

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### Thursday, 23 February 2023

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

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **COVID-19 DIRECTION ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (11:01):** I move:

That the report of the committee be noted.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Gibson, do you wish to speak to the motion?

**S.E. ANDREWS:** No, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Very well. Are there any other members wishing to seek the call?

**Mr BASHAM:** I draw your attention to the state of the house.

*A quorum having been formed:*

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:03):** In speaking to this committee report, I thought it would be a worthy exercise just to traverse the COVID landscape that we have lived in for over three years and how we got to this point. On 1 February 2020, we had our first COVID case in South Australia. It is pretty remarkable to think that this was more than three entire years ago. Just over a month later, our Premier in Steven Marshall announced that the state's and the nation's first drive-through COVID-19 testing facility would open here in South Australia. That actually ended up becoming the first of its kind in not only Australia but the southern hemisphere, and it was actually second in the world by only a matter of a couple of days to South Korea at the time.

A \$350 million stimulus package was announced to boost the economy. Home isolations, border closures and restrictions followed. This was emulated in many ways right throughout 2021. To say that it was a difficult situation for families and businesses I think would be an enormous understatement. It was a period of unprecedented disruption that we had not seen for generations, and I do not think we will see such a disruption for generations to come. It was not just unprecedented here in South Australia, of course, it was right around the nation, and right around the world, where COVID and the following restrictions caused so much pain and suffering not just for families but for so many businesses, businesses in all our communities.

Families were dislocated, businesses shut their doors, loved ones lost their jobs, sports stopped, aged-care facilities closed, frontline health workers were pushed to the brink, mental health challenges surged, and people lost their lives. In fact, 1,321 South Australians lost their lives throughout COVID, but I know that more South Australians are alive today thanks to the swift and decisive action that was taken by the former Marshall Liberal government.

Many jurisdictions failed to act quickly enough and this indecisiveness really only played into the hands of the virus. In South Australia, testing was the cornerstone of our successful response, surging to thousands upon thousands of tests per day, and that really was the best way that we could monitor the spread of this virus right throughout our community. We needed this mammoth testing regime because the virus just pushed our healthcare workers to the absolute brink, almost collapsing under the daily pressures and the daily strain that COVID caused them, because our emergency departments were overflowing, we had really difficult cases, and ventilators that we had to bring in.

But it was also a time of great opportunity for many businesses and that is the flipside. It was in many ways a tale of two cities, where we had some businesses that really struggled but many actually thrived. Many forged ahead with new innovations that ensured that our state was kept safe and strong. There will be many reviews into decisions made throughout this period and that is only right, but ultimately with what I would refer to as choppy, unprecedented, uncharted waters, we managed to navigate the storm.

Throughout 2022, we entered a very different phase of the pandemic where we were living with COVID. We exited the emergency declaration that we had in for hundreds of days and we transitioned over to the Public Health Act, a move which was very much supported by the opposition, not supported with a tick and flick approach that you might expect, very much in-principle support, but we put forward several really commonsense amendments that were guided by the business community largely who had particular concerns about some of the penalties that were in place when some of these restrictions were broken.

The reason that we put forward those amendments was really around the fact that the severity of living with the virus had significantly decreased, and that is the nature of getting yourself out of the emergency declaration. Ultimately, of course, they were not accepted by the government but one thing that was established in this transition was the establishment of the parliamentary COVID accountability and oversight committee. Its purpose was its namesake: it was to have an oversight and accountability role with avenues to review any new health directions relating to COVID-positive South Australians, to close contact rules and, ultimately, with the power to put forward any recommendations of disallowance to both houses of the parliament.

Pleasingly, I can confirm that there were no such motions put forward for disallowance to any house of the parliament. Members across the political divide from the upper and lower houses of parliament sat on this committee, myself included, and we called several witnesses. These included Professor Nicola Spurrier, who we were fortunate enough to question on multiple occasions, Professor Joshua Ross, Professor Adrian Esterman and, of course, police commissioner, Grant Stevens.

It really was a fantastic opportunity to have some in depth questioning of all of those witnesses to get a much better understanding about the timing of peaks, and to get an understanding about what it ultimately would mean for the capacity within our emergency departments. It allowed us to have our finger on the pulse of what so many of the decision-makers, or so many of the people who were feeding up information to the executive arm of government, were thinking.

Really, I think it was an opportunity for all of us in this place, and that is why I have taken the opportunity to speak today. I note that I am the only one speaking today, and I rushed to the chamber to do so. For all of us in this place, I think it is worth reflecting on how far we have come in dealing with COVID. It was a really difficult period in the state's history, and I am grateful that we are now at this point in the COVID pandemic. I am grateful that the parliamentary committee was established. I am grateful that I had a role to play on that committee, and I would like to say that there is still much more rebuilding to be done.

Whilst we have had the oversight committee we have also had the opportunity to not just transition out of the Emergency Management Act and now the Public Health Act but also transition to a new phase, and that is the recovery of so many businesses that are still grappling with the impact of COVID-19.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE IMAGING EXPANSION AND  
REPAT HEALTH PRECINCT GERIATRIC EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
DEVELOPMENT**

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

That the 21<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled 'Flinders Medical Centre imaging expansion and Repat Health Precinct geriatric evaluation and management service development', be noted.

The submission from the Southern Area Local Health Network in the Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA Health) proposes two public works: firstly, a major expansion of SA Medical Imaging

services at the Flinders Medical Centre and, secondly, a comprehensive expansion and refurbishment of the Repat Health Precinct's Tarin Kowt building. These two projects are key components of the broader Southern Area Health Direction, a transformational strategy to significantly expand access to health services, respond to current and future clinical demand and address outdated infrastructure in Southern Adelaide. The total capital value of these two initiatives is \$48.75 million.

With approximately 600 beds, Flinders Medical Centre is the largest hospital providing services to the southern metropolitan area, with its ED being one of the two major trauma centres in South Australia. The hospital offers a range of acute inpatient, outpatient and allied health services and is uniquely a whole-of-life hospital, providing specialist neonatal services through to palliative care. The Southern Area Local Health Network is observing an increasingly ageing population and an increase in health conditions associated with an older demographic. The Flinders Medical Centre is suffering subsequent strain on services that these projects will help to alleviate.

SA Medical Imaging delivers specialist medical imaging services in metropolitan public hospitals and in select regional hospitals and health services. Currently, it provides services in Flinders Medical Centre and is the only quaternary hospital providing medical imaging to patients of all ages. Previous works in 2020-21 expanded the hospital's emergency department but did not provide any additional support to cater for the subsequent impact on imaging services.

The submitted plans outline a major expansion of SA Medical Imaging services in radiology and nuclear medicine, adjacent to the outpatient clinics on level 2 of Flinders Medical Centre. It will provide additional CT, MRI and ultrasound capacities and introduce a new positron emission tomography (PET) scan service. PET is the standard imaging for oncology diagnosis and cancer treatments. These works are costed at \$22.75 million.

The proposed expansion of SA Medical Imaging services will significantly benefit all South Australians. The additional equipment will deliver an estimated 60 per cent increase in CT scans and an estimated 110 per cent increase in MRI scans per year compared with current service levels. An additional 3,000 ultrasound booking slots will become available to patients.

The installation of the PET scan facility is a major improvement for the people of the southern suburbs. Currently, this service is only offered at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The expansion will create more efficient patient flows through the emergency department, and assist the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer, to provide world-class research and quality of care. To achieve these outcomes, SA Medical Imaging plans to refurbish a former physiotherapy space on level 2 of the Flinders Medical Centre.

The new facilities will provide patient holding bays and dedicated injection rooms for PET scan patients, as well as new CT, MRI and ultrasound rooms. The public works will provide supporting preparation spaces, including patient change rooms, anaesthesia and radiography rooms, a hot lab and supporting isotope store, and a dedicated patient waiting area with reception, staffroom, office and utilities. There will also be two private consult rooms and offices for clinical consultation, clinical workrooms, equipment and medical consumable stores, clean and dirty utility rooms, and secure drug-storage facilities.

The service expansion will be delivered over two stages, to enable the new CT and MRI scanners to become operational and improve flows through the emergency department. Construction for this phase of the project was due to commence earlier this year, and hopefully will be clinically operational by August 2023. The second stage of medical imaging works comprises construction of additional ultrasound rooms and the new PET service suite. Construction for this phase will commence after the completion of the CT and MRI suites, and hopefully be clinically operational by June 2024.

The second public work proposed by the Southern Area Local Health Network is the expansion and refurbishment of the Tarin Kowt building at the Repat Health Precinct, also known as the Repat. Established in 1941, the Repat was constructed by the commonwealth government to cater for returned service men and women. Having recently celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Repat has operated a wide range of high-quality, specialised healthcare services to the community of southern Adelaide. More recently, the Repat has focused strongly on delivering specialised subacute

care, including rehabilitation services, care for patients with complex dementia needs and transition care programs.

The Repat site consists of heritage-listed buildings, purpose-built buildings and other facilities ranging in their ability to be repurposed. Between 2019 and 2022, significant construction and refurbishment was conducted at the Repat with a budget of \$115 million. The present works are costed at \$26 million. The works are necessary to accommodate the transfer of an existing 26-bed geriatric evaluation and management (GEM) service, to be relocated from the Flinders Medical Centre to the Repat. This unit offers specialist geriatric rehabilitation services, providing comprehensive care, assessment and planning for older people in consultation with carers.

Transferring the GEM service will free up acute-bed capacity at the Flinders Medical Centre, with minimal recommissioning required for the current ward. It will move patients from a less appropriate undersized ward to a purpose-built facility, incorporating dementia-friendly design principles in a more homelike environment. A specialist heritage consultant will be engaged to follow the adaptive re-use principles that preserve the Repat's heritage value.

The Tarin Kowt building will be comprehensively refurbished and expanded to accommodate the 26-bed GEM facility. This will specifically incorporate 16 single bedrooms with ensuites, including two for bariatric patients; three double bedrooms for treating couples; and one four-bed high observation bay for patients requiring elevated levels of clinical observation. This will be particularly useful for staff to monitor people prone to strokes or other conditions.

The public works will also incorporate a communal lounge and dining area, a secondary lounge and a private sensory area. Patients will receive rehabilitation and physiotherapy in a gymnasium and allied health space. Staff will work at new stations with line of sight to patient rooms and communal areas. They will also receive new clinical workrooms, offices and a meeting room, a secure medication room, clean and dirty utility spaces and equipment stores.

SA Health recognises that providing a facility with good environmental qualities will provide a positive environment and workplace for staff and patients, supporting better healthcare outcomes and improved wellbeing. Similarly, it is appreciated that a facility that consumes less energy, reduces waste and encourages re-use of resources will provide benefits in reduced costs and environmental impact.

The project team have established formal processes to ensure that ecologically sustainable development strategies are incorporated into the project during all phases. SA Health confirms that engagement and consultation have been key themes during the concept planning stage, and consultation with various stakeholders will continue throughout the construction period.

The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to this project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were: Ms Kerrie Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Adelaide Local Health Network; Mr Mark Filipowicz, then Acting Executive Director Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; and Mr John Harrison, Director, Building Projects Across Government Services, Department for Infrastructure and Transport. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:20):** I thank the member for Florey for such a detailed assessment of these two projects that came through the Public Works Committee. Doing so in such detail allows me to touch on some of the points and other remarks I was hoping to make, particularly when it comes to the Repat, because we on this side certainly understand the value of the Repat hospital, unlike those opposite who wanted to flog it off to a private investor. Who was the minister at the time?

**Mr BROWN:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Schubert, there is a point of order which I will hear under 134.

**Mr BROWN:** I ask the member for Schubert to withdraw that accusation that I wanted to flog the Repat off to private investors.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Schubert, you may choose to withdraw and apologise.

**Mrs HURN:** I withdraw and apologise, and I will reframe: unlike those opposite, and the former Labor government, who had a plan to flog off the Repat hospital site to a private developer. As I was saying, it has not quite come to my mind who was the health minister at the time—oh, it was the member for Croydon, the now Premier of South Australia, none other than the Premier.

We on this side of the house, the Liberal Party in South Australia, have always stood up for the Repat. We listened to the calls of so many South Australians who called on us to tear up this contract and bring back health services to the Repat site and save it from sale—and that is exactly what we did. In fact, over 85,000 South Australians signed a petition begging us, urging us, to save the Repat site from private development.

They campaigned outside on the steps here at Parliament House for nearly 200 days; for 200 days these veterans, who wanted to see the Repat utilised for health services, camped outside on the steps of Parliament House, sharing their stories, and heartbroken that their only hope of seeing the Repat saved was the election of a Liberal government in 2018. That was their only option, because the then Labor government had turned its back on the people of the Repat and on their services.

In 2018 we were elected, I am pleased to report. We threw out Labor's plan and took a very different approach. We injected millions into reactivating the Repat into the modern health facility it is today. It is a state-of-the-art health hub with services to care for brain and spinal rehab patients and older mental health and dementia patients as well. It is a fantastic space

To see the Repat—which I believe is genuinely a really important legacy of Steven Marshall and his time as Premier and of Stephen Wade as health minister at the time—and to see these services at the Repat continue to expand is of great importance, not just for those living in the south of the city, in the south of South Australia, but for everyone in the state. To see this come to light really shows what a government can do when it wants to turn its mind to it. I would like to acknowledge as well the former member for Elder, Carolyn Power, who did such a great job in ensuring that the services came back to that site for her community.

On to the Flinders Medical Centre, which as the member for Florey pointed out is one of the largest emergency departments in the state. With the record ramping that we are experiencing in South Australia, it is unfortunately not surprising that Flinders is almost buckling under the pressure, under the weight of ramping in this state.

We have seen the dreadful case of a woman left lying on the floor of the ED, waiting for a bed. We learnt that storage spaces had been turned into beds at Flinders and that broom cupboards have been converted into beds. I think that is an abysmal display of the current state of our health system, so when we look at these types of projects that are coming on line I do hope that this can alleviate some of the pressure. We are naturally keen to support services like this, the medical imaging expansion, particularly in the hope that it can alleviate the pressure.

I would like to read out some of the things that are part of the report. As part of this program, we are going to be seeing more MRI. We are going to be seeing improvement in the bed block, which I think is fantastic, and it will also be providing equipment to assist the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer with research and quality of care.

With all of that in mind and the hope that it will really improve ramping in South Australia, hopefully it will improve the patient experience and ensure that people are not forced to lie on the floor waiting for a bed in the emergency department at Flinders. With those remarks, I certainly welcome the progress through the Public Works Committee. I thank the member for Florey for his lovely presidency of that committee and for putting all the detail onto the house's record.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:26):** I would just like to thank the member for Schubert for her contribution. Whilst I did not necessarily agree with all of it, I thought it was good of her to give

everyone a bit of a historical perspective on what she thinks has happened at the Repat and also for her to speak so highly of what this government is doing to invest further in better services at the Repatriation General Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre. With those words, I commend the report to the house.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: BREASTSCREEN SA RELOCATION WORKS**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:27):** I move:

That the 22<sup>nd</sup> report of the committee, entitled BreastScreen SA Relocation Works, be noted.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing, or SA Health, proposes to relocate BreastScreen SA services to 300 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, which is the former location of Calvary Wakefield Hospital. Since purchasing the site, Pelligra Group has been steadily renovating the premises, with the intention of developing the building as a health precinct.

BreastScreen SA is South Australia's dedicated breast cancer screening program, providing free screening mammograms every two years to women aged over 40. The statewide service screens around 100,000 women each year, aiming to detect breast cancer at an early stage, often before it can be felt. This improves the treatment options and health outcomes for the clients, their families and our community.

BreastScreen SA is jointly funded by the state government and the commonwealth government Department of Health. BreastScreen SA operates within Statewide Clinical Support Services, a branch of the Central Adelaide Local Health Network. There are seven fixed screening clinics in metropolitan Adelaide and three mobile screening units that visit more than 36 rural and outer metropolitan areas.

There is a single centrally located state coordination unit at 167 Flinders Street, Adelaide. Issues relating to moisture penetrating the concrete slab of the coordination unit were identified in late 2020, with various investigative, maintenance and repair works completed to address the issues. During that time, staff expressed concerns about smells and visible corrosion of aluminium frames within the facility.

BreastScreen SA, in conjunction with the Central Adelaide Local Health Network and Spotless services, commissioned environmental consultants to investigate. Their findings identified items that contributed to moisture ingress to the building. Full remediation works would have to be invasive and include removing floor tiles and internal walls to eliminate black mould and installing vapour barriers. It was therefore determined that relocating BreastScreen SA to alternative premises was the best option available.

The expected outcomes of the relocation are to, firstly, lease approximately 2,400 square metres of space at 300 Wakefield Street on a 10-year lease, with two five-year options to renew; secondly, to restore BreastScreen SA's full range of services that were previously delivered at Flinders Street by having functioning, fit-for-purpose consulting rooms; and, thirdly, a return to previous arrangements for clinical services and an end to the cross-pollination of clients in the assessment clinic and results clinic. These outcomes will allow staff currently subject to alternative working arrangements to return to the office and eliminate the risk to staff and clients of exposure to elevated levels of moisture and mould.

The total capital cost, inclusive of fit-out works, equipment purchases and relocation costs, is \$8.5 million. Of this, \$1.2 million will be contributed by Pelligra Group as a lease incentive, with another \$2 million from Pelligra for base building works, and the remaining \$5.3 million provided by the state government.

The program of works is being fast-tracked and delivered in a single package. Construction is expected to start early this year and take six to eight months to complete. The relocation to Wakefield Street is in the pre-contract stage, with builders for the respective work packages anticipated to be appointed early this year.

SA Health confirms that engagement and clinical consultation are key themes for the development and implementation of the relocation. This consultation extends to clinical and non-clinical staff, consumer reference groups and industrial bodies. SA Health confirms that consultation and engagement will continue throughout the final stages of design, with key stakeholders to remain informed of the works as they progress through construction and into service readiness. This consultation has included, but is not limited to, staff, including medical officers, nurses and allied health professionals, industry bodies, infection control and hygiene advisers.

SA Health recognises that the provision of a health facility with good environmental qualities is essential to achieving a positive, value-for-money solution and one that will assist in improving user comfort, wellbeing and assist in managing behaviours. The project team have established formal processes to ensure that the ecologically sustainable development strategies are comprehensively and systematically incorporated into the project during all phases.

The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to this project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Mr Mark Filipowicz, Acting Executive Director of Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Ms Niamh Wade, Program Director at BreastScreen SA; and Ms Necia Mickel, consultant, Walter Brooke and Associates. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered and in pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:32):** I also rise to speak to this report, and I thank the member for Florey for his opening remarks. Of course, this is the time to note progress on reports and often they can be inane on the surface, but I think this is a report worth investigating a little more. The title, of course, is BreastScreen SA Relocation Works, but my question to the house is: why are they relocating the first place?

The purpose of this report was to examine the proposal from SA Health to relocate the well-credentialled and essential BreastScreen SA services to 300 Wakefield Street. The Public Works Committee report is comprised of an executive summary, and the member for Florey has given us a good insight into the mechanics of the construction of the project, and an attachment is the longest submission. But upon reading the report, one can quickly discover that, going back to March of last year, the Department for Health and Wellbeing did approve this relocation, the purpose of which will soon be uncovered.

BreastScreen SA was identified back in March last year by the department as needing to relocate to an alternative facility, and other locations were scouted, but it was not until August last year—that is, five months later—that the Labor state government cabinet signed off on a state government contribution of \$5.3 million.

I did find some discrepancies in reading the report, a difference in costings, between the executive summary and the longer submission to the tune of \$2 million, so I concur with the member for Florey that total costings add up to \$8.5 million but the longer submission seems to suggest it is only \$6.5 million. Nevertheless, government contribution was \$5.3 million.

It is patently clear from reading this report that high humidity and moisture penetrating the concrete slab of the current accommodation, the current facility, would contribute to the risk of black mould thereby compromising the health of workers and patients. I also note, going back to May last year, the outstanding health journalism work conducted by Brad Crouch that noted that, to the fury of the Health Services Union, working conditions for staff were unacceptable. In reflecting on information that was available to the government over the course of 2020-22, post election, it was clear that something needed to happen.

The report states that while there were two options to consider only one of them could possibly be recommended. I draw to the house's attention option 2, which was to do nothing, and it certainly was not recommended. It would result in service status quo and as such was not modelled. This option put the health of staff and clients at risk, really meaning that to leave staff and clients at this location is bad for their health—and I note they are still there.

Given that construction is set to start early this year—and 'early this year' means, for those paying attention playing at home, we are one month away from the end of the first quarter and it is going to take the better part of eight months for the completion of this project. Certainly, that is only if there are no delays to this project in relation to the construction industry. I hope that Minister Picton has read page 5 of the executive summary. The member for Florey pointed to this language. It states, 'The program of works is being fast-tracked and delivered in a single package.' In this report, 'fast-tracked' means a 20-month wait.

My sympathies go out to the dedicated staff who, for over a year, have been working in suboptimal conditions. They do that to ensure that patient care is not compromised and, again, they need to sit still for another eight months before their relocation. I am certain they will breathe a deep and clean sigh of relief when that day comes. I welcome the completion of this project for them and their clients.

For those who are not familiar with their services, let me promote the importance of their work in relation to preventative health. Of course, BreastScreen SA is South Australia's dedicated breast cancer screening program, providing free screening mammograms for women who are aged between 50 and 74 every two years. The service sees around 100,000 women each year, and I would encourage women from the age of 40 to make an appointment.

BreastScreen SA has a single, centrally located state coordination unit in Adelaide and there are seven fixed screening clinics in metropolitan Adelaide, with mobile units providing rural support as well. Since opening, BreastScreen SA has performed more than two million screening mammograms—no small number—and contributed to reduced deaths from breast cancer by between 40 and 50 per cent.

I am the member for Frome, of course, and represent a country region, and it pleases me that the service that is available to country women is on constant supply. We will note that the mobile breast screening unit is visiting Berri currently until March, will be in Gawler until the end of March, then will go over to Streaky Bay. They will also have a presence in my town of Clare at the hospital with access via Webb Street. They have also been very busy at Wudinna, Victor Harbor, Cleve and Port Lincoln.

I would also like to use this opportunity to reiterate the importance of access to general practitioners in detecting and preventing cancers and other chronic health issues in our communities. As we know, there is certainly a reduced access to GPs, and that can have a significant impact on the management of chronic health issues such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and cancer. These conditions require regular monitoring and medication adjustments, which are typically managed by a primary care provider such as a GP. Reduced access to our GPs leads to an increase in acute systems, in delayed diagnosis, and to poor disease management. We all know that we are seeing an increased presentation to our emergency departments, country and city alike.

Finally, I note that it is a timely opportunity to give recognition to Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Every year in the month of February, we turn our attention to the insidious disease of ovarian cancer. As it happens, today, 23 February, is Giving Day. That means that all donations to ovarian cancer awareness will be doubled, thanks to the generous matching partners of Ovarian Cancer Australia. These donations are critical to ensuring they can continue providing support programs for people who are impacted by this disease.

I think many members in the house would have a close association with some of the cancers that we are touching on today. Only 31 per cent of Australians know that ovarian cancer has the poorest survival rate of any female cancer in Australia. I would encourage more people to get regular check-ups and to encourage their loved ones to do the same.

I reiterate that I thank the member for Florey for his opening remarks, and I commend this report to the house.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:41):** I would just like to thank the member for Frome for her contribution, and also commend the report to the house.

Motion carried.



**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: WARREN DAM OUTLET WORKS RELIABILITY PROJECT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:41):** I move:

That the 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Warren Dam Outlet Works Reliability Project, be noted.

The public works submission from the South Australian Water Corporation, or SA Water, proposes to replace infrastructure at the Warren Dam. Built on the South Para River between 1914 and 1916, the Warren Reservoir lies south-east of Williamstown in the Barossa Valley. The reservoir supplies water to 85,000 customers in the Barossa region via the South Para Reservoir; this includes Barossa Infrastructure Ltd, one of SA Water's major customers. Barossa Infrastructure Ltd has a water transport agreement with SA Water, supplying 320 irrigators in the Barossa Valley.

The Warren Dam operates through intake and scour valves that transfer water downstream to supply South Para Reservoir and Barossa Infrastructure Ltd. The valves were installed in 1916 and have never been replaced. There are currently three intakes at different elevations, allowing water to be selected at different levels for water quality purposes and to ensure supply at low water levels.

Currently, out of the three valves, only the middle intake is safe to operate. The scour valve that is used to lower the reservoir after high rainfall is located below the three intake valves. The scour valve cannot be relied upon to close after it is opened, which presents a supply risk for customers.

The project aims to deliver a reliable scour outlet so the dam can be drawn down during floods and refilled, and also provide a reliable water supply to customers. The proposed scope of works includes two new screened intake valves, a new scour valve, and a platform to operate valves manually in case of an emergency.

Construction has been planned for April to May 2023, a time of the year that has the lowest rainfall and accommodates Barossa Infrastructure Ltd during its lowest demand period. To install the new valves, the reservoir will be lowered to less than 5 per cent for the planned eight-week construction period. While the reservoir is drawn down, SA Water will reset its water network to maintain supply to all customers.

Warren Reservoir has a large stock of native fish and is one of South Australia's most popular recreational fishing spots. To minimise the risk of a mass fish kill event, the reservoir will be drawn down gradually by transferring water downstream to the South Para Reservoir. Fish removal will occur in phases, using electrofishing and sieve net power hauling to capture the fish alive without harm. Native fish will then be transported in aeration tanks and released in the downstream South Para Reservoir. Non-native fish will be recycled to compost companies.

SA Water has included the delivery of the Warren Dam outlet works project in the Water North major framework program. SA Water has stated that the procurement process for establishing this framework has been conducted in accordance with guidelines and conforms to all applicable Treasury and government policies. This project is being managed in accordance with SA Water's corporate project management methodology by a project manager from SA Water's capital planning and delivery group.

The project manager is responsible for the development and delivery of the project, including the necessary approvals and management of contractors. SA Water's environment and heritage expertise has reviewed the proposed project site and is seeking development approval from the State Planning Commission as the reservoir site has European heritage status. The design and construct contractor will be required to comply with SA Water's standard operating procedure for the discovery of Aboriginal heritage during construction, in the unlikely event that heritage is uncovered.

SA Water reports that it is completed extensive consultation with impacted stakeholders to date, which include but are not limited to local fishing groups, kayak businesses, and Barossa Council. SA Water affirms that ongoing engagement and consultation will occur throughout the project. Internal stakeholders and partner organisations are involved and will be kept informed throughout the project life cycle via progress meetings.

The committee has examined written evidence in relation to this project. Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORTS INSTITUTE NEW WORK**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:46):** I move:

That the 24<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled South Australian Sports Institute New Work, be noted.

The public works submission from the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, or ORSR, proposes to develop high-performance sports training, science, medicine and recovery facilities for the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI). Established in 1982, SASI was Australia's first state Sports Institute. Coaches, physiologists, managers and coordinators at SASI work to identify, develop and support athletes with the potential to perform at the highest national and international levels.

The existing SASI training facilities are located at Kidman Park on a school site that dates back to 1970. The site is a mix of converted education classrooms, outbuildings and transportable accommodation. These facilities have provided athletes with valuable training opportunities for many years; however, they no longer meet the needs of a contemporary elite training program. The inadequate capacity of the facilities means that coaching, training and research services often occur off site or outside of scheduled hours.

Located at the Mile End sports precinct, the international sports gateway, the proposed development consists of a multilevel building of up to three storeys. Key aims of the proposed facilities include the delivery of a purpose-built elite training environment for specialised services, including strength and conditioning, athlete recovery, altitude and heat training, human movement and biomechanics analysis; the provision of a modern inclusive and responsive facility to support coaching and athlete preparation for SASI national programs; individual athlete programs and national teams; and the enhancement of partnerships with tertiary education providers in the sports science and biomechanics teaching and research fields.

The new facilities will enhance the sport offerings on site, complementing the existing Netball SA and Athletics SA stadiums as well as the broader urban realm. Significant uplift of the car park and public realm will also be completed as part of the works. Strategically placed between the airport and the CBD, the project will offer a central city fringe location to athletes and staff and an increased possibility for active transport solutions and community interaction.

The proposed site covers an area of approximately 16 hectares. Land ownership is presently registered to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing under the management of ORSR. The total capital cost for this project, excluding GST, is \$68 million. Early construction work was scheduled to commence in February this year, with project completion in May 2024.

ORSR is the agency responsible for the operation and management of the SASI development, with an existing budget provision of approximately \$450,000 for the Kidman Park facilities. ORSR asserts that this project will seek a 5-star Green Star Building rating as a demonstration of commitment to sustainable building design and construction. This will ensure that environmental sustainable design (ESD) remains a core component of the project scope throughout the design and construction phases.

ORSR reports that a number of stakeholders have already been consulted, including the SA Tourism Commission; the Department for Infrastructure and Transport; the Office of the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing; and the City of West Torrens. The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the SASI new work project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Mr John Harrison, Director of Building Projects at the Department for Infrastructure and Transport; Mr Adam Trottman, Director of Infrastructure at the ORSR; and Mr Adam Hannon, Director at COX Architecture. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (11:50):** It is very important that the government does all that it can to ensure that we continue to promote our elite athletes for competition, not only locally and nationally but also internationally. I think this is certainly an area where South Australia has a profound history, where we do punch above our weight, and with bipartisan support I am sure this will continue to be the case.

We know that the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) project development is poised to continue to provide state-of-the-art sport research and training. Only recently, we have seen our athletes doing extremely well on a national stage and on an international stage. This facility is going to be absolutely extraordinary, and it will certainly take our capability to another level. I am very excited about this facility and what it will present, holistically.

A world-class, quality, high-performance sports facility is extremely important, and an upgrade has long been called for. Research is of course very important because we know, especially when it comes to sport, that technology is playing a larger and larger role, and it is really important that we are at the cutting edge of that. Education, whether it be in relation to technique, rehabilitation or nutrition, is extremely important. What we have here is a fantastic professional base, and I have no doubt that this will continue to develop that.

This development aims to provide our athletes and their teams with amazing training technology. It will be some of the most up-to-date training technology in the world, and I think this will be a facility that we are going to be extremely proud of, once it is completed.

The contemporary training facilities will be fully integrated as well. We also have the medical facilities. These athletes, especially when they are ramping up for an event, are really pushing it to the limit, really pushing their bodies to the absolute max, and it is really important that we have substantial medical facilities that support those athletes.

Then, of course, there is recovery—not dissimilar from another project that the former government was able to assist with funding, in relation to Memorial Drive, for example. I had the privilege of actually going there and seeing the cryotherapy facilities. Things have certainly come a long way from, say, 15 or 20 years ago, when people may have got one of those bins and stuffed it full of ice and cold water, and that was your cryotherapy. Now you have cutting-edge technology, not only at Memorial Drive. This facility is going to have all that type of up-to-date equipment so that they can get the best out of athletes' rehabilitation. After the charity soccer game on the weekend, I wish I had a cryotherapy facility because I am still feeling it today. Anyway, I digress. Recovery facilities are extremely important.

The development will be situated at what is the Mile End sports precinct. Recently, I was at that sporting precinct. We should be really proud of what we have there, but it is time to take it to the next level—and we certainly will take it to the next level. Only recently, all eyes were on South Australia for the athletics meet that we had at Mile End. I was even fortunate enough to meet Bruce McAvaney. That was a very special moment.

This development will be situated at the Mile End sports precinct. As I said, it is nearby to the SA Athletics Stadium and the Netball SA Stadium, which would turn this into an athletics district, if you like. It is so close to the airport as well, which has enormous benefits. It will be like an urban sports hub, covering about 16 hectares. This multistorey building will complement the surrounding facilities, such as the Netball SA Stadium and also the SA Athletics Stadium, as mentioned.

The design, from what we have seen conceptually, I have to say is very sleek and very modern as well, as you would expect it to be. I have had the pleasure as a visitor, not as an athlete, of visiting the AIS in Canberra. It is really important that these facilities are done in the best way possible because they also present a tourism element, believe it or not. There will be people who want to come here and actually see these facilities, so it is really important that we put our best foot forward when it comes to these facilities.

This will complement the modern facilities within the development. We know that this building will be fit with a number of workspaces. These workspaces will be agile for the athletes themselves. There will even be a full-sized indoor smart court in the western side of the building. These smart courts are amazing. They allow for a whole range of sports to be played and catered for as well.

As mentioned, the facility will also come equipped with a state-of-the-art athlete recovery centre. I will talk a little bit about the recovery centre. We obviously know about the benefits of that and why it is so important. Obviously, ice pools are becoming more and more popular, and more and more utilised, to ensure that the athlete can be rehabilitated as fast as possible. It is also important that you have more traditional methods, like saunas.

Recently, at Government House, I met a whole range of athletes; in fact, some of the boxers. One thing I asked them was, 'How do you get down to weight?' because it is quite a relentless training regime that some of these men and women go through. It is really important that they use whatever methods they can—legally, of course—to get down to weight. It is quite a struggle at times. There are then the therapeutic spas that are used for recovery and, of course, shower, toilet and bathroom facilities. It is really important that athletes also have the best equipment, and to make sure that these facilities provide the dignity to be able to get changed and get ready.

We know that the eastern side of the facility will boast the strength and conditioning gym. It will be fitted with weights and cardio-training systems. Weights are obviously very important for strength training and conditioning. I believe you, sir, like to do the odd bench press in the Adelaide Hills at times. As I said, there will be cardio-training systems, which is very important to maintain and keep that motor running.

I also note that this facility will host a wellbeing space, equipped with physiotherapists and sport psychologists. Sports psychology is an area that I am really interested in: the psychology of what it takes to be a leading team and a leading athlete. Of course, I would know nothing about being a leading athlete. It is very important that these athletes are equipped with the psychological tools so that they can go into battle. This will also create many more jobs in this space as well.

South Australia produces fantastic athletes, and it will be a great achievement not only to keep them here and offer them the facilities they deserve but also to perhaps draw athletes from interstate and turn Australia into an athletic powerhouse. In summarising, we know that the Mile End SASI development is an amazing piece of infrastructure, and we look forward to seeing its development.

Debate adjourned.

### *Bills*

## **NATIONAL GAS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (EAST COAST GAS SYSTEM) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 February 2023.)

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (12:01):** I rise to speak in support of the National Gas (South Australia) (East Coast Gas System) Amendment Bill 2022, and wish to preface my remarks by saying how much I appreciate the support of the minister's office in providing me not only with a comprehensive briefing but also assisting me to put together a contribution on this bill.

While this bill is labelled 'South Australia', it is one of the national energy reforms that will affect all the markets on the eastern seaboard. It has emerged because of the significant challenges that occurred in the east coast gas markets in 2022, particularly in Victoria.

The Energy Ministers' Meeting, which brings together states, territories and the commonwealth, agreed in August last year that these challenges must be addressed urgently, particularly because of analysis by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Australian Energy Market Operator forecasting risks of gas supply shortfalls emerging this year.

It is instructive to consider the position as outlined in the discussion paper published under the aegis of the energy ministers. This is what the consultation paper said:

The Australian gas supply-demand balance has been tightening over recent years due to the gradual fall in southern gas reserves and increasing reliance on gas from Queensland. The supply-demand balance is expected to deteriorate further, with AEMO forecasting the risk of substantial declines in production in southern states from next year.

This situation means the domestic east coast gas market has become more susceptible to external shocks. For example, in 2022 the global pandemic recovery and the resource availability impacts resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine increased international demand for Australian gas (in the form of liquefied natural gas). Concurrently, coal generator outages and lower renewable energy generation during winter 2022 increased domestic gas demand for gas-powered generation. This confluence of factors, amongst others, led to record high spot prices during mid 2022 and interventions from the Australian Energy Market Operator to address supply adequacy risks in the Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market (DWGM).

The ACCC and AEMO have cautioned that domestic gas supply adequacy has deteriorated substantially since early 2022. AEMO's Gas Supply and Systems Adequacy Risk report and the ACCC's July 2022 Gas Inquiry interim report have both highlighted increased risk of peak day and seasonal gas supply shortfalls in the southern states in winter 2023.

In response to these warnings of risks to gas supply, which would have severe and wide-ranging impacts, the energy ministers' forum agreed that the Australian Energy Market Operator must immediately be given improved visibility of the market and enhanced powers to manage supply adequacy and reliability risks. This bill seeks precisely to achieve those outcomes.

The key intent of the bill is firstly to provide AEMO with the ability to monitor the interconnected east coast gas system, secondly to seek market responses to resolve any emerging risks, and thirdly to enable AEMO to more directly intervene if market responses are not forthcoming. This is the first phase of two, to ensure that AEMO has multiple options to better manage any forecast threats for winter 2023. The second phase is intended to cover matters that are either less urgent or need a longer time to develop.

The bill formalises the existing gas supply guarantee (GSG) through gas supply adequacy and reliability conferences (GSARCs), which is the approach used in the existing GSG to enable AEMO to (a) monitor market conditions, (b) identify any threats of a gas supply shortfall that could affect the operation of gas power generation in the National Electricity Market during peak demand periods and (c) convene conferences of relevant gas market participants to assess the likelihood of a shortfall and call for a market response or determine whether a market response has occurred.

While some information will be made available to AEMO in assessing supply adequacy through the gas market transparency reforms recently introduced through the National Gas (South Australia) (Market Transparency) Amendment Act 2022, these amendments do not provide sufficiently frequent data to ensure AEMO can adequately monitor gas supply adequacy across the east coast system on an ongoing basis.

To ensure AEMO has the necessary information to undertake its new function, a regulatory framework will set out additional disclosure obligations on certain industry participants over specific forecast periods. In addition to those explicit additional disclosure requirements, the regulatory framework will enhance AEMO's ability to seek specific information relevant to exercise its functions from a wide range of entities, including gas producers, pipeline operators, storage providers and larger users.

AEMO will develop procedures in parallel with the development and implementation of the legislative amendments which is consulted with stakeholders. AEMO will publish any necessary procedures and guidelines as soon as practicable once the legislative amendments commence. AEMO does not currently have the ability to issue directions in the broader east coast gas market. The regulatory reforms set out a range of directions powers, which are similar to those which AEMO can use in relation to the Victorian Declared Wholesale Gas Market (GWGM) but modified to be more generally applicable to the east coast gas system as a whole.

The directions capability will be comparable to similar powers which AEMO has in the National Electricity Market. These direction powers will provide AEMO with a range of specific options. Directions may relate to the operation, maintenance or use of any equipment, the control of the flow of natural gas, or any other matter that may affect the reliability or supply adequacy of the east coast gas system.

Should the market fail to respond, the bill will give AEMO the power to manage reliability and supply adequacy threats through seeking further information, engaging the market to identify and implement actions, including trading in gas. This may include related services, such as procurement

of pipeline services or services provided by a compression service provider or a storage provider, as well as directing participants in the market to better manage existing issues.

During consultation on the bill, several stakeholders raised concerns about AEMO being able to issue directions to market players and concerns about AEMO being able to trade. It should be noted that the bill, in section 91AF(2), specifies that AEMO may only exercise these powers if it is 'of the opinion that the giving of the direction is necessary to prevent, reduce or mitigate an actual or potential threat'. Therefore, AEMO will not have unfettered capability to intervene in the market.

The draft rules on this issue say that, without limiting the matters AEMO may consider, AEMO may consider the following before issuing a direction:

- (a) the time within which AEMO considers an actual or potential threat is likely to manifest;
- (b) the magnitude of the actual or potential threat relative to the impact of giving or not giving a direction;
- (c) the time within which action is, or will be, required to prevent, reduce or mitigate an actual or potential threat;
- (d) the impact of the giving of a direction on consumers, market participants and other entities;
- (e) the impact of the giving of a direction on the operation of the east coast gas system, including its effect on the relevant markets;
- (f) alternative actions that may be taken by AEMO, including seeking a market response, that could result in the same or substantially similar outcomes to those achieved by giving the direction;
- (g) the reasonable ability of a relevant entity to whom a direction is given to comply with the direction within the time frame specified in the direction;
- (h) safety or technical requirements under jurisdictional legislation;
- (i) the operation or use of emergency powers within each affected jurisdiction; and
- (j) whether the direction will, or is likely to, contribute to the achievement of the national gas objective.

When it comes to trading by AEMO, this bill allows for the establishment of a trading fund of \$35 million. The fund can be topped up annually to the \$35 million level. In the context of a market where hundreds of millions of dollars of gas are traded, the AEMO fund is very modest. Clearly, the intention is that AEMO will only trade in very rare circumstances when absolutely necessary. Similarly to issuing a direction, AEMO will consider a range of factors before it commences trading.

In winter last year, gas prices spiked to unacceptably high levels, and Victorian gas shortages were drained to levels which were unacceptably low. The community, both businesses and households, are not prepared to accept such outcomes in a nation which is blessed with bountiful reserves of gas. Accordingly, this bill contains measures which are necessary to ensure supply is reliable. I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:11):** I rise in support of the National Gas (South Australia) (East Coast Gas System) Amendment Bill 2022. This bill aims to address the risk of supply shortfalls in the east coast gas system. It follows the winter of 2022 when supply was extremely tight, particularly in Victoria. Of course, supply and price are closely related. Tight supply will push up prices, and consumers want both reliable supply and affordable prices. Therefore, this bill's focus on supply will be a major lever in ensuring prices do not return to the unacceptable heights of last year.

In a report last month as part of an ongoing inquiry into gas, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission recorded what happened in the middle of last year. This is what the ACCC reported:

Prices offered for 2023 supply in the domestic market increased significantly from mid-2022.

- We observed record high prices for bids and offers as well as some of the highest spreads and average prices in the Gas Inquiry to date.
- Producer offers reached an average of \$19.77/GJ with a spread of \$10.15/GJ-\$65.25/GJ between March and August 2022...
- Between March and August 2022, retailer offers to commercial and industrial (C&I) users averaged \$20.01/GJ, 103% more than the previous 6 months, with prices offered ranging from \$10.56/GJ-\$36.04/GJ.

The ACCC observed that not only did prices reach record levels but that many offers were made on very short-term contracts, if at all. This had a detrimental effect on major commercial and industrial users.

The ACCC surveyed 19 major businesses, which collectively account for more than 40 per cent of industrial demand. All of the 19 businesses said they were extremely concerned about high prices. This was compounded by problems in securing supply. These were some of the comments made by businesses to the ACCC.

- 'Only one wholesaler had any volumes to market for 2023...far less wholesalers are marketing gas volumes for years 2023-24 compared to normal.'
- '[There has been a] significant decrease in offers, particularly in 2023 where it is effectively impossible to secure a firm offer for gas supply...there are almost no offers available.'
- 'There seems to be less supply offers to the domestic market due to the high export prices into Europe/overseas.'
- 'It seems that people who need supply for next year are in big pain.'

It is untenable for such a situation to continue. At a commonwealth level, the Labor Party's return to government has seen decisive action, ending the paralysis of 10 years of the Liberal-National Coalition on energy policy.

In the first step, the commonwealth signed an updated heads of agreement with liquefied gas exporters on 29 September last year. Under the terms of the new heads of agreement, excess gas produced by the LNG producers must be offered to the domestic market for reasonable supply periods with reasonable notice, on competitive market terms and at prices no more than international customers will pay, before being offered to the international market.

LNG exporters additionally committed to increased transparency measures, including publishing offers and expressions of interest on their website to make gas available more broadly to the Australian domestic market and providing a quarterly report to the Minister for Resources outlining their respective actions and commitments.

Further, in December, federal parliament legislated temporary price caps on new gas and coal contracts. Pleasingly, the price caps appear to have had an immediate effect on prices. In his opening statement on 15 February to federal parliament's Economics Legislation Committee, the Treasury secretary, Steven Kennedy, said price rises of gas were now expected to be far less severe than earlier forecast. Dr Kennedy said:

In December, the Government announced a package of measures to moderate the sharp rise in household energy bills. The announcement included a mandatory code of conduct for gas producers, temporary price caps for wholesale coal and gas, and energy bill rebates for households to be jointly funded with the states.

Following the December announcement, National Electricity Market futures prices have declined significantly. This is consistent with the price caps on gas and coal helping to ease price pressures in the generation market. If sustained, lower futures prices will be reflected in the Default Market Offer announced by the regulator around the middle of the year.

For gas, at (Federal) Budget we expected consumer prices would rise by 20 per cent in 2022-23 and another 20 per cent in 2023-24, but now expect prices to rise 18 per cent and 4 per cent over the two years. Following the temporary intervention, we have observed a moderation in prices in the wholesale gas market.

The average east coast wholesale gas price is now sitting around the temporary 12-month price cap of \$12 per gigajoule, down from around \$20 per gigajoule in November.

While any price increases of basic utilities such as gas are not welcomed by consumers, it is good to hear that federal Treasury has now significantly downgraded its expectations on price rises.

Fixing the mess left to be cleaned up after the Liberal Party and National Party occupied government in Canberra will take time. Fortunately, at a state level, the Liberal Party was only in government for one term. Just like Canberra, it was a period where not much happened on the energy front. There were foolish decisions to privatise operation of the state-owned electricity generators and an over-reliance on building the Project EnergyConnect transmission line to New South Wales. On the gas supply front, South Australia hit the doldrums during the Marshall government period in office in comparison to the previous Labor government's final four years.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data on petroleum exploration show that in the period from 2014-15 to 2017-18, when Labor was in government, companies spent \$791 million in South Australia, seasonally adjusted. During the Marshall government's tenure, 2018-19 to 2021-22, petroleum exploration expenditure slumped to \$443.7 million or not much more than half of the previous four-year period.

Exploration is essential to ensure continued, reliable supply. The Malinauskas government will work with industry and collaborate with other jurisdictions, including the commonwealth, to ensure that consumers and businesses have access to reliable and affordable gas. This bill is one of the many measures needed to fix this mess. I commend the build to the house.

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (12:18):** The bill before this place today gives me cause to reflect on our changing energy system, a system in which our state has proudly often not just been nation-leading but world-leading, with a clear focus on renewable energy. Here we have a bill that seeks to patch up problems affecting the natural gas system, problems that need to be addressed even as we embark on the change to renewable gases, including the key development of hydrogen as a fuel gas.

This bill will give more powers to the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to obtain information and intervene in the market to ensure there is sufficient reliable supply in the east coast gas system. It has come about because the market failed to meet the expectations of businesses and households that gas should be readily available at affordable prices in a country that has vast quantities of natural gas reserves.

If market participants feel any discomfort about AEMO's enhanced powers, they should attribute that to the market failure, which came on top of the decade when Australia lacked a coherent energy policy while the Coalition in Canberra tore itself apart over climate change. Fortunately, both in Canberra and across the states Australia is now moving past the tired old climate wars and working collaboratively towards addressing climate change through sensible energy policy. Here in South Australia, the development of the hydrogen industry is a crucial component of that energy policy direction.

As I have previously shared in this place, my electorate of Elder is the proud host to the Hydrogen Park SA facility in the Tonsley Innovation District. If you have never popped by the Tonsley Innovation District, I recommend everyone do so. There is a lot of cool stuff going on. As a completely unrelated side note, one of my election commitments was to make sure toilets and a drink fountain were available there on the weekends—which is handy, because while there is a lot of exciting stuff going on there in the innovation space and the gas space during the week, on the weekends it is a wonderful place to bring your family and to teach your little ones how to ride their bikes. It is free of sunshine and free of the rain, so it is a good spot for anyone to pop down to.

That aside, the Hydrogen Park SA facility in the Tonsley Innovation District is still using the largest electrolyser in Australia—the largest—and is successfully producing hydrogen from renewable electricity. It has been blending this into the gas network for 700 homes in Mitchell Park since the year 2021 and filling tube trailers to deliver hydrogen to commercial and industrial customers. I am excited to see that the owners of Hydrogen Park SA, the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group, aims to extend that blended gas to a further 3,000 homes, businesses and institutions from early this year.

Just in case you have been living under a rock or you are one of the very few people, I am sure, who missed Tuesday's question time, the Malinauskas government is investing \$593 million in our Hydrogen Jobs Plan. With an aggressive timetable, the Hydrogen Jobs Plan will build electrolysers to manufacture green hydrogen, install storage and construct a 200-megawatt



electricity generator. The generator will provide firming services, thereby facilitating more renewable energy projects to reach financial close in South Australia. This will create more jobs, strengthen the economy and create options for South Australian businesses to develop products stamped with a big green tick of sustainability. As the world moves to a decarbonised economy, this will be a huge competitive advantage.

As we build that future, it will be important to take lessons from the system we find ourselves in now. The illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which happened a year ago today, disrupted international energy markets, particularly gas. Prices soared globally as companies and nations moved to lock in supply from sources other than Russia. Australian gas exporters looked to make quick profits exporting cargoes to the spot market, over and above their contracted obligations. High prices and tight supply then hit Australia, and those conditions led to this bill that is before us today.

As we build the hydrogen industry, it will be important that we structure the system so that we have greater resilience in Australia to withstand external shocks such as the Ukraine-Russia effect. The world is not a quiet place. There are growing international tensions. Climate change will increase these tensions further as countries compete for resources and face the need to mitigate against the worst effects of global warming.

Hydrogen will play a major role in combating runaway temperatures by providing a fuel source that does not add to greenhouse gases. In South Australia, we have a remarkable amount of sun and wind, which will power development of the green hydrogen industry. We must do so founded on a strong base of sovereign resilience. The bill before us is a reminder that markets require firm guide rails to ensure that the interests of consumers and businesses are protected while allowing entrepreneurial spirits to thrive. This bill is a necessary fix on the existing system to ensure consumers will have reliable energy supply, particularly in the winter months ahead. I commend the bill to the house.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:24):** Can I thank all the members who contributed to this debate. It is an important debate, and it is important to recognise that the Australian domestic gas security mechanism is not part of these amendments to the National Gas Law.

The mechanism is a commonwealth government initiative that is in place to ensure there is sufficient natural gas supply to meet the forecast needs of Australian energy users. Under the mechanism, if a gas supply shortfall is forecast for Australia, liquefied natural gas projects may need to limit exports. While it is quite topical at the moment as an industry, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the commonwealth government worked together to finalise the new mandatory code of conduct and a reasonable pricing framework.

The South Australian government strongly supports the gas industry as a key part of a smooth transition to a net zero carbon economy. The South Australian government looks to a successful conclusion of the development of the new framework that would balance the needs of industry for investment with the needs of consumers to have access to reasonably priced gas to support industrial development.

The bill provides new powers for the Australian Energy Market Operator to better manage the eastern Australian gas system with a strong emphasis on ensuring that the industry is better informed to manage reliability. Should the industry not be able to address reliability issues, the bill provides some additional tools for AEMO so we can manage the system, including direction powers and the ability to trade gas.

During consultation, some businesses expressed concern about providing AEMO with direction trading powers. It is important to note that the bill provides for these powers only if AEMO is of the opinion that using their power is necessary to prevent, reduce or mitigate an actual or potential threat. Before making the decision to intervene, AEMO will have to regard a number of factors including whether the industry has had time to respond, whether AEMO has engaged with affected jurisdictions, what distortionary impact there may be from an intervention, and that safety should not be compromised

This is an important piece of legislation as we are about to head towards tomorrow's national energy and climate change ministers' meeting. AEMO is an important piece of hardware that we have in the arsenal to try to maintain security of reliability of our electricity system. If markets cannot respond, if markets cannot sort these issues out, and cannot resolve and identify a threat, these reforms ensure that AEMO has the ability to intervene and to issue directions while trading in gas to the extent necessary to address the threat. This is completely reasonable in my estimation and, indeed, completely reasonable in the estimation of every single Australian jurisdiction, including the previous Morrison government, including the current Albanese government, and every state and territory government.

We all know what the key features of the bill are now after a lengthy debate. I know these reforms are difficult but they should not be confused with the broader debate about east coast gas interventions. The east coast gas interventions by the commonwealth government are quite separate, different and distinct from what we are doing as energy ministers. The commonwealth government is using its powers and its powers alone to intervene, not state-based powers. So they are different. I point this out because I think there has been some confusion in some members—not all, some—and when I say 'some' I mean 'one'. But I like him so much that I do not want to name the shadow minister.

I commend the bill to the house, and I again thank the opposition. It is difficult to be in opposition at the best of times, and it is even harder to be in opposition when you are passing legislation on behalf of the nation, as South Australia is the lead legislator here. We have a long tradition in this parliament, a long tradition, of maintaining a bipartisan approach to national reforms. The hard part about supporting national reforms is that you might not agree with those national reforms, but because they have been agreed at a COAG or national level through ministerial meetings, giving assent and cooperation to have these bills passed is difficult.

I know that when you are not involved in the negotiations and you do not have a seat at the table to discuss these reforms, it can be very, very difficult. That is the case only for the opposition in this state because the opposition in other states, whether they be Labor or Liberal, have no consideration of these matters and are not forced to vote for or against them. So it is difficult, and I thank the opposition again for their support, in both houses of parliament.

It is magnanimous of this opposition and, I think, a great example to the rest of the country of how, when South Australia is put in positions of leadership—such as being the national lead legislator for these matters—our parliament can show the way, that we can pass these reforms and pass them quickly, and that the opposition of the day, whoever it is, is prepared to bear the burden and responsibility of passing these reforms, even if they do not agree with them. This is, I think, a great insight into our parliamentary democracy here in South Australia and of how strong it is. With those few words, I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**Mr PATTERSON:** The first question is: broadly, if the gas is contracted, does AEMO have the power to instruct that gas to be placed in the east coast gas market? As such, what does that mean for contracts that have already been entered into?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** LNG exports are excluded; domestic gas contracts are included. I also point out, if I am not incorrect, that AEMO also have the power to direct generators that may be operating on contract as well to turn power on, or off, even if they are contracted to operate. These powers, while they might seem extraordinary, are in practice quite ordinary for someone operating an energy system in the nation. So yes, if you have a contract for gas and AEMO intervene, they can direct that gas but you will be compensated.

It is not as if we are seizing the asset and not compensating on just and fair terms. There is compensation on just and fair terms, and it is compensated through a formula that AEMO operates.

So the answer to that question, broadly, is yes. If you have a contract for gas to be moved somewhere, and there is an emergency that fits the criteria for AEMO, they can direct their gas. It is no different from the ability of AEMO to tell an operator to turn its generator on if needed to do so. They are exactly the same powers.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In light of that, we have had forecasts from the ACCC and AEMO over the long term as well, up to 300 petajoules, especially emerging in New South Wales and Victoria, which is about half the east coast gas domestic demand. One reason is that Victoria has their moratorium on onshore gas development, and New South Wales is taking a long time to develop some of their projects, such as Santos's Narrabri scheme. That is having an impact. Maybe that is why you thought I was confused. It is just for your assurance and the committee's assurance around understanding the difference between the safeguard mechanism and what is happening here.

They are bigger issues that are outside the scope of correcting that. However, it does have an effect on the forward nature of where we are going with the gas market. Just from South Australia's perspective, will the bill allow AEMO to direct contracted gas from South Australia into New South Wales or Victoria?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** There is one region the member forgot to mention where there is exclusion for gas exploration, and that is in the South-East of this state. He voted for, he supported and he endorsed a moratorium of 10 years on unconventional gas, yet he stands up and has the audacity to mention exploration bans on development in Victoria. There is a biblical quote that comes to mind here: 'Rather than point out the splinter in your brother's eye, how about you remove the log from your own eye before you start criticising others?' Potentially, then he would have more credibility when he got up and made statements like that.

Without wanting to start a quarrel in the house—because I have now risen above that type of behaviour in the parliament, and I want to set an example for the younger members—yes, and the problem we have is that there are politicians, like those in the previous Marshall government, who play to petty political benefits and ban gas exploration in regions causing these shortages. Narrabri is not being approved. Why? Not because of the deposit, not because of the practice, but for political considerations. There is an onshore ban on exploration of unconventional gas in Victoria. They are now moving away from it, yes, but, either way, political reasons. It is just like the 10-year moratorium on unconventional gas that the member who now asks me this question happily voted for and endorsed.

So here we are: one of the most gas rich nations in the world could potentially have shortages of gas. The member looks at me bemused, 'How could this be?' Well, look in your backyard. When you ban gas exploration, when premiers stand up in this place—like Premier Marshall did—and say, 'I don't think it's safe to explore for unconventional gas in the South-East, we are going to put a moratorium in place,' what does that tell the public? What message does that send to the public? What does it mean when the Premier of New South Wales and his energy minister, Matt Kean, will not approve Narrabri? How many more hurdles does Santos need to jump over to pass this? What is the reason for an unconventional gas ban in Victoria? What are the scientific reasons for these bans? None.

We are left at the point where, in an emergency, we may need to pass legislation because of the actions of the previous Marshall government and because of the actions of other governments in banning gas exploration and creating shortages. We may need to intervene in the system to see gas move from one jurisdiction to another to shore up the system, the same way we might move power across interconnectors to shore up systems. So while regrettable—yes.

**Mr PATTERSON:** That got there in the end. Will there be obligations on market participants to ensure contracts are in place to cover extreme circumstances to make sure they do not become uncontracted, but rather are still encouraged and incentivised to contract their positions for extreme circumstances?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We still live in a free country that has a basis of a market operation, and people will operate in the market as they see fit. They will make their contracts as they see fit. What we are giving AEMO here is basically reserve powers to intervene in that market if there is a market failure.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Can I have a supplementary?

**The CHAIR:** You can have a supplementary.

**Mr PATTERSON:** The question I was trying to delve into was: by AEMO being able to break contracts, does that mean it would be more likely that companies would not seek to contract in extreme circumstances because they can see AEMO moving in and helping them out because of this legislation?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I see where the member is going here, but that is a big risk for any company to take, because you do not know that the gas is going to be directed to you for your use. It is theoretically possible, but it is gambling in a way that is completely unlikely.

The idea that you would shorten your position on gas in the hope of an emergency and that that gas would be directed to you to maintain system security or maintain your operations does not guarantee price, it just guarantees supply—potentially. Then you have to make sure that you meet the criteria where the gas will be delivered.

I think that is an unlikely scenario. If anyone does do that they are not fit to be in business, because it is gambling with shareholders' or your investors' money on a grand scale that is probably not likely to pay off.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Has there been a Regulatory Impact Statement undertaken for this package?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** No; this is a national reform not a state-based reform.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In past bills we have seen coming out of the energy ministers' national laws they have had regulatory impact statements attached to them as part of the consultation.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The world is in a very different position to where we were previously. There is an outbreak of hostilities in Europe and there is a national gas crisis and an international gas crisis, so we acted quickly and swiftly. We did this out of the crisis in 2022 and we are trying to have it in place before we get to the same position in 2023, so there was little or no time. This is the official advice I have received:

Given the limited time available to consult on the changes which are required to be implemented before winter 2023, energy ministers have agreed to:

- a post-implementation regulatory impact assessment being completed by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water within 12 months of introduction of stage I reforms; and
- the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) conducting a review of the entire framework within three years.

**Mr PATTERSON:** That helps, and probably answers the other questions. I was just making sure that was the case before I asked this question, and perhaps you could confirm it to make sure I heard you correctly. There will be a Regulatory Impact Statement undertaken post implementation: could you just reiterate whether that is 12 months or 36 months?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Twelve months.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Clause 2 is done and there are no questions for clause 3.

Clause passed.

Clause 3 passed.

Clause 4.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Maybe you could help the committee by talking through what other types of directions AEMO could make, some examples of them?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am advised the powers are very, very broad. They can make capacity available in pipelines, they can direct storage be emptied, they can direct storage be filled, they can direct gas be moved from one jurisdiction to another. We want to make sure that as a nation we can respond to an energy crisis in a time of international conflict, to make sure that Australians are able to know that their governments and their government institutions are making sure that we are moving energy to the places that require the stable functioning of a nation.

They are remarkable powers, but I point out to the shadow minister that when ETSA was privatised the previous Olsen government removed powers of direction from an energy minister. Every other jurisdiction kept those powers even if they privatised their assets. Those powers enabled ministers to move and direct generation on or off, move gas, direct utilities to do certain things. It is not unusual.

Post privatisation and with the implementation of the National Electricity Market and having an Australian Energy Market Operator in place, a lot of those directional powers need to be expanded to include powers that state-based ministers might have so that they can operate on a national level. I think the powers that they are asking for are broad and great, and I think we have sufficient safeguards in place to make sure that they are not abused and still maintain, importantly, an investment framework.

This is the balancing act, which I think he is concerned about. We have these powers of direction in a crisis, but will that limit in a free market investment of private capital? I would say to the member that when Victoria privatised its assets it maintained all of its powers of direction—all of them. It did not stop private investment.

In this state, to maximise the sale price of the privatised assets, the Liberals removed those powers of direction. Labor reinserted those powers of direction after the statewide blackout. While powers of direction may seem abhorrent to some free-market radicals, I think in a system where we are talking about essential utilities and monopolies we need to have powers of intervention. We have independent regulation of monopoly assets. It does not stop private investment; in fact, it probably encourages it. They have powers of direction; people are still investing.

If you want to talk about investment barriers, I think arbitrary bans on exploration activity as introduced by the shadow minister or supported by the shadow minister, have a bigger impact on investment than these types of powers. Even the private sector recognises that the state in an emergency will have control over assets. It is no different from police cordoning off a road, no different from an energy minister directing generation on if there is a shortfall or we need to stabilise the grid.

It is no different from police having powers to forcibly remove people from bushfire areas. It is no different from powers that the state might have during a global pandemic to confine people to their homes. For things that we would normally find abhorrent in a free society, for the greater good and the benefit of the state and its people, we need to sometimes give extraordinary powers to regulators. In the same way the police commissioner gets extraordinary powers during a natural disaster, this is no different.

I accept his concerns. I think they are rational concerns. Why would a private investor make this investment if their investment can be usurped for the greater good? But there are compensation measures in place along the entire process so you do not miss out. If there is forced action by a private operator or a private owner, there is compensation in place. We are not just simply usurping the products and the assets without compensating; of course we are providing compensation.

**Mr PATTERSON:** When these directions are put in place, what is the term or timespan over which these directions would apply?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** They will be specified each and every time these directions are put in place. It depends on the nature of the emergency.

**Mr PATTERSON:** When these directions are put in place, what matters would AEMO be required to consider before deciding to issue a direction?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am advised that these are the broader principles, which I will read into *Hansard*. It must have regard to the following principles when deciding whether to

exercise its directions function to the extent that AEMO considers appropriate given the nature, timing or circumstance of identified risk or threat:

- The industry should be given a reasonable period of time to take action to mitigate, identify the risk or threat.
- Coordination with affected jurisdictions should commence in a timely manner.
- Distortionary impacts on the east coast gas system and industry and consumer costs on which AEMO has valid information should be, to the extent reasonably practicable, minimised, and safety should not be compromised.

It must consult with any entity that it intends to direct to the extent it considers appropriate given the nature, timing or circumstance of the risk or threat on: the proposed direction; the ability of the relevant entity to reasonably comply; safety or technical issues relevant to the compliance with a direction; and the need for related directions to be given in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, the proposed direction. For example, a direction to a shipper may need to be given with or as an alternative direction to a pipeline service provider.

It must provide a relevant entity with written notice of the direction and include the information specified in the rules; publish a notice as soon as reasonable practical after the exercising of a direction function to alert the rest of the market to the exercise of this function; and publish a post-intervention report within four months of the exercise of this function. The bill also requires AEMO to develop guidelines relating to the performance or exercise of its direction functions within three months of the commencement of the act.

Clause passed.

Clause 5.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Will the scope of AEMO's powers be set out in the National Gas Law and National Gas Rules, and not the procedures?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Just to make it completely confusing, there will be the national rules which will govern the procedures, which will then have guidelines. Remember the bureaucracy is developing these rules, so we do not want to make them understandable and easy; we want to make them as difficult as possible! So we will be using the existing national law to develop the guidelines and the procedures. There you go—simple.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Yes, that is true, and so AEMO's powers and their scope are held within the actual laws and rules as opposed to procedures. We are constraining what AEMO is able to do via rules and laws, and it is not just bleeding out into procedures as part of the parliamentary oversight.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes.

Clause passed.

Clause 6.

**Mr PATTERSON:** What consideration has been given when making the functions and powers to AEMO so as not to distort either market outcomes or investment incentives?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** That is a good question. I am not naive to the impacts of interventions in markets and their distortionary impact. Whenever you intervene in the market, you will have a distortionary impact; but these are emergency powers for emergency cases.

No-one operates in a market, any market, without emergency powers. Even the stock exchange in every free country stops trading of assets on announcements, and they have emergencies, they shut down markets, things occur. There is no market anywhere in the Free World where there are not powers of intervention in a crisis.

While we try to minimise the impact and the distortionary impacts of interventions, we are talking about gas shortages because of a war in Ukraine, in Europe. In continental Europe now there are tanks and artillery being fired being supplied by great powers, and we do not know how it ends

but we do know the impacts, and the impacts are that there is now a global shortage of gas. The world is trying to deal with that, and there could be further shocks depending on what occurs. The country is preparing itself to have the ability to intervene.

Will there be distortionary impacts on the market? Yes. I will give you an example. In the last term of the Marshall government, there was not one single merchant investment in new generation in South Australia—not one, no thermal generation at all—none. The only merchant investment was by AGL in Barker Inlet when I was the minister previously under the Weatherill government. That is it. Generators were leased but they were not new purchases. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

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

#### *Petitions*

### **HAHNDORF BYPASS**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen):** Presented a petition signed by 2,636 residents of the Hahndorf Community Association, and residents of Hahndorf and greater South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate action to build a bypass at Hahndorf that has the least amount of impact on dwellings, properties, businesses, heritage and the environment.

### **TUMBY BAY JETTY**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders):** Presented a petition signed by 1,459 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to invest significant funding to ensure the long-term future of the Tumbay Bay Jetty.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis) on behalf of the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016—Instrument of Delegation

Summary Offences Act 1953—

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

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

### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call for questions without notice, I recognise the presence in the gallery of a number of students from Concordia College, the year 12 legal studies class, who are guests of the member for Unley. I also recognise the presence in the gallery of Murray and Margaret Klemm from Angaston, who are guests of the member for Schubert.

#### *Question Time*

### **TORRENS TO DARLINGTON PROJECT**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:01):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Has the Acting Premier received confirmation from the Prime Minister that the federal government will fund half of the Torrens to Darlington section of the north-south corridor and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 1 November the Treasurer said that the north-south corridor would be paid for:

... with taxes raised by the commonwealth government and it will be paid for through taxes raised by the South Australian government. If you want the answer to who is paying for it—well, all of us and many other Australians are. That's the simple truth of it.

Yet the Torrens to Darlington stage of the north-south corridor did not appear on any of federal Labor's budget papers.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:02):** The federal budget, I understand, is in May, and I understand that the Prime Minister, who was the former infrastructure minister, is a great fan of the north-south corridor. Indeed, you could argue he is the father of the north-south corridor. Indeed, he is someone who has a deep, abiding affection for our state. He is here right now with the Premier, and he is someone who I know will do everything he can to make sure that South Australians get the very best outcome out of the commonwealth government.

**Mr Tarzia:** Talk is cheap. Show us the money.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** So are interjections—and if you have a question, make one. If you don't, sit quietly.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will not respond. The minister will direct his comments through the Chair and to the question.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** While the question is out of order, given that I am not responsible for the commonwealth budget and neither is the South Australian government, across the forward estimates we have over \$9 billion available between the state and commonwealth governments for the Torrens to Darlington project. We inherited a project that was substandard. We inherited a project—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hartley is warned for a second time. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** In fact, it was so substandard that the previous government actually believed that you could exit the tunnels to come onto Anzac Highway with a single-lane exit, landing in the middle of—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Unley is warned; the member for Badcoe is warned.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**Ms Stinson:** It beggars belief.

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is important to note that when this project—which ran through a number of seats that the then government wanted to hold, they were comprehensively and roundly defeated in those seats. Why? In a large part due to their tin ear to the public about how they conducted themselves with their consultation and compulsory acquisitions, in direct comparison to the approach taken by this government. We have seen a more consultative approach, we have been talking to the local community, we have been working with them, we have come up with a new program that is appropriately funded—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —and realistic in its delivery. The previous government thought that they could build the north-south corridor for \$9.9 billion, and the advice from my



department was that this was not feasible. Indeed, I am advised that they even believe, the department even believes, that the project we inherited was unbuildable.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The chief executive we inherited, Mr Braxton-Smith, the first briefing I received from him was, 'I think we're going to need more money,' because I think they were trying to meet a political deadline rather than an engineering deadline. It is important to note that we put the politics to one side and actually engaged with our local community about this build and how it would impact South Australians. The elevated roadways are gone, the canopy has been saved, we are seeing more investment in green spaces, more connectivity, and the results speak for themselves.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Flinders.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:06):** My question is to the Minister for Local Government. Does the minister stand by his comments made here on Tuesday and, if so, can he specify the provisions in the legislation that precluded the minister from receiving a briefing? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** On Tuesday, the minister stated in this house that 'the way the legislation was, it precluded anyone from politics to actually get a briefing from the Electoral Commissioner'.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Flinders please be seated. There is a point of order under 134.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It seems to me that the practice of the House of Assembly is the shadow minister is asking for a legal opinion on a piece of legislation. It is clearly out of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Chaffey! I will hear the member for Morialta on the point of order that has been raised by the member for West Torrens.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The standards of this house have always upheld a practice whereby a formulation of words 'does the minister stand by his comments that' and then an explanation, have been accepted for generations. The minister's point of order is bogus, I would submit, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** It may be that if the member has fallen into error, and I am not proposing to make a ruling because I will give the member an opportunity to rephrase, it is in introducing something that is purported to be a fact. It may be that the question can be cast simply at the outset without necessarily seeking leave.

**Mr TELFER:** Does the minister stand by his comments made here on Tuesday in this house, and with your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** On Tuesday, the minister stated in this house that 'the way the legislation was, it precluded anyone from politics to actually get a briefing from the Electoral Commissioner'. However, yesterday in the other place, the Attorney-General stated:

I am not aware of a specific part of the Electoral Act that would prohibit the Electoral Commissioner from speaking to the Minister for Local Government.

**The SPEAKER:** That question might fall into error for a different reason but I am going to allow it.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (14:08):** I thank the member for his question. First up, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a statement I made yesterday in this place in response to a question from the member for Flinders. In providing information on the role of the independent Electoral Commissioner and the importance of this independence, I stated that the Local Government Elections Act precludes any person involved in formal politics from receiving a briefing on matters from the Electoral Commissioner.

I would like to clarify that the legislation, of course, does not preclude this. Contextually, my comment was focused on the Electoral Commissioner's independence. The Electoral Commissioner's remit is given to him by the parliament and his role in an independent role. There is no basis on which I might demand or expect a briefing from him on how he runs the election process for which he has been given responsibility. Political interference in a democratic process is irresponsible. I respect the commissioner's ability to run elections without demands or interference from myself, and I rely on the commissioner to alert me on issues that I may need to be aware of, as he did in this instance when he advised me.

Mr Telfer might benefit from learning about the democracy that allows him to deny his responsibility—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** —of advocating for the legislative change that has delivered this—

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, please be seated. There is a point of order. The member for Badcoe is now on three warnings. Member for Chaffey, you are warned. I will hear the member for Morialta.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Thank you, sir. It's against standing orders to refer to members by their names. It's against standing order 98 to debate, and it's not usual practice to try to have a go in the middle of a humiliating apology.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The path to resolve this might be somewhat pragmatic, but nevertheless I will hear from the member for West Torrens.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Sir, without wanting to interfere with your processes, that last point of order takes advantage of the standing orders in a way that diminishes the house. To put in that flourish at the end is unparliamentary and diminishes the ability of all members to raise points of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Morialta.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Sir, I apologise for the last part that so offended the member for West Torrens.

**The SPEAKER:** Very well. That was the pragmatic resolution I was seeking.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister is reminded that standing order 98 is one of the most significant, of course, that controls debate. I bring the minister to the question. Minister.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think that I have explained it adequately enough. My intention was, when I spoke about it yesterday, to point out the independence of the Electoral Commissioner from this house here, and I stand by that. I have sought Crown advice, and my advice is that, when I said the statement, I also had a contradictory comment a bit later on in my *Hansard* yesterday. Certainly, at the end of the day, I think we need to look at the long-term opportunities and then make certain, going forward, that we have the best opportunity for local government elections, and specifically for councillors going forward, to make certain that we get the right opportunity.

I have offered to have discussions with the shadow minister, at any time, about issues impacting local government elections, and local government in particular. Certainly, whilst I may have said that yesterday, my context was to be able to state the importance of the Electoral Commissioner away from this house, in particular.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:12):** My question is to the Minister for Local Government. Did the minister receive any correspondence from the Electoral Commission regarding late receipt of campaign donation returns? If so, was this prior to 6.30pm on Wednesday 8 February?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (14:12):** I thank the member for his question. I think I have mentioned in this house, in answering questions before, that the conversation—which I reported in this house, as I understand it—was that I was advised by the Office of Local Government on about 6.30 on the Wednesday night in the last sitting of parliament. I haven't got the exact date here. My information is that the Electoral Commissioner advised the Office of Local Government late in the afternoon of that particular day. As I said in this house previously, I was advised about that the very next day, the last sitting in the last session of parliament, which was on the Thursday—and again, I have not got the specific dates here.

But I think I have reported this in this house before, about the timing and when I was advised about the issue that we have confronted. We had that discussion yesterday, regarding putting the bill through this house, and I congratulate everybody for putting the bill through so quickly. I look forward to the speedy passage through the upper house so that we can get it through the whole system.

Then, on the Thursday, I asked for a briefing from the Electoral Commissioner. I stand corrected: I think it was about 11.30 or 12 o'clock on that day, and at 2 o'clock that afternoon, on the Thursday, the last sitting of the parliament, I made a ministerial statement in this house about the exact time frame and when I was advised and when I made the ministerial statement. I think that's the duration and the direction of that, to answer the member for Flinders' question.

### RESIDENTIAL LAND RELEASE

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (14:14):** My question is to the Minister for Planning. Can the minister inform the house about the single largest release of land in this state's history, and what the next steps look like?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:14):** I thank the member for Light for his question. On 12 February, the government announced the single largest future release of residential land in South Australia's history. The areas of Hackham and Sellicks Beach, in the south, and Concordia and Dry Creek, in the north, have been allocated for residential development, and I can inform the house that the work has already commenced within the Department for Trade and Investment, Planning and Land Use Services, to prepare these greenfield sites for development.

The 235 hectares of land at Hackham has already been rezoned as a Master Planned Neighbourhood Zone. This land will make way for approximately 2,000 additional homes and sits within the proposed new suburb of Onkaparinga Heights, which is now currently open for consultation. With civil works on this site to begin shortly, and building to commence next year, this site will be the first to become one of the state's newest communities.

Infrastructure investigations and planning to initiate a code amendment for Sellicks Beach have also begun, with the expectation that 1,700 homes will be built on that site. I commend the City of Onkaparinga for their work in the preparation of the Sellicks Beach Structure Plan that provides the government with a foundation for the development of this land. The structure plan recognises the challenges of infrastructure delivery, and the collaborative nature in which rezoning and development on this site will need to progress.

Work has also already started on the master plan process for Concordia, and I commend the member for Light in particular for his longstanding engagement with landowners in Concordia and for his advocacy for the infrastructure and planning required to ensure that we make this development a success. I am pleased to advise the house that a working group has been established with the Concordia Land Trust and the department to plot the development of the 10,000 homes to be built.

Finally, there is Dry Creek with some 830 hectares, 20 minutes from the Adelaide CBD. This is the most complex of the sites the government has announced but discussions have already begun with landowners, Renewal SA and the department, as we seek to jointly prepare a master plan for the 10,000 homes we expect to build.

To tackle the infrastructure complexities and to prevent the mistakes made with previous rezonings, this government has established the Infrastructure and Planning Development Unit within the Department for Trade and Investment. This unit, called for by the development sector, will be tasked with the coordination of infrastructure and utilities planning. That will ensure that future communities in South Australia that people will call home will be strong, vibrant and livable from the moment people move in.

I was really pleased to stand with the Premier, the Treasurer and the member for Hurtle Vale in Hackham when we announced the land release to shape our state and its residential growth patterns into the future. Both the UDIA and the Master Builders Association were also supportive advocates for this. Will Frogley, one of the Leader of the Opposition's least favourite stakeholders, made the announcement, and I quote, that this was 'great news for any South Australian who dreams of owning their own home, and for all the builders, tradies and apprentices in our state.' Doesn't our announcement stand in contrast to the previous four years, where just a meagre 185 hectares was rezoned?

**Mr Patterson:** Thanks for all the infill—we love it.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morphett!

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We know that restricting land supply hurts all South Australians, and that's why this government backs the dream of South Australians who want to own their own home. We want to make it possible for them. That's why we have commenced this process to bring 2,186.5 hectares of land to the market so that all South Australians can have a home of their own.

#### **NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier clarify how many jobs will be secured for South Australia for the future nuclear-powered submarines? If so, will he communicate this to his Minister for Defence and Space Industries? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** This morning on radio, the Minister for Defence and Space Industries initially claimed that South Australia would secure 5,000 jobs for the future submarines but shortly afterwards said, 'Don't stake on the 5,000,' as she was unsure what it really is.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Premier, I just observe a tendency of the leader to add a rhetorical flourish at the end of the introduction of purported facts. Of course, it is contrary to standing orders.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:19):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question, but I have a newsflash for the Leader of the Opposition: the AUKUS decision is set to be made in about a month's time. It has not yet been publicly announced, and we are

not aware of what that will be. It will be that decision that directly informs the job numbers that will be publicly aerated, no doubt.

What I can definitely say is that the prospect of building nuclear submarines means many, many thousands of jobs here in the state of South Australia, and that is something we can all be collectively very excited about. In fact, what I am particularly excited about is having a bit of policy certainty, when it comes to building submarines, for the first time in a decade. We know that since about 2012, when the opposition's federal colleagues were in charge, we've chopped and changed policy—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —countless times around what type of submarines are going to be built.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I think the first iteration of the Liberal Party's submarine policy—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —was to build them in Japan.

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Well, what a brilliant idea that was; so much so that it helped take out—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —the Prime Minister at the time—

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

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —and that is not the least of it, because the former member for Sturt—

*Mr Cowdrey interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —was paranoid about the prospect of losing his own seat. Of course, we know that was on the back of the extraordinary—

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hartley, it is your final warning.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —advocacy of the former Labor government. So here we are, a decade after those opposite were sitting back silent at the prospect of submarines being built in Japan, a decade after we faced the prospect then of—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —a competitive evaluation process that was going to deliver us the Germans and ended up delivering us the French, and then, just at the point that we were about to see a thousand people employed—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is warned for a final time.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —by Naval, of course the commonwealth changed its decision yet again and we replaced that contract with an 18-month evaluation process, which is about to conclude. I am very proud of the fact that the current federal government actually understand that we cannot keep chopping and changing policy in respect of submarines.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is on a final warning.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What we now have is a government in charge that understands that this program, this project, is fundamentally material to the future security of our nation and, more than that, represents a massive economic opportunity—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —for the future of our state. We anticipate the commonwealth honouring its commitment to make a decision in the month of March and make an announcement with respect to what submarines are being built right here in Adelaide. From that point onwards we will get on with seeing that the private sector invests accordingly around it.

As a state government, what we are doing is fulfilling our end of the bargain of actually developing the skills and the workforce that will be required to get the submarines built. The shipbuilding college the member for Morialta mentions is the only college I know of that didn't have any students, so it is little wonder—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —that it didn't stand the test of time.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Taylor!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Most colleges and education institutions tend to have students. My government is about educating the students, whether it be with programs like 3-year-old preschool, technical colleges in schools or university amalgamation, to make sure we know—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is on a final warning.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —that we have the skills and the workforce that is required to deliver the submarines of the future here in our state, not just for our state's benefit but for our nation's benefit as a whole.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta is on his third final warning.

#### FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:23):** My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of any patients being given beds in storage spaces at Flinders Medical Centre and, if so, will he commit to making sure this doesn't happen again? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** A sick patient wrote on social media, and I quote:

Thank you Flinders Hospital after a horrible few hour[s] I get to sleep in the storage room. Peter Malinauskas all I can do is cry.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:24):** Not only do I sympathise with the patient concerned but I am going to do something about it, including delivering a \$400 million upgrade to the Flinders Medical Centre—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley! Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —the sort of thing that if that decision was made four years ago, that poor patient might not be in the situation that they are in now.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, please be seated. The member for Morialta will depart the chamber under 137A, and the member for Badcoe is on her final warning. The Premier has the call.

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

**The SPEAKER:** For the remainder of question time.

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

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** The challenges facing our health problem are serious and what that requires is a substantial policy response. That is why, in the lead-up to the federal election I was very glad that the then opposition leader, Anthony Albanese, heard my government's call for a \$200 million capital investment on top of a \$200 million capital investment from the state government to see to the biggest upgrade to the Flinders Medical Centre that we have seen in decades.

The good news is that program is moving at pace. Only this morning, I was with the Prime Minister at FMC announcing that the first of the 136 beds—

**Mrs Hurn:** Because you moved the beds to the Repat.

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

**Ms Pratt:** You're fixing up mistakes from five years ago.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Frome is warned. The Premier.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** The first of the 136 beds that are being delivered as a consequence of that investment is coming on line next year, but more than that we have also accelerated a separate effort again, separate to the \$400 million investment, that will see an additional 26 beds being provided at Flinders Medical Centre. That stands—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is on the final warning.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —in significant contrast to the policy that we know hasn't served Flinders well and the best example of that, of course, is an expansion to the emergency department which was pursued under the former government and which was meritorious. The problem, of course, was that they expanded the emergency department and then closed beds in wards behind it, so when the patient had to get out of the emergency department to go to a bed inside the hospital there were fewer rather than more.

What we see is an expanding population around the southern suburbs, which requires not fewer beds but more beds. That's why we have \$400 million for the biggest increase in beds at Flinders in decades in the medium term, and in the short term we have an additional 26 beds coming on line as quickly as possible. Part of that is able to be facilitated because of a separate investment that is happening yet again at the Repat hospital.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Frome.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What we are doing is—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Schubert is on a final warning.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What we are doing is dramatically increasing the number of beds in the system. If you have more beds, you need more people to staff the beds, so it turns out we are employing a lot more nurses, well in excess of an additional 300 nurses in net terms. In fact, that number is accelerating again. Then we need more doctors, so it turns out we are employing a lot more doctors too. It turns out they don't grow on trees, as those opposite, I think, will appreciate, so we have a recruitment schedule that is ramping up throughout the course of the term of government.

We are also employing a lot more ambulance officers. It turns out we are employing 350 additional of those, long overdue. While we are at it, it turns out we have decided to give them a pay rise for the first time in five years too. What we are doing is a comprehensive policy. None of this is going to happen quickly. You know that; we know that. We were honest about that before the election, but we are delivering it and what we will see is it will progressively ramp up between now and March 2026.

#### **WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:28):** My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. Can the minister update the state on how—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**S.E. ANDREWS:** Can the minister provide an update on how the state government is supporting women in business?

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:28):** I want to thank the member for Gibson for her question and for her support of female business owners in her electorate of Gibson, and for taking me around last year to meet a number of them. As you are aware, Mr Speaker, I started my own law firm eight years ago. As a woman running that business, I faced certain challenges and now I know, after some very extensive consultation with the small business community that we undertook through the last half of last year, that I was not alone in some of those challenges.

We did undertake some extensive small business consultation when we set up the Office of Small and Family Business and we found that almost 40 per cent of female respondents through that process experienced barriers, including having difficulty accessing capital, building their networks and undertaking upskilling opportunities, as well as the very difficult juggle between work and caring responsibilities that I definitely faced.

What we have done is very promptly rolled out our Women in Business Program. Our \$4 million election commitment that we went to the 2022 election with has been rolled out. We have two parts of the program: the Foundations Program for people wanting to start their businesses or the early stage or micro businesses; and Behind Closed Doors is the partner for our second program with more extensive businesses wanting to grow.

What we have done with the Behind Closed Doors partnership is we have had the first 38 women start their journey in the last couple of weeks. We had an exciting announcement, where we announced the successful applicants. That was independently assessed by a panel of judges. With a significant number of applicants, it was a fairly difficult selection process for that panel—I can attest to that. I saw the breadth of talent of those female-owned businesses that applied for that particular program.



The successful applicants were from a number of industries: mining, finance, health, real estate, food and wine, manufacturing, and professional services. These are leaders of high-growth businesses that now have access to expert mentoring and training to take their ventures to the next level.

Some of the women that I met at the announcement a couple of weeks ago include Discount Party Supplies CEO and founder, Kirsty Chapman-Smith, who has done an extraordinary job with a national business now, selling party supplies across the country. We had Kathryn Forth and Julia Ritorto, who are the founders of fashion label Acler, a very well-known South Australian fashion label. Both of these women are also successful applicants. All of these women had said that program will—

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Speaker, point of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BROWN:** More lies from Liberal Party!

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Florey is raising a point of order. I will hear the point of order from the member for Florey under 134.

**Mr BROWN:** Sir, the member for Morphett made an allegation that I was asleep in the chamber. I would ask him to withdraw and apologise.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Speaker, the member for Flinders made an allegation that I was 'resting my eyes' in the chamber. I was not resting my eyes.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Florey, this can be resolved—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! This can be resolved expeditiously. We will turn to both of the members. Is one of the members seeking the call? Member for Morphett, we will deal with you first.

**Mr PATTERSON:** I will apologise; I was just looking out for you.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! That resolves one matter. Member for Flinders.

**Mr TELFER:** I withdraw, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** There is, by custom, a second part, member for Flinders.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, there is. Member for Flinders, there is customarily a second part, and it going to assist you in question time and your side of politics so you are not burning up your own time. Member for Flinders.

**Mr TELFER:** I withdraw and apologise for my comment that he was resting his eyes.

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

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS:** Can I just say how disappointing it is that those opposite aren't interested in females and aren't interested in business owners.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Badcoe! Member for Frome! The leader! Order! Member for Chaffey! Minister, please be seated. The member for Hartley and the member for Badcoe will depart under 137A for the remainder of question time.

*The honourable members for Badcoe and Hartley having withdrawn from the chamber:*

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

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS:** As I was saying, on top of those incredibly talented women who are now going to be supported through our Women in Business Program, we also have the Adelaide Business Hub, which are supporting the Foundation Program. We have had more than 210 women through early stages of their businesses registering for that Foundation Program. All of these participants will get access to four hours of one-on-one mentoring from an expert for a subsidised cost of \$88, and online small group workshops and in-person networking events as well as a range of toolkits and tips to support them in growing their businesses.

This really is just the beginning of the Women in Business Program. I am really proud that we have implemented it so quickly and that it has been so successful and had such huge take-up. I am sure these programs that we are rolling out through the Office for Small and Family Business are going to make a real difference in breaking down some of those barriers to see our female entrepreneurs succeed in their businesses, help them grow their businesses and make a real difference for South Australia.

### HEALTH WORKFORCE

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:34):** My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of financial incentives being offered by other states to attract and retain frontline health workers and, if so, will South Australia do the same? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** In a nationally competitive environment to attract and retain doctors and nurses, the Victorian Labor government has over \$100,000 worth of incentives on the table from HECS fees to sign-up bonuses to scholarships.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:35):** I thank the member for Schubert for her question, and it's a good one. It's a good one because we do operate within a highly competitive environment for the workforce generally, but that's particularly true for the health workforce, and that's exacerbated again by the fact that obviously the state government is undertaking a massive recruitment drive for additional health workers. It's a situation that we are monitoring very closely.

At the moment, we have largely been able to attain the additional employees to realise our schedule for putting the additional people on that I referred to earlier. The Victorian experience, I think, demonstrates just how competitive a market we do have to confront. We are alive to keeping our options open but we are not going to do that unless we think that it's absolutely necessary to do so.

The first order of business was to address enterprise agreements that were outstanding. I mentioned the ambos before. We have done the same with the nurses. We are very glad to have entered into what I think could be characterised as a substantial medium-term agreement with the ANMF that provides, obviously, wage increases that are higher than what was provided for initially, going up to 3 per cent per annum. But more than that, there are also bonuses structured within that agreement. So there are a range of things that we are already doing that we want to allow to run itself out to be able to achieve our ambitions.

Obviously, we don't operate in a world with an unlimited budget. If we go about paying for free university courses or pursuing some of the other policies that the Victorian government has done, we run the real risk of compromising our ability to put on yet more people, which is our number one objective. We are interested in making sure we attract, retain—retain as many people as we possibly can. We want more, not less. We can get more out of the budget if we are not having to go down the path that other jurisdictions have for whatever reason they have chosen.

I think part of the consideration in the Victorian government is what is happening in New South Wales. What we know from the South Australian experience is that for those people who enjoy an excellent job like being a nurse or a midwife, for instance, once they are in those jobs, they enjoy them, they are passionate about them and they are able to enjoy an outstanding standard of living here in South Australia that is arguably in advance of the experience interstate because they enjoy

relatively comparable wages. Obviously, \$100,000 per annum in South Australia is worth a lot more than \$100,000 in Sydney or Melbourne.

So once we've got them, we can retain them, and that is a policy that has served us well and we expect will continue to serve us well into the future, particularly as we continue to ramp up the health workforce in this state.

### HEALTH WORKFORCE

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:38):** My question is again to the Premier. Has the Premier seen comments made by the immediate past chair of the Royal College of GPs, Dr Danny Byrne, and if so, how does he respond? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mrs HURN:** When commenting on ABC radio on 8 February about Victorian incentives for healthcare workers, Dr Byrne said of Peter Malinauskas, and I quote:

He doesn't think it's a problem and watch our young doctors go to Victoria next year.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:39):** I am not too sure what has underpinned the sentiments from the doctor you mentioned. What I would say in respect of GPs is that it's a completely different proposition again. In respect of GPs, of course, they are a function of the commonwealth's responsibilities that is a matter of primary healthcare service delivery over which we have no influence. As I know the member for Schubert well understands, doctors practising general medicine or general practice in South Australia are not paid for by the state. In fact, they are not even paid for directly by the commonwealth. They are paid through the Medicare rebate.

We do acknowledge that there needs to be dramatic change in the Medicare system. It is something that I am advocating for on a frequent basis, including with the Prime Minister himself. Primary health care reform is urgently required. Part of the reason (not the only reason) why we see ramping going through the roof in every jurisdiction around the country—some in excess of South Australia—is because people can't get to the GP so they show up to the emergency department. There are some pretty extraordinary statistics floating around; they vary depending on the source, but some suggest that up to 30 or 40 per cent of people being treated in an emergency department could otherwise be treated by a GP if they could only get access to one.

We do need to see reform in respect of the Medicare rebate, in the state government's view. We do need a lot more people practising as GPs, not just in metropolitan Adelaide but in regional South Australia, and it's something I will continue to advocate for. But that is an area of policy that is beyond the state government's control as things currently stand, so we have to focus on what we can control.

I will say this though: in a way that I don't think has necessarily been practised consistently in the past, I am going to have zero reservations about using this office, the office of Premier, to advocate for change federally. I'm not going to lead a government that sits on its hands and allows the commonwealth—and I'm not too fussed if it's a federal Labor government or a federal conservative government—to continue to see the cratering of GP services throughout our state.

The member for Giles, the member for Stuart and the member for Mawson represent regional communities, as do a number of those opposite. You will appreciate all too well the literal cratering. Essentially, what almost amounts to a complete collapse in the provision of GP services in regional South Australia, as is the case around regional Australia, is an unmitigated disaster. It does require substantial federal government reform. Like I said, I'm not too fussed if I'm dealing with a Labor or Liberal prime minister; I'm going to continue to escalate the efforts shown by this state government to advocate for change on behalf of the commonwealth.

We've had the Strengthening Medicare Task Force exercise from the current federal government. That was only received a matter of weeks ago. We will wait and see what comes out of that, particularly in this year's federal budget. But certainly, there is agreement from every Premier, including the Liberal premiers present, that this is the number one issue for state governments around the country. There is complete unanimity of opinion, regardless of jurisdiction, regardless of the size

of the state, regardless of the political persuasion of the Premier. Every jurisdiction around the country wants to see the commonwealth address this issue.

The feds have just announced the urgent care clinics here in South Australia—a good step, hopefully coming online sooner rather than later. But that alone isn't going to solve the issue when it comes to primary healthcare service delivery, and we will advocate for more.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:43):** My question is for the Minister for Local Government. What involvement, if any, did the minister, his office or the Office of Local Government have in the development of the Electoral Commission online processes?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (14:43):** I just want to reinforce that the Electoral Commission's act, the way it was inherited by this parliament, was passed in 2021. The Electoral Commissioner is abiding by the legislation at that particular period of time, and the Electoral Commissioner was abiding by the legislation that was passed by this house in the previous parliament, which legislation was very clear. So, the previous parliament agreed to have the Electoral Commissioner as an independent person or an organisation away from the political stage. Therefore, the Electoral Commissioner would have had the legislation going through, which was passed, I think, in 2021. I'm not too sure what month it was. He did everything as per the legislation at the time.

Just going back to the member who asked me a question a couple of minutes ago, 'Did the Electoral Commissioner write to me?' No. Just to clarify, he contacted the Office of Local Government on that Wednesday I mentioned in the previous answer, and then after we found out the situation we are currently in, I requested a meeting with the Electoral Commissioner, which was after all the elections had been held and after the Electoral Commissioner had identified that there were 45 at that stage, or 46 candidates who didn't meet the legislative requirements of the second disclosure for transparency.

To answer the member's question, very clearly, the Electoral Commissioner followed everything as per the legislation at the time. We passed legislation in this house yesterday, and I consider it bipartisan in this chamber here, to overcome the situation we have inherited at the particular moment leading up to yesterday. I congratulate everybody and I want a speedy passage of that bill through the upper house.

Going forward from there, I cannot say anymore, except that the Electoral Commissioner under the previous parliament—the legislation is very clear that the Electoral Commissioner was independent of this house, as is the Ombudsman, SACAT and also the ICAC commissioner. I am not too sure where the member's question is going because he knows very well that he can't interfere because we have no involvement with the Electoral Commission.

### INDIAN MELA

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:46):** My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Can the minister advise how the government is supporting this year's Indian Mela?

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:46):** I thank the member for Torrens for the question and recognise that she has one of the most diverse electorates supporting our fabulous multicultural community. The latest Census data shows that the Indian community in South Australia is growing at an absolutely rapid rate. In 2016, there were about 27,600 Indian-born South Australians. At present, that number is more than 44,000—a very young, dynamic, educated, skilled migrant community who love living in South Australia.

As we have these growing cultures, it is so important that we are given the opportunity to celebrate and to share their food, their traditions and way of life. In doing so, we promote dialogue, cooperation and understanding between our existing cultures in Australia and our new and emerging ones. This goes to the heart of what we consider social cohesiveness, and it has significant benefits to our social and economic prosperity.

In every sector of our society, our Indian community can be seen: business, law, medicine, academia, sport, community services and in government. They are in positions of leadership and influence and invest heavily in our state. Of course, they are a very active community and they keep me very busy, inviting me to many, many Indian festivals and events. For more than 30 years, the Indian Australian Association of South Australia, or IAASA, has held an annual Mela and it has become one of the largest events on the South Australian multicultural events calendar.

This year's Mela will be held this Friday and Saturday at Victoria Square, and I encourage all members and everyone across the city to come along and discover the rich cultural heritage. Attendees can enjoy lunch or dinner from one of the many food stalls on offer, and enjoy the vibrant and exciting dance and music that we know and love. There will be markets, rides, exhibitions, art and more at this family-friendly event. Can I thank Trimann Gill and his executive for the significant work they have put into creating this fantastic Mela. The Malinauskas Labor government has been proud to support the Mela through the Celebrate Together Grants program.

One unique aspect of our Indian community is how they support each other and back each other. I would like to put on record the significant amount of sponsors who have come forth for this event, including: Purple Star Entertainment, Fortune Building Group, CMI Portside, Spark International College, Thrifty Home Loans, Eazy Conveyancing, Westpac bank, Gomambo, EXP Realty, Odhavji & Associates, 13cabs, Aussizz Group, BestDrive Hindmarsh, Think Mortgage, Best Movers Adelaide and Wishtoy, not to forget to mention their media partners, SBS Hindi and Tej TV.

Every time I go to the event, there are more and more sponsors, people who have built their businesses here in South Australia and who want to give back to their community. Of course, this commitment is part of the additional \$16 million that the Malinauskas Labor government has put into the multicultural portfolio to support our diverse community.

It is going to be a hot day tomorrow, 41°, but we hope there will be a cool change. Whatever weather there is, I encourage everyone here, and all South Australians, to attend the Indian Mela on 24 and 25 February.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:50):** My question is to the Minister for Local Government. Is the minister satisfied with the Electoral Commission processes and communications during the local government elections?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: the shadow minister is seeking an opinion, rather than information, which is contrary to the standing orders and practice of the house

**The SPEAKER:** I am going to give the member the opportunity to rephrase the question. Member for Flinders.

**Mr TELFER:** Thank you, sir. My question is to the Minister for Local Government. Does the minister believe that the Electoral Commission has failed in any of its obligations, under either the Local Government Act or the Local Government (Elections) Act? If so, can the minister clarify whether the Electoral Commissioner has the full confidence of the minister?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: it's the same question, worded differently, seeking an opinion again, rather than seeking facts or an answer.

**The SPEAKER:** It may be that the first portion of the question can be salvaged, and for that reason we are going to return to the member for Flinders to recast the question.

**Mr TELFER:** Does the minister believe that the Electoral Commission has failed in any of its obligations, under either the Local Government Act or the Local Government (Elections) Act?

**The SPEAKER:** It may be, to preserve the question, that you can simply ask it straight out.

**Mr TELFER:** I am happy to, sir; thank you. And thank you for the guidance of the Grandfather of the House. My question is to the Minister for Local Government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hurtle Vale is called to order. Member for Flinders, one more time.

**Mr TELFER:** Thank you, sir. In the perspective of the minister—no.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORTS INSTITUTE**

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. How is the government supporting high-performance athletes and promoting South Australia as a leader in sports research and education?

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:52):** I thank the member for this question and for her interest in ensuring South Australians are empowered to equally and actively participate in the sport they love. On Wednesday 18 January, I was thrilled to join the Premier—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** —UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor David Lloyd, the immensely talented Kiana Elliott, Callum Peters and a number of other outstanding athletes and those who train, coach and support them, to announce the government's plans for a new, world-class South Australian Sports Institute development at Mile End.

For 40 years, the current SASI location has served our community well, but it is well and truly time for a modern, more accessible SASI with newer technologies, improved facilities and a brilliant partnership with UniSA—a partnership that sees the university committing a further \$20 million to the project. The government is committing \$68 million, with UniSA's contribution taking the full investment at the site to almost \$90 million.

SASI identifies, develops and supports athletes with the potential to perform at the highest national and international levels of sport. We want to continue to inspire people like Kiana Elliott and Callum Peters to become the best they can be and to represent Australia proudly on the world stage.

Callum is an outstanding ambassador for his sport, for SASI and for the power of sport to make change. Callum speaks about how SASI has provided him an opportunity to thrive in his chosen sport. He speaks about how he gives back to his own community, encouraging other young people to get active and involved. That is our aim. Sport and recreation must be an exemplar of inclusion. It must harness its power to inspire people to be active, to participate and know that they belong.

Our government is investing in infrastructure and activities that recognise the benefit of sport and its place at the heart of communities. We want young people to aspire to follow in the footsteps of our homegrown legends or simply be engaged, be looked after, through belonging to a club, participating in recreation or volunteering to make sport happen. We want to get our children off screens and being active. We want them to see the pathways that are open to them. That's why this new building and the partnership with UniSA is so important.

The UniSA Sports Science Hub, integrated with the SASI facility, will house research and learning, with laboratories and teaching spaces for students participating in a range of degrees. This unique partnership with UniSA will see us establish a unique, world-class facility—an exciting collaboration. Our state is the home of world-class cycling. We are using this opportunity to install the state-of-the-art National Centre for Sports Aerodynamics at the new location.

On coming to government, it was really clear that much more needed to be done and opportunities seized to ensure that a new SASI would work as it should and be world-class. We got straight to work to ensure this important new partnership was delivered, and committed significant new investment. This new SASI will provide a facility that will create some of the best facilities for our

current and future athletes, for all who wish to work in sport, and will send a clear message to young South Australians about the importance of being active and about the pathways that are open to them.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:56):** My question is for the Minister for Local Government. Has the Electoral Commission failed in any of its obligations under either the Local Government Act or the Local Government (Elections) Act? If so, can the minister clarify whether the Electoral Commissioner has the full confidence of the minister?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (14:57):** I thank the member for his question. I am a little bit surprised he is asking for my comments on a situation when we still have supplementary elections going on. Also, I have made comments in this house before. There will be a review by the Electoral Commission and also the Office of Local Government. We will have that review.

I will not make comments on anything at all until such time as the review has been carried out after the supplementary elections. We will do that. As I said before, I am happy to work with everybody to make certain we can have a good review of what happened in the last election. Everything was done according to the legislation at the time. To answer the question, yes, I do have confidence in the Electoral Commissioner.

### EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:58):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister update the house on the improvements to the emergency accommodation program?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:58):** I thank the member for Adelaide for the question. I thank anyone for asking questions in this house about emergency accommodation. Emergency and temporary accommodation, as I have said many times, is no place for people to thrive, and certainly no place for families. Our emergency accommodation program is the last safety net for people who have no other options.

For those in crisis, including those escaping family violence, the program does offer hotel accommodation to keep them off the streets while they try to find a more stable home. When Labor was last in government, the program cost \$4.8 million, and that was in 2017-18. Around \$13,000 was spent every night on emergency accommodation. The following year, the cost jumped to \$6.8 million and last year it exceeded \$11 million. That's around \$30,000 every night of the year, night after night, on temporary, emergency accommodation. By comparison, back in the mid-nineties a similar program cost less than \$15,000 for the whole year. On any given night now between 150 and 200 rooms are being used, costing an average of about \$160 per room.

More people are seeking help and they are staying longer, because it is harder to find another place to go. This is one of the many reasons why the Malinauskas Labor government announced a comprehensive set of housing reforms last week. These reforms:

- increase land supply;
- deliver rental reform;
- are the first proper increase in public housing for 30 years;
- provide extra home purchase assistance; and
- have a focus on regional housing.

There are also partnerships with the commonwealth to boost social and affordable housing. All these and more are needed to get our housing market back to a point where people can find a safe, affordable and suitable home.

While I am proud that our community and government offers emergency accommodation, a motel room is no place to stay for months on end; for households with children, it is no place to stay four weeks, let alone months. People in need, particularly those with children, need places to prepare

and store food, places where children can play and study. We have been spending huge and growing amounts of money on solutions that do not provide what people need, and that is why I ordered a review of the emergency accommodation program soon after becoming minister.

That review's work has resulted in many conversations with people in the sector about different approaches. One critical conversation was with Gael Fraser, who is the Board Chair of UnitingSA. We talked about a site in the north with a number of two-bedroom units that had been used for administration by UnitingSA for years. A process began to relocate the administration workers, bring in the tradies, and get the units back up to accommodation standard.

The result is an amazing new service called Peppertree, and I was pleased that the Liberal shadow minister could join me, as well as the member Ramsay, for its launch. The member for Playford was also there. The amazing result is designed to support 32 families per year in an environment that is a massive leap forward from a hotel room. The units have kitchens, bathrooms, laundries, living areas and plenty of outdoor space for children to play, including a playground that is amazing.

Peppertree offers a safe, stable place for families to work through their homelessness issues with the Adelaide Northwest Homelessness Alliance, UnitingSA Housing, and Housing SA. We will do more and will have more to say about this, and in doing what we are doing will provide more suitable places for families to work through their crisis and come out stronger on the other side. I look forward to the Minister for Women visiting very soon to see the great outcomes for families.

#### *Grievance Debate*

#### **HAHNDORF BYPASS**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:02):** Today is a signal day for the community of Hahndorf and the areas surrounding it in the Hills. When I say 'those areas surrounding it', we extend significantly to the south and in all directions around the community. Not only that, there are also so many who visit Hahndorf every day. Hahndorf is among the most popular attractions in our state.

It is for that reason that I am so proud to stand here today, as the representative of that community, having seen tabled in this house the expression of the will of more than 2,600 of those residents—2,636 loud, strong and emphatic voices calling on this government to deliver a proper bypass for Hahndorf. It has been decades in the argument, it has been a long time coming, and it is high time it was delivered fully and properly.

One might say that standing here at this time in 2023 would be the occasion to celebrate the achievement, because this time last year \$200 million of federal money and \$50 million of state money was committed to the delivery of a proper, thoroughgoing bypass for Hahndorf. So it was that my electors, and those in the broader community around Hahndorf, let alone the rest of the state, were so terribly disappointed by the minister's announcement late last year that, 'Oh no, it's actually all a bit too hard. So what we are going to do is we will deliver one component, one end of it, and we will do a couple of the extra bits,' but when it comes to delivering the solution that is required, a responsibility of government to see through, the minister has decided that it is all too hard and 'By the way, we might pocket a bit of the extra proceeds because we are not delivering the outcome in full.'

I am particularly proud to be standing here in the context of the petition having been tabled, because the Hahndorf Community Association has played a leading role in this work and its Chair, Greg Lomax, and his wife, Monique, are present in the chamber to make good that delivery. So it is not just me here speaking up for the electors of Hahndorf. I thank so much all of those, in particular Greg, who have come together with commitment and sincerity and dedication to see this through.

Greg and the Hahndorf Community Association have participated in briefing and in advocacy over the period since that very disappointing announcement, so I am going to call it an opportunity for a reset. This is a very loud, clear signal to the government that it has just got this wrong. Government is hard, and you do not always get things right the first time you announce them, and so I want to work with the minister to bring the appropriate light to the error that he has made, and the government has made, in what has been announced so far, and I call on all members here, on both sides, to bring the minister along to what is so necessary.



We know that approximately 11,000 vehicles use the main street of Hahndorf, including—and this is where the real problem lies—500 heavy vehicles. As anyone who has gone through Hahndorf on a weekend, let alone a regular day, can attest, as soon as you get a bus and a truck and perhaps a vehicle towing a caravan, let alone an emergency services vehicle, trying to traverse that main street, then the whole show slows down and a two-minute trip from one end of Main Street to the other becomes up to a half hour crawl along that main street.

There is a bit of passion and emphasis in my voice here. I am urged on by those many petitioners, and I expect there will be more over the journey to come. I want to particularly recognise that the Mount Barker council is sincere and engaged in this process, and I pay tribute to the new mayor and the longstanding CE, who are engaged in this process. I also want to thank my federal colleagues, including in particular Senator Kerryne Liddle, who has kept up the advocacy on the federal side to make sure that that federal money is there so that this important work can be delivered. We must ensure that there is a proper bypass for Hahndorf.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:08):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am excited to stand up today and talk about something that I know you have a particular interest in as well, as a former Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention. On the weekend, I had the privilege of attending the 2023 Mentally Fit EP wellbeing conference at the Port Lincoln Hotel, on Barngarla country, on the beautiful Eyre Peninsula, which is a lovely part of the member for Flinders' electorate, and it was great to see him there.

I would like to acknowledge Mentally Fit EP, in particular Lain Montgomerie and Emma Gale, for organising and hosting this event. Shout outs also to Country SA PHN, West Coast Youth and Community Support, the Lower Eyre Peninsula Local Health Cluster and Wellbeing SA, who helped make this conference possible.

This conference focused on connection and community, and attendees travelled from all over the Eyre Peninsula and even beyond. People travelled from Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Port Kenny, Wudinna, Kimba, Cummins, Tumbay Bay and even Whyalla, to name a few. I met and heard from many incredible people over the two days I was in town. Among them, I heard from Dr Kate Gunn, who spoke about ifarmwell, an online tool to help farmers cope effectively with life's challenges and get the most out of every day, regardless of the circumstances and tough situations they may be facing. Having last year met with Vocal Locals, who promote ifarmwell in Loxton, I had a bit of a fangirl moment meeting Kate. I am so incredibly impressed by her and her work in suicide prevention.

We also got to hear from Andrew Lines from The Rite Journey. Andrew spoke about a number of things, including trampolining and goldfish. Andrew reminded us that back when we were all children, we would head out to the yard and jump on trampolines without much regard to safety. There was no netting to stop us falling off. There was no padding over all those springs, and we all got caught in them at some point. We learnt quickly about edges and dangers and how not to get too close.

Andrew pointed out that a lot of young people these days have a more limited understanding of edges, of risks, because lessons like these have been removed from everyday play. This talk made me appreciate the somewhat dilapidated trampoline sitting in my backyard, knowing that it may teach my child more lessons than its intended purpose. Andrew's presentation served as a reminder that we need to consciously prepare our youth and teach them about life's edges so they know how to navigate them in the future.

On goldfish, Andrew shared a story he heard on how a mum replaced her son's dead goldfish for 16 years because she did not want her child to be upset. The idea, clearly, is just keep going and then your child never, ever has to be upset in their life. I completely understand that sentiment, but I would take this moment to say that it is okay for our children to be upset and emotional. We want them to feel their feelings and feel safe to express them. We need to prepare our children and support them through life's challenges, not protect them always from every challenge and try to solve things for them.

During one of the energisers of the conference—I loved that there were energisers—I got to play giant Jenga with SA Ambulance Service volunteer John Treloar, brother of the former member for Flinders, and later heard him speak on mental health responses in rural communities. It was a stark reminder that ambulance crews in regional towns are often volunteer-led and volunteer-driven, volunteers who can be paged anywhere and at any time and often to a job where they know the person requiring assistance, an incredibly difficult task under any circumstances but particularly so when they are attending a suicide.

People living in a regional or rural area are twice as likely to die by suicide than people in metro areas. Every suicide affects at least 100 people directly and another 3,000 people indirectly, so in a regional community a suicide will often affect everyone. Volunteers like John bridge gaps in regional areas and are the glue that holds South Australia's regional populations together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Johns out there. You are absolute rock stars.

The regions are going through a transformative time with next generation succession and new residents moving in. What I heard was that many people are increasingly feeling isolated by the speed of change.

It is good to hear research is currently being conducted in Kimba, which will help to gain a better understanding of young people's social needs, with the desire to create more social connection and opportunity for youth outside of sport—because not everyone loves sport—that enhances mental health and wellbeing.

I would like to acknowledge all the wonderful work taking place on Eyre Peninsula and the amazing people who drive that work. If you get the chance, please listen to Lain's and Emma's Mentally Fit Ep and Me podcast, where they interview people from across Eyre Peninsula about their past life and experiences each week.

### **TUMBY BAY JETTY**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:13):** Today in parliament I tabled an additional 1,459 signatures from the petition calling on the state government to invest significant funding to ensure the long-term future of the Tumby Bay jetty. The thousands of South Australians who have now put their names to paper in support of the Tumby Bay community highlights just how important jetties are to our coastal communities, but especially in Tumby Bay.

The jetty at Tumby Bay is unfortunately closed at the moment due to the degradation of the over century-old structure, leading to what has been assessed by the council as being unsafe for the community. This is a terrible outcome for both locals and visitors alike. This is why the community are coming together to ask for action. The Tumby Bay jetty is owned by the state government and leased to the District Council of Tumby Bay for maintenance, but this lease is soon expiring, and major works are needed on the structure.

I have been encouraged that the department has undertaken a body of work looking at five jetties in particular around the state, including Tumby Bay, to put together a business model which can be considered for funding from the state government.

Appropriate funding for the future of the jetty at Tumby Bay is important as it is a key component of a vibrant community that is used by locals and visitors to experience a unique marine environment—to go fishing, to go swimming, to go diving or to simply walk along—that is important for our community wellbeing. The council and community at Tumby Bay are willing to partner with the state government on this project and it is time for the state government to commit to helping provide a solution. We cannot afford to lose such iconic pieces of our coastal communities.

Last Thursday, my community at Port Lincoln found themselves once again under the threat of an imposing bushfire on the outskirts of the town. The weather conditions on that day were confronting. It was hot, it was windy. It was the sort of day that we as regional people dread; the worry about bushfire is always front of mind. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that we have had to deal with imminent danger in this area and my heart goes out to those people who have lost their homes and valuables, who have had property destroyed or damaged, or who have had their land impacted.

The clean-up for those impacted is going to be long and difficult, but I know that my community will rally around those who are struggling with this situation to support them as much as possible. I would like to offer my thanks and the thanks of my community to those volunteers and staff from the CFS, MFS, DEW, and the many community members and farm fire units which sprang into action to fight this fire and defend our community.

I also want to especially note the efforts of those involved with the aerial firefighting force, the multiple fixed-wing planes, and the helicopter firefighter and observation crafts, which make an incredible difference in getting a fire front under control, aiding the ground force who are directly in the line of the fire. It is all hands on deck in such emergency situations, and I know the efforts to protect our community are very much appreciated.

The emergency services minister was able to come over on the following day, and I thank him for his visit, along with the head of the CFS, Brett Loughlin, and the head of the MFS, Michael Morgan, to see the impact on the ground.

We work together on Eyre Peninsula, and it is great to see the region 6 CFS team in action, working hand-in-hand with the MFS, DEW, and the City of Port Lincoln council in the emergency management centre. I believe the agencies that all work together on Eyre Peninsula are an example to our counterparts around the whole state. The list of individuals who were involved in the event is too long to mention, but you know who you are and I say a heartfelt thankyou.

There have been many stories of loss and destruction, and I give my heartfelt sympathy genuinely to those who have been impacted. I have spoken to a number of them on the ground who have lost property, their home and have been severely impacted. There were also a number of stories of close calls, of property saved, of lives protected, and it is good to dwell on them as well. The way my community comes together to support one another always impresses me.

There will be investigations and there is sure to be more information that will become available. The community have been told the cause was due to electrical infrastructure, so I hope lessons will be learned from that and responsibilities recognised. Also, in time, I am sure there will be a bigger discussion on vegetation and fire management in such at-risk areas. But until then, my community says thank you to all those who acted to keep us safe.

### **OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS**

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:18):** I rise today on Teal Ribbon Day to speak to the house about ovarian cancer awareness. Teal Ribbon Day and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month take place in February each year. The teal ribbons worn are meant to start a conversation and increase awareness about this deadly and often silent disease. I would hazard a guess that many people know very little about ovarian cancer nor do they know how to identify the signs and symptoms of the cancer.

Ovarian cancer refers to cancerous tumours that start in one or both of the ovaries. The ovaries are made up of three main kinds of cells: epithelial cells, stromal cells and germ cells. Each of these cells can develop into a different type of tumour. The chance of surviving five years post-diagnosis is less than 50 per cent, and by the time the majority of women are diagnosed the cancer has already spread. Historically, at the time of diagnosis 70 per cent of women are diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer, and previously the number was only 25 per cent of women who survived beyond five years.

Last year, I lost a dear friend to ovarian cancer. She battled the disease for less than four years. She was an artist, an activist, a musician, fiercely independent, wise, quirky and only 27 years old when she lost her life to ovarian cancer. My friends, my family and I mourn her every day.

There is no screening test for ovarian cancer—none. Symptoms are quite general and often present as abdominal pain or fatigue. The symptoms can be vague and similar to other conditions, particularly those that, as women, we experience quite often. Many women are not aware of any symptoms until it is simply too late.

The only way of detecting and diagnosing ovarian cancer is through invasive exploratory surgery. Many women enter hospital for exploration surgery and wake to a full tumour resection and

hysterectomy. Within days of diagnosis in her early 20s, my friend had both her tumour and her ovaries removed, rendering her infertile. She spoke of how alone she felt in that period, not being able to find any examples of women our age battling the cancer in the way that she had.

Research and awareness is vital, and that starts with conversations. Each year, a number of organisations spread awareness about ovarian cancer and raise money for vital research. Today, I would specifically like to mention the work of the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation (OCRF), as well as Ovarian Cancer Australia.

Each year the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation partners with Witchery for their White Shirt Campaign. Over 15 years, the White Shirt Campaign has contributed more than \$14.3 million to research tackling early detection. I do very much encourage the purchase of white shirts in the lead-up to White Shirt Day (or World Ovarian Cancer Day) on 8 May, with proceeds from white shirts bought at Witchery going towards vital research. Today I wear both a white shirt and a teal ribbon in support of those causes.

The OCRF also hosts the Walk With Women—Walk With Women for our Wonder Women—every February, with a physical 30-kilometre walk along the Mornington Peninsula as well as a virtual walk from home. This is to raise awareness, honour the lives of those lost to ovarian cancer, and fundraise. Ovarian Cancer Australia promotes Teal Ribbon Day as well as fundraising events such as teal morning teas. During that period, pens and pins can be purchased from local Terry White chemists. I purchased mine and some for my colleagues from my local Terry White Paragon, and I thank them for their support, too, of such a worthy cause by hosting a teal morning tea in a few weeks' time.

Today is also Ovarian Cancer Australia's Giving Day, where each dollar donated is doubled. Giving Day raises funds to give more women access to their own ovarian cancer nurse, providing them with essential advice around their treatments and surgery, supporting them through chemotherapy, and addressing the possible side-effects from their treatments. I will be making my own donation this afternoon. I do remind everyone that it is doubling those donations from their partners. I hope to continue to advocate for ovarian cancer awareness, and also to speak of the lives lost to such a disease, in this place for years to come.

## WINE INDUSTRY

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:23):** It is true to say that a bottle of wine is like a story: that is the extraordinary complexity that a glass of wine can impart on a consumer. It is the story of taste, of course, but also of soil, of weather, of region and of many other factors that contribute to the finished product in one year's harvest. Being a producer of quality grapes is just as complex as the wine itself, and it is rarely smooth sailing for the wine industry in South Australia.

There are peaks and there are certainly troughs, but the challenge to produce a product that is worthy of some of our great South Australian brands, some of our great Barossa and Adelaide Hills brands, is really just all part of the fun—whether it is getting up at dawn to turn the water on, or pruning for days and days on end, or diligently checking the baumé each and every day, or (if you are as fortunate as me) spending your summers having the fantastic job of rubbing off shoots throughout the vineyard.

In the Barossa, and across the Adelaide Hills, in many ways our wine is our lifeblood. It is grown, it is harvested, and it is enjoyed as a really quality end product. The wine industry, like all primary producing industries, can really be turned on its head overnight through no fault of its own. It is an industry that for decades has really been able to deal with the culminating impacts of changing drinking habits, of freight and labour shortages, and weather events, of course. It builds resolve and many shoulder this and all of these challenges without complaint. It is just part of being in the industry.

Certainly in my community of the Barossa, we have wineries and growers who have been through difficult times and risen again including—and I have seen it firsthand in my own family—my generational farming family. After speaking with quite a few growers around the Barossa recently as we are heading into vintage, it is becoming clearer and clearer that right now we are perhaps living through one of the most challenging times that our wine industry has seen for generations. It is that flow-on impact of China's really devastating trade tariffs imposed in 2019-20 that has led to a wine

export glut of 600 million litres. That is 600 million litres worth of wine with nowhere to go, no market to sell it to and, if so, a very small one.

Certainly it is the most challenging time since the vine pull of the seventies and eighties where grapegrowers were paid by the state government to remove vines to overcome a grape glut and ultimately to leave the wine industry. It was Peter Lehmann who was a central figure in all of this, who said, 'Stuff it. I'll look after you. You come with me on a handshake deal and I'll buy your grapes under an arrangement called the futures,' where growers trusted him with their grapes on the understanding that he would pay for them in just two years' time.

This year, decades after the vine pull, many local growers in the Barossa and the northern Adelaide Hills again have no home for their grapes due to this extenuating and super large surplus. Generational grapegrowers may be forced to leave this year's harvest on the vine, left to shrivel in the heat because there are already so many harvests that have built up in storage, built up in the vats, and many of them just will not be sold. The impact that this has on my community is enormous: the impact on livelihoods, lost jobs, lost incomes and getting out of the industry that they love and the industry that has really built our region and put it on the national stage.

That is why the government cannot just throw its hands up in the air and say that it is all too hard. It has been said that Australia's current malaise will ultimately be resolved by the usual forces of supply and demand which drive prices down in times of surplus, but naturally those market truths are little comfort for those who cannot make ends meet. As an industry, with the support of government, we must find new markets so that this does not repeat itself—this huge reliance on one market.

We need to see this Labor government putting wine back on the agenda again and start talking about how important this is to regional South Australia and to our state as a whole. We need government to be prepared to stump up financial support for market access or market acceleration. In the meantime, let's get behind the local industry by enjoying a nice drop, particularly from the Barossa or the northern Adelaide Hills.

We will bounce back. Our industry is one of resilience, but we cannot take it for granted. We cannot take our wine industry for granted, and that is why I want the government to be pushing harder. We need strong friends and strong voices here on North Terrace and, as the proud member for Schubert, the member for the Barossa, I certainly am one of them and I encourage other members to join me as well.

### **ADELAIDE ELECTORATE**

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:29):** I rise today to talk about some really exciting things that are happening in my community. I often speak about growing up in the South-East, in Naracoorte on a farm, in Bool Lagoon and along the Naracoorte Creek. I guess as a child I probably took for granted the fact that I could spend my afternoons after school and weekends climbing trees and really just running around and playing in so much open green space. Now I am a member of the Adelaide community, and whilst we live in the city and raise our kids in the city, we should still have those experiences of being able to climb trees and run around in open green space. That is why I am so incredibly passionate about greening our neighbourhood.

Over recent weeks, I have been making some really exciting announcements about how we are increasing our tree canopy and increasing the open green space in our community so that my children, my neighbours' kids, the rest of the community's kids and, one day, our grandkids can enjoy the open green space and trees that we are going to plant today.

One of the projects that I am really passionate about is a new Prospect pocket park, basically on Scotty's Corner, on the corner of Main North Road and Da Costa Avenue. That is a really exciting park that we are going to build because, really, it was just an empty dirt block. Rather than see another group of cement apartments, what we are going to see instead is more trees, more shrubs and more open green space for the community to enjoy.

Not far away, at RL Pash Park, on the border of Collinswood and Nailsworth, I am upgrading the beautiful park. What is really important is that we retain that open green space but upgrade the exercise equipment and the play equipment for the community to enjoy.

A bit further west you will find an empty block, at the southern end of Churchill Road. Recently, I had some community members come to me. They said, 'What's happening with this block? We would love to see it turned into open green space for the community.' So I partnered with those local residents. We met with the City of Prospect and I advocated to my colleague, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and just last weekend we were able to announce that we were turning this empty block into open green space for our community to enjoy.

We made that amazing announcement at the Ovingham community day, to celebrate the completion of the Ovingham level crossing removal project. We had hundreds of people from our community there to celebrate the completion of this significant project. What made it even better, the icing on the cake, was that I was able to announce to my community that we were not just going to be creating one pocket park at the southern end of Churchill Road but we were creating another two pocket parks just across the railway line, in the Premier's electorate: the Drayton Street pocket park and the Chief Street pocket park. That was an incredible afternoon, to be able to announce three amazing pocket parks for our community, which they had been fighting for.

I want to shout out to a couple of locals who really were the driving force behind these community campaigns. The first was a local resident in my community, James Maybank. We really should recruit this guy because he has really taken it on board to doorknock the community, letterbox the community, get them involved, get them behind this project and advocate to me as their local member. Also, on the other side of the railway tracks, Iolanthe and Steve Sutton were driving forces behind the Drayton Street and Chief Street pocket parks.

I would also like to give a shout out to the City of Prospect councillors Trinh Nguyen and Kristina Barnett, who also advocated strongly to me, and through the council, for the establishment of these pocket parks, and also to the Mayor of Prospect, Matt Larwood, who was a big support as well.

What this means is not just a little bit of grass and a couple of trees: it actually means we are increasing the tree canopy in our community, which cools our suburbs and creates biodiversity. Also, having these open green spaces means we are increasing the physical and mental wellbeing of our community and having more places where we can connect. These are some really exciting announcements, and I cannot wait to continue greening our neighbourhood. Thanks to everyone in my community for being a part of it.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:33):** I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 11am.

Motion carried.

#### *Resolutions*

### **LEGALISATION OF CANNABIS**

The Legislative Council passed the following resolution to which it desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

1. That, in the opinion of this council, a joint committee be appointed to inquire into and report on—
  - (a) the legalisation of medicinal cannabis in South Australia with reference to legal frameworks and approaches in other jurisdictions including implications for justice, health and the economy; and
  - (b) any other related matter.
2. That, in the event of a joint committee being appointed, the Legislative Council be represented thereon by three members, of whom two shall form a quorum of council members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee.

3. That members of the committee may participate in the proceedings by way of telephone or videoconference or other electronic means and shall be deemed to be present and counted for purposes of a quorum, subject to such means of participation remaining effective and not disadvantaging any member.
4. That this council permits the joint committee to authorise the disclosure or publication, as it thinks fit, of any evidence or documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence being reported to the council.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:35):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) agrees with part 1 of the resolution of the Legislative Council contained in message No. 60 for the appointment of a joint committee on the legalisation of cannabis;
- (b) concurs with the proposal for the committee to be authorised to disclose or publish, as it thinks fit, any evidence or documents being reported to the parliament; and
- (c) concurs with the proposal to enable members of the committee to participate in the proceedings by way of telephone or videoconference or other electronic means and shall be deemed to be present and counted for purposes of a quorum, subject to such means of participation remaining effective and not disadvantaging any member.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** I move:

That this house be represented on the committee by three members of whom two shall form a quorum of assembly members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee and that the members to represent the House of Assembly on the committee be Mr Bell, Mr Hughes and the Hon. D. Pisoni.

Motion carried.

### *Bills*

## **NATIONAL GAS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (EAST COAST GAS SYSTEM) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Committee Stage*

In committee (resumed on motion).

Clause 6.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Regarding the reliability and system adequacy functions, what consideration has been given when making the functions of powers so as to not impose unnecessary administrative burden and costs on market participants?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am advised that, yesterday, AEMO published a public information paper, which answers much of this but, for the benefit of the shadow minister, I will give him a brief description. On page 4, under 'Reducing the reporting and compliance burden', it states:

The key changes that have been made to reduce the reporting and compliance burden for industry are summarised below:

- Removing the overlap and duplication between the Part 27 and Bulletin Board reporting obligations by removing some of the proposed disclosure requirements in Part 27 and making minor amendments to the Bulletin Board reporting obligations (i.e. in relation to reporting on maintenance and storage cushion gas).
- Removing the requirement for retailers and large gas users to report medium-term demand forecasts (these forecasts will instead be developed by AEMO).
- Focusing on those market participants and facilities that can have the greatest impact on reliability and supply adequacy in the east coast gas system, by:
  - employing the same reporting threshold to that used for the Bulletin Board (i.e. so only facilities with a nameplate rating greater than or equal to 10TJ/d have to report);
  - providing automatic exemptions to facilities that are exempt from the Bulletin Board (i.e. remote facilities and exempt NT facilities); and

- allowing AEMO to exempt a relevant entity from the obligation to provide an item of information in specified circumstances and to use a default or standing value in place of the relevant information.
- Taking other steps to reduce the reporting and compliance costs, including by:
  - aligning the Bulletin Board and Part 27 information standards, which should reduce compliance costs through the adoption of a common information standard.
  - enabling the Procedures to:
    - define materiality thresholds for information updates, to minimise reporting costs;
    - allow for the use of standing or default values, which should alleviate reporting for users with relatively stable demand; and
    - allow for the appointment of a reporting agent, or a reporting entity for those cases where there are multiple owners, operators or controllers of a relevant entity, which will reduce the reporting costs.

I should just clarify that that was not published by AEMO on its website: it was published by officials, instead of AEMO. It is on the Energy Council website.

Clause passed.

Clause 7.

**Mr PATTERSON:** I suppose this is really the guts of the changes regarding this bill. It does span a lot of it, but obviously there are only a few questions we can ask. In section 91AF, AEMO's power of direction into the east coast gas system, subsection (1) provides that AEMO may give a written direction to a relevant entity for one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) to maintain and improve the reliability of the supply of natural gas within the east coast gas system;
- (b) to maintain and improve the adequacy of the supply of natural gas within the east coast gas system.

That gives really significant powers, and we have tried to go a little bit into the distortional effects on the market that could happen; for example, I think you said it might impede the efficient allocation of gas across the market, and it could potentially affect competition as well in key parts of the supply chain.

You have made the point that it is really going to be used in emergencies because there are critical issues in the system, and if an emergency arises it tips it over the edge. Just around that, you have answered the question of whether these powers will be used in emergency cases. Is it only when it is a short-term threat to the system's security or reliability of supply that is unlikely to subside without intervention? If that is the case, what are the circumstances under which AEMO would be able to use this emergency power? Is it purely for short term and not that they see a long-term issue and try to act without giving it time to resolve itself, and what are some circumstances where they would be able to use this power?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is not AEMO's role to fix the long-term gas issues this nation faces. AEMO cannot change the position of the Liberal Party where it has banned the exploration of gas in prospective parts of the state. It cannot change the opinion of a Liberal-National government in New South Wales about Narrabri and Santos's stranded \$1.5 billion asset. It cannot change the long-term policy settings that have put us here.

The purpose of this act is largely to facilitate an improved response to what we saw last year, when there were gas shortages. I think we need to break this down. The longer term questions about invoking a trigger by the national government about exports is separate from what AEMO would do. AEMO looks at short-term crisis situations where they can intervene. This legislation is not designed to solve a long-term structural problem in the gas market. This is simply giving us the ability, or giving the regulator the ability, or the operator the ability, to intervene in the short term. The long-term problems will be sorted out by governments and policymakers and elected officials, and that is a much broader, longer question.

Without wanting to go too far off topic, as a government and an opposition we are beset with fringe groups all around us that are attempting to influence this debate one way or another. You have some groups that do not believe that climate change is real and want to see the exploitation of fossil



fuels to their full extent in this country. Then you have other extremes, like Extinction Rebellion and the former Marshall government, which are opposed to the development of fossil fuels or want to see it banned completely.

Then you have the Greens, then you have One Nation and you have all these other groups. In the middle somewhere, in the centre, should naturally be the Labor Party and, hopefully, the Liberal Party, where we can come up with a sensible long-term solution to transition to renewables, hopefully using lower emission fossil fuels like gas as a transition towards a zero carbon future.

This legislation is not designed to fix that. This legislation is simply about when there is a crisis in the energy market, we are short of gas, there is a surplus here and a shortfall there, it is causing major disruption to the market and we have to intervene or millions of people go without power or an industry goes without gas. That is what it is designed to do.

I cannot give the member a more detailed answer, because the problems that are facing us in this transition are so complex that I do not think there is any jurisdiction anywhere in the world that has come up with a solution that is going to see this transition become smooth. We are in the middle of climate wars around the world, real wars in Europe, proxy wars in South-East Asia, proxy wars in Europe. The energy market is in the most destabilised time I have ever known it. I suppose that is why we need these extraordinary powers, because we are facing these extraordinary challenges.

Who would have thought? Last year AEMO intervened and basically shut down the market, the entire country. After the statewide blackout, the market was managed by AEMO for a period of time before it was restored. They made a similar comparable intervention in the electricity market last year, because of what was occurring in terms of price and availability and they had to intervene in the market. We are facing extraordinary measures because we are facing extraordinary crises.

There is no simple solution to this. This legislative tool is simply trying to address what we saw last year. That is why, to be entirely frank, it is rushed, because the country does not have the legislative tools it needs to deal with this crisis. We are trying to quickly give the country the tools it needs to manage these shocks that we face.

The shadow minister is right to raise these concerns, because these concerns are real, but this legislation does not deal with the long-term issues. That will be dealt with by policymakers, who are the shadow minister and myself. The short-term issue is policymakers giving the tools to the operator to get us through days, if not weeks, of a crisis and then handing it back to the market. I hope that answers his question.

**Mr PATTERSON:** For the avoidance of doubt, I understand that it is not tied to just long-term issues. I was trying to get to the nub of the emergency powers to make sure the emergency is short-term and that the market is unlikely to subside without intervention. You have answered that, and it gives a guide going forward.

I make the point about the Liberal Party that there is conventional gas exploration happening down in the South-East. There are wells being found, capped, even as of two years ago. You are trying to conflate that with fracking and unconventional gas exploration. That is not to be seen as trying to say there is no exploration down in the south and there is no gas exploration encouraged by the Liberals. That is certainly not the case at all.

Having said that, in regard to supply adequacy and reliability standards, will they be clearly defined? Will the relevant standards and thresholds be informed by a measured cost-benefit analysis?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** There are two aspects to this legislation. The first is the short-term implementation to make sure we have the tools ready before winter. After we get through winter, there will be a reliability standard developed, and there will definitely be a cost-benefit analysis done on what the reliability standard should be. But in the short term it is to keep the lights on, keep the gas flowing and make sure the country is able to operate. They are short-term KPIs, as it were, of this legislation—long-term, absolutely.

Again, I say to the shadow minister, we are rushing as a nation to give our operator tools to deal with a situation we have never had before. That is why we are in this situation, because we are facing unprecedented challenges we have never had to face before.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Will AEMO have the power to direct capital expenditure by relevant entities if it serves the purpose of maintaining or improving reliability or adequacy of the supply of natural gas?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** My advice is no.

Clause passed.

Clause 8.

**Mr PATTERSON:** I just have some questions around infrastructure service providers. They do not typically own the gas; they transport it to and fro. If there is a direction to an infrastructure service provider to deliver gas to make its facilities available without an equivalent order from the owners of that natural gas, there are potential issues that have been pointed out to me, such as that the infrastructure service provider may be placed in the untenable position of deciding which contracts to break, or that customers of infrastructure service providers may not understand or follow the directions.

If following a direction requires curtailing some customers, an infrastructure service provider may inadvertently exacerbate the market, leading to that direction. Will directions to infrastructure service providers consider title to natural gas? If there is a direction to an infrastructure service provider to deliver gas or make its facilities available, will there be an equivalent order to the owners of the natural gas?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is an excellent question, and it is a very, very important matter. That is why AEMO will be forming conferences, where all the parties are present to best design the outcome about curtailment, which supply to move, what pipelines to make available. It will be a cooperative approach. The stakeholders will be notified, and AEMO, again, will form these conferences to decide how best to implement their directions, taking into account all the things, correctly, that the shadow minister has raised.

If you have a pipeline and you are told to move X number of gigajoules from X to Y, which contract do you break? You have to have everyone in the room so that AEMO can make an informed decision. We are not trying to transfer risk here to a pipeline provider. The risk here is being decided by AEMO; that is, the states and the commonwealth have agreed to task AEMO with this, not the pipeline operators. So we are not asking the pipeline operators to decide whose contracts to break: we are asking AEMO to do that.

It is a good question. The way AEMO and the officers at officer level have developed this is that we put everyone in a room, even virtually, and we work out exactly what contracts to break and what gas to move, then we know who to compensate. Yes, all these things have been thought through, and it is a good question. It is going to be difficult. This is why this is only for emergency use. This is not the type of thing that you would use day to day. Clearly, if there is an emergency, AEMO will put everyone in a room and triage, I think, what would be considered which contracts to break. Depending on what the situation is, what the crisis is, they will triage appropriately on which gas to move and how to break it and who to compensate.

**Mr PATTERSON:** That does provide some comfort because that is a concern that there is the motivation and the desire to consult. I suppose maybe the question is: it is an emergency, things have to happen really quickly and there is not that time to get everyone around the table over weeks or months; it actually needs to be done really quickly. Is there at least a best endeavours requirement in this to require AEMO to consult? What assurances can you give the industry regarding the levels of consultation before a direction is issued, even if it is a really short time period?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am advised I will publish rules that will require AEMO to consult with the entity that it intends to direct to the extent it considers appropriate given the nature, timing and circumstances of the risk or threat on the proposed direction. So we are going to make it a part of the rules that they have to do this in a timely manner.

Clause passed.

Clause 9.

**Mr PATTERSON:** We have time to actually consult and get all the parties around the table, so I think the mechanism looking to do that is that gas supply adequacy and reliability conference. But even having said that, it still anticipates that is going to occur amongst small groups of market participants and potentially is confidential. The ACCC has some concerns around that, by virtue of the fact that some market participants may have information that is not available to the wider market when there is resulting increase in risks. What measures will AEMO put in place to safeguard that any arrangements being put in place do not have unintended consequences and which may facilitate broader coordinated contact between market participants?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** AEMO will be required to advise the market once a direction has been made so that all the participants know. If a participant in the market has made a decision or acted in a certain way, AEMO will inform everyone that this was done under direction.

**Mr PATTERSON:** How will AEMO ensure these transparency requirements will avoid duplication with existing disclosure obligations, to minimise additional administrative burden on market participants?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Market participants are not the ones making the declarations; it is AEMO. AEMO will require the market participants to direct gas or make pipeline available. But the publication of those directions will not be the responsibility of the participants. It will be the obligation of AEMO. When I tell you off, it is my obligation to tell the house how you have acted inappropriately. You do not have to get up and say, 'Tom's told me I'm no good.'

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Exactly, yes.

**Mr PATTERSON:** My question was more: if that is the direction side—

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Brown):** Sorry, you might just wait for the call, member for Morphett.

**Mr PATTERSON:** My apologies, Chair. I am apologising to you today. The question was less about the directions and more about the lead-up—so gathering the information, those transparency measures. There are already existing disclosure obligations, so the question is around what AEMO is going to do to ensure that the information they are asking for around adequacy of supply is not duplicating but is actually getting further information and making sure that it is not causing an additional burden on them.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am going to take that on notice between the houses, but just to make the point again: there are already obligations on participants in the market. Those obligations do not change. The extra administrative burden of having to submit to a direction—the reporting requirements and the work being done with that falls on AEMO. If you are talking about if AEMO asked a participant, 'How much gas do you have available? How much capacity do you have in your pipeline?' and you are saying that is an administrative burden, then that will form a form of compensation within the act. What the recompense is is all taken into account.

In terms of administrative burden, participating in the Australian energy system already has large reporting requirements and regulatory burdens on it. We are not trying to add to that; what we are trying to do is deal with a crisis. I take your point but I will get to you between the houses a more detailed answer.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Thank you, and I suppose an adjunct to that—

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Brown):** Sorry, member for Morphett. I might allow you to have one more question on this clause.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Thank you, Chair. Maybe when you come back between the houses—you have answered a bit about that, that there is already information provided. But it is making sure,

I suppose, how AEMO ensures that these requirements they are asking are targeted, fit for purpose and minimise cost to consumers.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I will take it on notice.

Clause passed.

Clause 10.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Will there be information on potential threats published and made available to all market participants, including any information discussed at the conferences to provide transparency and predictability to market participants?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** If there was a crisis brewing, AEMO, as they have just done recently with their forecast, will let the market know, looking for a market response first, so they will make these public notices available. They will say, 'Look, there is an issue here. We need a market response.' That will be the first step. If there is no market response or the market is unable to respond and the crisis is getting closer and closer and closer, then AEMO now has the tools to be able to respond to that crisis.

Step one, though, is always to try and allow the market to sort this out. It is no different from putting out lack of reserve notices, no different to letting the market know where they need supply. I mean, this is what AEMO does for a living, and if we get to a point where the market cannot respond, they can direct. So, yes, there will be notices first, and after the notices are made, if there is no market response, we have the emergency powers to respond.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Previously we have touched on post the direction and providing an intervention report afterwards. You may have said this, and forgive me if I missed it, when AEMO publishes an intervention report, will it also set out their assessment of the relevant costs and benefits arising from that market intervention?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I forgive you, and yes.

Clause passed.

Clause 11.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In terms of service of market information notice, will the decision to intervene be based solely on AEMO's assessment?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am advised, yes.

Clause passed.

Clause 12 passed.

Clause 13.

**Mr PATTERSON:** With these powers of direction by AEMO, will they seek the lowest cost solution when deciding on a direction to issue to a market participant?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** No, they will choose the best decision for the market and the country.

**Mr PATTERSON:** How is compensation going to be determined, recovered and paid to parties affected, and will AEMO ensure that opportunity costs of market participants with contractor positions are eligible for compensation?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We will be compensating direct costs, not opportunity costs, whatever that might be.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Will consideration be given to distribution impacts on small users when apportioning the costs?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** To quote the papers published by the officials:

AEMO to make Procedures on the manner, form and methodology of payments made by relevant entities to AEMO to recover the costs of compensation the dispute resolution panel determines is payable. In doing so, AEMO

must have regard to minimising inequitable distributional cost impacts to the extent possible. AEMO must also consult with the AEMC and the AER on the making of these Procedures.

So I think the answer to the question is yes.

Clause passed.

Clause 14.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In regard to you being able to make the rules: because it had to be put up rapidly, it has given you as the South Australian minister the ability to make new rules for six months afterwards. If you could explain in terms of those rules, if there is a change to the rules, does it have to go through the energy ministers council? Does it have to be endorsed by all the energy ministers? Is there consultation with the AEMC as it goes through?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Unfortunately, I cannot make them independently. I have to consult with my colleagues, my other ministerial colleagues. The last time I checked we were still a federation, so yes, all ministers must be consulted and must agree.

Clause passed.

Remaining clause (15) and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:12):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Mr Acting Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

*A quorum having been formed:*

#### **COURTS ADMINISTRATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (16:15):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I move this bill currently in the name of the Deputy Premier. The Courts Administration (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2022 implements three of the recommendations made in the report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee, following its inquiry into the State Courts Administration Council—Sheriff's Office. It makes the following three material changes:

- it repeals section 21B(4b) of the Courts Administration Act 1993, to allow the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment to monitor and report on the observance of public sector principles and code of conduct by the Courts Administration Authority;
- it provides for the appointment of two non-judicial members of the State Courts Administration Council who can bring expertise in human resources management, finance or administration to the State Courts Administration Council; and
- it prescribes additional information to be included in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report, including a report from the Sheriff on the operations of the Sheriff and security officers.

An earlier version of this bill was introduced by the former Attorney-General in this place last year, but it did not progress beyond the second reading stage before the conclusion of that parliament. The bill differs slightly from the 2021 bill, and I will explain those differences as I explain the bill below.

Recommendation 4 of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee report proposed the repeal of section 21B(4b) of the Courts Administration Act, which prohibits the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment from exercising functions under subsections 14(1)(c) or (f) of the Public Sector Act 2009 in respect of the Courts Administration Authority. Subsections 14(1)(c) and (f) enable the commissioner to monitor and report on the observance of public sector principles, and code of conduct and employment determinations, and provide advice on and conduct reviews of public sector employment or industrial relations matters, respectively.

The repeal of section 21B(4b) will mean that the commissioner can undertake those functions and, further, that staff of the Courts Administration Authority will be reassured that the commissioner has oversight of employment practices within the authority. The Statutory Authorities Review Committee proposed at recommendation 6 of their report that the Courts Administration Act be amended to provide for the appointment of two non-judicial members of the council with extensive experience in human resources management, finance or administration.

The 2021 bill provided for 'up to' two non-judicial members to be appointed. This bill requires two non-judicial members with extensive experience in human resource management, finance or public administration to be appointed. Because of that difference, there are some consequential amendments to this bill that differ from the 2021 bill relating to the appointment of deputies for the new non-judicial members, and to clarify the quorum and decision-making requirements of the council. The requirement for two non-judicial members with experience outside of the law is a fitting way to bring a diversity of views to the council.

Finally, the Statutory Authorities Review Committee noted that recent reports of the Courts Administration Authority did not provide adequate information about important aspects of its operation and was lacking in detail about workers' compensation, occupational health, safety and welfare, training, and human resources information. They also noted there was no report on the work of the Sheriff's Office and an absence of a dedicated section for each division, as had previously been included in annual reports of the former courts services department. To address these concerns (reflected in recommendation 5 of the report), the bill prescribes this type of information to be included in the annual report of the Courts Administration Authority.

The 2021 bill included a requirement for the Coroner—along with similar requirements for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the District Court, the Chief Magistrate, and the Youth Court judge—to provide a report to the administrator about the operation of the court for inclusion in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report, and requires a report from the Sheriff. However, the bill does not require the Coroner to provide a separate report for inclusion in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report.

The Coroner already has a requirement to provide an annual report pursuant to section 39 of the Coroners Act 2003 directly to the Attorney-General, which is then required to be laid before parliament within 12 days of receiving it. This requires the Coroner to report on the administration of the Coroners Court and the provision of coronial services, and must also include all recommendations made by the Coroners Court under section 25 of the Coroners Act (that is, the recommendations made following an inquest).

As the Coroner must include information about the non-court related functions of that office, it is appropriate for that report to continue to be made separately. It is also appropriate that the Coroner's annual report continue to include both types of information in a single annual report rather than splitting them up. For this reason it does not include a requirement for the Coroner to prepare a separate report to the administrator for inclusion in the annual report of the Courts Administration Authority, although this does not preclude general information about the operation of the Coroners Court being included.

Further, both the Coroner's and the Courts Administration Council's annual reports are required to be provided to the Attorney-General on or before 31 October each year, and both must then be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 12 days, meaning that it is likely that both reports can be easily viewed together if that is necessary.

In addition to addressing the recommendations of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee, this bill clarifies the process for appointing and removing the State Courts Administrator.

This is to remove any uncertainty about this process. It makes clear that the appointment is by the Governor on the recommendation of the council, and clarifies that the administrator cannot be dismissed by the council alone but must be dismissed by the Governor with the concurrence of the council.

The efficient, effective and accountable administration of South Australia's courts is an important part of the governance of this state. The reforms in this bill will further refine the operation of the Courts Administration Council and Authority to ensure that justice can continue to be done and be seen to be done. I commend this bill to the chamber, and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Courts Administration Act 1993*

###### 3—Amendment of section 7—Composition of the Council

This clause amends section 7 of the principal Act to require an additional 2 members, having extensive experience in human resources management, finance or public administration, to be appointed to the Council, and makes related procedural provisions.

###### 4—Amendment of section 9—Proceedings and decisions of the Council

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 9 of the principal Act.

###### 5—Repeal of section 13

This clause repeals section 13 of the principal Act.

###### 6—Amendment of section 14—Additional reports

This clause deletes 'further' from section 14 of the principal Act to clarify the operation of the section.

###### 7—Amendment of section 16—State Courts Administrator

This clause amends section 16 of the principal Act to require the recommendation of the Council in relation to the appointment of the State Courts Administrator.

###### 8—Amendment of section 21B—Application of Public Sector Act and Superannuation Act

This clause repeals section 21B(4b) of the principal Act.

###### 9—Insertion of Part 4A

This clause inserts new Part 4A into the principal Act, providing for annual reporting by the State Courts Administrator.

##### Schedule 1—Transitional provision

###### 1—Annual report

This clause makes a transitional provision applying new section 23A in relation to the whole of the financial year in which clause 9 of this measure comes into operation.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (16:23):** I rise to indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition, and indicate the opposition's support for the bill. I have an amendment on file and look forward to the opportunity to deal with that in due course in committee.

This is a bill that, like so much of the legislative agenda so far in the Fifty-Fifth Parliament, originates from uncontroversial legislation that was introduced in the last parliament, and I recognise the work of the previous Attorney-General and member for Bragg, Vickie Chapman, who introduced this bill in a substantially similar form and shape in October 2021. It arises, of course, out of the report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee and the recommendations that it has made and, as the minister in his speech just now has indicated, this is with a view to implementing measures to

particularly improve accountability and the appropriate functions of the Sheriff's Office in response to that report on its inquiry.

Apart from the reporting requirements that are set out in the bill, the recommendation for the appointment of non-judicial members to the State Courts Administration Council is a core structural change. The form of the bill as it has been reintroduced by the present government mandates the appointment of those non-judicial members. It makes adjustment to the State Courts Administration Council with respect to the formation of quorum, to ensure that those judicial officers responsible are necessarily part of comprising a quorum, and otherwise with the objective of ensuring the continuing smooth operation of that council and the administration of the courts more broadly.

It is in respect of the composition of the council that I indicate my amendment in due course, and that is to propose the inclusion of an additional head of jurisdiction in the judge of the Youth Court. That is a matter I have raised with the Attorney in the other place and his office, and I take the chance in this moment to indicate my appreciation for the opportunity to be briefed in relation to the bill. I took that opportunity to flag that in the present circumstances, where we are engaged in reviewing the membership of the State Courts Administration Council, it is appropriate to include, in addition to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Chief Judge of the District Court and the Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates Court, also the judge of the Youth Court.

I want to highlight the important role as head of that important court that the judge of the Youth Court plays. Judge Eldridge, as the structure requires, is a judge of the District Court assigned to head the Youth Court and, as has been for some time the case, the judge of the Youth Court is the only judge of that court and is responsible for the oversight of the jurisdiction as a whole.

Members will recall that we quite recently moved what were meritorious amendments, the subject of another bill, to provide some means for delegation of the work of the Youth Court judge precisely in those circumstances where there is only one judge, and that is a help. The Youth Court judge works with several magistrates of the Youth Court in discharging the jurisdiction of the court.

In terms of the make-up of the council, it is in circumstances where there is evermore focus on, in particular, the civil jurisdiction of the Youth Court, comprised as it is, dominated as it is, by the care and protection jurisdiction within the civil jurisdiction, in addition to adoptions and surrogacy. The care and protection jurisdiction is, in my view, an increasingly important component in terms of the justice system and its response, its ability, to support better outcomes for vulnerable children.

I have sat in on proceedings in a variety of ways in the Youth Court and spent what time I can in the Youth Court as an observer of those proceedings, which range from quite formal judicial proceedings through to informal working around of problems and the development of solutions in the interests of improving outcomes for children. It is with great respect I acknowledge the important leadership of the judge of the Youth Court in that respect.

That jurisdiction is conferred by the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017. We know that there is work ongoing in relation to that piece of legislation. At this time and while this bill is before the house, as we look to the composition of the State Courts Administration Council, it seems to me that there has not been a more appropriate time to consider adding the Youth Court judge to that council.

I might say that is also in circumstances where there has been a focus on the relatively challenging circumstances of the Youth Court facilities. We know that that is a building that was opened going on 40 years ago, if not somewhat in excess of that time. It has had an increasing case load over the journey in that standalone building. To my observation, it is a jurisdiction and a facility that serves a jurisdiction that is overdue for improvement and expansion so that the judge and the magistrates who do their work in that court can do it all the more effectively and that it can serve those who need to use it.

Of course, the court also has a substantial criminal jurisdiction by virtue of the Young Offenders Act 1993 and a broad civil jurisdiction. As I say, it is dominated by care and protection, but it covers that range of other activities.

I want to emphasise as well that, when we talk about appropriate facilities for the court to operate in, we know that family group conferences are undertaken there. I would speak up for the



efficacy of those fora with a view to achieving outcomes that can have families supported and, where possible, reconciled in circumstances where there has been difficulty and separation. That might be a way of outlining some views in relation to the make-up of the State Courts Administration Council, which is otherwise being reformed in the way I have described, the subject of clause 3.

The balance of the bill is familiar to those who were here in the course of the Fifty-Fourth Parliament. It is a meritorious improvement, the result of the report by which we are informed and for which we are grateful. With those remarks in the context of the proposed amendment, I look forward to the committee stage and otherwise the efficient passage of the bill through the house.

*Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. A. Michaels*

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:36):** We all have a responsibility to make our workplaces as safe as possible, reducing the risk of injury in a physical manner but equally from a mental health wellbeing perspective as well. When it comes to looking after the wellbeing of workers, we absolutely need to make sure and make it clear that bullying and harassment is not tolerated. It has no place and it should be stamped out wherever it is found.

I know I cannot be the only person in this chamber who was shocked by the findings made by the Statutory Authorities Review Committee's inquiry into the courts' Sheriff's Office, particularly when it comes to the noted large percentage of mental health diagnoses in the submissions received and how the submissions received highlighted that the unprofessional culture continued to exist without much improvement as the complaints of bullying and harassment behaviour in the Sheriff's Office spanned across a long period of time. Steps need to be taken to rectify the matter.

I believe it is important to reflect on the original intent of the Courts Administration Act 1993. It was to be able to establish a new Courts Administration Authority to enable a more effective and more efficient means of providing a unified, cheaper and accountable courts administration in South Australia. This was in light of the developments at the federal level and was at the behest of the then Chief Justice of South Australia, the Hon. Len King, the namesake of the seat that I am now proud to be representing. He insisted that an efficient courts administration could only be secured by the existence of a structure of administration that was both effective and compatible with the needs of an independent judiciary.

Considering the significant change that the bill represented at the time, accountability was sought through a number of methods including annual reporting and ensuring the State Courts Administration Council's members appeared before parliamentary committees. Fast forward to 2019 when the Statutory Authorities Review Committee began their investigation into the state courts administration Sheriff's Office. Whilst the specifics pertaining to a large percentage of the evidence received remain confidential, it became evident to the committee that incidents of bullying and harassment had become normalised within the Sheriff's Office. In fact, one Sheriff's Officer had this to say:

...speaking to other people who have been employed there longer, it had been going on for 10 years before that, from their knowledge. They had obviously been employed for 10 years longer than I have been, and they said it has always been that culture. Bullying and harassment is always condoned and it's useless going to management because they will cover it up, and you are banging your head against a brick wall, and basically, if you do complain, you will be the next target.

This is absolutely not okay, and I have little doubt that this was not anticipated or envisaged when the structure was established by this parliament some 30 years ago—particularly as a previous goal stated in the first Courts Administration Authority report back in 1993 was to provide a satisfying, safe and healthy environment in which staff have the opportunity to achieve professional excellence.

It also pains me to learn that many victims of this workplace were said to have also been scared off from supplying any submissions to the inquiry, as they feared the negative impact that revisiting those traumatic times would have on their mental health and wellbeing—and that the fear unfortunately went further than that. As the Hon. Irene Pnevmatikos highlighted from the report in the other place, I understand that threats to funding and the possibility of privatisation were also used to scare staff from providing evidence, and that by giving evidence they would be putting themselves in the crosshairs.

It is important to note that of the evidence received, the committee was most concerned about how the CAA would investigate the Sheriff's Office, having received concerns about an unclear complaints process, a fear of retribution felt by employees to make complaints against unethical and unprofessional work behaviour, the low level of communication provided to its employees during these matters, and not providing adequate evidence for the basis of findings against its employees, which makes it near impossible for them to seek reviews of such decisions. This is why we are here today discussing this very matter and how we can restructure the governance structure to create better protections for workers in the Sheriff's Office.

This bill implements three of the recommendations made from the Statutory Authorities Review Committee following its review into the state's Courts Administration Council Sheriff's Office. I understand that some of the other recommendations of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee did not require legislative amendment. It also clarifies the appointment process for the State Courts Administrator. As the Hon. Kyam Maher explained in his second reading speech in the other place, it:

- Repeals section 21B(4b) of the Courts Administration Act 1993 to allow the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment to monitor and report on the observance of public sector principles and code of conduct by the Courts Administration Authority.
- Provides for the appointment of two non-judicial members of the State Courts Administration Council who can bring expertise in human resources management, finance, or administration to the State Courts Administration Council.
- Prescribes additional information to be included in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report including a report from the Sheriff on the operations of the Sheriff and security officers.

These recommendations will go a long way in helping to enhance the oversight, reporting requirements and decision-making.

I appreciate that this bill is similar to what was introduced by the previous government. The differences, I understand, are primarily with whether we legislate for two or up to two non-judicial members. To ensure diversity of experience in the make-up of the council, this bill will require two non-judicial members.

The appointment of deputies for the non-judicial members is another difference between this bill and the last, to clarify the quorum and decision-making requirements of the council that are consequential on the change to the composition of the council.

This bill also differs from the 2021 version of the bill by removing a requirement for the Coroner to provide a report to the administrator about the operation of the Coroner's Court for inclusion in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report. Why? Because the State Coroner already has a requirement to provide an annual report pursuant to section 39 of the Coroner's Act 2003 directly to the Attorney-General.

Section 39 of the Coroner's Act requires the State Coroner to report on both the administration of the Coroners Court and the provision of coronial services. It must also include all recommendations made by the Coroners Court under section 25 of the Coroner's Act; that is, the recommendations made following an inquest.

We rightly expect that our courts are operating at their highest possible standard. To achieve that, we are acting to ensure that the culture of our courts is one which promotes a safe workplace culture, one where workers are free to speak up about instances of inappropriate behaviour, and one where there is a clear process for reporting that behaviour, free from reprisal, thus protecting their mental health and wellbeing—not just in the immediate circumstance but over the course of their life as well. As the report makes it clear, the lasting negative impacts of inattention to matters such as bullying and harassment never really leaves a person.

We are serious about protecting workers, and I am pleased that this bill will go a long way to helping make things better for a cohort of workers who have been found to have been let down. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:44):** I rise today in support of the Courts Administration (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2022. Constituted by the Courts Administration Act 1993, the Courts

Administration Authority, or CAA for short, is a means for the judiciary to control the provision of the administrative facilities and services required of our state courts to carry out their judicial functions. Sitting within the Courts Administration Authority is the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office is a statutory office appointed on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The office was first established by the Supreme Court Act 1837, which provided that the court should have ministerial and other officers as might be necessary for the administration of justice in the court, and for the execution of judgements and other orders. Since then, the functions of the office have expanded to include things like administration of the Juries Act 1927, in-court support service, court security service—which I understand the member for Badcoe will be speaking about—prisoner security service, and service and execution of civil and criminal processes.

The Statutory Authorities Review Committee is a standing committee of this parliament established in 1994. The committee comprises five members, all of whom must be members of the other place. The principal function of the committee is to inquire into, consider and report on statutory authorities referred to it. In early 2019, the Statutory Authorities Review Committee began an investigation into the Sheriff's Office. I understand they investigated the employment practices and overall effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office, including management and what systems the office employed to address allegations of workplace bullying, harassment and misconduct.

Our courts best serve our community when they are effective, efficient and accountable, and the amendments outlined in this bill go a long way to achieving this. Before discussing further amendments included in this bill, I would like to thank the Statutory Authorities Review Committee for their work in shining a light on the culture and workplace environment of the Sheriff's Office that was in desperate need of reform.

Many of our colleagues in the other place have reflected in their contributions on the bill on the accounts of bullying, harassment and systemic mistreatment that had been perpetrated over decades. We all have the right to feel safe at work, free from bullying, harassment and intimidation. This bill is just the first step toward providing better protection for workers in the Sheriff's Office.

Much of the content of this bill was proposed by the former Attorney-General, and I would like to thank them for their work, listening to the concerns raised in the committee's report, and to the best of my understanding, fully intending to implement at least some of the committee's recommendations. I also wish to thank the current Attorney-General from the other place for all his work in bringing this bill before us, a bill which goes even further in providing protection for workers in the Sheriff's Office.

The bill before us today differs from that introduced by the former state government in 2021, as I understand the 2021 version provided for up to two non-judicial members of the state courts administration rather than requiring two. There are also some minor differences relating to the appointment of deputies—is anyone else trying to not sing that song about sheriffs and deputies; no, just me?—for the non-judicial members and to clarify the quorum and decision-making requirements.

*Ms Stinson interjecting:*

**Ms CLANCY:** I have been advised no singing is allowed. The bill implements three recommendations of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee's report into the Sheriff's Office. These recommendations are as follows: recommendation 4 of the committee's report was to repeal section 21B(4b) of the Courts Administration Act which prohibits the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment from exercising functions under subsections 14(1)(c) and (f) of the Public Sector Act 2009 in respect of the Courts Administration Authority.

These sections of the Public Sector Act enable the commissioner to monitor and report on the observance of public sector principles, code of conduct and employment determinations. They also enable the commissioner to provide advice on, and conduct reviews of, public sector employment or matters of industrial relations. By repealing section 21B(4b) we empower the commissioner to undertake these functions, reassuring staff of the Courts Administration Authority that the commissioner has oversight of employment practices within the authority.

The Statutory Authorities Review Committee noted that recent annual reports of the Courts Administration Authority did not provide adequate information about important aspects of its operation, often lacking detail about workers compensation; occupational health, welfare and safety; as well as training. The committee also noted that there was no report on the work of the Sheriff's Office and an absence of a dedicated section for each division, as had previously been included in annual reports of the former courts services department. As such, the committee's fifth recommendation was to prescribe additional information to be included in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report, including a report from the Sheriff on the operations of the Sheriff and the security officers.

The committee's sixth recommendation was to provide for the appointment of two additional non-judicial members of the State Courts Administration Council who can bring expertise in human resources management, finance or administration to the council. Such an amendment would provide greater experience outside of law and is a fitting way to bring a diversity of qualified views to the State Courts Administration Council.

As I understand, the remaining recommendations of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee were either not accepted by the previous state government or did not require legislative change to be achieved. The recommendations included in this bill will enhance oversight, reporting requirements and decision-making. They go a long way to ensuring that workers in the Sheriff's Office can do their jobs in a safe and respectful workplace, a right that should be afforded to every worker in South Australia and, indeed, across the world. I commend this bill to the house.

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (16:51):** I rise to speak in support of the Courts Administration (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. I believe in justice, the right to a fair trial and that we should all have a well-run court system to ensure that people have confidence in our justice system. This is why I am supporting this bill that will enhance oversight, reporting requirements and decision-making, improving the administration of justice on behalf of the people of South Australia.

The Courts Administration Authority is constituted by the Courts Administration Act 1993 and, as you would expect, is independent of the legislative and executive arms of government. The authority is a means for the judiciary to control the provision of the administrative facilities and services required by the South Australian courts. The Courts Administration Authority is governed by the State Courts Administration Council. The State Courts Administrator is the council's chief executive officer, and the Sheriff's Office sits within the Courts Administration Authority.

The bill implements three recommendations of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee following its inquiry into the Sheriff's Office and also clarifies the appointment process for the State Courts Administrator. These recommendations are important and to be supported. This bill is based on a bill that the previous government introduced in 2021 but that did not pass parliament. Once again, Labor is getting the job done to improve our state.

The three recommendations that are enacted by this bill include recommendation 4 to repeal section 21B(4b) of the Courts Administration Act to allow the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment to monitor and report on the observance of public sector principles and code of conduct by the Courts Administration Authority.

Recommendation 5 prescribes additional information to be included in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report, including a report from the Sheriff on the operations of the Sheriff and the security officers. I believe it is important that, as the Sheriff's Office sits within the authority, the Sheriff submits a report about the operations of their office as part of the authority's annual report.

Recommendation 6 is a sensible recommendation that will provide for improved governance as it recommends the appointment of two additional non-judicial members of the Courts Administration Council who can bring expertise in human resources management, finance or administration to the council. Unlike the previous bill, this bill requires two non-judicial members to be appointed to ensure a diversity of experience in the make-up of the council. The 2021 version of the bill only provided for up to two non-judicial members to be appointed. Our government believes in quality decision-making and recognising the diversity of our community.

The government will also be moving additional amendments concerning the make-up of the council to facilitate the participation of the Judge of the Youth Court, the State Coroner and the Senior Judge of the Environment, Resources and Development Court. These are additional to current council members, the Chief Justice, Chief Judge and Chief Magistrate.

This bill also differs from the 2021 version of the bill by removing a requirement included in that bill for the Coroner to provide a report to the administrator about the operation of the Coroners Court for inclusion in the Courts Administration annual report. The State Coroner is already required to provide an annual report directly to the Attorney-General.

The State Coroner is required to report on both the administration of the Coroners Court and the provisions of coronial services. They must also include all recommendations made by the Coroners Court following an inquest.

The government believes as the Coroner's annual report requires the inclusion of information relating to their non-judicial functions as Coroner and the provision of coronial services, it is more appropriate for that report to continue to be provided to the Attorney-General. This is sensible and avoids extra administrative work for the Coroner.

I note that the 2021-22 Courts Administration Authority's annual report recorded that the Sheriff's Office Cultural Change Plan 2021 and beyond, was established in 2021-22, comprising five pillars:

- Leadership and Governance;
- Communication;
- Workforce Capacity;
- Capable Workforce; and
- Safety and Wellbeing.

The Sheriff's Office Consultative Working Group re-formed in August 2021 with a representative from the Sheriff's Office staff, People and Culture, the Courts Administration Authority and the Public Service Association. The Sheriff's Office has successfully implemented a number of initiatives of the Sheriff's Office Cultural Change Plan through consultation with the working group, including the Your Voice Our Culture report, the first female Sheriff of South Australia being appointed, improved career pathways and training opportunities for staff, and better conditions and workplace culture for the staff. I would like to thank all those who work in our justice system. I commend this bill to the house.

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (16:57):** I rise to express my support for the Courts Administration (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. I thank those who have put their time and effort into putting this bill together. I thank the speakers who have spoken so eloquently so far, and I am sure will continue to do so, in relation to the important role of our justice system.

Many in this chamber would know that my former life was spent in our courts as a court reporter for more than a decade. My daily life relied on the Courts Administration Authority, whether that was staying up late at night scouring through the many, many court lists looking for what it was that I was going to be covering the next day and informing the South Australian community about, through to calling the media office and speaking with them about how we might obtain information and be in the right place at the right time.

I spent many hours in courtrooms themselves, listening to lawyers put the case for the state, for claimants or, indeed, for those who were defending claims against them and, of course, listening to judges and hearing the rulings that they were handing down. I have to say, sentencing submissions were probably what I found the most interesting.

Certainly, our court system is a combative system. We have one side and another going head to head, but when the case is done, when a verdict has been reached, often that is when you find out the real story. When you actually sit there and listen to the sentencing submissions, what you are talking about there is the why. In a trial you are talking about the what happened, who did it, when it happened, who is guilty, but in sentencing submissions, which come after a finding of guilt,

you are talking about why someone came to the position that they did and committed the crimes that they did and what impact that has had on victims, on their families and sometimes even the families of offenders themselves. I was very fortunate to spend more than a decade of my life listening in our courthouses, and in our courtrooms, to what goes on in South Australia, and particularly in our justice system.

I would also like to pay tribute to the witness and victim assistance officers. They do an incredible job in our Courts Administration Authority, looking after people in their time of greatest desperation and greatest need. It is harrowing to be a victim of crime, and the unfortunate system we have is that people need to relive that trauma when they go through the justice system, when they seek justice for themselves or for a loved one who is no longer with us. That is a horrible process, but it is the process that we have in order to deliver justice to those individuals, and also on a grander scale, across our community.

Those witness and victim assistance officers do an incredible job in supporting people and providing them with information about how the often confusing and alienating court system works, and their role in it. Also, importantly, they advise those people on how to have their say, how to put forward a victim impact statement, how to make their views clear to a judge and to the court so that their needs are met and addressed, both in sentencing and in the cathartic experience of being able to share what has happened to them on a public stage. For some people that can be quite important, and maybe even more important sometimes than the verdict that might be handed down in their loved one's case or the case that personally involves them.

Obviously, I also want to thank the very hardworking Sheriff's Officers. There are quite a few measures in this bill that go directly to the role of our Sheriff's Officers. They are remarkable people. They are the ones who keep our courthouses ticking. They are there opening the doors at the beginning of the day, and they are there closing them at the end of the day, and there is so much that goes on behind the scenes that people simply do not see.

Most people would not be aware of the extensive infrastructure that is under the courthouse building, and behind it, where alleged offenders are brought in and out. The cells are underneath the Courts Administration building and the courtrooms of the District Court and Supreme Court; and there is the Magistrates Court complex as well. On that note, if members get the opportunity you can see all this if you go to the Courts Open Day, which is held once a year. You can have a look at the inner workings of the courthouse.

The Sheriff's Officers are the ones who deal with offenders coming in and out of courts, sometimes through the front door, sometimes being brought in from various correctional facilities or remand centres, and that is challenging. Not everyone wants to be there. Not everyone is keen on appearing before the judge, and it is a stressful experience for people who are having to go through the process, whether they end up being convicted or not. Of course, that stress is something that our Sheriff's Officers have to deal with every day. Sometimes, it manifests itself in violence towards our Sheriff's Officers. They have to go through some very difficult experiences. That is part and parcel of their job. Their job is to deal with those situations, to keep the rest of us safe and to ensure that our justice system can run smoothly so I have great admiration for them in doing that.

As much as they deal with offenders, and alleged offenders, they also deal with the other side of the justice system. They deal with judges and their associates, they deal with lawyers for the DPP, and also defence lawyers, and they deal with people coming in for civil cases, as well as criminal. They deal with victims, they deal with witnesses and with general members of the public, and they also deal with members of the media. I have to say that does cause some trouble for the Sheriff's Officers from time to time, and sometimes contributes to tense situations, becoming even tenser particularly outside the court buildings. Obviously, I support the right of journalists, being a former journalist, to be able to interrogate what is happening in our court system. But it does get pretty hairy sometimes, and the Sheriff's Officers are the ones on the frontline who have to deal with that.

A number of these changes are to do with our Sheriff's Officers, and I have to say it has been troubling to hear some of the things that our Sheriff's Officers have been raising over many years

about their own treatment and their workplace environment. I might take this moment to actually acknowledge my colleague who is here right next to me, the Minister for Regional Development—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Ms STINSON:** —and Local Government and now the member for Stuart who, in his former role as the member for Frome, really took up the case of Sheriff's Officers who were experiencing these difficulties and really went into bat for them. It was not clear cut and there was a lot going on there.

I think they were very happy and very lucky to have an advocate in him to be able to push their case and get to essentially where we are today: where we have had some detailed work as far as human resources go to look into their claims, the things that are going on with them and, essentially, to investigate them and make something that was wrong right. That is what this bill is about. It is about righting a wrong—

**An honourable member:** A journey and a half.

**Ms STINSON:** A journey and a half, yes; that might be an understatement. This bill implements three recommendations of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee following its inquiry into the Sheriff's Office which the member for then Frome, now Stuart, was so instrumental in. It also clarifies the appointment processes for the State Courts Administrator. It is based on a bill that the previous government, to their credit, introduced in 2021 but unfortunately did not pass.

The three main recommendations are the repeal of section 21B(4b) of the Courts Administration Act to allow the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment to monitor and report on the observance of public sector principles and code of conduct by the Courts Administration Authority. Although that sounds largely administrative, it is actually incredibly important that that oversight is put in place.

It also prescribes that additional information be included in the Courts Administration Authority's annual report, including a report from the Sheriff on the operations of the Sheriff and security officers. Obviously in this place we are quite used to reading those annual reports and they are a useful tool in informing us as parliamentarians and the broader community about what is going on. It is important and critical that the Sheriff now has a role in being able to report to us. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

### *Motions*

## **UKRAINE INVASION**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (17:07):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes with great sadness that 24 February 2023 marks the first anniversary of the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine;
- (b) deplores the actions of Russia invading Ukraine and calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the total withdrawal of Russian forces;
- (c) notes the terrible toll caused by the war with international estimates of more than 40,000 deaths, more than 90,000 casualties and the displacement of more than 14 million people;
- (d) affirms the resolutions of the 11<sup>th</sup> emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the full protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel, journalists and vulnerable persons;
- (e) congratulates South Australians for the warmth and friendship they have shown Ukrainians, displaced by the conflict, who have settled in our great state; and
- (f) resolves to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes, to ensure peace and independence is returned for the Ukrainian people—SLAVA UKRAINI!

I rise to move this motion to mark what is a grim anniversary. It is one year since Russian forces crossed the border into Ukraine, an act of unprovoked aggression which has been met with universal condemnation from the rest of the world's democracies.

Twelve months ago, in a brazen act of expansionist hubris, Vladimir Putin sent his armies into Ukrainian territory, expecting to encounter a few local skirmishes that would last weeks before an easy victory. His armies did not anticipate the resistance they would encounter, nor did they count on the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people.

Putin did not guess that Volodymyr Zelenskyy would prove to be such a powerful leader of his people. He did not for a moment imagine that, a year after crossing the border, his forces would be in retreat or that his economy would be starting to feel the bite of international sanctions. He did not imagine that Russia would sacrifice their lucrative oil and gas customers in Europe, or that he would face an increasing chorus of criticism even at home from an oppressed populace increasingly unhappy with their leader's failures and becoming growingly shocked by the number of their own young people being sent to their deaths for a madman's folly.

We recognise and celebrate the strength of the Ukrainian people, but this anniversary is a hard one to acknowledge and an impossible one to celebrate. It has been a year of death, of destruction, of families torn apart and futures set aflame. It is a year with 40,000 lives lost and casualties approaching 100,000.

It is a year that has seen over 14 million people—14 million people—displaced, and reconstruction and decontamination costs calculated to be close to a trillion Australian dollars. It has been a year of war with no winners—and it is not over. The people of Ukraine continue to fight their would-be invaders, whose threats grow ever more ominous. However, if there is one light that has emerged from these tragic events it is the light that the Ukrainian people have provided to the rest of the world to inspire them to fight for the cause of freedom.

I am proud that Australia stepped up to support Ukraine as part of an international effort, showing that our country has no patience for bullies. When we heard the first stories of families fleeing to Australia for safety, often mothers and children of men staying behind to fight, I made very clear that South Australia would open its doors and, more importantly, its hearts to those fleeing the conflict.

We have welcomed 400 Ukrainian people to South Australia, several of whom are here in the chamber today, and I want to say again, on behalf of the people of our state, 'You are welcome here, you are safe here, and we stand with you every step of the way.' Words are one thing, but South Australia has backed them up with action. We have heard of the horrors that Ukraine doctors and nurses have seen and the desperate need for supplies to support their vital humanitarian work. That is why South Australia has sent almost \$2 million worth of medical supplies to Ukraine.

We have provided \$200,000 to the Australian Refugee Association to provide trauma-informed support services. We have done little things like arranging free entry to our zoos and wildlife parks for the children who have been brought here through so much trauma at such a tender age. We have provided information and assistance in employment and skills training and waived costs for health care and school. Through the Housing Trust we have given families access to public housing and rental assistance for those entering the private market. We have arranged swimming and water safety instruction through Surf Life Saving SA—it is a bit warmer here in the summer.

We have supported the work of the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia, who have been tireless in providing support to new arrivals, through a \$175,000 grant. On this point I would like to acknowledge the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia, particularly Frank Fursenko, for his extraordinary work.

Additionally, my government has supported through tens of thousands of dollars to The Advertiser Foundation's Ukraine appeal and also to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. We acted promptly by introducing and then passing laws in our parliament to ban state government investment in all Russian assets, doing our part in the worldwide sanctions against Putin's aggression, and we continue to stand with our federal government's continued humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine.



In short, we have backed our words with direct action and support for people who have come so far and experienced too much.

As proud as I am of the actions of the government, I am even prouder of the people of South Australia themselves. This war has affected everyone here. With the rising global cost of energy, due in no small part to Putin's reckless actions, South Australians have been doing it tough, but it has never stopped them being welcoming and genuine and sincere in their accommodation of Ukrainian people in our state. It speaks to South Australia's generosity and belief that we will always have a role to play in helping and supporting one another in their time of need.

It says something else: it says that we have no patience for despots. Today, on this anniversary of the Russian invasion, we reiterate in this chamber that we stand with the people of Ukraine, as we have done throughout this unnecessary and futile conflict, and we reassure all of those who are rebuilding their lives in South Australia that we share your hopes for peace. At the same time we join the global call for the immediate and full withdrawal of Russian invaders in Ukraine.

The Ukraine conflict is half a world away from us here in South Australia, but hearing the experience of those families affected, stories of courage and resilience, of sorrow and hope, we are reminded that we are all part of a great global human family. We hope that sanity will prevail and peace will return to the region for the benefit of Ukrainians and freedom-loving people around the world alike. But hoping for peace does not mean that we cower to despots: today we proudly stand with Ukraine in the hope that this conflict ends before reaching a tragic second anniversary.

History is littered with examples of the extraordinary acts that people will undertake to ensure the preservation of freedom. History is littered with examples of would-be invaders and despots and those who seek to serve their own interests at the expense of others failing. I have every confidence that ultimately good will prevail in this instance. Every freedom-loving person around our world and right here at home in our state stands with Ukraine.

For me as a descendant of a Lithuanian grandfather and a Hungarian grandmother, who themselves had to flee the perils of Russian aggression and the communist forces that sought to tear their nations apart in the late 1940s and 1950s, I know all too well of the tragic impact that Russian aggression can have on the human spirit, but I also know that where there is hope and the will to live freely, then we will prevail. Ukraine will prevail. The West will prevail.

In the meantime, we stand with every South Australian of Ukrainian descent and all of the work they are doing to support their families back home. We will never let you down, we will never stop fighting and we will always stand with Ukraine. Slava Ukraini.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (17:19):** It is a great honour on behalf of the Liberal Party of South Australia, on behalf of the opposition, to wholeheartedly support the motion that has been put forward by the Premier this afternoon, to wholeheartedly support each of his sentiments towards the Ukrainian people and to support each of the initiatives that the Government of South Australia has put into place to support those Ukrainians who have found their way to safety in the state of South Australia. We wholeheartedly support this motion in an act of bipartisanship. For those in the gallery today, I would like to emphasise that that is a common thing in South Australia, not the rarity.

We grieve with the many Ukrainians here today. We grieve with the many Ukrainians who live in South Australia, whether they have lived here for a number of generations or whether they have found themselves, perhaps unexpectedly, living in South Australia as a consequence of the current conflict. We acknowledge the immense personal consequences of this aggression, which has come as the result of Vladimir Putin's completely unprovoked actions.

We acknowledge the 40,000 deaths, the more than 90,000 casualties that we know of and the more than 40 million people who have been displaced, displaced to neighbouring countries, displaced to other places around the globe. We also acknowledge the countries that have taken perhaps a more significant share of those displaced people. I particularly think of Poland and the Polish people and what they have done through this time.

We honour the victims of this horrific invasion, but we also extend the hand of friendship and unwavering support to those who are left behind, those who are uncertain as to the fate of family

members and who every night go to bed worrying about the news that they might hear when they wake up in the morning.

As the Premier said, Vladimir Putin was expected to roll into Ukraine and take that country within a matter of weeks. That has not been the case. That is a tremendous testament to the resilience, the willpower and the solidarity of the Ukrainian people and, of course, the phenomenal leadership of a man that many of us had not even heard of as little as 12 months ago, President Zelenskyy, and those who support him. This has been an example of a relatively small nation, compared to its aggressor, standing up, holding its own and communicating to the world and its allies—and building allies as it has gone—that this sort of behaviour cannot and will not be tolerated.

I think the message of President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people is quite clear: if they fall, who will be next? That is something each and every one of us, particularly those who occupy positions of privilege in governments, such as the Premier and myself and the people elected to this chamber, need to bear at the forefront of our minds.

Our message today is that Australia is in absolute united solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Over the last 12 months since that illegal invasion, Australia has committed \$655 million worth of assistance to Ukraine, including \$475 million in military aid and the provision of 70 army trainers. But it is not just about financial support. I hope that each and every one of those who make up the Ukrainian community in South Australia has felt the warmth of partnership and the loving embrace, both literal and metaphorical, that the South Australian people have extended to the growing Ukrainian community here. Australia may provide military equipment. It may provide vehicles and training, but humanitarian support, both on the ground in Ukraine and in South Australia and the nation at large, is a critical part of the way that we can support you.

In South Australia, we have welcomed Ukrainians with open arms by providing visas to Ukrainian nationals, and several thousand of these have been granted across the nation of Australia. We are proud to have our Ukrainian community so strongly represented here today, and I want to particularly thank the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia under Frank Fursenko's leadership, for the way that you have worked so hard to raise awareness of the situation in your homeland, to teach us about your culture, to spread the message not only of the military invasion but of how South Australia can stand up and how South Australians—both governments and communities—can help. Frank, to you and your association, thank you.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Democracy is something that we take for granted here in South Australia, there is no doubt about that. It is a good thing that we can take it for granted, but across the world democracy is enjoyed by only just over 50 per cent of our planet's population. Democracy across the globe is in decline: it is not on the rise. We need to cleave on to our democratic principles here in South Australia, but we also need to stand up for democratic principles when we see it under threat, under aggression in other parts of the world.

The Premier and I can have a conversation. We can pick up the phone and talk to one another. We can walk out of here and have a joke together. There are many, many places in the world where that is not possible. So let's be thankful for what we have here, but let's do our bit to support the Ukrainian people at this time, to push back against that aggressor, to give you the confidence that this battle can be won—the many battles can be won—and that you have the solidarity of the 1.7 or so million people in South Australia and 25 point something million people in Australia.

But actually you have allies in every corner of the globe rooting for you, that your people very soon will be free again to go about their business, to feel safe in their beds at night, to celebrate your culture, and to once again go back to providing the many things that you provided to the globe, whether that is food or fibre, whether it is natural resources or whether it is the stories and the traditions of your culture that you have spread across the planet. Thank you for all of that. Let us cleave on to the values of democracy. Let us fight for Ukraine, whether that be in a physical sense or whether it be by coming together in resilient solidarity with you all.

We stand with you, Ukraine, and as this motion states, and as I say in complete solidarity with the Premier, we will continue to do so for as long as it takes to ensure peace and independence is returned to the Ukrainian people. Slava Ukraini.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The SPEAKER (17:28):** Before I turn to the minister, I think it is right that I add from the chair, given that this is a most certainly bipartisan position. Today, this is your parliament as well as it is ours. This is your democracy as well as it is ours. South Australia has long been a place of safety from persecution. We hope to continue to offer you every support including, of course, this motion before the house today.

I add this on a very personal note. My brother lives in Vienna with his wife. He works in and through the diplomatic community and has been closely involved in supporting in his own life as many refugees as he possibly can. It is something that is close to his heart, but it is also something that he is involved in by way of his work.

I mention that only to say that it has been the insight that he has provided to me that has made me understand how important your struggle is not only to you, to Ukraine and to the West, as the Premier and the opposition leader have made clear in the house today, but also to each of us in South Australia who believes that democracy is a fragile and delicate thing and that it is important for us personally to make a contribution, even in a small way, wherever we can.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (17:29):** I rise to support this motion, and I echo the words of the Premier and opposition leader on our support and compassion towards our Ukrainian South Australians during this distressing time. In early 2022, South Australians watched on in horror as the unthinkable quickly became a reality: a land war in Europe. But this conflict has been so significant because of what it represents: a great power, indeed one of the world's nuclear superpowers, engaging in a violent act of conquest upon a democratic nation. We call upon Russia to end its war. This must end.

The democratic world had hoped that these attempts at total annexation upon a sovereign nation were a thing of the past. We had hoped that the killings, the displacement, the suffering and the generational trauma that these conflicts cause would not happen, but we now find ourselves in a global environment where the promise of safety and peace in democratic and developed nations is no longer assured. I feel so deeply for the Ukrainian people, and I can only imagine what they are enduring right now. Closer to home, I can see the impact that this is having upon our Ukrainian South Australians.

Last year, I hosted a lunch with members of the Ukrainian community to thank them for the support they were giving to Ukrainians finding shelter here in South Australia as well as their fundraising efforts. They relayed to me the simple, horrible truth that they all have relatives who are suffering overseas. Whether they have had their homes torn apart or have been forced to migrate to safety or find themselves on the frontline, their relatives are experiencing a trauma like no other.

We know that this will take decades to recover from and that recovery will not come without the support of friends and allies. The Malinauskas Labor government stands with Ukraine and our Ukrainian South Australians. From the outset, we have made a determined effort to go above and beyond to support our Ukrainian friends. We have provided funding and medical equipment to Ukrainians who need it most. We have legislated to prevent South Australian money from being invested in Russian efforts, to curb their war efforts and to make them feel the economic consequences of their actions.

But most importantly, we have welcomed hundreds of Ukrainians into our state. Along with our colleagues, we have done what we can to support our new residents and support Ukrainians already living here with their own efforts to assist. I have spoken to Ukrainian South Australians who have opened their homes and their hearts to these new arrivals. They are spending countless hours assisting these families to access the social services they need and connect with their loved ones who are suffering at home. They are dedicating every waking hour to this effort, and I stand in awe of their contribution.

On this sad day, the first anniversary of an unjust and violent invasion perpetrated by a dictatorship, I wish to acknowledge the sorrow and trauma felt by Ukrainians here and abroad. The path is uncertain and long, but in South Australia we will continue to support Ukrainians as they navigate these stressful events. You are safe here. You are welcome here. Slava Ukraini.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:34):** It is with humility that I rise to speak and participate in this motion. I know that every member of this chamber, indeed many South Australians, would have reflections to offer that would endorse entirely the speeches given by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, the minister and those to come, in support of this tremendously important motion at this difficult time, as we reflect on one year tomorrow since the invasion of Ukraine.

The historian, Dominic Sandbrook, wrote in a magazine this week and he described it simply: 'The Ukraine war is not complicated. Sometimes good and evil do exist.' In Russia's invasion of Ukraine we see a belligerent aggressor acting in bad faith with intentionally confected motives, spreading hateful propaganda to its own and throughout the world, breaking international law and international conventions, committing war crimes and pursuing a war of conquest.

In Ukraine we see a liberal democracy with all of the complexity and all of the complications and diversity that liberal democracies around the world, particularly new democracies, face. But, ultimately, we see a country whose people value freedom and self-determination, a country that has faced trauma before and demonstrated a resilience and recovery from trauma before over hundreds of years, a country whose people have stunned the world in the last year with their strength of shared purpose, their determination to secure a peaceful future and the restoration of their land.

Ukraine is not Russia. To say that Russian-speaking Ukrainians, such as President Zelenskyy himself, to name one, consider themselves Russian is foolish and probably as offensive as to suggest that an English-speaking Irish person considers themselves English. It is very clear that Ukrainian people, including in the disputed territories, overwhelmingly reject Russian claims on their land. Donetsk is Ukraine, Luhansk is Ukraine.

Russia acknowledged Ukraine sovereignty on a number of occasions after the fall of the Soviet Union, notably in 1994 through the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances when Ukraine along with Kazakhstan and Belarus gave away their nuclear arsenal and in return Russia committed to refrain from the use of force, refrain from the threat of the use of force, refrain from economic coercion, and to respect those other countries' independence and sovereignty within existing borders.

That document was signed by Boris Yeltsin. His successor, Vladimir Putin, has effectively shredded it over the last decade as he seeks to emulate his hero, Peter the Great, in an horrific vanity exercise that has killed tens of thousands of Russians as well as Ukrainians, destroyed towns and cities and displaced millions. History, as I think the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition both reflected in their different words, will remember Vladimir Putin as a mad dictator who tried to break the world.

Despite Russian propaganda's extraordinary and laughable efforts to paint his Ukrainian counterpart, President Zelenskyy, as a villain, President Zelenskyy has shown himself to be an extraordinary leader, somebody who has been a figure of strength in the face of extraordinary adversity, a figure of national unity and international solidarity and stature. He leads the defence of his country and he has succeeded in communicating effectively and engaging with the world, including here in Australia.

Australia has stood united. In February last year we had Liberal state and federal governments standing side by side and supported by Labor state and federal oppositions, and a year later we have Labor state and federal governments standing side by side and supported by Liberal oppositions in their bipartisan support for Ukraine, and that will continue to be the case.

Australia has supported Ukraine with aid and humanitarian assistance, material assistance and weapons. We have provided support for Ukrainians who have come to South Australia and whether financial support, humanitarian efforts or other direct action, Australia and South Australia have stood as one in support of our Ukrainian community here too.

I note the many South Australians who have volunteered their efforts to provide humanitarian assistance either here or overseas and, in particular, many members of the Ukrainian community in South Australia have done so, and to that community—so many of whom have known their own loss and their own trauma through grief, through family members, friends and loved ones—we thank you for your extraordinary efforts in supporting those Ukrainians who have come to South Australia and ensuring that the South Australian community has been engaged in what you have been going through at every turn. I know that here in this chamber and around our state, in making reflections on this anniversary we also reflect on the many innocent lives that have been lost as a result of this invasion.

One year ago tomorrow, we hoped for the best and I think that many of us feared for the worst. One year on, we have all been given heart by the strength and resilience of Ukraine and by the solidarity that has been demonstrated by those Western liberal democracies around the world that the Premier spoke of who have stood firm with Ukraine, who have continued to provide material and military and humanitarian assistance, who have not been swayed, who, as the Leader of the Opposition noted, have been swayed by the message that if Ukraine falls then who will be next? Dominic Sandbrook finished his article with a simple statement:

Good versus evil; right versus wrong. In a complicated world, sometimes it really is that simple.

Slava Ukraini.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (17:40):** I rise today to provide a brief contribution in support of this very important motion. There is very little that I can add that has not already been put by the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and other speakers.

On 25 February last year, I stood, as did the member for Morphett, with the Ukrainian community. One day into this illegal occupation, this illegal war, we stood and unequivocally on behalf of leaders in this state pinned our colours to the wall. In doing so and in rising today, I do so proudly knowing that the Ukrainian people are on the right side of history. They are on the right side of history and will remain on the right side of history.

Whilst other speakers today have rightfully reflected on the sadness and the loss that one year into this devastating conflict has brought us, I want to reflect on the bravery and the stoicism of the Ukrainian people who are fighting with every bit of their being for their freedom, for their language, for their nation. They do so being dislocated from their family, from their friends. They are often—as I have met so many people who are now calling South Australia home—men who are dislocated from their wives, their children. And they fight. They fight because there is no other option but to fight for Ukraine.

In the bravery and stoicism that we have seen, we have also seen a remarkable global solidarity that we do not often get to see, because of immense headwinds of complications around geopolitical politics. But this has largely brought together the world, because we are a people who believe in basic freedoms. It is not just the globe, it is also the internationalism for which Australia is renowned—not just in the years 2022 and 2023 but a proud history as a nation of standing with international solidarity and in international solidarity with those who pursue the same ideals that we do: freedom and democracy.

We have seen firsthand the grace of South Australia. The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Morialta have discussed the open arms with which our state has opened ourselves to Ukrainian displaced people. Again, this is not new. It is the same freedom that the Minister for Small Business's parents found, the same freedom that welcomed the Premier's grandparents, the same freedom that my father found. That is what I want to reflect on today.

I also want to say how personally inspired I am by the Ukrainian community of South Australia, how inspired I am by my friends from the Ukrainian community of South Australia: the artists, the dancers, the musicians who continue to give themselves to raise funds for the conflict and the relief. The teachers who have taken it upon themselves to teach English to new arrivals. Swimming teachers are taking young Ukrainian children to the beach in a way that is so uniquely South Australian.

Today and every day I know that Ukraine is on the right side of history. Tomorrow will be a difficult day for Ukrainians, for the local Ukrainian community. I am sure and I know that tomorrow there will be some tears shed, some laughter, but there will be a reflection on the sad loss that we have seen. There will be an acknowledgement of the enormous task at hand, but in doing so it will be with optimism, knowing that Ukrainian people are brave, knowing that Ukrainian people will fight and knowing that freedom, no matter how hard the pursuit is, will always succeed. Slava Ukraini.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:45):** I am proud and privileged here today to support this motion in support of Ukraine and all its people:

That this house—

- (a) notes with great sadness that 24 February 2023 marks the first anniversary of the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine;
- (b) deplores the actions of Russia invading Ukraine and calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the total withdrawal of Russian forces;
- (c) notes the terrible toll caused by the war with international estimates of more than 40,000 deaths, more than 90,000 casualties and the displacement of more than 14 million people;
- (d) affirms the resolutions of the 11<sup>th</sup> emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the full protection of civilians, including humanitarian personal, journalists and vulnerable persons;
- (e) congratulates South Australians for the warmth and friendship they have shown Ukrainians, displaced by the conflict, who have settled in our great state; and
- (f) resolves to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes, to ensure peace and independence is returned for the Ukrainian people—SLAVA UKRAINI!

On 24 February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014, with the annexation of Crimea. Putin fully underestimated the capability of the Ukraine. I think he thought he would be in and out in three weeks. The invasion has caused tens of thousands of deaths on both sides and instigated Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. About eight million Ukrainians were displaced within their country by June 2022, and more than eight million had fled the country by February 2023.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning the invasion and demanding a full withdrawal of Russian forces. The International Court of Justice ordered Russia to suspend military operations, and the Council of Europe expelled Russia. Many countries, including Australia, have imposed sanctions on Russia and on its ally Belarus, and provided humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine.

Protests have occurred around the world. Those in Russia were met with mass arrests and increased media censorship. I am very proud of the aid our state and our country has provided Ukraine, and in response to the illegal invasion Australia has worked with partners to support Ukraine and hold Russia accountable for its actions. This includes committing military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, providing duty free access for Ukrainian imports, prioritising visa applications from Ukrainian nationals and imposing sanctions on Russia and Belarussian individuals and organisations, among others. As of October 2022, Australia has provided Ukraine with a total of approximately \$655 million in support, including \$475 million in military assistance. This commitment demonstrates our proud country's continued commitment and support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I want to spend a few moments talking about the agricultural powerhouse that Ukraine is, which has come to note so much more with this conflict. Ukraine is one of the world's top agricultural producers and exporters and plays a critical role in supplying oilseeds and grains to the global market. More than 55 per cent of Ukraine's land area is arable land. Agriculture provides employment for 14 per cent of Ukraine's population.

Agricultural products are Ukraine's most important exports. In 2021, they totalled \$27.8 billion, accounting for 41 per cent of the country's \$68 billion in overall exports. Ukraine produces one-third of the world's sunflower oil and accounts for nearly half of the world's global exports. Those exports were valued at \$6.4 billion in 2021. For rapeseed, Ukraine is the world's

sixth largest producer and third largest exporter, with shipments totalling \$1.7 billion in 2021. Ukraine is the world's sixth largest corn producer and was forecast to be the fourth largest exporter in marketing year 2021-22.

For soybeans, Ukraine is the world's ninth largest producer and seventh largest exporter, with sales valued at \$600 million in 2021. Ukraine is the world's seventh largest wheat producer and was forecast to be the fifth largest exporter for the 2021-22 marketing year. What has happened with the war has reduced cereals and oilseeds export availability from Ukraine and is pushing up international food and feed prices.

Moreover, global energy and fertiliser prices have increased from their already high levels due to Russia's aggression and the resulting uncertainty related to the availability of Russian energy and fertiliser globally. As the agrifood sector is highly energy intensive, rising energy and fertiliser prices are translating into higher production costs and contributing to food price increases.

In regard to the military aid that our great country has supported Ukraine with through that \$475 million, it is delivering important capabilities to the Ukrainian armed forces and supporting its defence. I want to acknowledge the many hundreds of thousands of troops in Ukraine doing such a great job in pushing back the aggressor. In that, I want to acknowledge, alongside the men, the at least 50,000 women in your armed forces, with at least 5,000 of those serving on the frontline.

Australia has also deployed Australian Defence Force personnel to the United Kingdom to provide training to Ukrainian troops through Operation Interflex. We are currently providing an additional 30 Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles to Ukraine, bringing the total number of gifted Bushmasters to 90.

I want to acknowledge the great battle that Ukraine is undertaking and acknowledge the support we have given both here and across Australia. It is a fight Ukraine must win and will win, and I salute you. Slava Ukraini.

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (17:53):** I am honoured to have been asked to speak to this motion. As the Ukrainian people, you have stolen my heart. In July last year, I stood here and spoke about our government's actions in removing state government funds from Russian investments. I said I could never have imagined that in 2022 we would be in a position where there is a war raging in Europe and that the whole country is being decimated. It is now seven months later and, heartbreakingly, the conflict is still devastating the lives of the Ukrainian people.

Tomorrow marks the one-year anniversary of the illegal Russian invasion and there is no end in sight. This morning, the media reported that China and Russia have reaffirmed their close bilateral relationship and I fear for what comes next. Ukrainian people have had to bear witness to the worst example of human behaviour. In 2023, the world should not be accepting this kind of warfare—surely, we are more mature than that. This motion calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the total withdrawal of Russian forces. The world needs to come together to stamp out this barbaric attack on democracy.

The pictures we see, the news reports and the books we read all paint a picture of courage and resilience, but how much can these people bear? With international estimates of more than 40,000 deaths and 90,000 casualties, the fallout has been catastrophic. The displacement of Ukrainians continues, with over 14 million forced to flee their homes. They are running for their lives, but those who are left behind, some choosing to stand and fight—fighting for their country and for their independence—face danger every minute. The scenes of bravery fill our TV channels, and I hope that the Ukrainians continue to have the strength to defend what is rightfully theirs.

South Australians have opened their hearts and their doors to the Ukrainian people, with over 400 settling here in the last year alone. I have been fortunate to speak with some of these brave people who are now making Adelaide their home, and their stories are heartbreaking. The sadness is just behind their eyes; you can feel it and see it as they tell you about their experience, about who they have had to leave behind and about their hopes for the future. Our government has continued to provide significant support to these resilient, courageous people, as outlined by the Premier and previous members.

I am proud to say that my own community have also come together to assist. In June last year, Blackwood Action Group and the Blackwood Uniting Church organised a fundraising fashion show, which allowed local businesses to show off their latest styles. It was lovely to see over \$6,700 raised, which went directly to displaced people who are now calling SA home.

At this show I met an incredible Ukrainian who is doing everything she can to help Ukrainians, both here and overseas, and that is Diane, and she is here today. Diane gave a very touching presentation about what was happening in Ukraine, and I know that many in the audience were heartbroken. Diane let me know that the Ukraine language school, where she volunteers two days a week, was hoping to send the newly arrived students on camp, but the cost was proving difficult to make that happen. The Blackwood Hills Circle of Friends were incredible and donated much of the funds to pay for the camp for the children, and I thank them for the work that they do in supporting refugees.

Zonta, Coromandel Rotary and Blackwood Rotary came together to provide the funds needed to pay for the bus. I was incredibly heartened to also hear the story of Deanna Kernick, a local artist in Blackwood, who created a beautiful mosaic sunflower that Zonta used as a fundraiser. Deanna was so generous that, in the end, she actually purchased the art herself as it meant so much to her, contributing over \$500 to the cause.

But the group of students still needed sleeping bags. I was proud to be able to deliver 49 sleeping bags to Iryna at the language school, gratefully donated by many here in this chamber. I also had the pleasure of meeting some of the children, including Taras and Nazar, who, along with their friends, let me know that they had a good stash of lollies to take with them in their sleeping bags. I am glad that we were able to help them with this.

Diane continues her work supporting refugees and has started a campaign to help rebuild and refurnish a school in Ukraine. With over 270 schools destroyed already, Diane has a strong concern for young children still living in Ukraine, whose lives have been thrown into complete chaos and who will be in desperate need to have the stability of school available as soon as possible. I am sure you have all seen the pictures of children continuing their studies in bunkers. I cannot imagine the impact this would be having. I congratulate Diane and all her helpers on their ongoing work and support. Tomorrow, Akkerman & Dyer Wood Oven Bakery in Blackwood are supporting Diane in her cause by having a Ukraine-inspired menu, donating \$2 from every meal sold to help rebuild the school. I am looking forward to enjoying that.

These are small examples of how South Australians are here for you, and I know they are mirrored across the state, the nation and the world. I take this opportunity to encourage all here to think about how they may be able to help Diane with this important cause. I am really proud that my community continues to come together to help support our new friends, and I hope you know that we are here for you.

I would like to acknowledge Frank and the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia and the Ukraine language school, who have been working tirelessly to support new arrivals, including sourcing accommodation, providing essential supplies and linking them to settlement services.

I have been very fortunate to be able to attend various events where there has been Ukrainian dance and singing, and I thank all Ukrainians for sharing so generously their culture. I am saddened that many are here because of the war but glad South Australians have embraced them with open arms. I stand with the Ukrainian people: for your home, for your independence and for your livelihoods. Slava Ukraini.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (17:59):** In 1990, the Ukrainian parliament declared its independence from the Soviet Union. In August of that same year, Ukraine declared its independence for a second time after a failed coup in Moscow. The Soviet Union finally dissolved in December and Ukraine officially became an independent country after a landslide victory of 92 per cent of votes in favour.

After this, Ukraine sought to establish relations with the Western world. In 1992, Ukraine formally established relations with NATO, although it did not join the alliance. In 1994, Ukraine signed



the Budapest Memorandum, which saw it give up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for guarantees of respect for its sovereignty and independence from the US, the UK and, of course, Russia.

Ukraine has since had a complicated relationship with Russia. This relationship was the catalyst for the current crisis. In 2004, there was a presidential election in Ukraine that was marred by allegations of rigging in favour of Viktor Yanukovych who was supported by the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

The public outcry that followed became known as the Orange Revolution. The opposition candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, was declared the winner after a third vote. Yushchenko was a pro-Western, free-market president who sought to bring Ukraine into NATO.

In 2008, he and then Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, formally requested that Ukraine be granted a membership action plan, which is the first step in the process of joining the alliance. Although the US supported Ukraine's membership, France and Germany opposed it after Russia voiced its displeasure. NATO compromised by promising that Ukraine would one day be a member of the alliance but did not put into place a specific pathway on how they could do so.

In January 2009, Gazprom, the state-owned Russian gas company, suddenly stopped pumping natural gas into Ukraine following months of politically fought negotiations over gas prices. Because Eastern and Central European countries rely on pipelines through Ukraine to receive gas imports from Russia, the gas crisis quickly spread beyond Ukraine's borders. Tymoshenko negotiated a new deal with Putin and gas flows resumed on 20 January.

In 2010, Putin-backed Yanukovych was elected president and he said that Ukraine should be a neutral state, cooperating with both Russia and Western alliances, like NATO. However, his presidency was fraught with allegations of corruption. In 2014, a public outcry began. Anti-government protests broke out on Independence Square, also known as Maidan. The protestors were calling for the ousting of Yanukovych over corruption and his decision to abandon the planned trade agreement with the European Union.

In February 2014, he was ousted and Ukraine became embroiled in a crisis that continues to this day. In March of that year, Russia annexed Crimea, which had previously been a part of Ukraine. Separatists backed by Russia also took control of two regions in eastern Ukraine. Violence in the region has since claimed more than 14,000 lives. Ukraine has since turned away from Moscow and towards the West, with popular support on the rise for joining Western alliances such as NATO and the European Union.

As Ukraine has sought to establish relations with the West, its relationship with Russia has been the catalyst for this war only because Putin has not got his way. In the months leading up to February 2022, Russia has been amassing troops around Ukraine, with over 80,000 troops moving into the region in March and April the previous year. More troops were added later, exceeding 130,000.

In December 2021, Moscow issued a series of demands including that Ukraine never be granted NATO membership and that the NATO alliance be rolled back from Eastern Europe. In January 2022, both the US and NATO formally rejected these demands, while remaining on high alert that an invasion could be imminent.

Russian President Vladimir Putin consistently maintained that Russia had no intention of invading Ukraine. It was no secret that Putin's motivations to invade were to stop Ukraine from joining NATO; reunite Soviet countries, increasing Putin's domestic influence; and provide guaranteed access to fresh water for the Crimean Peninsula

On 24 February, Putin ordered a military offensive and troops advanced on Ukraine's borders with explosions heard in Ukrainian cities. Tomorrow, our thoughts will be with Ukraine and its people all over the world on the one-year anniversary of this act of war. Slava Ukraini.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (18:04):** It is with humility that I speak here today on this motion, introduced by the Premier of the state and fully endorsed by everybody in this house. One year ago tomorrow, on my birthday, a terrifying conflict occurred across the world between Russia

and Ukraine, leaving a trail of senseless destruction and loss of life across not only there but the rest of the world as we witnessed a terrible act of violence, intrusion and invasion by a country that should never have to do this sort of thing.

This war is devastating for the people of Ukraine. Its terrible impact and its effect on people is immeasurable, and the effects will be felt for many years to come. I just cannot understand how the heck a person in this world could do such atrocities to people across in another country. It is important that we gather here today to acknowledge the anniversary of this conflict. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, it is estimated that more than 40,000 deaths have occurred and nearly 90,000 casualties.

As mentioned earlier tonight, over 14 million people have been displaced. Countless families now grieve the loss of loved ones killed in the conflict, maimed, injured and mentally impaired for the rest of their lives. Homes have been destroyed and people forced to flee, with people becoming refugees in their own country. This is an outright outrage and the world should not be tolerating what has happened.

The trauma inflicted on civilians, soldiers and their families cannot be measured. The damage done to the infrastructure and the economy of this country will take years to repair. Sometimes we see movies reflecting this sort of impact, but it is not real. We look at the coverage every night of the damage in Ukraine, and I believe we cannot understand what the impact is upon communities over there, with their homes destroyed, their lives destroyed and their families destroyed. There are people here today and in other parts of Australia who have families across there watching this destruction, and we are helpless. We cannot all be there to help these people out. To see that every night is so traumatic.

It has been mentioned before that this country is a democratic country. We have democracy here. The Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have made it quite clear that we can have our discussions, we can have our arguments, we can have our disagreements and we walk away tomorrow maybe not agreeing, but we are still here in this free country, and that is something we should not take for granted. We should be very appreciative of that.

Sadly, reparations cannot even begin to be considered. The conflict continues and more people will die. This is a sad certainty. As I said, you see the damage every night on the TV and you think: how can this country continue on? The people of Ukraine have the greatest courage and strength of anyone that I have seen in my life. We have all seen tragedies, we have seen other wars, but this one is absolutely senseless, and Putin needs to be brought to account for it.

Beyond the immediate human cost, the war between Russia and Ukraine has also created instability around the globe. Everywhere around the globe we are feeling that but no more than the people of Ukraine. There is the issue of farmers, and the member for Hammond talked about the production of grain and grain facilities in Ukraine. At one stage, even though they were farming it, they could not get it out there, so how would they be able to live without being able to get that across? The rest of the world was suffering because of that.

It has disrupted the global economy and destabilised neighbouring countries. It feeds new tensions between the world's two superpowers. The collaboration between Russia and China was mentioned a bit earlier. It is a worrying fact. Where is it going to go? We must also remember that it is the people who continue to suffer.

Civilians caught in the crossfire continue to live without access to necessities like food, water and health care. Children growing up in a war-torn environment have been deprived of their livelihoods. That is something we take for granted here in the Western world: our children can grow up and have a life going forward. For the people of Ukraine, in the future their children will have the scars of this for the rest of their lives.

This is something that really hurts me, because we are all family people here and we all have freedom and things like that. Previous members have mentioned, as I say, democracy. We have a democracy here and Ukraine is a democratic country. We must consider the mental trauma for families, particularly the children. We must urge and support our national government to continue to

offer support for those who are affected by the conflict. As leaders here in South Australia, we must always promote peace and stability.

In closing, I will congratulate everybody in this chamber for supporting this motion by the Premier, also solidly endorsed by the Leader of the Opposition and 100 per cent supported by everybody in this chamber. Some may not be in this chamber at the moment, but I know everybody in this parliament, in this house and in the upper house support this and they have solidarity with and support for the Ukrainian people.

I have a multicultural community in my town of Port Pirie. We have different nationalities there. We live in peace. We learn from each other. We learn from the lifestyle. We learn from the families. We learn from the food. We learn from education. We learn from everything. Again, my thoughts and prayers are not only with the people and the families here in South Australia but also with the families and the soldiers in particular who are still fighting for freedom in Ukraine. Slava Ukraini.

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (18:11):** I rise to add my support to this motion marking the first anniversary of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. One year ago when Putin commenced this unprovoked, illegal and immoral attack on Ukraine, most analysts at that time—and I dare say many intelligence agencies—did not predict that that attack would last long enough for us to be marking this sad anniversary today.

Such predictions of a swift Russian victory were just as swiftly proven wrong because they did not appreciate and anticipate the resolve of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people to fight, to defend their independence, their state and their freedoms. They did not appreciate the effectiveness of the Ukrainian people in fighting for those freedoms. They did not anticipate the groundswell of support that we have seen for Ukraine from its partners and allies across the democratic world, including right here in Australia and indeed South Australia.

Despite being some 14,000 kilometres away from Kyiv, the people of South Australia have stood and will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes for them to secure their peace and their independence. We do so because we know that bombs and shells falling on peaceful towns and cities is wrong. We do so as well because we know that those bombs and shells also represent an attack on our own democratic values and the rules-based international order.

As President Zelenskyy has pointed out, the fate of the world based on rules, based on humanity, based on predictability is being decided right now in Ukraine. Our message here today in South Australia is that we are going to be with you every step of the way. South Australia has a small but strong Ukrainian community which has come together over the past year to support each other and to support their country.

This community has raised funds, raised awareness and worked with displaced Ukrainians arriving in our state. I thank you all and I particularly thank and acknowledge my own constituent, Mr Frank Fursenko, who in his role as President of the Association of Ukrainians in South Australia has done incredible work over the past year. It is so important, and I thank him so much.

I am so proud of his work, just as I am proud of the work of state and federal governments from across the political spectrum, just as I am proud of the work of the whole South Australian community in coming together to support Ukraine in this time of need. We know it is a dire time of need. We have heard about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine from other speakers in this house. We have heard about the devastating cost of war from other speakers in this house.

To those Ukrainians who have found themselves here in South Australia, we offer you our support, we offer you our warmth, we offer you our friendship. To all Ukrainians, we offer you our unconditional support for as long as it takes.

To Russia, we say, 'Stop this ongoing violation of international law. Stop this illegal attack, this immoral attack on Ukraine.' Slava Ukraini.

Motion carried.

*Bills*

**FIRST NATIONS VOICE BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

*Resolutions*

**LEGALISATION OF CANNABIS**

The Legislative Council informs the House of Assembly that it has appointed the Hon. J.E. Hanson, the Hon. L.A. Henderson and the Hon. T.A. Franks to act on the Joint Committee on Medicinal Cannabis.

At 18:18 the house adjourned until Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 11:00.