have committed 300 additional nurses to work across our healthcare system to make sure that—

**Mrs Hurn:** Three hundred.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —they've got the support when they go to work that there are more nurses there to provide that care and support. In addition to that, we have also made the very strong commitment that during this term of parliament we will be legislating for nurse-patient ratios to make sure—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —that there is a specific, appropriate number of nurses for the right number of patients in our wards across our hospital system. The evidence of this, where it has already been implemented in Queensland and Victoria, is that not only does it ease the pressure on nurses but it actually provides better care for patients and ultimately leads to—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —fewer people having to be readmitted to hospital, because they can get that better care while they are in hospital. That is a critical function, and we have started the consultation with our nurses, working on that at the moment.

The other factor we specifically took to the election was to implement security measures with our nurses, because for years and years the then government refused to implement a 10-point plan in relation to nurse security, as has been in place in Victoria and other states. They refused to do it. They refused to work with the nurses on putting in place those security measures. We are putting in place those security measures—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**Ms Stinson:** Chuck her out.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Badcoe!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —to make sure that our nurses are secure when they get to work and provide that excellent care for people. We will be implementing a 10-point plan—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —with the ANMF to make sure we have the security measures in place. We are already taking action in relation to one of those real areas of concern, which is in relation to the Port Lincoln hospital. We are implementing a review of security there, where a number of issues of assault have happened to our nurses there. We are undertaking that independent review, as we committed to do at the election. This is an issue we are taking seriously. We are hiring additional nurses, and we are making sure that we are working with—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —our universities. Another initiative we are putting in place is we have also announced a significant range of training.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is called to order. The member for Schubert is on three warnings. Member for Flinders! Minister, please be seated.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is warned. The member for Schubert can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time under 137A. The member for Schubert, in fact, had the benefit of five warnings.

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Another measure we announced recently, the Premier and I and the ANMF and UniSA, is that we are undertaking a significant number of training opportunities for our nurses. We know there is going to be a pipeline of requirements, particularly in areas such as mental health care, ICU nursing and other areas of speciality nursing, and we need those additional levels of skills to be able to be provided. We are now providing those scholarships for our nurses to undertake that training, particularly working with UniSA and some other training providers, including, I believe, Melbourne University, which is part of that as well.

We are also implementing a better starting scheme for our new graduates, working with the ANMF, to make sure they get their best stepping up when they start their jobs working with SA Health so that they can get their best chance in working in their career, because we want to keep those nurses in the long term.

### REGIONAL NURSES

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister inform the house of any work underway to expand nurses' scope of practice in peri-urban and regional South Australia?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:43):** It is fantastic to receive another question about nursing because this is a particular commitment that we on this side of the house have to invest in our frontline nurses. I know this is an issue particularly for the member for Light in terms of making sure that services at Gawler hospital are as good as they possibly can be, and we are taking steps to further invest in hospital services at Gawler.

It was great, two weeks ago, to be with the member for Light visiting Gawler hospital and speaking to the staff there and to now be able to announce that we are investing in more nurses at Gawler hospital. These are not just any nurses; we are investing in the highest trained, skilled nurses we have in our system, who are nurse practitioners. These are nurses who have taken additional levels of training and experience who then have the ability to undertake a broader scope of practice in terms of being able to prescribe medication, order diagnostic tests and being able to refer for scans, etc.

So it is particularly useful, therefore, to have them in a busy emergency department like the Gawler emergency department. This government is investing \$2 million in four additional nurse practitioners, who are starting later this month at the Gawler hospital, and I thank the member for Light for his advocacy on this.

We know that with the number of presentations Gawler hospital receives that is going to be very well utilised by the community of Gawler. Of course, this is an area that was promised an upgraded emergency department. That hasn't eventuated yet and this is something that this government will deliver. We will be building that expanded emergency department at Gawler and get that hospital project off the ground to make sure it can provide those border services.

But there is more. We are also investing in nurse practitioners in other areas as well, and something that I have been speaking a lot to the member for Mawson about are services on Kangaroo Island. We know that Kangaroo Island is obviously isolated by water, therefore it is really important that we keep an important range of services on Kangaroo Island. We are facing significant workforce shortages, particularly in terms of GP services, so we are now investing in two nurse practitioners who will be on the island as well.

This is another area where we are working cooperatively with the federal government and we want to thank in particular, in this case, Rebekha Sharkie, who was able to deliver \$1.2 million, which has helped us in terms of bringing on at least one of those nurse practitioners to Kangaroo

Island as well. I think we have a very good relationship with Rebekha Sharkie and also, of course, the member for Mawson and yourself as well in representing that area.

Yet there is even more. In that local health network—the Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network—there will be a seventh additional nurse practitioner starting who will be working with aged-care facilities across the region to help people stay healthy, to help keep them in their aged-care facility without having to resort to going to hospital, because we know that not only is that not good for the resident to have to go to hospital but also, of course, it has an impact on the broader health system as well. The benefits of that will be felt right across the region in terms of helping aged-care residents stay healthy and in their homes.

This is a program, in terms of nurse practitioners, that I am personally keen and committed to expand across our health network. We know that we have some incredibly talented nurses with a high degree of clinical excellence. This is a program that started 10 to 15 years ago. Over the last few years we haven't seen much expansion of it, but this is another good sign of how we can use nurse practitioners to provide better care for the community.

### WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:47):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister confirm when early works on the new Women's and Children's site will commence, and whether any delayed payments to Lendlease are liable to be paid by the government if there is a postponement of that construction? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Ms PRATT:** Under the former Liberal government, construction was scheduled to start later this year.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:47):** I thought that where you ask for leave to introduce facts, you actually have to introduce some facts and not complete fantasy. Let's remember that this is a project that the former government promised was going to open in 2024. Open in 2024 was their original promise, that this would happen. Then it got delayed and delayed and delayed. Now we are hearing this line being put out by those opposite—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** —that it was apparently 'shovel ready'. It is a complete furphy, absolute fantasy that this project is shovel ready. There is no truth to that whatsoever. In fact, now there is a suggestion that there were some payments that have to be made to Lendlease. This doesn't even show an understanding of what the contract was that was signed by the previous government with Lendlease. There was an initial contract in terms of the initial planning stages which are, of course, continuing. There will be additional contracts in regard to the construction further down the track.

There is completely no truth whatsoever to the idea that major construction was going to be underway this year on this project. What happened when we came to government was that we already knew that the project had blown out in cost and in time frames and, very quickly, we were told, 'Well, actually it has blown out even more in cost and more in time frames than was public before the election.'

At that point, we said we had to bring in some outside expertise to have a look at this project and we will soon be going through the results of that work. It is really important we get this project right because it is going to last for generations. We can't have a situation where this project continues

to blow out in terms of cost and time frames and, in addition, not be able to deliver the important clinical benefits that we need for our health system for the future as well.

We know that the other element of this project was: how many extra beds do you think—hundreds of extra beds, 50 extra beds, 20 extra beds? Actually, one fewer overnight paediatric and adolescent bed was part of the plan for this hospital.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Patterson:** That's just cherrypicking.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morphett!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We have to get to the bottom of what the full costs of this project are. We have to get to the bottom of what the proper time frame is for this project.

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morphett!

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We have to look at the potential alternative sites that we can consider. Importantly, we have to plan for the future in terms of having the capacity for growth in terms of clinical services. That's what has been raised with the clinicians and that is what we are now following up on in terms of making sure that we deliver this project right.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Adelaide, I recognise the presence in the chamber of the recipients of Queen's Birthday Honours, the Reverend Carl Aiken, Mr Russell Wight, Ms Debbie Gibson and Ms Monique Bareham, all guests of the member for Badcoe.

#### *Question Time*

#### **OFFICE FOR SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS**

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:51):** My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. Can the minister provide an update on the establishment of the Office for Small and Family Business and current engagement activities that are underway?

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:51):** Thank you to the member for Adelaide for that question and it's fantastic to have a local member who is so passionate about her small and family businesses in her community.

In fact, over the winter break I got to spend about half a day doing business visits with the member for Adelaide around Hutt Street and Prospect Road, which was a fantastic time talking to some of those business owners and seeing how they progressed through COVID and where they are up to at the moment. A lot of those were in hospitality and retail and obviously had some struggles through COVID, but their resilience was outstanding and they are taking on new opportunities and expanding. There are really some great positive stories out there.

A few weeks ago, over the winter break, I launched the Office for Small and Family Business at Mixed Goods at Kilkenny, which was an exciting time. It will be a single destination point for small businesses to interact with the state government, not only as a central port of call but also providing services to help support small and family businesses across the state.

The first big job I have tasked that office with is creating a small business strategy for the state. As far as the department can tell me, this is the first small business strategy that they can find any details of. That's an exciting piece of comprehensive work that they are doing at the moment. As with any business, the best way to know what you should be doing is to ask your customers, so that's what we are doing, asking our small businesses and family businesses what they want this Office for



Small and Family Business to do and what we want this small business strategy to look like for the state.

That engagement piece is quite extensive. There is an online survey at [survey.business.sa.gov.au](http://survey.business.sa.gov.au) and I encourage all members, if they are interested in connecting with their local businesses, to participate in that survey. We have had more than 500 responses already, which the office is quite happy with for their statistical database. So we will be getting quantitative and qualitative results from that.

Also, very importantly, we have almost 20 round tables set up across the state. We are having a CBD one, four metropolitan ones and some across the regions starting next week through Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla when country cabinet is out there. That is a really good way to have very detailed conversations with these small businesses to get from them what they need from the state government. I am really thrilled to be able to do that. It is a really good way to engage with small businesses. We have those happening at the moment across the state.

We are also going through sectors. Building and construction, food and hospitality and tourism are some of our key industry sectors throughout the state. We are engaging in specific round tables for them as well to get their feedback to really mould what the Office for Small and Family Business does in terms of support services and how businesses can interact better with the state government, and also to be able to form that small business strategy and to roll out all our policies as a state government over the next 3½ years.

This is one of the largest engagement processes we have had with the small business sector as a state government, from my memory, so it is a really great way to hear from these businesses in terms of what their support strategies will be and how we progress further, and being able to really pin down some of those support services in terms of basic business fundamentals, networking and all those support services that can really work well within some of the industry associations.

I want to thank all the industry associations that have engaged with me since becoming the minister to feed into this process of creating the office and where we go forward, as well as spreading the word on this engagement piece. It has been fantastic to have the support of groups like Business SA and other groups helping us with that process.

#### ANTISEMITISM

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:55):** My question is to the Premier. In the spirit of bipartisanship, will the Premier join with the opposition in condemning the publication of antisemitic statements in the Adelaide University student newspaper *On Dit*? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** An article was recently published in *On Dit* entitled, 'For Palestine, there is No Ceasefire', which concluded with the words 'death to Israel'.

In the same week that extremists defaced Adelaide's Holocaust Museum, Jewish students at Adelaide University were stunned to see a majority of their elected SRC representatives supporting the position of the author, who repeatedly shouted the statement 'death to Israel' at a meeting. These students included constituents of ours who have told members of the opposition of their experiences of increased levels of antisemitism, including physical threats that have been inspired by articles such as this one.

A strong and bipartisan statement from the government joining the condemnation offered by the opposition would be strongly welcomed by these students and the Jewish community.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:56):** I most certainly welcome this question from the Leader of the Opposition, because it does present a powerful opportunity for this parliament to condemn antisemitism in all its forms.

It has been a bipartisan position of our nation for some time to support a two-state solution to the situation that we see in both Palestine and Israel, and we actively condemn as a government—

and I hope as a parliament—any advocacy for death to either group. Death is never something that should be advocated for, and it should always be condemned in all its forms.

*On Dit* as a publication has a long history. Indeed, in many respects it has a very proud history, and we do not believe that these sentiments accord with that history. All of us in this parliament passionately believe in the virtue of freedom of the press, but it is also within our freedom as a parliament to actively condemn a view that is not consistent with Australia's values, Australia's position on this issue, or indeed the spirit that South Australians have towards peaceful resolution of disputes of this nature.

I have had the great privilege of travelling to both Palestine and Israel, and in that experience I spoke to both Palestinians and Israeli men and women, working people, business owners, parents, children and young people and almost universally everyone that I spoke to expressed a desire for a peaceful solution.

When one side or the other starts advocating death to one group or another it actively undermines the prospect of a peaceful solution. I welcome the opposition's condemning of that use of language. We support the opposition in their condemnation of that, and I hope that bipartisan spirit on supporting a two-state solution can reign for a long time to come.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Heysen, I observe that a number of my own constituents have contacted me in relation to this issue. They are deeply distressed. The position of the Chair and of my office: I observe that freedom of speech does not include the freedom to threaten or intimidate.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:59):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. When was the minister advised of a police investigation in respect of six-year-old Charlie's death?

**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) (14:59):** I thank the member for his question. I believe that I answered this question on a couple of other occasions. In answering it again today, can I first of all say how sorry I am and how much I have been thinking about the loved ones of Charlie and of all those in our community who are affected by those horrific circumstances.

As I also said in an answer to this house just a couple of days ago and also a couple of months ago, on coming to government and on being made the minister I was utterly shocked by the lack of thoroughness in terms of a notification procedure that the former minister had in relation to significant incidents and her notification of those incidents when they arose from her department, so I immediately set out on a course of changing that notification procedure.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order.

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

**Mr TEAGUE:** It might be unsurprising that it's standing order 98. It was a very specific, straightforward question and continuing a line of very specific, straightforward questions—no answer, no substantive answer, and a repeated series of broad statements, none of which are apposite.

**The SPEAKER:** I think I have the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I certainly would welcome any submission in relation to the point of order that the minister would wish to make. Does the minister wish to address me in relation to the point of order?

**The Hon. K.A. Hildyard:** No.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully. I have 98 well in mind. I will turn to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have in mind standing order 131 which prevents interruption.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** As I was saying, and as I articulated a couple of days ago, I went about changing the notification procedure so that I had an opportunity to review more deeply circumstances relating to significant incidents and to ask thorough questions and be notified about the wellbeing of any other children who may be around significant incidents and—

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order which I will hear under 134. I do observe that question time has itself expired but not the time for answering the question.

**Mr TEAGUE:** It's a very short time indeed and may I say, Mr Speaker, not only is it a very specific question but it is asked in the context of a very specific series of dates.

**The SPEAKER:** 98, member for Heysen?

**Mr TEAGUE:** 98(b)—15 July through 19 July is the time period that we are all aware we are talking about.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr TEAGUE:** It begs of a precise answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have 98 well in mind. Minister, I will bring you to the question. The minister has concluded her answer?

**The Hon. K.A. Hildyard:** Sure.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister has concluded her answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Grievance Debate*

### **ANTISEMITISM**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:03):** A few moments ago this house had a question from the Leader of the Opposition, answered by the Premier, and it was a credit to them both the way in which it was asked and answered. I think that they expressed sentiments felt by everybody in this house—and indeed, sir, I should also note comments by you as the Chair—in relation to the very challenging situation that a number of students have found themselves in at Adelaide University in the last couple of weeks. It goes to a broader issue in relation to what I consider to be a very concerning normalisation of antisemitic language that has found its way into far too many publications around the world.

There were examples in recent weeks of the defacement of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum, a museum that has been brought into existence so that the stories of South Australian Holocaust survivors can continue to be told even though those survivors themselves are getting older and in the years ahead will be less able to tell those stories.

The importance of that museum could not be stated any more than by the importance of ensuring that all Australians, South Australians and South Australian children and young people grow up with an understanding of the Holocaust and what that Holocaust has meant for the world over the last 75 years. The industrialisation of brutality, the mechanisation of evil and everything that Holocaust represented culminated in the murder of six million people.

At one end of the spectrum is the defacement of the Holocaust Museum, which of course everyone would rightly express that they are absolutely appalled by, but then there is the publication in student newspapers of statements such as 'death to Israel'. I have observed the footage of the SRC meeting where the SRC refused to request that *On Dit* take that article down. People justified it on the basis that they did not think the words 'death to Israel' were antisemitic. They said that they were anti-Zionist and made these superficial speculations of the difference between those words.

The content of that meeting was appalling. The undermining of those Jewish students who attended that meeting by those present in positions of power was very disappointing. The front page of *The Australian Jewish News* today bears some words that I think all members of the house would be very disappointed to hear said in one of Australia's major publications. The article begins:

Jewish students at the University of Adelaide are scared to go on campus in the wake of an article in student magazine *On Dit* that called for 'Death to Israel' and a student representative council (SRC) meeting at which they were taunted, laughed at and their concerns ignored.

Online publisher Medium removed the article 'For Palestine, there is no ceasefire' last week after being contacted by the Online Hate Prevention Institute, but *On Dit* reposted the article on its Facebook page.

This is a troubling state of affairs, a deeply disappointing state of affairs. One of my constituents was one of the students who approached the opposition in recent days to talk about their concerns. They identified to me threats of violence they have received. They and their colleagues reported the way in which, even when engaging on social media or in community discussions—it has been student elections at Adelaide University in the last week and a half or so, and there have been many discussions where this has been taking place—they were asked to justify, as a Jewish-identifying student on campus, why Israeli foreign policy is whatever it is.

It is not a reasonable thing to ask of a student, to ask them to define themselves in the context of their race or religion. It is not something that is routinely asked of students who bear a cultural identity in connection with governments of other countries around the world where their foreign policy becomes a matter of question. I think it speaks not just to the overt antisemitism that is identifiable and recognised broadly when we have the defacing of the Holocaust Museum but to a more covert and just as problematic antisemitism that is apparent in far too many places of public discourse in the world.

It is not to say that we disagree with free speech but, as the Premier said in response to the Leader of the Opposition's excellent question, it is entirely the duty of us as parliamentarians to call out hateful language and to call out racism when we see it. When that racism is covert and seeks to normalise antisemitism, especially in the shadow of the Holocaust, we all have a duty to call it out. I thank members on both sides of this house for standing with the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier in doing so on behalf of these students today.

**VELLA, MR P.**

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:08):** I rise on behalf of a grateful community to give thanks for the services of Paul Vella. I am delighted that he and his mother, Celestina, could be here to join me today. Paul has recently stepped down as the President of the Salisbury West Sports Club after a long and distinguished association with the club both on and off the field.

Before I speak of his achievements, it is important to note that the club, through its two ovals, clubrooms and courts facilitates numerous affiliated subclubs and is home to junior football, cricket, netball, soccer, eight ball, darts and poker. It hosts a range of community events, such as Christmas shows, film nights and raffles, while supporting the needs of our multicultural communities.

Until recently, at the heart of this was a man with a wealth of knowledge in business management and the necessary tools to operate and run a successful not-for-profit club. While Paul's passion is cricket, his record as a community leader is exemplary, and he has ensured that, no matter the game, all sports have been welcomed and treated very fairly.

Over the years, the make-up of our community has changed significantly. Fewer places can lay greater claim to the multicultural diversity of Adelaide's north. It is through leadership, shown by good people like Paul, that new communities have emerged, integrated and, most importantly, felt welcome in places like Salisbury West.

While my ability to delve into the historical records of the club is questionable, to indemnify myself I must pass on my thanks to Rob Klose and Adrian Griguol, who helped me pull these words together. To gain an appreciation of Paul's contribution, we need to travel back to 1973, when he first began playing cricket with the Junior Colts under 14s team. Along his sporting journey, Paul played a starring role with the undefeated under 16s premiership team in 1976-77 in which he was the leading run scorer. He went on to make headlines with the unique record in the semifinal of

scoring 76 runs in the morning with the under 16s and then making 104 in his first century that afternoon with the D-grade team.

He went on to become a vital member of Salisbury West's first ever grade 1 premiership in 1986 and 1987. Paul continued to play a role with the cricket club until he retired as a player in 2018-19. A six-time premiership player, his time at the crease spanned 45 years, playing 320 senior games, amassing almost 6,000 runs, taking 63 wickets, with 166 catches and 14 stumpings. His success as a coach of the junior teams should also not go unnoticed.

In recent years, as the Salisbury West Sports Club faced difficult times due to the collapse of senior football operations, it was Paul who took it upon himself to retrieve the grave situation the club found itself in by taking on the role of its president. His work included the big decision to attract soccer teams to the club. From this dedication, the club battled financial difficulty and it has emerged with the same defiance Paul displayed at the crease.

Paul Vella is one of the main reasons why the Salisbury West Sports Club is operating to this day. His business acumen and leadership have allowed the club to continue to operate without the fear of closure and, at the same time, allowed itself to focus on bringing people together. For this, I give thanks and, through the reading of this speech into *Hansard*, Paul's many achievements are now proudly enshrined into the public record.

#### STATE GOVERNMENT

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:12):** After an eight-week break, I would have expected that the government would be ready and raring to go into a new sitting period with lots of legislation, lots of ideas, lots of vigour and energy and even some brushing up on their skills of how to be a minister. How wrong I was. Each and every day of this sitting week, we have seen stumbles and fumbles from the government, and it has been, quite frankly, embarrassing.

On Tuesday, we saw the Minister for Planning release the review into decision-making around the Brompton Gasworks. That revealed that the whole thing had been a popular charade, simply set up to attract the attention of Crows supporters in the lead-up to the election. To quote David Bevan, he would have thought that the Minister for Planning would have 'done a little bit better' in this place than he has shown over his few months as a minister. He is someone who is all too quick to get noisy on these benches, to throw his hands up and to make smart comments, but when it comes to administering his portfolio he leaves a huge amount to be desired.

Yesterday, I think that even the Minister for Planning was trumped in terms of incompetence when we saw the Minister for Human Services. Our line of questioning sought to expose what we thought were failings among staff members in her office and what we thought was actually misuse of private emails by her staff members.

We stand behind the fact that those staff members were doing the wrong thing. Little did we realise, and certainly little did the Premier's office realise, that the Minister for Human Services would out herself as also the Hillary Clinton of South Australia. She admitted to also probably breaching the State Records Act, probably breaching cybersecurity rules and breaching the Ministerial Code of Conduct by using a personal email to administer affairs of the state.

We did not even ask her for that information. We should have but we did not. She volunteered it. It was a 'I saw him down at Bunnings' moment for those who were here between 2014 and 2018, when former minister Leesa Vlahos made one of the most stunning errors in parliamentary history. But that was probably trumped yesterday by the Minister for Human Services. The great challenge for the Minister for Human Services is that she pairs arrogance with stupidity. Those things, where separated from one another, can be dealt with, but when they come together it leads to disaster as a minister. She thinks she is so good at administering her portfolio—

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Just ask her.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Just ask her. She gets up every morning, looks in the mirror and says 'Wow!' and, as she goes up the elevator, 'Look at me, look at me, I'm fig jam.' Look at the Minister for Human Services: she is her biggest fan. The Labor Party are quickly waking up to the

great risk that she not only poses their government but, in fact, more worryingly, she poses the vulnerable South Australians she has charge of as a minister of the Crown.

I suspect that there will be moves afoot in the coming months to see her cease to be a minister of the Crown and head onto the back bench. She has been identified by Labor members as their weakest link, by us as their weakest link, by the media as their weakest link, and there is no doubt that very soon, I am sure, the Labor Party will be saying goodbye to their weakest link.

This week has been topped off by the Premier heading out to a *Great Gatsby*-style party in Canberra. He left the poor, unfortunate, bumbling, stumbling Minister for Local Government to sit there taking through their supposedly urgent legislation on a plebiscite around council amalgamations, and he jetted off first class to Canberra to toast himself and his Labor mates over there. He claimed it was a networking event. I am sure it was, but all the time his urgent legislation had to be stewarded through by the poor, unfortunate member for Stuart trying his best but abandoned by his Labor friends.

It has been a woeful week for the government. The honeymoon is well and truly over, and South Australians are waking up to the shambles that sits on the benches opposite.

### WE'RE EQUAL CAMPAIGN

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:17):** Last month, I was proud to help launch the Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity's campaign We're Equal. The campaign identifies businesses committed to treating everyone equally regardless of their age, ability, gender diversity, sexuality, relationship and reproductive status, race, religion and culture. They are businesses actively committed to a vision of South Australia as an open, inclusive society that embraces and supports difference and diversity. This means that they are a business where their premises is a safe space for all people, with zero tolerance for discrimination or disrespectful behaviours, whether to or by their customers, staff, suppliers and contractors.

To participate in the pilot campaign, businesses registered and displayed the We're Equal logo. Members of the public are able to demonstrate their support for equality by registering with the We're Equal campaign using a QR code or a simple online sign-up form. Customers completing the registration at participating venues then receive a metal We're Equal-branded drink bottle and invited to snap a selfie with the bottle, tag the venue and the campaign and post the image to their personal social media account.

By completing the process, they both endorse the We're Equal campaign and support the participating businesses, thereby creating consumer-led demand for businesses committed to antidiscrimination. They came in a range of colours. I even tried my hand at TikTok—I believe that is what the youth are on these days—and also a reel, and had a really great time participating in the campaign. It has had a fantastic response. In the first 18 days, the campaign attracted more than 513 supporter registrations. In addition, around 30 new organisations have also expressed interest in becoming We're Equal businesses once the pilot campaign concludes.

The Adelaide electorate office where I work is proud to be a We're Equal venue. I would also like to give a shout-out to the businesses in my community participating in the We're Equal campaign, including Mascavado Cafe on Hutt Street, Mr Fox Espresso Bar in James Place, My Kingdom for a Horse in Wright Street and Waymouth Street—where you will find some amazing coffee art—Leigh Street Luggage in Leigh Street, LOC Bottle Bar in Hindmarsh Square, Olivia Hotel in Hutt Street, Smokelovers in Rundle Street and the Adelaide Central Market.

I would also like to acknowledge the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Jodeen Carney, and Veronica Maughan for their absolutely tireless efforts and all that they have done on this campaign. I would like to thank them personally and their team for the passion, drive, commitment and hard work on this incredibly important campaign.

The Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity has created a dedicated We're Equal campaign page on its website. The campaign landing page explains what the campaign is all about and provides some easy-to-navigate antidiscrimination resources. In the first 16 days of the campaign, these new webpages have attracted more than 2,200 visits and the We're Equal campaign landing page has become the most highly accessed of all the pages on the commissioner's website

after the homepage itself, which I think really reflects a want of the community to be part of this campaign and fight against discrimination in all forms.

The campaign also uses social media to promote the businesses that have signed up for the pilot and promotes the commitment that they have made to zero tolerance of discrimination and harassment. In addition to the social media posts generated by this pilot campaign and by the participants, stakeholders and the public, in the first 18 days almost 5,000 people viewed the commissioner's social media posts, which is just fantastic.

I would like to thank everybody involved in the campaign. I would like to thank all the local businesses and, importantly, the customers who are really embracing this campaign, because we are all equal.

### **R U OK? DAY**

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:22):** To say it has been a turbulent few years is a serious understatement. In recent times, there has been a lot to cope with, whether that is the COVID-19 pandemic or natural disasters like fires and floods. Cost-of-living increases have really added additional financial pressures and emotional strain to so many families and businesses here in South Australia, including in my proud electorate of Schubert, not to mention the significant challenges in regional communities, with additional pressures like export markets, serious housing shortages that we are facing, and also the workforce struggles where many people are struggling just to get the fruit off their trees or their vines, and of course struggling to find shearers and the like. The cost of business is simply going through the roof.

The strain of these challenges can push really, really strong and good people to breaking point. That is why it is so important to stop today and ask just a very simple question, to start a conversation with people that really can save a life. You do not need to be an expert, but you do need to have a really good ear. Today, we are encouraging people to ask a workmate, a loved one or a friend or a colleague: R U OK? It is that simple question that can save so many lives.

Homelessness Week was recently recognised in Australia and it is something that we all must work together—across the political divide, from city to the regions—to combat. It is critical that we work together. As members have reflected on this week, all it takes is one single change in circumstance to trigger homelessness, whether it is the loss of a job, whether it is emotional and relationship challenges that you are having or some difficulties in your community. It is not a choice. It can happen to anybody, especially with the housing market as it is now.

I would like to reflect on a really fantastic initiative that is happening in the Barossa Valley in my electorate, which is a result of a \$2.4 million investment by the former Liberal government. The former state government provided \$2.4 million to a not-for-profit charity organisation called Kids Under Cover to fund 70 per cent of the first 51 youth homelessness prevention studios, including the very first one that was built in the Barossa Valley this week.

As Foundation Barossa has stated, this studio is designed to reduce the risk of family tension, it is designed to prevent young people from becoming homeless, and it has been built in the backyard of a family's home in the Barossa. I look forward to seeing this rolled out right across South Australia, including in the regions, as just one example of what can be done to stop homelessness. We really cannot lose sight of the fact that we are privileged to have shelter, and we must be implementing public policy and investing in services that not only make it easier for people to find a home but also for them to stay there.

Changing tack slightly, I love country sport. It brings out some of the rawest emotion you can ever witness. This Saturday is particularly exciting because it is the 2022 Hills country division footy league grand final. I have to say that a good friend of mine in this place is the member for Heysen, but the Gumeracha Magpies are facing off against Meadows this weekend, so I certainly hope we can continue a good relationship working in this place.

We have so many fantastic clubs that are playing in the Hills footy competition, like Birdwood and Kersbrook, who took out the flag last year, and Torrens Valley as well, but it is Gumeracha that is playing off in the grand final this weekend. Interestingly, it has been 100 years since their first ever grand final in 1922.

This year for them has really been first class. Cousins Sammy and Ben Hanna took out the Hills footy league male medal first and second for the second time—which I am sure, in hindsight, will be viewed as a nice cherry on top should they take out the flag this weekend.

I would like to wish the club, led by their president Tony Hannaford, all the very best this weekend for the grand final. To the players, to their coach Brett Randell, and all their supporters: best of luck. It is also the Barossa, Light and Gawler prelim this weekend. It is a showdown every weekend in the Barossa, and I would like to wish those sides all the best as well.

### TECHNICAL COLLEGES

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:27):** I am the daughter of a stevedore, the wife of a linesman, and I have mates who have some exceptional skill sets across a range of trades. Most importantly, I would be a proud mum if either of my two take up a trade.

One of the things I want to help ensure during my time here is that the next generation have equal opportunities, whichever pathway they embark on. I want to do what I can to help encourage diversity within industry and support new and exciting career paths that will strengthen our economy. It is why I am proud of the technical colleges we are building, because they will help provide students with opportunities whilst also helping to foster stronger pathways for the skills of the future, the skills our state needs to be planning for now.

We are at a critical moment in time when it comes to ensuring that today's students of South Australia are learning the skills they need to succeed in a world that is rapidly changing. We know that students who complete SACE have a higher chance of entering the workforce, and that it provides them with more stability as they settle into the next chapter of their life.

Keeping students in school so that they can complete their SACE, learn about future career options, and train in an industry they wish to pursue is one way that technical colleges can help strengthen these opportunities and support the success and growth of our state, all whilst reflecting the needs of local industries, regions and communities, and complementing the existing offerings available through schools and registered training organisations.

I have been assisting in this space where I can, because the potential that arises from these colleges is something to be really excited about. It has been great to see industry feeling the same way, and recognising the huge potential.

I have not forgotten where I have come from. I know how important a role regional communities play in our economy and the strong need to create pathways for students so that they do not need to move to the city to pursue their aspirations, something I myself had to face when I finished high school. I am pleased to share that during the break I spent time in my home town to share the great potentials that will come from building a technical college in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

I was at the GMUSG Summit, and I am delighted to share that keen interest was indicated by the over 400 attendees and industry representatives in attendance, attendees who represent industries that play a critical role in stimulating not only the Upper Spencer Gulf but our entire state. I understand how vital our regional communities are, as did the other members of parliament to attend the summit: the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Energy and Mining; the Minister for Regional Roads, Local Government and Veterans Affairs; and the member for Giles.

We rocked up, engaged and listened to the feedback provided by those in attendance because that is what good governments do. There is no tokenism to be seen here. I know that for those colleges to succeed in meeting the needs of not only the students but also employers and the broader community, their design, their focus and their operation need to include effective industry engagement.

I love the feedback that I am hearing. There is a strong desire to see an increase in diversity within our workforce, getting more women in particular involved, as well as recognition of the huge potential digital skills will play in our economy moving forward. I congratulate the Minister for Education on all of his hard work in this space and cannot wait to see these colleges up and running and the positive impact that they will make.



*Parliamentary Procedure***SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:31):** I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 11am.

Motion carried.

**VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Ms Jodeen Carney, and Veronica Maughan, guests of the member for Adelaide. Welcome.

*Motions***SCHOOL FUNDING PETITION**

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:32):** I move:

That the House of Assembly petition No. 96, entitled School and Preschool Funding for Children and Students with Additional Needs, be referred to the Social Development Committee for inquiry and report.

I do not intend to speak for a great deal of time on this. It is a fairly routine motion I believe. It was a 10,000 signature petition in this case, which was tabled as part of the new procedure which I think is an excellent one. It was automatically referred to the Legislative Review Committee for inquiry and report.

The Legislative Review Committee recently considered the petition and reported that, as it was still considering the ambulance ramping petition and its normal routine, regulation and legislative review, it did not have the capacity to consider this report at this point. I accept that and therefore, to ensure that the petitioners still have their petition duly looked at, we are simply referring to the Social Development Committee for inquiry and report. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. B.I. Boyer (resumed on motion).

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:34):** We were also well represented in swimming, with six SASI-based swimmers bringing home 11 medals between them. How can I go past the incredible results of Jessica Stenson, winning gold in the marathon after two previous bronze medals and having a baby only a few years before. What an achievement and a role model for all women to never give up on their dreams. She is the first female athlete from any country to win three medals in Commonwealth Games marathons.

South Australia has always been well represented in cycling at both the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. My cousin was on a trajectory to represent Australia in cycling, too, when he was young, so I know how much work goes into pursuing this sport. Our cycling team, with its national training centre based here in SA, achieved 13 medals, including three being from para-track cyclists. Congratulations to all athletes. Not everyone brings home a medal, but everyone brings home the experience, the knowledge that they have represented their country and a sense of pride in doing so.

The Commonwealth Games brings together commonwealth nations. It encourages friendship, fair play and camaraderie. It is also inclusive, having all athletes competing at the same time. The inclusion of athletes with a disability promotes opportunities in sport for people of all abilities. Of the four selected South Australian para-athletes, two, Chris Flavel and Beau Wootton, won medals. Elite athletes with a disability were first included in 1994, starting with the sports of athletics and lawn bowls. It is great to see that South Australia is still leading the way in these sports.

Our government is committed to supporting sportspeople of all abilities and skills. We are focusing on growing participation in sport and recreation of women and girls and people from diverse multicultural communities. We want to ensure that clubs and groups have access to the facilities and equipment they need so that everyone has an opportunity to pursue the sport they are passionate about.

Whilst there were no athletes from my electorate who attended the Games this time, I know there are many up-and-coming sports stars of the future who are working hard to get there in 2026. I wish all of them well in their preparations. Again, I would like to congratulate all athletes who competed at the Games and let them know we are incredibly proud of them.

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:37):** I rise to support this motion. I think it is always so important that we acknowledge the dedication and the passion of all athletes, not only in our communities but right across South Australia.

In particular, putting on the green and gold uniform is something quite remarkable, and I would like to pay tribute to the 55 South Australian athletes who represented the nation at the recent Commonwealth Games. It truly is remarkable. The preparation is intense. I say that as one of the most established athletes has just walked into the chamber, in the member for Colton. I would like to acknowledge all the work he has done in the sporting space.

I would like to particularly acknowledge local legend Jess Trengove, or now Jess Stenson. One of the most humbling experiences I have ever had in my sporting career involved Jess. It was when I was at the Institute of Sport playing netball and I was thinking I was pretty fit at the time. I had rocked up to my preseason training at the uni loop in Adelaide, and we had done a few laps when Jess Trengove arrived.

I knew Jess because she was involved in the physio business that was looking after us at that time. Jess said to me, 'Ash, would you like to just do a bit of a lap? We will do a one-kilometre time trial or something.' I said, 'Yes, sure, of course. I would love to.' Of course, being the competitive person that I am, I took her up on this challenge. As we were ripping up dirt around the uni loop, I was looking down at my watch thinking that we were making pretty good time and that I was on track to reach a personal best. We got to the finish line and, of course, Jess finished just in front of me, and I said, 'That was a good race, Jess,' and I walked off to the rest of my team. I looked over my shoulder and I realised that, for her, it was just a warm-up, so that puts into context what a fierce athlete Jess is.

I believe that she is a true role model for all people who participate in sport, but particularly women. The fact that she has participated in the Commonwealth Games before and that this is her first gold medal after the birth of her son, I think is something that is truly remarkable and really does shine a light on just what a fantastic athlete she is.

Sarah Clough is another fantastic athlete I had the great privilege of playing with. Sarah Clough is an enormous netballer. She is a defender I played with in the state league competition. When I first started playing with Sarah she was young and up and coming—a few years younger than I—and she was always a really quiet, shy, timid goalkeeper. I was thinking that she would do a good job playing in state league, and so were we all.

She was a fierce competitor in training. In one of her first state league games, I remember commenting to my coach at the time, 'Sarah has really come into her own.' She rejected one of the leading goal scorers in the state league competition, and from there she really did go on to really bright things. I think that to recognise those two athletes in particular is a great source of pride for me, and to have been associated in just a very small way and in their very orbit as an athlete was truly enjoyable from my sense.

I would like to again offer my congratulations to the 55 South Australian athletes. I acknowledge their dedication in not just the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games but also the journey that starts all the way back from birth and participation in grassroots sport. That is why I believe that investing in grassroots sport is so amazing because it really does generate and inspire all our future Olympians and all our future stars who are participating in the Commonwealth Games. Thank you very much, minister, for this motion. I am very pleased to support it.

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:41):** I rise to support the minister's motion and bring to the attention of the house the achievements of three residents in my electorate who competed at the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Between them, they brought home four gold and three silver medals from their participation in swimming and cricket.

Australia sent a team of 430 athletes, including 199 men and 231 women to compete in 21 sports, including parasports, and won 178 medals. I was pleased to see the team led by four champion women: chef de mission, Petria Thomas, and general managers, Anna Meares, Sharelle McMahon and Katrina Webb, plus two female flag bearers, Rachael Grinham and Melissa Wu.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge and congratulate the 55 South Australian athletes who competed at the Games on their achievements, dedication, commitment and hard work in representing their country on the world stage. From Gibson, Tahlia McGrath (T-Mac) is the senior athlete at 26 and has been playing cricket at the highest level for Australia since November 2016 and for South Australia since 2011.

At the 2022 Commonwealth Games, this South Aussie all-rounder also batted fourth in the order and is also a right-arm medium bowler and played in all the women's T20 matches. Tahlia scored a total of 128 runs, including 19 fours and one six from four matches. As a bowler, her medium pacers claimed eight wickets in 14 overs for 97 runs.

Tahlia and her team claimed gold in the final, defeating India by nine runs. I wish Tahlia all the best with her future matches with Australia, South Australia and the Adelaide Strikers, plus the Southern Brave at Hampshire in the United Kingdom, where she plays with fellow South Aussie Amanda-Jade Wellington and Tasmania's Molly Strano.

Matthew Temple is the next athlete I will speak about. Matthew is 23 years old and collected a gold medal at the 2019 world championships and two bronze medals at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Matthew trains under Peter Bishop at the South Australian Sports Institute and is a member of the Marion Swimming Club based at the State Aquatic Centre right across from my office.

In Birmingham, Matt had a busy program, competing in five events and winning medals in four of them. He swam to gold with his teammates in the men's 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay final and mixed 4 x 100-metre medley relay final. He claimed silver in the men's 100-metre butterfly final and the men's 4 x 100-metre medley relay final and finished fifth in the men's 50-metre butterfly, ahead of fellow South Australian Kyle Chalmers.

Since the Commonwealth Games, Matthew has competed at the 2022 Australian Short Course Swimming Championships in Sydney, winning the gold medal in the 50-metre butterfly with a personal best time of 22.7 seconds, and the 100-metre butterfly plus the bronze medal in the 100-metre freestyle.

The final Commonwealth Games athlete from Gibson was Meg Harris OAM. Meg, like Matt, trains under Peter Bishop at the SASI institute and is a member of Marion Swimming Club based at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Meg had a slightly quieter program than Matt but medalled in both of her events. Meg claimed gold in the mixed 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay final and silver in the women's 50-metre freestyle final. This is impressive, given she broke her arm in January this year.

Meg received her Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2022 Honours List for service to sport as a gold medallist at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020 where she won both a gold and bronze. I wish Matthew and Meg all the best with their careers and I am sure I will be speaking about their achievements again in the future.

Humanity, equality and diversity are the Commonwealth Games Federation values, and values that I believe we should all embody. Humanity: to embrace all commonwealth athletes, citizens, communities and nations. We should embrace all members of our community and learn from their insights and experiences. I believe it is important to acknowledge that Commonwealth Games are the 'friendly games' where para and able-bodied athletes compete on the same stage, promoting inclusivity and achievement through sport.

Equality: to promote fairness, non-discrimination and inclusion in all that we do. We can demonstrate this by promoting fair play, providing appropriate facilities for male and female

sportspeople and ensure that racism and homophobia is unacceptable. I was pleased to see British diver Tom Daley OBE make a powerful statement about our LGBTQI+ rights during the opening ceremony to highlight the 35 commonwealth countries where being part of this community is illegal.

Diversity: through impactful, high-performance sport, we help commonwealth athletes, citizens and communities realise their aspirations and ambitions. Everyone should be given the opportunity to strive towards their ambitions and dreams in their profession or interest of choice.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to speak to all junior athletes and sportspeople across Gibson and encourage them to be inspired by the Commonwealth Games athletes but not discouraged if they are not winning medals. Participation in sport at any level is a great achievement and, while winners and medallists might get the glory, a personal best or just giving it a go is equally as important. I commend this motion.

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:48):** Can I begin by thanking the minister for bringing the motion to the house. I think it is obviously our responsibility as the state parliament to recognise our athletes who represent our great state, particularly on the international scene.

One of the things that has always been paramount for our South Australian athletes has been to punch above our weight both in terms of representation on a national team but also in terms of results. I know that the minister and others who have provided contributions on this motion have pulled out the statistics in regard to that.

Congratulations on behalf of myself and my electorate of Colton to the 55 South Australians who represented our great state and our country at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year, and also a particular congratulations to those 23 gold medallists who have been referenced already. I will not go into too much detail or provide too long of a speech but I may not be able to help myself, so I do apologise in advance for that.

I want to highlight the achievements of the 74 para-athletes who represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year as well, between them winning 35 medals, including 12 gold, 13 silver and 10 bronze. This Commonwealth Games in particular for our para-athletes was one where we reflected on some rather large personalities, people who have driven and changed our Paralympic sport in Australia, and their careers coming to an end.

I want to highlight the nearly two decades of contributions of both Ellie Cole and Matt Levy to the Australian Paralympic swimming team. There is no better place for them to end their journeys than at the Commonwealth Games, where they get to stand side by side with the Australian swim team and compete. One of the things that was always different about the Commonwealth Games in some ways, what have been known traditionally as the 'friendly games', is that the Commonwealth Games Federation, and the movement in particular, has always been quick to try to expand to include and to continue to grow.

It is something dating back to the very early days of the inclusion of parasport in the Commonwealth Games, dating back to 1998. As more and more events started to come through in 2002, one of the biggest legacies of the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in particular was to launch Paralympic sport, and Paralympic swimming in some ways, into more of the mainstream media. We had lost a little bit of momentum around Paralympic sport after the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games, and it was then reignited off the back of that Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. A home Games is something that very few athletes get to experience, but it was one that I was very happy to take part in. I really did appreciate every moment of that.

There were so many other great performances. Maddie de Rozario is an absolute legend of an athlete in her own right, and Evan O'Hanlon on the track. I also want to call out our local girl Izzy Vincent for her efforts on the back of her performance in Tokyo as well. She was one of the youngest athletes on the team. It should never be underestimated, the burden of expectation that you carry as a young member of the team. She did exceptionally well.

I want to touch on women's cricket. In regard to their performance, this was obviously the first time we have had women's cricket in the Commonwealth Games. I also highlight the contribution of Darcie Brown, a fantastic Henley High product, for her amazing contribution to that team. I want to reflect just briefly on the inclusion of women's cricket in the Commonwealth Games for a couple

of reasons. The first is the number of events for females in this Commonwealth Games surpassed any previous threshold, which was fantastic to see.

Secondly—and I may get slightly into territory I may not wish to venture into, but I will—I am a traditionalist in terms of seeing sports incorporated into large multisport events. I must admit that I may have been a slight sceptic when it came to skateboarding coming into the Olympics. I have walked out the other side perhaps appreciating that a little more than I may have previously. Video games may be a step too far for me, but we will come to that bridge when we get there.

For cricket, the powerhouse countries that contribute to that sport are largely Commonwealth nations. I have almost overlooked the fact that cricket, and in particular women's cricket, had not been included in the Commonwealth Games up to this point. I think it was a fantastic thing and I hope that it continues. I know that every hosting country gets the opportunity to include a sport of their choice into the games, so I do hope that women's cricket becomes a stable feature of the Commonwealth Games moving forward because I thought they made a great contribution.

Given my background, I also just want to touch on the contribution of our swimmers, in particular the swimmers from South Australia, the team: Matt Temple, Meg Harris, Kyle Chalmers, Maddie Wilson, Zac Incerti and all the swimmers down at both the Marion squad and more broadly through SASI. One of the things that has struck me in the last little while is the profound contribution that Peter Bishop has now had on our state's sporting landscape, not just in the pool but more broadly.

Obviously, I may be slightly biased in my representation of his skills and ability given that he was my coach for a long time through my career, but it is not just Commonwealth Games medals, Paralympic Games gold medals and Olympic Games gold medals that he has contributed to the Australian sporting landscape through swimming. It might surprise a couple of people in this house to know that Rohan Dennis started as a swimmer—we used to drive each other to training, funnily enough—but now has his first Commonwealth Games gold medal in cycling. Obviously, he has made a significant contribution to that sport through the Tour de France, the Olympics Games and more broadly.

Sophie Linn, who won a bronze medal in the triathlon at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year, also is a long-time swimmer through Pete's program, so it is not just swimming, but cycling and triathlon. We have a lot to be thankful for.

One of the things that often gets lost in the discussion is what we need for grassroots sport and as we progress through to high-performance sport. So much emphasis is put on facilities, but coaches really are significantly important to that journey as well. Having good coaching can well and truly turn programs around, which people probably do not truly understand.

We have South Australian swimming in a position where we have athletes of the calibre of Meg Harris, Matt Temple, Madi Wilson and Zac Incerti. Moving from interstate to swim here in South Australia is something that was unfathomable 15 to 20 years ago and that can largely be put down to the contribution that Peter Bishop has made through his coaching abilities and the squad that he has built here in South Australia, so congratulations to you, Pete. Keep doing what you are doing, Bish, because it is doing great things for our state to have these athletes here, training here in South Australia and winning medals for our great state.

I also call out and congratulate Wes Battams and the team at SASI on their continued good work in supporting our high-performance athletes. Wes has been a mainstay of SASI. For his benefit, I will not disclose how long he has been there, but he has done an excellent job and continues to lead that organisation in a professional manner and keeps delivering results. As we have said, we are batting well above our weight in terms of representation as well as medals.

To the team at the Commonwealth Games Federation here in Australia, people I know and have worked with over a long period of time as well, to Craig Phillips, the CE there, and to his high-performance team, led by Tim Mahon and including Danusia, keep up the good work and the things that you are doing.

Petria had pretty big shoes to fill. Steve Moneghetti had done such a terrific job as chef de mission of the Commonwealth Games team over many games. He chose to step down from that

position after the home games on the Gold Coast four years ago. I think Petria has done an exceptional job from everything that I have heard from the team in regard to culture, the way that the team was constructed and the execution. Petria and her team, who have been mentioned in this place already, have done an absolutely incredible job. We have called out and recognised some of the other athletes. I think Jess Stenson, given the 42 and a bit kilometres that she had to run to achieve what she did, certainly deserves congratulations.

To finish, to all of the families, to the supporters, to the husbands, wives and families who made sacrifices to allow these athletes to do what they have done—it is one thing to be an athlete. It is one thing that you reflect on at the end of your sporting career, as I have done reasonably recently, although a little bit further away than it was a while ago. You have to make decisions that are in some ways incredibly selfish to be able to get you to the point of providing a performance that is elite. There are a lot of people who sacrifice not just time and finances but also emotionally to support our athletes and get them to where they are, so well done to our South Australian Commonwealth Games team and long may they continue to represent us with pride and distinction.

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:59):** I rise to support this motion as well and to add my congratulations to the 55 South Australian athletes who represented their country in Birmingham at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year. I thank the minister for the motion. It is quite right that we celebrate their achievement, celebrate their hard work and celebrate their dedication that has seen them perform at the highest level on the world stage.

While I am very proud of all 55 of those South Australian athletes, the reason for my brief contribution today is that I want to specifically acknowledge two of those athletes because not only were they gold medallists but they hail from my electorate in Bragg. Both Chloe Moran from Rose Park and Sophie Edwards from Tusmore were members of the awesome foursome cycling team that picked up gold in the women's team pursuit.

Chloe enjoyed a very rapid rise in the Australian track squad ahead of the Games this year after claiming two national titles in 2021. She participated in her first Commonwealth Games this year. She is a graduate of the SASI talent identification program as well. Sophie also is a graduate from that talent identification program and likewise was elevated to the Australian endurance squad for the first time this year, just in time to compete in what was her first Commonwealth Games. And what a way to debut. What a performance it was. Not only did Sophie, Chloe and their teammates bring gold back home to Adelaide but they also brought back a new Commonwealth Games record. It is an incredible achievement which I acknowledge today, and I congratulate them.

I did have the privilege of being able to tune in to the race. It was an amazing feat. I think the commentator at the time described it as having given him goosebumps, and I can tell you that he was not alone because it truly was a wonderful team performance that we should be very proud of. We should also acknowledge the hard work that goes into supporting these athletes behind the scenes, whether it be from friends, family or the professional network that go along. We know that you can only compete at the highest level with the support of many others, so I acknowledge and thank them as well.

The Commonwealth Games really is a tremendous event. It brings people together from all over the commonwealth in a spirit of goodwill, in a spirit of inclusivity to achieve through sport. I had the privilege of being able to visit some of the Commonwealth Games' venues in Birmingham ahead of the Commonwealth Games late last year. Even at that point, there was a real buzz in the air. There was an air of excitement and anticipation for this event that brings people together.

I also thank and acknowledge the people of Birmingham, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the leader of that council, as well as the Mayor of the West Midlands, who I had the opportunity to meet with during that visit. They pulled off a tremendous Games. I thank all involved in organising it both on that side and in our Australian team. I again thank, acknowledge and congratulate the 55 South Australians who participated in the Commonwealth Games for Australia, and especially Chloe Moran and Sophie Edwards from Bragg. Congratulations.

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:03):** Growing up, many of us dream of the chance to wear our country's colours and represent our nation on the world stage, but it does not happen without a lot of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Our South Australian athletes absolutely shine, and that was

apparent at this year's Commonwealth Games, which was one of the most inclusive I have seen and hope to see much more of.

It is safe to say that our athletes often punch above their weight. I may be biased but none did more so than local legend Eddie Coumi when it came to this year's Commonwealth Games.

This was his debut to the Games and, interestingly enough, he almost did not have to throw a punch to place. You see, the quarter-final was almost called off, as his appointment was sporting the wrong coloured mouthguard. It was red, which sparked the debate about whether the ref would be able to notice blood. It would have taken Coumi straight to the semis, earning him a guaranteed bronze without having to have a single fight in Birmingham.

But he is a fair man, though, and he made it clear that he wanted to be able to fight for his place. He did not want to win that way. Fortunately, the drama was resolved and he got his chance. And what a fight it was! Eddie absolutely brought his A game, was quick and skilful and had a total KO in the second round. Coumi wanted to show the world what he was about, and he absolutely delivered.

Trained at his dad's gym, the Para Hills Amateur Boxing Club—which I believe is in your seat, member for Florey—this 26 year old claimed his place at Birmingham 2022 with great sportsmanship, something our community can be incredibly proud of. He has had the right mentor and coach to see him through: his dad, who encourages all of us to see boxing as more than competition fighting. In his words, 'People think boxing is all about being tough, but it's not. It teaches self-discipline and self-respect.'

In boxing, you are given the power to control your own successes and failures, helping you to build a sense of accountability that will also help you to develop attributes that include self-confidence, work ethic and sportsmanship. When the going gets tough, the only person helping you to overcome your struggles in that ring is you.

Eddie credits the sport with giving him the purpose and development he was seeking in his teens, and in return he is doing what he can to give back to his community and inspire the next generation. He is well on his way to world champion status. I commend him for his openness about the setbacks he has experienced along the way because the greatest lesson we can learn about success is that it is not measured by our wins but by our ability to get back up after every time we face an obstacle. Eddie knows that all too well.

After winning his first nationals in 2018, Eddie became injured when the next nationals came about. He then experienced a couple of setbacks when COVID hit, but he did not allow that to deter him from his own goals and ambitions. He gave it everything he had in his qualifiers to get to the Games, leaving absolutely nothing to chance. Furthermore, he is a team player and recognised all those who stood by him and shared their knowledge and intel along his journey that ultimately led him to claiming bronze at the Games.

I, too, would like to thank the family, friends and community who have supported Eddie on his journey, just as I would like to congratulate all the athletes who competed in the Games and their supports who have seen them through. You have all done us incredibly proud.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** Before I call the member for Morphett, I just want to express my own congratulations to Eddie Coumi, a product of the fine fighting Para Hills boxing club.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:07):** I also rise to acknowledge what was a fantastic Commonwealth Games for all the Australian athletes, but in particular for the 55 South Australian athletes who competed and competed so well.

The Commonwealth Games have always had a fond place in all Australians—certainly my journey with the Commonwealth Games was the 1982 Games in Brisbane. The opening ceremony, when Matilda the kangaroo was going around, was a moment of great pride. That was a time when I do not think Australia saw itself on the world stage as confidently as it does now. That really marks a time, I think, when Australia came of age.

Who can forget some of those great athletes, Glynis Nunn amongst them. She was amazing and went on to win gold at the '84 Olympics—again, a time when gold medals for Australians in the Olympics were really very rare. She certainly stands out in great pride of place as, of course, did Mike Turtur in those '84 Games—again, another great South Australian.

As I said, the Commonwealth Games really has an important place in Australians. I remember the 2018 Commonwealth Games here in Australia, and the torch relay that went around Australia before the opening ceremony. One of those legs was in Glenelg, and I remember how well attended it was. It was, of course, with great pride that all these athletes represented their country in Birmingham in 2022. The forerunner of the Commonwealth Games was the British Empire Games, so where better to stage the Commonwealth Games than back in the United Kingdom.

We recognise that to get to the Commonwealth Games every athlete must be very dedicated and be supported by a great team. That great team, of course, starts with their family. Quite often when these athletes are very young they watch the Commonwealth Games and are inspired by the athletic and swimming pursuits of their heroes and set out to try to emulate them. That might be swimming, which requires fantastic effort on behalf of the athletes.

They often train twice a day, getting up in the mornings at 5 o'clock, to make sure they do their swimming before school, and then again completing their program after school. Of course, it is the parents who are the ones ferrying them to and from training, so it is really important that we pay tribute and recognise all the families who got them to where they are.

They are then supported on their journey as they go through the funnel and become identified, whether that is through the South Australian Institute of Sport (SASI) or through the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). They are put into the hands of some really fantastic coaches, and Australian coaches are recognised worldwide for their abilities. We certainly punch above our weight, and it shows in the results achieved by these athletes.

As we saw throughout the Commonwealth Games, Australia really had a magnificent games when you look at the medal tallies and also in terms of performances. While we may have had a medal, we also had so many competitors who finished outside the medals but who were certainly in the upper echelons of each event. Of course, the gold medal is the ultimate goal for so many of these athletes, and South Australian athletes should be congratulated on winning 23 of those gold medals, whether it was individually or as part of a team. It showed that South Australia was again contributing to Australian efforts on the world stage.

So many great athletes are mentioned in the motion, and other members here have spoken proudly about the athletes in their electorates. I would like to do the same and pay tribute to Kyle Chalmers, our world-renowned swimmer. The Big Tuna is the fastest in the blue ribbon event of the 100 metres. He won three gold medals: one in an individual event, the men's 100 metres freestyle, and then two in the team relays—and I think he values the team events perhaps the most highly.

I was fortunate enough to meet Kyle here in Parliament House last year after he returned from a terrific Olympic Games in Tokyo. He competed so hard in those team events, I think to the point of exhaustion with nothing held in reserve, even though he knew he had the men's 100 metres swim event coming up which, as I said, is the blue ribbon event in the pool. He held nothing back because he wanted nothing more than to ensure his relay teammates were able to be on the podium as well, and I think there was a bronze medal for the relay team.

Unfortunately, he missed out on the gold in Tokyo; he got his silver by the slimmest of margins—I think by 0.08 of a second. Sometimes those things come down to reaction time at the start. Talking to him about that, he said he loves and relishes the relays because of the team atmosphere it brings with it. That is no surprise. His father, of course, played for Port Adelaide and I in fact played against him. Brett Chalmers was a fantastic footballer and I think certainly Kyle has a passion for football as well and just loves that team environment. I think the relays give that to him.

Another thing these relays brought out was I think a bit of a darker side in the sport. The media love to build athletes up, put them up in lights but then, at the same time, are very happy to tear them down. I think it was really upsetting for Kyle and his family—and I think for sports lovers in general—to see the innuendo and really the mistruths that the media put out there about that medley



relay which he won alongside Emma McKeon. They tried to talk that up and you could see that it affects these athletes.

It is a real concern for athletes' mental health, and the media need to be careful around trying to sell papers on the back of what could potentially cause mental health issues for athletes. Kyle spoke out about that and I think that should be acknowledged. His family and Brett were equally upset about what was going on. What advantage was there to tear down one of our great athletes that we should be so very proud of? Kyle started that conversation; he stood up for the mental health of athletes. I think that is going to be an important issue going forward: making sure we are looking after the mental health of these athletes.

We are celebrating them but also acknowledging that they are human. Yes, they are beyond mere mortals like us; they can swim, jump, run so much faster than all of us but, at the same time, blood runs through their veins and they are made of bones. That was something always impressed upon me by my coaches when we were up against talented players: that they were still made of blood and bone. They are human as well; they can be defeated and they can be brought down. I think we need to be very careful about how we go about those things.

Let's finish on a positive note for Kyle. Let's congratulate him on his three gold medals and let's congratulate all the South Australians on the 23 gold medals they were involved in and let's acknowledge what a successful event it was. We thank Birmingham for putting it on. It is a big thing for cities to put on a Games. Birmingham, an industrial city in England, put on a friendly games, a games that was of much interest and support here in Australia. Again, we congratulate all athletes who represented South Australia so proudly.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:17):** I rise to speak about the human endeavour we witnessed at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the spirit of sportsmanship we as a nation gloriously bathed in. I do not just mean the gold, the silver and bronze medals. I mean that electric feeling which transcends the will to win that even we as spectators thousands of kilometres away on the other side of the world can feel.

Why we felt it reach through our television screens so profoundly during these commonwealth games, I suggest, had something to do with the way in which the world—not just us here in South Australia—had become disconnected from one another through the pandemic. Such a celebration of coming together of commonwealth nations with a common bond was something to rejoice in. We needed that.

So I say thank you to our Australian athletes, all 433, for connecting us to your endeavour and your sportsmanship and your glory. As I said, it was not really about finishing top of the table with the 178 medals. In thinking about each and every one of the athletes, including those participating in the para games, I came to the realisation that it takes almost a village to get just one person to this level: many years of hard work, commitment and dedication not only by the athlete but by many.

One case in point is gold medallist road cyclist Rohan Dennis, who won his first Commonwealth Games medal. Rohan's parents, Debbie and Brenton, moved to Vale Park, in my electorate of Torrens, when Rohan was just a child because they were told he had a future, not in cycling but in swimming. They wanted to be closer to the Norwood Swimming Club and the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. Rohan trained under Peter Bishop, Kyle Chalmer's coach.

His mum, Debbie, would drive Rohan to swimming training and to school and clock up more than 700 kilometres a week doing it. During this time, through swimming, he came to know other members in this place: the member for Colton and the member for Cheltenham, who also excelled in the sport.

His dad, Brenton, was running the family business. In his early teens, Rohan Dennis was best in the state for breaststroke. Then, someone gave him a bike. He started riding it and loving it and doubling up his training without telling coach Peter Bishop what he was up to. His dad, Brenton, took his son to Queensland when he was 15 years old to compete in his first cycling time trial, where he came ninth. Brenton tells me that after that he never lost one.

South Australia saw something in Rohan Dennis very early on. He attended the South Australian Sports Institute and was under the tutelage of Australian cycling endurance coach Ian McKenzie here in Adelaide before heading off to the AIS. From the age of 18, Rohan started competing on the European circuit. South Australia gave Rohan Dennis the opportunity to find his way as an elite athlete. He now competes all over the world as a professional cyclist.

To Brenton and Debbie, your commitment over many years and Rohan's hard work and dedication have taken him high. We thank you for raising your champion son, one who, in turn, gives us so much pleasure. It is not lost on this house how much each parent, each coach and each team gives towards that special individual to help them fly. Rohan is currently in Spain, competing in the Vuelta a Espana. We wish him well and happy days with his wife, Mel, and two children, Oliver and Madeline. I know in the not too distant future his parents plan to visit.

The Commonwealth Games are known as the 'friendly games' with nations competing on a level playing field in the spirit of friendship and fair play. The Commonwealth Games Federation states as their values:

- Humanity. We embrace all Commonwealth athletes, citizens, communities and nations.
- Equality. We promote fairness, non-discrimination and inclusion...
- Destiny. Through impactful, high-performance sport, we help Commonwealth athletes, citizens and communities realise their aspirations and ambitions.

I know the Birmingham Games achieved these goals.

I want to congratulate and thank each South Australian athlete who competed in the Commonwealth Games and, in doing so, acknowledge their contribution along with the many sacrifices they have made to compete at the elite level. I extend that to their families, extended families, coaches and their support teams.

To the medallists and to all athletes from South Australia who participated in the Games and gave it their all, you make us proud. It was indeed a remarkable effort. I wholeheartedly support the motion moved by the Minister for Sport and member for Reynell. I commend the motion to the house.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (16:23):** I also rise to speak to this commendable motion. It was great to see Australia do so well at the Commonwealth Games. I think we had 430 participants. South Australia boxed above its weight with 55 participants. On a per capita basis, we are doing very well indeed. I think we got over 20 per cent of the medals, so it was a very good effort on the part of South Australia.

The first Commonwealth Games I fully remember getting excited about and watching—I think similar to the member for Morphett—was the Games in Brisbane. The thing that always stuck in my mind about those Games was de Castella winning the marathon. It was actually a really amazing race to watch. I went on to be a very keen middle-distance and distance runner, so I do have a real interest in athletics and did compete for quite a few years.

I want to be incredibly parochial with respect to who I talk about, because a Whyalla resident did take out a gold medal, and I want to talk about that Whyalla resident. It was Leigh Hoffman in the team sprint cycling. Leigh started his career back in Whyalla not all that long ago. It was interesting to read the comments that were made about Leigh back in 2018. The comments were made by the Australian Sports Foundation when summing up Leigh's career at that stage:

It has been a remarkable rise of Leigh who started his cycling career with the Whyalla Cycling Club just five years ago.

His coach convinced him to go to the State Championships and after coming away with a number of medals and a taste for riding in circles, he was picked in the national team later that year.

It is probably interesting to reflect upon the sporting infrastructure, because I do not think there are many regional communities with a velodrome, and the fact that Whyalla does have a velodrome has enabled us to produce a number of champions over the years.

Leigh was selected in the State Development Cycling Squad in 2015, and that meant more trips to Adelaide. It is always a lot harder for country people to participate in training and competition.

Leigh was then chosen in the state team to compete at the 2016 Launceston National Junior Track Cycling Championships.

He started off his nationals campaign with a bang, winning a gold in the 500-metre time trial becoming a junior Australian champion and breaking the South Australian record. Leigh later qualified first in the 200 metres narrowly missing the New Zealand all-comers record. This was backed up with some great rides and produced a win in the under 19 men's sprint, becoming the Oceania Champion.

February 2018 saw Leigh attend the under 19 Australian championships in Queensland where he qualified second in the 200 metres, breaking the Australian record for his first time, and the time was then subsequently broken by the rider just after him by 0.02 of a second. Leigh then went on for a brilliant sprint round, won gold and became the under 19 Australian champion, and also picked up a silver medal with fellow South Aussies in the team sprint. Since then he has gone on to represent us in the Commonwealth Games, and as part of that team took out a gold medal.

It is interesting to reflect upon Whyalla's contribution to cycling. It is a relatively small community. Someone I knew well who worked for the Whyalla City Council for many years was Ron Versteegh, who was also a Commonwealth Games cyclist. He now lives in Adelaide.

Probably the best known cyclist—and I am sure that Leigh will go further, one would hope—was Graham Jose. He was something of a hero in Whyalla given that he represented Australia many years ago in the 1972 Olympics. Graham is remembered because his life was cut very short while racing in Austria. He was involved in an accident on 23 June 1973, and he was killed in that accident.

Whyalla has the Graham Jose Awards each year for young people. In 1975, a bunch of workers at the shipyards in Whyalla, which was then the largest shipyard in the country, built the memorial gates at the velodrome in order to have a concrete representation, if you like, of Graham Jose's achievements. It was a sad loss.

I hear that the former member for Giles actually fancied Graham Jose. They went to school together, and if anyone knew the former member for Giles she did not have an athletic bone in her body, but never mind. We can't all be athletes and especially exceptional athletes.

I will also mention Jess Stenson—I am not sure if she has had a change of surname—who won the marathon. I am a lover of middle distance and distance racing, and I know what you have to put in to compete at that level when it comes to distance racing. A number of other people have spoken about Jess here today, so I will let those words speak for her.

Now I am going to go out of the state because I think there is something that should be acknowledged—once again, it is my running prejudice—and what should be acknowledged is the run of Ollie Hoare. It was an absolutely amazing, very strong and tactical 1500-metre race. When he came around the final bend on the 400-metre track, he had two world champions in front of him, plus a Scotsman who the whole of the stadium was behind, but Ollie just ran a perfectly measured race and won.

The exceptional thing about that is that the last time an Australian runner, either at the Commonwealth Games or the Olympic Games, won a 1500-metre race, you would have to go all the way back to Herb Elliott in 1960. So that achievement in winning the race was amazing given the quality of that field. It is interesting to reflect that when Herb Elliott won in the Olympics back in 1960, his winning time was three minutes and 35 seconds. The winning time by Ollie was five seconds faster and I think the world record at the moment is probably about four seconds faster than his winning time of three minutes and 30 seconds.

There is something about sport that can at its best bring us together. I know that in country communities sport is an incredibly important part of the fabric of the community. There are a few things that stick out when it comes to people who do the right thing, and once again it is my running prejudice. This is way before my time, but John Landy, who went on to be the Governor of Victoria, was racing in an Australian national championship, and this is one of the things that has now been immortalised in a sculpture. A young Herb Elliott, I believe it was—although it might not have been, but it was another champion runner who held the junior record—had a fall and Landy went back and

helped him up and somehow went on to win the race. If anything, that epitomises an approach: you can have competition but it does not have to be competition at all costs. We can help others up.

In some ways, for some of us here, that epitomises our political approach to life, that combination of decency and competition and trying to do your best. Long may the Commonwealth Games continue. It is a very positive games and a positive manifestation of humanity, and it is always enjoyable to watch.

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (16:33):** I rise to speak in support of this motion. Firstly, I would like to congratulate all 55 South Australian athletes who competed at the 2022 Commonwealth Games on their incredible achievements. With or without a medal, their hard work and dedication are incredibly inspiring, and we are very proud to have such amazing athletes representing our great state on the world stage. We know the success of our athletes does not go without sacrifices and would not happen at all without family, friends, partners and loved ones, so a big thankyou to those behind the scenes who have no doubt been tireless in their support of our athletes.

On a personal note I wanted to talk about one particular athlete I have a very personal connection to—Jessica Stenson, or Jessica Trengove as I knew her growing up together in Naracoorte. Jess grew up in Bibury Avenue just near Naracoorte hospital, where their family's pool was the highlight of a lot of local kids. I would spend every Friday after school with my mum at the Trengoves' pool, which I credit for fostering my passion for swimming instructing and becoming a swimming instructor in my university days.

Jess's running career began at Naracoorte primary, where we went to school together. At the beginning of the school year, we would participate in Naracoorte Primary School's cross-country, running through the pine forest and the nature park alongside our school. While Jess was probably more focused on winning that race, I was always more excited about the barbecue at the end of the cross-country race. It goes to show her passion really has paid off.

Jess's achievement is so inspiring on many levels, not just as an athlete but also as a mum. She had her son, Billy, in 2019, and she has really credited becoming a mum to Billy as making her an even better marathon runner. She has talked about the fact that, just like a race, it is really just one foot in front of the other. You cannot think too far ahead, and that is very similar to parenthood. They do say the days are long and the years are short, so sometimes on those long days it is really just a case of putting one foot in front of the other and getting on with it.

Jess has represented Australia on the world stage in multiple games, including the 2012 London Olympics and the 2016 Rio Olympics. She won bronze at the 2014 Glasgow Comm Games and bronze as well at the 2018 Gold Coast Comm Games before winning the big gold at Birmingham. A lot of people in Naracoorte past and present were so incredibly proud when we saw Jess's beautiful beaming smile that we all know so well when she crossed the finish line in two hours, 27 minutes and 31 seconds to claim the gold medal.

She also went into the history books, becoming the first female to win three Commonwealth Games medals in the marathon, so it really is one for the history books. I would like also to shout out to Jess's husband, Dylan, who I know is so incredibly supportive of her career, and her son, Billy; her proud parents, Colin and Deb; her siblings, Jack and Abbie; and all her family and friends, in particular those still in Naracoorte. Jess is an inspiration to past, present and no doubt future Naracoorte residents, and I would just like to say that we are so very incredibly proud of her.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (16:37):** I move first of all to amend the motion of the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing as follows:

That:

- The number '23' at paragraph (c) be replaced with the number '26'
- The words ', Kristina Clonan, Caitlin Ward' be inserted at paragraph (c)(i) after the words 'Rohan Dennis'
- The words 'and Tom Wickham (Hockey)' be inserted at paragraph (c)(vi) after the words 'Sarah Klau (netball)'

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** That seems to be in order, member for Elizabeth. You may speak to it.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Showing my ignorance, I briefly assumed that 'Hockey' was that gentleman's nickname, but clearly it is the sport in which he participated. First of all, I want to congratulate the minister on bringing this to the house. It is important that we recognise the achievements of our athletes and, of course, the gold medallists mentioned in the motion. Members may know that I am not this chamber's greatest sports fanatic generally. I do like soccer quite a lot, I am a Richmond Football Club fan by marriage, but I do have a history of promoting my breakdancing talents as a teenager.

**Mr Tarzia:** Why did you stop?

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Why did I stop, indeed. Who says I did stop? Breaking does not stop. I was delighted to see that for the first time breakdancing was included at the Commonwealth Games. It was on display as a showcase in Birmingham, and it will also be a medalling sport at the Paris Olympics in 2024.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** There's hope for you yet.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** There's hope for me yet, indeed, Mr Acting Speaker, and you will be the first person on the invitation list to come and see me perform in Paris in 2024. But the actual hero of the breakdancing demonstrations at Birmingham was a young man by the name of Meaway Kevin 'MK' Kallon. I will not tell his story, but it is an example of sport lifting people up from very humble beginnings. He fled Sierra Leone with his family, grew up in Fishermead and ended up in Milton Keynes, hence his nickname. In his words, he says:

I realised that dance was my thing because of the freedom and creativity it offered... Breaking took over and I've been doing it ever since... I felt so proud to be dancing on this stage...doing it for my home city.

Joking aside, I am pleased that breakdancing is included in the Paris Olympics and was demonstrated at the Commonwealth Games because it is a sport and it does demand a lot, just as any athletic endeavour does.

I want to congratulate all our gold medallists who are named in this motion. When events like the Commonwealth Games take place, we do focus on the gold medallists of course; they bring home the glory for their country or their state. But I do want to recognise someone today whose efforts directly helped Australia win a gold medal but who did not receive one themselves in Birmingham.

Alexandra Manly was born in Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, but early in her youth she moved to Adelaide. Growing up, Alexandra loved sport and in particular basketball. Unfortunately for Alex, a prerequisite for basketball was to be quite tall and, like me, she is not exactly a giant but, unlike me, she found a way to use this to her advantage. At the age of 14, the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) identified her outstanding aerobic capacity and subsequently directed her towards cycling, and it was there that she excelled.

What she says about her experiences going into cycling and then moving into more professional sporting endeavours really embodies, I think, what sport can be and what it can mean for people. She says:

I was a shy kid and cycling broke that barrier for me. I love the social side, the team aspect and being with friends. I love working together and getting stronger as a team.

At the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, Alexandra Manly was part of the team that helped compatriot Georgia Baker win gold in the women's road race. As members may know, in road racing there is only one gold medal awarded, but without a dedicated team around you it is almost impossible to win as an individual.

This rule of thumb was on show in the Birmingham road race, with Alexandra, along with her teammates, Ruby Roseman-Gannon and Sarah Roy, helping maintain the pace for Georgia Baker, protecting her from the wind, all while keeping an eye on the moves of other teams. Australia's teamwork over the course of almost three hours helped Georgia preserve energy during the race, providing her the perfect platform to burst over the final stages to cross the finish line first and claim gold.

Alexandra is now notable for having competed in both road and track cycling events at multiple Commonwealth Games. She previously won a gold medal in team track pursuit at the 2018 Gold Coast games. She also competed at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the Izu Velodrome in Australia's women's team track pursuit.

Since the Commonwealth Games, Alexandra has gone from strength to strength in her first year riding for the professional women's team Bike Exchange Jayco. On 12 August this year, Alexandra took out her first UCI Women's World Tour stage win in the 119.4 kilometre fourth leg of the Tour of Scandinavia, riding from Askim to Mysen. For those who know Alex well, they are not surprised by her success.

Alexandra Manly won a lot of junior and senior races in my electorate at the Central District Cycling Club, known colloquially as Centrals. Centrals, while in fact slightly across the border in a neighbouring electorate, represents the northern and eastern areas of the Adelaide Plains and Hills. It was founded in the late 1950s, and in the early years of Centrals the club was fortunate enough to possess an outdoor velodrome, which I only recently became aware of, with a surface composed of coal ash over tar at Ramsay Park. Eventually, this piece of land was handed over to the Elizabeth City Soccer Club, which subsequently, through various iterations, became the Playford Patriots Soccer Club, which the member for Hartley might be familiar with.

**Mr Tarzia:** Eight years.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Eight years, eight more. The Playford Patriots Soccer Club, the member for Hartley may well be familiar with, but not as familiar, of course, as he is with the mighty Raiders. By way of passing, my son Jimmy played briefly for the Playford Patriots before moving on to the Raiders and to cause Campbelltown considerable distress over the years.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**Mr ODENWALDER:** He is loyal; I will give him that. If you head down Womma Road to Ramsay Park today you will see banking on some of the track surrounding the eastern soccer pitches. During the sixties, the club began running its own junior road racing tours and, before the pandemic, these underage cycling tours had grown, hosting events for both under 13s and under 17s, attracting talent from all across Australia.

Next year, the Tour Down Under resumes its status as part of the UCI World Tour for both men and women. I look forward to seeing Alexandra take part in riding for the Team BikeExchange-Jayco on the same local roads that her Centrals use. I commend the motion to the house.

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (16:46):** I rise to also speak in support of the member for Reynell's motion as amended by the member for Elizabeth just now. The results for the 2022 Commonwealth Games for the Australian team were outstanding, as many members have commented on. We in this place should rightly congratulate these athletes on their commitment to their sport and their achievements.

While the Games are not necessarily about winning, they are about celebrating sporting excellence and athletes performing at their best, which certainly happened in Birmingham. Team Australia managed to secure a total of 178 medals throughout the games: 54 bronze, 57 silver and an incredible 67 gold medals. South Australian athletes contributed to 23 of those gold medals, which is an outstanding contribution.

Many of these gold medals were won in cycling events. My electorate of Enfield is now home to the Adelaide Super-Drome, where many of these cyclists train and compete regularly. South Australia certainly is the cycling state. The South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) has a cycling program that is second to none and produces some of Australia's best cycling talent, producing the likes of Anna Meares, who won 11 world championships, six Olympic medals and eight Commonwealth Games medals. She is rightly held up as one of the greatest track cyclists Australia has ever produced.

Since 1999, we have been the home of the Tour Down Under. It is the first stop on the UCI World Tour and the first race in the world outside of Europe to be granted the prestigious UCI World

Tour status. The tour will be back in full flight this summer, which we are all very excited about, the first time since COVID. South Australians have embraced the tour and have turned it into a festival of cycling that will run for 10 days this January. It will showcase the best of what South Australia has to offer the world, from the Barossa Valley, to the Fleurieu, to our coastline and through to the Adelaide Hills. From the sea to the vines and everything in between, it will be on display for the world to see.

Also, very excitingly, the women's race for the upcoming tour has now been granted UCI World Tour status, which is an amazing coup for South Australia. It will see the world's best women's cyclists come to South Australia to compete. I am certainly hoping we see the return of hometown hero Tiffany Cromwell. Cycling will continue to sell South Australia to the world. By producing some of Australia's best cycling talent right here, we are ensuring we can continue to promote South Australia's excellence.

When I say we are producing some of Australia's best cycling talent, 18 South Australian track cyclists attended the Birmingham games. Dressed in green and gold, these cyclists made an impression from the get-go. The men's team sprint secured a gold medal on day one and set a new Commonwealth Games record in the process. South Australian Matthew Richardson, who contributed to that team medal, also secured his own individual gold medal with a win in the sprint double. As the member for Reynell's motion notes, the Commonwealth Games are the 'friendly games', with para and able-bodied athletes competing on the same stage.

Beau Wootton, in his Commonwealth Games debut, claimed a bronze medal in the men's para tandem sprint with his Western Australian pilot, Luke Zaccaria, while our South Australian women performed beyond all expectations.

Kristina Clonan secured a gold medal for her efforts in the women's 500-metre time trial, managing to break the Commonwealth Games record at the same time. Georgia Baker, another South Australian, put on more gold after winning the women's 25-kilometre points race by 55 points. Maeve Plouffe, another SASI success story, won silver in the women's individual 3,000-metre pursuit where the women's team pursuit also took out a gold medal. Another SASI athlete, Caitlin Ward, who was the pilot for Jess Gallagher, won gold in the women's tandem 1,000-metre time trial, which is a wonderful way to round out the para-cycling campaign and was their second gold medal for the Games.

Five of the six riders who made up the men's 4,000-metre team pursuit all hail from South Australia and rode away with a bronze medal. Conor Leahy from that team took out an individual bronze medal in the men's individual 4,000-metre pursuit, and on the final day of the track cycling competition Thomas Cornish faced off against fellow South Australian Matthew Glaetzer in the men's 1,000-metre time trial.

Thomas, in his Commonwealth Games debut, took home a silver medal, finishing just half a second behind Matthew, who won the gold. That was an extraordinary performance from the two of them. Thomas should be proud, as he was competing against one of Australia's most successful track cyclists. Matthew equalled the Australian record for five Commonwealth Games cycling gold medals—an extraordinary effort.

No doubt we will see Australia's next Anna Meares appear as a result of this gold rush, with more young people being inspired into taking up cycling having watched all this action unfold on their TV screens, just as I know Anna was inspired when she saw Kathy Watt win gold at the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

But it is not only the dedication of these athletes that we have to applaud, of course, it is their families' as well. The parents who wake up very early on cold mornings and knock off early from work to take competitors to training or competitions, family members who support them when they lose and celebrate them with their victories, we see this level of support not only for these athletes but in our sporting communities as well, at community level—our local football clubs, cricket clubs, tennis clubs, soccer clubs. Parents are there in full force, supporting their children from juniors all the way through to seniors.

The caregivers who run the clubs, who cook the barbecues, who fundraise for the clubs all deserve congratulations. The grandparents who volunteer their valuable time to ensure local sporting clubs nurture the talent of our young kids in our community.

I am very proud of the Enfield electorate, which is rich in community sporting clubs. We have the Broadview Football Club, the Kilburn Football Club and the Kilburn Cricket Club, the Gepps Cross cricket and football clubs, the Greenacres Football Club, the Ghan Soccer Club, the Enfield Tennis Club, Adelaide Victory Soccer Club, and the brilliant Enfield Harriers Athletics Club and the Little Harriers club as well.

In addition to all the players at these clubs, of course, as I said, it is the parents, family members, partners, friends and all those supporters attending club functions and supporting these young people so that we can continue to develop our sporting talent as a state and as a country, to see our future commonwealth and Olympic athletes succeed. On that note, I commend this motion to the house.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

### *Bills*

## **CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (HUMAN REMAINS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (16:54):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The bill I introduce today is the Criminal Law Consolidation (Human Remains) Amendment Bill 2022. The bill amends the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 to introduce four new offences relating to concealing, mutilating or interfering with human remains.

When the body of the victim is concealed, mutilated, or otherwise interfered with, this can provide significant forensic advantage to the victim's killer, potentially depriving investigators and the prosecution of evidence. The absence of such evidence could make it difficult or impossible to identify offenders, lead to lesser charges being laid, or give rise to false claims that the cause of death was by accident or suicide. This is not to mention the needless suffering caused to the families of loved ones left behind.

The bill that has been introduced today creates four new criminal offences. The first offence relates to the destruction, concealment or alteration of human remains for the purposes of concealing an offence or to influence legal proceedings. Under this bill, that new offence will carry a maximum of 15 years in prison. Where the offender has also caused the death of the victim, this penalty will be served in addition to any other penalty that has been imposed, noting that a cumulative penalty cannot be imposed on a person who has received a life sentence. In those cases, the additional offending would affect the non-parole period the court decides to set.

The second new offence relates to concealing or defiling human remains, regardless of the purpose. Defiling may include the destruction or mutilation of remains along with the removal of body parts or sexual activity. This will also carry a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

The third new offence relates to the failure to report the finding of human remains unless the person reasonably believes that it has already been reported or is covered under other legislation; for example, the Coroners Act 2003 or the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988. This offence will carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

The fourth offence provides that a person commits an offence if they find human remains and then act to conceal them. This offence carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison. The bill also includes provisions for a jury to deliver an alternative verdict where a particular offence cannot be proved beyond reasonable doubt, but a lesser offence can.

There is broad community support for tougher laws to deal with people who act to cover up crimes that cause death or who do not show respect for the dead. It is a sad situation that these laws are needed, but we absolutely owe it to the victims and their loved ones to show them due respect



and to ensure that those who do commit crimes face justice for their actions. I commend this bill to the chamber, and 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 *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*

###### 3—Insertion of Part 6D

This clause inserts new Part 6D into the principal Act as follows:

###### Part 6D—Offences relating to human remains

###### 175—Interpretation

This section defines terms used in the new Part.

###### 176—Application of Part

This section sets out the relationship between the new Part and other Acts and laws.

###### 177—Offence to destroy etc human remains to pervert course of justice

This section creates an offence for a person to knowingly take the actions referred to in subsection (1)(a) and (b) for a purpose referred to in the remainder of the subsection, with those purposes essentially amounting to perverting the course of justice. The maximum penalty for an offence is 15 years imprisonment. The proposed section also makes procedural provisions in relation to the new offence.

###### 178—Offence to defile etc human remains

This section creates an offence for a person to take specified actions amounting to unlawful interference with human remains, including destroying, removing or engaging in sexual activity with the remains. The maximum penalty for an offence is 15 years imprisonment.

###### 179—Offence to fail to report find of or conceal human remains

This section creates an offence for a person who finds human remains, or remains that the person suspects are human remains, to fail to report that fact to police. The maximum penalty for an offence is 5 years imprisonment. Proposed subsection (2) sets out circumstances in which such a report is not necessary. The clause also requires police to notify the State Coroner on receipt of such a report.

###### 180—Alternative verdicts

This section sets out a scheme for alternative verdicts where a charge of a particular offence under the proposed Part is not made out, but a lesser offence is.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (16:58):** I indicate that I am the lead speaker on behalf of the opposition and at the outset also indicate that we will be supporting the passage of the bill, coming along as it does from another place. It is another example of a bill that had worked its way through part of the process in the previous parliament and had been the subject of consideration.

I am pleased to say that, as the result of both its initial introduction and debate and then some subsequent meritorious amendments introduced by my predecessor in the course of that debate, all of which has been included in this bill that has been passed by the other place and now presented here, the bill brings forward a meritorious group of new offences to be now inserted into the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. I might just take the opportunity to reflect on one of them in particular and then the overall context. I am conscious of the remarks of the Attorney in another place earlier this year and I refer to those and adopt them.

There are four new offences, and they really go to address the inadequate circumstance that was identified in far too many cases, where an offender who is convicted of murder or manslaughter as a result of trial and a whole lot of evidence as led, including in relation to the concealment of a body, and both the inadequacy of the consequence for that action and an appreciation of the difficulty that might have arisen for authorities in endeavouring to identify the evidence necessary to bring

charges—possibly against a co-accused—that those actions to conceal a body or to otherwise interfere with a body result in.

This bill recognises what is well established, but previously and not so far adequately provided for in the legislation, that concealing or otherwise interfering with a body is conduct that is seriously at odds and ought to be recognised by the discrete offences that are the subject of the bill. As I have indicated, the concealment, mutilation and otherwise interference with remains can have the effect of destroying evidence, and that conduct can, among other things and perhaps chiefly, be particularly distressing for those loved ones of a victim, where the victim's family is navigating already the most difficult of circumstances.

To then be having to deal with conduct that might be designed to serve the interests of the offender in evading justice has such multiplying effects in terms of the grief and hardship that is endured by those loved ones of a victim. There is a compelling argument for provision improving the law in the area and that is what the bill is doing. As I indicated at the outset, a similar bill was introduced in the course of the last parliamentary session. As a result, it was introduced as a private member's bill in the last parliament.

The former government took the opportunity to engage with DPP and SAPOL. In significant measure, the result of that consultation was the amendments that were introduced at that time. They are, in summary, an extension of the maximum penalties in respect of those offences and importantly, in part, so as to render the offence no longer a summary offence requiring prosecution within a particular short period of time to becoming an indictable offence and thereby able to be prosecuted at a time more practical in the circumstances of often related offending that might constitute charges of murder or manslaughter. I am pleased that those amendments have already been incorporated in the bill as it has come from the other place.

Apart from the extension to the maximum penalties—and they are, in particular, in relation to the destruction of remains and the defiling of remains, for each of which the maximum penalty becomes 15 years pursuant to new sections 177 and 178 respectively—the offences that are the subject of section 179, that is the related offences of failing to report having found remains and alternatively the concealing of remains, are now, I am pleased to say, provided for by maximum penalties in what will be section 179 in the new part 6D of five years, firstly in respect of the finding of remains and the subsequent failure to report that fact to a police officer and, secondly, the failure to inform the police officer of the location of those remains. That is no longer a summary offence and that is a good development.

In relation to the finding of remains and subsequent concealing of them, the offence in what will be section 179(4), the maximum penalty similarly becomes five years and no longer is it a summary offence; that is where having found human remains, or something that someone reasonably suspects to be human remains, a person conceals those remains. Those are offences that stand alone from what might otherwise be offences connected to other offending, such as murder or manslaughter in particular.

The other amendment of significance that it is good to remind the house about is the change in what will be section 177(2), which is a provision as to sentencing, which now specifically requires that in sentencing for an offence against section 177, where the person is also found guilty of causing the death, the court must direct that the sentence for that section 177 offending be cumulative on any sentence of imprisonment or detention, other than a sentence of life imprisonment in relation to the causing of the death.

That is so as to ensure that offending of this character is dealt with as standalone offending that is serious and freestanding, acknowledging that it will often be charged conduct that is associated with other serious offending. Without that provision requiring cumulative sentencing in this regard, there is the possibility that it may not otherwise be caught up.

I said at the outset that the law, as it presently stands in this regard, is of potentially practical similar effect in that the conduct that might relate to concealment or mutilation, defiling or otherwise offensive conduct in relation to human remains might find its way into being the subject of submissions in sentencing, but it is not otherwise separately defined.

It is not necessarily addressed explicitly either in the course of submissions or in the course of the sentencing process, so what we have now with the introduction of this new part 6D of the act will be a discrete group of offences that will make it clear that both the perpetrator of serious crime—primarily, manslaughter and murder—and those who would otherwise fail to report, or conceal, will be committing serious offences.

I sincerely trust that, and it is the feedback, the result of consultation, these serious consequences being known will reduce the prevalence of conduct that would otherwise make prosecution more difficult. That will in turn reduce—and I trust that this is the result over time—what is already an unfathomable trauma for those associated with victims in these circumstances, so in that small way it may make a contribution in that regard. Importantly, there is the real consequence that awaits those who would take up this offensive conduct.

So no more will there be a relative vagueness or gap in the law when it comes to the destruction of human remains in relation to the justice process. No more will there be a similar gap when it comes to defiling and other offensive conduct in relation to such remains, and no more will there be uncertainty or a gap in relation to the failure to report or otherwise conceal, that is otherwise isolated from other offending.

It would be remiss of me not to note that by this bill we also make clear that there is express capacity pursuant to what will be section 184, alternative verdicts to be returned, in the event that particularly a 177 offence is not able to be established beyond a reasonable doubt. The alternative that may be presented to a jury or a judge alone is that a 178 or 179 offence might be established.

It is a relatively confined reform in this area. Importantly, it impacts directly upon the serious offences of murder and manslaughter. It will have more work to do across the board from time to time and it will, again, I stress, improve the risk and circumstances that are faced by those who are loved and otherwise close to victims of such crimes. With those words, I again indicate the opposition's support for the bill and commend it to the house.

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (17:17):** I rise in support of this bill. I can only imagine what families of missing people go through. It is horrible enough to lose a loved one under any circumstances, but if it is a violent death it is worse, and worse again if the body is not recovered. The family sit around waiting for a call that sometimes never comes. They may see media stories about remains being found, and hope to receive the news so that they can have some closure, an opportunity to say goodbye and to lay their loved one to rest.

Those who have been waiting for a long time have to relive the trauma every time remains are found, hoping it is their loved one, hoping they will receive the call but, sadly, it is not often the case. We currently do not have a specific offence in South Australia that prohibits a person from concealing or interfering with human remains. It can take years, if not decades, for the murderer to come clean about the fact that they committed the crime in the first place, and to reveal where the remains are hidden. These are years that go by whilst families have no answers.

Further to this, when their loved ones are found the heartbreak is already overwhelming, but to discover that the body has been mutilated or interfered with just adds to the grief. This is certainly a gruesome topic to debate, but as a government we made a commitment to introduce this bill and, after advocacy from the families of victims, we are doing it. The proposed changes will mean offenders no longer benefit from hiding a body, which can significantly impact the criminal investigation process by destroying valuable forensic evidence.

The Criminal Law Consolidation (Human Remains) Amendment Bill 2022 introduces four new offences into the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (CLCA). The bill is substantially the same as a private member's bill introduced in the last parliamentary term where maximum penalties were increased by government amendment. The offences introduced by the bill are as follows. It will be an offence to conceal, mutilate, or otherwise interfere with human remains where the intended or actual outcome is that the remains are more difficult to find, or to conceal the commission of an offence, with a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment.

Where the offence itself under this section is committed by the person who caused the death of a victim, the penalty for this offence will be served cumulatively unless there is a life sentence

already given. It should be noted that in accordance with the Sentencing Act, a cumulative sentence cannot be imposed on a person who has received a sentence of life, but the additional offending will be taken into account by the court in setting an appropriate non-parole period that must be served by the offender.

There is a more general offence of concealing, mutilating or otherwise interfering with human remains, with a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment, and it is now also an offence if a person finds human remains or what they suspect to be human remains and fails to report it to the police. The maximum penalty for this is five years' imprisonment. Lastly, an offence of finding human remains and then acting to conceal those remains has been introduced, with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

These new offences will ensure offenders who have already murdered someone's loved one will face further charges if they conceal the body of a victim. Those deliberately adding to the pain and suffering of families by taking steps to conceal a body will be able to be charged with a specific offence, which will go some way to acknowledging the additional suffering of victims' families. Whilst this bill will not take the pain away and will not bring loved ones back, it will punish those who choose to commit such a heinous crime, and as such I commend the bill to the house.

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (17:20):** Today, I rise in support of the government's Criminal Law Consolidation (Human Remains) Amendment Bill 2022. This bill is important as it criminalises the act of interfering with or concealing human remains. Human remains can play an important role in a criminal investigation.

There were 261 homicide incidents in Australia between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, with 278 victims and 314 identified offenders. This is the highest number of homicide incidents in 15 years, according to the National Homicide Monitoring Program. I think members would agree this is a concerning statistic, and we need to do all we can as a community to watch for activities that concern us as citizens and report them to relevant authorities.

Since 2000, there have been at least 28 homicides in South Australia where the body has been disposed of. I am unable to comprehend the devastation that would be felt by losing a loved one through murder. I cannot imagine the anger or selfishness required to take the life of a fellow human. Anyone would struggle if their friend or family member goes missing for a day, a week or months, but to know that someone you care about has been taken from you and you never see them again must be unimaginable.

That a person can take a life and then hide the body or, even worse, that your loved one's remains have been spoiled beyond recognition, to have to await the outcome of forensic testing to find out if it is your loved one who has been found, is beyond tragic. This heartache is something that we as legislators have the power to mitigate to support the families and friends of victims whose bodies have been hidden or mutilated. It is our responsibility to give our police and scientists every avenue to seek some solace for family members.

The changes to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act that are proposed by this bill will mean offenders no longer benefit from hiding a body, which can significantly impact the criminal investigation process by destroying valuable forensic evidence, evidence that may have been used to strengthen the case against an accused person in court. This bill creates an offence of concealing, mutilating or otherwise interfering with human remains where the intended or actual outcome is that the remains are more difficult to find or to conceal the commission of an offence, with a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment.

Where the offence is committed by the person who caused the death of the victim, the penalty for this offence will be served cumulatively on top of any other sentence the offender has received for causing the death of the victim. The only exception will be where they have already received a sentence of life imprisonment.

However, under the changes that this government is committed to making in this bill, an offender does not need to have been the killer or accused killer of the deceased for them to be prosecuted for interfering with or concealing human remains. Sadly, there are people who will assist those who kill others to conceal the remains or mutilate them, either with the offender or, once the

homicide has been committed, to protect the offender. That is why this bill introduces a more general offence of concealing, mutilating or otherwise interfering with human remains, with a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment.

If someone finds human remains, or what they suspect to be human remains, and fails to report this to police, they will have committed an offence with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment. This bill also creates an offence of, once finding human remains, acting to conceal those remains, with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

It is distressing that legislation such as this needs to be introduced, but unfortunately on many occasions we see cases on the news where the actions being criminalised in this bill have occurred where people deny loved ones the chance to say goodbye. Losing a loved one to murder or manslaughter must be extremely traumatic. When the remains of a loved one cannot be found or are not found for some time, it prolongs the grief, suffering and uncertainty for the loved ones of victims.

The members in the other place who have already spoken on this bill have outlined the devastating firsthand accounts of the pain felt by the families of victims when the remains of their loved ones are not able to be located. The families of Daniel Hind and Allison Nitschke have been advocates for reform in this area. These families are not able to say goodbye in the same way many of us who have experienced loss are able to say goodbye. These families often experience additional and unnecessary trauma while waiting for the body of their loved one to be located and identified.

Labor is committed to changing this and delivering on another election commitment—listening to the families of victims who are unable to properly say goodbye. In the recent state budget, this government delivered on our commitment to increase funding to victim support services. The Malinauskas Labor government will provide \$500,000 per year from 2022-23, a total of \$2 million in additional funding to improve support services for victims of crime. The Victim Support Service embraces diversity and eliminates all forms of discrimination in the provision of their services. It welcomes all people irrespective of culture, faith, sexual orientation and gender identity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the work of the Homicide Victims' Support Group. This support group assists those who have suffered the loss of a family member or friend through homicide. It joins people together to share and support one another through the unique challenges faced by those who have lost a loved one in this way. This is important as only those who have suffered this terrible loss can understand truly the feelings and needs of people whose loved ones' lives have been prematurely ended by another.

I am unable to comprehend the devastation that would be felt by losing a loved one in this way and my thoughts are with all the families that have experienced this. It is my hope that this bill assists those affected by a crime like this, that the bill leads to increased reporting of found human remains and that our hardworking investigators are assisted in their pursuit of the truth in homicide cases. I commend this bill to the house.

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (17:28):** I am proud to support this bill today and believe that it will have a significant impact on the lives of many South Australians, particularly those who have tragically lost a loved one to murder. The member for Gibson touched on the over 200 lives lost to murder between 2019 and 2020 and the concerning fact that this statistic has increased significantly in the last few years.

Although it has not touched my life personally, murder has touched the life of my own family in significant ways. My dad's cousin was murdered in the nineties, a crime that is still unsolved, and in a very high-profile case, my mum's childhood best friend and next door neighbour, Louise Bell, was murdered in the eighties, with no conviction recorded until I was in law school some 30 years later. Both murders have affected my parents' lives in quite traumatic and significant ways and, although I do not necessarily understand the impacts personally, I have seen the ways that these traumatic offences have affected my family members and people close to me.

Until now there have been no specific amendments prohibiting a person from interference with human remains. These changes will mean that offenders no longer benefit from hiding a body, not only hindering the criminal investigation process but also further adding to the unspeakable grief

of families who are unable to say goodbye to their loved ones. This was an election commitment and one that I was proud of at the time of its announcement and am just as proud of today.

Personally, I studied law at the University of Adelaide and fully intended going into criminal law post university studies. I spent some years working and completing clerkships at criminal law firms and, although I learnt a lot in that time, I was also confronted with some particularly confronting crimes.

The Criminal Law Consolidation (Human Remains) Amendment Bill introduces four new offences into the act. The bill is of course substantially the same as a private member's bill introduced in the last parliamentary term, where maximum penalties were increased. These offences introduced include the offence of concealing, mutilating or otherwise interfering with human remains where the intended or actual outcome is that the remains are more difficult to find, or to conceal the commission of an offence, with a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment.

This means in practice that an offender or an accessory cannot conceal or mutilate the remains in order to conceal that evidence, whether that be to prevent an outcome or to have an effect on their own sentence. It also ensures that, where the offence in this section is committed by the person who also caused the death, the penalty will be served cumulatively on top of any other sentence the offender has received for causing the death.

This is significant and will have implications for the criminal justice process, encouraging offenders to cooperate with the prosecution for the benefit of not only our system but assisting in the closure process for grieving families. Although the sentence cannot be imposed on a person who has received a sentence of life imprisonment, the passage of this bill will require that the court consider the additional offending when taking into account non-parole periods for those serving those sentences.

Although it cannot provide full solace for these families, it will provide some small amount of solace for loved ones grieving a horrendous circumstance that has occurred in their own lives. It will also ensure that offenders who deliberately add to the pain and suffering will be charged accordingly, and it acknowledges in some small part the atrocity of doing so.

I would like to acknowledge the role of others in that process, ensuring that the offenders need not be the killer for them to be prosecuted. I would like to thank all those who have been advocates for reform in this area, particularly the Homicide Victims' Support Group and the Commissioner for Victims' Rights. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

### **BURIAL AND CREMATION (INTERMENT RIGHTS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

### **STATE ASSETS (PRIVATISATION RESTRICTIONS) BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:34 the house adjourned until Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 11:00.