

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 8 February 2023

The SPEAKER (Hon. D.R. Cregan) took the chair at 10:31.

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.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (PERSONAL MOBILITY DEVICES) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (10:32): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 and the Road Traffic Act 1961. Read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (10:32): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce the opposition's Statutes Amendment (Personal Mobility Devices) Bill 2022. We are introducing this bill because we want to seek an end to the confusion that has surrounded private e-scooter ownership and use for up to four years now. Presently, personal e-scooters and other privately owned personal mobility devices, including but not limited to e-skateboards, one-wheels, hoverboards and electric unicycles, are illegal for personal use and operation, and doing so can result in fines of up to \$2,000.

This is not a hypothetical: this is actually happening right across the board as we speak. We have seen members of our own communities fined several thousands of dollars for riding these devices—members of the community who are trying to do the right thing but who are simply unaware of the legal ambiguity surrounding the use of this new and trending technology.

This bill aims to fix exactly that. Under the opposition's Statutes Amendment (Personal Mobility Devices) Bill 2022, the private ownership and use of e-scooters and other such personal mobility devices will become legal for use on roads and also footpaths. Of course, this is not without certain provision and regulation as well. Regrettably, South Australia falls behind several other states and territories that have legislated appropriately for the personal use and the ownership of these devices. Take, for example, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and the ACT.

Our bill has adopted the Australian Road Rules (National Model Law) guidelines for the effective regulation of e-scooters and similar devices which, under our bill, are defined as 'personal mobility devices'. Our bill's definition ensures that devices effectively legalised by this bill fit within certain safety parameters—parameters pertaining to size, weight, speed restriction—that we say fall in line with community expectations.

These devices would not be permitted to travel faster than 25 km/h, consistent with other states and territories. They would require a broad range of safety provisions for legal use, including the wearing of helmets, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of those who use these devices. Under this bill, e-scooters will be permitted to ride on the footpaths and on the road under certain conditions. Commonsense clauses such as keeping as far to the left as practicable, and prohibiting their use on roads with a speed limit greater than 60 km/h, are examples of these conditions which will ensure that riders do not pose a danger to themselves or to other road users as well.

Furthermore, we know that, as these devices become more mainstream, we know that insurance options will follow, as they have followed interstate; that as these devices become legal,

insurance companies, the market, will have the data and the confidence to better assess their risk and set appropriate premiums. This is not uncharted territory. The legal personal use of e-scooters and personal mobility devices is tried and tested right across the country. If you look at other jurisdictions around, say, places like America, these have been in use for probably more than five years.

Personal mobility devices are an increasingly popular form of transportation, not just here in Australia but right across the world. Everywhere we are seeing e-scooters, e-skateboards and other electronic transportation devices establish themselves as a primary form of transportation for all ages. Moreover, these devices are environmentally friendly. Shorter journeys across built-up areas in particular have become a staple of personal mobility devices, which is considerably better for the environment than driving your car or even catching a bus.

Furthermore, not only is it environmentally more efficient but also economically better off. These devices in the long term are cheaper than, say, catching a taxi or an Uber. A basic e-scooter can cost you as little as a few hundred dollars.

South Australia has facilitated trials of e-scooters in the CBD and a number of councils for coming up to nearly five years now, and they have proven to be very popular. There is something to be said about the interest and support for these devices when, despite the legal consequences, South Australians are still purchasing these items, and they are still riding these devices as well.

Now, how is it fair that private citizens can own and operate these devices, but in a public environment a private citizen cannot get one of these devices and ride them around the city? It makes absolutely no sense. It is absolutely ludicrous. It makes no sense that a private corporation can own and operate these devices but a private citizen cannot, and that is the wrong that we are trying to correct today.

How is it reasonable that individuals cannot own and use something but rent what is effectively the same thing? Here we have cheap, green technology right here in front of us that has proven to be extremely popular with South Australians. What this government now needs to do is take this option up. They have had nearly a year now to consider trials and other teachings and other learnings of other jurisdictions. They need to get on with the job. It is time to take off the training wheels and bring South Australia up to speed with the rest of the country.

I say to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, he needs people like me. He needs people like me, and he needs the opposition, because we on this side of the chamber are not burdened by the shackles of slow bureaucratic government instruments. We have an opposition on this side of the chamber that is willing to work with the government of the day in a constructive manner. So, get on board. If there are amendments that need to be made, well, let us make them. Let us make sure that we get on with legalising these devices because the time has come. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 30 November 2022.)

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (10:40): I rise today to support the Construction Industry Commissioner Bill 2022 for a number of reasons: (a) it is the right thing to do and (b) this is a government that is increasingly engulfed by crisis. Our health system is in crisis, our child protection system is in crisis, and there is a cost-of-living crisis in this state. SA has the highest inflation rate in the nation, and many South Australians would say that that is a crisis.

There is another crisis emerging here in South Australia. However, in the case of this particular crisis, the Labor government cannot blame the former state government or the former federal government or failed chief executives or global forces or even COVID. They cannot blame any of these things, or someone else, because this crisis strikes at the very heart of this government,

with this Premier and at the core of the Labor Party. Indeed, this crisis is the escalating militant trade unionism in this state and the rise of the thuggish CFMEU led by the infamous union boss John Setka on building and construction sites right across South Australia.

One only needs to walk out of this building on North Terrace and look up into the sky to see flags of the CFMEU flying high over nearly every building and construction site in South Australia—they were not there 12 months ago; or read headlines in the paper such as 'Monopoly of power: CFMEU threaten construction industry' and 'Master Builders warns CFMEU is flexing muscle in South Australia'; or even catch a tram, only to find it covered in CFMEU advertising; or, more importantly, talk to the small and family business people, like we do every day, who are worried about rising costs in the industry. A militant trade union movement could see their businesses crumble to the ground and negatively impact the building industry that supports so many South Australian jobs, families and livelihoods.

Something has to be done, and action must be taken and taken quickly. The premise of the bill before the house today is simple: to provide for a construction industry commissioner who will promote the rights of building and construction industry participants, respect for the rule of law and work health and safety, something that I would have thought every member of this place would support, including the Premier. After all, he supposedly has no tolerance for thuggish union behaviour on building sites.

If passed, the commissioner will act as a one-stop shop for the building and construction industry to register any concerns, whether they relate to safety, industrial action, allegations of coercion or threatening behaviour or any other relevant matters. The commissioner will fill the void left by the systematic destruction of the Australian Building and Construction Commission at the hands of the Albanese government by facilitating the resolution of complaints through measures such as mediation and making representations on behalf of notifiers and complainants in accordance with relevant legislation such as the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 2009 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

Importantly, the commissioner will have the power to direct matters to state and federal authorities such as SAPOL, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the office of the Fair Work Ombudsman if it is the opinion of the commissioner that a matter raised by a participant in the building and construction industry should be referred.

The commissioner will shine a light on behaviour on workplaces and worksites with an annual reporting mechanism to this very parliament setting out any and all complaints made and any practices or conditions that have affected the builders and contractors within the industry and will have the ability to suspend work health and safety (WHS) entry permits if he or she is satisfied that a WHS entry permit holder has contravened the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

We also want to ensure that if an individual does give notification or make a complaint to the commissioner they are protected from threats, from coercion or from intimidation as a result. Penalties of up to \$10,000 for individuals or \$50,000 for body corporates will apply if such behaviour does occur.

This opposition is serious about addressing this crisis. The CFMEU is a trade union which needs to be kept in check. You only need to look across the border to Victoria to see that. It needs to be kept in check to protect workers and employers to ensure that major projects do not come under threat and ensure that businesses in South Australia are able to grow and prosper.

The opposition wants a bigger and better South Australia where all industries are not subject to events seen interstate and recently here in South Australia. We want the building and construction industry to succeed, to grow and to support South Australian jobs, families and livelihoods without the influence of thuggish union behaviour that does not belong in this state.

We need a construction industry commissioner before it is too late. We on this side are happy to pass. All we are waiting for is those opposite to get on board and pass what they preach. If the Premier is serious about stamping out this sort of behaviour in the industry in South Australia, he simply has to reach out his hand to pass this legislation and do something about it. Words are cheap. Actions speak louder. It is the Premier's turn to step up.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (10:47): I would like to make a brief contribution to the debate on this important bill. I would like to echo the sentiments of the member for Colton, the shadow treasurer. It is important that we do have the safeguards in place for our building and construction industry because, as we now know, the state government, the Malinauskas government, is relying very heavily on the union movement not only during election campaigns. The issue that worries me is about the commitment and some of those promises that were given to the union movement prior to the election.

We now see a large amount of movement within those union organisations that is affecting a lot of the construction industry. What I must say is that we have seen some of that bullying, we have seen some of that union movement particularly into the service sector within the construction industry, and that worries me. I think the behaviour and the intimidation that is infiltrating some of those businesses should worry every person in this chamber.

Some of those are large businesses and some of them are medium to small businesses, but it is having an impact. It is taking away the competitive advantage that many of these businesses have had here in South Australia for many years.

In my previous life I worked in the construction industry, but it was a different construction industry: it was in the oil and gas sector. We know that the union movement did have a presence back then, but that diminished over time because what we needed and what businesses were doing was taking responsibility for themselves. We saw a decline in the numbers within union movements, within union organisations.

We now see some of those heavy-handed tactics coming back into our construction sector. As the shadow Treasurer has said, the John Setka-led CFMEU movement has the writing on the wall that we are going to see increased union activity on building sites in the construction sector, and that worries me. That will be an ongoing cost.

I want to reiterate that I am all for safety, I am all for employers making sure that their employees are given satisfactory remuneration, they are given a satisfactory and safe working environment, and they are also given a satisfactory understanding of what is expected of them through the course of their tenure, whether it is a contract on a job or worksite or whether it is a permanent capability within that business or organisation. However, I do want to reflect on some of that movement.

If we look globally, not just look here in South Australia but look globally, I have someone very close to me who has what I would call a medium to large construction company in the US. He is dealing with some of those union movements over there, but they deal with that in a different way. There are enterprise bargaining agreements, there are negotiations done before the jobs take place, and there is an ongoing commitment to looking after that workforce.

If unions are feeling the pressure that these businesses are doing the right thing but are not securing membership numbers with tradesmen or construction workers or a particular workforce on that site, they will come out and put up a big, blow-up black cat at the gate. That is one way of telling people passing by that they are not happy, that those businesses are not engaging or are being intimidated by the union movement.

At the end of the day I think we need to be very conscious that if an operating business, whether it be in construction, building or management, are doing the right thing they will continue to do business. They will continue to operate in a manner that is acceptable not only to the contractor, to the owner, to the proponent of a project. It is of paramount importance that they agree to a set of occupational health and safety measures so that we have a healthy working environment and we have a safe working environment.

Up in the Riverland we have quite a large building sector. The majority of it is small home builders, but we also have a number of aspirational small to medium contractors who are doing larger-scale work who are now feeling that pressure of the union movement coming on to worksites, interrupting what has been agreed terms or conditions. What that is doing now is distracting some of the people on site, distracting the management of those worksites, and I do not think that is healthy.

I know the intimidation I encountered when I worked at a car manufacturing plant many years ago. Because I was not prepared to join a union movement, all of a sudden rather than working on high tolerance machines I was sweeping floors. I was doing all the work that was deemed payback. I do not want to see that sort of thing come into play.

That is why it is important that we look at ways a commissioner would facilitate and encourage fair treatment on those building construction sites, the participants, and also the commercial dealings in relation to matters that generally relate to their workplaces. We want to see the commissioner act as a one-stop shop for the building and construction industry and to register any concerns relating to safety, the industrial action and, of course, allegations of coercion and threatening behaviour.

That is what we have seen already in South Australia, with the introduction of the now Malinauskas Labor government being endorsed by the CFMEU. We see bad behaviour behind the scenes, not only in a private environment, and we see intimidation. As I have said, it is something that I do not think is acceptable. That is why we must endorse a commissioner to be that person, that go-to, who will facilitate a resolution of complaints through measures, particularly through mediation and making representations on behalf of the notifier's complaints in accordance with the relative legislation.

Obviously, we want to make sure that with the endorsement of the commissioner we have a profitable, safe environment but also a competitive environment so that we do not see larger companies coming in riding roughshod over some of those medium to smaller companies, because we need to support and provide a level of confidence for people who are starting up. We need to provide a level of confidence for those people who are new entrants into the construction sector, currently maybe a small business, to make sure that they can look to expand, look to employ more people or look to comply with a safe working environment. That is the way that I started my career.

I came away from a large manufacturing sector into the construction sector. I was always told that if I was to be part of management, the number one priority was to make sure that people were kept safe, they were looked after, they were given appropriate remuneration and there would be consequences if that was not applied. As an example, I remember working down at Penrice. I went out onto the big soda ash plant, nine storeys up, and I questioned a piece of scaffold nine storeys up outside a building. As you could well imagine, it is somewhat intimidating to walk out onto a piece of scaffold nine storeys up. I questioned the safety aspect of that scaffold, and I was told to pull my head in and to get out there and do the job.

By the way, that scaffold gave way as I was out there removing a large flange on a piece of pipework. That was the day I resigned from that job. I went away and then went on to make my primary producing and farming career more of a full-time permanent role, rather than doing some of that construction work on the side. The reason for those comments is that I was told to get out there and do that—and that was a union official telling me to do it. That is why it is important that we do endorse the construction industry commissioner, and I will continue my remarks at another opportunity.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

Motions

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (11:03): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes that on 5 December 2022 we celebrate International Volunteer Day;
- (b) acknowledges the valuable contribution that volunteers made to the economic and social wellbeing of local communities; and
- (c) calls on all South Australians to thank and show their appreciation to all volunteers in our community.

I see firsthand the power of volunteering everywhere I go in my community. Volunteers are more than just the time they give; they are vital in creating connected and inclusive communities all across

the state. It is something that I personally want to instil in my own children; it is why my almost four-year-old son, Ned, joins me on my regular Meals on Wheels shift.

Just last Friday, he came along with me and my Uncle Roger, my delivery buddy, to deliver meals across my local community. There is a reason that Meals on Wheels is more than just a meal: seeing the joy on clients' faces when little Ned wanders up with their soup and their shepherd's pie is really something that money cannot buy. I hope that the memories and lessons that my son takes away from this will instil in him a love of volunteering and giving back.

After Meals on Wheels on Friday, I then headed to the Lions Club of Prospect and Blair Athol barbecue at the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens playground in Prospect for the annual Twilight Sessions concert, which is held every Friday in February. There was Roy on the fryer, serving up his famous hot chips. He will tell you that the crunch has to be just right before we can give them to customers. There was Gary flipping his famous pancakes, Prospect councillor Jason Nelson on the snags and steak sandwiches, and I joined the former member for Adelaide, Rachel Sanderson, in serving customers. I think that is the wonderful thing about volunteering: it does not matter what your background, your differences or your political stripes are; it just matters that you show up and that you give back for the greater good.

At the recent City of Prospect Citizen of the Year Awards, three amazing local women, who I am also proud to call my friends, were recognised for their volunteering efforts. The 2023 Citizen of the Year Award went to Nola Bellenger, who was nominated by her club, the Eagles Lacrosse Club, which I am also a proud patron of. Nola has a long history of raising money for various charities, community groups and organisations. She is known as the woman who gets the job done, and she has been instrumental in Eagles fundraising programs and social activities.

I had the pleasure of attending one of her organised events, the Eagles Lacrosse Club quiz night last year, and up there with being elected as the member for Adelaide was taking out that quiz night with some of my friends in the community. Nola is also the owner of Healthy Inspirations in Prospect, which specialises in supporting women and looking after their health. She is an asset not only to the Eagles Lacrosse Club but to our broader community in Prospect.

Our 2023 Active Citizenship Award in Prospect went to Eleanor Larwood, or 'Ellie', as I call her. She was nominated for her volunteering efforts with the Eagles Lacrosse Club, in particular for her amazing social media abilities. She has been active in planning and running club events, including gala days and the quiz night, and her support, involvement and innovation also saw her honoured with her own club spirit award. She is only 22, and in those 22 years Eleanor has already given back so much to her community and is such an amazing role model to her peers.

The Community Event of the Year Award in Prospect went to another amazing volunteer in our community, Steph Reddy. She is an organiser of Santa Comes to Prospect. I will always find any opportunity to jump on my red Vespa and ride around my community. It is such a joy every Christmas when we get to ride Santa around the town, dropping into various businesses. This event has become such an exciting fixture on our local community's calendar, and it is all down to Steph. She puts in countless hours, so much effort, in bringing the Christmas spirit alive in Prospect. She also during the year runs pop-up markets in Vine Street Plaza. She really does not ever rest, and she is such an incredible asset to our community.

I also want to mention the Young Citizen of the Year in our community, Amelia Smith, who was nominated for her volunteer work at the Broadview Uniting Church. She is responsible for the creation of the Treasures Op Shop, she runs retail training programs for underemployed youth to develop life skills and job readiness, and over the last 10 years has also volunteered in youth and children's services, the Green Team, Seeds of Affinity and protecting indigenous families' cultural traditions, all while also studying midwifery. These are countless hours devoted to volunteering, and it is so wonderful hearing stories like that coming from young people in our community. These are just some of the individual stories of volunteering, but you will find more of these stories in every street, town, suburb, city, state, country and continent all across the world.

Across our state, collectively, South Australian volunteers contribute an estimated 1.7 million hours of unpaid work each year. The value of that unpaid labour is estimated at almost \$5 billion, which is just incredible. The Malinauskas government is committed to fostering a thriving, diverse

culture of South Australian volunteering now and into the future. I want to encourage volunteers of all ages and all walks of life to contribute their skills, their time and their expertise in innovative ways that respond to our changing community and create a stronger and better connected community. With that, I commend the motion to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:10): It is with much pleasure that I discuss the motion on International Volunteer Day:

That this house—

- (a) notes that on 5 December 2022 we celebrate International Volunteer Day;
- (b) acknowledges the valuable contribution that volunteers made to the economic and social wellbeing of local communities; and
- (c) calls on all South Australians to thank and show their appreciation to all volunteers in our community.

As has already been outlined by the member for Adelaide, the contribution of volunteers is such a valuable contribution to the whole of society no matter at what level that is. It could be as small as helping your neighbour with a small job in the garden or taking their bins out, being a volunteer for either the State Emergency Service or the Country Fire Service, working with community groups such as Rotary or Lions or working with all sorts of aid groups helping those less fortunate.

I do commend the work that all volunteers do at whatever level. Certainly, over the summer we have seen so many volunteers right across the state step up to help people across the regions. Thankfully, as far as firefighting goes, we have not had the really big events. We have had multiple fires across the state, where again we have seen CFS volunteers—and there would have been SES volunteers—as well as farm firefighters battling blazes. We saw some great work done in the Hills fire recently, where the combination of firefighters on the ground plus the air tractors, the new Black Hawk helicopters, and the commitment of people made sure we got right on top of that situation in the Adelaide Hills, which could have been a lot worse.

Right across the board there have been fires across the state. Sadly, harvester fires seem to be a bit of an annual event and something that people have to be mindful of when they are harvesting. Lentils are a bit of an issue with the amount of dust that is built up around a machine. Sometimes things just happen, where a bearing might get hot or something else happens, and the next thing you have a fire on your hands. I must say, when talking with a lot of farmers these days about their firefighting capabilities, people have chaser bins now, the bins that follow up the harvesters, which can have up to 4,000 litres of water on board to have that instant firefighting task right in the field if something happens. That is so vital in the first instance.

Certainly, right up and down the river with the flood event that we have seen over the summer—and it is ongoing, even though we have passed the peak—there is a lot of work to do. I must commend all the volunteers, the many hundreds of CFS and SES volunteers and private volunteers, who have pitched in to do the work, to do the sandbag filling, to assist contractors building earthen banks. There are also the people feeding them, doing the simple things like getting the morning or afternoon teas or getting lunch.

It was great to assist the racing club at Murray Bridge with 36 tonnes of sandbags on top of the levee directly under the Swanport Bridge so they could keep a pump going with a generator once the power went off, as was always going to happen with the water level getting within 4.7 metres of the power lines, so that they could keep up the water to the racetrack. This gets down to an animal welfare issue, to make sure that the ground is watered appropriately for horses to race and train on, apart from drinking water for the horses and other things around the facility.

It was so good to see sandbagging stations at Murray Bridge. I remember one day at Mannum there were some guys who had just come up from Adelaide with the State Emergency Service to make sure they could do their bit to assist communities so that people could get their 20 sandbags. These guys had come up from Adelaide to assist and I really take my hat off to them.

These big events turn into a statewide issue. We have certainly seen it when we have had other big events such as the big fires on Kangaroo Island or even the regional fires, whether it be in the South-East or like those we had 2½ years ago with the Yumali-Netherton fire when the strike

teams turned up from either the South-East or the Hills. I know they came from both places. In fact, I saw a truck from well south of Adelaide there at that time.

It shows the true spirit of South Australians and Australians, helping each other to make sure that the job gets done. If it does not happen through volunteers, it would cost whatever government is in charge an enormous amount of money. I believe the government would not be able to fund it. I think the volunteer hours averaged out close to \$50 per hour, and that is just in a monetary sense without the sense of achievement that they are doing it for the community. That is something to be truly recognised and celebrated.

Talking about volunteers, there would also have been some paid staff involved in this. With the State Emergency Service, volunteers and paid people would have been involved in some of the swiftwater rescues that had to happen on the river. We had people come down from Queensland to assist with this. They were based in Murray Bridge, and I would say there is a crew still there. An extra helicopter came in from the Eastern States to assist with any potential rescues.

We had a couple of interesting characters—I have used other names such as 'clowns'—who decided to get on air mattresses at Ponde and go for a float. It seems like there are a lot of interesting things that happen out of Ponde. They got into trouble and the swiftwater rescue guys were there to protect them from their own folly. I really take my hat off to them.

We just would not function without the valuable work that volunteers do in whatever capacity. As I said earlier, it does not have to be in these capacities of firefighting or working in flood areas. There are people who volunteer in hospitals and aged care, helping people as they get older and bringing a smile to their face and making their life better.

It is such a good thing to support volunteers, and we need to keep doing it. We need to make sure that volunteers are always ready to come to the big frontline events, such as the flooding that has happened. As I said, there is a lot of work to be done. Some of the work, and I am sure some of this was in volunteer time, was with the pumps to dewater the area around Mannum, around Mary Ann Reserve, when the stormwater was flowing in. Council staff were making sure that the small motors were running at night.

I know I mentioned his name yesterday and you will get sick of me talking about him, but Ben Scales, the Chief Executive Officer of Mid Murray, did his shift manning those pumps at midnight on New Year's Eve for six hours to make sure that they had fuel in them so they could keep pumping the water that was seeping into Mary Ann Reserve and put it back over the levee bank into the river. I want to commend all volunteers. May people all keep volunteering long into the future at whatever level they volunteer at because we truly cherish your service.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:20): I rise in support of this motion and thank the member for Adelaide for moving it and drawing the house's attention to the importance of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of community, and I am fortunate to have so many volunteer groups in my electorate that offer so much to local residents. Just on the weekend, I attended the Friends of Belair National Park AGM, where they noted their combined volunteer hours for the year were 5,175, of which 3,579 involved active physical labour. This labour includes weed mitigation, planting and taking tours of the park. The group has 243 members, with 136 of those being active.

I have several Friends of Parks groups that operate around our community. The Friends of Belair National Park is just one. The Friends of Sturt Gorge, Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park and Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve are others. We are fortunate to be blessed with several national parks and reserves, and these friends groups play such a vital role in preserving their natural environment.

Volunteering in nature gives one so many benefits. Not only are you helping maintain the parks for generations to come but you are preserving and improving habitat, reducing fuel in terms of bushfires and also allowing the native vegetation to have a chance. There are personal benefits also, including working in the fresh air and sunshine, being in nature and grounding oneself, and also having the opportunity to meet others with similar interests. Volunteers give a lot, but they also get a lot back in return. Our government understands the valuable contributions these friends groups make and it is why we made a commitment of \$3 million to help them to continue that work.

Our parks are not the only things that benefit from volunteer spirit, though. Locally, we have active Rotary clubs in Blackwood, Coromandel Valley and Mitcham. What is great about Rotary is that they are always looking for ways to help not only our local community but further away and abroad. In my community, Rotarians work hard to raise money to help various charities and causes through sausage sizzles, their bookshop and other opportunities.

We also have a great group of volunteers in our Blackwood Lions Club. The Lions have their own bargain centre on Shepherds Hill Road, where many volunteers work on a Saturday morning unpacking donated goods and selling them on to the willing shopper. Last year, I spent a morning helping out, and through this process I learned that the Lions also have connections with various domestic violence shelters and assistance groups that often help set up homes for women and children escaping violence. They also help some of the displaced people who have come to our community from Ukraine by setting up houses for them too.

Our Lions and normally Rotarians come together to run our Blackwood Christmas Pageant, which my office had the privilege of assisting with late last year. It was a roaring success after a two-year hiatus, and with the help of many volunteers the community really enjoyed it. We are looking forward to the return of the post-pageant fair this year once our community centre has been completed.

Our community is lucky to also have a great group of volunteers who form the Blackwood Action Group. This group works tirelessly throughout Blackwood, keeping our gardens and garden beds looking great and giving our Stobie poles beautiful artwork. They work in the community. They work at the Coromandel Valley and Blackwood train stations, planting out the whole area and making it quite a beautiful view once you pull into the station.

I was very glad to help BAG, as they are affectionately known, last year to gain access to the freight platform in Coromandel Valley, something they had been trying to organise for quite some time. Along with a great group of volunteers, we worked hard to clear that platform because it had weeds and shrubs everywhere. New shrubs have been planted and it is now maintained. Now our train-travelling community can enjoy a much better view of that platform.

One should not forget the volunteers who work in our community centres, those who are on boards and those who chip in to keep the centres going, and volunteers who help out our sports teams across the whole community. Sports clubs would not be able to operate without the assistance of parents, players, grandparents, friends and others all volunteering their time to ensure sport is available.

We have volunteers from Zonta, from Blackwood Circle of Friends and those who form committees and working groups at our memorial halls and significant buildings such as Old Government House and Carrick Hill. They all contribute to keeping our amenities available and viable.

Volunteers are also active in our school communities. Whether they volunteer as readers, on kitchen gardens or on governing councils and parents and friends groups, everyone is giving their time to ensure our kids have a great experience at school. We have a wonderful group who work to support our more vulnerable and experienced members of society through Meals on Wheels. The volunteers who prepare and deliver the food are wonderful, and they also deliver a smile and a warm conversation to those in need.

Finally, I would never forget the volunteers who make up our CFS and our SES. These volunteers are something else, putting their lives on the line to protect our community day into night. Whether they are active or the support crew, the work that goes into being part of this family of volunteers is immense and our whole community thanks every single one of them.

A quick thank you to the volunteers who help me every day from the Labor sub-branch in Waite, whether it is out and about at various events like on the weekend at my bushfire forum, helping with BAG and Friends of Belair National Park groups, helping with JP services and around the office. I would especially like to thank 'nanna', as we affectionately call her in our office. Judy is my electorate officer Matt's grandma, and she is often in our office helping stuff envelopes and the like,

always with a smile and a joke. She is a real pleasure to have around, and I hope she knows how much we appreciate her.

I also just quickly acknowledge my mum and dad and my family, who continue to volunteer and help. Whether it is letterboxing, stuffing seeds into small envelopes or helping me recycle Christmas cards, all the volunteering that happens in our office is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes with different gifts to give our communities. Our community would not be able to function without their help, and so I take this opportunity to thank every single person who gives their time to help someone, something or some place be its best self. But volunteering gives something else. It actually gives the volunteer something, too: a feeling of satisfaction, a warm glow that they have helped, a contagious happiness that cannot be achieved by doing anything else. I wholeheartedly support this motion and, again, thank the member for Adelaide for moving it. I encourage everyone to find a way to volunteer.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (11:26): I, too, rise to add my support to this motion acknowledging International Volunteer Day and marking our appreciation for all of the good work that our volunteers do right across South Australia, but particularly in my contribution some of the good work that volunteers do in my local electorate of Bragg. Much like what we have heard from other members in this debate, the Bragg community is made by volunteers.

Volunteers almost literally touch every aspect of our life, whether it be volunteers who feed us—I think of Meals on Wheels and our thriving Burnside sub-branch—or whether it be volunteers who keep us safe, and we have heard a lot about our CFS volunteers today. I mark my appreciation to the Burnside CFS, who are a fixture at community events out in the eastern suburbs and Hills but also work tirelessly throughout summer and, indeed, all year round to put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

There are volunteers who keep us active and keep us social, and I think of the literally hundreds, possibly thousands of volunteers who are supporting our local sporting groups, whether it be the Glenunga Rams footy, cricket, netball and basketball clubs, or our two rugby clubs, Old Colls and Burnside rugby, or our thriving bowling clubs, hockey clubs and, of course, the Burnside Lacrosse Club. These clubs simply would not function without the support of an often small band of very dedicated and passionate volunteers.

There are volunteers who protect our environment. I am hugely conscious of the role that volunteers play as custodians of our natural environment and often on a really hyperlocal level. An example is the Environs Botanica group, which is setting out to improve the streetscape around the new Botanica apartments in the Glenside redevelopment by planting trees, and it was a pleasure to join them at one of their tree plantings recently.

On a slightly larger scale, we have the Friends of Cleland National Park, who do enormous work in that national park, and our schools, of course, play a role with young people volunteering their time to help our environment. It was a pleasure last year to attend Loreto College and plant one of their 200 trees that that community set out to plant throughout 2022. There have been literally hundreds and thousands of hours of volunteering across these areas.

There are three service clubs that I want to particularly acknowledge for their work in volunteering in our community. The first is the Lions Club of Burnside, which I was very pleased to be welcomed in as a member just before Christmas last year, in their 60th year as a club. That is 60 years of volunteering their time to serve our community in many different ways but perhaps most notably through their bargain centre at Glen Osmond, which is open on the first Saturday of every month and has many bargains for everyone, and something to appeal to everyone, whether it be toys or books, CDs or jewellery. It is a great place to be on a Saturday morning.

Again, none of that happens without the tireless work of volunteers, both manning that centre on a Saturday morning but also processing the goods that are being donated to the bargain centre. I mark my appreciation to the Lions Club of Burnside for the work that they do now and, indeed, have been doing for the last 60 years.

I want to particularly acknowledge just a few people on their executive, including the president, Rob Crookall; vice-president, Michael Neal; the secretary, Barry Taylor; the treasurer,

Indira Seimon—and I think I might owe her some membership dues, which I am sure she will chase me up about after seeing this—the membership director, Tim Jordan; and the immediate past president, Michele Alexandrou. I thank Michele, in particular, for sponsoring my membership of the Burnside Lions Club.

Secondly, I want to acknowledge crosstown rivals, the Glenside Lions Club. They are a slightly younger club but by no means less active in our community across a wide range of areas. There have been two initiatives in particular where they have volunteered a lot of time and done a lot of good. The first is their annual Glenside Lions Art Show, which is something I was very pleased to support last year. It has been going for over 30 years now, and it has raised over \$420,000 for charitable causes in our local community.

It is an incredible effort, just as their Bookmart is also an incredible effort. It has over 30,000 books on display at any time, so there really is something for everyone. Once again, it is staffed and organised entirely by volunteers. We could not have raised that \$420,000 at that art show, we could not run a bookshop with 30,000 titles on display, without the dedicated work of these volunteers.

I want to also acknowledge their executive, including president John Standingford; vice-president, Alastair Birse; the secretary, Ron Glasson; the treasurer, Hayden Edwards; the membership chair and social coordinator, Frank Bowering; activities chair, Peter Keam; the Bookmart manager, Evan Jenkins; the art show director, Cathy Greven; lion tamer, Neil Thomson; and immediate past president, Alan Hook. I put on the record my sincere thanks for all of the thousands of hours of volunteering that small group of people have done to serve our local community.

Thirdly, I want to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Burnside, which has been serving our local community for nearly 50 years. It has also raised thousands of dollars through the efforts of their hard work, and I am sure it is going to raise thousands more with the arrival of their brand-new barbecue this year. I look forward to seeing that make its debut later in the year.

It serves our community so well, not just through those charitable actions but also through volunteering their time at, for example, a seniors' Christmas lunch that they put on every year for senior citizens in Burnside. It was a pleasure to attend that at the end of last year with about a hundred senior citizens from across Burnside sitting down for a Christmas lunch. I was lucky enough to play the role of barman at that event and I think my generous pours made me very popular with the local Rotary Club. Again, it does not happen without volunteers. That day was solely put together by volunteers and I put on the record my appreciation to all of them, particularly the co-presidents of that club—the M&Ms—Margie Maloney and Des Munro.

Australia Day was recently another opportunity to acknowledge some particular citizens who personify some of these qualities of volunteering in our local community, and I acknowledge a couple of them as well. The Burnside Citizen of the Year, Mr Graeme Gatley, volunteered and continues to volunteer for a plethora of organisations, including the Burnside Legacy Widows Group, the Burnside Justice of the Peace Service, St Matthew's Anglican Church, and he was also previously the Vice-President of the Kensington Park RSL. He has a very full volunteering schedule and was rightly recognised as a Citizen of the Year on Australia Day in Burnside.

Two young sisters, Penny and Amber Trappel, were awarded the Burnside Young Citizens of the Year, and they volunteered their time on two initiatives: firstly, applying for a grant to get a defibrillator at the Tusmore Wading Pool and, secondly, separately, to apply for a grant to install a rock swap shelf, which I am pleased to say is now also available in Tusmore Park, and being put to good use by our local community.

That is just a very brief snapshot of some of the volunteering work that is taking place locally in the eastern suburbs and the Hills. Our community simply would not function without the hard work of these really dedicated and passionate people volunteering their time, so on this International Volunteer Day, and indeed on all days, we mark our appreciation, and I am very pleased to support this motion.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (11:36): I think it is very important that the majority of people in this place stand and acknowledge the great work that volunteers do, whether it is in their electorate, whether it is statewide or internationally. I think they have a very, very important role to play but, in

saying that, they make our communities a better place to live. They provide a better environment for the time that they give and the service that they provide to the common person here in South Australia.

Of course I want to talk about the great electorate of Chaffey and the volunteering base that is committed. They commit their precious time and their efforts towards making the Riverland and Mallee communities both safer, and of course they are a privilege to be a part of. The operation of many of the local organisations would not be possible without the dedication and the passion that volunteers put on display at every opportunity. If you are looking for a job to get done, and are looking for a volunteer to do it, normally people would say, 'Ask a busy volunteer. Ask a person that is busy to get the best that you can out of those volunteer bases.'

Sadly, over time, what we are seeing is that while we appreciate the volunteering of those individuals, we are seeing an ageing base of volunteers. So this is a call-out to those younger people, no matter what generation that you are from, to stand up and contribute to making society, to making your community a better place to live, work and enjoy.

As other speakers have said, we cannot put a value or a monetary number on the contribution by volunteers, but we do need to reach out and make sure that during times of uncertainty we have volunteer bases—whether it be through emergency services, whether it be through the CFS, the SES, all those volunteering groups—that come out and help.

We know that neighbours can be a great source of volunteering in times of crisis, whether it is fire, whether it is famine, whether it is flood, and of course the Riverland by and large, and particularly Chaffey, have experienced a significant challenge over the last six or even eight months knowing that we have had to prepare. We have used a lot of professional services to come in and better prepare for the flood, but we have seen a significant influx of volunteer hours put on display so that we can demonstrate how united our communities are.

I think particularly—I will speak on behalf of a regional community—that regional community volunteers are the fabric. They are the glue that keeps people together. They are the glue that keeps sporting clubs functioning. They are the glue that continues to go from strength to strength. There is nothing better than seeing Lions, Rotary, Apex, Probus, Legacy and all the rest of them with their sausage sizzles, raising money, out there cleaning up roadsides, out there planting trees or out there just doing one of the many, many roles that volunteers play. I say thank you to all of them.

Meals on Wheels is one of the great institutions. Every now and again, I jump in and help volunteer, delivering meals to those who are either ageing or less fortunate. I think it is a very valuable service, particularly to regional communities, because distance is the tyranny of a challenge. Many people in regional communities do not live next door to people; they live on a property, they live out of town, or they live some distance from a support service. I say thank you to every Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Sporting clubs: we could not go past thanking all the volunteers, whether it is a coach, whether it is a runner, whether it is someone on the sporting board or the sporting committee. They are also those less visible people who are there raising funds to keep those clubs afloat, making sure that the canteens are manned, making sure that the grounds are mowed and looked after and that the lines are there or the line marking is put in place. The list goes on for many, many of those sporting organisations.

I want to highlight the Cobdogla Steam Museum. It is home to the Humphrey pump, the only working Humphrey pump in the world. Sadly, this mean government has taken away the opportunity for the ongoing viability of this steam museum. It is an institution. It has a significant number of dedicated volunteers who continue to keep the artefacts and history alive, making sure that, as a volunteer base, they are looking after the only working Humphrey pump in the world, but they are now having that support funding taken away from them. I think it is an absolute crime. I say thank you for the great work that those volunteers are doing at the Cobby steam museum.

Recently, we have celebrated Citizen of the Year Awards, and there are many of them. I have a number of council areas that have given those awards out. Bert Haslam is the Loxton Citizen of the Year. He has done some great work through the Loxton Rotary Club, the footy club and also

The Pines historic house and garden committee. Mr Ian Tolley has been around, and he has done it all. He is a great contributor, not only to the horticultural industry but through Lions and also the Chaffey Theatre complex development.

Glenys Matthews is the Berri Barmera Council Citizen of the Year. She is a great contributor through the Riverland Rose and Garden Festival as well as the Cancer Council, and is a Royal Flying Doctors volunteer. Carmel Wuttke is the Waikerie Citizen of the Year for Meals on Wheels. She is also a volunteer at the Rain Moth Gallery, Santa's cave, and, of course, the many music programs in that beautiful area.

Angela Lukacs is the Mid-Murray Council Citizen of the Year. She comes from Cadell. She is the Chairperson for the Riverland West Chamber of Commerce. She provides first-aid training to local non-profit organisations and she is an attendee at the Careers Expo event. Ian Wood is the District Council of Karoonda East Murray Citizen of the Year. He does a great job, particularly at the Karoonda farm fair and the show, and he is a regular volunteer at the sporting clubs.

I just want to say thank you to all the volunteers in the Riverland and Mallee. I want to say thank you to all the volunteers everywhere, right around the country. I also want to say to anyone that if you see a volunteer at work, just stop for a moment and say thank you and thank them for their commitment. Say thank you to them for making the community a place that is just a little bit better to live, work and play.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (11:44): I rise to make a brief contribution, and I thank the member for Adelaide for her terrific motion. It obviously gives all of us an opportunity to highlight some of the wonderful work that is being done in our own communities. I thank the other speakers for highlighting some of those wonderful things that are happening so that the rest of us here can learn more about what is happening in each of your electorates and the wonderful people in them.

At the risk of making a serious faux pas in my community, there are a very large number of people who are doing amazing things but I thought I would take this opportunity just to call out one person in particular, who does not seek praise; he just gets on with it, and he has been pretty busy lately on a raft of different fronts.

His name is Jamie Morgan, and he is the junior and senior director of football at the Plympton Football Club. Not only has he managed to take his club to six premierships but he was also instrumental in making sure that the club won Juniors Club of the Year in the SANFL last year. I think it was about October that it was announced. Most recently, at the Australia Day awards for the Marion council he was announced as Sportsman of the Year.

He was completely stunned at getting the nomination, but no-one else in the community was. We know that he works really, really hard. He is an industrious fellow, gets along with everyone and has some great ideas and he just gets down to work and achieves.

At the moment I am working with Jamie and also with members of the broader club in relation to the work they are doing with some exciting plans at the SAJC at the Morphetville Racecourse, which is looking to put sporting facilities, particularly football facilities, right in the middle of the track. It is an innovative use of land. It is not without its challenges, but he is instrumental in making sure that that can come to fruition, and we look forward to seeing that happen.

Another thing I have been delighted to work with Jamie on over the last year or two now is getting the funding for a planning study to look at how we can better utilise the land at Plympton Oval. Members would be familiar—many particularly in the suburban areas—with the challenges of a lack of green space and sporting fields and sporting arenas in our communities and the struggle of trying to provide those when we are so lucky to have popular clubs that have more and more people coming to play, particularly women.

It is a good problem to have but a challenging one to solve, and this club is taking the lead in trying to be innovative about finding and better utilising the spaces that they have for the benefit of our community. I was pleased to announce money has been set aside as part of our election commitments to produce a planning study to look at how land can be better used at Plympton Oval and in particular with a focus on how it can be made more accessible for the public and also how we can improve upon the clubhouse, which is getting on in years down there.

So I just want to say thank you so much to Jamie Morgan for all his hard work. Like I said, he is a bloke who does not seek praise, but he certainly deserves it. We congratulate him on his many awards and thank him deeply for his contribution to our community.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:48): I rise to speak on the motion the member for Adelaide has put forward. I think it is a really critical one. We all in this house, regardless what side of the chamber we sit on, should pay our respects and acknowledge those people who work so tirelessly for their community and do so without seeking praise. I think that that is often rare in society. I think that there are many people who do acts of kindness and are looking for a pat on the back potentially in some areas, but on International Volunteer Day we do really celebrate those people who are volunteering their time willingly and knowing they will not be seeking a financial reward for doing so.

If I reflect on my own community—and I am so fortunate to represent what I believe is one of the best places in Australia in the Barossa Valley in the northern Adelaide Hills—we have so many passionate people who are focused on giving back to their community. It is done across a wide variety of areas. I am always amazed that I see the Lions Club at the footy gates on a weekend, or parents who are scrambling to think about what coaching drills they are going to be doing for their under-12 netball club, or whether they are helping out at some of the regional shows. These are some of the people who are giving back.

One thing that is often glossed over is that the volunteers in our community have busy lives as well. Volunteers do not do it as a full-time job; there are many who do, in retirement, but they are not being paid and they too are managing some family stresses, their own financial stresses, so it is fantastic that we are spending a moment today to reflect on all their contributions.

There is one person I would particularly like to acknowledge, and his name is Kaelan. He is from Birdwood, and I came across him when I was at the Gumeracha markets recently. He is a young man who is heading into year 10, and I was speaking to him on what was his last day of the school holidays. It was a Sunday, and I asked him what he had been up to on his school holidays. He advised that he had been working three jobs because he is trying to save up for a car; he cannot wait to get his L-plates. I asked him why he was volunteering as well on a Sunday, and he said, 'It's part of my family and it's part of who I am.'

I was so taken aback by the fact that this 16-year-old bloke, who had worked three jobs, was also giving back to his community. That is often glossed over with young people. There are a number of young people who want to give back to their community, and making sure they are aware of the opportunities is absolutely critical.

When we look at the percentage of people in our communities who volunteer, on average 25 per cent of people within our communities are putting themselves forward to do some volunteering. That is a remarkable statistic and represents their hard work and willingness to give back to their local communities. What I am not surprised about is that we often see a much higher rate of volunteering in regional communities, because of the sense of belonging and the sense of almost a duty to give back to your community that has done so much for you and provided an environment for you to really get ahead. I think that is fantastic.

Again, I would like to thank the member for Adelaide for putting forward this motion and give a big shout-out to all the volunteers in my local community who are spending their weekends, their evenings and their mornings giving back to the community. Thank you so much, because our area would not be the same without you.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:52): It is fair to say that volunteers provide the backbone of our state, especially within regional South Australia. South Australia has a proud tradition of people giving back to the community that goes back generations, especially within my region of Eyre Peninsula and my electorate of Flinders which has always had one of the highest percentages of volunteering numbers in the state when it comes to census data. As has been pointed out, over a quarter of the population within my electorate volunteer and give back to their community.

It is often a diverse group of people who volunteer and, as we acknowledge this motion about International Volunteer Day, it is really important to recognise that in regional South Australia, in particular, the foundation or the fabric of the community is built on volunteers. The emergency

services are built around volunteers, and this is something I often have to remind my city cousins about. If an ambulance rocks up in your street needing to give attention to someone who is being medically or physically challenged, whatever it might be, those people are volunteers.

I am lucky to see firsthand in my community the amount of time, effort and emotion that is put into volunteering in our Ambulance Service. I know that there is always a call-out within our regional communities for more people to put their hand up to volunteer for their Ambulance Service. Likewise, the other emergency services—the CFS and the SES—are all manned by volunteers. It is only volunteers who keep those things going, it is only volunteers who keep our communities going. If you break down what some of those duties and responsibilities are in emergency management it is pretty confronting.

We have volunteers who are having to go out and fight bushfires, often protecting property whilst their own property is under threat. We see ambulance officers having to go out and tend to people they know. They might be friends, they might be family or they might be community members they know. It is pretty hard. We see SES volunteers and CFS volunteers having to attend at fatal car accidents and stand over the top of vehicles where they know the people within the vehicle.

Volunteers give so much to our community, and it is so confronting for us to consider the depth of emotion and the depth of challenge that these emergency services volunteers in particular have to bear for their community. They do it for their community. Just like all the volunteers across my community, that is their sole focus: giving back. The value that you get from volunteering is not the pat on the back, it is the value of being part of a community, adding to that community, knowing that you are doing your bit in your generation that previous generations have done and future generations will continue to do.

I look around my electorate and often smile when some of my counterparts here talk about the two football clubs in their electorate. Well, over in the electorate of Flinders I have more than 20 football clubs, so I cannot unfortunately note off the best and fairest or the life member of each one of those more than 20 football clubs, not to mention the netball clubs, the basketball clubs, the hockey clubs—these sporting clubs that are built on volunteering. Unfortunately, the 10 minutes that we are given never can cover adequately the individuals within these organisations, but it is that basis of volunteering that, as I said, is built on generations.

I can look back and see that the people who build our communities came to build a better life for themselves. Often, they came into communities and built a pretty ordinary house for them and their family to live in, and do you know what they did next? They built churches, they built schools, they built community facilities and they built sporting clubs because they knew that that was the foundation for the community that they wanted future generations to have. These community groups are diverse, and this is why I would encourage anyone to consider that there is always an opportunity for you to be volunteering—whether it is the Rotary Club or the Lions Club.

Over my way, the Lions Clubs are well renowned for their hot doughnuts, whether that is at Lock, Cleve or down at Tumby Bay. Usually at an event, there is a Lions Club raising money through these things. The progress associations, the town hall committees, the hospital auxiliaries and the regional show societies are raising money for some of the most basic medical services that we have within our communities. There are so many different aspects and so many different interest groups that you can get involved in if you actually put your hand up for volunteering.

I want to highlight also the amazing festivals and events that we have on Eyre Peninsula. In the October long weekend we have the Oysterfest at Ceduna. It is an amazing event, and I would encourage all my colleagues in this place to go along and enjoy that local event and the local produce there. That event is built on volunteers. We have the Colour Tumby Festival, which is coming up in the March long weekend. It is an event close to my heart because I have seen firsthand people with a passion for their community wanting to get stuff done for the community. In a couple of weeks' time there is the Tasting Arno event. These sorts of events are built on volunteers and built on community.

I want especially to note the hard work of volunteers at the Tunarama Festival in Port Lincoln. The Tunarama Festival was established in 1961—it is the longest-running regional festival in the state. It has had its challenges over the last couple years with COVID, and we have not had Tunarama for the last couple of years, but those volunteers did not let that get them down.

So this year the Australia Day long weekend was an incredible opportunity for the 60th Tunarama Festival to occur. It is well-renowned for the tuna toss, and that is what usually gets on TV, but it is also all the different events that come around it. I am still shaking out my shoulder from my attempt to toss the tuna; to see some of those who were a lot more able than I flinging their replica tuna was an amazing thing.

I want especially to thank the volunteer committee of the Tunarama Festival. It was led by Sharon Humenick, a passionate woman who only last year was the Port Lincoln Citizen of the Year. Her group of volunteers put in so much time, so much effort, to showcase the Lower Eyre Peninsula, to showcase the produce we have, to showcase the community we have. The events that were put on as well were, as always, entertaining: not just the tuna toss, but we had a salmon and prawn toss for the kids, a watermelon eating competition, boat building (which is one of my favourites), sand sculpture and the traditional emergency services tug-of-war, where the SAPOL guys flex their muscles against the MFS, CFS and SES. These are the events our community is built on and these events are built on volunteers.

Again, I commend volunteers from all around my community. It is only through your time, through your work, through your effort, which you put in, that we have the community that we have. Again, I encourage anyone within our community to consider volunteering in whatever way. It might only be for a hour or two a week, or it might be for significant time. It might be putting up your hand to be president of one of these groups or maybe just someone who supports in the background.

Our nation, our state, my region are only the way they are because of the efforts of our volunteers, and on International Volunteer Day it is a great day to recognise that, but I want to make sure it is at the front of mind of each and every one of us each and every single day.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:02): I rise also to support the motion, broad as it is, to the parliament in this first sitting week, celebrating International Volunteer Day back in December. We ought to take every opportunity that arises to celebrate those volunteers in our community because speakers before me, and just now the member for Flinders in particular, have highlighted and emphasised that the fabric of our community is undoubtedly based on the contribution of volunteers. That goes all the way back through to early days. These were conscious decisions, expressions of the value people held in bringing community together and in maintaining the fabric of our wonderful communities.

We might be forgiven, in the course of a debate on volunteers, a certain degree of parochialism—and I will become particularly parochial in a moment—but it is worth bearing in mind that we live in the most extraordinary place in the world. There are events worldwide that remind us about that almost constantly, and our hearts go out to those who are suffering in Turkiye and Syria presently, and in those many parts of the world troubled by violent strife as well as natural disasters. They serve as reminders that the fabric of our community here in South Australia is indeed one that we are fortunate to share together, and one that is underpinned by the contribution, the ordinary day-to-day contribution, of volunteers in their so many and varied ways.

It is from that perspective that I highlight those extraordinary achievements of constituents of mine in the Hills. Just in recent weeks, on Australia Day, we had the opportunity to recognise citizens of the year and active citizens. Those citizens are recognised invariably for their volunteer commitments to our community. I wish to recognise, in particular, Natasha Hortle and Jasmin Scott, the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year respectively in the Hills, both of them of Woodside. I congratulate them for their dedicated commitment, in so many ways, to the Hills.

I want to particularly highlight a number of recipients of active citizenship awards on Australia Day, recognised at the Adelaide Hills Council ceremony that I was honoured to attend at Stirling on Australia Day morning. It was a beautiful occasion, celebrated in beautiful weather. Firstly, I mention Ross Kealley, who is well known to people in the Hills, particularly around Aldgate. Ross was recognised for his sustained volunteer commitment to The Hut. The Hut at Aldgate, much loved by our community, is a place for people to find refuge and to find help, friendship and support. Ross, in a whole variety of ways, has been a dedicated volunteer at The Hut over a long period of time.

On receiving his active citizenship award, Ross pointed out to all of us that it is a joy to be recognised and that is wonderful, but he really wanted to say that he had had the opportunity over

these years to volunteer his help in terms of assisting The Hut and that had been tremendously rewarding for him. It had meant so much in terms of enriching his life, and so he very much was encouraging the volunteer service both for the contribution it makes to the community but also for what it brings back to the volunteer. So I say congratulations, Ross, and I look forward always to seeing your smiling face at The Hut.

Doreen Thomas, also of Aldgate, was recognised for her lifelong contribution to the Hills—and it is about time, I would say, that Doreen Thomas was recognised. Doreen is well known to all of us, as is her dear husband, John. Doreen was present together with their two adult sons and is, I think, a proud and modest recipient of the active citizenship award, typifying the kind of unassuming contribution to community that many make. Doreen is to be applauded.

Just to rattle off a no doubt incomplete list of those contributions, we know that they include volunteer work related to parenting, children's education and sport. She has contributed to the Adelaide Hills agricultural bureau and to Probus. As well, as we know, she is a much-loved contributor to the Stirling Sub-Branch of the RSL as well as the Women's Auxiliary. She is reliable, capable and encouraging of others and just a wonderful human being. Congratulations to Doreen.

Thirdly, I want to highlight Tracy Goodwin—and it is a shout out, Tracy. I know the joy that you bring to the Hills and so very particularly, over more than two decades, as a leader, coach and administrator in Hills netball. You know we are passionate about netball in the Hills, none more so than you, Tracy, and I congratulate you on that recognition of your passion, which translates into service and contribution to so many young people in the Hills who have the opportunity to participate in Hills netball. It takes resilience, teamwork and joy and commitment to all those day-to-day things that keep the association in good shape. Congratulations, Tracy.

Merrilyn Hannaford was recognised at the Uraidla award ceremony. Merrilyn is much loved, and her contributions to the Uraidla and Summertown communities are of long standing. She has been involved, typically, across a range of activities, including as catering coordinator for the local CFS—they are a group of 10 brigades that are engaged in that way—as well as upgrading Uraidla Primary School and involvement in both the Uraidla and Summertown netball clubs. Merrilyn is a much-loved volunteer.

I hope that we continue to highlight the contribution of individuals as examples of what is so valuable as we continue to build healthy and vibrant local communities. In that regard, the Hills, I am pleased to report, are in good hands and in good shape. I commend the motion.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:11): I would love to thank all the members who have spoken on this motion. I think the breadth and depth of the stories that we have heard today in communities both metropolitan and regional really does express how many incredible volunteers we have in South Australia.

In particular, the member for Hammond and the member for Chaffey spoke about our emergency services volunteers, in particular given the events over the summer with the devastating floods in the Riverland and the incredible effort of both emergency services volunteers and everyday members of the community, who have come together to assist people affected by the floods. As a daughter of a former volunteer for the CFS Bool Lagoon brigade, I have seen firsthand growing up the incredible work that our emergency services volunteers do.

To the member for Badcoe, I thank her for her words in shouting out to a particular local, Jamie Morgan, who was the Marion Sportsperson on the Year. It sounds like he is a quiet achiever and a doer. What would our communities do without people like that?

To the member for Waite, who in particular gave a shout-out to volunteers of political parties, none of us would be in this room without them. In many ways, political volunteering is an extreme sport. I do not think you have really lived unless you have done that 3am Macca's run after putting up thousands of corflutes in your marginal seat.

To the member for Bragg, thank you for giving a specific shout-out to sporting volunteers in our community. On Saturday, as an example, I took my little girl, Audrey, to a come-and-try netball session run by the Walkerville Netball Club. The number of volunteers who came out to try to

encourage little ones to take up the sport was just incredible, so a specific shout-out to Jessica Nicholls and the coach, Shirley Milner.

To the member for Heysen, this is a motion regarding International Volunteer Day, and so I thank the member in particular for his comments in regard to Turkiye and Syria and all the volunteers in those communities not just helping to try to save lives but dealing with the aftermath that will come for many months and years after these tragic earthquakes.

The member for Schubert highlighted the importance of volunteering as a young person and the story of Kaelan in her community. He has three jobs but also takes the time to volunteer, which is incredible. It is so important, particularly with our ageing population, that we encourage that next generation of volunteers. To hear stories like Kaelan's is absolutely wonderful.

To the member for Flinders, I would like to set him the ultimate MP challenge of at some point in his parliamentary career naming every single volunteer of the 20 football clubs in Flinders. I have learnt something today. I did not realise you had that many footy clubs in your electorate. That is absolutely incredible.

I hope I have covered everyone there. Once again, thank you to all the speakers for speaking on such an important motion. For those listening online or who will see this later, if you are a volunteer, you are an absolute legend and once again we thank you for your service. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONS DAY

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (12:14): By leave, I move my motion in an amended form:

That this house—

- (a) notes that 20 January 2023 is National Corrections Day, recognising the tireless work and efforts of our dedicated corrections staff to reduce reoffending and to make the community safer; and
- (b) expresses its gratitude to all corrections staff in all roles across the state, including correctional officers, community corrections officers, Aboriginal liaison officers, social workers, psychologists, correctional educators and administration and project staff for their professionalism, skill and compassion.

I am deeply honoured to have this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by our hardworking, brave and dedicated corrections officers. National Corrections Day is an opportunity to recognise the efforts of both our frontline staff and those working behind the scenes to reduce reoffending and to make our community safer.

I can only imagine the challenges faced by over 2,000 staff within the Department for Correctional Services and the personal qualities needed to succeed as corrections officers, community corrections officers, Aboriginal liaison officers, social workers, psychologists and administration and project staff.

Of course, this day is not just about great staff but also an occasion to recognise and thank the legion of dedicated volunteers who make an outstanding contribution to our corrections system. Like so many other facets within our community, I am pretty sure this would not function without them. Be it a staff member or a volunteer, their world is full of challenges but intrinsically linked by a desire to care in the quest of breaking the cycle of reoffending.

It would be irresponsible to suggest it is an easy life working with criminals. It cannot be ignored that working in our prisons can be dangerous, with 118 new workplace injury claims made last financial year. Given the challenges these staff face, it seems odd that it was only in 2018 that we first stopped as a nation to observe this day nationally. Traditionally, National Corrections Day is celebrated each year on the third Friday in January and acknowledges the often challenging work correctional services staff do to keep the community safe by maintaining safety and the security of our facilities as well as the supervision of offenders within the community.

In South Australia, this year we celebrated the occasion on 20 January, with a range of celebrations across the state, including morning and afternoon teas, as well as barbecue lunches.

We have a local workforce that is a credit to the state and it is only right that this house stops to acknowledge what they have achieved in recent years.

Back in August 2016, the previous state Labor government introduced a bold target to reduce the rate of reoffending by 10 per cent by 2020, driving a fundamental shift in corrections policy. In 2022, it was announced that Corrections had not only met but exceeded that target and South Australia now has the lowest reoffending rate in the country at 39.3 per cent. This contrasts favourably against the national average of 53.1 per cent.

In presenting these figures, while I do not support the privatisation of our prisons, the contributions made by the member for Hartley, when he served as minister, should not be overlooked. The fact that during this time COVID reared its ugly head makes this result all the more remarkable. When you note results like these and read in the department's annual report that it emerged from the pandemic as a stronger, more resilient and robust organisation, you cannot help but feel that David Brown and his team have every reason to be proud of their efforts.

Given the challenges of the pandemic, I am sure most of us would have expected Corrections to revert back to basics. This was anything but, with these excellent results achieved through a range of rehabilitation initiatives. This included the introduction of the Work Ready, Release Ready program that links people to a job before release from custody. This extremely successful program supports participants to:

- build job skills prior to release through education, vocational skills and employment-readiness training;
- helps participants gain financial security, purpose and social connections as a result of returning to work;
- mitigates the likelihood of breaches of community-based orders; and
- assists participants to find and maintain employment post release.

Rehabilitation efforts were also doubled, with a focus on delivering gender, culturally specific and offence-focused therapeutic programs. Efforts like these aligned perfectly to the national theme of the day of 'collaborative corrections'. It was therefore an opportune moment for staff to reflect and celebrate their outstanding work, knowing they have the confidence of the community and the Malinauskas government to reach their new target to reduce reoffending by 20 per cent, from the 2016 baseline rate down to 36.8 per cent.

The fact that the national theme for the day reflects front and centre on the business models undertaken locally shows that in many ways we have a system that is the envy of the rest of the nation. This is further reinforced by other programs, such as the Road to Redemption, another great example of a successful community partnership, which not only supports Aboriginal people under department supervision but also provides a pathway into employment in the civil construction industry.

While the disproportionate number of Aboriginal people in custody is a sad indictment that we must all own, on a side note I do feel that we could learn something from the department, which has increased its Aboriginal participation share of its workforce from 4 per cent in 2020-21 to just over 5 per cent in the last financial year.

In acknowledging the occasion, this state also belongs to the many people involved in meaningful partnerships through the department's partnership framework. Partners include those within government, non-government organisations and industries. As with our volunteers, I am pretty sure the place would not succeed without them.

In wrapping up, I also wish to acknowledge the excellent work of the Public Service Association, which represents corrections officers. While we stop for a day to acknowledge those working in the system, the union is out there daily standing up for their members. As a proud unionist, I want to give thanks for supporting each other and reiterate that my door is always open to you and your members.

We must move away from an 'out of sight, out of mind' society. It is therefore important to discuss, celebrate and understand what goes on in the correctional system. National Corrections Day is not just important to those who work in the system but an opportunity for the broader community to stop and celebrate the achievements of our great staff, volunteers and partners, and to also gain a greater understanding of what they are up against. On behalf of my constituents and the Malinauskas government, I give thanks to them all and commend this motion in amended form to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:22): I rise to speak to the amended motion by the member for Playford that this house:

- (a) notes that 20 January 2023 is National Corrections Day, recognising the tireless work and efforts of our dedicated corrections staff to reduce reoffending and to make the community safer; and
- (b) expresses its gratitude to all corrections staff in all roles across the state, including correctional officers, community corrections officers, Aboriginal liaison officers, social workers, psychologists, correctional educators and administration and project staff for their professionalism, skill and compassion.

We have prisons located, obviously, right across the state. We have the Adelaide Remand Centre, the Adelaide Women's Prison, the Cadell Training Centre, the Mobilong Prison (which is in Murray Bridge), the Mount Gambier Prison, the Port Augusta Prison, the Yatala Labour Prison and the Adelaide Pre-release Centre.

An honourable member: Port Lincoln Prison.

Mr PEDERICK: And Port Lincoln Prison. I thought there was a prison in Port Lincoln; there you go, one missing off the list. I do want to salute the staff, with all the roles that they contribute to working in the corrections facilities right across the state. It is a difficult job. It is a job where they are trying to get on top of prison numbers, to contribute to the occasion of reoffending, and to bring those numbers down so that prisoners can lead a better life when they get out of prison after they serve their time.

I know there are various projects to keep prisoners busy. In regard to actual work projects in Mobilong Prison, there is the HEGS Pegs project, those fancy little orange pegs where you can peg your clothes without putting a mark on them if that is what you so desire. I do not get that fussy; I just use the peg way but that is just me. They also put pallets together in there, and they have a project making headstones for unmarked graves for veterans, a very serious program that prisoners at Mobilong contribute to, and I salute them for that.

There is a bloke who comes from Coonalpyn, Michael Dent, who I would have played footy with, who has worked in Corrections. He has been operating at Mobilong and I believe he is in charge at Mobilong now. He went to Cadell for a while, and he does a great job in keeping that facility on the straight and narrow.

When Mobilong was built in 1987, it had room for 150 single-celled prisoners. Those numbers have built up over time where cells were doubled and in some cases tripled. I remember the former member for Port Adelaide, Kevin Foley's famous quote, 'Rack 'em, pack 'em, stack 'em'. Other facilities have been built, and that has been ongoing over time, to where Mobilong now holds 472 prisoners, and it is almost like small unit accommodation where prisoners have their own room.

When some of those early rooms were built, I think there were five rooms, then two of them were doubled up to fit seven into each unit, but newer units have been built since then. I think, in regard to the open campus style of prison, and Mobilong was a trendsetter in those days in getting that going, it is probably close to maximum capacity, although I suppose as long as there is ground, there is room to put in more buildings.

What we need to be doing, and what prison workers and all the other workers in supply support services need to do—whether it is educational services, psychology services and all the other wraparound services—is assist prisoners so that they do not reoffend and have the option of getting out to have a better life.

One of those programs is the GAP program. It is a great program involving 16 greyhounds that have finished their lives as racing greyhounds. I have seen it a couple of times on professional

visits to the prison. The program puts prisoners together with their own greyhound that they look after for quite a while. It is quite therapeutic and gives prisoners a real sense of achievement, and I have met prisoners there who have been a part of that process.

I really want to acknowledge Chris Tilley, who I ran into last night at a Veterans Advisory Council function. He works in Mobilong and does a great service in relation to Corrections. In Correctional Services, he was a finalist in the Veteran Employee of the Year 2021, and I will just tell you his story.

Following eight years in the Australian Defence Force as an infantryman, Chris transitioned into a role as corrections officer at Mobilong Prison. Whilst Chris's transition into a civilian job was seamless, he struggled to find the same degree of meaning and purpose in his role as he previously held in the ADF.

Chris became aware that a number of the prisoners he was guarding were veterans so he independently undertook research to understand the number of veterans in the South Australian prison population. From this research, Chris recognised the need for coordinated support for veteran prisoners and led the establishment of a veteran support group at Mobilong Prison.

This group commenced as a peer support group but evolved to provide a link to services for specific needs, such as emergency housing, careers, legal support, family support, DVA claims and advocacy. The primary focus of the group is to give veteran prisoners the best opportunity to maintain the values associated with being a veteran, thereby assisting with the reintegration of prisoners who are veteran into the broader community—a benefit to all.

Chris is continuing to work with executives from the South Australian Department for Correctional Services to influence the rollout of a statewide veteran support program for veteran prisoners and veterans on community-based corrections orders. He is also committed to assisting fellow veterans to be positive members of the community, to be proud of their service and to instil values of pride and honour through identification as a veteran. I quote: 'Thanks for believing in me that I'm more than a criminal,' said veteran T on his release from prison. 'I needed something positive to do with my time...I don't know how I would have got through this without your support,' veteran C said, after successfully securing a job whilst on home detention.

Chris is a member of the South Australian Veterans Advisory Council, as I indicated. I was talking to him last night at the Younger Veterans—Contemporary Needs Forum. I truly salute his work with veterans. Sadly, some veterans have found themselves in correctional facilities for various reasons and this is a great way to assist those who have served our country, who have been prepared to put their lives on the line.

Sadly, as we know—and it does not matter if you are an infantryman or service man or woman—sometimes things go wrong. In general, for people in society, sometimes things go wrong, too. In regard to people's service within the Australian Defence Force, I absolutely salute their service and I salute the service that Chris Tilley is doing to make sure that he can do all he can to get these veterans' lives back on track.

In the main, I salute all of the workers who work in our correctional facilities. It is a tough job; it is tough gig, and we must all concentrate on doing what we can to lower the levels of reoffending and essentially lower the levels of offending so that society as a whole can benefit in the longer term.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:32): I rise to speak in support of the motion, and I commend my colleague on bringing it forward because it is an important day to recognise. The motion states that this house:

- (a) notes that 20 January 2023 is National Corrections Day, recognising the tireless work and efforts of our dedicated corrections staff to reduce reoffending and to make the community safer; and
- (b) expresses its gratitude to all corrections staff in all roles across the state, including correctional officers, community corrections officers, Aboriginal liaison officers, social workers, psychologists, correctional educators and administration and project staff for their professionalism, skill and compassion.

As we read through that list, we recognise that corrections in itself is a complex area. As the shadow minister for corrections, I am certainly very supportive of this motion. I know, since Corrections Day

was recognised and instigated in New South Wales in 2017 and rolled out nationally in 2018, being the third Friday in January, it has been an important day in which we have taken the opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution of all frontline staff—that list that we have in the motion—who supervise offenders and keep our community safe.

As has already mentioned by some of my colleagues in previous words, it is an incredibly challenging space to be in and I have the utmost respect for staff who are involved in corrections because it is finding that fine balance, it is making sure that the decisions that are made in sentencing are carried out but it is also about recognising that you are working with individuals as offenders and each have their own challenges. As has already been pointed out by my colleague the member for Hammond, some of the circumstances behind the offending often add with them different layers and levels of challenges.

In South Australia, I know that we have a range of centres, corrections centres, and it is good to be able to recognise people who work in the corrections space in all of the centres: the Adelaide Pre-release Centre, the Adelaide Remand Centre, the Adelaide Women's Prison, the Cadell Training Centre, the Mobilong Prison, Mount Gambier Prison, the Port Augusta Prison, Port Lincoln Prison, and the Yatala Labour Prison, as well as the range of other victims services, community corrections services, offender development. As I said, there are many layers of responsibility in this space, and it is really important that we do recognise the hard work.

Those three words at the end of the motion in particular I want to highlight: their professionalism, their skill and their compassion. It is the balance between those three, I think, within this space, for the more than 2,000 staff who work in corrections. As has already been highlighted by my colleagues, it is often a dangerous space as well, and I have had conversations with people who work within corrections, and people who have previously worked in corrections, and some of the stories they have of the personal risk to their own lives, the harm that comes to some of the people who work within corrections and, as has been highlighted already, the 180 work claim injuries from last year just in itself highlights the dangerous nature of working within corrections.

It is also, I am sure, a rewarding space; I know the challenges of trying to negate youth offending are ongoing. Where there are youth offenders, getting them to a point where they can be functional members of society again, making sure they try to break that cycle and developing skills within these offenders so that when they have served their appointed time they can actually be members of the community again is work done by the workers within the corrections field. I have the utmost admiration for them, because I can be certain that it is not an easy task. To be working with all of those different individuals who are in their different headspaces and in their different stages of life is a massive ongoing challenge and, like I said, I give them my utmost respect and thanks.

This day that we are recognising through this motion is one which comes around every year. I think it is a really good point to be made that there are more than 2,000 staff who work within this space in South Australia to be recognised. It is not an area which mainstream society has much involvement with. Unless you are a family member of an offender or a family member of someone who works within corrections, you may not even consider the amount of time, effort and staff hours which are put into this space, so I will commend the motion to the house as the shadow minister for corrections and thank the member for Playford for bringing it forward.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (12:38): I want to thank my colleagues from the opposition for speaking in support of this motion that I have brought to the house. It is wonderful when the two main parties can speak as one on something so significant and, drawing on the fact that the member for Flinders just mentioned, this is a profession that is not something that is quite often out in the mainstream. It really does add a lot of value in that I felt that we were one in terms of our thinking and, with that in mind, it is much appreciated.

The member for Hammond reiterated his support for the staff, something that I spoke about, and also obviously the member for Flinders did exactly the same, and both backed in the difficulty of the profession, which is something that I think we all would agree upon.

I must say, I was impressed by the Mobilong project that makes the headstones for unmarked graves of veterans. It is something I was not aware of. Again, it reiterates the significance of the day,

on the basis that it shines light onto something that, I must confess, I do not know as much as I would like to know about. So thank you, member for Hammond, for sharing that.

I would also like to convey my sentiments of congratulations to Chris Tilley, who was a finalist in the 2021 Veteran Employee of the Year. I think it is wonderful that we have such dedicated employees who are prepared to go that extra mile and establish a veterans' support group. Clearly, the event marks the need to consider reducing the rate of reoffending in society. I think that efforts like Mr Tilley's would go a long way to making sure that those within the system who do have a history within our defence forces are properly looked after, in the hope that when they do rejoin society they are able to do so in a way that makes them feel much more looked after than when they came in. So a big thank you.

Also to the member for Flinders, I think what I grabbed from your speech was the importance of recognising that while we lump them all together as prisoners, we are dealing with individuals. Individuals have their own individual needs, and therefore it is inappropriate to assume that you treat prisoners with a one-size-fits-all approach. I really appreciate the value that you have added to the debate on this particular front, and also the fact that you stressed that corrections is a dangerous profession and reminded the house that last year alone there were 118 WorkCover claims made by corrections officers. I really must say thank you for your contributions. With that in mind, I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

SURF LIFESAVING CLUBS

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (12:42): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the important role the surf lifesaving clubs in South Australia perform in keeping many of the state's popular beaches safe, particularly during summer months;
- (b) recognises the many volunteers who dedicate their time to surf lifesaving patrols each weekend and on public holidays;
- (c) recognises the important role of surf lifesaving support operations, such as volunteer radio room operators, to keeping beachgoers safe;
- (d) recognises the important role that first-aid officers and training officers perform to ensure club patrolling members are proficient each season;
- (e) recognises the volunteer junior committees and age group managers that run junior nipper programs teaching the next generation how to be beach safe; and
- (f) notes the funding support provided to Surf Life Saving South Australia from the emergency services levy via the Community Emergency Services Fund.

The role of surf lifesavers on our beaches across the state every summer is a crucial one. If you head to our popular beaches at Brighton, Glenelg, Semaphore, Victor Harbor, Christies Beach and so many other locations across our state on a summer afternoon on the weekend, you will expect to see the red and yellow flags. They provide our community with the reassurance that the area between the red and yellow flags is safe and, further, that should you or a family member require assistance and encounter difficulties in the water or on the beach, the surf lifesavers are there to help.

I am proud to have two dedicated surf lifesaving clubs in the electorate of Gibson at Somerton Park and Brighton, and just over the border in Seacliff. It is always a pleasure to visit these clubs and meet with members, or just to see them on patrols as I take Freya for a walk along the beach.

It was a busy weekend on our coast last weekend, particularly at Brighton and Glenelg. I was proud to join with more than 500 women and men who went to Brighton early on Sunday morning dressed up as Marilyn to be a part of the Marilyn Jetty Swim. Together, we raised around \$250,000 for Cancer Council SA—all under the watchful eyes of the volunteers from the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club. Thank you for your support and ensuring the event was run safely.

The Marilyn's was part of the Channel 7 Brighton Jetty Classic, which saw the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club host 46 different swimming events featuring swimmers from age seven to over 70 years. Congratulations to the winners Hannah Deacon and Harvey Luscombe, who won the City

of Holdfast Bay 400-metre elite fast open swims, and Emily White and Clancy Luscombe, who won the Channel 7 BJC elite 1,500-metre open swims.

On Sunday afternoon I was pleased to be at Glenelg witnessing the final round of the SA Surf League, where the SA Surf League high performance athletes competed for the championship. It was great to present the \$5,000 winner's cheque to the Pink Team sponsored by the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Congratulations to all involved. It was a fabulous afternoon watching impressive athletes compete. On this rare occasion they did not just compete to represent their clubs but they performed in composite teams, giving athletes who are often rivals the opportunity to compete together and to build camaraderie.

This exciting weekend comes in the middle of a very busy season for our surf lifesavers. I was pleased to attend the launch of the 2022-23 season at Somerton Surf Life Saving Club late last year and also to meet just before Christmas with the Brighton Surf Life Saving Club president, John Cvetko, to discuss the role of his club in our community and how we might expand club membership to better reflect our community's diversity and create inclusion.

Surf Life Saving welcomes everyone regardless of gender or culture to join their patrols or the nippers. You could be one of the hundreds of Surf Life Saving SA volunteers providing beach patrols at 22 locations across our beautiful state between October and April. This is in addition to the 24/7 response team, which includes rescue watercraft, jet rescue boats and, more recently, drone services.

I thank all surf lifesaving volunteers and their families and all the teams that assist them to be on the beach every summer weekend and public holiday. While most South Australians can enjoy these times with their families, the surf lifesavers spend their time away from their families—but with their surf family—to keep us safe.

While we all see red and yellow flags and feel safe, these are not the only volunteers on duty on our beaches. We have the surf lifesaving support operations team at each club that may not take to the surf but are still essential. It may be the volunteer radio room operators maintaining that vital link between the patrol team, the supervisor and other services or the gear stewards, who look after the condition and storage of club gear, including boards, running and flags equipment, tents, buoys, tubes and junior lifeguard equipment.

There are the competition officials who provide assistance so that lifesavers can practice their skills in sports carnivals that contain many events. The officials set up the courses, start the races, record the results and assist with marshalling. I would also like to send a shout-out to the SA Surf Boat State Team, who will compete at the 2023 Surf Boat Interstates, being held in New South Wales this Friday. The teams include the Brighton Bulls and Brighton Broncos, the Chiton Rocks Monsters, the Glenelg Grenades, Moana Sandy Cheeks, the Grange 57s and South Port Swell. I wish team manager Natasha and the competitors the best of luck.

Volunteer roles include overseeing the activities and management of the club which includes overseeing all club activities, sponsorship and grants, members and records, functions and food and beverage and so much more. I thank all these volunteers for their work behind the scenes to ensure that the patrol members have the best skills, commitment and support to serve the community.

For first-aid officers, they might come across a young person with some sand in their eye, a nibble from a fish, a nasty sting from a jellyfish or, more extremely, a near drowning. There are so many different scenarios that first aid officers see each year, and I thank them, too, for their work.

No patrol crew member hits the sand without significant training from the education team in each club; it may be the Surf Rescue Certificate, the Bronze Medallion, the IRB crew training, the Silver Medallion, the first aid training or the other courses that are delivered in local clubs across the state. I thank the education teams for their commitment to their work and for ensuring that every surf lifesaver has the latest training and is proficient and confident in performing their role.

All children who have swimming skills can join their local nippers program and participate in surf safety, surf swimming, flags, march past, rescue and resuscitation, wading and running, and board paddling. It sounds like a great way to spend an afternoon, and I encourage all parents in Gibson to speak with their kids about their local nippers program and how they might participate.

When children attend nippers they are split into appropriate age groups and then undertake activities that are organised and conducted by their age group managers. These are also volunteers, who have undertaken training and accreditation to do this role. Most age group managers are parents or carers of our nippers, who volunteer their time to teach our next generation of surf lifesavers. I thank the age group managers and the junior committees for their work in planning and running the nippers program, and additionally thank all the parents for their support of our nippers in all our surf clubs.

I am proud that the Malinauskas Labor government is recognising the work of surf lifesavers by providing all 22 Surf Life Saving South Australia clubs with \$5,000 grants to purchase or upgrade key rescue and emergency response equipment. The funds will ensure emergency services are provided to the public, including beach patrols and surf rescues. Examples of equipment the grants will go towards range from new club vehicles to rescue boards and tubes, beach buggies, IRBs, first aid kits and lifejackets.

Funding support is provided to Surf Life Saving South Australia from the emergency services levy via the Community Emergency Services Fund. Current grant funding from the fund has been allocated to reflect the vital emergency service that Surf Life Saving South Australia provides as South Australia's leading coastal safety and drowning prevention authority. To support them in this function the service has received \$5.34 million in capital grant funding.

Across our 22 clubs there are now 9,000 volunteer members in this state keeping our beaches safe for swimmers. Each year surf lifesavers perform over 80,000 volunteer patrol hours, conduct on average 150 lifesaving rescues, and undertake thousands of preventive actions and first aid treatments across the coast.

The Australian surf lifesaver is iconic, humble and ready to act, and most South Australians, particularly those who live in our coastal regions, visit the beach over the summer. I thank our surf lifesavers for their service, and commend this motion to the house.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Stinson): Thank you, member for Gibson. That brings back lots of memories of being a nipper many, many years ago.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (12:52): Here in parliament today I take the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of surf lifesaving clubs here in South Australia, and in fact all the clubs around our state's precious coastline. South Australia is blessed with beautiful beaches, and we all flock to them during the warmer summer months. Glenelg Beach, which is part of the Morphett electorate, is certainly no exception.

The mission of surf lifesaving is to save lives, create great Australians, and build better communities. Here in South Australia there are 22 surf lifesaving clubs in both regional and metropolitan areas. Each club relies on volunteers to patrol some of Australia's fantastic beaches.

The Surf Life Saving South Australia 2021 annual report indicates there were just over 2,500 patrolling lifesavers who, between them, provided over 80,000 patrol hours, performed over 150 rescues, and 20,143 preventive actions. There were also 200 hours worth of helicopter time and 41 drone flights. Of course, those drones were delivered by the Marshall government, and are a great piece of technology that will provide another fantastic way to safely monitor our beaches. I am extremely thankful for the dedication and commitment of all patrolling members for their volunteer services.

Surf lifesaving clubs also compete in junior and senior state championships, as well as Masters championships for those over the age of 30. These championships give competitors a great chance to showcase their skills, the underlying purpose of which is of course to develop and refine their skills to then perform them as a surf lifesaver and, ultimately, to contribute to Surf Life Saving's mission, which is to reduce drownings in South Australia.

One of those Masters competitors is Glenelg icon, Dave Hutchison (Hutch), who in recognition for his years of outstanding achievements at both state, national and international level, was inducted into the Surf Life Saving South Australia Hall of Fame for his achievements in surf sports, notably in the beach sprint and beach flags events. Not only is Hutch a fantastic competitor,

he also puts in countless hours coaching the Glenelg nippers on the beach alongside two other club beach legends, Leigh Bowbridge and Peter Sage.

Every Saturday, the nippers are on the beach training. Hutch takes them from the tiny tots right through to the under 13s and improves them. It is certainly no coincidence that Glenelg performs extremely strongly at carnivals and state championships on the beach because of the tireless efforts of these three club legends. In fact, all my four kids have been coached by Hutch, and I would like to take the opportunity in parliament today to thank both Dave Hutchison and Leigh Bowbridge for their dedication and selflessness to coach the next generation of surf lifesavers.

Talking of success on the beach, 2022 also saw the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club win the Junior State Championship for the second year in a row, this time on Glenelg Beach. It was a fantastic day. It is a tribute to not only the nippers for the countless hours put into all those hard, thankless training sessions but also the age group managers, who tirelessly give up their time every Saturday afternoon to help train these nippers to make them the best they can be.

The president of the club, Mick Billing, has done a fantastic job while he has been in charge for the last few years. In fact, we have both been on the same lifesaving patrol for a number of years, and I look forward to continuing to work with Mick. Other important members of the committee are deputy president, Andrew Simpson; secretary, Neville Brookes; treasurer, Leanne Rouvray; junior chairman, Dave Visockis; and lifesaving manager, Rob Warne.

The 2022-23 surf lifesaving patrol season commenced quite a long time ago it seems, on Saturday 8 October 2022. Volunteers serve on these patrols each weekend and also on public holidays, with Australia Day being the most recent where the beach was quite busy. That will continue to occur over the coming summer months.

Overall, the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club has 11 patrol teams that operate so very diligently. While not being able to acknowledge all of the approximately 150 volunteer surf lifesavers, on behalf of their teams I would like to acknowledge the patrol captains: Grant Macauley, Dan Everett, Ursula Simpson, Shane Limmer, Angus Stevens, Dave O'Shaugnessey, Damian Fox, Lincoln Jeffrey, Shane Harris, Neil Mangelsdorf and Benn Findlay.

The importance of these patrols was brought home early last year when both Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club Nippers and lifeguards during a patrol were able to save the life of a woman who found herself in trouble just off the Glenelg breakwater. They sprung into action, bringing the woman into shore, and administering lifesaving CPR and managing the scene. Well done to Dan, Lachie, Tee Yee and Chris and everyone else involved. Lachie Larven explained it perfectly when he said, 'You get reminded why I'm here, why I'm doing this—to serve and help our community'.

Members may remember the name Lachie Larven from previous contributions I have made here in parliament, for Lachie was also involved in a rescue back in 2020 with a number of other junior surf lifesavers from Glenelg who rescued two South Korean tourists who were drowning in a rip off the beach while he was out training. Again, congratulations Lachie on your fantastic efforts.

May 2022 saw Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club's annual award nights. I congratulate Cath McCarthy, who was this year's winner of the Remelje Award. I could give many more congratulations, but we are running out of time, so I just say thank you to all the fantastic volunteers at Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club and to all surf lifesaving clubs here in South Australia.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (12:59): Thank you to the member for Morphett for your contribution to this motion. As a neighbouring surf lifesaving club it is interesting for me to hear more about the particulars of your community as well. In closing, I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Mario Feleppa OAM and guest. Welcome. I also acknowledge that we are joined today by Elliot Stein, head of government relations for UNICEF, who is the guest of the Minister for Human Services.

ANSWERS TABLED

The SPEAKER: I direct that the written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

*Ministerial Statement***TURKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE**

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:41): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The people of South Australia have been shocked and saddened by the news and images coming from Turkiye and Syria in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes in the region. On Monday 6 February at 4.17am local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck near the Turkish city of Gaziantep. A second earthquake of similar magnitude occurred in Turkiye at 1.24pm local time on the same day. This location is 80 kilometres north of the first earthquake. At least 100 aftershocks have been recorded in the affected provinces.

With both earthquakes striking near the Turkish-Syrian border, impacts in both nations are severe and widespread. Millions of people across the region felt the earthquake beyond Turkiye and Syria, including in Lebanon, Israel, Cyprus and Egypt. The raw power of these twin earthquakes would no doubt cause significant devastation to most places on Earth. But when this destructive force is unleashed on a region of the world like north-west Syria, a region where some 4.1 million people already depend on humanitarian assistance today, the result is a toll on human life that is almost too much to contemplate.

Thousands of homes are likely to have been destroyed by the earthquakes, displacing families and exposing them to the elements. This earthquake compounded upon tragedies already affecting Syrian communities at this time, with an ongoing cholera outbreak and harsh winter events, including heavy rain and snow over the weekend, already affecting the displaced and the vulnerable in the territory. The majority of people in this region dependent on humanitarian assistance are women and children. The combined death toll from the earthquake is already more than 7,800 people, with time running out for rescuers working against harsh winter conditions and time.

The scale of the impact in Syria is still emerging, due to information flow constraints, chronic telecommunication disruptions, power shortages and road closures. The World Health Organization estimates the death toll could increase beyond 20,000 people.

In the face of this suffering, the South Australian government will contribute \$200,000 to UNICEF Australia, toward their humanitarian relief effort to get much-needed support to families and children. I would encourage all South Australians who are in a position to contribute to UNICEF Australia's public appeal, or to a similar trusted international provider of humanitarian support and assistance, to do so. In addition to financial support, South Australia also stands ready to send material support to the region, including emergency services personnel if called upon.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the positive impact the Turkish and Syrian communities have in our multicultural South Australia. I have no doubt people in these communities will have connections to people affected by the earthquakes, and I, like all South Australians, have them in my thoughts at this time. I encourage all South Australians to rally around these communities within our state, providing comfort and support that they may desperately need.

*Question Time***COST OF LIVING**

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. Is life now less or more affordable for South Australians than when the Premier took office? What is the government's plan to deal with the effects of inflation? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: People right across South Australia are struggling with the highest inflation rate in the nation. Just yesterday we found out that people's mortgages are spiralling even higher and there is no cost-of-living relief in sight from this government.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:45): I thank the leader for his question, because yesterday we saw yet another increase in the cash rate by the Reserve Bank of Australia, which has now meant that the cash rate has gone from 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.35. That is a very significant impact, particularly on households that have a mortgage.

In fact, the figure is now that for a \$500,000 mortgage, in an environment of escalating property prices, monthly repayments have gone up as a result, if those cash rate increases are reflected accurately across the actual mortgage rate paid, more than \$900 a month. At the same time, inflation has increased the price of just about every good and service that people avail themselves of as part of their household budgets.

The cost of living for Australians has increased significantly due to those two factors. Of course, there are flow-on factors from an increasing cash rate as well. There are other types of financial arrangements, other types of loans, which have also increased if they weren't on fixed rate arrangements.

We went to the recent state election realising even in advance of the first of those cash rate increases that South Australians needed some cost-of-living relief. We were the only major party that went to the last state election with costed plans for cost-of-living relief. Most notably, we committed what is now worth just a fraction under \$40 million to double the Cost of Living Concession.

But we also went further than that. We also committed and delivered free public transport at all times for the hundreds of thousands of South Australians who hold a South Australian Seniors Card. That means that in an environment speaking of inflation, when fuel prices have absolutely gone through the roof and in many cases stayed at very high levels, people at all times of the public transport timetable, usually from 5am or 6am until the last service around or just after midnight, now have a free opportunity to travel to where they need to. That had previously been restricted only to interpeak times, which meant that particularly many Seniors Card holders couldn't get to medical appointments.

Of course, we have also seen further commitments from the federal government and also from every first minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers, around the country to do even more on cost-of-living relief.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Hartley says, 'No, no, think about the debt. Don't think about cost-of-living relief, think about the debt.'

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: That's why he is no. 4 down there on the front bench and not further up, I think, because he didn't think cost-of-living relief was important enough at the last state election and he committed to doing nothing about it. We committed to doing something about it. We are delivering on that, and we have further plans in concert with the federal government to do even more.

HOMEBUILDER PROGRAM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:49): My question is to the Treasurer. Has the Treasurer written to the federal Treasurer to request an extension to HomeBuilder and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: It was reported recently that approximately 1,200 South Australians, including first-home buyers, could lose HomeBuilder grants of up to \$25,000 because the state government has not yet come to an agreement with the federal government, despite a looming deadline of 30 April this year.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:50): I thank the member for Colton for his interest in this matter. I note that I have yet to receive any correspondence from the member for Colton on this issue, or indeed on many other issues, I've got to say.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Of course, I am able to provide some information to the member for Colton about the HomeBuilder arrangements because they were struck by the former federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, and the former state Treasurer, Rob Lucas, along with all other state and territory treasurers and finance ministers. Those arrangements are entirely consistent across the country and are not deviated from across the country. These are rules that were established by Liberal and conservative governments across the country.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: If I were to ask for a change in those rules, that would mean that I would be asking for differential treatment for South Australians separate to the entire rest of the country.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Florey!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Colton says that we should change the rules for those people who may not be able to meet the 30 April 2023 deadline not to have anything else in order except to submit documentation to RevenueSA. That is the deadline that's coming—30 April—so more than two months away, to submit documentation to RevenueSA.

Of course, the HomeBuilder scheme was announced shortly after the commencement of the federal government's first tranche of economic stimulus measures in the first part of 2020. Here we are, more than three years after the housing industry has been targeted to provide a very significant national economic stimulus and the member for Colton is saying that those people—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —who are not yet participating in an economic stimulus scheme, which is now closed, should have preferential treatment in our communities against the rest of the country. These are Liberal rules, designed by Liberal politicians, agreed by Liberals across the country that a Liberal now wants changed—that a Liberal now wants changed. Is there any better explanation—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Colton!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —why the member for Colton is graded as a D in terms of performance on the front bench over there.

SAM SMITH CONCERT

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:53): My question is for the Minister for Tourism. How much did taxpayers pay for the exclusive invite only Sam Smith social influencer event and was alcohol included in that cost? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: According to one influencer, and I quote:

At the Sofitel it was very private. There was free alcohol here; so you've gotta believe we got a little messed up, but it was worth it, like, the vibes here were immaculate. I tried to vape; found out I don't like vapes...I think there was only 300 people here, it was pretty intimate...I still genuinely don't understand how we can get invited to these things, like...I just feel so lucky...it's like a dream come true, I don't know, it's just incredible...imagine how we feel.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Unley is warned. The minister has the call.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:54): I thank the member for the question. We had an opportunity for a competitive promotion to have Sam Smith here in South Australia. We went for that opportunity, because if it wasn't us it would have been in front of Sydney Harbour. We want to change perceptions—

Mr Patterson: At least more people would have known about it.

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —of South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We want to shift and challenge those perceptions.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: So why are they laughing at us over this, then?

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We want to raise awareness. But this is an absolute nonsense question, and I will not take advice from you.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Let's just give ourselves a bit of context here. When the opposition were in government—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —they came up with the Old Mate campaign. The geniuses that had an old mate—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: At a time when we are raising awareness—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: You're running a Labor mates government.

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley, you are warned for a second time.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: At a time when we are raising awareness about South Australia, when we are committed to changing the perceptions, what we have to fight is this legacy. And what a legacy in tourism was left: an old mate crying.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley! Member for Morialta!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Crying in Adelaide, crying about South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Florey is warned. The member for Hartley is warned. The member for Morialta on a point of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98: the minister is not responding to the substance of the question. She is debating. The question was direct: how much did taxpayers pay, and did that include the cost of the alcohol?

The SPEAKER: I will listen carefully. There is some force in the submission that is being put to me. Standing order 98 does require the minister to have well in mind the question.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There was a modest expenditure for what has been an extraordinary outcome.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: And the things that were thrown around by the opposition were absolute nonsense. As the Premier made clear, we have a commercial-in-confidence arrangement, but it was about a six-figure sum.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members to my left, you have many answers but you are not on your feet.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As a government, we are entirely committed to building back the tourism and hospitality industry. Now, I have had the opportunity for five years in opposition and in government to hold this portfolio, and can I tell you who was crying? It was our tourism industry. It felt let down by this government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Schubert well knows the standing orders. Member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98: the minister is not answering the substance of the question. She is debating and she should be drawn back to the point, sir.

The SPEAKER: I draw the minister's attention to the question at hand, and I remind all members that an answer is likely to be within the standing orders if it falls closest to the heart or the pith of the question that was asked.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I said, this was a modest expenditure for an extraordinary outcome, and we are committed to growing it. I said how much it was, as much as I can because of commercial in confidence—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morialta!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —and we used a tried-and-tested use of influencers and media people—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey is warned.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —and, more importantly, people who won a national radio competition. You seem to forget that for five weeks what we were talking about—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —is South Australia, all over Australia. This was a great opportunity for us to raise awareness and change perceptions. People came to South Australia to see this unique opportunity, this promotional concert.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We did not pay them to come. We did support them while they were here, but that is a tried-and-tested method.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will not be lectured to by people who fail the tourism industry time and time again. Can we not forget they axed the Adelaide 500—one of the biggest failures possible, one of the most popular events.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Wright!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are committed to building out the calendar.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey! The member for Florey is warned for a second time. He well knows the standing orders.

SAM SMITH CONCERT

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:59): My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Can the minister detail whether any MPs, ministerial advisers or public servants attended the Sam Smith concert and, if so, who did, and why?

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey is on two warnings.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:59): As Minister for Tourism, I was invited to the concert but I had commitments in the Riverland and the river region—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett is warned for a second time.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I was spending time talking to people in the river regions about our commitment to building back tourism. I said publicly, at the time, that I was represented by Minister Michaels, and she attended in that capacity. We have a very connected local member for Mawson—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —who I think—

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

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Mawson!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —was there as a roadie helping alongside—

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —because he is a very helpful person and he is always there—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Colton is warned for a third time.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You will find no other member in this house who advertises and supports his electorate more than the member for Mawson.

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson is warned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The exchange between—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left are succeeding only in running the clock down. It is their own question time. Interjections will cease. Minister.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This promotional opportunity was something we bid for. As I say again, should we not have bid for this—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —Sam Smith would have done this promotional concert announcing their Australian tour and their new album in front of the Sydney Harbour Bridge or the Sydney Opera House. I know, and the Malinauskas Labor government knows, that we must build back this industry—and we have been focused on it. We have not been focused on it just since we got into government—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —but before.

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

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order from the member for Morialta, but before I hear the member for Morialta I will warn the member for Hartley for the third and final time.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98: the question was direct, 'Which MPs, public servants or ministerial advisers were invited or went to the concert?' The minister has named herself and since then gone nowhere near the question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mawson is warned for a final time.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sorry, I apologise, sir: she named herself as represented by Minister Michaels.

The SPEAKER: Yes, indeed. The minister, having this standing order in mind, might care to chart a line closer to the question.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I would never like to disagree with you, Mr Speaker, but I did mention that Minister Michaels was in attendance and that the local member was there, as he publicly told us; he told us he was there.

The SPEAKER: Yes, he has informed the house.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There were some members of the SATC there as well. Can we just focus on the failed opposition in tourism?

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I spend a lot of time talking to our tourism operators and our tourism stakeholders, and they felt let down. They felt ignored. When we came out with our election commitment for \$45 million for additional marketing and \$40 million for major events, it was welcomed. There was a complete absence of policies on the other side. We have doubled down on this, and what have we earned since this time? We won the AFL Gather Round, we won LIV Golf, and we had—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —the best women cyclists here than we have ever had before.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

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

The SPEAKER: Minister, please be seated. Members to my right will cease interjecting, and members to my left. Member for Hartley!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98, sir; she is continuing in the manner you have told her not to.

The SPEAKER: It may be that the minister has concluded her answer or is very close to concluding. The minister has concluded her answer and it is therefore not necessary for me to rule. However, I'm keeping a very close eye on the member for Hartley. Member for Morialta.

SAM SMITH CONCERT

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Did taxpayers pay for Sam Smith to post on social media from a McDonald's car park on their account? If not, can the minister detail what they did ask for—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for West Torrens! The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Frome!

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

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

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (15:05): Well, I can assure you that it wasn't McDonald's in Mount Gambier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morphet!

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: He has done it again—another chicken reference.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: When you have people come here, and you have a contractual arrangement, there are certain things that they are asked to do.

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sam Smith fulfilled that—

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —but I can tell you that we were very satisfied, and we have achieved an advertising value equivalent of \$32 million. We saw an opportunity. We know that to grow back our international market we have to turn heads, and that's why—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned for a final time.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —we delivered on the Ten Pound Pom competition, which 16,000 people entered.

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have to be noticed, we have to stand out in the world, and with Sam Smith—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —the promotional opportunity was just that. Sam Smith are a global sensation, a global icon.

An honourable member: So are Macca's.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens! The question does not concern a fine Scottish restaurant.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sam Smith has a global—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sam Smith attracts a diverse global audience, and just this week they won a Grammy. With more than 30 million people across their social media, this was an opportunity that we were presented, we bid for and we won. We want to grow back international tourism and we want to be a destination that is sought after. That means that we have to go out and be innovative and try things that turn people's heads. I will make no apology as the Minister for Tourism to focus on exactly what my job is, and that is to grow tourism. We are nearly back to where we were pre-COVID, but we have ambitions and we have aspirations to get to—

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I anticipate that there is a point of order on standing order 98.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sir, avoiding the question again, thank you: 98.

The SPEAKER: Minister, having the question well in mind, there being under a minute remaining, perhaps you will chart a course closer to the question.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are committed to growing tourism in South Australia, we have filled out the events calendar, we have brought back the VALO Adelaide 500 and we will continue to look for promotional opportunities. We will do some of the traditional things. For those who want a little more, it is out there, and we will run through to wintertime. We've got that in TV and radio and we've got it on outdoor advertising. We were able to do that because of the additional money in the marketing budget. It is working, and do you know what? The tourism industry is seeing the results of this commitment.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: No-one is buying it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No-one is buying it? Really?

The SPEAKER: The minister has concluded her answer. Member for Elder.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister please inform the house about the emergency services response to the Murray River flood?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:09): Thank you to the member for Elder for her question. The public emergency services' response to this flood, right from the outset, has not only been extraordinary but sustained and ongoing. Those members in this house who represent river communities would be more aware than anybody about the ongoing threat that natural disasters pose to their community and also the significant body of work that our emergency services and our entire public sector and council sector have been undertaking in response to these enormous water flows.

Today I am advised that the water flow across the border is just over 51 gigalitres a day. That is a huge reduction from the topping out at just over 190 gigalitres a day in very late 2022. With the fact that flows have reduced so much and the tempo of the operations has reduced for our emergency services, it is important as we return to parliament this year to take a moment and on behalf of the government and on behalf of all those in this place to be thankful for the work that our emergency services have been undertaking through this period.

Many here—well, some here and some a little bit more than others—had a break over Christmas. Most people in South Australia certainly had their public holidays off, but not our emergency services, not those contractors who have been engaged by council and not our public sector workforce who have given so much of themselves through this period.

I attended the State Control Centre on Christmas Day and thanked firsthand the couple of dozen people from right across multiple agencies who were there working hard to protect the community. This has been an emergency not just but importantly controlled and led by the SES and the rest of our sector have been doing an extraordinary job in stepping up and giving of themselves. The CFS of course, largely in our river and Murraylands regions, have been responding. They have been doing a huge amount of work side by side with their SES colleagues—workers from right across the public sector.

I will take this time to say that there is often an attempt from opponents of a well-resourced, well-equipped public sector to cut public sector workforces and malign those workers in our public sector. Well, let me just say and put firmly on the record my thanks for that public sector workforce who have stepped up and stood up throughout this entire crisis.

I also want to take a moment to note and acknowledge and thank those members in this place, particularly the member for Chaffey, the member for Hammond, the member for MacKillop and the member for Finniss, for the advocacy and representation they have been providing to their constituencies in impacted communities. Their advice has been fulsome, their support for their communities has been admirable and I do want to thank them for the work they have been undertaking. On behalf of everybody in this place, I thank those people who have been giving so much of themselves in support of and in service to our river communities.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:13): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Did the minister become aware that the River Murray flooding would peak around December/January last year and was this before or after she went overseas? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water was away between 8 December 2022 and 9 January 2023 during the peak of what the Minister for Emergency Services described as 'the worst natural disaster in the state's history' and what the Premier described as 'a natural disaster everyone knew was coming'. This was her third international trip in three months.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:14): I appreciate being asked the question. The peak, as the member has indicated, occurred not long after Christmas and was well telegraphed in advance and in fact was part of the early phase of the response to the flood before it was declared officially an emergency and therefore others took the lead.

I am aware that the opposition has raised objections to my travel. I was interested that one of their objections was to my attendance at COP in November which was indeed when there were floodwaters rising. But the idea that a South Australian minister for climate wouldn't go to COP I guess is not surprising, given that no-one went to COP in the previous four years. COP is not only entirely about the issue of climate change—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Not only, of course, about the issue of climate change—and I think most of us, if not perhaps all on the other side, accept that with more energy in the system as a result of global warming we are seeing more extreme events and therefore the kind of experience of having three La Niñas in a row and the amount of water that came down the system was not unconnected from climate change but also the very important role that we had to play in the world—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —telling others about the very proud record that we have from our time in government. I am not sure much happened during the four years, but in the renewable energy which has made us—and in fact it was interesting at COP because people had not heard from us—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey! Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —and in fact all they—

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens! Member for Florey! The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —remembered of South Australia, once I started reminding them of the extraordinary record we have, was that they remembered about the big battery, that was something they were aware of, and then there was this great black period during which all they knew about—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —South Australia and Australia was that Scott Morrison—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Badcoe!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —the person on their side of politics, the climate denier, was the Prime Minister. So it was essential—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —that we be over there, representing ourselves.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Wright! Member for Unley, are you raising a point of order?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: I am, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Very well.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The minister was asked specifically about her absence during the peak of the Murray floods and why she was at London Bridge rather than being at Murray Bridge.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Florey is on a final warning. The member for Wright knows better. Member for Newland!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Standing order 98—I understand the member raises standing order 98 which requires the minister to respond to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I love the misinformation. I won't bother to correct their details, but they have no idea where I was at Christmas. So first of all there is the challenge of why it was that it's acceptable to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Mawson! Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —criticise the Minister for Climate going to COP.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The question also related to the fact that I had family time over Christmas, and not where you think I was, but that's okay. It puzzled me why there was so much obsession about that given that the Minister for Emergency Services was taking responsibility for the flood and was extremely well positioned to take responsibility for my portfolio of climate, environment and water during that time. It occurred to me that the reason probably that there is so much mystification on this side is that there is no concept of team over there, there is no concept of trust.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: There is no idea. What we hear on the radio is that there is only one person who does any work and everyone else is fighting with each other. But what happens over here is that when one person needs some time with their family, someone else steps up and fills in and vice versa.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett is warned for a final time.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I have acted for nearly every minister on this side in the last year. With absolutely no leave, I have acted for nearly every minister, including the Premier, several times during that period. If I need a short amount of time with my family, I am prepared to trust the minister to take that role.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:19): My question is again to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. What has the minister done to reassure communities that she has not abandoned them during the worst natural disaster in the state's history—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: —and how many meetings has she had with River Murray communities since the election?

The SPEAKER: Leader, there is a—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Mawson! Member for West Torrens.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 97, sir.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens raises standing order 97. I anticipate his concern is in relation to opinion or argument in the question. I give the leader the opportunity to rephrase the question.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. How many meetings has the minister had with River Murray communities since the election, and can she identify which groups she has met with?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:20): I will have to go to my diary to look at all of the meetings, because there have been so many. Most people have noticed the flood experience was a long time coming and is still with us and will be here for a long time. The amount of meetings that I had in the lead-up but also in the context of trying to fix up the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, where the capitulator over there left us without any water—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders is warned. The member for Morphett is on a final warning. It is a substantial contribution today, outside of the standing orders. Member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Let's go with 127.

The SPEAKER: Very well; it's a matter that we traversed yesterday, and 127(b) and (c) may very well be the sections that the member for Morialta raises with me. It's not permissible under the standing orders to impute an improper motive and, as well, of course reflecting on members is discouraged. Deputy Premier.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will take your discouragement on referring to the royal commission findings again about the River Murray. As I have already explained, I am unable to give you the precise number because there are so many, and I will bring that back. It would be absurd to suggest one: any casual glance at my social media will tell you how many times I have been in the Murray-Darling area and how many communities I have met with.

So it seems quite extraordinary. In fact, I have been with members of your backbench and front bench during several of those meetings, as well as without them, and have had excellent feedback, by the way—not necessarily about all of the local members but some. I am not sure if the substance of the question is not—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson is warned.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —in fact an attempt to impute improper motive on my part, that somehow I am not present in the Murray-Darling.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: He is very welcome to be the leader of the left; he is an excellent—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: We are collectivist over here. We actually share things over here.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: We like each other. I know this is totally foreign to you but we like each other and we trust each other.

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has concluded her answer. We are going to turn to the member for King and then we will come to the member for Chaffey.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN PUBLIC SPHERES

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:22): My question is also to the Deputy Premier. Noting that International Women's Day is approaching on 8 March, can the Deputy Premier update the house on women's representation in public spheres?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:23): Thank you very much for the question from one of the seven women who won seats from the Liberal Party at the last election, on our side of the chamber. I start by noting that the UN International Women's Day theme for this year is 'Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future'.

As the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, I am well aware of the importance of STEM and of education generally in making sure that we are finding that gender-equal future emerging. It is concerning to note that there is a huge challenge for the participation of women and girls in the STEM workforce.

Nationally, as of 2020, only 13 per cent of Australians working in STEM fields were women, and that has only gone up by 2 percentage points in the last decade. So if we are to see women taking up more of these well-paid jobs, these more sophisticated, complex careers, then we do need to make sure that there are more education and pathway opportunities. The government has been investing in such initiatives such as the Workforce Innovative Projects pilot program, which included funding for Tech Start, which is a collaboration between global technology leaders Modis and Microsoft, which supports women aspiring to STEM careers in defence, space, cyber and delivering boot-camp style training designed to rapidly develop digital capabilities and lead to greater employment.

I do want to note that STEM industries are not the only high-profile work where women are struggling to achieve gender equity and where there needs to be conscious and deliberate effort and planning to deliver it. I have for a very long time introduced myself, when we are having these kinds of conversations, as working in a male-dominated industry. Women in male-dominated industries (WIMDI) are a class of women who can often feel alone and they need to make sure that they are supporting other women to come forward and to change the culture.

That has substantially changed on this side of the chamber thanks in no small part to the seven joining the original seven, which is just a remarkable achievement to be over 50 per cent here. Unfortunately, I can't say that about my workplace, because this is my workplace. I look over here and I am heartbroken to see two women sitting there in a sea of men.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: You're very welcome. I am surprised you are not disappointed by the lack of women around you.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The Liberals had dealt with this themselves. The national Liberal Party's review of the 2022 federal election noticed, in the 12 months prior to the federal election, there was a loss of political capital and an accumulation of negative issues, which included allegations of poor treatment of and attitude toward women within the government and the party.

Feedback noted the party's standing with women was an important factor in the party's defeat. There was a question about why the party, the Liberal Party, was failing to attract female members. There was a sense that the Liberal Party is failing to adequately represent the values and priorities of women in modern Australia and a lack of confidence that women within the party would be encouraged to hold leadership positions or to be encouraged to run.

We have seen one vacancy down in our chamber and, very sadly, it was a woman who left and was replaced by a man—a missed opportunity. Now we have another opportunity in the upper house. Do we have a leader who is saying, 'I will not stand for this,' as Peter Malinauskas and I in opposition steadfastly insisted that we wanted to change the culture—

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier, there is a point of order in the shadow of the clock. Member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I was about to say time has expired. I appear to have been bumped by about half a second.

The SPEAKER: Very well. Is the Deputy Premier seeking more time?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I wouldn't mind the 10 seconds that that interruption chose to rob me of by standing up and interrupting me when it was still very clearly black.

The SPEAKER: Five seconds.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: What I want to know is whether this leader doesn't want women or isn't brave enough or strong enough to deliver them.

RIVER MURRAY SALINITY LEVELS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:27): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Is the minister aware of the salinity slug entering the River Murray from Lake Bonney that now is threatening crop damage? If so, what measures is she taking to prevent that crop damage? With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr WHETSTONE: Irrigators below Nappers are worried that their crops might be damaged or destroyed due to the high salinity levels which have more than doubled in the last two days to 706 EC as a result of the government reopening Lake Bonney to the river system?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:28): Thank you very much for the question. Yes, I have been kept apprised of that increase in salinity. For the information of the chamber, that is still within the expected level and also within the level that has been regarded as the basin target.

The basin target is to keep salinity below 800 EC at Morgan for at least 95 per cent of the time. At present, the briefing I have had it at 626, but I accept that the member may well have a more up-to-date level which he just quoted, in the 700s because that is starting to lift. But the expectation is that it will stay below the 800 as it moves through.

The water level at Lock 3 has been dropping really sharply, as the member will be aware. It dropped 11 centimetres in 24 hours the day before yesterday. It is expected to be maybe one to two weeks before the lock can be reinstated appropriately. There isn't any way to slow down the recession, to slow down the speed at which this is occurring. The department is closely monitoring the salinity levels. As I say, given that it is within what was anticipated and what is accepted as a basin-wide target for 95 per cent of the time, we will continue to monitor that at this stage.

RIVER MURRAY SALINITY LEVELS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:30): Supplementary: minister, will the government pay compensation to irrigators for any damage to crops caused by the increasing salinity levels should they exceed 800 EC?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:30): The approach that this government has taken all along is not to talk in terms of compensation and legal action but, in fact, to look at ways in which we can stand alongside the community and support it. There are programs, which the member would be well aware of, for grants for primary producers to assist them not only with the impact of the flood but also in the recovery.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: That is the approach that we have been taking to date. As was canvassed extensively previously, this flood is far from over. The peak may well have passed and the recession may be occurring quickly, but the length of time that it's going to take to determine the lasting impact, or the impact of some longevity, and the ways in which South Australia collectively can respond to that is going to take some time.

The member, of course, will be involved in those discussions, as will other relevant members and their electorates, the people who are personally affected. The question of primary producers, I think, is one that's a fair question to ask: how well they've been spoken to recently about the impact on their land. Even the process of dewatering, for example, as the water recedes and there's still water sitting, trapped by the now re-emerging lower level levees.

That work has been initiated. Recently, we had some discussions via the recovery area in Premier and Cabinet, talking to PIRSA and talking to the Department for Environment and Water, making sure that they are far more actively present in the community, and contacting primary producers and understanding what their individual circumstances are. That is occurring and it will accelerate in the next few weeks.

Something that the Premier and I have discussed will also be on the Emergency Management Committee meeting on Monday, an item of importance to understand the significant impact for some farmers, so we will be in a better position to discuss the details of those kinds of responses in the future.

RETURN TO WORK SA

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:32): I have a question for the Premier. Will the government intervene and use its discretion towards Sean Barnes' future earnings for his WorkCover claim? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will further explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: Over eight years ago and two pieces of legislative reform, Sean was injured at work and entered into the WorkCover scheme. Over the course of the past eight years, Sean has been negotiated down to 29 per cent total permanent incapacity, which is conveniently just below the 30 per cent threshold above which he was assessed on multiple occasions.

Sean cannot return to work in his lifelong profession due to the injury and has been stuffed around by a system hell-bent on denying him access to what he is worth, and after years of waiting for the outcome of reviews, he is running out of patience.

The battle with his WorkCover has been extended so long that if the system had worked properly he would have received his entitlements a long time ago. As a life-long unionist, he is deadset hopeful that the government will intervene and offer assistance.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:33): I thank the member for Narungga for his question. I acknowledge his advocacy on behalf of a constituent who obviously is going through a bit of a difficult period. I think it is true that whenever someone suffers an injury, particularly someone who has been assessed at having a whole-person impairment of 29 per cent, notwithstanding, obviously, Mr Barnes having a different view about that number, that is nonetheless a high figure and speaks obviously to a serious injury. I acknowledge your advocacy for Mr Barnes and I am more than happy to take on notice the specifics, not being familiar with the circumstances around Mr Sean Barnes' case.

What I can say in a general sense, though, for the member for Narungga and also for Mr Barnes is that the act, as I understand it, doesn't provide for much flexibility or, indeed, for discretion to be applied by the Minister for Industrial Relations, who is responsible for the ReturnToWork scheme. To the best of my knowledge—and I'm happy to take this on notice and conduct further analysis—I don't think the minister has the discretion to intervene into a specific claim and issue a direction accordingly. ReturnToWork is an independent statutory authority that abides by the act, and the board has certain functions and powers, but they are quite different to what a minister is able to do. That being said, I'm more than happy, given the member for Narungga's question and the nature of it, to take the question on notice and make some active inquiries.

I will take the opportunity to mention, given the member for Narungga's question, that we are in the seat of Narungga next week for country cabinet. It is something that my whole team is looking forward to. If Mr Barnes is available, then I'm more than happy to facilitate a meeting with him, either with myself or the minister, if that is of any use for the member for Narungga and your constituent.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Finnis and then the member for Light.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (15:35): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Will the minister apologise to my community for misleading them? With your leave, sir, and that of the house—

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

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Finniss, please be seated. There is a point of order—I anticipate 97.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is 97, sir, and you cannot make an accusation like that in the house without a substantive motion. I ask the member to withdraw and apologise immediately.

Mr Tarzia: Mislead the community, not the parliament; it's the community, not parliament.

The SPEAKER: Yes, there is a distinction between misleading the house and the community. Nevertheless, standing order 97 does not permit argument or opinion. As well, it is a matter of very fine judgement as between something that might mislead a community and mislead the house in the context where a statement has or might be made to the house. I am very uncomfortable with the question as it presently sits. I'm going to give the member the opportunity to rephrase.

Mr BASHAM: Thank you, sir. Will the minister apologise to my community? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr BASHAM: On 30 November last year, the minister said:

...[it] is not going to be of serious consequence for those living close to the Lower Lakes...we expect that the level of the Lower Lakes will remain...about 15 centimetres above the normal operation but does not constitute a flooding event.

Then, at the time when the minister was overseas for a month, a warning was issued for flooding in Milang, with water levels reaching 1.4 metres AHD and power and sewerage systems being cut off to about 80 shacks.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BASHAM: People in my community took the minister at her word but were let down in the worst possible way.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members to my left and right!

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order. The member for Unley is on three warnings. The Premier is warned. Member for Finniss, there is an additional difficulty with the question under standing orders. The purpose of question time is to seek information. All of the standing orders are directed at that purpose.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is warned for a second time. Seeking an apology and then using leave as a device to form up a question does not cure the defect in the original question. I am going to give you one final opportunity. What is your question, member for Finniss?

Mr BASHAM: My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Does the minister stand by her answer that water levels would not reach a flooding event?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (15:38): Let's just get to the answer. Look, yes, when I came into the chamber—and it was in parliament—I talked about what we expected, and I think that was the quote that was used in the explanation in the second version of the question. That was what was expected at that time. That was the modelling that had been given to me. As everyone knows, we had been working on modelling that we were given. At each time when conveying that modelling to the public, and to this chamber, it was always with the caveat that there are unpredictable changes that can occur, including through additional rain—although not in this case, but with other levels of the flood as they were updated over time. Of course, the water was higher than expected, that is absolutely true; so I stand by the fact that the expectation that the modellers had did alter. Interestingly, for those who actually are interested in the content of this, the change that occurred—

The SPEAKER: I am just not sure what purpose those gestures are serving. In fact, they are contrary to standing orders. The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Thank you, Mr Speaker—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: It is so tragic, the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Badcoe is called to order. The Treasurer is called to order. The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am endeavouring to deal with only the content and not the level of abuse that is being thrown across the chamber. The change in the water level appears to have largely, if not entirely, been associated with a build-up at one of the barrages that had more silt than had been expected. That meant more water was pushing back across the lakes rather than the expected behaviour of the water coming into that area; it was different to what had been modelled. So, yes; the modelling expected it to be at a certain level but the reality was slightly higher due to this build-up at that barrage. The water has now started to subside.

The SPEAKER: Has the Deputy Premier concluded her answer? Very well. There have been only two government questions today, and I'm going to turn to the member for Light, as I earlier indicated, for the third.

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:41): My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer provide the house with an update on the South Australian economy; specifically, how it finished in 2022?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:42): I thank the member for Light for his interest in the state of the South Australian economy, because it has been good news during the course of 2022. The state's economic performance has only strengthened.

The most recent statistics in the labour market show that there is a record number of South Australians now in work, the highest number ever at 923,400 or 15,200 more than at the time of the last state election. South Australia's unemployment rate is at a record low—it is only the second time the rate has had a three in front of it—at 3.9 per cent. Despite having such a low unemployment rate, the ABS reports a record high number of job vacancies—25,300—currently in South Australia, with more than 22,000 of those in the private sector.

The value of work done in South Australia across all building sectors hit a new record of \$1.8 billion, 5.3 per cent higher than a year earlier, and the total value of construction work done in the quarter rose 3.9 per cent to hit an unprecedented \$3.8 billion. The total pipeline for construction

work in South Australia is currently at a near-record \$14.6 billion, 59 per cent higher than a year earlier.

This record level of construction and the strong performance of the state's labour market means that Commsec's State of the States report showed that South Australia's ranking jumped from fifth in the nation to third in the nation—great economic news for South Australia. Most recently, only last week, we saw that business confidence here in South Australia is the highest amongst the mainland states, with the NAB Quarterly Business Survey for the December quarter reporting that very strong figure.

Mr Cowdrey: What about conditions?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Colton asks about conditions. Of course, they are very strong, too, otherwise we wouldn't have record levels of employment and an equal record-low unemployment rate. It is terrific news.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Hartley asks about the state's credit rating—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —which, of course, was downgraded under the watch of the former Treasurer, Rob Lucas. That's right—downgraded.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hartley!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: You can see the member for Hartley still agitating against the establishment of the Liberal Party in an effort to take the member for Black's job. Of course, this good news does come with some significant caveats because, as the current Leader of the Opposition said—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —there are difficulties experienced by households and businesses with an increasing cash rate and high levels of inflation. That's why there are now global economic forecasts predicting a slowdown in global economic conditions.

The federal government and the Reserve Bank of Australia, since the October federal budget, have been forecasting a slowdown in the nation's economy here in Australia. That means that, if there are headwinds for the state's economy to confront in the coming months as a result of those declining national economic conditions, these figures mean that South Australia will confront those headwinds from the strongest economic position in the state's history. That is great news for those South Australians currently in work and currently running a business here in South Australia.

Grievance Debate

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:46): It would be pertinent for me to stand up and talk about the recent floods. After today's performance by the Deputy Premier, I think it is an absolute disgrace that she can laugh her way—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WHETSTONE: —through half of question time, absolving herself from responsibility and from answering questions about what has happened. It is one of the worst natural disasters in the state's history and she walks off smiling. What an absolute disgrace! However, I do want to pay tribute to the Minister for Emergency Services, who made himself available at every opportunity to

answer questions about those concerns that MPs in this place had around responding to those high flows and then the flood event.

The river communities have been through six months of hell, six months of uncertainty, while we had a government minister on holidays. That is an absolute outrage. If the shoe was on the other foot, just imagine what would be coming our way. I have to tell you that is just an absolute disgrace.

What we can say today is that the minister was protected from not answering a question about what happened at Finnis. That was an absolute miscalculation of the worst degree. We then looked at flow forecasts coming into South Australia, coming across the border. Again, in one day we had a forecast of 150 at a press conference, then later in the day, 'Oh, it's hit 180.' There was then another conversation about, 'Well, we're going to hit 190 giganlitres today.'

People prepared for 190 giganlitres. They prepared their homes, they prepared their businesses, they prepared their pumps, and yet we saw another increased flow. As I see it, we had 206 giganlitres of flow at Overland Corner. Overland Corner is an area of the river that has a much more accurate reading of flow coming into South Australia. So it is clear and it is evident that the department got their numbers wrong. Unashamedly, I continue to meet with the department and correct their numbers. What we can say today is that, with 51 giganlitres, every river community is breathing a sigh of relief. Our thoughts continue with those people in the lower reaches of the river because we know that they are still feeling the effects of high flows and very much a high river.

The communities did rally. The councils did a magnificent job. They worked as the community expected them to. They kept their communities dry in most instances and they kept them safe. I must say that my thoughts and prayers go out to the two families who lost those two gentlemen through the course of those floods. We are yet to find out a reason for why those people passed. But I must say that, as one of the biggest natural disasters in the state's history, South Australian river communities came to the front. They sandbagged their neighbour's place. They helped with community assets.

The DefenCell they approved is a very valuable product, although we are now questioning some of the content in some of that DefenCell. I am sure the minister will answer questions as to where that contaminated soil came from and where it is now being deposited because people of the river want to know. They want answers because the Deputy Premier cannot give us answers on anything. All she is interested in is going away on an annual holiday at the peak of the floods. One of the state's worst disasters and the minister went missing. There is no excuse. There is not one excuse for her not to be here. But guess who stepped in? The new leader of the left within the Labor Party—well done.

There are ongoing issues and while the minister is here there are ongoing issues. We are still looking for potable water to be delivered to our communities. We are still waiting for a tourism stimulus program to be rolled out to help local economies. We are still looking to see whether privately-funded levees will be given some level of compensation because, after all, some of those private levees did not just protect one house, they protected a community. What I want to see is a government that promised so much in the beginning continue to support those river communities.

Regarding emergency accommodation, we are still seeing people who are stranded who cannot be given access to emergency accommodation. Roads are now being uncovered damaged. How much money will the government put towards roads? They have announced \$60 million. I would imagine they will need to double that amount of money so we can repair roads and futureproof them from floods that could be coming next year. We just do not know.

Again, I am very disappointed with the Deputy Premier. She took holidays as a priority over the river communities that have just experienced the worst natural disaster in the state's history. Shame on you, Deputy Premier.

PLANNING AND DESIGN REVIEW

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:51): Yesterday, the Minister for Planning in a media statement mentioned that there were around 700 submissions to the planning and design law review, including 40 submissions from councils across the state. First of all, I would like to congratulate the minister for undertaking the review and also the panel he assembled to oversee the review.

I was not surprised to see that many people make submissions to this review because planning and development is a space that often has a lot of competing interests and it is often contested by different views. It is a vexed area of public policy and getting the balance right is a difficult task.

In some ways there are two groups in the area of planning: there are people who are investing for their home or a place to raise their family and it is an integral part of where they live and their communities and then we have the other group of investors, who are people who want to generate an income for themselves and are usually some type of developer. Both groups are investors, so we need robust processes to ensure we get the right outcomes.

The objectives of the last round of planning and development reforms were twofold: one was to create certainty in the system—in other words, the assessment process of development where people knew what the rules were and the rules were quite clear for both residents and also investors—and the second part was clarity—in other words, the community understanding what role it played in the development process. That was identified as playing a key role in the preparation of policy development. In other words, the community puts the policies in conjunction with councils and the government puts the policies in place and then you have an independent process to assess applications—two worthy objectives.

These objectives were meant to reduce the amount of conflict in the system. Personally, I do not believe we have quite achieved that balance and conflict still exists. I would like to demonstrate that through a case study in my own electorate. Currently, there is a process for a code amendment to change a zone into an employment zone. In itself, it is a difficult thing to explain to people what an employment zone means, but it is essentially a commercial zone.

The code amendment has been initiated by a proponent on behalf of a group of investors and there is nothing wrong with that. The role local council has or has not played in the process has raised significant concerns in the community affected by the proposed code amendment. It should be noted that the council is not the final decision-maker and the minister is.

The issue that has arisen is about community engagement and consultation about the proposed code amendment. It is clear that the proponent is responsible for all investigations and undertaking community consultation. This will form a part of the report to the minister. The council have argued that they have no role in engaging the views of the community on this matter; in fact, they have gone one step further and stated they are prohibited from engaging the community on the proposed code amendment. They blame the state government for their inability to engage the community on this critical issue.

To date, the council has made two decisions on this matter without any engagement with its own community to form its own opinion. Firstly, they have supported the initiation of the process for a code amendment and, more recently, have indicated that if the proponent meets the technical requirements of the code amendment, they will support the change. But no-one seems to be asking the question: is the proposed development in the right location, as distinct from doing the right process?

If the council is correct in its interpretation of the law, it raises important issues. When do the community get the opportunity to have their say in the development of policy as the planning reforms had intended? Who speaks on behalf of local residents if not the council? Is a privatised or outsourced engagement process desirable, and does it give residents an effective say? If the council is right, then the law needs to be changed. If the council response to date is wrong, it has effectively left this community without a real voice in this process on what is a very important issue. What redress do the community have for this failure if that is what is found?

Now the community has to find their own way through the whole process to ensure that they are heard. While the community consultation undertaken by the proponents is desirable, I do not believe it is sufficient for public policy decisions to be based upon it. In this case, the community feel disempowered by the process to date and it is up to the council to rectify that.

COLTON ELECTORATE BEACH MANAGEMENT

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:56): I want to thank the more than 1,000 people who have signed my petition calling on the government to take immediate action to rectify the unsafe access issues at Henley South and Henley beaches, and to outline and fund a long-term plan for beach management.

I am now calling on anyone who has not already signed this petition to jump on board, because this is the only way we are going to get action and the only way this government will listen. Because despite everything that has happened at West Beach, and more recently at Henley South and Henley, they have done nothing but drag their heels.

Prior to the 2018 election, I fought for funding for a long-term solution for the issue of longshore drift on our section of beaches. From government, we tasked the environment department with the development of a plan. I stress that the Liberal Party did not put forward the solution; independent experts from the department did. We funded a three-part solution: large-scale replenishment at West Beach, a pipeline to recycle sand that has moved north and is accumulating, and a package of activities to plant and care for dunes.

We knew this issue needed immediate action, as erosion was moving northwards from West Beach. We needed to provide an ability to get sand to beaches that were not easily accessible by truck, like Henley South and Henley Beach, as the degradation seen at West Beach was moving northwards quickly. Sadly, despite the Labor Party installing a similar pipeline on the southern section of beaches between Glenelg and Kingston Park roughly eight years ago, they actively campaigned against a long-term solution to this issue.

The Liberal Party did not come to government with a predetermined idea of what the solution needed to be. As I said, the experts did the work and significant consultation was undertaken. Planning permissions were sought, and construction and operation contracts were signed. The rebuild and nourishment of West Beach had begun. For those who live in or visited West Beach last summer, for the first time in nearly 20 years there was a high tide dry beach in front of the surf club.

Then Labor was elected, and what has happened since? The large-scale fill into West Beach stopped. As to the pipeline that had sand discharge points in Henley South and Henley, the contract was torn up. Instead, we have an environment minister who has declared a conflict of interest, who has stepped away from decision-making on the issue and refuses to answer any questions on the topic in parliament.

Labor's plan is to conduct yet another review, despite multiple reviews having already been conducted on this issue over the past 30 years. Now, nearly 12 months into the life of this government, panel members have only just been appointed but not much more. We do not know if any new options are being proposed or even being considered viable. At the earliest, this review will be completed in a 12-month time frame. At this rate, we are many years away from any real action. You only need to look at Henley, or at Henley South or at West Beach to know that we do not have that sort of time on our hands. We as a community cannot stand by and watch our beaches literally disappear.

I want to make this abundantly clear: I am completely agnostic as to how the sand gets onto our beaches or from where it is sourced. What I do know is that something needs to be done by this government now. I will support any funded, viable solution that restores and maintains our beaches because that is exactly what I have done to date.

You can sign the petition by clicking the link on my Facebook page or by filling out a form at my office, which is located next to the Chicken Cave on Valetta Road in Fulham Gardens. I will keep everyone updated on next steps, but I cannot stress enough that we will have to keep the pressure on this government to get any action on this issue. Our community deserves that.

DAVENPORT ELECTORATE

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (16:00): I rise to provide an update on a few exciting things happening in my community of Davenport. I would like to firstly celebrate the start-up of a new business in my electorate: Wild Pack Kayaks have set up shop on the banks of our beautiful Happy

Valley Reservoir. You can now pop down and see Harmony, every day from 8am to 2pm, and hire a kayak for as little as \$15 and head out for a relaxing paddle. I was fortunate enough to take our Deputy Premier out for a paddle a couple of weekends ago and was able to show her how special it is to see the reservoir from this perspective and to enjoy our precious Happy Valley wildlife. I wish Harmony all the best with her new business venture and am grateful to her for adding this fantastic service to our reservoirs.

The project to install on-off ramps at Majors Road is progressing very well. I would like to acknowledge and thank the hard work of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport in their community engagement on this project. They have been out holding community forums in multiple suburbs around the area, they have managed an online survey and they have attracted hundreds—over a thousand, I think—comments on multiple occasions to really speak to our community around what they are looking forward to and about any concerns that there might be with the project.

Some concerns were raised, and these concerns were primarily around any potential impact to Glenthorne National Park and to the other facilities around that site. I am extremely proud to be able to report back to our community that each of those concerns has been addressed in the latest designs that have been released to our community. There will be no impact on the Glenthorne National Park, no impact on the soccer facilities, no impact on the BMX facilities and no impact on the mountain bike facilities.

I know our community is particularly excited about this project, as it will ease traffic concerns for our residents and help them in getting into the city a little faster in the mornings and in the peak-hour traffic in the evenings. It will also help the people in my community of Davenport to easily access the south and all the beautiful offerings down there, such as McLaren Vale and Victor Harbor.

During the school holidays, I was proud to see the completion of five school safety upgrades. Together with the City of Onkaparinga, we have made crossings and areas around our schools a lot safer, at schools including Aberfoyle Park High, Aberfoyle Park Primary, Braeview Primary, Pilgrim Primary and Craighburn Primary. Craighburn Primary School will be completed later this month, with new lights being installed at the crossing. I know that a lot of the parents who send their kids to these schools are feeling much happier and more comfortable with their kids safely making their way to school each morning.

Road safety is a huge priority for my community. It is why we are also upgrading Main Road, Cherry Gardens. This project will progress over the next year or two, with works already having been started to investigate the road and exactly what those designs might look like. So the community can expect to see new concept designs coming out very soon for them to have their say on. Hopefully, later this year we will see the commencement of construction on that road. It is a particularly important project to our communities: there have been fatalities on that road, and it is extremely dangerous for many of the people in my community.

There is quite a list of projects underway in my community, but one that I would like to highlight that kicked off construction this week is the extension of Minkarra dog park. We are building an extension to the existing park to accommodate little dogs. We found that there are a lot of people in our community who had fears of going to the park because they had smaller dogs or puppies that were not yet socialised with the bigger dogs, so I know that those residents are particularly excited to be able to get their little dogs out and socialising. We are already seeing works started there now and we hope to see that completed by June. I am really looking forward to meeting some of the furry members of my community very soon.

A final project that I will mention today is the traffic study that we are doing at the intersection of Windebanks Road and Happy Valley Drive, as well as the intersection of Chandlers Hill Road and Happy Valley Drive. We have done a significant community consultation and traffic study on easing the traffic congestion at those intersections. We hope to be able to share some solutions for easing that traffic congestion with the community soon, and then hopefully I can follow that up with seeking some funding to deliver those solutions for our community.

MORIALTA CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:05): It is a privilege to stand in this chamber every year and commend Morialta Citizenship Award winners—students from the community that I have the privilege to serve, who go above and beyond in their daily lives in the schools in our community. Indeed, as members of parliament, we do meet some spectacularly gifted young people in the work that we do and kids who give a great deal.

I have been proud to support the Morialta Citizenship Award since my very early days as a member of parliament and to provide that opportunity for each of our local schools to nominate students who provide that great, above-and-beyond role modelling for their peers.

This year, in 2022 there were 18 students from schools, almost all of the schools in Morialta who received this recognition. There is a reward—a book voucher and certificate, and we reflect on their contributions in the house for posterity. I commend them to the house today.

That service, whether to school or community, can take many forms. A number of these students had leadership roles within their schools or were house captains or SRC representatives. Some of them mentored, tutored or coached or otherwise supported younger students in their school or supported charities. Many were involved in sports—athletics, football, basketball, soccer, rowing. Students volunteered their time in libraries, sports sheds, classrooms and at school crossings.

These are students who have responsibly carried out a range of extracurricular activities, including helping to organise sports days, dance, drama and music performances, the National Youth Science Forum, the Premier's Reading Challenge, the Youth Environment Council of South Australia, and a range of other conservation and environmental programs and charities at a global, national, statewide and local level within our Morialta community.

Many of these students raised money for their causes or volunteered significant time, and all of them demonstrated a commitment to their community and our state that is commendable. They also supported other students in their schools, other young people in the community. I commend the following students to the house:

- from Athelstone School, Mackenzie Walsh and Anton Rybine;
- from Charles Campbell College, Jordan Sperou (the Senior Secondary) and Hannah Gray (for the Middle School);
- from Highbury Primary School, Ethan Kehoe;
- from Modbury High School, Soha Moshfeghi;
- from Norwood International High School, Lauren Adler;
- from Rostrevor College, Sebastian Rapuano;
- from St Agnes Primary School, Will Jones;
- From St Francis of Assisi School at Newton, Sofia Allocca;
- from St Ignatius' College, Callum Pryzibilla;
- from Stradbroke College (a very large primary school indeed) Chloe Formosa, Sara Matern, Dania John and Bria Duncan;
- from Thorndon Park Primary School, Mehan Balamurli—I still remember the cheer going up at the Rostrevor Baptist Church when Mehan's name was mentioned. Many of these students are of course popular in their communities. I think Mehan got the biggest spontaneous cheer for the year, and not just from his family, although they were pretty enthusiastic, I must say;
- and last but in no way least, from Torrens Valley Christian School, Erin Horskins.

These outstanding young South Australians are very worthy winners of the Morialta Citizenship Award for 2022. I congratulate them. I thank their families also for the support they have given them

and obviously the support they have given them to become the fine young people they are. I congratulate other winners in the past in whose steps they have followed.

I cannot wait to see the positive impact that these young people will have in our community, our state and potentially the world in the years to come as they put their skills, their dispositions, all that they have learnt, their tremendous work ethic and community spirit that have been demonstrated through the service that I have described today. I commend all the Morialta Citizenship Award winners to the house.

KING ELECTORATE

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:10): I am often asked why I love the community that I live in and represent. Is it the gorgeous parks and open spaces? Is it the incredible sports clubs and schools or maybe it is because everything is all within arm's reach?

Whilst all are incredible reasons to love my neighbourhood, the real reason is more unique than that. It is, of course, the people, those who pour their heart and soul into making our neighbourhood feel safe, well and connected. Just last month, it was great to see some exceptional people from my community recognised for the contributions that they make to enrich our neighbourhood.

Firstly, we were fortunate to have not one but two individuals honoured with OAM awards: Mrs Alethia Quick, for her tireless service to floral art, having dedicated over 30 years to the Floral Design Council of South Australia, and Mrs Ingrid Alderton for her exceptional contribution to special education—and what a contribution it has been. It includes her contribution to the SA Disability Discrimination Act public inquiry 2004, through her time as a Department of Education South Australia Presenter of the Parent Forum Disability Policy and Programs Directorate 2018, and Manager Special Education Resource Unit and Disability Policy Programs 2014.

What I love most about these two women is how humble they were in receiving their honours. In fact, I understand that Mrs Quick was so surprised that she was rendered speechless with shaking hands. She was so honoured to be awarded an OAM for doing something that she enjoys so dearly, something she has dedicated her life to.

It does not stop there. I also had the pleasure of attending a couple of ceremonies in January, which also recognised outstanding contributions made in our neighbourhood. It was amazing to be able to witness the tireless dedication of the many people who selflessly serve our community every day receive well deserved recognition and acknowledgement for their invaluable contributions.

Colleen Bennet was awarded Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the City of Tea Tree Gully. Having dedicated 34 years to Scouts SA, 26 years to the Redwood Park Neighbourhood Watch and 27 years to St John SA, Colleen's dedication to give back has undoubtedly benefited the lives of so many in the north-east.

Violet Coupar is another outstanding member of the community I was proud to see recognised for her amazing efforts giving back to the community. She volunteers her time four days a week with the Salvation Army, lending a hand in the Op Shop, running cooking classes and, of course, making her famous north-east sausage rolls to use as fundraising items. Violet is a valued member of our community, someone I have had the pleasure of volunteering with during the Christmas period over the years, and it was delightful to see her efforts recognised.

As for local community groups, the Tea Tree Gully Men's Shed-Women's Workshop Group received the award for Outstanding Community Group of the Year. Members of this group are well renowned for using their practical skills to bring joy to others. They are, of course, responsible for the fairy villages we find all across the north-east and they have also contributed to National Reconciliation Week community art projects over the years.

I was also proud to see that BEAT Movement received recognition for their outstanding efforts in raising awareness about breast cancer in young women and promoting its early detection through the development of training and educational programs for healthcare professionals.

Over to the other corner of my electorate, at the City of Salisbury, I was proud to see Georgi awarded Citizen of the Year Award. A new citizen himself, Georgi has wasted absolutely no time

giving back to our community through the establishment of the Mustard Seed Family Project and Paid 4 U Cafe, where people can pay forward meals to support those doing it tough in our community.

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison: Citizen of the Year?

Mrs PEARCE: Yes, he was. Madeline Prince was awarded Young Citizen of the Year for her exceptional work and passion for the community, contributing through the Salisbury City Council Youth Council Committee and volunteering and fundraising in support of environmental causes. I must say it is always incredible seeing the next generation take an interest and get active on the issues that matter most to them.

Last, but not least, is Geoff Meikle, a stalwart of the Salisbury community and a volunteer driver. Having made a positive influence on the lives of hundreds of students through his music, Geoff still gets out and about with the Salisbury City Band, bringing the joy of music to many people in our community. I often see him with the band over at the Old Spot Markets on a Saturday morning. He is always more than happy to have a chat about what is happening, before busting some great tunes. This is why I was proud to see Geoff being awarded Senior Citizen of the Year.

It is the people that are at the heart and soul of our neighbourhoods, and it is the people like those I have mentioned that truly make them special. Whilst I have not named all who were recognised recently, I thank them for everything that they do. In fact, I thank all volunteers who volunteer and contribute to their neighbourhoods.

Motions

TURKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:15): I move:

That this House—

- (a) notes with concern the severe earthquake that has occurred in Turkiye and Syria, and the huge loss of life and injury suffered by people living in affected regions;
- (b) notes with concern the high level of destruction that these earthquakes will have caused to people's homes and livelihoods;
- (c) recognises the enormous emotional toll that will be felt by South Australians who originate from Turkiye and Syria, especially those who have relatives and friends living in affected regions;
- (d) stands with our Turkish, Syrian, Kurdish and other communities in South Australia with ties to the regions; and
- (e) calls on the federal government to provide urgent humanitarian relief through DFAT and relevant aid organisations as soon as possible.

The South Australian government extends its deepest condolences to all those affected by the devastating earthquakes and aftershocks in Turkiye and neighbouring countries. In the early hours of Monday 6 February local time, a severe 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck 33 kilometres from Gaziantep, a major city and Turkish provincial capital. It hit 17.9 kilometres deep. At least 20 aftershocks followed, the strongest measuring 6.7. The earthquake also heavily impacted north-west Syria, a region where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance today—the majority of whom are women and children.

At this time, Syrian communities were simultaneously hit with an ongoing cholera outbreak and harsh winter events including heavy rain and snow over the weekend. A second earthquake, also magnitude 7.8, occurred at Elbistan, Kahramanmaras in Turkiye at 13:24 local time on the same day. This location is 80 kilometres north of the first earthquake. At least 100 aftershocks have been recorded in the affected provinces. Turkiye's disaster and emergency management authority said at least 2,921 people were confirmed dead and more than 15,800 people injured in Turkiye.

The scale of the impact in Syria is still emerging, due to information flow constraints, chronic telecommunications disruptions, power shortages and road closures. Nearly 2,000 people have died in Syria and about 3½ thousand are injured, according to the Syrian government and rescue workers. However, very clearly today, we have been warned by the World Health Organization that the death

toll could increase as much as eightfold. This is something that we must prepare ourselves for, because this is an incredibly challenging natural disaster and the damage is immense.

The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that 45 nations have offered assistance with search and rescue efforts. The Turkish Ministry of Interior Disaster and Emergency has advised access to the affected areas is being hampered by the damage to roads and collapsed buildings, the severe weather, and the traffic from citizens trying to leave the affected areas. Buildings were reported collapsed in a wide area extending from Syria's cities of Aleppo and Hama to Diyarbakir in Turkiye, more than 330 kilometres to the north-east. Nearly 900 buildings were destroyed at the centre of these earthquakes, including a hospital in the Mediterranean coastal city of Iskanderoun. A total of 2,800 search and rescue teams have been deployed in the disaster-stricken areas.

The quake has also heavily damaged famous landmarks. At a historic castle perched atop a hill in the centre of the city of Gaziantep, parts of the fortress walls and watchtowers were levelled and other parts heavily damaged, as shown by images from the city.

While we know that Turkiye sits along major fault lines and is frequently shaken by earthquakes, it has been more than 20 years since it has experienced such a powerful earthquake. The last was in 1999, and killed 18,000 people.

In Syria entire buildings have collapsed and people are trapped under the rubble. In Damascus buildings shook and many people went down to the streets in fear. The earthquake was also felt in Lebanon, with the quake jolting residents there from their beds, shaking buildings for about 40 seconds. Many residents of Beirut left their homes and took to the streets or drove their cars away from buildings. Recovery continues, but it is challenging because parts of the Middle East are experiencing a snowstorm that is expected to continue until Thursday.

I have spent time reaching out to leaders in the affected community, and I commit that the state government will work with our affected Turkish, Syrian and Kurdish communities. On behalf of the state government, we express our deep condolences to South Australians who have relatives and friends killed, injured or affected by these devastating earthquakes.

Today the Australian government has come out with its initial response of \$10 million that will be supported through UNICEF and the International Red Cross Fund to those affected areas. Our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has announced that 72 search and rescue personnel from Australia will also attend and, just before, our Premier, Peter Malinauskas, announced that the South Australian government would donate \$200,000 to UNICEF for families and children in need. He also emphasised that South Australia stands ready to send material support and experts in rescue and emergency if required.

When I looked at the number of people in South Australia who were born in these areas I found it was more than 3,000 people. They have made South Australia their home, but they are still incredibly connected to extended family and friends back in those areas.

If we just take a moment and think of all the things we have achieved—in technology, communication and travel—yet we are still subject to natural disasters; we cannot control everything. We had a plague, we had COVID-19, and we are still fighting that battle. As leaders in our state we must reflect—as leaders throughout the world must also reflect—that we have to be prepared at all times to stand up and help when help is needed.

I spoke to the leaders of these communities. I spoke to Tanya Kaplan, the President of the Turkish Association of South Australia. Her niece has also spoken on radio and TV. This is real. There are people in South Australia who have lost loved ones or who do not know if their loved ones are safe. It is those people we are thinking of today.

We know that recovery efforts take time, and the impact on the economies of these nations is immense. We know that many of those countries have faced war in recent times and have not recovered. I have grave concerns for their wellbeing in the future.

We have already seen 45 nations put forward rescue support, put forward money towards recovery. Maybe this is just what the world needs to focus on, to see the good in the world: when people need our help, we respond.

To the leaders in our community—our Turkish leaders, our Syrian leaders and our Kurdish leaders—we are thinking of you. In this time of need, the South Australian government has committed \$200,000 to UNICEF. We know that help will be needed for some time, with the clean-up, with hospitals destroyed, schools destroyed and a cut to power and water. These are important things to build back. We know that they are already fighting terrible diseases that often come in crowded facilities.

It is devastating news that we heard about these earthquakes. We have responded. Most importantly, this motion is about talking to the people who need our help and whose loved ones are suffering. We want them to know that we are thinking of them and we have acted. On behalf of the South Australian government, I am very proud that we spoke to this motion, and I believe that the house will have support across the chamber. This has been a shock, but we are here to support as much as we can.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:25): The motion before the house deals with the extraordinary devastation and trauma left for communities living in regions within Turkiye and Syria as a result of the earthquake that took place on 6 February this year, just two days ago, in the early hours of the morning.

The motion notes not just that devastation but, indeed, the huge loss of life and injury, the high level of destruction to homes and livelihoods and the enormous emotional toll that will be felt not just in Turkiye and Syria but across the world including here, in the thousands of households in South Australia, with families originating from Turkiye and Syria, families of Turkish and Syrian heritage and Kurdish heritage as well. Indeed, the motion seeks the support of the house that we stand with those Turkish, Syrian, Kurdish and other communities who are affected deeply by this natural disaster.

As Deputy Leader of the Opposition, this is a motion that the Liberal Party gives its wholehearted support to. We will support those efforts and endeavours to deal with the consequences of this earthquake, which undoubtedly will not just deal with the immediate aftermath where there is an involvement from Australia that is necessary as part of our role as good global citizens but indeed in due course it will no doubt have a humanitarian consequence as well that is likely to involve a federal government response potentially, including people coming to Australia. I am sure that, should that be the case, South Australia as a state and as a community, indeed, government departments, will be ready to respond to welcome people here as they seek to rebuild their lives.

The scale of the devastation is significant. It is one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in the region. It was not just an earthquake of 7.8 on the Richter scale—which is dramatic in any terms, especially in these areas—but there were 125 aftershocks or more, each of them measuring four or more on the Richter scale, any one of which would have been considered quite devastating in other contexts.

There are more than 7,800 known deaths, although as has been mentioned, the World Health Organization has warned that that is likely to increase dramatically, potentially by tens of thousands. There are tens of thousands of injuries—at least 35,000, and likely to grow. Thirteen million people are impacted, whether through injury, loss of life, displacement or other significant impacts. Nearly 6,000 buildings have been demolished that we know of. It is dramatic, and our hearts go out to individuals, families and communities.

The federal government has today announced a range of measures, including financial support through UNICEF and also personnel to assist with search and rescue. That has been welcomed by the Liberal Party at a federal level. I quote from the shadow minister for foreign affairs federally, the Hon. Simon Birmingham, who has identified:

There is strong and bipartisan support for Australia's assistance to help people in Turkiye and Syria suffering as a result of the devastating earthquakes. Additional support and details released today demonstrate the typically practical and humanitarian nature of Australian assistance.

I note that when the South Australian government has been called upon in the past to provide support for families impacted by devastation, in this case natural disaster—the last two comparable events, although comparable is probably the wrong word to use, were the evacuation of so many people from Ukraine after Russia's invasion and so many people from Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the United States—the people who came to South Australia were welcomed. They were given practical support. I was education minister and I know that, particularly in our TAFE system with language programs, in schools such as Thebarton Senior College and other schools they were also given support and South Australia will stand ready.

Horrifying images are coming to light highlighting the scale of the damage. The numbers I have talked about are very difficult to conceptualise. The images bring home some of that scale—buildings collapsing and roads being destroyed. Rescue and recovery efforts are extremely challenging and of course we are still within that first 72 hours after a natural disaster, which is a critical time for finding survivors. Frontline emergency personnel, government officials and NGO volunteers are working under freezing conditions in the local area. Of course, the consequences will not just be physical; there will be significant trauma, significant mental health impacts and reflected mental health impacts.

The economic impacts will, of course, be significant. They will need to rebuild and repair damaged infrastructure. Indeed, I also note that heavy snowstorms have recently hit parts of Syria and Turkiye. Today, already cold temperatures are expected to plummet to several degrees below zero.

Thank you to all those in the community who have already offered their support to people in our Kurdish, Syrian and Turkish communities in South Australia. It is so important that that support be offered consistently. There is a fundraising effort through UNICEF that is available to members of the South Australian community who are looking at these images and wondering how they can help. A financial donation is not a bad place to start through the UNICEF Australian humanitarian appeal.

To the leaders of these communities, the opposition extends the wholehearted support offered by the government. This house stands together in support of your communities at this difficult time. Our thoughts and sympathy are with all those impacted and all those in the South Australian community who potentially are having some of the worst days of their lives at the moment fearing for loved ones and friends in Turkiye and Syria who they may not have heard from. We wish you the best. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (16:32): I would like to add a contribution to the house's motion moved by the Hon. Zoe Bettison to show our heartfelt support, courage and understanding to the people of Turkiye and Syria after this devastating series of events that have happened this week.

The collective grief and the collective trauma that is happening in those communities, many who already live with a background of trauma and grief, is for most of us, I would say, unfathomable and almost impossible to understand. Everybody suffers grief and loss, but this community is going through something that is so devastating it is beyond words.

Today, I hosted UNICEF members of staff and some of their youth ambassadors as they tabled a report that looks to the future from a collective lens of young people. It was filled with hope and positivity but, while they were talking about this really important work as young ambassadors for hope and collective advocacy, the timing has been fortuitous.

We were able to hear directly from the UNICEF team regarding the work that is happening on the ground already by UNICEF as it pertains to children and young people. I thought it was opportune to place on record some of that important work that UNICEF is doing on the ground against the background as well of already our Premier having been proactive and contributing \$200,000 to the UNICEF efforts, as announced today.

UNICEF has had permanent teams located in both Turkiye and Syria for more than four decades. They are currently assessing the immediate needs of children and their families following these devastating events. As in most disasters, the initial work will be in the frontline as first responder work. Both countries are currently in the depths of winter. In those freezing temperatures, there is

some medical hope that lower temperatures can provide some assistance to people who are suffering trauma, and we know from footage that we have seen in the past few hours that people who are working in the snow to recover survivors will never give up hope. We will do all we can to send strength to all people working to rescue people in those countries.

It is estimated that up to 1.4 million children could be at risk. It is not lost on me that that is almost the entire population of metropolitan South Australia; it is a huge number. The total number of people who could be at risk is up to 23 million people who will suffer some consequences and, again, that is nearly the entire population of our country. To put that in some perspective, I do not know whether the words to describe it are 'humbling' or 'just completely crushing' to think about the impact of this in those communities. It is horrifying. The death toll will continue to rise. There will be people who will succumb to their injuries and there will be more people who will be found deceased.

The UNICEF statistics estimate that there were already 6½ million children at risk from the prolonged 12-year war in Syria and the devastation of this earthquake has just escalated that need that already existed for more than 90 per cent of the country who are living in poverty. Every day we talk here about issues that we are facing, that we are grappling with here in Australia. I just ask for one second for you to please turn your mind to what is going on in these countries of Syria and Turkiye and, if you can spare any money at all, please donate some money. UNICEF is a great place to start as they target young people and children.

I am very proud that we have contributed already. I don't want to use the phrase 'a heart as big as Phar Lap' but we have a Premier who has a pretty decent heart on him and he was very quick to come out and offer respite, support, accommodation and love to the people of Ukraine. We are doing so to hundreds of people who have come to our country, to our state, from Ukraine, some of whom I have met and who are safe. The Premier has taken no time at all to make a decision to start to contribute towards global wellbeing and humanity.

The work that UNICEF will undertake will be complex and difficult but, with expert, large-scale emergency responses built over 75 years of their work, UNICEF is in a tremendous position to navigate the challenges. Again, I reiterate that while the loss of one life is a tragedy, what has happened in Syria and Turkiye is immeasurable. Our hearts are very much with all people, and I encourage people to give as much as they can. More than ever, we have to work together to show the world the level at which we can demonstrate humanity. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:40): I would like to thank all the members for their contributions. Obviously, we share across the chamber the support of this motion. For me, when I reflect on the contributions, there is an element of shock that we all have for this natural disaster, but what it does remind us of is the shared humanity, which we all share, whether we live in Australia or overseas.

I know in the next few days there will be focus on the miracles, including the young child, still with her umbilical cord attached, who was rescued this morning. She is in hospital now, receiving treatment, but she will not have a mother because her mother was killed in the earthquake. A particularly clear image for me was a father holding the hand of his teenage daughter who was crushed under concrete in her bed. His daughter was just a little bit older than my own son, and I can imagine what that is like, that as a parent you are right there but you are not able to save your child.

We will see these images, and these images will shock us, but we must remember to keep in our thoughts and our prayers the people who are suffering in Turkiye and Syria and to think of community here. As I ask for support for this motion, we can reflect that Australia has responded. South Australia has responded. We ask South Australians, if they wish to contribute, to contribute to UNICEF. I ask for support for the motion.

Motion carried.

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

A quorum having been formed:

*Bills***NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (MINISTERIAL RELIABILITY INSTRUMENT) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 7 February 2023.)

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:44): I would like to thank the house for its consideration of this reliability instrument and to thank the opposition for the time-honoured support of South Australia as a lead legislator in these matters, and of course I thank my parliamentary colleagues for their support. I commend the bill to the house and hope it has a speedy passage. I also commend the shadow minister for agreeing to the speedy passage of this legislation.

It is a difficult burden on this parliament that we are the lead legislator not only for electricity and gas but also for transport, which means that a lot of the time of the house is taken up with the affairs of the nation rather than just the affairs of the state. It is important that we have good, cooperative, bipartisan support for this bill. For that, I thank the house and I thank members who have participated in the debate. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:45): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

GENE TECHNOLOGY (ADOPTION OF COMMONWEALTH AMENDMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 7 September 2022.)

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (16:46): I rise to indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition and indicate support for this bill. The former Liberal government actually introduced an identical bill in the other place, which was introduced into this house in 2021. This bill will allow the South Australian Gene Technology Act 2001 to adopt future amendments to the commonwealth gene technology legislation by regulation. The objective of the commonwealth Gene Technology Act is, and I quote:

...to protect the health and safety of people, and to protect the environment, by identifying risks posed by or as a result of gene technology, and by managing those risks through regulating certain dealings with GMOs.

There is an independent statutory officer, known as the Gene Technology Regulator, who is responsible for administering this objective. Really, what we are trying to avoid right across the nation are periods where state legislation is inconsistent and out of step with the National Gene Technology Scheme. That is the very purpose of this legislation. The purpose of this bill particularly is ensuring that South Australia remains in step with the commonwealth and that there are not any lag times, periods of legislative lag.

Naturally, every state and territory administers the National Gene Technology Scheme through their respective laws, mirroring the commonwealth gene legislation. However, every jurisdiction takes a very different approach to adopting this commonwealth legislation. Currently, in South Australia there is a full parliamentary and legislative process each time there are amendments to commonwealth law. Due to the nature of this process, this of course can lead to inconsistencies with regulatory requirements while this process is being undertaken.

Should this bill be successful through both houses, which I imagine that it will be, it would mean that changes to the commonwealth legislation would be considered by the South Australian government as an amendment of the act regulations, with options to adopt, not adopt or adopt with modification any changes to the commonwealth gene technology laws. Naturally, the parliament would retain the right to review and disallow these regulations, so the oversight still remains, which I think is really important, but simply in a more streamlined way.

I would like to point out as well that changes can only be made to the commonwealth legislation after consideration by the Gene Technology Forum of which the Minister for Health and Wellbeing is a South Australian member and with full consultation as well, which I think is vital.

The opposition supports the bill because, as we have been advised, this will ensure that our regulatory requirements are consistent. It will certainly reduce confusion and it will really minimise the risk of noncompliance for clinicians, reduce the risk for researchers, for industry, for transport companies and all those who deal with gene technology.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (16:50): I rise to offer my support for the Gene Technology (Adoption of Commonwealth Amendments) Amendment Bill presently before the house. This legislation aims to improve consistency between commonwealth and state legislation.

Changes to the commonwealth Gene Technology Act and subordinate legislation is amended on a regular basis, which can lead to misalignment to state legislation and cause unnecessary confusion to operators across jurisdictions.

The bill allows our state to adopt changes to commonwealth law by regulation rather than undergoing a full legislative process each time a change is made at a commonwealth level. A similar bill was introduced by the former government and received support from the now government. The model adopted in this bill is the same as that approved by the previous minister for health and wellbeing. We look forward to working constructively as this bill is progressed.

Gene technology is the term given to a range of activities concerned with understanding gene expression, taking advantage of natural genetic variation, modifying genes and transferring genes to new hosts. It is used in South Australia for a broad range of applications, primarily by our university sector and other researchers for very important work. It is used in agriculture, for example, for the development of crops that are genetically adapted to better cope with the environmental stresses caused by climate change. It can even be used as a control measure to alter the fertility of pests.

The South Australian Research and Development Institute manages the Australian Pastures Genebank which provides a databank of genetic material for more than 70,000 plants. The Department of Primary Industries supports a number of agtech developments, including the use of gene technology to enable more efficient primary production practices in our state. Importantly, gene technology is used with clinical trials and the development of medicines, including vaccines, or for the study of diseases.

A local example of this is the ongoing important research being undertaken by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and SA Pathology into blood cancers, including the genetic inheritance of these conditions. This type of research is so important to so many of us who have had our own health problems or who have family members suffering from diseases that would benefit from clinical trials and new medicines.

As the government's parliamentary co-convenor for Dementia Australia, I was particularly pleased to learn that a recent gene therapy trial for Alzheimer's disease produced beneficial effects in slowing progression of the disease by approximately 50 per cent. This trial saw genetically modified cells injected directly into the brains of test subjects, which helped to improve cell growth and repair. While this trial was small, such research is vital to the improvement of outcomes and survival of patients. Although the study is very preliminary, it indicates that gene therapy may provide beneficial treatment for Alzheimer's disease in the future, which is extremely exciting.

The alignment of the South Australian and federal gene therapy legislation will reduce confusion for researchers and others who undertake gene technology processes, such as these described, by ensuring that regulatory requirements are clear and transparent.

Health and medical research remains a priority of the Malinauskas Labor government because we know that innovation leads to better patient outcomes. That is why we have begun consultation on South Australia's first ever Health and Medical Research Strategy. Our government has commenced consultation with key industry stakeholders to ensure their research helps more South Australians.

Universities, including Flinders University, which is located in my electorate of Davenport, are one of these key stakeholders. They are doing groundbreaking work right here in South Australia. Just last week, I had the pleasure of touring the Flinders Motor Neurone Disease and Neurotrophic Research Lab where Associate Professor Mary-Louise Rogers and her incredible research team are working on non-invasive biomarkers for MND that can be used to determine if treatments are working in clinical trials or not. They are also asking fundamental questions about how MND starts, and have been looking at whether or not the MND gene that is present in about 10 per cent of MND cases can be altered or removed to prevent or treat the disease.

The Health and Medical Research Strategy will consider all aspects of the sector to improve health, social and economic outcomes for our community. The strategy will outline what is needed to minimise the time taken for groundbreaking research to translate into better health outcomes, including how innovative technology, such as gene technology, can boost productivity and performance.

I look forward to supporting medical research in South Australia to assist in improving health outcomes for all South Australians. We need to ensure that our gene technology legislation is as up to date as possible, so that we can continue our state's good work in this space.

The current process—which involves reviewing new commonwealth changes, developing a draft bill to amend the SA Gene Technology Act, and then passing it through two houses of parliament—is lengthy and inefficient. With this bill, parliament will still retain the right to review and disallow regulations. Objectionable amendments can be disallowed and allow the parliament to have scrutiny. Changes to the commonwealth legislation can only be made through the gene technology forum, at which our state's Minister for Health and Wellbeing is a representative, and following full public consultation.

Improving consistency of gene technology legislation between commonwealth and state is already in place in other jurisdictions, including Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Queensland, where their legislation allows them to apply the commonwealth laws with the ability to modify through regulations. The commonwealth government are likely to change their legislation in the near future. Adopting this bill will help ensure that our legislation is not out of date, and enable more important research and innovation here in South Australia. I commend this bill to the house.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:56): I rise to speak in support of the gene technology amendment bill, which seeks to improve the consistency between commonwealth and state legislation. Gene technology is a process that can see faulty genes replaced with healthy genes, turning off faulty genes that may be the cause of a disease or condition, or even adding a new gene in to treat a disease or systems of a condition. Gene technology can be used in clinical trials and the development of medicines, and it is technology that has made enormous positive developments in the biomedical field. In some settings, it has aided medical practitioners to diagnose genetic diseases and cancers more quickly and pinpoint therapies to address these diseases more quickly and more cheaply.

Interestingly, one of the first licensed drugs produced using gene technology was human insulin in 1982. The use of gene technology to produce insulin has made an enormous positive impact on the lives of millions of people worldwide. This development has now led to a huge improvement in the quality of life for people with diabetes, who can now effectively manage their blood sugar levels to live better, healthier lives.

In South Australia, gene technology is also used for a wide range of applications, particularly by our universities and researchers. For example, in 2018 Adelaide University conducted medical research into mitochondrial disease, where pigs were genetically modified to have extra copies of mitochondrial DNA in their reproductive cells. The South Australian Research and Development Institute manages the Australian Pastures Genebank, which provides a databank of genetic material for more than 70,000 plants. Ongoing research is also performed by the South Australian Health and

Medical Research Institute and SA Pathology into blood cancers, including the genetic inheritance of these conditions. It can even be used in settings such as agriculture, aquaculture and livestock, and as a control measure to alter the fertility of pests and even study diseases.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA supports a number of agtech developments that include the use of gene technology to enable more efficient primary production practices in SA. Last year, the University of Adelaide released their findings into the use of gene technology to control invasive mice. Through use of technology known as t-CRISPR, computer modelling was used on laboratory mice to make alterations to the female fertility gene. This would then render female mice infertile, in turn reducing the overall population.

This technology can be used as another tool in the arsenal of our agricultural sector, one that is far more humane and reduces the need to bait, which can be harmful to native species and, let us not forget, expensive. The potential of this research, done by our own University of Adelaide using gene technology, highlights the potential for the development of innovative solutions to what are big challenges that we need to overcome—and we need to be thinking big if we want to overcome some of the incredible challenges that face us this century.

Earlier last year I was lucky to attend the South Australian Young Tall Poppy Awards ceremony, which recognises Australian intellectual and scientific excellence and also encourages young Australians to follow in the footsteps of our outstanding achievers, to get excited about STEM and interested in using it to help solve some of our most complex problems. I mention this because I was utterly blown away by the 2022 South Australian Young Tall Poppy Science Award winner, the University of Adelaide's Dr Tatiana Soares da Costa.

Dr Soares da Costa is one of the many bright South Australians who are using gene technology to revolutionise the way we use herbicides to protect our vital agricultural industry. With more than 40 per cent of cropping land having been invaded by herbicide-resistant weeds, Dr Soares da Costa's work in developing a new multi-target herbicide will make it more difficult for weeds to evolve resistance and will prolong the efficacy of existing herbicides.

By understanding the structure, functions and regulations of essential proteins in bacteria and plants, Dr Soares da Costa is helping to solve one of the biggest challenges we face when it comes to resistance to herbicides and antibiotics, with the development of new classes of antibacterial and herbicide agents. Her innovative research is helping to combat challenges faced by society and ultimately to improve people's lives, as well helping to address weeds that outcompete crops for resources such as sunlight and nutrients, leading to reduced crop quality and yield. Her strategies to expedite bringing herbicides to the market will help support food security for future generations.

When it comes to gene technology as it currently stands, each time there is a change made at the commonwealth level, we undertake a full legislative process which can often be lengthy and inefficient. This means we must review the commonwealth changes, a bill is drafted to amend the Gene Technology Act, and then it must make its way through both this place and the other place. This can mean it often takes six to seven months, in total, to update state legislation to reflect the changes that have been made by the commonwealth government.

Currently, changes to the commonwealth Gene Technology Act and subordinate legislation can be misaligned to that of state legislation, causing unnecessary confusion to operators across jurisdictions. Around Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Queensland apply commonwealth laws, with the ability to modify them through regulations, and New South Wales applies the laws directly. Victoria and the ACT both go through the usual parliamentary process.

This bill allows for changes in commonwealth legislation to be adopted by regulation, while still allowing the parliament to retain the right to review or disallow regulations, with objectionable amendments able to be disallowed while—very importantly—still allowing parliament to have scrutiny.

The model adopted in this bill is the same as that approved by the previous Minister for Health and Wellbeing and, with a similar bill introduced late in 2021 that had the support of the then Labor opposition, we are seeking to ensure that our legislation is not out of date with that of the

commonwealth, making the process more efficient. Public consultation was undertaken on the Gene Technology Bill over six weeks, with a consultation paper and the use of a survey via the YourSAy website under the former government.

Support is there within our community for gene technology and, as a state, we are in many ways at the forefront of gene technology developments. These developments will benefit the way we provide medical treatments, in turn improving the health of the population, increasing food security by arming our agricultural sector with the means to increase productivity, and benefiting our environment by reducing reliance on harmful pesticides.

What excites me greatly about technology such as gene technology is that it has the ability to think outside the box to tackle the big issues: challenges that will need not only the brightest minds we have now but those minds that we will require in the future. I am sure it is also exciting for the next generation of scientists—young future scientists who may not even know it yet but may be looking up to leaders in this space like Dr Soares da Costa and thinking to themselves that they can do it as well.

With each new development, whether they be environmental benefits of tackling herbicide resistant weeds, tackling invasive species with out-of-the-box thinking or improving the potential health outcomes of our loved ones, groundbreaking technology like this has the opportunity to inspire. I know I walked away from learning about Dr Soares da Costa feeling inspired. By making it more efficient, we can provide some greater clarity for our brilliant researchers in this space, such as continuing developing groundbreaking research to help us tackle some of the biggest challenges we will face this century. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (17:05): I rise today in support of the Gene Technology (Adoption of Commonwealth Amendments) Amendment Bill. The crux of this bill is to improve consistency between commonwealth and state legislation. At the moment, whenever a change is made in the gene technology space on a federal level, we need to undertake a full legislative process in our state parliament, and that can take some time. Not only is this process lengthy but it is also quite inefficient. It can take months for a review of the commonwealth changes, a drafting of the bill to amend the SA Gene Technology Act and then to pass through both houses of our parliament.

The bill we are discussing today means that, instead of going through this extensive process, the changes can instead be made by regulation. That does not mean it will be a simple tick and flick without any review. It is really important to know that under this change parliament will still retain the right to review and disallow regulations. Objectionable amendments can be disallowed, which allows the parliament to have scrutiny. Also, changes to the commonwealth legislation are only currently able to be made through the gene technology forum and following full public consultation. Our Minister for Health, Minister Picton, is South Australia's representative on the forum.

Changes to the commonwealth Gene Technology Act and subordinate legislation are now not uncommon. These pieces of legislation are amended on a regular basis, which can lead to misalignment to state legislation and cause unnecessary confusion to operators across jurisdictions, hence the requirement for this bill. A similar bill was introduced by the former government and was supported by Labor but did not progress. In fact, the model adopted in this bill is the same as the one approved by the previous Minister for Health and Wellbeing, so we look forward to working constructively with those opposite for it to progress through both houses.

In South Australia, gene technology is used for a broad range of applications, primarily by our university sector and other researchers. The following are a few examples of work happening here in SA:

- in 2018, Adelaide University conducted medical research into mitochondrial disease, where pigs were genetically modified to have extra copies of mitochondrial DNA in their reproductive cells;
- the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) manages the Australian Pastures Genebank, which provides a databank of genetic material for more than 70,000 plants;

- ongoing research by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and SA Pathology into blood cancers, including the genetic inheritance of these conditions; and
- the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) supports a number of agtech developments, including the use of gene technology, to enable more efficient primary production practices in SA.

Gene technology can be used:

- in agriculture, aquaculture and livestock (for example, in the development of crops that are genetically adapted to meet environmental stresses caused by climate change);
- in the study of diseases; and
- as a control measure to alter the fertility of pests.

The commonwealth government is likely to change their legislation in the near future, so adopting this bill will help ensure that our legislation is not out of date and makes the process more efficient.

The previous health minister's bill was introduced late in the last parliamentary sitting; however, support was indicated by the then Labor opposition. Tasmania, Northern Territory and Queensland already apply the commonwealth laws with the ability to modify through regulation, so this is not a novel idea but one that will make a semi-regular occurrence more efficient. I commend the bill to the house.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (17:09): I rise to speak on the Gene Technology (Adoption of Commonwealth Amendments) Amendment Bill. Genes are found in all living organisms and are inherited from one generation to the next, with gene technology being a process that makes changes to genes and allows for direct modifications to be made to the genetic construct of an organism. It is interesting to note that gene technology may be used in clinical trials and the development of medicines, including vaccines. It may be used in agriculture, aquaculture, livestock, the study of diseases and as a control measure to alter the fertility of pests.

In South Australia, gene technology is used in our state for a broad range of applications, primarily by our university sector and other researchers. As an example, in my electorate of Adelaide in 2018 the University of Adelaide conducted medical research into mitochondrial disease. As we heard, it is where pigs were genetically modified to have extra copies of mitochondrial DNA put into their reproductive cells.

In regard to this bill, as we have also heard, I understand that it is a similar bill to that introduced by the former government and received support from the now government and for that reason we look forward to working on both sides of the chamber to see this bill debated and passed.

This legislation aims to improve the consistency between commonwealth and state legislation, and it will allow for changes in commonwealth legislation to be adopted by regulation. It is very important to note that the regulation process still allows the government to review the proposed changes and decide if they are appropriate for the South Australian community.

But when we look at the current system, that is where we understand that there is a need for change. Currently, we have to undertake a full legislative process each time a change is made on the commonwealth level, which makes the current process quite lengthy and inefficient. As an example, it can take between six to seven months to review commonwealth changes and develop a draft bill to amend the SA Gene Technology Act and then gain approval via both houses of parliament.

A change to the commonwealth legislation is only currently able to be made through a gene technology forum following full public consultation, with our Minister for Health, the member for Karna, being South Australia's representative on the forum. Because the commonwealth Gene Technology Act and subordinate legislation are amended on a regular basis, it can lead to misalignment between state legislation and cause unnecessary confusion to operators across jurisdictions. Adopting this bill will help ensure that our legislation is not out of date, and it will make

the process much more efficient and consistent. With those comments, I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (17:12): I rise in support of the Gene Technology (Adoption of Commonwealth Amendments) Amendment Bill 2022. The National Gene Technology Scheme is a collaboration between all Australian governments, supporting a nationally consistent regulatory system for gene technology in Australia. Currently, the National Gene Technology Scheme is administered by each state and territory via their respective laws. Each jurisdiction has an individual approach to how they adopt changes to the commonwealth legislation.

Currently, there are three separate approaches to the application of these laws across jurisdictions. Like many people in this house, we share an interest in efficiency and we share an interest in how we might be more consistent if we are to encourage investment in different areas. Certainly, the area of gene technology is incredibly exciting, and it has so many applications as well. If we are able to increase consistency, we will see that investment, whether from overseas or in South Australia or nationally, and they will see that they can take this opportunity to set up in any jurisdiction.

What that means is that we know we are a low-cost economy. We know that it is easier to set up a business here in South Australia. The Minister for Small Business is doing incredible work to address some of the concerns of business and making a one-stop shop. I think that this is really important in the theme that we are open for business. You heard from the Treasurer today how well our economy is going, and we have seen many people, particularly during recent events, remind themselves of why people love living in South Australia. It is a great place to raise your children, a very livable city, and we know from a tourism point of view that it is pretty exciting. A lot is happening here.

We already have in our DNA festivals as a key part of our culture, but now we are seen as a great place to hold events and the city really comes to life during those events. So we are attracting people here and I am keen, I am aspirational, to attract more head offices here from a tourism point of view. The key thing for me is not only to talk about the ecosystem of tourism head offices that are already here but the opportunities including a better quality of life for staff and lower costs to run businesses here. Gene technology is one of those areas of potential growth and one of those areas that we aspire to continue to be part of.

Currently, there are three separate approaches to the applications of these laws across jurisdictions. New South Wales applies the commonwealth legislation automatically whereas Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Queensland apply the commonwealth legislation automatically but with the ability to modify the legislation by regulation. That is the model that we are proposing here. Victoria and the ACT amend their state-based legislative schemes to align with the commonwealth amendments via the usual parliamentary process, which is similar to our current model in South Australia.

This bill before us aims to enable the adoption of amendments to the commonwealth gene technology laws via regulation as opposed to South Australia taking a full legislative process each time there are amendments to national laws. We think legislative process is incredibly important and that is what we are here to do. We are legislators, elected to this house to represent a geographical region in South Australia, but sometimes that legislative process can take time. Obviously one of the opportunities we have here is to look for those efficiencies where we can connect up, where we see other states already using this model that can become more efficient. I would say that, of course, we aim for efficiency and we prioritise what is most important in this house but often it does take time.

The commonwealth Gene Technology Act and subordinate legislation are amended on a regular basis, which can lead to misalignment with state legislation, causing unnecessary confusion across jurisdictions. SA Health has estimated to us that the current process is lengthy and can take up to seven months from reviewing the changes, drafting amendments to legislation and proceeding through both houses of parliament. This is neither a productive nor efficient way to adopt regular amendments, nor is it a good use of the parliament's time and resources. Under the proposed

changes, objectionable amendments by the commonwealth could still be disallowed and this provides an avenue for parliamentary scrutiny.

Being a former member of the Legislative Review Committee, which often looks at subordinate legislation, I can tell you it is an incredibly thorough process and I encourage all members to spend some time on that committee. It is not all about cats, although that was frequently raised last time. It is an incredibly important committee that is across both houses of parliament that enables that scrutiny and enables disallowance motions to go ahead in either house, so that is something we have to back us up.

While we might be looking to be more productive and more efficient, we must never ever not be connected to what is happening and not give ourselves the opportunity to address concerns that have not been adequately covered previously.

A similar bill was introduced by the former government and received support from the now government. The model adopted in this bill is the same as that approved by the previous Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Hon. Stephen Wade, in the other place, who has recently announced his retirement. We wish him all the very best in his retirement. No doubt, at times, it has been very challenging to be the health minister and of course at no other time than during COVID-19. Decisions had to be made, and health became the number one focus, and keeping us healthy and protecting us. I wish the Hon. Stephen Wade all the very best in his retirement.

Gene tech is used in South Australia for a broad range of applications, primarily by our university sector and other researchers. Examples of the work in SA are medical research into mitochondrial disease; medical research into blood cancers, including the genetic inheritance of these conditions; agtech development to enable more efficient primary production practices in South Australia; the development of medicines and vaccines; and a control measure to alter the fertility of pests. Gene technology work has incredibly wide applications across many issues. Of course, we are learning more and more each day, when I think about the research into blood cancers and the work that we have here.

Obviously, SAHMRI 2 is going up, the proton therapy unit, which I think is the only one in the Southern Hemisphere, as I recall. We know that the medical research that we have enables us to support not just South Australians but other Australians with these terrible conditions and enables us to keep going. South Australia's global leadership in medical technology is supported by our health science precinct, one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

We are also a leading agricultural region with clean, green food and beverages, producing premium quality food and wine for global exports. I encourage people who have not yet had the chance to go to the Waite Campus of Adelaide University; they are doing world-class research there. When I was speaking to them, we were talking about our exports in barley and the opportunity for students around the world, international students, to come to South Australia to study at Waite as experts in their field. It is an incredibly important part of what we offer, particularly for postgraduate qualifications.

The sectors that I have talked about are being identified as key areas of growth for our state, and keeping legislation current and concurrent with the commonwealth position can only be of benefit to the work undertaken by our researchers.

We recently achieved record trade figures, with overseas goods exports reaching almost \$15 billion in the last financial year, a 15 per cent increase on the previous year. Through the government's renewed approach to growing our share of the national exports, we can expect this to continue to grow over time.

Enabling our researchers to stay up to date with commonwealth amendments around gene technology will be a significant improvement. I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:22): I thank all the speakers for their contributions in relation to the Gene Technology (Adoption of Commonwealth Amendments) Amendment Bill. I thank people for making a contribution on what could be seen by some, certainly not by me, as a dry piece of legislation that may be slightly technical in nature but is obviously important.

There is a whole variety of regulation functions that we have across the commonwealth. It is a federated model where we have a gene technology ministerial council meeting that meets. As the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, I represent South Australia on that ministerial council meeting.

From time to time, there will of course be changes that need to be made in relation to how the national scheme operates. This is something where the previous government and the previous minister put forward a piece of legislation that would allow automatic adoption of those amendments to happen here in South Australia. But of course, importantly, parliament would still retain the right to review and disallow the regulations, and only after consideration by the gene technology forum—of which, as I said, I am the representative—would those be made.

There are a number of other pieces of legislation where this already occurs in South Australia. There are some where it does not, and I think that in many ways a number of our laws are more conservative in that regard than what we see in other states. If you look at the controlled substances legislation or the health practitioner regulations, there are a number of matters where changes on the commonwealth basis are automatically applied in a number of other states around the commonwealth but still require some action from the South Australian government, whether that be regulation or gazettal, for that to occur here.

In relation to this, we would be saying that those changes would be made automatically. However, there would still be the ability for parliament, should there be a concern from either house, to disallow those regulations that were being made. I would like to thank members for their support for this bill and the people involved in SA Health for drafting it. I commend it to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:25): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BURIAL AND CREMATION (INTERMENT RIGHTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (17:26): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill amends the Burial and Cremation Act 2013 to strengthen the ability to enforce interment rights. The government has moved to reintroduce amendments proposed by the Burial and Cremation (Interment Rights) Amendment Bill 2021, which was introduced last year but lapsed at the end of sittings—another bill that was not followed through by the former government at the end of their term. I suspect that we are talking one year out rather than last year or the year before.

This Labor government has taken the step to push this bill through within the first few weeks of sitting as it recognises the importance of clarifying the legal status of interment rights and preventing future conflicts such as the situation at the former St Philip and St James church cemetery at Old Noarlunga, discussed the previous year during debate on the lapsed bill.

While the urgency for this bill has since dissipated, the government believes that interment right holders and their families should be better protected, and any failure to meet obligations should be subject to tough penalties. When the 2021 bill was being debated the previous year, the question was raised of whether there should be a central register or some other way for cemeteries and interment rights to be recorded on certificates of title.

This is a larger body of work, and the Attorney-General has asked his department to investigate the plausibility of such reform, noting that there is no immediate urgency for establishing this recording platform, given that there are already means to determine whether interment rights

exist. If further legislative amendment in this area is appropriate, it will be progressed separately in a subsequent bill.

This bill amends section 13 of the act to provide added protections around cremated remains that have been interred at an interment site in a cemetery or a natural burial ground. New section 13(1a) makes it an offence to remove cremated remains from an interment site or re-inter cremated remains that have been removed from an interment site without the consent of the interment right holder or, if the interment right holder has died, their representative or other persons prescribed by the regulations. The maximum penalty for the offence is \$10,000.

The offences in new section 13(1a) would not apply where cremated remains have been interred directly in the earth. The offences also do not apply where a relevant authority for a cemetery or natural burial ground removes and re-inter remains to enable the improvement or embellishment of the cemetery or natural burial ground, or for maintenance or repair work to be undertaken in respect of the cemetery or natural burial ground.

The bill inserts a new subsection (3) in section 35 of the act to express that an interment right can be enforced against the relevant authority for the cemetery or natural burial ground in respect of which the interment right was issued.

The new obligation applies to the person or body responsible for administering a cemetery or natural burial ground regardless of when the interment right was issued and regardless of whether it was issued by that person or body or some other person or body, such as a previous owner. Failure to comply with the obligation will result in a maximum penalty of \$10,000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a body corporate.

New section 35(6) makes it clear that it is not a defence that the defendant was not aware of the existence of the interment right when they assumed administration of the cemetery or natural burial ground, unless the defendant proves that they took reasonable steps to identify interment rights in existence at the time when the defendant assumed the administration of the cemetery or natural burial ground.

The bill also makes a number of technical amendments to the act. The bill contains a clarifying amendment to section 38(3)(b) of the act to clarify that the former holder of an interment right has the right to reclaim a memorial from the relevant cemetery authority.

The bill makes a minor technical amendment to section 39(1) of the act, which deals with the ownership of memorials to remove an unnecessary reference to 'or other place of interment.' Interment rights are issued only in respect of interment sites and cemeteries and natural burial grounds and therefore the words 'or other place of interment' are unnecessary.

There is also an amendment to section 42(1)(a)(i) to remove an incorrect reference to 'an interment site' that should be replaced with reference to 'interment right in respect of an interment site'. The bill will clarify the legality and enforceability of interment rights so that families can feel protected when they secure interment rights in a cemetery or natural burial ground.

Further, the new offences will operate as a deterrent to those who might seek to wilfully ignore or refuse to honour these obligations.

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

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Burial and Cremation Act 2013*

2—Amendment of section 13—Offences

This clause amends section 13 to create a new offence of removing cremated remains from an interment site in a cemetery or natural burial ground, or re-interring in a cemetery or natural burial ground cremated remains that have been removed from an interment site (or causing, suffering or permitting such acts) while an interment right is in

force in relation to the interment site unless authorised to do so by the interment right holder, or if the interment right holder has died, a person referred to in section 35(1).

The proposed maximum penalty for the offence is \$10,000. The offence will not apply to cremated remains interred directly in the ground. It will also not apply to the removal or re-interment of cremated remains by a relevant authority for a cemetery or natural burial ground if it is done to enable the carrying out of improvement or embellishment works in the cemetery or natural burial ground, or maintenance or repairs in the cemetery or natural burial ground.

3—Amendment of section 35—Exercise and enforcement of interment rights

This clause amends section 35 to make it clear that an interment right may be enforced against the relevant authority for the cemetery or natural burial ground in respect of which the interment right was issued.

It also makes it an offence for the relevant authority for a cemetery or natural burial ground to fail to comply with its obligations under an interment right issued in respect of the cemetery or natural burial ground. The proposed maximum penalty is \$10,000 if the offender is a natural person and \$20,000 if the offender is a body corporate.

It will not be a defence to a charge of an offence that the defendant was not aware of the existence of the interment right when the defendant assumed the administration of the cemetery or natural burial ground unless the defendant proves that the defendant took reasonable steps to identify interment rights in existence at the time that the defendant assumed the administration of the cemetery or natural burial ground.

A further provision makes it clear that section 35 applies to the person or body for the time being responsible for the administration of the cemetery or natural burial ground regardless of when the interment right was issued, and regardless of whether the interment right was issued by that person or body or by some other person or body.

4—Amendment of section 38—Re-use of interment sites

This clause amends section 38 so that it refers to the former holder of an interment right where an interment right has expired.

5—Amendment of section 39—Ownership of memorial

This clause makes a minor technical amendment to section 39. The section provides that the holder of an interment right is the owner of any memorial at the interment site to which the interment right relates. Interment rights are issued only in respect of interment sites in cemeteries and natural burial grounds, so the words 'or other place of interment' are unnecessary.

6—Amendment of section 42—Power of relevant authority to dispose of unclaimed memorial

This clause amends section 42 to correct a reference in subsection (1)(a)(i).

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

At 17:32 the house adjourned until Thursday 9 February 2023 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

As you would be aware, from late 2021, the Department for Education prioritised response to COVID-19 and sought to limit non-essential activities to minimise impacts to critical school functions. The Education Management System (EMS) project was subsequently paused through this period.

As of 11 November 2022, the EMS project has completed:

- Rollout of the preschool administration module to 263 sites and commenced pilot of two sites for preschool finance.
- Rolled out EMS administration, finance, teacher, student and parent modules to 25 schools (primary, secondary and combined).
- Rolled out EdSmart (digital communications platform providing digital forms, consents and payments for school staff and parents) to 248 schools.

Project rollouts are expected to continue to scale up throughout 2023.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

The breakdown of the year-by-year investment over the last few years are available through the annual budget papers. The Department for Education's annual financial statements are also available through the annual report.

Both the state budget papers and annual reports are tabled in both houses of parliament.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

The Department for Education holds an existing register of its asset data which is stored in the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS). This system is in the process of being transferred to the new Panorama system managed by Ventia.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

Chapter 3 focuses on classroom and student support, including classroom school services officers (SSOs) early childhood workers (ECWs) and allied health professionals (AHPs).

These employees work directly with children and students in roles other than teaching or educational leadership roles and who provide support for teachers and for student learning and development.

The Chapter 3 employee cohorts represent approximately 30 per cent of the department's total workforce.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

The TAFE SA Roadmap for the Future was announced publicly on 29 September 2022. Information regarding the road map, including people on the expert advisory panel, can be found at TAFE SA Roadmap for the Future | YourSAy.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

As I stated in the Auditor-General examination, the \$691m that relates to commonwealth sourced grants and funding, is outlined on page 18, note 2.2. of the department's financial statements.

The \$1.3 billion for administered items on page 71 is outlined on page 11, note A2.2 of the department's administered financial statements and includes commonwealth funding for non-government schools under the National School Reform agreement (\$1.250bn), family day care scheme (\$15.9m) and National Schools Chaplaincy Program (\$1.6m).

The \$1.6 billion transfer payments for administered items are outlined on page 17, note A4.2 of the department's administered financial statements and includes payment of state and commonwealth payments to non-government schools (\$1.567bn), SACE Board of SA (\$17.1m), Early Education Board of SA (\$4.1m) and arts entities (\$10.5m).

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 November 2022).

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

The outstanding concern was in relation to the service delivery plans from the facilities management services provider (FMSP) being provided.

The FMSP has now provided the service delivery plans to TAFE SA.

TAFE SA has executed the memorandum of administrative agreement for the across government facilities management agreement as provided by DIT in October 2021.

CRITICAL CLIENT INCIDENTS

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (1 December 2022).

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services): Ten incidents have been reported since the election—including advice about incidents prior to the election.

It should be noted that, contrary to the assertion of the Member for Frome, a critical client incident is not limited to 'reports of serious misconduct' but can include events or alleged events that have caused or are likely to cause significant negative impact to the health and or safety of a client.

Estimates Replies

PASTORAL UNIT BUDGET

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The total budget for the pastoral unit in 2021-22 was \$1.7m.

CROP AND PASTURE REPORT

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The report is one of a range of data sets the Department of Primary Industries and Regions collects to inform both policy development and operations including responses to adverse events.

The department is undertaking the first major revision of the crop and pasture data reporting process in 15 years. The aim of the review is to improve the focus and utilise contemporary reporting channels.

I am advised as part of this review the department will consider the purpose of the report and therefore the current and future data requirements, the frequency and method of data collection and analysis, and the format in which this data is reported.

The department will provide information on the outcomes of the review to all stakeholders.

Once the review is completed the most recently collected data will be published in the new format.

NATIONAL WATER GRID SCHEME

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

State funding under the national water grid scheme for current projects includes:

- Barossa new water project—\$1.550 million
- Northern Water Supply detailed business case—\$10 million
- Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme—\$110 million
- Science projects—\$346,250.

BIOSECURITY OFFICERS AND VETERINARIANS

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The current biosecurity full-time equivalent (FTE) employees is 174.8 (at the time of the estimates committee it was advised as FTE equated to 172.59). Included in these figures are veterinary officers and animal health officers.

AGTECH ADOPTION PROGRAM

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

\$494,000 has been expended as of 30 June 2022.

ROCK LOBSTER FISHING LICENCE COST

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

That this depends on the zone and license type.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

In relation to the ministerial office staff as at 29 June, 2022:

- MINCOS Chief of Staff
- MINADS Senior Ministerial Advisor
- MINADS Ministerial Advisor
- AS07 Office Manager
- AS05 Personal Assistant to the Minister
- AS05 Senior Business Support Officer
- AS05 Ministerial Liaison Officer
- AS05 Ministerial Liaison Officer
- AS04 Parliamentary and Cabinet Officer
- AS03 Business Support Officer.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT VACANCIES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

As at 29 June 2022, PIRSA has 11 positions being advertised on iWorkforSA.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

As per Budget Paper 4, Volume 4, page 71 under the Statement of Financial Position—Administered Items (Explanation of Significant Movements), \$69.2m of land is to be transferred from PIRSA to DEW under the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989.

This same land was transferred from DEW to PIRSA in January 2019 and throughout this time has been revalued by the Valuer-General.

FRUIT FLY

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

There are a wide range of situations in which fruit trees are grown in the Riverland. Many trees are grown in commercial orchards, which forms the basis of the supply of high-quality produce to markets across Australia and the world.

There are also however many smaller orchards which, while not commercially viable, still form much larger plantings than what is usually found in a residential backyard. It is in those small non-commercial orchards, which are often found in or close to the backyards of rural homes, in which many of the trigger points for the current Riverland outbreaks have been found.

It should be noted that the detection point for the outbreaks cannot always reliably be confirmed to be the source of the outbreak—it is simply the place in which the outbreak trigger is first detected.

In terms of the numbers, I have been advised that of the 12 outbreaks referred to, one originated in a residential backyard, seven originated in those small non-commercial orchards which are often found in or close to the backyards of rural homes, two originated in orchards which contain both commercial and non-commercial plantings, and two originated in what could be considered commercial orchards.

FRUIT FLY

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

On any given day in the Riverland, fruit fly response teams can spend significant amounts of time combatting the outbreaks which are currently being eradicated. Also, some of the significant costs associated with the response (for example the rearing and release of millions of sterile fruit flies) are applied across many outbreak areas simultaneously.

For these reasons, it is very difficult to reflect the costs of the response at an individual outbreak level.

ONEFORTYONE PLANTATIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The 2021-22 compliance activities related to OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd.'s terms of sale cost \$26,000.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

This question relates to the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

As per the 2022-23 budget papers, SARDI has a revenue budget of \$54.719 million and an expenditure budget of \$75.1.75 million, with a net cost of services (NCOS) of \$20.456 million.

REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

See answer to omnibus question 18.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):

Total funding under the bushfire recovery program is \$45.070m—this excludes local economic recovery funding of \$19.352m.

Local economic recovery funding is provided under a fifty-fifty cost share arrangement with the commonwealth, meaning the state is funding \$9.676 million.

Overall, this means that the state is funding \$17.14 million to finalise the 2019-20 bushfire recovery program.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022, no administrative units were created, abolished or transferred to another department:

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Since 22 March 2022, zero executive appointments were made.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

For the period of 22 March 2022 up to 30 June 2022, two positions were in the process of being abolished.

Role Title	Classification	Date Employment Ceased
DIRECTOR CHANGE AND REFORM	SAES1	27/05/2022
DIRECTOR, MAJOR PROGRAMS	SAES1	11/06/2022

The Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) is vacant and is in the process being abolished. This role is classified as a SAES2.

For the DCE role, the annual salary is \$309,031, the total employment cost for 2021-22 was \$154,500 (from July to November 2021, when the role was filled)

The Director, Change and Reform role was never budgeted for at the beginning of the 2021-22 financial year. This was funded from the vacant DCE role. The annual salary for this role is \$103,636. This is based on a 0.60 FTE.

The Director, Major Programs role annual salary was \$148,432.

The total annual employment costs for these abolished positions are \$223,675.

Director, Change and Reform—\$45,996 (The incumbent only held the role for four months)

Director, Major Programs—\$ 177,679

Individual executive total remuneration package values as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

The total value of the termination payments was \$0 which excludes the value of accrued leave entitlements.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2021-22 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

As per the 2022-23 budget papers, PIRSA is budgeted to spend \$198,000 on consultancies and \$14.5 million on contractors in 2022-23.

As at 30 June 2022, no consultants above \$10,000 have been engaged for 2022-23.

As at 30 June 2022, the following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2022-23.

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Rivergum Communications	National Feral Deer Action Plan Pilot Awareness Campaign 2022	40,000
SA Outback Company Pty Ltd	Dog Fence Rebuild—Services (linking stage 7 and 8)	165,159
Burra Fencing Contractors Pty	Dog Fence Rebuild—Services (Stage 10)	783,800
SA Outback Company Pty Ltd	Dog Fence Rebuild—Services (Stage 13)	808,182

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2022-23 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	77,969	40,803	36,025	32,990

The increase in 2022-23 relates to time limited programs.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2022-23 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE

Unit/Branch		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
		Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Communications Branch	FTE	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
	\$m	\$1.33m	\$1.35m	\$1.37m	\$1.39m

TOTAL	FTE	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
	\$m	\$1.33m	\$1.35m	\$1.37m	\$1.39m

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website:

<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/governmentmarketing-advertising-expenditure>.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS DEPARTMENT

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years—*Controlled*:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2022-23 Estimate \$000	2023-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Primary Industries and Regional Development					
Northern Adelaide Food Park	The Northern Adelaide Food Park initiative was established to create opportunities for businesses to co-locate and enable both new and existing food and beverage processors, manufacturers, food packaging specialists, cold-chain suppliers and logistic and transport companies to expand and grow.		50	-	-
Agricultural Revolution	Increase the take up of technology by primary producers to drive improvements in efficiency in the industry.	850	850	850	850
Construction Softwood Transport Assistance Program	Transport assistance grants to be used for transporting bushfire-salvaged construction grade softwood salvaged from the 2020 Kangaroo Island bushfires to South Australian timber mills with capacity to manufacture structural timbers for the domestic building industry. Jointly funded by the state and Commonwealth governments.	1,556	-	-	-

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2022-23 Estimate \$000	2023-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Horticulture Netting Infrastructure Program	Commonwealth funded grant program for South Australian horticulture producers to install new or replace damaged netting, following damaging hailstorms that impacted fruit industries in the Adelaide Hills in 2017 and 2018, and in the Riverland in 2016 and 2019.	8,067	-	-	-
South Australian Drought Support Package	South Australian Government's drought support package aims to support farm families, local businesses and rural communities dealing with drought conditions.	1,854	-	-	-
Recovery grants for apple growers	Commonwealth funded bushfire recovery grants for apple producers affected by bushfire damage to assist with clean-up, repair or replacement of trees, infrastructure and equipment.	1,448	-	-	-
Local Economic Recovery (LER) support	LER aims to boost local economies by providing funding to South Australia's communities and industries most affected by 2019-20 bushfires. Vineyard and horticulture rebuilding and resilience, including cherries and olives, across Adelaide Hills, Cudlee Creek and Kangaroo Island. The program is co-funded by the Federal and South Australian governments under the National Bushfire Recovery Fund.	5,777	-	-	-
Regional Growth Fund (*)	Support projects that unlock new economic activity in our regions, creating jobs, growing export opportunities and strengthening regional communities.	32,774	14,618	14,062	13,814
Regional Development Fund	The program focussed on driving economic growth and productivity by investing in regional infrastructure, creating jobs and new opportunities for regional South Australia.	210	-	-	-
Regional Development Australia	New funding commitment for the seven non- metropolitan Regional Development Australia associations (RDAs) for a four-year term from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2026. This funding commitment will allow RDA Boards to continue to provide vital advice and support to drive economic development in each region.	3,307	3,307	3,307	3,307

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2022-23 Estimate \$000	2023-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Mobile Black Spot Program	This initiative provides \$10 million over three years to address mobile phone black spots across South Australia. Improving mobile phone coverage within the state will contribute to improved productivity, improved safety and enhancing the reputation of the state's key tourist destinations.	1,992	-	-	-

(*) Regional Growth Fund figures reflect estimated actual milestone payments each year.

There are no grant programs under my responsibility for the 2022-23, 2023- 24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years – *Administered*.

WULANDA RECREATION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

In reply to **Mr BELL (Mount Gambier)** (20 June 2022). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries): I have been advised:

The Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre project construction price is \$57.3 million, in accordance with the signed contract with Badge Construction.

The City of Mount Gambier advise that costs detailed in the question are included in the contract.