

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7 March 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

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGALISATION OF MEDICINAL CANNABIS

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:00): By leave, I move:

That Mr Ellis be appointed to the committee in place of Mr Bell (resigned).

Motion carried.

Matter of Privilege

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE, SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The SPEAKER (11:01): I make the following statement concerning the matter of privilege raised by the member for Mordialta in the house on 22 February. However, before doing so, I wish to briefly outline the significance of privilege as it relates to the house and its members. Privilege is not a device by which members can seek to pursue matters that can be addressed by debate or settled by a vote of the house on a substantive motion.

In *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand*, McGee expressed the view that the test of whether a matter is a matter of privilege might be determined by asking whether it could, given its proper construction, 'genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties'. That test has been adopted by other Speakers. I also adopt the test.

I turn to the matter raised by the member for Mordialta in relation to an answer given by the Treasurer to a question asked in the house on 8 February. More particularly, the member for Mordialta referred to a question asked by the member for Hartley to the Treasurer concerning the state's credit rating. The Treasurer replied to the question:

...which, of course, was downgraded under the watch of the former Treasurer, Rob Lucas. That's right—downgraded.

The member for Mordialta then referred to evidence given to the Legislative Council's Budget and Finance Committee at a meeting on 13 February. At that meeting, the Chair asked the following question to a departmental officer: 'Was the credit rating downgraded during the period of the last government?' The departmental officer replied, 'Standard & Poor's had put us on a negative outlook, but the rating hasn't been downgraded.'

The member for Mordialta alleges that the Treasurer has misled the house because the Treasurer's answer on 8 February purportedly directly contradicts the information provided by a departmental officer and official credit ratings advice. I have taken in and deliberated on the information provided by the member for Mordialta. As well, I have received information provided by the Treasurer.

The gravamen of the matter concerns the interpretation of the term 'downgraded' in the context of credit ratings and in the context overall of the Treasurer's remarks. I make the following observations. On 27 November 2020, S&P Global Ratings revised its credit outlook for South Australia from AA+ (stable) to AA+ (negative). On occasion, a change in a rating outlook has

been referred to as a downgrade; see, for example, *Hansard*, 28 September 2011, page 5165 or *The Advertiser* on 10 October 2012, by way only of example. There are many other examples.

The argument being put is that a change in the rating outlook is not, in fact, a change in the rating itself. That may be; however, the ambiguity in the language often used to describe a change in the outlook or the rating itself as a downgrade means that, as Chair, I must accept that a reference to a change in a rating outlook from stable to negative is, given its ordinary meaning, a downgrade. Put another way, the Treasurer's answer, in particular his choice of words, is consistent with how those words have been previously used in the context of a change or downgrade of the state's credit rating or outlook. As well—and this in my mind determines the matter—there is nothing to suggest that the Treasurer has deliberately misled the house.

Taking these matters as a whole, in the Chair's view the matter could not genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties. I therefore decline to give the matter the precedence that would allow the member for Morialta to immediately pursue the matter. However, my opinion does not prevent any member from pursuing the matter by way of a substantive motion.

Bills

FIRST NATIONS VOICE BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (11:05): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Every day in this place, we take a moment in this chamber to reflect that we meet on Kurna land, but today that recognition feels especially significant. This bill is an important step forward in fulfilling the first part of this government's promise to implement all three core elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart at a state level and to lead the nation in this vital process of practical, meaningful action on reconciliation.

That was the promise that my party took to the people of South Australia before the most recent state election and it is a promise we will keep. By enshrining a Voice to Parliament in South Australia, we give ourselves another path forward, another opportunity to deepen engagement with our First Nations people and to bring focused effort to bear on some of the most intractable challenges.

Every year, we face the Closing the Gap statement that shows our progress in addressing the rates of Aboriginal life expectancy, education, health status, involvement in the criminal justice system and more has been incremental at best. This has been a failing of governments across jurisdictions and across parties. This is not about pointing fingers and assigning blame. This is about accepting that however well-intentioned attempts to improve the lives of our First Nations people have been they have not brought about the urgent change that the circumstances demand.

We must have humility enough to say that what we have been doing has not been working well enough. If things are to improve, things also need to change. This legislation has involved extensive consultation with communities all over South Australia, aimed at ensuring that the Voice will be robust, informed and inclusive. We continue that journey here today.

In July last year, Mr Dale Agius was appointed as South Australia's inaugural Commissioner for First Nations Voice. The commissioner led two rounds of engagement with First Nations people around our state on both the concept and the design of the model. The first round of engagement occurred between August and October last year. Dozens of sessions with hundreds of Aboriginal people and organisations were held across the state, from the APY lands to Ceduna to Mount Gambier and the many points in between.

These processes and the commissioner's subsequent engagement report informed the development of the First Nations Voice Bill 2022, a draft which was released for a further round of engagement sessions and online engagement between November last year and January this year. During the rounds of community engagement, there was a strong and consistent discussion around the key principles that should inform the design of the Voice. The key principles were:

1. The Voice must be underpinned by self-determination and as such representatives must be chosen by First Nations communities themselves.
2. The Voice must come from the grassroots level and be able to speak for local issues.
3. The Voice must reflect the diversity of First Nations communities; it must reflect regional issues and must speak for men's and women's issues as well as for elders and young people.

These three principles and the key issues raised during both rounds of engagement have closely informed the final version of the bill that I introduce today. In particular, the bill provides for representation at the local level and the state level that reflects the diversity amongst First Nations people and ensures that the voices of First Nations peoples in South Australia are heard directly by the South Australian parliament and the South Australian government.

I now turn to the detail of the bill itself. Part 1 of the bill sets out important preliminary matters. In response to feedback from the engagement sessions, the definitions of 'Aboriginal person' and 'Country' have been replaced with 'First Nations person' and 'traditional owner'. The definition of First Nations persons adopts the tripartite test as stated by Justice Brennan in *Mabo v Queensland (No. 2)* and is commonly used by governments all around Australia. A reference to a traditional owner in relation to a particular place is now modelled on references in other legislation.

Two new clauses have also been included in part 1 of the bill, in response to concerns about the interaction of the Voice with existing bodies and agreements. Clause 7 makes it clear that the Voice does not limit or otherwise affect:

- the functions of any other First Nations persons or bodies under any other act or law;
- an agreement or arrangement entered into or relating to First Nations persons or bodies, such as native title agreements; or
- anything that First Nations persons or bodies can do in accordance with First Nations tradition.

Clause 8 makes it clear that this bill is intended to be read in conjunction with and to complement the provisions of any other act that implements measures to progress Truth and Treaty, as contemplated in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Part 2 of the bill sets out the structure and functions of the Voice at the local level. Regions will be established within South Australia that will be represented by independent Local First Nations Voices with elected members. Pursuant to clauses 9 to 11 of the bill, the number of regions and the number of members that make up the Local First Nations Voice within each region will be prescribed by regulation.

Local First Nations Voices will engage with local communities in order to determine matters of interest to First Nations people in their region and will communicate those views to the State First Nations Voice. This process will be a collaborative process with the State First Nations Voice. Local First Nations Voices will also have a discretion to collaborate with and assist public sector agencies and other organisations in the development of policies and procedures, and to engage with local government and other organisations on matters of interest to First Nations people in their region.

Part 3 of the bill sets out the structure and functions of the Voice at the state level. The membership of the State First Nations Voice will be comprised of the joint presiding members, who must be of different genders, of each Local First Nations Voice. The State First Nations Voice will represent the diversity of First Nations people in South Australia and will formally interact with the South Australian parliament and the South Australian government.

In response to feedback, which sought greater recognition of and representation from young persons, elders, native title holders as well as members of the stolen generations, the bill requires a State Voice to establish specific committees to represent these important groups. The membership of these advisory committees is to come from the community and not from the existing membership of the State Voice and the Local First Nations Voices.

Parts 4 and 5 of the bill set out the formal requirements for the State First Nations Voice interactions with the South Australian parliament and the South Australian government. The State First Nations Voice will be notified of the introduction of each bill in the House of Assembly or the Legislative Council and will be able to address either house of parliament, but not both, through one of the joint presiding members in relation to any bill.

The State First Nations Voice must deliver an annual report and address to a joint sitting of parliament and may present a report to parliament on matters of interest to First Nations people. To ensure that the issues raised in these latter reports are appropriately considered, the minister is required to provide a response to the report, including whether any action has been taken or is proposed to be taken.

Interactions between the State First Nations Voice and the South Australian government will occur through meetings with cabinet, briefings with chief executives, and an annual engagement hearing. The ability to directly address the South Australian parliament and to engage with cabinet ministers and chief executives will give First Nations people the opportunity to influence decision-making at the highest levels and have their voices heard where it counts.

The conduct of elections is set out in schedule 1 of the bill. Elections will be run by the Electoral Commission of South Australia and will, with the exception of the first election, be held at the same time as the state election. Transitional provisions will allow the first election of members of Local First Nations Voices to be held as soon as possible after the commencement of the legislation.

A First Nations person who is on the state electoral roll and who has completed a declaration of eligibility will be able to vote in an election of members of the Local First Nations Voice for the region in which they reside. A person who nominates as a candidate for a Local First Nations Voice is not restricted to nominating in the region within which they reside: instead, they may choose to stand either where they reside or in a region where the person is a traditional owner.

As agreed to in the other place, clause 13 of schedule 1 of the bill provides for a preferential voting system. Voting is to be conducted using a single transferable vote system in accordance with rules determined by the Electoral Commissioner after consultation with the State First Nations Voice and the minister. These rules will be modelled as much as is reasonably practicable on the Electoral Act's provisions for the Legislative Council vote.

This legislation comes before us at a pivotal moment in our national history. The eyes of Australia are upon us. We have the opportunity to once again lead the rest of the commonwealth, as we have done so many times in our history, in making the operations of our democracy even more accessible and both more representative of and more responsive to the people of our state.

The Voice is a respectful request to our state to involve Aboriginal people in the creation of the policies that affect them. All it asks of us is to listen. This is the change we have been asked to make, and it is a privilege to do my part to carry that change forward. I commend this bill and this historic moment to members, and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines terms used in the measure.

4—Meaning of *First Nations person*

This clause explains when a person will be taken to be a First Nations person and when a person will be taken to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent for the purposes of the measure.

5—Meaning of *traditional owner*

This clause explains what a reference to a traditional owner in relation to a particular place means for the purposes of the measure.

6—Act does not require disclosure of certain information

This clause provides that nothing in the measure requires a Local First Nations Voice, the State First Nations Voice or any First Nations person to disclose information that should not, according to First Nations tradition, be disclosed.

7—Act does not limit functions of other First Nations persons or bodies etc

This clause provides that nothing in the measure limits or otherwise affects—

- (a) the functions of any other First Nations persons or bodies under any other Act or law;
- (b) an agreement or arrangement entered into or relating to First Nations persons or bodies or the ability of First Nations persons or bodies to enter into such agreements or arrangements;
- (c) anything that First Nations persons or bodies can do in accordance with First Nations tradition.

8—Act to be read in conjunction with other relevant Acts

This clause provides that the provisions of the measure are intended to be read in conjunction with, and to complement, the provisions of any other Act that implements measures to progress Truth and Treaty, as identified in the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Part 2—Local First Nations Voices

Division 1—State to be divided into regions

9—Constitution of regions

This clause requires that South Australia be divided into 6 regions or the number of regions prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this measure and that each region will consist of the area or areas specified by the regulations and may be known by the name assigned by the State First Nations Voice after consultation with the relevant Local First Nations Voice.

Division 2—Local First Nations Voices

10—Establishment of Local First Nations Voices

This clause provides that a Local First Nations Voice is to be established in respect of each region in the State. A Local First Nations Voice is independent of direction or control by the Crown or any Minister or officer of the Crown and is not an agency or instrumentality of the Crown.

11—Composition of Local First Nations Voice

This clause provides that a Local First Nations Voice consists of such number of members as may be prescribed by the regulations elected in accordance with the measure and reflecting the gender diversity contemplated by Schedule 1 of the measure.

12—Joint presiding members

This clause provides that each Local First Nations Voice must elect 2 of its members (of different gender) to be joint presiding members of the Local First Nations Voice and that a joint presiding member removed from the State First Nations Voice ceases to be a joint presiding member of the Local First Nations Voice and is not eligible to be re-elected.

13—Terms and conditions of office

This clause provides that a member of a Local First Nations Voice holds office until the next election of members, is eligible for re-election and is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses as may be determined by the Governor.

14—Vacancies

This clause outlines how the office of a member of a Local First Nations Voice becomes vacant, and the rules that apply to the filling of a vacancy that occurs in the office of a member.

15—Functions of Local First Nations Voices

This clause outlines the functions and powers of a Local First Nations Voice.

16—Procedures of Local First Nations Voices

This clause sets out the procedures of Local First Nations Voices.

17—Delegation

This clause provides that a Local First Nations Voice may delegate a function under this measure to a member of the Local First Nations Voice and that a function delegated may be further delegated if the instrument of delegation so provides.

18—Accounts and audit

This clause requires a Local First Nations Voice to keep proper accounting records in relation to its financial affairs, and to have annual statements of account prepared in respect of each financial year.

The Auditor-General may at any time, and must once a year, audit a Local First Nations Voice's accounts.

19—Duty to act honestly

This clause requires members of Local First Nations Voices to act honestly in the performance of the functions of their office at all times.

20—Code of conduct

This clause allows the Minister to publish a code of conduct for members of Local First Nations Voices after consultation with the State First Nations Voice and requires members of Local First Nations Voices to comply with the code of conduct.

Division 3—Elections of members of Local First Nations Voices

21—Conduct of elections of members of Local First Nations Voices

This clause sets out how an election of members of a Local First Nations Voice is to be conducted.

Division 4—Annual meeting of Local First Nations Voices

22—Annual meeting of Local First Nations Voices

This clause sets out that the State First Nations Voice must convene, at least once in each year, a meeting of all Local First Nations Voices and how that annual meeting is to be conducted.

Part 3—State First Nations Voice

23—Establishment of State First Nations Voice

This clause establishes the State First Nations Voice. The State First Nations Voice is independent of direction or control by the Crown or any Minister or officer of the Crown and is not an agency or instrumentality of the Crown.

24—Composition of State First Nations Voice

This clause provides that the State First Nations Voice consists of the joint presiding members of each Local First Nations Voice.

25—Joint presiding members

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to elect 2 members (of different gender) to be joint presiding members.

26—Terms and conditions of office

This clause provides that a member of the State First Nations Voice holds office for as long as they are a joint presiding member of the relevant Local First Nations Voice and that they are entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses as may be determined by the Governor.

27—Vacancies

This clause outlines how the office of a member of the State First Nations Voice may become vacant.

28—Functions of State First Nations Voice

This clause sets out the functions and powers of the State First Nations Voice. The State First Nations Voice must, in carrying out its functions, endeavour to represent the views of all Aboriginal persons in the State.

It also provides that the State First Nations Voice cannot delegate a function under the measure.

29—Procedures of State First Nations Voice

This clause establishes the procedures of the State First Nations Voice.

30—First Nations Elders Advisory Committee

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to establish a First Nations Elders Advisory Committee. It sets out the composition of, eligibility of persons for membership to, and procedures of, the committee.

It also provides that a member of the committee is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses (if any) as may be determined by the Minister after consultation with the State First Nations Voice).

31—First Nations Youth Advisory Committee

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to establish a First Nations Youth Advisory Committee. It sets out the composition of, eligibility of persons for membership to, and procedures of, the committee.

It also provides that a member of the committee is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses (if any) as may be determined by the Minister after consultation with the State First Nations Voice).

32—Stolen Generations Advisory Committee

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to establish a Stolen Generations Advisory Committee. It sets out the composition of, eligibility of persons for membership to, and procedures of, the committee.

It also provides that a member of the committee is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses (if any) as may be determined by the Minister after consultation with the State First Nations Voice).

33—Native Title Bodies Advisory Committee

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to establish a Native Title Bodies Advisory Committee. It sets out the composition of, eligibility of persons for membership to, and procedures of, the committee.

It also provides that a member of the committee is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses (if any) as may be determined by the Minister after consultation with the State First Nations Voice).

34—Other advisory committees

This clause enables the State First Nations Voice to establish other committees to advise the State First Nations Voice as the State First Nations Voice considers appropriate. It sets out the composition of, eligibility of persons for membership to, and procedures of, such committees.

It also provides that a member of a committee is entitled to such remuneration, allowances and expenses (if any) as may be determined by the Minister after consultation with the State First Nations Voice).

35—Accounts and audit

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to keep proper accounting records in relation to its financial affairs, and to have annual statements of account prepared in respect of each financial year.

The Auditor-General may at any time, and must once a year, audit the State First Nations Voice's accounts.

36—Duty to act honestly

This clause requires members of the State First Nations Voice to act honestly in the performance of the functions of their office at all times.

37—Code of conduct

This clause allows the Minister to publish a code of conduct for members of the State First Nations Voice and requires members to comply with the code of conduct.

Part 4—Addresses to Parliament

38—State First Nations Voice to deliver annual report and address to Parliament

This clause requires the State First Nations Voice to present written reports setting out a summary of the operations of the State First Nations Voice and each Local First Nations Voice to a joint sitting of Parliament, and to address the joint sitting through 1 of the joint presiding members of the State First Nations Voice, once in each year.

39—State First Nations Voice to be notified of introduction of Bills

This clause obliges the clerk of the Legislative Council or House of Assembly to notify the State First Nations Voice of the introduction of each Bill in the Council or Assembly. However, failure to provide such notice does not affect the validity of the Bill or proceedings of Parliament.

40—State First Nations Voice entitled to address Parliament in relation to Bills

This clause entitles the State First Nations Voice to address either House of Parliament in relation to a Bill that has been introduced in the relevant House through 1 of the joint presiding members. It also sets out notice requirements in respect of an address.

41—State First Nations Voice may present report to Parliament

This clause provides that the State First Nations Voice may provide a report on any matter that is, in its opinion, a matter of interest to First Nations people and sets out the procedures for providing, and following provision of, the report.

42—State First Nations Voice may be requested to provide report to Parliament etc

This clause provides that the President of the Legislative Council or the Speaker of the House of Assembly may, by written notice, request a report from, or an address by, the State First Nations Voice in relation to a specified Bill.

Part 5—Interaction with South Australian Government

Division 1—Meeting with Cabinet

43—State First Nations Voice to meet with Cabinet

This clause requires that the State First Nations Voice meet with Cabinet at least twice in each year (subject to specified circumstances).

44—Protection of communications etc with Cabinet

This clause provides that information and documents prepared for, or provided to, the Cabinet by the State First Nations Voice will be taken to have been specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet for the purposes of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and any other Act or law.

Division 2—Briefings with Chief Executives of administrative units

45—Briefings with Chief Executives of administrative units

This clause requires the Premier to cause a Chief Executive's briefing to be held at least twice each year between the State First Nations Voice and the Chief Executives of each administrative unit of the Public Service specified by the State First Nations Voice. The briefings will allow the State First Nations Voice to be briefed by, and ask questions of, the Chief Executives in relation to matters of interest.

Division 3—Annual engagement hearing with administrative units etc

46—Annual engagement hearing with administrative units etc

This clause requires the Premier to cause an engagement hearing to be held in each year between the joint presiding members of the State First Nations Voice and each Minister and Chief Executive of an administrative unit of the Public Service specified by the State First Nations Voice. The hearing will allow the State First Nations Voice to ask questions relating to the operations, expenditure, budget and priorities of administrative units as they affect certain matters.

Part 6—Administration and resourcing

47—Secretariat

This clause establishes the secretariat for the Local First Nations Voices and the State First Nations Voice, which will consist of whichever Public Service employees are assigned to the secretariat.

48—Resources

This clause requires the Minister to determine the resourcing that, in the Minister's opinion, the Local First Nations Voices and the State First Nations Voice reasonably need to carry out their functions under the measure and sets out consultation requirements.

49—Use of staff etc of Public Service

This clause allows a Local First Nations Voice and the State First Nations Voice, by agreement with the Minister responsible for an administrative unit of the Public Service, to make use of the staff, equipment or facilities of that administrative unit.

Part 7—Review of Act

50—Review of Act

This clause requires the Minister to cause a review of the operation of the measure to be undertaken, and a report on the review to be prepared and submitted to the Minister. It outlines the requirements of the review.

The Minister must cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 6 sitting days after receiving the report.

Part 8—Miscellaneous

51—Confidentiality

This clause requires persons who obtained personal information in the course of the administration of the measure not to divulge any such information except in certain circumstances. The proposed maximum penalty is \$10,000.

Any information disclosed under this clause must not be used for any other purpose by the person to whom it is disclosed, or by any other person who gains access to the information as a result of the disclosure. The proposed maximum penalty is \$10,000.

52—Obstruction etc

This clause requires that a person must not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct, hinder, resist or improperly influence, or attempt to obstruct, hinder, resist or improperly influence, a Local First Nations Voice or the State First Nations Voice, or a member of those bodies, in the performance or exercise of a function under the measure. The proposed maximum penalty is \$10,000.

53—Protections, privileges and immunities

This clause confers protections from liability on a Local First Nations Voice, the State First Nations Voice, a member of those bodies or any other person or body for any act or omission in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of functions or powers under the measure or any other Act. It also provides that nothing in the measure affects the privileges, immunities or powers of the Legislative Council or House of Assembly or their committees or members or any rule or principle of law relating to the matters specified in the clause.

54—Regulations and fee notices

This clause provides power to make regulations and to prescribe fees by fee notice.

Schedule 1—Rules of election for Local First Nations Voices

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Interpretation

This clause defines terms used in the Schedule.

2—Voters roll

This clause provides that the State electoral role will be taken to be the electoral role for the purposes of an election under the measure.

3—Declaration of eligibility

This clause sets out what a declaration of eligibility is in respect of voting in an election and nominating for an office of member of a Local First Nations Voice.

4—Gender representation

This clause sets out the required gender representation of members of a Local First Nations Voice.

Part 2—Returning officer

5—Returning officer

This clause establishes that the Electoral Commissioner will be the returning officer for elections under the measure, and that they may appoint 1 or more electoral officials to assist them in conducting the election.

6—Distribution of information and election publicity

This clause establishes that the returning officer is responsible for publicity of an election in each region and outlines what that requires.

Part 3—Eligibility to vote

7—Eligibility to vote in elections

This clause establishes who is eligible to vote in an election in relation to a region.

Part 4—Eligibility and nomination for election to Local First Nations Voice

8—Nominations for office of member of Local First Nations Voice

This clause establishes the process for a person to nominate for an office of member of a Local First Nations Voice, as well as who is eligible to nominate.

Part 5—General rules relating to election

9—Election timetable

This clause sets out that polling for an election will occur in the course of each State election at State election polling places at the same time as polling for the State election.

10—Uncontested elections

This clause establishes that where only 1 nomination for a given office is received, the returning officer will declare the candidate duly elected.

11—Voting

This clause establishes the process to be followed if there are 2 or more nominations for a given office.

12—Postal voting may be used

This clause establishes that postal voting may be used in an election under the measure in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the returning officer.

13—System of voting and determination of certain rules etc

This clause establishes the system of voting to be used in an election.

It provides that voting is to be conducted in accordance with rules determined by the Electoral Commissioner, sets out the consultation requirements in respect of those rules, lists matters in respect of which rules must be made and requires the rules to be, as far as reasonably practicable, consistent with the provisions of the *Electoral Act 1985* relating to the election of members of the Legislative Council.

It further provides that a ballot paper is not informal only by reason of the failure of the voter to mark a particular number of preferences on the ballot paper.

Part 6—Declaration of results

14—Provisional declarations

This clause establishes that when the result of the election has become apparent, the returning officer must make a provisional declaration of the result.

15—Recounts

This clause outlines the circumstances in which a recount of the votes may be requested and the procedure to be followed in performing a recount.

16—Declaration of results and certificate

This clause establishes the procedure to be followed if either a recount has been made, or the period in which a recount can be requested has expired.

Part 7—Supplementary elections on failure of election

17—Supplementary elections on failure of election etc

This clause sets out that a supplementary election may be required to be held, after consultation with the State First Nations Voice, the returning officer and any other person or body the Minister thinks fit, if an election fails for certain reasons.

Part 8—Disputed Returns

18—Constitution of Court

This clause requires that there be a Court of Disputed Returns for the purposes of the measure that is constituted of a District Court Judge.

19—Clerk of Court

This clause requires that there be a clerk of the Court appointed by the Chief Judge of the District Court.

20—Jurisdiction of Court

This clause sets out the jurisdiction of the Court.

21—Procedure upon petition

This clause sets out the requirements for a petition to the Court.

22—Powers of Court

This clause sets out the powers of the Court.

23—Effect of decision

This clause outlines the effect of a decision of the Court.

24—Right of appearance

This clause provides that a party to proceedings before the Court may appear personally or be represented by counsel.

25—Case stated

This clause allows the Court to state a question of law for the opinion of the Court of Appeal.

26—Costs

This clause allows the Court to make orders for costs, sets out circumstances in which any costs must be awarded against the Crown and provides that an order for costs may be enforced as an order of the District Court.

27—Rules of Court

This clause sets out the rules that the Chief Judge of the District Court may make in respect of the Court.

Part 9—Miscellaneous

28—False or misleading statements

This clause prohibits a person from making a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular in information provided for the purposes of an election under the measure. The proposed maximum penalty is imprisonment for 4 years.

Schedule 2—Repeals, related amendments and transitional etc provisions

Part 1—Repeal of *Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003*1—Repeal of *Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003*

This clause repeals the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003.

Part 2—Amendment of *Constitution Act 1934*

2—Insertion of section 3

This clause inserts a new section 3 into the principal Act as follows:

3—Recognition of importance of First Nations voices

This section provides that the South Australian Parliament recognises the importance of listening to the voices of First Nations people, acknowledges that those voices have not always been heard in Parliament, and intends that those voices will be heard, and will make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to South Australia that benefits all South Australians.

Part 3—Transitional etc provisions

3—First election of members of Local First Nations Voices

This clause outlines provisions that apply to the first election of members of Local First Nations Voices.

4—Consultation with State First Nations Voice

This clause provides that the Minister, the Electoral Commissioner or any other person or body need not comply with a requirement under the measure requiring consultation with the State First Nations Voice until the State First Nations Voice is capable of performing its functions.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:17): At the outset, I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. I also indicate that the opposition opposes this bill. The opposition opposes the bill in circumstances where the model that is the subject of the bill is a defective model that will not achieve the outcomes so richly deserved by those in need, who are calling—and indeed who have called for a long time—for a meaningful and effective engagement towards improvement. I will say a little more about context and history in that regard.

I also indicate that in my remarks just now, in a contribution to the second reading of this bill, I will be brief. I wish to emphasise some matters of context and principle and foreshadow a process at the committee stage of this bill similarly oriented towards clarity in terms of the way the bill will operate.

To the extent that I introduce amendments, I will indicate to the house that there will be no surprise in that regard, in that we are in the not so terribly unusual circumstance where not only is there a parallel bill on the *Notice Paper*, there was a bill before the last parliament, there is a report the subject of the previous Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement's work and the amendments that I will address in due course will be wholly within the bounds of what is therefore already for a long time on the public record, indeed on the *Notice Paper* of this House.

I want to pick up on an observation that the Premier made just a moment ago because in some ways it might be thought that the eyes of Australia are on us. It has been surprising to me in the course of this debate that is going along in parallel with a referendum debate at the federal level that there has not been more overt reference to legislation that has been before this parliament for some time, as well as the legislative process that has been in preparation in the course of this parliament. It has not, particularly, at least not yet, but I too am conscious that it may well in due course fall to the scrutiny of other jurisdictions. Indeed, it may find a place of relevance in the national debate, so it is fair for the Premier to indicate that the eyes of Australia might be on us.

Let's approach the matter with the humility and the diligence that the subject matter requires because there should not be any hint of grandiosity in what we are debating here. It is true to say, and I do not think that there is anything controversial in an observation, that the difficulties, the challenges, the opportunities that Aboriginal people in this state have experienced over the course of our South Australian history since 1836, have remained challenging and complex problems for public policy for parliaments, for governments and for those who would work alongside Aboriginal people.

Let's be clear: the history of institutional engagement with Aboriginal people in this state has threads in common with other jurisdictions around the country. It has been fraught with injustice. It has not led to outcomes that have achieved the very best for Aboriginal people. Those challenges and difficulties have been of long standing. That is not to say that there have not been positive steps along the way. I say that to underscore the need for humility and diligence when we step down a path towards legislating for new structures of engagement and new means by which it might be held out to Aboriginal people that there is now to be some bright new pathway towards somewhere that is entirely new.

Aboriginal people, as well as the rest of non-Indigenous South Australia, will be right to cast a sceptical eye over measures that are presented as the means to significant improvement, so I say humility and diligence are important. The other element that is critical to progress in this regard, at least so far as public policy is concerned, is the presence of bipartisanship and cooperation in the process of reform.

Let's recall in the history of our state just two, perhaps, significant steps that have been taken. Preoccupied as they were in the last century by issues of land rights, we know, and it has been referred to by others in the course of this debate and previous debates, that in 1966 as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the then minister Don Dunstan established the Aboriginal Lands Trust. That was followed in 1981 by the Tonkin government's land rights legislation for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, the APY lands.

These important structural steps in relation to land rights in the course of the last century are steps that are taken with diligence, with humility and with bipartisanship, and so I say again, any hint of partisanship is a recipe for failure, and we have seen it already playing out on the national stage. I hope that there may be an opportunity for reflection and I hope that, as we step forward through this process, there is an opportunity for reflection on all sides about what is so important. Just like all of us, Aboriginal people of South Australia should have confidence that public policy and the action of parliament is applied in their best interests and not in that of the bearer, and particularly not that of a partisan bearer of such proposed reform.

So I say to the government that any step that is taken in this regard in a partisan way, in a self-congratulatory way, will be a display of immaturity and recklessness, and I call on the Premier and the government to endeavour to bring us together in the course of this process rather than to seek a pathway characterised by partisanship. If we are going to progress, then we need to progress by consensus and merit, and what we are here doing, after all, is debating the merits of a bill, a bill that would provide for a machinery of engagement, including to this parliament, to the executive, to the public sector, and it would provide for the means by which a body for that purpose would be elected, constituted and carry out work.

That is our task, and it is not good enough for us to deal in concepts or slogans, particularly when it comes to the process of legislating. Let me emphasise, as might be made abundantly clear each day by all of us, we are focused on practical actions, actions that can be demonstrated as

auguring towards improved outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. So we support greater engagement with Aboriginal communities to achieve those practical outcomes, and it is trite to say so.

The debate occurs in circumstances where, from the very get-go of the last government, the Premier not only took a lead in this space, he took the portfolio. As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, he went about working side by side with the newly appointed Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Dr Roger Thomas (now Professor Thomas). So when I hear the Premier say that we have seen in recent months the appointment of an inaugural commissioner, it is a reinvention, it is a rehearsal and it is a remaking in an image that risks a partisan approach to the topic.

The fact is that work in this regard was sustained from the very beginning of the last government—years of work that led to the thoughtful report of Dr Thomas, notwithstanding work done through the course of the COVID pandemic, his address on the floor of this parliament at the end of 2020 and a bill that was introduced in the house by the Premier in 2021. I will come back to that in a moment because not only does that go to demonstrate a sustained body of work, but it also goes to characterise the nature of which that work needs to be undertaken.

Of course, the former Liberal government, led by the member for Dunstan, has a proud record when it comes to matters of engagement with Aboriginal people. In addition to appointing and working alongside the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Dr Roger Thomas, the former government established the Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan. The former government established the role of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, April Lawrie, and I will come back to the fruits of that work in a moment; Reconciliation Action Plans; the Custody Notification Service; cultural awareness training; and of course the Lot Fourteen Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre, Tarrkarri, just to name some particular initiatives.

Against that background, we have now seen, in the not quite full year of this new Labor government, a commitment to reinventing, restarting and reshaping the work that has led us to this place. I go back to the estimates hearings in June of last year where, on 21 June, as scheduling had it, the member for Dunstan—the former minister—was engaged in the estimates process with the minister.

In the course of a sustained line of questioning in relation to progress on engagement, the question was put very directly to the minister. The member for Dunstan put it to the minister: 'Well, you have the benefit of all of this work that has been done since 2018.' It was put to him: 'Were you aware that there was legislation that was introduced in the course of the last parliament?' and 'You are aware of the work that has been done over the course of that time?'

The question was put very directly to the minister: 'Is it the government's position that it wouldn't support that and it would wait for further consultation?' The minister said, 'No, we are going to do our own work on this.' That was not quite at the end of June last year and what ensued was exactly that.

Notwithstanding what were widespread plaudits and praise for the work of Dr Roger Thomas in the course of the debate in October and November 2021, Dr Roger Thomas's tenure as Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement came to an end a few days later, at the end of June. He was then effectively sidelined from this process so that the inaugural commissioner for this task that the new government has embarked upon could be appointed.

I take a moment to acknowledge the work of Dale Agius, the Commissioner for First Nations Voice to the South Australian parliament, as the role has now been termed, who has indeed undertaken engagement: first in the period August to October 2022, which was the period commencing a couple of short weeks after this key moment in the estimates hearing; and another one, a second engagement, in November 2022 until January 2023 which led to what has been described as the second engagement note by the commissioner.

While it is no particular reflection on the nature and the quality of the work that has been undertaken in that role by Dale Agius, it should be clearly understood at the outset that this has taken place, this has transpired, in circumstances where we have a new government that has come along and in the first months post its election has made it very clear that its intent is to reset—if necessary,

to reinvent—and to undertake work in its own image. 'No, we will do our own work on this' said the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs back in June last year.

Of course, not only does that have a deleterious effect on the relative bipartisanship of the process but, as the member for Dunstan pointed out immediately in response, the consequence of taking that approach was an inevitable, lengthy delay before progress was then displayed. Again, I will come back to that in a moment, the course of that debate, because it has been made clear since at that stage that what we are going to see at every step will be a process of characterising progress and reform in this space in the image of the current government.

I will just say one thing more about the course of the estimates hearing and, again, all on the record. The member for Dunstan went on to say, 'Well, if you are going to go to that extent to remake and reinvent this work, are you, for example, going to keep the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council?' The minister said, 'Well, that depends,' and he then went on to say that he had no present plan to amend the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council.

Let us be clear: the Aboriginal Advisory Council is the government of South Australia's peak advisory body on matters of Aboriginal affairs programs and policy, and is a council that is of long standing and comprises up to 10 Aboriginal people, who are appointed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The question having been asked—and the member for Dunstan further underscored, as part of the function of the Aboriginal Advisory Council—will it continue to meet with cabinet on a twice-yearly basis? The minister said:

That is something we will look at and make a decision on. I know my colleagues have spoken of how we are now in a fortunate position where we do not just have a group that comes to cabinet a couple of times a year but, as an Aboriginal person and as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Attorney-General, we have an Aboriginal person around the cabinet table every time a cabinet decision is made.

We see the response not only to Dr Roger Thomas' work but also in respect of the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council in terms of a willingness to remake and to reshape engagement in a partisan way very much in the government's image.

I say there has been engagement of that nature by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs because it has emerged in really quite plain terms that the Premier, meanwhile, appears to have paid very little attention to the course of this work at all. That was made plain on 7 February this year on ABC radio. The Premier, in addressing the bill that was to come, made the incorrect observation that we did not see a bill in the course of the former parliament.

Incorrect: a display of inattention, obviously not mindful of the course of debate in October and November of 2021, a debate that was engaged in on all sides and one that reflected the course of that work. The Premier came on the radio on 7 February and said, 'Well, we didn't even see a bill.' I do not know where the Premier was in the course of the last parliament, but he clearly was not paying attention to the work that had been done over that sustained period in the lead-up to 2021. It would be interesting to hear some form of explanation from the Premier about that observation.

It is odd then, I suppose, in that context that one might reflect on contributions in October and November of last year where the now Deputy Premier made observations about the engagement process. Like many, she praised the work over a long period of time of Dr Roger Thomas and, to the extent that the bill in the course of that debate was critiqued, it was critiqued in terms of what was described as a lack of consultation—somewhat ironic—and it was otherwise characterised, insofar as the Voice or engagement with parliament was concerned, by a criticism that that engagement to parliament was more an engagement to a committee—a virtue that I will come back to in a moment in addressing the details of the bill that is now presented to the parliament.

The member for Giles, in the course of his thoughtful contribution to that debate, counselled patience and, in many respects, I would share and endeavour to amplify those sentiments in the course of that debate—that counselling of patience, humility and bipartisanship in the course of getting whatever we do in this place right by doing the diligent work.

The member for Hurtle Vale, the member for Narungga and the member for Kaurna made contributions to that debate in October and November of last year and all—some with greater or lesser degrees of direct involvement with Dr Thomas—applauded Dr Thomas's work. So there, if you

will, is some context of a process of years, a debate leading up to the presentation of a bill and the debate in the second reading of that bill in the course of the last parliament.

If the Premier was still suffering from a short attention span on the topic, he had an opportunity for a reset because just a few short months later the bill was once again being addressed and by me in the context of its history in the former parliament and the work that had been done by many, including by Dr Roger Thomas, so I remain somewhat perplexed by the Premier's remark that we did not see a bill when he came to introduce this one on the ABC on 7 February.

That kind of hubris in the course of this work and presentation continued and I cite just a couple of further examples. We heard from the Premier in the course of the last sitting week in response to questions from government members about the process of engagement in the lead-up to the introduction of this bill. The Premier addressed questions on 21 and 22 of February in which he, first on 21 February, talked about a process of engagement towards the introduction of the bill and I think made remarks about the response from this side in the course of that process. It was really quite ironic in circumstances where not only has the government got the benefit of a bill in the last parliament but has one sitting on the *Notice Paper* in the course of this one.

Further, on 22 February, the Premier had the gall to suggest that somehow the opposition's opposition to this bill was somehow a change of position and I reject that entirely and wholeheartedly. In fact, I was criticised by the Premier for attending an event to recognise the introduction of the bill and to acknowledge the work of Dale Agius. I will say it very clearly: the work that we do every day in this place in recognising work that is done towards improvement with Aboriginal people needs to be characterised by much more than celebrating and clapping and, dare I say, much more than giving ourselves a pat on the back.

If you want to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people, then you had better have more than that. If you want to legislate for Aboriginal people to engage, then they had better amount to a lot more than symbols and rhetoric and self-congratulation. As I said, I recall presiding with great pride on the occasion of Dr Thomas' address to this parliament at the end of 2020. He concluded his address by saying, and I quote:

I strongly believe that for us to progress what has been started today, as it is often stated, Aboriginal affairs should be bipartisan...

What was Dr Thomas' error, I ask? Why, against the background of that work and the debate that had been engaged in, was he sidelined by this process? I think what is plain is what we have now seen transpire.

We think about concrete steps, and I have referred to the initiatives taken by the last government, including among them the establishment of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People. That has been a step that has borne fruit. It is a process that has been characterised by humility, diligence and bipartisanship, as we have seen demonstrated in the ongoing work of April Lawrie in that role.

Indeed, as recently as 4 March—and I congratulated the minister on this just a moment ago—in response to the work of Commissioner Lawrie, we see the government announcing provision of funds for a new independent Aboriginal-controlled body to be established to improve care and protection outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.

On the face of that initiative, there is much to applaud, there is much to celebrate. The minister indicates that there is nearly \$17 million that has been set aside in order to ensure that special family group conferencing work, under the auspices of that new body, can be applied to address what the minister has recognised as the unacceptable over-representation of Aboriginal children in care and the commitment of all of us to do better in this space.

This is an initiative that results from establishing a structure that has the prospects of delivering real and improved outcome. We know that there are many Aboriginal representative bodies spread throughout the state. The key test, according to which each of them will be tested, will be the outcomes that they deliver. That is not just us here in South Australia saying that; the question of audit and accountability for the results of the work of such bodies is one that has been noted in the course of the national debate.

Let's none of us be too quick to pat ourselves on the back; rather, let's continue to do the day-to-day work that needs to be done towards improvement. Again, we will come to the committee debate in due course. The addition in clause 7 of this bill of a provision that provides for the avoidance of doubt, this body operating entirely separately from all of those other bodies, not affecting their work and not being engaged with what they do—I wonder whether that is a positive or a negative step. Apparently, it arose in the course of the second round of engagement. I do not know if that expresses confidence in this new model by those Aboriginal groups. Again, I emphasise the importance of engagement towards improved outcomes.

The bill and its structure: I have described the model that has been presented to the parliament as a defective model. It stands in direct contrast with the Aboriginal Representative Body Bill that is on the *Notice Paper* and was the subject of debate in the previous parliament.

Rather than providing for a means by which an elected body, a representative body, can engage in the day-to-day work of policy improvement and of inquiry and of analysis—the work that a committee of the parliament is perfectly suited to do—rather than take that course this bill provides for a model according to which, and I have to say, in an inevitably haphazard way, the representatives, the presiding members of that body, might engage somehow in the course of debate on the floor of this parliament in a way that might happen before, during or after the debate that actually occurs in this place, and in a way that would, on the face of it, provide for a form of direct engagement, but in practical ways offers no prospect of the kind of deep and thoroughgoing engagement with work towards improvement that a committee of engagement model provides.

Additionally, of course, the body is described in this bill at clause 29 as meeting only rarely, unlike in the alternative model where you have a body that is established with a very high degree of autonomy about the way it goes about its work, when and how it meets and those particular subject matters, including committees and so forth, that it might deem necessary to constitute. This is a body that is statutorily meeting rarely—four times a year, no more than six without the minister's approval.

I was quizzical about that provision, and it has been described to me as holding out the prospect of a task that is not too onerous. The minister, in describing it that way to me, I think wanted to characterise things in such a way that people might be willing to put their hand up to be on this body but perhaps would not do so if they felt that the workload involved was more onerous.

As an occasional board, or as a group with some sort of oversight, it might be necessary, it might be possible to conceive of a group that might meet rarely in that way, but a body that is expected to come along here armed with a copy of the day-to-day *Notice Paper* and to make some kind of engagement to the debate, off the back of that kind of meeting schedule and level of engagement, just does not make any practical sense.

This has all, of course, been pointed out. One of the other criticisms of this side from the Premier was that somehow there was not a response to engagement process. From a Premier who did not seem to be aware of the existence of a bill, let alone the years of work that led up to it, I just say it is there on the face of that bill and it is there for good reason. There will be more to say in committee about these matters.

I highlight one thing more, which I think will be the concern of all members of this place and of the participants in the election and those who find themselves on a local or the state body, and that is review. Review is tremendously important. Review of a novel body and structure will be all the more critical. We see a review mechanism, the subject of part 7 of the bill, that I think is going to need some real scrutiny to ensure that, whatever may be achieved in the course of a first round, post election, and work done by this Voice, they also have the benefit of a thoroughgoing and independent process of review so that we can all see where the outcomes of the body are leading us.

I will say more in the course of the committee about the merits of the Voice to a committee. It is a term that I embrace, and I think it is a good, short-form way of describing a means and a mode of engagement with the parliament that has the real prospect of achieving success. Not only do we have no form of engagement with a parliamentary committee process but, for good measure, we see the abolition of the existing Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee.

As a present member of that committee, I can just indicate to the house that for quite some time it has been observed—again, I share the views of the member for Giles in this respect—that the committee has been in need of reform. It is a form of engagement that can be and should be improved. It dates back to those times when land, heritage and governance were key oversight aspects of the parliament's engagement. Now is such an opportunity to reform that committee process and that committee's work so that it and, in turn, this parliament can be more effective in our engagement with Aboriginal people. I still hope that that might somehow find its way into the future. It is certainly not something that is prevented by any of the structure that we see before us in this bill.

With limited reflection on the federal debate, as the eyes of the nation might be on us—to pick up on the Premier's observations a moment ago—we see in fact more reflection on the merits of, effectively, a form of committee engagement, to characterise the nature of a body that might be constituted federally. It is a form of engagement that I once again wholeheartedly endorse. I do not do that in some sort of novel way but, again, in the particular circumstances in which there has been such a long and maintained body of work that led to the presentation of that model in 2021.

With those remarks, I again indicate the opposition's disappointment with the bill that has been presented before us. We are opposed to the bill. We are committed to engagement towards better outcomes. It would be a dereliction of our duty to get caught up in what might be described as the headline or the single word descriptors. Those things all go so far. We are in the business of legislating, and we must ensure that if we are to legislate in this place that we legislate towards practical outcomes, improved outcomes, for Aboriginal people. This bill will not do that. With those remarks, I look forward to the committee process, with a view to analysing those particular provisions in more detail.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (12:06): Naa marni. Ngai nari Nat Kartanya Cook. Marni ngadlu tampinthe, ngadlu Kurna yartangka tikanthe. It is one of the biggest privileges to be able to speak some Kurna language, and it is always an opportunity for me to reflect on how far our community has come where the use of traditional language is not just accepted, it is welcomed. It is a starting point for a journey on which we still have so far to go.

When I look back at my parliamentary career, this will be one of the most important debates I will ever have had the privilege of participating in. Privilege has many meanings in this context. All MPs occupy a privileged place in our community. We work hard, but we are very well taken care of. We do not have to panic when a bill arrives in the mail, and we have staff to help us serve our communities. We have a voice and a vote on decisions that can affect our community for generations to come. That is just the privilege attached to our jobs, before we even consider how gender, education, race, wealth and other factors affect our lives. Privilege and opportunity come with even greater responsibility, and I trust that all members will bear that in mind as we debate this bill.

The South Australian parliament that debated whether women should vote or be able to run for parliament in the 1890s was all men. Now, almost 130 years later, we debate a bill about First Nations in a chamber that does not have a single First Nations member. As we did so many years ago, this chamber must make a decision to help those who are not in the room to speak on their own behalf. It is an honour to use my voice in support of First Nations people, but I will be more honoured when their own voice is spoken in here.

A sense of duty and history weighs on us as we debate this bill and encourage all members to think of future generations reading the *Hansard* or watching the debate. Our great-grandchildren probably will not care much about what we said about the Statutes Amendment (Attorney-General's Portfolio) Bill in 2023, but they will care deeply about what we say and how we vote on the First Nations Voice Bill 2023.

We debate this bill on the lands of the Kurna people—land that was stolen and never ceded, just like the lands of so many other First Nations people around Australia. I offer my deepest respect to our Aboriginal community and acknowledge their unique place in this land dating back 2,000 generations. I am not talking about the 2,000 years that many European cultures consider to be their origin but 2,000 generations, or 60,000 years. This place is home to the oldest living culture on the planet, and we should never forget how important and how valuable that is.

I am proud to be a member of the Labor Party and even more proud to be a minister in a Labor government. One of the many reasons for my sense of pride is our commitment to a state-based version of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. In fact, it was one of our earliest election commitments when in opposition. In July 2019, First Nations leaders welcomed South Australia Labor's commitment to deliver on Voice, Truth and Treaty. *The Guardian* newspaper reported at the time, and I quote:

The South Australian Labor Party has pledged to introduce a state-based version of the Uluru statement, including establishing a representative body to act as a voice to parliament, if it wins the next election.

It went on to talk about this being welcomed by leaders, affirming South Australia Labor's position, and how this process was halted by the Marshall Liberal government when elected just over a year later. It stated:

Enacting a state-based version of the Uluru Statement from the Heart is an opportunity for Aboriginal South Australians to finally have their aspirations realised.

That is a quote from now Premier Peter Malinauskas.

Federal Labor also went to the 2019 election with a promise to deliver on the Uluru Statement, an important year for the Uluru Statement. Fast-forwarding a few years to 2022, we had two Labor leaders then winning elections from opposition. This is a rare achievement for any time in history but, rarer still, were their words they spoke as they accepted victory. Both leaders, Peter Malinauskas and Anthony Albanese, began their victory speeches with an acknowledgement of our First Nations people, and a commitment to deliver on the Uluru Statement. Now we see both leaders delivering on their promise.

Passing this bill will not fix all the problems that have been passed down through generations since 1788, but it will take us a huge step forward toward a better future for all South Australians. I truly hope the passing of this bill will provide momentum for a national Voice to be enshrined in our constitution through referendum. By passing this bill, South Australia can once again lead the nation.

In 2018, we signed the first agreement under a Treaty process in Australia, the Buthera Agreement. Sadly, the Treaty process was stopped by the former Liberal government under a Premier who previously described Treaty as a hoax. I can assure those opposite, and the wider community, delivering on the Uluru Statement is not a hoax or a mirage or anything like that. It is a promise. It is a duty. It is a critical foundation for our future as a community.

Beyond signing the Buthera Agreement, both the Labor Party and South Australia have taken important positions of leadership over decades. Don Dunstan introduced the first Aboriginal land rights legislation in Australia back in 1966, which established the Aboriginal Lands Trust. Building on the work of Don Dunstan, South Australia passed land rights legislation in 1981, for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands. In 1975, Gough Whitlam famously poured a handful of red soil into the hand of Vincent Lingiari. This symbolised the legal transfer of Wave Hill Station back to the Gurindji people.

This process has been immortalised in so many ways, including the famous song *From Little Things Big Things Grow*. That was written by Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly. I did not think that that song could get any better until I heard the recent version by South Australian duo Electric Fields. When Zaachariaha Fielding, the child of Robert and Kaye from Mimili in the APY lands, sings in language you almost cry with sadness and joy, both at the same time. It is an Aboriginal story told by an Aboriginal person in an ancient Aboriginal language in a beautiful First Nations voice.

In 1992, Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating delivered his famous Redfern speech. I know that our Attorney-General and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the sponsor of this bill, has a personally signed copy on his wall. He is not alone. Multicultural Youth SA has this speech on their wall amongst other beautiful murals which speak to equality and inclusion. In that speech, Keating outlined the outrages committed against Aboriginal people since colonisation, and asked us to all imagine if it were us, and I quote:

...it might help us if we non-Aboriginal Australians imagined ourselves dispossessed of land we had lived on for fifty thousand years—and then imagined ourselves told that it had never been ours.

Imagine if ours was the oldest culture in the world and we were told that it was worthless.

Imagine if we had suffered the injustice and then were blamed for it.

It seems to me that if we can imagine the injustice we can imagine its opposite.

And we can have justice.

If you believe in these words fundamentally, how do you not support a Voice? Passing this bill, and then working towards Truth and Treaty, is fundamental to providing justice for Aboriginal people.

In 1995, federal Labor Attorney-General Michael Lavarch instigated the Bringing Them Home report. The report was delivered under the Liberals but some findings were rejected, and John Howard refused to say sorry. While we had to wait for a Labor government to be elected, Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008 finally offered a formal apology to the stolen generations. This was leadership. The now leader of the federal Liberal Party, Peter Dutton, boycotted that apology. It took him another 15 years to express regret for doing so.

Today, I ask the Liberal Party in South Australia to learn from Peter Dutton's mistake. They do not have to wait another 15 years to support this bill or show more support for Aboriginal people: they can do it here and now. In 2015, under Labor, South Australia became the first mainland state to introduce a Stolen Generations Reparation Scheme, under the person who introduced this bill into the other place. As I mentioned earlier, SA Labor drove the Buthera Agreement that was agreed in 2018 and then, in 2019, committed to a state-based version of the Uluru Statement. Sadly, the leadership we had seen in South Australia came to an end when the Liberals put an end to the Treaty process.

It will also be the great privilege of my life to have been the Minister for Human Services, but it would be remiss of me not to highlight the challenges that Aboriginal people face across my portfolio areas. It is my hope that the Voice will bring a spotlight to the areas of disadvantage where there must be decisive action with all levels of government working hand in hand with Aboriginal people.

In remote South Australia, the NDIS markets are not thin: they are effectively invisible, with utilisation being as low as 15 to 20 per cent. In very remote Aboriginal communities, this is compounded further. A plan often cannot even be procured. The great promise of the NDIS is a social contract that Australia has made for people with disability to have dignity, choice and control. We will only have achieved this when it applies to all Australians.

I will never shy away from the challenging areas of my portfolio, but there are confronting moments every day, none more so than in youth justice. Our youth justice system is sadly significantly over-represented with Aboriginal young people. This is the sad reality of dispossession, generational trauma and the truth that we must confront as a community. I will not shy away from difficult conversations, but there is so much that we can do to improve outcomes.

We must speak to elders and grannies and take advice from the community, from women and from yarning circles. We must divert young people from youth justice systems because we know that this significantly impacts their life outcomes but also because it is the right thing to do. I am in this chamber because I know the reality of violence, the consequences of youth justice systems and the impacts of trauma. After my time in this place is over, I want to have overseen significant changes and improvements to young people's outcomes, particularly those who have touched the youth justice system.

I hope that my legacy in this portfolio and the legacy of this government will be making significant inroads into improving public and social housing. Nowhere is this more a requirement than in Aboriginal housing. Our original agreement, the national partnership on remote housing (NPARIH), made some incredible steps between 2008 and 2018, including 134 additional houses, 89 replacement houses and 280 upgraded houses. South Australia was a leader in remote Aboriginal housing, and we were making significant strides towards the kind of respectful, dignified existence that we expect for all South Australians. The cancellation of this agreement under the former state and federal governments has pushed back this progress.

It can sometimes be hard to look beyond your neighbourhood. When we talk about remote housing, I understand why people in Adelaide might not understand the implications of these funding agreements. A Voice to Parliament can shine a light on community concerns. It will bring a light to the issues affecting Aboriginal people, particularly those in remote communities. We can and must

do better, and a Voice will be this moment in history. It may only be the start of our new compact, but it is a promise. It is a promise that we will listen, that we will act, that Aboriginal voices will be heard.

The bill before us comes almost six years after the Uluru Statement was handed down in 2017. Its words are as powerful, generous and brilliant as they were on that first day. The closing sentence says that 50 years after being counted for the first time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people sought to be heard.

At this point, I want to offer an apology of my own. I am genuinely sorry that it has taken another six long years for a response to that call, but today is part of making things right and building a better future. To all those who contributed to drafting the Uluru Statement and to all those who keep fighting to make it real, I say thank you from the depths of my being.

When the Liberal Party announced their opposition to this bill, the member for Heysen was quoted by media as saying the bill 'has been provided to not just us but Indigenous communities, leading groups around the state, at very little notice'. Even though I support this bill completely, I also support open debate and welcome people with different views—and there are many—but I was genuinely stunned when I heard these comments.

I do not mean to single out the member for Heysen for criticism, but he has done so upon the Premier. He was the only member, or maybe one of two or three members, of the opposition to join us in the Balcony Room after this bill was introduced in the other place. It was a scene of joy and celebration and it was fantastic to have him there, but this just increased my confusion when I heard his comments about the bill being provided at short notice and being rushed.

Members may recall the Liberal Party introducing their own bill to establish an Aboriginal Voice to Parliament. That bill was available for public consultation for just nine days. There was no media release from the former Premier, the member for Dunstan. The Liberal bill was only posted on the website of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement. The former Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, a brilliant man, Dr Roger Thomas, said on ABC radio on 17 September 2021:

I've expressed to the Premier, I've expressed to the process. I find it very, very insulting that it doesn't give Aboriginal people sufficient time to talk this through because it's such a significant piece of legislation.

The only additional resources provided were a map of proposed electorates and a two-page set of frequently asked questions. The Liberal bill was not even put on the YourSAy website, despite this being the government's go-to and their main tool for public consultation. The Liberal government also happily used this for consultations on everything from fishing to public transport to civil liability legislation, but not for a First Nations Voice.

Upon coming to office, the Malinauskas Labor government got to work consulting with Aboriginal communities about what they wanted to see from the Voice, what it should look like and how it should work. In July 2022, the government appointed Kurna, Narungga, Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri man Dale Agius as the state's inaugural Commissioner for First Nations Voice. This was a bittersweet moment for me. Dale is an amazing person, a friend. Our Minister for Aboriginal Affairs made an inspired choice in the commissioner, but the minister poached Dale from my department and he left some very big shoes to fill. Difficult to forgive, but watching this journey I think I will have to.

From August to October 2022, Commissioner Dale Agius undertook extensive consultations across South Australia. In fact, I bumped into him on one of my many trips to Port Augusta. This included dozens of in-person engagement sessions, from the CBD to remote areas. This led to the publication of the first engagement report and key insights from Aboriginal people about wanting a direct Voice to the South Australian parliament; diverse representation in the South Australian First Nations communities, including nation group diversity, gender, youth and LGBTQIA+ people; and direct access to government decision-makers, including cabinet and chief executives.

Following this, the government released a draft bill that was published on YourSAy for public feedback, and Commissioner Agius commenced a second round of in-person consultations. The second round of consultations resulted in several recommendations to government, all of which are reflected in the final version of the bill. Following all this consultation, the First Nations Voice Bill was

introduced to parliament by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Kyam Maher, from the other place, on 9 February 2023. In summary, I simply cannot fathom how the Liberal Party thinks this has been rushed or lacked consultation. Those are disingenuous comments at best. For all his work through the consultations, I want to say a huge thank you to Dale.

Luckily, almost every Labor MP has put their hand up to speak on this bill, so while I have not touched on the technical aspects I am sure they will be well covered, also when in committee. I have criticised some past actions by the Liberal then-government, now opposition, in my contribution and have raised questions about their objections to the bill, but that is not about platitude and it is not to score points. I am not about patting myself on the back. I hope—I am pleading—to ask those opposite to join us in supporting this bill.

The Liberal Party loves to tell us that members are free to vote how they like, and I simply do not believe that there is no-one on that side of the house who does support this bill. There will be decades ahead for political trench warfare and politics as usual on all kinds of issues, but today we have just one moment—now—when we can come together with one voice to support a First Nations Voice to our parliament and to our government. I commend the bill.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (12:26): Just as I am grateful to have been born, to live and to work on Kurna land, which always was and always will be Aboriginal land, I am honoured and grateful to be able to speak to this bill, in a way I have rarely felt before. This is one of the most important bills we will deal with because it has resonance beyond that of the actual changes being made, as important as they are. To be part of a piece of legislation that has merit in itself and that will make a difference in its delivery but also is part of a larger change in culture and sense of nationhood is a rare privilege.

I will not mention again my deep disappointment that the other side has expressed its opposition, as I do not wish to sully this bill, nor this speech, with talk of partisan differences, but I only note the passing of an opportunity for this culture shift to be a shared view of this parliament, with the inevitable exception of One Nation. That choice has been made, I am sure not without some pain, on the other side of this chamber—indeed, it would comfort me to think it is not without some sense of regret.

To understand the importance of the Voice to Parliament for First Nations, it is essential, in my view, not to restrict ourselves to considering the very real and crushing challenges that disproportionately face the Aboriginal people of our state. I will speak shortly about this truth, and I do not turn away from it. Indeed, it is essential for every South Australian to face up to the reality of the experience of far too many Aboriginal people and to do all in our power to address injustice.

The importance of the Voice is not limited to the way in which it can address inequality, racism and dispossession, although it does and will, as I will address shortly. What the Voice offers us as South Australians is a large step towards true reconciliation with who we are. This question is too often and too easily glossed over, yet to be Australian is to be uniquely of a nation that has three strands, as the incomparable Noel Pearson has described for us. It is to be grateful for and to celebrate the Aboriginal heart of our nation that no other has a claim to. It is to embrace and respect the British heritage of the institutions of representative democracy, the rule of law and an independent Public Service. And it is to welcome the great gift of multiculturalism, Australia being the most successful multicultural nation in the world.

What this intellectual framework offers us is an understanding of our essence as a nation that has been hitherto lacking, as we take being Australian for granted, or we celebrate our great fortune, or we are thrown into torment by the pain of dispossession inherent in knowing that the nation came from taking land from a people already living here when Europeans decided to settle. Noel Pearson offers us a path to embracing all our truths. However, to do so entails understanding why it matters that there was another culture here before the Europeans arrived, and to accept the profound difference between the idea of race and that of culture.

Race does not exist. It is an artificial distinction between people that has no foundation in fact. We are all human: there may be a wide variety in how we look, but there is no discernible

difference of any significance between people of any nation on this earth. Any suggestion that this legislation is about this outdated notion of race is simply wrong.

What is important is the idea of culture. It seems to me that most of what makes us ourselves, what guides our choices and animates our ideas, is culture. A child born today and magically sent to a family in ancient Egypt would not believe in a Christian god, would not understand the concept of representative democracy, and would have a very different view of taxes, education, health care and justice to those we take for granted today.

Similarly, the way in which we consider the values of family, how we regard the environment on which we depend, and the ways in which we make decisions, are shaped by the beliefs, values and ideas of our culture. So, too, is how we are treated by others heavily dependent on the culture we come from. To be identified by others as Aboriginal is almost inevitably to be treated in a way that is different from that of someone who is known to be Chinese or Jewish or Ukrainian.

There is, of course, much that unites us in our humanity and much that, as a nation, defines who we all are as a collective. We have some sense of being Australian in common as well as very different experiences and views, but to emphasise the universal to the exclusion of the understanding of difference risks reducing our understanding of all the ways in which people can live and make choices to that of the dominant Western European culture of which we are the inheritors.

To exclude difference in culture is to exclude the very diversity that gives us, as a people, a nation, and a species, our strength and resilience. To pretend that we are treated equally regardless of the culture we identify with is simply to deny reality.

So here we are: a nation, a state, that had a complex and sophisticated culture here long before the now dominant culture arrived—so long that to say always was, and always will be, is true. A culture that can count thousands of generations in one place truly always was and always will be of that land, yet the keepers of that culture, since European arrival, have experienced discrimination, disposition of country and children, severing of family relations, disrespect of culture and denial of autonomy.

The results are here today. We are not talking about a history lesson. As the Statement from the Heart said so movingly:

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

Noel Pearson, again, in his first Boyer lecture this year, said:

We are a much unloved people. We are perhaps the ethnic group Australians feel least connected to. We are not popular and we are not personally known to many Australians. Few have met us and a small minority counts us as friends.

I am grateful to be in that small minority, but I cannot read those words without feeling their painful truth. Those two quotes are related: how people of Aboriginal culture have been and are treated by the rest of Australia is why they experience poverty and injustice, not because of a fault that rests with them but because of a wound that exists in our national soul.

Stan Grant wrote these devastating words in September last year about the truth of Aboriginal experience of colonisation: 'How do we live with the weight of this history?' He was referring to the 'we' that is the Aboriginal people. I took the words as for me too, as a non-Aboriginal Australian: how do I live with the weight of the history of the nation I call home? It can only be by being part of repairing what has caused harm, and by celebrating what is a precious gift—the fact of our First Nations culture existing to this day.

To do this, we have been given a great opportunity in South Australia, and later this year in Australia, an opportunity to recognise that of all the cultures that contribute to this nation and this state there is one that exists nowhere else, which came into being in and as part of this land and this land alone. Even without the harm caused by European colonisation, that makes this culture special in a way no other can claim. Again I quote from the Uluru Statement from the Heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the

reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors.

A culture with this connection to what is now our shared home has value and deserves respect. Their voices should be heard and celebrated and respected.

But added to this is the great injustice at the heart of our origin story as a nation. We do not live in a country where First Nations people have been listened to and respected. We have collectively treated Aboriginal people as a problem to be solved, a community to be pitied and a social experiment to be tinkered with. As a result, we live in a state of lingering pain, where disadvantage, poverty and shortened lives stalk Aboriginal people, robbing us all of their potential and what they have to offer their families, their culture and our communities.

In a state in a nation where this is true, how can we not seek to remedy the dispossession and the powerless by fully recognising the humanity of Aboriginal people, their agency and their self-determination. We must listen to Aboriginal people for our collective benefit as the custodians of the uniquely Australian culture and Aboriginal people have a right to be heard after being so long objectified and silenced.

So I speak in favour of the creation of a Voice to SA Parliament for First Nations people, for the benefit of Aboriginal people to be heard, for the improvement of legislation for having listened to Aboriginal voices and for the shift in the soul of our state that taking this action represents.

I pay tribute to the Premier for his unhesitating and unstinting support for this legislation. I thank Dale Agius for his work as Commissioner for First Nations Voice. I thank Professor Roger Thomas for his work two years ago laying the foundations for the subsequent consultation with the Aboriginal community. I acknowledge with gratitude all the Aboriginal people who have built this voice together with patience and generosity and I thank the non-Aboriginal members of our community, who recognise it is simply the right thing to do.

I honour Kyam Maher, my dearest friend in this strange world of South Australian politics, who has done more than anyone else to change our collective understanding of how we find a path to reconciliation, recognition, respect and celebration of being a state with an Aboriginal heart and soon an Aboriginal Voice.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (12:37): It is a privilege to rise in support of this bill and to stand on Kurna land and support the passage of this landmark piece of legislation. This is an historic day for our state, as it is for our country. Once again, South Australia is leading the nation.

This bill, which is the result of extensive consultation with Aboriginal communities right around our state, is an important step in implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It is a long overdue recognition of the unique position of Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land on which we are privileged enough to live and work. But more than just recognition, this is also an opportunity, an opportunity for us as a community to do better, to stop bad policies, no matter how well-intentioned they may be from being implemented, and to make good policies better.

In contributing to the passage of this bill, it is impossible not to think about policies of the past that might not have ever come to fruition if a body like the Voice to Parliament had existed then. Not to put too fine a point on it, our track record has not been great, as was just outlined in some excellent detail by the Deputy Premier.

In recent decades, we have learned about the devastating impact of past policies like forced removal of First Nations children but it is not only matters of the past. The difference in life expectancy, educational attainment, health, contact with the child protection and criminal justice systems between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians is still confronting and should be a concern to all of us, but particularly to policymakers and those fortunate enough to sit in this place.

So given the opportunity to listen directly to Aboriginal communities here in our state about how we might do better in addressing these challenges, I think we should seize that opportunity with

both hands. There are some who would seek to argue that no differentiation should be made on the basis of race; however, this negates not only the special position of First Nations people within our community as the traditional owners of this land but also downplays our responsibility to do better in seeking to address the wrongs of the past and the policies of government presently that do not serve to support our First Nations people.

I am a white man of relative privilege and I cannot pretend to have either the lived experience or the cultural understanding to fully appreciate the impacts of policies that I may have a deciding say over. I became a member of parliament, however, because I wanted to make a positive contribution to my community and I see the Voice to Parliament as an important way to help make sure that the contribution I can make as a member of this place, and as a minister, better serves the Aboriginal people in my community and the state more broadly.

Long we have talked the talk about reconciliation, certainly throughout my lifetime, but I see the Voice to Parliament as an opportunity for us to finally walk the walk. When I think of young people in our schools, and even my own experience of education, I think of how we emphasise the importance to young people about standing up and having a say, and that their contribution is valued and meaningful. But it would be fair for a young Aboriginal person to look at the structures within our society that are, on the face of it, there to enable people to have their say, to question how in reality their voice and their unique perspective can in fact be heard. This legislation is a marker that Aboriginal voices are recognised as unique, are recognised as important and are recognised as valued.

It has been my privilege over the last 11 almost 12 years to have the perspective, and the input and the friendship of this state's first Aboriginal Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher MLC. His connections to Aboriginal communities right around the state, large and small, have offered government the direct perspective of many in those communities on a wide range of topics over the past two decades. I have benefitted from those perspectives from the Hon. Kyam Maher as a friend, as a staffer in former governments, as a backbencher and now as a minister, and I know that the input he has made has made a difference to many decisions over a long period of time.

The Malinauskas government wants to ensure that giving a Voice to the Aboriginal communities of South Australia does not come down to whether or not you are lucky enough to have an Aboriginal person in your cabinet. We want to see Aboriginal people having the opportunity to influence and guide decisions that impact their communities, their heritage and their wellbeing, regardless of which party is in government.

But there is also another dimension to this discussion that seems to be rarely addressed. Much of the commentary about the Voice has been framed as though non-Indigenous Australia is giving something to the Aboriginal people of this nation. Indeed, some go as far as to say that it is a sacrifice to be made by white Australia and that we are giving away part of our sovereignty. In reality, though, the opposite is true. We need to view the Uluru Statement from the Heart as something that has the potential to take all Australians regardless of their background, regardless of where they live, regardless of their age, to a better place.

In the same spirit that informed the Uluru Statement, we should now reciprocate and accept the great gift that we are being offered. The oldest continuous living culture in the world has offered its Voice to us, to our nation; 60,000 years of accumulated knowledge, wisdom and understanding of the land we now call Australia is there for us if only we listen. People who for 200 years have survived unspeakable wrongs and injustices, despite that now want to share their wisdom and resilience with us—that is us as the beneficiaries of those who committed the wrongs, and what a gift we are being offered.

We must not let hubris and pettiness stand in the way of meaningful change that has the potential to lift others out of discrimination, out of disadvantage and out of inequality. After all, that is I think what drives most people, regardless of their political party, to be in this place. Those who choose to see and to listen will know that this is a momentous occasion, not only for South Australia but for the entire nation. This is the beginning of this journey; it is not the final destination. As a government and as a community we must commit to continue walking together to fully implement the Uluru Statement.

It is remarkable to me to reflect that 25-odd years after I was at high school, learning about what has happened to First Nations people in this country over the two centuries before that, I get today to play one very small part in the important process of righting at least some of those wrongs. People of the future will look back on this time, in this place, and know that something good was achieved for humanity. I, for one, am incredibly proud to stand here today in support.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (12:45): I rise today in support of the introduction of the First Nations Voice Bill. I want to do that, acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and paying my respects to Kurna elders past, present and emerging.

This is truly a historic moment: the introduction of a bill that, once passed, will give First Nations people a voice that will be heard by the Parliament of South Australia. It will also give First Nations people a voice that will be heard by the South Australian government. It will establish Local First Nations Voices and the State First Nations Voice, and it will repeal the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act and amend the Constitution Act.

In speaking on this bill today I feel the significance of this moment, and I have a real sense of pride that this bill has been introduced by the Malinauskas Labor government. I feel very proud that such a bill is being introduced right here in South Australia and that South Australia is the first state to introduce such a bill. It is fair to say that Labor's record at a state and federal level, with respect to Aboriginal affairs, is commendable.

Our policy efforts over the past 50-or-so years have been monumental and, though far too many to list, there are some key achievements I just want to mention. Of course, in 1966 the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Don Dunstan, introduced the first Aboriginal land rights legislation—the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act—establishing the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Federally, in 1975, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam famously poured a handful of red soil onto the hands of Vincent Lingiari, symbolising the legal transfer of Wave Hill Station back to the Gurindji people. It also meant the Gurindji people became the first Aboriginal community to have land returned to them by the commonwealth government of Australia, and it was a significant turning point for Aboriginal land rights.

In 1992, Prime Minister Paul Keating delivered the Redfern speech, which is still a famous point in time for Aboriginal rights in Australia. There is a famous quote:

...it might help us if we non-Aboriginal Australians imagined ourselves dispossessed of land we had lived on for fifty thousand years—and then imagined ourselves told that it had never been ours.

He closed his speech by stating, and I quote:

It seems to me that if we can imagine the injustice we can imagine its opposite.

And we can have justice.

In 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a formal apology to the stolen generations, whose lives had been blighted by past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation.

In 2015, the South Australian Labor government became the first mainland state to implement a Stolen Generations Reparation Scheme, which was introduced by the Aboriginal affairs minister, my friend the Hon. Kyam Maher. Our stance on First Nations people has been clear. Prior to the last state election, our leader and now Premier, Peter Malinauskas, made it a clear election promise to have this bill introduced should the Malinauskas Labor government be elected.

In the lead-up to the last state election, we promised that an elected Malinauskas Labor government would establish a state-based version of the Uluru Statement—Voice, Treaty, Truth—believing in Aboriginal self-determination to guide and protect the oldest living culture on our planet.

We also committed to recognising the significance of implementing Aboriginal statues and monuments to remember the great people of the past and educate our future generations. We also pledged to take better care of South Australia and establish a First Nations advisory group to consult

directly with the Minister for Environment and ensure Aboriginal voices are heard for the future of our River Murray.

The Malinauskas government also committed, with the federal Labor government, to provide more than \$15 million to rebuild the Yadu Health clinic in Ceduna and provide additional funding to implement Gayle's Law, helping keep nurses and patients safe in remote communities. We made it a priority, should we be elected, to legislate and enshrine the Nunga Court as part of our justice system, to ensure that Aboriginal elders have a voice in sentencing offenders and in healing victims. I am proud to say that bill has already come before this house.

This bill focuses on the first part of this government's election promise in establishing a fully elected First Nations Voice to the parliament of South Australia. It comes almost six years after the Uluru Statement was handed down in 2017. Now it is important to note that the lead-up to the handing down of the Uluru Statement did not come without its challenges.

In 2015 we saw then Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, supported by then Labor leader Bill Shorten, establish the Referendum Council. This was the start of the process to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our constitution. During 2016 and 2017, the Referendum Council led First Nations engagement and consultation across the country. Following this extensive consultation process, the First Nations National Constitutional Convention was of course held at Uluru in 2017, which called for three changes:

- the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Commonwealth Constitution;
- the process of agreement-making between government and First Nations people; and
- truth-telling about Aboriginal history.

It is with the successful election of the Albanese Labor government that we see renewed focus on delivering a First Nations Voice in the federal parliament. I am pleased to say that the Malinauskas government has undertaken an extensive six-month consultation process led by the Commissioner for First Nations Voice, Mr Dale Agius. This process has been significant and robust and integral to the introduction of the bill that we now have before us in this house.

In a recent letter to the Premier, Mr Agius congratulated this government on success in introducing the First Nations Voice Bill to parliament. The commissioner highlighted what a historic day that was. He emphasised the significance of the bill being passed in the other place and mentioned how his community would be eagerly watching with interest and excitement as the bill is considered by this place.

The First Nations people have inhabited this place for over 60,000 years and comprise the oldest living cultures on this planet, yet they continue to experience significantly worse outcomes than the wider population in many areas including life expectancy, education, justice, health and more. This First Nations Voice is one way to address the challenges that our First Nations people experience.

We know that policies affecting First Nations people create better outcomes when First Nations people are involved in their formulation. This bill will give First Nations people more of a say on the decisions that affect their lives. The First Nations Voice Bill proposes at least six members are elected by local regions and a State First Nations Voice comprising two presiding members of each Local First Nations Voice.

The Local First Nations Voice will be directly elected by First Nations people from or living in the region which they are representing. Each Local Voice will elect two joint presiding members of different genders, with those joint presiding members making up the State First Nations Voice. It is proposed that the Local First Nations Voice will have a number of functions, including:

- discussing and considering matters of interest to First Nations people within their particular region;
- encouraging, promoting and assisting First Nations people within their region to communicate their views, concerns and matters of interest;

- receiving the views of First Nations people within their region and passing those views on to the State First Nations Voice;
- collaborating and liaising with the State First Nations Voice on matters of interest to First Nations people within their region;
- at its discretion, the Local First Nations Voice may collaborate with and assist public sector agencies and other organisations in the development of policies and procedures that affect First Nations people within their region;
- engaging with local government, at its discretion, and other organisations on matters of interest to First Nations people within their region; and
- any other functions that may be assigned to Local First Nations Voice under this act via the relevant minister.

The State First Nations Voice is tasked with functions including:

- to represent First Nations people across South Australia;
- to collaboratively liaise with Local First Nations Voices to understand their views on matters of interest and to represent those views to the South Australian parliament, the South Australian government and other bodies;
- to engage with and provide advice to the South Australian parliament and the South Australian government on matters of interest to First Nations people;
- to engage with and provide advice to other levels of government and other organisations, including the commonwealth and other states and territories, on policy and procedures that relate to matters of First Nations people of concern;
- to assign names to regions constituted for the purposes of the bill that we are considering; and
- any other functions that may be assigned to the First Nations State Voice under this act via the relevant minister.

As you can see, the function of both the Local Voice and the State Voice are comprehensive, and their tasks will ensure that just about every possible aspect of First Nations peoples' concerns can be considered. By passing this bill, it enables these issues to be heard here in parliament with a view to formulating legislation and solutions to assist in addressing those issues.

As arts minister, I am honoured to work with a number of First Nations people on several different projects and festivals across our state. I see firsthand that, when engaging directly with First Nations people, it empowers them to be involved and part of the decision-making process, and I can see how creative and enthusiastic they become in achieving outcomes, not only for whom they represent but for all South Australians, and we are better for it.

By passing this historic bill and affording its opportunity to hear the call from First Nations people, it will enable South Australia to lead the nation. It will show the country how the Voice to Parliament operates ahead of the national referendum on the Voice. This is an historic and long overdue opportunity that we have here. It is the right thing to do, and I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12:57): I rise today to proudly speak in support of this historic legislation that will rightly enshrine a First Nations Voice to our South Australian parliament. In doing so, I acknowledge that in this place we gather together on Kurna land, on land that was always Kurna land and always will be. I pay my respect to Kurna elders past and present, to Kurna future leaders and to elders and people of other Aboriginal nations. I pay this respect every day, and I acknowledge the significance of doing so on this historic day.

Every day, in my roles as Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing and member for Reynell, I acknowledge the role that so many and Aboriginal leaders play in supporting and advocating for young people in preventing and helping to end the scourge of domestic and family violence, in advancing the interests of girls and women and in harnessing the power of sport to make change. These leaders generously share wisdom, knowledge and culture, and through often tireless advocacy over years, decades and lifetimes they make a difference and help each of us to learn.

It is right that we make a decision together in this place to listen to them, as this bill asks us to do. I also acknowledge and thank the many Aboriginal leaders in our southern community, who lend their voices to strengthening the cultural understanding of our entire community. I wholeheartedly and with love and respect acknowledge my friend, the Hon. Kyam Maher, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, who moved this bill in the upper house. His introduction of the bill was preceded by decades of him advocating with and for Aboriginal people, and by years of deep listening, contemplation and conversation about Voice, Treaty, Truth and how we truly progress the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00

MOTOR VEHICLES (ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEVY) AMENDMENT REPEAL BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO) (NO 2) BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

RAIL SAFETY NATIONAL LAW (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO AND OTHER JUSTICE MEASURES) BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

BURIAL AND CREMATION (INTERMENT RIGHTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Independent Commission Against Corruption—Yes Minister: Corruption risks associated with unsolicited proposals—Report

Parliament of South Australia—Assembly of Members of both Houses for the election of a member to fill a vacancy in the Legislative Council rendered by the resignation of

the Hon. Stephen Wade – Minutes—7 March 2023

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

Annual Reports 2021-22—
Green Adelaide Board
Landscape Boards—
Alinytjara Wilurara
Eyre Peninsula
Hills and Fleurieu
Kangaroo Island
Limestone Coast
Murraylands and Riverland
Northern and Yorke
South Australian Arid Lands
Parks and Wilderness Council

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

Government Response to Standing Committees—Economic and Finance Committee:
Inquiry into Embedded Networks in South Australia—Government Response—
February 2023

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

Abortion Reporting Committee, South Australian—Annual Report 2021
Government Response to Standing Committees—COVID-19 Direction Accountability and
Oversight Committee: Report—Government Response—February 2023
Wellbeing SA—Maternal and Perinatal Mortality in South Australia—Annual Report 2020

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—
Fair Trading—
Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry Code of Conduct
Motor Vehicle Insurers and Repairers

Ministerial Statement

ANDROMEDA, GREAT WHITE KAOLIN PROJECT

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:04): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Last week, the South Australian government approved Andromeda Metals' operational plan to commence mining operations at its Great White Kaolin Project. This will be South Australia's first kaolin mine. With an approved program for environmental protection and rehabilitation, Andromeda takes a step closer to transitioning from a mineral explorer to a mine developer.

This project, 65 kilometres east of Streaky Bay, has been several years in the making. While kaolin was first discovered here in 1984, it was in 2018 that Andromeda and Minotaur entered into a joint venture to progress this project. After a short period of further exploration, Andromeda submitted an application for a mining lease in February 2020. This demonstrates the importance of mineral exploration and the time it takes to identify, define and de-risk mineral projects, the care that must be taken to ensure our explorers engage and communicate with the communities that host them and, importantly, the commitment it takes to turn a discovery into a mine.

At the time of submission, the mining lease application underwent public consultation, and the majority of the submissions, over 60 per cent, showed support for the project. It is unsurprising that this project has support from locals on the Eyre Peninsula, with this project providing up to 40 direct jobs upon commencement and expected to increase to 70 jobs at full operation. These will be new jobs with Andromeda making a commitment that, where possible, jobs will be filled by locals first and foremost.

Operations for the next 13 years have been approved. However, the potential for this project goes further. The identified 34.6 million tonne resource estimate provides the mine with an estimated potential life of 28 years. This resource is particularly exciting because the Great White deposit contains some of the highest purity kaolin ever discovered.

Kaolin is used in ceramics, plastics and is in every modern home and car in some form. Natural halloysite, which is a rare form of kaolin present in the Great White deposit, has emerging high-tech applications, including batteries, supercapacitors and energy storage technologies and for carbon capture and storage and hydrogen storage.

Andromeda is furthering research in this field through its venture, Natural Nanotech. They are helping to pursue commercially viable applications that help solve high-profile environmental issues. We expect to see activity on the site soon. Early-stage works for construction is anticipated to proceed in the coming months.

Andromeda's approved mining operation involves a conventional open-pit mine, a processing facility expected to process around 300,000 tonnes of ore per annum and other key infrastructure for mining operations. The mine will produce around 150,000 tonnes of kaolin per annum, generating profits for the company, product for industry, local benefits and, most importantly, royalties for the state.

In addition to local jobs and investment in the region, the local community stands to benefit from planned infrastructure upgrades of roads in the region. To accommodate the transport of the concentrated and refined final product by B-double trucks, Andromeda is supporting the upgrade of the intersection of Pochera-Port Kenny Road with Streaky Bay Road and will also upgrade and undertake ongoing maintenance of the Pochera to Port Kenny Road.

Andromeda is also responding to community feedback and has committed to not operate trucks along this road during school bus travel times. These outcomes are an excellent example of the shared benefits that result from meaningful engagement by mineral exploration and mining companies. This project stands to be a shining example of mining in South Australia that is in the state's best interest.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call questions without notice, I recognise the presence in the Speaker's gallery of the Speaker of New South Wales, Mr Jonathan O'Dea MP, and also the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Parliamentary Services in New South Wales, Mr Mark Webb. Our parliament is deeply grateful to both gentlemen for their advice to our parliament on a range of reform matters.

I also recognise the presence in the gallery of students from Concordia College, guests of the member for Unley. I understand present with us, too, are students from St Aloysius College year 12, guests of the member for Adelaide. Welcome to parliament.

Question Time

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:09): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier apologise to South Australians for governing over the worst ramping levels in our state's history? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order: that question involves significant debate and argument, sir.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I give some latitude to both the leader and the Premier. I'm going to allow the leader to recast his question, mindful of the fact that facts can only be introduced with leave.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: Thank you for your latitude, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Has ambulance ramping increased to record levels under his watch? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: The last 10 months of ramping have been the worst on record, with each month above 3,000 hours.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:10): Thank you very much for the question. I'm very happy to answer this question—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —which is clearly a very significant issue, and one in which the government is investing record amounts—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —of funding, resources and effort to address the issues that our hospital system is facing. I can inform the member that there is progress, in that we have seen ramping reduce by 21 per cent since June last year. However, there is still a significant amount of work to do.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: There is still a significant amount of work to do. This government is investing in opening additional hospital beds, which are the critical thing that we need across our health system to make sure that patients can get seen, that they can reduce the access block in emergency departments, and we can make sure that patients get off the ramp.

Ultimately, what our key goal is in terms of improving those ambulance response times that got worse and worse under the previous four years of the Marshall government, to get to the point where they are by far the worst in the whole country—that's why we went to the election with a very clear four-year plan to invest in building additional capacities in our hospitals.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hammond!

Mr Patterson interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In fact, we are now going much further than what we said at the election as well. For instance, if you look at—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphet is on two warnings. Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —Flinders Medical Centre, where we committed 24 additional beds at the election, now working with the federal government we have increased that to 136 extra beds in our plan, of which we are now fast-tracking the development of those beds. Clearly, it takes time to build additional capacity. We can't snap our fingers, because we have clearly inherited a situation where while we have come into office—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned. Member for Frome! Member for Hammond! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and opened up every single bed that we have across the system, that's not enough. We need to do even more, and we are investing every possible means in doing that. Look at Lyell McEwin Hospital, where we committed 24 beds. We have now increased that to 48. At Noarlunga Hospital, where we committed 24 beds, we are increasing that to 48. We are listening to the clinicians. We are investing in key areas such as mental health that do need additional investment, because a significant number of mental health patients get stuck in emergency departments as well. Clearly, we don't see any alternative plans that have been put up.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Schubert is on two warnings. The minister has the call. Member for Frome!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We are absolutely delivering our plans, yet we've got the Leader of the Opposition who says, 'Oh, it's not up to us to think of anything. We'll just say things are really bad.' Of course, we are delivering on a plan. We are investing more than we originally said in delivering that plan, but we need those additional beds in the system. Anybody who understands these issues knows that it is that key access block that's causing the problems, where each morning we get people who are stuck in emergency departments waiting for beds in the hospital system.

We didn't see additional hospital beds coming online in the previous four years of the previous government. In fact, if you look at what they triumph at Flinders Medical Centre, they actually reduced the number of inpatient beds at Flinders Medical Centre through their changes at that hospital site. We need to increase those beds. We need to make sure that patients have places to go, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): My question is again to the Premier. When will the Premier fix ramping? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: In February 2022 ambulances were ramped for 1,522 hours and in February 2023 they were ramped for 3,036 hours.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:15): I am very happy to reflect on February 2022, because what was in place then? There was a ban on elective surgery operating in our hospitals.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is called to order. Member for Heysen! The member for Frome knows better. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The Leader of the Opposition may be suggesting that we reimpose such a ban, but I do not support that because there are South Australians who have been waiting for their elective surgery operations in pain for significant periods of time. What the Leader of the Opposition is pointing to is not a solution, cancelling all elective surgery in our hospitals. That cannot be the solution because it only makes those people's pain and suffering worse. It only leads to longer term problems in the health system.

What happened as soon as that ban on elective surgery was lifted under the Marshall government in their last few weeks? Ramping went right back up again. Of course, the Leader of the Opposition does not point to the actual last month that they were in office, March 2022, because he points to this month when they had banned elective surgery in our hospitals. It is a complete farce.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey, member for Frome!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Any clinician looking at that would say—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier is called to order. The minister has the call. Order! Member for Morialta, member for Frome! The member for Schubert is on two warnings. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: If they had bothered to talk to any clinicians, they would clearly explain to them that that is not a solution to fixing problems in our hospital system, cancelling elective surgery across the board. What we need to do is, as I have just outlined, invest in additional beds, additional capacity across our system and additional mental health capacity, which is another one of those key blockages that we have in the system. But we have the Leader of the Opposition, who refers to mental health as a 'very small portfolio area', as he said when he took it off the member for Chaffey and gave it to the member for Frome. There is not an understanding—

Ms Pratt: Twenty-seven beds per 100,000 people. What's your plan for mental health?

The SPEAKER: Member for Frome!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —of the complexities of these issues or why they are important to address issues like mental health in the system. On mental health, we are building 100 extra mental health beds across the system. We are building entirely new mental health rehabilitation wards at Modbury, The QEH and Noarlunga Hospital as well because every day there are people with mental health conditions who get stuck in emergency departments because we simply do not have the beds available for those patients.

It takes time to develop those new wards. It takes time to build them, to put them in place. We will do that as fast as we possibly can. As soon as we came into office, the Premier and I sat down with SA Health. We asked them to open up every possible bed across the system, which they did. Over 200 beds in addition across the system were opened, but clearly we need more than that. We need additional capacity in the system. That is what we said, in terms of our election commitments, that we needed to do.

We are delivering even more than we said at the election in 550 more beds that are in the last budget and are being delivered. That is what is needed to fix the situation, as we said at the election, to fix that ramping crisis, which we defined very clearly at the time as getting ambulance response times back to where they were—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —back in 2018, when we saw this—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —continual reduction of ambulance response times to be now the worst in the country. We are also of course investing in the Ambulance Service as well because there are times when ramping is not a significant issue when there are still issues in terms of ambulance response times, too.

HOSPITAL SUPPLIES

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:19): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Are patients in our health system being supplied with towels to sleep on instead of pillows? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: A father took to social media, stating that his son, who was at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for emergency surgery, was offered rolled-up towels instead of a pillow. However, the CEO

of CALHN, Lesley Dwyer, stated on ABC radio on 3 March, 'We purchase about 2,000 new pillows each month to make sure we've got a good supply.'

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:19): I think the member has answered her own question in the explanation, in that the CEO of the Royal Adelaide Hospital—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —has confirmed that there are sufficient numbers of pillows at that hospital.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As was the case under the previous government as well, clearly there are times in which getting those supplies—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —from the central area in the hospital to the wards—that there are issues that occur. There are countless examples where that happened under the previous government as well. In fact, I noticed a lot of the responses, when the member raised this last week, were saying, 'Well, this happened to me two years ago or three years ago.' Clearly there are significant supplies of pillows. Clearly, the CEO of the hospital has made that very clear. They have made clear that they will be looking into the case of what happened on that particular ward, in terms of why that pillow wasn't able to get from the central area of the hospital to that ward. But I think there has been a very clear answer that the member foreshadowed in her actual question as well.

NURSE STAFFING LEVELS

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:21): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Has the minister received advice regarding any issues with nurses re-entering the workforce? If so, will he commit to removing them? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: Laura is a mum of three and has been out of the workforce for more than five years. She desperately wants to get back into the nursing workforce and is faced with two challenging options: either pack her family up and move interstate for weeks, or fork out over \$8,000 to do a more flexible course through La Trobe.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:21): One thing that we won't be doing on this side is making 200 nurses redundant, like happened under the previous government by those opposite. They've got more front than David Jones—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —coming into this place and talking about nurses—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister—

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —when they made them redundant during a global pandemic.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morphett! I will turn to your colleague, the member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, sir. Standing order 98: the minister is debating and not—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for West Torrens! I have the point of order. There is some force in the matters that the member for Morialta raises with me. I have standing order 98 to hand. I will listen carefully. Minister.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you, sir. We have put in place a very clear policy that there will be no redundancies of frontline workers, including our nurses, under this government, which is very different to what happened previously, when 200 nurses across the system were made redundant under the previous government.

In fact, we are hiring additional nurses. We have recently brought on double the number of usual graduate nurses in our hospital system. The issue that the member raised has been a longstanding one. It was in place for the four years that they were in government. It's that there isn't a local course available for those re-entry programs that have to be in place under the national law. It's something that I have actually raised with the universities before it was raised at all by the member for Schubert. I raised it with the universities to ask that we work together, between the department and the universities, to see if we can get a local course re-established for this purpose, because we haven't had one for years.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We didn't have it under your government. You did nothing about it. We are raising it with the universities, hopeful that we can get a solution to that issue here. We are hiring significant numbers of additional nurses across the system, which is a very different policy to what we saw in the redundancy campaigns of nurses that happened in the previous four years.

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:23): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the government-led River Murray flood clean-up?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:23): Thank you very much for the question. Recently, I was invited to Swan Reach to see some of the damage that has been caused by this flood. I think some people, probably particularly in Adelaide, who were very interested in the height of the flood have lost a bit of attention on what it's like now, after the floodwaters start to recede.

It was a pleasure to meet and be shown around by Mr Tim Siebert, the Treasurer of the Swan Reach Progress Association, but at the same time, seeing that level of devastation was quite confronting. He took me along in his tinnie so that we could see a number of the houses that had still a significant amount of water in them and a huge amount of damage.

As members of the house would be aware, my portfolio agency Green Industries SA, was activated on 15 December as the functional lead agency responsible for managing waste and debris arising from the current River Murray flooding event, as per the requirements of the South Australian Disaster Waste Management Guidelines.

Furthermore, in January, as part of the continuing River Murray disaster relief program, co-funded by the commonwealth and state governments, \$60 million was provided by the two governments for waste management and other clean-up work. This forms part of more than \$120 million in joint funding, which has been provided thus far to support community recovery and represents the largest amount spent on a single disaster event in the history of our state.

Given the sheer scale and complexity of the disaster event, it was determined that GISA would adopt a procurement strategy of appointing a principal contractor, similar to approaches by other states also affected by flooding. Upon contract execution, the principal contractor will

commence works, which will include contacting householders and small businesses to arrange assessments of their properties. We remain committed to using local suppliers where possible, a successful approach that was demonstrated during the 2019-20 bushfires.

I encourage eligible landowners to register for their free structural assessment through the government hotline and I thank the more than 1,500 people who have already done so. Anyone in a primary residence, a shack or holiday home, small business or not-for-profit organisation that has been affected by the floodwaters is eligible for free clean-up assistance.

Assessments will commence in the coming weeks and clean-up works will increase as roads become accessible to heavy vehicles and machinery. As an initial clean-up activity on 20 February, the Premier announced that the government would be providing householders with five vouchers for the free disposal of flood-affected material at 12 transfer stations along the river.

Owners of properties affected by floodwater are eligible for up to five vouchers once they have registered via 1800 302 787. Landowners can collect vouchers by visiting a participating transfer station and by providing staff with their client ID and name. Eligible transfer stations are at Blanchetown, Bowhill, Cadell, Mannum, Morgan, Swan Reach, Walker Flat, Berri, Loxton, Moorook, Brinkley and Waikerie.

I can also inform the house that on 25 February, the removal of some waste which had been placed on the kerbside by property owners commenced at a number of locations between the towns of Blanchetown and Bowhill due to health and safety concerns. This clean-up, conducted by two contractors engaged directly by the government, is an interim measure only, ahead of the commencement of the larger recovery efforts previously mentioned.

This clean-up will take time but I would like to reiterate that no-one will miss out on free access to hard waste and debris clean-up. If you have any questions or require support, please encourage your constituents to call the relief information hotline on 1800 302 787 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays so that they can discuss their situation.

MOBILE PHONE BAN

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Is the government's mobile phone advertising campaign going to include newspaper, TV and radio advertisements and, if so, why? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Last Tuesday, the minister announced a \$900,000 media campaign to promote the government's mobile phone ban. In the same press conference, while defending the Sam Smith influencer concert, the minister said:

The world has changed. It's not like it was when you could take out a full-page ad in the newspaper and do a TV commercial and an ad on the radio and that was it. Lots of people don't follow that line of media.

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Elizabeth! The member for Badcoe is warned. The minister has the call.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:28): I thank the member for Morialta for his question. There are a few things I would like to say as perhaps opening remarks around the importance of this advertising campaign or awareness campaign around the mobile phone ban in high schools.

First of all, its genesis was in a meeting that the Premier and I had with the Secondary Principals' Association towards the end of last year. We sat down and took the opportunity, as I had the board of SASPA in for dinner on a sitting night, to thank them for the work that they do. I know the member for Morialta would join me in thanking them for their incredible efforts, particularly over

the last few years, and we got on to talking about the proposed mobile phone ban. Both the Premier and I were very, very keen to hear the input from the Secondary Principals' Association about whether they supported the ban, their insights—because they had been part of the consultation into what we could do to make sure it was successful in any school setting.

One of the points that was made very clearly by a number of members of the SASPA board was that an awareness campaign that involved advertising, like that to which the member for Morialta refers, would be useful for a number of reasons including a perception out there amongst parents, grandparents and carers that their child's school might be being targeted, instead of it being a system-wide policy—which of course it is; it is already in place at about 30 per cent of our public schools that have secondary enrolments, and by term 3 it will be in place across 100 per cent—but also to encourage those parents, grandparents and carers to actually have the conversation themselves with their teenage children about why the government has taken this important step.

This is not like some other advertising that governments may have done in the past. There is a place for that, but this is really not just about making people aware of an election commitment that we are delivering. This is more about making sure that we have those parents, those grandparents and those carers as allies in our rollout of the campaign.

We know that no-one likes to be separated from their mobile phone, least of all high-school age children. It is not an easy thing to do, but we have seen already the feedback very clearly from a number of schools in that 30 per cent category that have already brought the mobile phone ban into effect from the start of term 1. We are already clearly seeing the benefits of the ban. We are seeing students socialising and playing sport more regularly in recess and lunchtime and we are seeing a reduction in things like bullying and harassment.

I am happy to speak more specifically about the second part of the member for Morialta's question, which was in reference to a question I was asked about the Sam Smith advertising. What I spoke about specifically in my answer there was around how we attract interstate visitors to South Australia. I was not referring to a mobile phone ban. I was talking about the way that people get their suggestions and inspiration for things like travel and spending their hospitality dollar, which of course in South Australia we are very keen to get. I don't think it's fair to conflate the two into the one issue. On the one hand we have a mobile phone ban, which is already yielding—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: —some really fantastic results, and I can tell the Speaker that with every new school I go to, every principal I speak to, every parent I speak to, and classroom teacher, I am more resolved to get it done. This awareness campaign that has rolled out from 28 February and is running until August—across the web, television and radio commercials, outdoor, digital and social media—is a really important part of making sure that this isn't just left up to classroom teachers, it isn't just left up to principals, who have enough on their plate already, but this is something we ask our whole community to be a part of.

MOBILE PHONE BAN

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): Supplementary, sir: I refer to the minister's answer in which he talked about how well the ban is going, according to the minister, and the 30 per cent of schools that it's in place in. If that ban is going so well, then why do the taxpayers of South Australia have to spend \$900,000 on promoting those conversations he says are also necessary?

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey is called to order and warned for a second time. Minister.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:33): The short answer is because we have 70 per cent more of public schools, with high school enrolments to go.

MOBILE PHONE BAN

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Education. Does the government's advertising campaign include billboards or other outdoor advertising methods? If so, how much is this component of the campaign costing?

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

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

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:33): I have answered that question already, and I referred to outdoor—so, yes, I imagine that would include billboards as well. I don't know what component that is of the \$900,000. I am happy to take that on notice. But I think it is appropriate that when we consider how we roll the awareness campaign out it is important that it is done in different mediums, because we need to get to a very large cross-section of people, not just of course in metropolitan South Australia but in the regions as well. It is just as important to have this policy rolled out effectively in our regional areas, and that means we need to ensure that the kind of advertising that is in the mix that we are paying for here, that taxpayers are paying for as part of the \$900,000 awareness campaign, is fit for purpose, not only just for those South Australians who live in a metropolitan area but those who live in a regional area as well.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. How is the government supporting families facing difficult circumstances to stay together?

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) (14:34): I thank the member for this question and for her interest in the safety and wellbeing of families facing serious challenges. We know that one in three children in South Australia are notified to child protection before they are 18 and that many families experience deeply complex and interconnected issues.

Our government also knows, that in order for children and young people to have the best opportunity to physically, mentally and emotionally thrive and to be safe, loved and nurtured, we need a whole-of-government, whole-of-community and whole-of-sector response to the complex circumstances currently facing many children and young people and their families. We need to recognise the strength and love that may exist in extended families and enable that strength and love to support children and families when needed.

The Malinauskas government has committed an additional \$16.6 million to South Australia's child protection system with a focus on improving opportunities to keep children safe and supported within their family unit and on Aboriginal-led initiatives that will help to progress the transformational change that is needed; \$13.4 million is being invested to expand family group conferencing where extended families come together to find solutions and to enable individual family members to contribute in ways that help keep children safely at home.

This voluntary process is led by families for families and provides an opportunity for family and community members to come together, with the support and resources to make decisions in the best interests of the child. Better resourcing for family group conferencing recognises and enables those strengths in extended families, creates opportunities to achieve better outcomes for children and creates support mechanisms so that children have improved opportunities to safely stay with their families and in their homes.

The over-representation of Aboriginal children in care means we still have to do much more to address the needs of Aboriginal families. I am really pleased to inform the house that the government is also committing \$3.2 million to establish an independent community-controlled peak body to improve care and protection outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. A properly resourced peak body for Aboriginal children and young people is a step that community leaders have wanted for some time. We have listened and we are proud of our commitment to establish that peak

body to support Aboriginal-led solutions and build the capacity of the Aboriginal-controlled sector to deliver services that have the best chance of leading to better outcomes for Aboriginal children.

In strengthening the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, we recognise that Aboriginal people and organisations are best placed to provide culturally safe and effective services for Aboriginal children and their families. I thank the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, April Lawrie, for her commitment and advocacy for this peak body. Her advocacy and that of other Aboriginal community leaders and elders led to the state government engaging SNAICC, the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, to lead a process to identify a preferred model for the peak body in South Australia.

The new funding for these measures adds to the more than \$155 million committed to the child protection system since last year's state election and represents a nation-leading step forward in tackling the complex circumstances that children and their families face.

SCHOOLS, ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Is the government giving consideration to using public advertising campaigns to address any other behaviour issues in schools? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Violence, bullying, antisocial behaviour and, especially in recent times, vaping all present significant challenges in schools; however, they are not addressed by the government's \$900,000 advertising campaign.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:39): Of course, the government is keen and open-minded towards using taxpayers' funds thoughtfully in order to be able to achieve high-quality public policy outcomes. We have demonstrated that on more than one occasion. The thing about the advertising campaign on the mobile phone ban in schools is that it wasn't the government's idea, as the Minister for Education enunciated earlier. This was actually an idea that came from the Secondary Principals' Association.

Mr Tarzia: They advise; you decide.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: In fact, I could be more specific again for the shadow minister. The education minister hosted a range of secondary principals here at Parliament House at a function—I think it was late last year—and they themselves expressed an appetite for an advertising campaign. The moment I heard that idea, I thought it was one that was worthy of examination and ultimately—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —for us to institute it and that is a campaign that is now rolling out over the period that is the same time as the mobile phone ban is being rolled out across schools throughout the state. But I can say that we have been, on this side of the house, really heartened by the response from all involved in respect of the success of the ban where it has been implemented thus far. In fact, I think many members will be familiar—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Florey!

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

The SPEAKER: Premier, there is a point of order from the member for Morialta, which I will hear under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The Premier has been entirely logical and consistent up until this point, until he says that he is talking about the success—

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Morialta?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The question specifically goes—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer is called to order. The member for Badcoe is warned for a second time.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —to vaping and antisocial behaviour and whether they will be considered for advertising campaigns too.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I have the point of order. Some latitude, of course, is provided to the Premier and the leader. I will listen carefully.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: There was an opinion piece published in today's *Advertiser* from the principal of Findon High School, Kathleen Hoare, and I would invite the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I would invite the shadow minister to familiarise himself with the opinion piece, if he hasn't had a chance already. The interesting thing about it is that it goes directly to the shadow minister's question because the principal articulates all the benefits towards our diminishing antisocial behaviour as a result of the implementation of the ban. In fact, to quote the words of Ms Hoare, the school principal, in respect of the ban, she says:

...kids are talking and interacting with each other. The school is filled with sounds of engagement, rather than the sounds of phones.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: 'It's a different vibe—

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

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta is warned. Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —and makes me feel positive we made the right decision to tighten our mobile phone ban policy.'

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: At the expense of paraphrasing Ms Hoare, what she articulates later on in the opinion piece is that, as schools progressively roll out the policy, they can look to the experience of Findon High or where the ban has been implemented with a degree of confidence that it's the right thing to do—

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

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —so the campaign goes a long way. I have noted the commentary from the opposition that has been rolled out progressively throughout the implementation of this ban constantly seeking, in effect, to undermine the policy, raising questions about the policy or seeking to critique the implementation of the policy—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —but the shadow minister should be under no misapprehension about the fact that on this side of the house we are proud to be getting things done.

We made the commitment to the people of South Australia at the election and we are actually delivering upon it. We are not commentating on it, we are not talking about it, we are actually doing it and we are rolling out this ban less than 12 months after forming office. It has been done in a thoughtful, considered way, ensuring that schools have the resources where required to be able to facilitate the ban, but also providing a degree of flexibility to schools about how they roll it out and also supporting them by ensuring that every single parent in the state knows that this is the government that is delivering on its election commitments and making education in our schools a better experience.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:44): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Under this government, are public schools allowed to display advertising promotions for members of parliament? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The opposition has received complaints from members of the public concerned that Salisbury High School has a large display promoting the member for Ramsay attached to its basketball courts.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Elizabeth! Member for Hurtle Vale! Order! The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Kurna, order! Member for West Torrens! The member for Badcoe is on two warnings.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:44): I thank the member for Morialta for the question. I will have to take the detail on notice. I am sure, amongst the many policies that the education department has—I believe it's in the hundreds, the last time I checked—there is probably something around what signage is permitted on our school sites. Knowing the member for Ramsay as well as I do, I can't imagine it would be anything other than a very genuine attempt from her to support one of her local schools. I know that she has been a very long—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: —and passionate and proud supporter of Salisbury High School. But I will check what the policy is, and I am happy to come back to the member.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house of any significant initiatives to improve public housing supplies in South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:45): Can I thank the member for King for her really important question, because this government is absolutely committed to seeking to address the housing supply crisis that is being endured throughout the nation, and that includes here in South Australia.

I've got to say that there are a number of elements to that policy that has been put together through the leadership of the Treasurer in particular, in conjunction with the Minister for Human Services and the Minister for Planning, but one that I am particularly proud of is the decision by this government to dramatically change public housing policy in South Australia.

To appreciate the size of the investment and the commitment the state government has made, history in context matters here. For 29 of the last 30 years in South Australia, there has been a net decrease in public housing stock in South Australia. Despite the fact that our population has grown quite substantially over the course of 30 years, in 29 of those 30 years we have decreased public housing stock. In the one year when public housing stock increased in net terms, from memory, I think it was approximately by six houses. This is a shameful statistic.

To be clear, I think it is an indictment on governments of both political persuasions, both Labor and Liberal. But it is certainly the case and worthy of note that under the leadership of the former Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, there was a baked-in government policy decision, of her making, to sell public housing stock, for which I believe—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —the former Minister for Human Services should be deeply ashamed, particularly given—

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

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —her espousal of values around social justice and what have you. But this government doesn't talk those values; we are actually putting them into action. That is why as part of our plan for more public housing this government is committing an additional \$55.2 million over the next four years into additional public housing. The outcome of that is a lot more public homes than what would otherwise be the case, somewhere in excess of 1,000 additional homes in public housing in South Australia.

Why does this matter? Well, it matters not just because the policy is different from governments that have preceded us but because putting a roof over someone's head is more than just a social policy. In fact, on this side the house, we believe it is a significantly important economic policy. It is important to appreciate that when the Housing Trust was first established, it was done so as an economic driver of activity, with the view of providing affordable houses for working people.

We know that sometime later, in today's context, putting a roof over someone's head actually does more than just give them somewhere safe to live; it dramatically improves the likelihood of them engaging in our society in a more productive way. That is to say, if you give someone who is ostensibly homeless a roof over their head and access to secure accommodation, it gives them the capacity and the ability to seek to participate in the labour market, for instance.

That is a big deal, because we need more people engaging in the labour market in South Australia, not fewer. We want to see our participation rate continue to go up, and we want that to go up including from people from low socio-economic communities or people who are socially disadvantaged through being homeless. That's why we have made this record investment, and that's why this government is proud to depart from policies past and do something big on public housing.

WAGES GROWTH

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Minister, when did it become government policy to keep South Australian wages low, and will the government continue to spend taxpayers' money to celebrate the government's success in keeping wages low? With the leave of the house, I will explain.

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

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hartley, I anticipate that the Leader of the Government Business is going to—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 97, sir: the question involves argument and debate.

The SPEAKER: Very well. I'm going to turn to the member for Hartley and give him an opportunity to recast the question. If it were not recast, I would find myself upholding the point of order.

Mr TARZIA: Thank you for indulgence, sir. I will rephrase. My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Does the government have a plan to grow real wages in South Australia's private sector? With leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TARZIA: A paid advertisement in today's *Australian Financial Review* includes commentary from the minister that 'the state's private sector labour costs are almost 10 per cent below the national average'. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Wage Price Index and Consumer Price Index for the year to December, South Australia has the lowest real wages growth in the country.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: Spoken like a real shoppies' union member.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Florey, order! Minister, please be seated. The member for Florey and the member for Unley will depart the chamber under 137A for the remainder of question time. The minister has the call.

The honourable members for Florey and Unley having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The minister has the call.

Mr Tarzia: You used to support the workers, Nick.

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:51): South Australia has a whole lot of comparative advantages. We have comparative advantages in lower turnover, for instance. That's one of the advantages in lower labour costs that we bring to employers.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: We have lower turnover costs. I don't make any apology for selling the state of South Australia in the *Financial Review*—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: —because of our very many advantages in this state. We have advantages in renewable energy. We have advantages in lower labour turnover. We have a whole heap of advantages in terms of our state.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Reynell!

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: I make no apology in selling those advantages.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hartley well knows the standing orders, including in relation to the use of props.

Members interjecting:

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

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the government renew funding to the Marine Discovery Centre and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: The Marine Discovery Centre at the Star of the Sea school in Henley Beach has been supported for years by Labor and Liberal governments in recognition of the important programs it runs, with over 7,000 students from all schooling sectors visiting each year.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:53): I thank the member for Colton for the question. I will have to take it on notice around the detail. On the face of it, of course, it sounds like a very worthwhile program, deserving of the support of this government, but I will find out some further information and come back to the house.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:53): My question is to the Minister for the Arts. Following last year's budget, was the minister approached regarding funding urgent cost pressures at the South Australian Museum and, if so, what was her response?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:53): I regularly meet with all of the statutory authority chairs and their CEOs. There were efficiency dividends in the last number of budgets that are being dealt with across each of those organisations, including the Museum.

RENTAL AFFORDABILITY

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:54): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. How is the Malinauskas Labor government supporting South Australians to access private rental housing?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:54): I thank the member for Torrens for the important question. This morning it was reported that the number of rental homes available for less than \$400 per week had dropped dramatically. In March 2020, more than half in Adelaide were below \$400 and, by February 2022, just before the election, that number had plummeted to a quarter. Today, it is reported the number is less than 10 per cent. For low-income households, this spells major problems.

People without a home of their own struggle to find one that they can afford. Those who get into a rental find it harder and harder to make ends meet or to save for a deposit to buy a home. The policy settings of the former government meant that a household renting a home for \$600 per week would face out-of-pocket costs of \$4,800. This included \$3,600 for a six-week bond and another \$1,200 for rent in advance, and that is before you deal with costs like moving, utility reconnections and new school uniforms for the kids.

For this reason, along with rising interest rates and high property prices, our Labor government has introduced many housing reforms in recent weeks. These include a historic land release, reforming private rental, investing an extra \$232.7 million in public housing, targeted home purchase assistance through HomeStart and more social and affordable housing in partnership with the commonwealth. These reforms target the whole market so that we can give help exactly where it is needed, and low-income renters are among those who need help the most.

The Private Rental Assistance Program helps eligible households so they do not have to pay up-front costs like bond and rent in advance out of their own pocket. For a number of years, people could get rapid approval for homes rented at up to \$450 a week. If you wanted a more expensive home, you had to go through a manual approval process that wasted valuable time when you were trying to avoid becoming homeless. This process also wasted the valuable time of Housing SA staff.

It even led to ridiculous cases where large families were advised that it may be easier to rent two homes at \$450 per week rather than one home at \$550 or \$600 per week. This was because landlords were not going to wait around to leave a home vacant while an applicant jumped through

government hoops to see if they could get help. I am pleased to advise that we have addressed this issue.

Under changes implemented in the past week, low-income households can now get rapid approval for homes rented at up to \$600 per week. The asset limit for eligible applicants has also been increased from \$5,000 to \$62,150, so many more households will have the opportunity to rent more homes. It also means that households who have worked hard to save money for critical expenses do not have to dip in to any savings. It is a major help for households struggling with the cost of living.

In recent years, rising rents and fewer vacancies have seen the number of people accessing the program plummet from more than 30,000 to around 10,000. Our changes will allow many more households to access this critical support. It should be noted this change was actually recommended to the former government by the Housing Trust Board in November 2021, but they failed to act on the recommendation.

As I stated earlier, just before the election the proportion of homes advertised at under \$400 per week had halved in the previous year leading up to that decision. Even with this massive warning bell and even with the advice of their own expert board, the previous government failed to act. Labor acknowledges the challenge faced by many in our community, and we are acting to make life easier.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:57): My question is to the Minister for Arts. Is the minister aware of the financial position of the South Australian Museum, and has she received any advice about potential staff cuts? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Recent board minutes released under FOI include a report from the chair highlighting a \$1.1 million deficit in the museum's budget. This deficit follows budget cuts arising from last year's budget at a time of significant cost blowouts, including in insurance following a new appraisal of the value of the museum's collection. The opposition has been advised that at least 10 jobs are now at risk unless the government revisits its budget cuts.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:58): I can take the details on notice, but the museum, as are a number of our institutions, is facing significant efficiency savings targets, primarily from the Liberal Marshall government, that they are trying to deal with. They are significantly higher percentage—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Schubert!

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: They are significantly higher percentage savings targets under the former Liberal government than ours. They are dealing with it in the way that the board would ordinarily deal with those matters in trying to reach their savings targets, and all options are on the table. I have not had any recent reports. I do not think I have met the museum chair since potentially late last year, but I will take that on notice.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:59): My question is to the Minister for Arts. Can the minister confirm that the South Australian Museum will continue to carry out a scientific research function under the Malinauskas Labor government? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The Museum Act highlights functions of the Museum Board, including, '...to carry out, or promote, research into matters of scientific and historical interest'. The

museum is a global leader in that, particularly in mineral sciences, biological sciences and palaeontology. However, board minutes released under FOI reveal that the Museum Board is looking at ceasing its research functions.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:00): As the shadow minister has just highlighted, the Museum Act has its objectives for the museum set out, and they include research. They do a fantastic job with the research.

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I know that the chair of the Museum Board has had discussions—

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

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Clancy interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: —with our higher education institutions. The research function will continue, as required under the act.

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the house on recent changes to healthcare services in regional South Australia?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:00): Thank you to the member for Giles for this question. There is a lot of news that has been happening in regional South Australia in improving health services across the board. Most notably, with the member for Narungga a few weeks ago, I was up at the Wallaroo Hospital. It was a delight to visit the new rehabilitation unit at the hospital. This is a service that hasn't been in operation anywhere in the region before. It's about to start operations for the first time.

It means that patients who are getting their rehab are able to do that locally within the region. That's going to be a significant benefit, not only for our health system overall, reducing pressure on our city hospitals, but also of course better for those patients to be able to receive that care closer to home.

We met the team, led by Lyndal, the clinical lead. We saw the new facilities that are being constructed there at the Wallaroo Hospital. We met the team and saw the equipment that's going to be used. Importantly as well, it's also going to involve remote ability to have rehabilitation as well. People will be provided with equipment and technology to be able to do that, and so they can stay closer to home.

Of course, this is not the only improvement that we are making at Wallaroo Hospital. We are set to increase the amount of chemotherapy happening in the hospital there as well, which will mean more cancer patients will be able to get that care closer to home.

Also, when we were there we had the ability to speak to a number patients, including Sharon, who spoke about what a difference the increase we have made to PATS has been, in terms of that additional doubling of the PATS fuel rebate, reducing pressure on country patients across South Australia. Of course, that previous rate had been in place for decades and decades, and since January this year we have now increased it, relieving a lot of pressure on regional South Australians.

In addition to this, we have also recently announced a new program, a 24/7 health remote monitoring service. This is going to be operating across regional South Australia, where regional patients will be provided, in collaboration with their GP, with remote monitoring equipment—with tablets and with devices that can monitor all their vital signs—and then linked with nurses who will be operating 24/7 to keep in touch with those patients to make sure that there is no deterioration in

their condition and to make sure that they are healthy in the community. It will ultimately reduce pressure on our regional hospitals as well.

This has certainly been welcomed by a number of general practitioners across regional South Australia as relieving pressure on them and meaning that those regional patients can get a better identification of where their vital signs are deteriorating and get the appropriate follow-up care that they need. It will also reduce the number of people who have to be stuck in hospital for longer for that monitoring process to happen.

At the same time we have also launched another platform, called the Zeus platform, which is making it easy for Telestroke appointments across regional South Australia. Of course, when you have a stroke, every minute counts. Regional hospitals will now be able to save up to 30 minutes when they access those telehealth consultations with neurologists in Adelaide. That's another very exciting development that has happened in regional South Australia as well.

In addition, at the same time, we are employing a significant number of additional nurses in our regional hospitals as well. The member for MacKillop and I were excited that at the Millicent hospital we now have those graduate nurses who are going to be working there for the first time for a very significant period of time. Many other country locations are doing that at the same time. As well, we now have trainee doctors operating on Eyre Peninsula as well. So some exciting news in our regions.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL SECURITY

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Are restraint-trained security guards in place at Wallaroo, Port Pirie and Riverland regional hospitals? If not, will the minister take action to introduce them? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: On 23 February this year, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation said, and I quote:

Port Pirie hospital, Wallaroo, Riverland General Hospital and many other regional hospitals have no 24/7 restraint-trained security, meaning nurses and hospital staff are left to fend for themselves until police arrive.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:05): Thank you for the question from the member for Frome. Very clearly, there is a need for improvements in terms of security for our staff right across South Australia. That's why we have already taken action in this regard since we have been in office, working, of course, in conjunction with our local health networks and their boards who, under the Healthcare Act, have responsibility for the delivery of their local health services.

This was a significant issue that was raised in the Port Lincoln hospital over a number of years, with a number of high-profile issues that happened in that hospital over the previous term of the Marshall Liberal government. Of course, no action was taken in relation to security guards at that hospital at all. Of course, now we have seen 24/7 security guards—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Frome!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —installed under this government at the Port Lincoln hospital, which is an excellent addition to those services. In addition, we had a very little amount of security available in the Mount Gambier hospital as well. This was an issue that was raised repeatedly. We have now seen an increase in the security that is available at that hospital as well.

Of course, in addition, we know that there are more sites where we will have to consider this. I have asked the local health networks—and in this case the member refers to those hospitals—in this case the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network and also the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network to look into the security arrangements in place at those major hospital sites in their area, to look at what we have done in Port Lincoln and Mount Gambier in improving that security, and make sure that we have the right security arrangements in place.

In addition, across the whole state, we are implementing, in conjunction with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, a 10-point plan in relation to security for nurses and midwives and other staff across South Australia in our hospitals. This is something that the ANMF had previously been trying to work collaboratively with the government on and they were being told, 'We're not going to do this.' They were being refused to work collaboratively with the government on this.

We are taking up the mantle and working on this issue because we do know that we do need to improve the protection of our hardworking staff who day in and day out protect South Australians and care for South Australians and, unfortunately, there are times when people are violent against our healthcare workers, which is absolutely shameful. I don't think anybody in this house or in the broader community would support our healthcare heroes being treated in that way. So we will continue to work with the ANMF and I will continue to work with our regional local health network boards to make sure that we improve the security for our hardworking healthcare heroes.

REGIONAL POLICING REVIEW

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:08): My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Has the review by the Premier's taskforce into regional policing been completed and presented to cabinet yet?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:08): Thank you to the member for Flinders for his question. The taskforce hasn't completed the work undertaken as was put by the member. The review into regional policing was in fact completed, and that work was undertaken wholly and solely by the police commissioner and by police as is their operational imperative.

CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Will the minister commit to the establishment of an external independent quality assurance unit to resolve disputes and to respond to incidents of bullying, discrimination and harassment within the Department for Child Protection? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: On page 29, recommendation 3 of Fiona Arney's Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care states, and I quote:

...an external Independent Quality Assurance Unit be established in a relevant statutory body to respond to complaints...

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) (15:09): I thank the shadow minister for the question. As the shadow minister is aware, the report into the Independent Inquiry into Foster and Kinship Care, conducted by Dr Fiona Arney—who was appointed by the previous government to conduct that inquiry—has recently been completed. As the shadow minister is also aware, I have tabled that report in the parliament.

I think the shadow minister is also aware that I am in the process of conducting extensive consultation sessions with carers in different parts of our community. I have already conducted four of those sessions to receive feedback, and there are other forums to receive that feedback coming up. I will certainly keep the shadow minister abreast of developments with those forums when I provide a further briefing to him in a few weeks' time—I think towards the end of this month.

What I can say is that following the receipt of the report, I immediately committed to several actions pertaining to those recommendations. I also committed to ensure that any recommendations that pertained to a need for legislative consideration would certainly be considered as part of our comprehensive review of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act. So I will certainly consider any recommendations that would require legislative change in the context of that review, and I will certainly also continue to discuss the various recommendations and receive feedback from foster and kinship carers.

In receiving that feedback, I have been really clear at each of those forums that I am deeply appreciative of the incredible role that foster and kinship carers play in opening their hearts, homes

and lives to children and young people—children and young people who face some really difficult circumstances. I am incredibly appreciative of the efforts, the compassion, the care that foster and kinship carers provide and I will continue to listen to their views.

I just want to say also to the shadow minister in response to his question that, as well as speaking with carers extensively following receipt of the report, since becoming the minister I have also fulfilled the commitment that I gave before the election to consult and meet regularly with carers to hear from them. Prior to the forums that I have been holding to receive feedback, I have also conducted various roundtables with foster and kinship carers in many parts of the state, and I certainly intend to continue to do that.

The other point that I just want to mention is to say that we are really proud of the election commitment that we made, that we are fulfilling to provide an additional \$800,000 for carer advocacy here in South Australia. That will provide an opportunity for carers to voice their concerns, as will the carer council that is recommended also by Dr Fiona Arney, which I have already publicly committed to progressing, amongst other commitments that we made following the Dr Arney inquiry.

Grievance Debate

MORIALTA ELECTORATE

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:13): I am really pleased to be able to congratulate four new principals who have commenced their terms in schools in the Morialta electorate this year. I have been pleased in the recent weeks, particularly since school began, to visit those principals, and I want to take this opportunity in the house to congratulate them on their appointments, to welcome them again to the roles that they play in the Morialta electorate and to express my sincere enthusiasm for the work they are going to do to support the children and young people whose education they now take the stewardship for.

At Morialta Secondary College, I congratulate Roley Coulter. Roley Coulter has held this role for some time. The thing that has changed this year is that there are now students at Morialta Secondary College—170 or so of them—and as of the beginning of last week they have now taken possession of their exceptional new facilities on St Bernards Road in the old middle campus at Norwood Morialta High School.

The new facilities, which are completed for the sufficient support of the year 7s and which will be completed in full at the end of next year, are spectacular. Those students are loving it and I congratulate Roley for the way that he has not only managed the foundations and establishment of a new school but also managed four weeks where the students of that school and staff had to operate out at Magill uni. I think Roley is as relieved as we all are that they were able to finish the building in time for the beginning of week 5 because it would have been a lot more difficult to do that transition once the university students had returned from their lengthy summer break.

I would also like to congratulate Belinda Smith, the new principal at Highbury Primary School, an experienced principal who comes from having served in other schools in the north-east, and I know that Highbury Primary School has welcomed her well and will continue to do so. I note the significant work and the great work done by Frank Mittiga at Highbury and the range of the other schools for which he was the principal during previous tenures.

At Saint Ignatius' College, I welcome again Barbara Watkins. Barbara is joining us from New South Wales for one year and was previously a principal of Loreto schools in New South Wales. She has taken Saint Ignatius this year as it transitions to its next principal; I understand they are doing a longer search. She has already been very much appreciated by that school community for the experience that she brings, her deep insight into the needs of students and young people. Particularly for this year I think she is going to enjoy her time at Saint Ignatius Athelstone, and we are glad that she is here.

Finally, on this note I want to congratulate Emily Brookes, the new principal at Torrens Valley Christian School. Emily Brookes has been working at Torrens Valley Christian School for more than a decade as a maths teacher, as a leader, as a deputy principal, as an acting principal at one point, and now she has taken the reins as principal. Indeed, Mr Acting Speaker—and welcome to you in this role too—I think Emily Brookes has established her credentials extremely well within that school

community, an important school community that has great confidence in her going forward. To all of those four new principals, serving the Morialta community, I say congratulations.

I would like to take the opportunity today to congratulate and thank Professor Denis Ralph for his decades of service to education, and most recently through Catholic Education, ahead of his retirement as the Chair of the Commission for Catholic Schools in South Australia. It has been announced that on 19 May Denis Ralph will step down. He has done exemplary service to the Catholic schooling system in South Australia through his advocacy and his coordination of the board of Catholic Education in South Australia.

As Minister for Education, I told his principals whenever I saw them that not a month would go by without a series of phone calls and letters and meeting requests from Professor Ralph, arguing fervently and very forcefully and persuasively for the schools in the system he had responsibility for. I know that Dr Neil McGoran, the chief executive of Catholic Education, and Denis were also a formidable team for previous ministers for education before I arrived, as I trust they have been for the new minister since the March election last year.

Denis Ralph's service prior to being in this role included being the director of Aquinas College, the deputy DG of education in New South Wales and under Rob Lucas no less the director-general of the education department here in South Australia, always seeking to serve students. We thank him for that service. We also wish well John Neate, who has been announced as the new Chair of the Commission for Catholic Schools. John has worked for 30 years in catholic education, including as principal at Kildare and Cabra amongst other roles, and I look forward to working with him for the next three years in our opposition term and hopefully after that as the next government of South Australia. I wish him well in that role and look forward to working with him.

PAEDIATRIC AND NEONATAL SERVICES, KAVEL ELECTORATE

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (15:19): I raise in the house the need for enhanced paediatric and neonatal support in the central Adelaide Hills. As members are aware, my community is growing rapidly. The pressure on local healthcare services is also increasing. In the past three years, we have seen an 18 per cent increase in new births at the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. I am advised that new births at Mount Barker will likely exceed 600 this year. It is my understanding that similarly-sized maternity facilities across both Adelaide and the country provide access to 24-hour neonatal care. Mount Barker needs to have equivalent specialist paediatric support.

At present, many Mount Barker newborns who require specialist neonatal care are being transferred to metropolitan hospitals. No new mother or child should be forced to transfer into a city hospital solely because they happen to live in the Adelaide Hills. In April of last year, Mount Barker mother Chloe Head and her baby Matilda were transferred from Mount Barker hospital to Flinders Medical Centre following Matilda's birth. The effect of this transfer was significant: they were moved away from their home and support. I wish to record my gratitude to Chloe for sharing her experience in an effort to improve services for other women.

While I commend the government on its work constructing a new Mount Barker hospital, an immediate additional investment is required in paediatric services. The existing hospital has a fully functioning nursery, but insufficient funding has been committed for specialist paediatric doctors. Accordingly, hospital staff must transfer newborn babies in order to provide adequate neonatal care. I call on both the state government and the Local Health Network board to provide this urgently needed funding and support for an enhanced specialist paediatric service in Mount Barker.

I also recently launched a community petition calling on both the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the Barossa Hills Fleurieu local health network board to provide much-needed additional paediatric services.

HEYSEN ELECTORATE

Mr TEAGUE (Heyesen) (15:21): I have the opportunity to make some observations about the wonderful communities in the Adelaide Hills district that I am so fortunate to represent, the seat of Heyesen. It is often said that we have maybe 23 separate communities and I want to highlight the activities of several of them in these minutes.

Firstly, I want to commend the work particularly of Maccy Biochar, a group of Macclesfield locals who have taken on the task of ground-up science with a view to improve productivity and environmental outcomes through the use of biochar. They are going about their science and contribution to improvement in our local environment by getting very much hands-on and showing the way for what can be expanded in the future.

On 2 March, I was fortunate to join, together with members of the Natural Resources Committee, in visiting the Maccy Biochar group and seeing what they do on the ground. It is truly inspiring. I want to recognise in particular, the chair, Brian Lewis, and give a shoutout to the owner of the land upon which the biochar work is being done, Greg Goding, who very generously continues to provide his land for access to the group. I also want to recognise co-convenor, Kelvin Williams; Geoff Brockhouse and Dean Hewlett, among so many who have contributed to that work.

In Maccy, we are seeing, meanwhile, a renovation and a resurgence. The main street has not looked this good for a very long time. I am delighted to see that we now have both sides of the main street—perhaps the most spectacular main street in the whole state—with a functioning renewed footpath. Hats off to the RSL, to Kuchel's general store and to those who have contributed to the previous round of works. On the other side, it is great now to see with the renovation works at Maccy Hotel that the main street in Macclesfield is looking tremendous indeed and I am sure it is going to bring flow-on benefits to the town more broadly.

Meanwhile, can I commend the reaching out recently of the new Mount Barker council and acknowledge Mayor David Leach for his initiative to bring the council to Meadows and to bring council meetings out to those parts of the Hills within Heysen. It is a commendable initiative. I wish to recognise elected members for taking that initiative. I know that in Meadows we are looking to replace a GP who has recently left and we all know that, whenever you go to Meadows, you had better not go there unless you have something to say about the roundabout, a matter that I have taken up with the minister and I know the council, together with the Macclesfield Community Association and residents, are very keen on indeed. I will say more about Heart of Gold at Echunga. The Echunga Community Association is also making strides in terms of initiatives for the centre of Echunga.

In Bridgewater, we recently had the happy occasion of opening the new netball and tennis courts. The crew at Bridgewater Netball Club are to be commended in particular for the way that they have brought together and coordinated the necessary contributions of local, state and federal government. The Adelaide Hills Council has convened that project within its overall planning. It has received state and federal money and it has achieved an excellent outcome at Bridgewater.

In Stirling, it would be remiss of me not to recognise whenever living treasure Jeff Mincham opens an exhibition in the centre of Heysen. I recommend everybody go to see Jeff's work at Aptos Cruz Galleries in Stirling. That will be there for a little while to come.

I particularly on this occasion wish to recognise what is now getting on to be a decade of work by Imagine Uraidla in Uraidla. These are examples of truly existential contributions to the community. A decade ago, Uraidla was literally on the verge of disappearing. The pub had shut, and the town was really on the verge of falling away. They drew inspiration from a UK movement with a pub at the hub of the community. It brought more than half the town into the footy club back in 2014.

There has been an amazing response, and Uraidla is now thriving more than ever, as exhibited by its receipt of the 2023 overall winner of the Santos Best Dressed Town after the recent Tour Down Under—demonstrations of community spirit through bees and sunflower displays that I think can tell a story for the Hills and all our communities.

ADELAIDE ELECTORATE

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:26): A few weeks ago, it was the first day of the new school year, and I was visiting Sturt Street Community School, where I am proud to be on the governing council. When I was chatting to the receptionist at the front desk, I noticed a big box of apples. Apples at a primary school do not really seem out of place, but something compelled me to ask Sally the receptionist, who I have known for a number of years, what this big box of apples was doing on the front desk.

I am glad I did, because she said that every Monday for the past 10 years a local resident has donated that big box of apples and delivered it to the school, providing a piece of fresh fruit for every single student. For more than a decade, this generous individual, this generous local in our community, has chosen to remain anonymous. They do not want recognition or reward; they simply want to give back. It is stories like that that make me so incredibly proud to be the member for Adelaide. We might live in a capital city electorate, but you will find that same generosity of spirit, those same close-knit connections that you would find in any country town.

Sunday 19 March marks one year since the Malinauskas Labor government was elected, and for the past 12 months I have been working every single day to deliver on the commitments that I made to our community. They are commitments that are focused on creating a stronger, healthier and more connected neighbourhood. They are commitments like pocket parks to increase our tree canopy and cool our suburbs and provide more open green space. They are around creating community hubs like a brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre and bringing back a community sport and recreation hub at the Walkerville YMCA site. It is improving road safety in our community, like a new roundabout at the Howard Street-Rosetta Street intersection in Collinswood, which is a notorious crash corner, as well as a new 25 km/h school zone at Gilles Street.

Over the past year, my local community and I have also been working together to develop and succeed with local community wins. They are very small wins but really make such a huge impact to the daily lives of locals in my area. They are things like the new keep-clear zone at the intersection of Main North Road and Penn Place, which allows locals to exit their suburb onto those busy main roads; turning a redundant mail zone on Hutt Street into an additional car park, which makes such a huge difference to the local small businesses and allows more people to support those local small businesses; and new signage at the Prospect Road-Fitzroy Terrace intersection, which alerts motorists to how many cyclists and pedestrians use that intersection every day.

As I said, these local community wins all happen because of locals in my community: when I am out knocking on doors, when I am holding community catch-ups, when you reach out to me and my team raising the issues that matter to you. It is my privilege to be your local MP, to listen, to act and deliver for our neighbourhood. I cannot wait for the next 12 months.

WEATHER MONITORING

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:29): I rise to speak on a major infrastructure gap in our state, which means there is a significant weather forecasting and knowledge deficiency for our community and industries. Between Ceduna and Adelaide, there is no Doppler weather radar that allows for the accurate forecasting of weather.

If you are an avid watcher of weather radar data, like we are in regional South Australia, you would notice a big blank area across significant parts of Eyre Peninsula and Spencer Gulf. This has led to lost opportunities for our primary producers across both the Yorke and Eyre peninsulas. The installation of a Doppler radar on Eyre Peninsula would allow for improved weather forecasting and an increased output by farmers across the region. Improvements in primary production business efficiency could yield increased economic gains in the tens of millions of dollars for South Australia, enable more appropriate decision-making for those businesses in an ever-changing climate, and provide extra jobs in rural and regional communities.

Decisions around farming operations, such as the application of fertiliser and chemicals, are currently being made with a lack of up-to-date weather information. These decisions are often on treatments that cost tens of thousands of dollars per pass and potentially can be left redundant if a farming business is unfortunately in the pathway of an unpredicted weather event, rainfall or wind.

Similar installations made by the Western Australian government in recent years have proven that there is significant return on investment, and this was in inland areas of the state that are reliant solely on agriculture. Here in South Australia, we have a substantial fishing and aquaculture industry that would see significant advantage with greater weather forecasting certainty, along with potential improved safety outcomes for both agriculture and aquaculture farmers as well as tourism operators.

This issue has been front of mind for my community in regard to emergency management. The recent fire at Port Lincoln highlighted this, as without up-to-date weather forecasting capacity, a significant wind event, which had not been predicted, delivered much more dangerous fire conditions than had been forecast.

Major safety and decision-making challenges with emergency management are made without accurate information, with these gaps often filled with rudimentary solutions such as ringing up a fisherman who is out on the waters to the west, trying to ascertain when a wind change or a weather front may be coming. This is not good enough.

An investment in a Doppler weather radar on Eyre Peninsula would provide positive outcomes for communities and businesses here in South Australia, economic advantages for agricultural businesses, safety benefits for emergency management, and support for our aquaculture and fishing industry which provides so much for our state's economy.

I have written about this to both the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Emergency Services, and I hope the state government can recognise this potential and partner with the federal government to deliver an outcome.

I take the opportunity today to congratulate the members of the Port Lincoln Baptist Church on the official dedication of their new church building last Sunday. I was invited along as the local member and joined a significant number of worshippers on the day from all across Eyre Peninsula and beyond. The original Baptist Church chapel in Port Lincoln was built right back in the mid-1800s and has stood there in what has become Adelaide Place ever since, having a variety of uses throughout the decades. However, due to its age and construction, the building slowly became unfit for use and the congregation there made plans for an alternative.

These first moves were made more than a decade ago, and the work that has been done since has been incredible. A block for a new building was purchased and prepared, with an incredible amount of volunteer hours added to with willing and able tradespeople who have come together to deliver a fantastic new facility. This move from their chapel on Adelaide Place has been a long time in the making and is a testament to the faithfulness, perseverance and dedication of those involved over many years.

Congratulations to the whole congregation at the Port Lincoln Baptist Church, especially the building community on their perseverance, as well as Pastor Peter Hanan and his wife, Sally, on their leadership. The church has taken on the moniker of Living Waters Baptist Church, reflecting the words from the scripture John 7:37-38, where it reads Jesus said:

If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

As spoken about on the day, a church is not a building: it is the people of faith within. Long may they continue to be a font of living water within the community of Port Lincoln.

PORT MACDONNELL MARINE WIND FARM

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:34): I rise to make a contribution about a community consultation session by the offshore wind developer BlueFloat in Port MacDonnell recently. There is a proposal to develop a marine wind farm, which will include around 77 bottom-fixed wind turbines eight to 20 kilometres off the coast of Port MacDonnell in commonwealth waters. At the meeting, there were many questions raised by community, business and professional fishers, which I would like to put on record here and which I think need to be addressed before the box can be ticked that there has been adequate community consultation:

- Will there be an exclusion zone around the turbines?
- What will be the impact on our rock lobster population?
- How will the wind farms impact whale migration patterns?
- Will the state or federal government receive royalties for having the turbines in commonwealth waters but close to Port MacDonnell?

- At what stage is the environmental impact assessment?
- Who benefits from the power generated, South Australia or Victoria?
- Who will maintain the turbines, and will these jobs be based in Port MacDonnell?
- How will this affect our local visitor economy?
- Will there be compensation for local fishers and the community?
- What will the impact on the reef be following the towers' removal?

One person indicated that they believe that an environmental impact study should be completed before a licence is given. Most importantly, the overriding theme was: how can their voices be heard? Social licence or community licence, as we have seen in this place many times over, is a crucial step and very important step for all projects of this size and scope. It is very clear that the South-East coastal community of Port MacDonnell is looking for some answers.

What will the long-term impact be on our coastline and marine life, and how will the wind farm affect our professional rock lobster fishing industry? Port MacDonnell has worked incredibly hard to boost their tourism prospects over the last few years and have amazing plans going forward. What will the impact be on the local visitor economy? This social impact and community licence needs to demonstrate a strong benefit to the region that they are interacting with.

There is an opportunity for public comment on the proposal open now through the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act referrals process. The public comment period for the EPBC referral will last until 21 March 2023. I encourage all local residents with concerns to put them in writing and submit them through the EPBC process.

Again, it is not that the community is against future development, but they are certainly concerned that community consultation has involved one session, with people split into small groups so that, in some people's opinion, it is a divide and conquer-type approach. I say to BlueFloat that if they want genuine community engagement they need to interact over a long period of time with the community and have genuine questions answered before being able to satisfy that community consultation has indeed been undertaken. I just want to highlight to the community that there are ways that they can have their say and have their concerns raised. This will be published in a local paper coming up very soon.

Bills

FIRST NATIONS VOICE BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. K.A. Hildyard (resumed on motion).

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) (15:39): It was preceded by the Hon. Kyam Maher's steadfast commitment, over his lifetime, to advance our community toward reconciliation with compassion and respect and through honest conversation about past and present injustices and about what it will take to forge a future in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people walk together in harmony and in unity. Thank you, Kyam, for your and Commissioner for First Nations Voice Dale Agius's tireless work to deeply consult on this bill that we contemplate today and for your leadership and strength as we bring to life this bill that will help us toward unity.

In moving the bill, Kyam, you spoke about how this was one of the most important actions you have taken in the parliament. I say to you, Kyam, that your doing so is one of the most important steps for our whole community. It is a bill that speaks to fairness, to compassion, to a willingness to listen and act, and to a desire to advance our state forward with dignity, respect and an abiding commitment for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to walk together.

It is a bill that we now contemplate, six years since the adoption by the First Nations National Constitutional Convention of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which rightly calls for Voice, Treaty,

Truth and for structural reform that genuinely empowers Aboriginal people to speak to us as decision-makers and to have their voices heard and acted upon. The Uluru Statement from the Heart states:

When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

This bill is about wholeheartedly giving that power. It is about doing the right thing. It is about respectfully recognising that Aboriginal people are the best people to give voice to all that can make a difference on the issues Aboriginal people confront. It is about a huge and transformative step towards reconciliation and healing. It is about saying, and telling our children and grandchildren, that we, as parliamentarians and as a community, recognised the past and present injustices and hurt and decided to rightly and genuinely listen to Aboriginal people's voices and, as a demonstration of that commitment, that we enshrined that right for Aboriginal people to have a Voice to Parliament in our laws.

It is not, as some who have opposed it have said, about unfairly advantaging one group of people over another, nor is it about not addressing the issues that persist. It is about exactly the opposite. It is about finally progressing toward fairness for Aboriginal people through finally, genuinely, ensuring that Aboriginal people—whose voices have too often gone unheard and who have not had the power that that they should have over their destinies, their children's future and what matters in their lives—are heard and empowered.

Fundamentally, this bill is about demonstrating leadership. Excellent leadership is not about having power; it is about using your leadership to empower others to lead. I am so proud that, as a government, we are exercising leadership in this way. Our government was elected to lead with a firm commitment to enact the three core elements of the Uluru Statement at a state level: Voice, Treaty and Truth. Each element is equally important and crucial to implementing the Uluru Statement in full.

I am moved and proud that our government is progressing this bill that will deliver the first part of this commitment by establishing a fully elected First Nations Voice to this South Australian parliament and government. I am proud that, in progressing this bill, we lead the country as we contemplate, as a nation, a Voice to our federal parliament.

Through passing this legislation, we provide meaningful structures that have been informed by Aboriginal people through a deep consultation process to engage with issues that affect their lives and to express their views in relation to the way forward.

We know that First Nations people continue to experience significantly worse outcomes than the wider population in a range of areas: life expectancy, education, justice, health, safety and others. The statistics that we continue to reflect on through the Closing the Gap reports are unacceptable and they are a call to action to do more, to listen more and to empower Aboriginal people to speak with us.

During this week, as we approach International Women's Day, we are all also too well aware that the scourge of violence against women in our community persists. Shamefully, the rates of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women remain significantly higher than the national average. First Nations women are 34 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to be hospitalised because of violence and report three times as many incidents of sexual violence as non-Aboriginal women.

Those are facts from which none of us can look away. They are facts that we must look toward with courage until they change and they are facts that require a response that is shaped by Aboriginal people empowered to develop structures that respond to these experiences and drive change.

The establishment of the Voice is a key step to ensure that Aboriginal people are fulsomely involved in and truly leading the design and implementation of all policies that support their communities that tackle issues that they may confront.

In saying this, we must acknowledge that it is also not the sole responsibility of Aboriginal people to address this or other matters that impact them. 'Changing the picture: A national resource

to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children', developed by Our Watch, rightly states:

Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is not an 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander problem'. Nor should Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people bear sole responsibility for addressing it. This violence is an Australian problem, and it is perpetrated by men of all cultural backgrounds.

It is deeply concerning that the rate of Aboriginal children entering care is growing. We are steadfastly committed to doing what we can to help ensure this trend does not persist.

On the weekend, we announced our commitment to an additional \$16.6 million to our child protection system with a focus on best practice approaches to keep children safe within their family unit and Aboriginal-led initiatives that will provide the foundations for transformational change. The investment will include targeted efforts to support Aboriginal children and their families to stay together through Aboriginal-led decision-making for Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities.

Across the forward estimates, \$13.4 million will significantly expand the Family Group Conferencing program, where a child's extended family is brought together to find solutions to help keep children safely at home. This voluntary process is led by families and provides an opportunity for family and community members to come together with resources and support and make decisions that support the safety and best interests of the child or young person.

The state government is also leading the nation in committing \$3.2 million to establish an independent Aboriginal community-controlled peak body designed to empower the Aboriginal community to ensure measures are in place to improve care and protection outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. This additional funding is a crucial and nation-leading step forward in tackling the complex issues in child protection and the difficult and complex circumstances that children, young people and their families can face.

The way that the funding is being delivered is all about empowering Aboriginal families. It recognises and enables the strengths in extended families, creates opportunities to achieve better outcomes for children by involving more family and community members, and creates support mechanisms so that children have better opportunities to safely stay with their families.

Resourcing a peak body for Aboriginal children and young people is a step that Aboriginal leaders have wanted for some time. Our commitment to the establishment of a peak body will support Aboriginal-led solutions and build the capacity of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to deliver services which we know will lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal children.

On the issues of violence against women and child protection and, indeed, on every issue, Aboriginal voices must be empowered to lead, be heard and acted upon. As a parliament, the structure we progress through this bill will enable the voices of Aboriginal people to absolutely be empowered to lead on these and on all issues. I know this because the process to get to this historic moment has been led by Aboriginal people. Passing this bill will give Aboriginal people more of a say in the decisions that affect their lives, and will ensure our parliament truly listens to Aboriginal voices.

The Voice will be made up of at least six Local First Nations Voices, formed of directly elected people from determined regions. The bill also includes a State First Nations Voice, comprising the two presiding members of each Local First Nations Voice.

The direct election of the Local First Nations Voices by First Nations people living within each region will ensure representation from a diversity of voices. The functions of these Local First Nations Voices include the consideration and discussion of matters of interest to First Nations people within the region of representation. Local First Nations Voices are encouraged to work together with public sector agencies, local government and other organisations on these matters of interest. Each Local Voice will elect two joint presiding members of different genders. Those two members will make up the State First Nations Voice.

The focus of the State First Nations Voice will be aimed at direct communication with our South Australian parliament and government. This function includes consultation with the Local First Nations Voices to ascertain views, and presentation of those views to the South Australian parliament and government. Those views will be presented to this parliament in a number of ways, including an

annual address to parliament from its joint presiding members on the floor of the parliament in relation to any bill it considers relevant and through reports to parliament on issues affecting First Nations people, either on its own initiative or on request of either house of parliament.

In addition to this, the State First Nations Voice will meet at least twice a year with cabinet and with departmental chief executives and hold an annual engagement hearing with ministers and chief executives on initiatives and expenditure within their agencies impacting First Nations people. It is important to note that the structure of the Voice is not responsible for administering programs or issuing grants, but it will be a powerful structure that rightly amplifies the voice of Aboriginal people directly to our parliament and government.

I am so proud that our government deeply listened to the feedback of Aboriginal people throughout the drafting of this legislation, and reflected the strong desires for diversity in representation, the direct access for the Voice to decision-makers and for appropriate resourcing to be considered for the implementation of this structure.

Finally, I reflect on our southern community and how important the voice of Aboriginal people is in our community discourse and deliberations. I feel blessed to learn from leaders who generously share their wisdom, their culture and their kindness. Amongst them are leaders who work tirelessly to ensure the voice of Aboriginal people is heard and listened to, and that Aboriginal people are empowered to lead and to initiate steps toward healing and reconciliation, for that to happen in an honest, truthful way that genuinely recognises past and current hurt and injustices.

In saying this I think of one particular woman who passed the year before last, whom I continue to miss. I am deeply grateful to her for what she taught me and for the wisdom that she so generously shared with me about culture, country and struggle.

I will forever continue to be inspired by her, by her honesty, her willingness to tirelessly fight, and have her strength and her voice and her willingness to fight in my heart and in my mind whenever I have the opportunity to speak up about what makes a difference, about what matters, and that absolutely includes this debate in this place.

Aboriginal communities must be enabled through this Voice to Parliament to progress change that makes a difference on the issues that affect their lives. This Voice will be one that is meaningful and strong and one that is developed, supported and led by the diversity of Aboriginal people who will rightly represent everyone in their particular communities. It is a Voice that will advance us toward reconciliation and that, through its empowering of a group of people who have too often gone unheard, will unite us. I commend this bill to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:55): I rise to speak to the First Nations Voice Bill. I note, as has been indicated earlier in the proceedings, we are opposing this bill, but we do not do that lightly at all. I certainly do not believe that this is the answer. We currently have 191 registered bodies working with Aboriginal South Australians right now, so what makes me wonder is what is going on that the myriad complex situations that affront our Aboriginal community, as the rest of our community—why is that not working?

I firmly believe we need to have our focus at the coalface, in the communities wherever they are, whether it is the Far West Coast, whether it is up north in the lands, whether it is in the Riverland or Murraylands, whether it is in the South-East, I believe that is where the rubber hits the road and that is where we need to make the commitment. I certainly do not believe that this bill will make it better for these communities right across the state, whether they be, as I said, in our distant communities on the Far West Coast, up north, throughout the rest of the state, through the Murraylands and Riverland, and certainly the community here in the city and the community on North Terrace.

I do not think this bill will give the support that it needs, and I say this as someone who has lived in a community, played sport in a community with lots of Aboriginal people and against them, and they are very good sportspeople. I certainly think we need to be doing more on the ground to make their lives better with their complex issues that affect their lives, just as with the complex issues that affect the general community.

I want to outline a letter to the editor by Margaret Van Ruth about outback support from *The Advertiser* on Tuesday 28 February, and I quote:

I write regarding 'Our Outback Shame (*The Advertiser*, Monday). I agree the situation is a shame, but it is not my shame. I was first motivated to work with Aboriginal people in 1964 when training as a teacher. My husband and I arrived at a remote community in the Northern Territory in 1966. While I enjoyed my experiences with the Indigenous children I taught, and had a great respect for the parents and leaders, other issues led us to return to Adelaide, where we were later involved with two other Indigenous communities.

It was heavy going, constantly made worse by officialdom. This seemed to be reactive to the policy of the 'quick fix'. Policies failed because they weren't underpinned by depth of understanding or commitment, and they lurched from left to right.

With each new broom came a new policy.

My heart breaks for ruined lives. People with broken hearts, stooped shoulders, and premature deaths.

And the self-righteous are a dime a dozen. Posing and posturing helps no-one. There are a lot of posers and posturers around at the moment. They don't get their hands dirty or get kicks in the teeth.

I certainly have no quick-fix answers. But the only thing that will help in the long term is sustained support for all those people working so hard to improve the lives of those who need a helping hand.

I certainly agree with those comments. I want to make another reference and this is in regard to the federal Voice debate that is happening concurrently. It is about a commentary by Indigenous leader Warren Mundine. The headline is 'Solution is school and jobs, not Voice'. This was published on 1 March in *The Advertiser*.

Indigenous leader Warren Mundine has said the new documentary series, *Cry from the Heart*, underlines the fact that economic participation and not a Voice to Parliament is the key to solving Indigenous disadvantage.

'The immediate cause of the problems in Alice Springs is the federal and territory governments' removal of cashless welfare and alcohol bans in remote Northern Territory Indigenous communities,' Mr Mundine said.

'The underlying cause is families in crisis, in a vicious intergenerational cycle of substance abuse, violence and sexual abuse, family breakdown, anti-social and criminal behaviour and long-term welfare dependency.

We often hear that poverty and history cause these problems—rubbish.

Poverty doesn't make you helpless, addicted, anti-social or a criminal.

My parents raised 11 children in poverty and met all their parental responsibilities.

I slept peacefully every night in a single bed with three brothers. But I was never afraid to go home.

The solution is economic participation—starting with adults in work and kids in school.

Case-managed intervention is required to achieve these objectives for troubled families, but jobs and education should be the single driving objectives.'

That is the end of the quote, but I will continue the article:

Mr Mundine also accused the Albanese government of 'winding back' 20 years of economic and social policies designed to empower Aboriginal Australians in favour of 'an ideologically driven agenda, centred on a grievance mindset, identity politics, increased bureaucratic control and centralised, government dependency'.

'The centrepiece of all this is the Voice. The government seemingly can't explain what the Voice is. But I know. It's the bureaucracy to end all bureaucracies and an enshrined talkfest in Canberra,' Mr Mundine said.

I want to make some comments in line with this debate around the many thousands of Aboriginal service men and women who have served and not just as the member for Hammond but as the shadow minister for veterans affairs. With all the inequality that has happened over time, I truly salute their service.

It was moving several years ago to be involved in the return of the remains of Private Miller Mack from the West Terrace Cemetery after 98 years of laying in what I believe was an unmarked grave to come home to Raukkan. I will read this report from the local newspaper of the day. It is titled 'Private Miller Mack returns home after 98 years' and was published in the *Murray Valley Standard* on 27 March 2017:

For a few moments, it was 1919 again at Raukkan.

The years rolled back and the body of a young serviceman, not long back from the western front, struck down by a disease he caught fighting for a country which did not count him as a citizen, was returned to Ngarrindjeri country, the land of his ancestors.

The bugler blew the Last Post and rifles cracked as Private Miller Mack's coffin was lowered into the earth.

He had originally been buried in an unmarked grave in Adelaide, an injustice his great nephew, Francis Lovegrove, spent years working to right.

On Friday, Mr Lovegrove stood before Private Mack's flag-draped coffin as it lay in the Raukkan church.

'Welcome home to your country,' he said.

Thank you for making us proud.

Now may your spirit rest in peace.'

Amazing Grace and the Slim Dusty song We've Done Us Proud were played to hundreds of members of the Ngarrindjeri nation and veterans' fraternity in the church and outside.

After a military procession, the coffin was placed in the ground between the graves of two of Private Mack's brothers in arms: Walter Gollan and Gordon Rigney.

David Prior, a chaplain with the 7th Royal Australian Regiment, said the gathering was about more than Miller Mack's body being moved from one place to another.

'It's about being heard, his story being told, being remembered, being honoured,' he said.

'He's never really been forgotten by you.

This is just a time for the rest of us to catch up, and do him honour in a way we haven't before.'

Miller Mack served with Australian Army at the Battle of Messines, in Belgium, where enormous mines were detonated beneath the German trenches—the subject of the film *Beneath Hill 60*.

I certainly was privileged to visit this area at the end of 2010. I certainly saw Hill 60 and the other mine sites, noting that, all these years on, there is a French barn there that still has at least 10 tonnes of explosives sitting under it, although they do believe it will not go off now because it has been saturated. The article continues:

He was affected by phosgene gas and evacuated to England in 1918, suffering pneumonia; it eventually led to the tuberculosis which claimed his life the next year.

Ninety-eight years later, mourners dropped poppies into his grave.

I certainly do, as I said before, salute Miller Mack's service. It was a very moving ceremony, done with the appropriate ceremony, and I was really privileged to be there on that day.

I want to talk about another Indigenous Australian, Peter Craigie, the 9th Light Horse, 32nd Infantry Battalion. Peter Craigie was born in 1894 to James Craigie, who was a station manager, and Bunny Roxborough, an Aboriginal woman of the Wankamadla/Wankajutuni tribe. One of eight children, he was born at Roxborough Downs Station, near Boulia in North Queensland. In December 1915, Craigie rode his horse more than 1,000 kilometres from Birdsville to Adelaide to volunteer for the first AIF.

Initially allotted to the 15th Reinforcements for the 9th Light Horse Regiment, Craigie trained at the newly designated Mitcham camp, south-east of Adelaide. He married Daisy Cusack just six days before he embarked on board the HMAT *Anchises* in March 1916, bound for Egypt.

Peter Craigie's grandfather, John Craigie, is my great-great-grandfather on another line. So the history and the connected history to my family is intriguing. I note the Craigie native title claim—obviously a Scottish family that came out here—and, as I said, John Craigie is my great-great-grandfather. I have this magnificent photo of my father and other family members of the Pederick and Roberts families with members of the Craigie family at a grave in Kingston on Murray, which is shared between the two lines of the family. I guess I just gave that as a little bit of a reasonably close family perspective of our own family's connection.

But I really do think, as has been expressed by others (and I have read some of those contributions that have been put in the papers recently) that we do need to help and assist and work with all of our community and make sure we get the right results. I certainly believe we need to do

that by delivering support where it is needed most—in the community—and make it work and make it better for all of South Australia.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:10): I am proud to stand here today on Kurna land to speak to the First Nations Voice Bill. I was raised on Nukunu land, a place that I often speak fondly about. Growing up, there were plenty of signs that the lands I lived on were cared for and lived on by people for generations before my family and me. My childhood home was in the foothills of the Flinders Ranges, also known as the foothills of Wapma Thura, surrounded by beautiful red gums, creeks and dams. A few of these red gums were hollowed out, completely burnt on the inside, and yet the trees continued to grow, thrive and provide shelter.

I would often play around these trees, as kids often do, and I would look up at them and wonder about how they came to be that way. What were their uses, and who had used them that way? Unfortunately, growing up it was not easy to find those answers and, to be honest, there is still so much more now that we need to learn. But I have wanted, and continue to want, to learn and better understand the culture of our land prior to settlement, to pay my respects to those who have cared so deeply for the land we live on and to do better in that space.

It saddens me to know that so much of the language and culture has been lost and needs to be rebuilt. I strongly believe that we have much to learn from our First Nations people. Their culture is the oldest living culture in the world, and it is so heavily ingrained and reflected in our lands. To do so, we must start by listening to the voice of First Nations people, which is why I am so proud that I can stand here today and speak in support of this historic bill.

It is a bill that will change the way we as a parliament and government engage with Aboriginal people here in South Australia from now and for generations to come; a bill that will help us achieve a fairer and more equitable future for all. I want to be a part of righting the wrongs of our country's history and moving forwards with First Nations people to achieve that. It is hard to overstate how momentous this bill is, a bill that has taken many years to make its way here to us today. It is a bill that will help to prevent the threat of atrocious laws and policies that have been introduced in the past by parliaments—ones that have caused profound grief, suffering and loss for our First Nations people.

Now is the time to take action and steer through positive change, because that is what real leadership is about. I sincerely thank Minister Maher for absolutely everything he has done to get us to where we are today, and our Premier for his unwavering support, because getting to where we are today has not been straightforward.

Looking back to 2015, there was bipartisan support on the federal level to establish the Referendum Council. Throughout 2016 and 2017, the Referendum Council undertook many regional dialogues across this country, starting in Hobart in December 2016 and visiting Adelaide in April 2017. As these regional dialogues occurred throughout Australia, they brought together First Nations people and asked for their feedback on what they wanted to see constitutional process look like, as well as a focus on those outcomes they wanted to see delivered.

Following the regional dialogues, the First Nations National Constitutional Convention was held in May 2017 in Uluru, where over four days 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates gathered, drafted and adopted one of the most important documents this century here in Australia: the Statement from the Heart. The Uluru Statement from the Heart was an invitation, one which is very generous, inviting the nation to walk with First Nations people together for a better future.

I was deeply hurt, like many Australians, that the invitation was not taken up by the then federal government, a decision that has hung over our heads like a dark cloud trying to block our vision of what is possible, causing further hurt on the journey towards reconciliation. Fortunately, the federal Labor Party at the time did commit to enshrining the Voice in the constitution, but unfortunately it did not eventuate at the 2019 election.

We, however, could not let this moment slip. We could not let this proposal be abandoned. We had a real opportunity to work alongside First Nations people to create a pathway that will work hard to prevent the injustices of the past from ever happening again, a pathway that will also help to

build a fairer and more equitable state for all. I am proud that we took this position early in our time as opposition because actions speak louder than words, and we are ready to act.

We cannot wait any longer to forge a way forward, acknowledging the pains of yesteryear with a steel determination to do much better moving forwards. We understood the gravity of the situation and committed to action, ensuring that this crucial initiative was kept front and centre where it belongs, and made sure that it would not fall off the radar. We committed to delivering a state-based version of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and we have not shied away from that.

In fact, I recall how monumental this felt as I stood there with tears in my eyes watching the Premier take the stage on election night, reiterating our commitment as a government to deliver on our promise to deliver Voice, Treaty and Truth at a state level because this is about fairness. It is about recognising all the terrible injustices that have occurred over generations to our First Nations people and finally saying, 'Yes, you need to have a seat at the table so that we can do better moving forwards, so that we can heal and be united for once in this great country.'

This bill was not created overnight. A lot of hard work has gone into ensuring a state-based Voice to Parliament reflects the needs of Aboriginal communities across our state, which is why we consulted with Aboriginal communities across our state about what they wanted the Voice to be and what they thought it should look like. The consultation process was led by proud Kaurna, Narungga, Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri man Dale Agius, who was appointed by the government as South Australia's inaugural Commissioner for First Nations Voice.

Across August through October last year, Commissioner Agius undertook consultation all throughout South Australia, hosting more than 30 in-person engagement sessions here in metropolitan Adelaide and across our regions, spanning all the way into our remote regions as well. Having talked with over 450 people, the commissioner fielded a wide range of feedback on this important proposal. The initial round of consultation helped to produce the first engagement report, which highlighted the key insights from First Nations people about what they wanted to see in a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

Themes that emerged included self-determination over their lives and influence on the decisions that are made for them and their communities; grassroots representation, with the right to choose who represents them; representation that is reflective of the diversity within their community; a direct Voice to Parliament and access to government decision-makers, including cabinet and chief executives; a Voice underpinned by First Nations cultural frameworks appropriate for the cultural context; and ability for the Voice to evolve.

This then led to the release of the draft First Nations Voice Bill 2022, which was based on the feedback collected in the round of consultations. Having then been published on YourSAy, the bill was available for public feedback, and a second round of in-person consultation was undertaken. Following the insights gained from the second round of consultation, a stage 2 engagement note was produced that contained several recommendations to the government that are now reflected in the final version of the bill.

With this bill, we can seize the opportunity of a First Nations Voice to Parliament at a state level. For too long, First Nations people around this country have not only been denied a voice but they have been denied an active involvement in their own decision-making ability, which goes on to affect their day-to-day lives and their communities. Since the arrival of the first ships to the shores of this country, First Nations people have been subjugated, kept down and, in shameful acts of our history, actively denied engaging in their own cultural practices.

For too long, decisions have been made for First Nations people, not with First Nations people, and this has led to a disproportionate impact on many First Nations communities around this country. This here is our opportunity to ensure that our parliament will hear the calls from Aboriginal people and take steps to meaningfully engage with them on issues that affect them. It is also an opportunity for us to learn.

For over 60,000 years, First Nations people have lived on this continent. They have lived off this land and they have thrived. They cared for this land, and they understand it intricately. We would be naive to think that we have nothing to gain from listening to and engaging better with First Nations

people. The sad reality is that, thanks to previous policies and laws, First Nations people continue to experience worse outcomes across many areas, including education, justice, health and life expectancy.

We acknowledge that the First Nations Voice to our parliament will not be a one-stop shop to fix all these disparities, but it will begin to fix the deep-rooted problem that has faced First Nations people for far too long, that they have not had a voice to communicate with the highest decision-making body in this state. They have not been understood nor taken into consideration as equals.

This bill provides an opportunity for our parliament to listen to Local First Nations Voices and an opportunity to walk together with First Nations people as we work towards policy decisions that benefit everybody in our state. It is an opportunity to build a better future together—I cannot stress how important this is. This is a once-in-a-generation change, something that will shape our state for the better. With that in mind, I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (16:20): This is certainly one of the most important pieces of legislation that I have had the pleasure to be able to speak on and support during my time in parliament. I am glad that I am in a position to be able to support this legislation because I think it is a piece of legislation where people will look back and reflect upon our comments today and on the position we take in relation to establishing a Voice to Parliament in South Australia. I am very proud that this is a government and a parliament that will be taking this action to establish this Voice and to address what has been an absolute blight in the history of South Australia since colonial settlement, namely, the way that Aboriginal people have been treated in this state.

Since settlement by the first settlers in South Australia from Europe and the United Kingdom, we have seen the wholesale attempt at the destruction of Aboriginal culture in South Australia. This has left us in a situation where the impact on the lives of Aboriginal people in this state is far worse on every measure, not least, of course, in my portfolio of health. The health outcomes for Aboriginal South Australians are shamefully worse than for the rest of our population. The life expectancy outcomes for Aboriginal people are shamefully worse than for non-Aboriginal people in this state.

We must take action, and the first thing we can do to take action is to actually listen to the voices of Aboriginal people in this state. This, in terms of the Voice of the state and at the federal level, has itself come about in a process of listening to Aboriginal people. It was back in 2017 that the Uluru Statement from the Heart set forth Voice, Treaty and Truth as being what was required, what was called for, by Aboriginal people across this country.

Our now Premier, when he was leader of the Labor Party, Leader of the Opposition, committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart when in opposition. Now, thankfully, we are in a position to be able to deliver. Establishing this Voice to our parliament, the first such move in this country—hopefully to be followed shortly afterwards by a national Voice, through a referendum to be held later this year—will shine a spotlight on outcomes in every measure for Aboriginal people in this state. It will give the opportunity for Aboriginal people to be heard.

If we do not hear from Aboriginal people directly on issues that affect them then we will not reverse those outcomes that have had the result, over almost 200 years in this state, of disrupting and destroying the traditional way of life for Aboriginal peoples across this state.

In my own portfolio, there is a lot of good work happening and there are a lot of people who devote a lot of time, energy and resources to addressing the disparities of Aboriginal health outcomes. But there are clearly a number of things that are still an issue. One, of course, is we know the health outcomes for Aboriginal people, or any people, are not just determined by the health system. They are determined by societal factors in general and those social determinants of health for Aboriginal people in terms of their income, their employment status, their housing, and their education are fundamentally worse on every measure. It is not just the health system alone that can fix those health outcomes. That is why the Voice in all those areas is so fundamentally important.

The other thing that is becoming clearer and clearer, and there is a significant amount of research pointing towards this, is that even if you account for all the social determinants of health

and compare them to non-Aboriginal Australians facing equal levels of social determinants of health incomes, Aboriginal health outcomes are still worse, which has led to a greater understanding that there is a cultural element to this where the cultural determinants of health lead to a significant disparity being in place as well. What we have seen over the course of the past 200 years affecting Aboriginal culture actually has had an additional effect not just in terms of the measurable social determinants but of health outcomes as well.

Even accounting for all of that, there is more that we need to do as a health system to make sure that we can provide the care for Aboriginal people that they deserve right across this state. There are too many examples where those health services have not been up to scratch compared with what other people would expect. One example is the service provided in the Aboriginal-controlled health organisation Yadu Health in Ceduna, which has been operating out of a building that has basically been falling apart for the past few years. Without the funding to upgrade that building, they have had to close off areas, people have been electrocuted in it and rain comes into the building. All of this is shameful in terms of what that health service should be able to offer but just does not have the facilities to do so.

I am very proud that one of our election commitments, and certainly by no means one that generated headlines, was to contribute, along with the federal Labor government, to upgrading, replacing and rebuilding those health facilities for people in Ceduna. We know that there is a lot more to do right across the state and distance makes that difficult.

There are some very positive programs, there are some very positive signs and there are some incredibly hardworking clinicians and health workforce leaders right across the state who are devoting their lives to try to improve the situation for Aboriginal people.

Another one of those areas where we are now committing additional resources is into the APY lands. About 18 months ago, the now Premier, the now Minister for Education, the now Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and I visited the APY lands and we heard very clearly about how difficult it was for them to implement Gayle's Law because they had been knocking on the door of the state government for assistance and had not received any to help them implement that.

They had proposals, they had ways at Nganampa Health, where they wanted to implement that to protect the staff who were ultimately there to provide those very important services, and they were knocked back. On the spot, in the room, the now Premier committed that that would be something that we would deliver if we were to be elected, and now we are delivering that.

We are providing the funds to help Nganampa Health to make sure that they can get those services and put those additional security measures in place to make sure that nurses can keep doing the incredible work that they do. There is a lot more that we need to do not just in regional areas but in our metropolitan area as well. As well as having a Voice to Parliament, a Voice to the cabinet and the executive, we also need Aboriginal voices in our other decision-making bodies.

During the past term of government, when the health boards legislation was being debated, I was very glad that an amendment we moved as an opposition was successful against opposition from the then government, if I recall, to make sure that there would be Aboriginal health representation on our health boards as well. I believe we looked at New South Wales where that was in operation. While it has been difficult to fill those positions over the course of the past four years that those boards have been in operation, it is vitally important that all those boards recognise their role, and SA Health's role overall, in improving the health outcomes for Aboriginal South Australians.

In keeping with that, in the next few months we will be putting together a round table of healthcare leaders right across this state to focus on how we can improve Aboriginal health outcomes. We will bring together board chairs and CEOs, Aboriginal health experts on those boards and Aboriginal health leaders from across our networks, as well as Aboriginal-controlled health organisations to look at how we can work together to improve the outcomes for Aboriginal people in the healthcare system. We will be doing that before the Voice is elected and established.

Ultimately, the benefit of having the Voice is to keep constant pressure on us as a parliament, on us as ministers, on the bureaucrats, on the officials, on the clinicians and on everybody in the system, to make sure that we are listening, to make sure that we are focused and to make sure that

these issues cannot be swept under the rug. You hear arguments that there are not going to be any tangible outcomes from this. There absolutely will be because this is putting in place a system where it will be very difficult to ignore these problems. If we do not have this, we will see what has happened in the past time and again: that there is not sufficient attention paid to these issues.

Of course, this is not an area where one magic fix is going to address all these problems. Right across government, right across our society, right across every agency and right across every area of policy, work needs to happen to improve those interconnected outcomes. That is why the Voice is so important. That is why it will make us in the parliament, us as ministers, us as members of parliament, us in terms of public officials right across the board, pay more attention and invest more time, resources and effort in addressing these problems, ultimately making sure that we can improve the situation we have inherited.

I do not think anyone is pretending that this is going to be instantly fixed overnight, but we have to give it our best crack in the time that we are lucky enough to enjoy these offices. The excellent thing about this legislation is that this will be there long into the future, long after all of us have finished our time in this parliament. Hopefully, it will still be there providing a voice, providing a spotlight for Aboriginal people in this state.

I would particularly like to thank the people who have been involved in the development and drafting of this legislation, notably Aboriginal people themselves across South Australia who have voiced their support for this model and being part of the discussions and debates on the model. Of course, with any model, I am sure not everybody is happy with every element, but I think that there is a broad consensus that this is a tremendous step forward and will take us a lot further in this state.

I would like to thank the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Hon. Kyam Maher, for his commitment and hard work on bringing this legislation to this point. Of course, I would like to thank the commissioner for the establishment of the Voice, Dale Agius, who has been tireless and has helped to bring together a coalition of people who are supportive of this model and the establishment of it. His work will be long remembered, I think, in terms of the establishment of this body that will provide long-lasting change in this state.

I remember in my first speech to the parliament I did note that, as the member for Kurna, all of the Adelaide Plains are the traditional lands of the Kurna people. But my electorate has a number of significant sites for the Kurna people, hence the Electoral Commission has named this area for the past 30 years as the electorate of Kurna. I hoped that in my time in parliament we would be able to make a number of advances and focus on Aboriginal affairs issues, and I am very delighted that now we really have a materialisation of a significant step forward that will advance the outcomes for Aboriginal people and will have a long-lasting impact in terms of policy development, implementation, and ultimately improving the lives of South Australians long into the future.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (16:37): I begin by recognising the land we meet on today always was and always will be Kurna land. I respect the Kurna people's spiritual relationship with country and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities, and pay my respects to elders past and present.

I stand in support of the First Nations Voice Bill, a bill that will deliver the Malinauskas government's commitment to establishing a First Nations Voice to the South Australian parliament, a key component of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, an invitation to all Australians to walk together, an invitation that this government with the support of parliament intends to accept.

This is an important bill that poses some important questions. Do we want to ask the people who we make the decisions on behalf of about what is important to them? Do we want to ask the people who we make decisions on behalf of about how legislation will affect them and members of their community? Do we want to ask them about how we best implement policies to achieve the right outcomes? The answers to each of these questions is, of course, yes. We need to ensure that we are hearing from the right people, and the right people are those who have the support and respect of their communities.

This is why I support a Voice to Parliament. It is the heart of good consultation and it is the right thing to do. Some have asked: why does South Australia need a Voice to Parliament? If the

state government has committed to implementing a Voice to Parliament, having heard the want of Aboriginal people for a South Australian Voice, are those people not already being heard? I think it is reasonable to suggest that the answer to the question lies within the Uluru Statement itself—Voice, Treaty, Truth. We are well on our way to establishing a Voice that, if this bill is successful, will be the first of its kind in Australia.

It is a Voice that affords a fully elected body real and meaningful opportunities to communicate with state government on issues that matter to First Nation Australians. This is not a radical concept and there is an appetite for a Voice that will help us to achieve the Uluru Statement and other core elements of Treaty and Truth. What does treaty look like and what does truth look like if the people that it matters most to are cast aside while discussions take place?

I say there is an appetite not because I am guessing or not for reasons of ideologies but because this government has done the work. Consultations for the First Nations Voice Bill commenced in August 2022 and spanned regional, remote and metropolitan areas. A draft bill was published online, with South Australians of all persuasions encouraged to provide their feedback. A further in-person consultation period followed, and all this has culminated in the bill currently before parliament.

The state government committed to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart's three core elements and we want their voice to assist us in ensuring each of these components is delivered in a manner consistent with the wants of Aboriginal South Australians because that is what this extended and inclusive consultation period has told us. Again, this is not a radical or divisive concept. It is collaborative, it is considered, and it is well overdue.

This is a hopeful and positive moment for our state and, more broadly, a hopeful and positive moment for Australia. With a referendum to come later this year asking each of us whether we support a Voice to federal parliament, expect all eyes to be on South Australia in the coming months. We are making history and I hope it is being talked about around dinner tables all across the nation. For too long, decisions have been made about Aboriginal people without Aboriginal people and it is for this reason that I am proud to be part of a hardworking Labor team that is committed to taking effective nation-leading action.

In this day, I cannot think of anything more insulting or more inappropriate than taking a deliberately ineffectual tokenistic approach to Indigenous affairs. Unlike the efforts of those opposite, this government's Voice to Parliament was not the subject of just nine days' consultation that passed an entire state by. We committed in excess of six months' consultation alone and opened the floor to all South Australians, Aboriginal or not, because we mean it when we say that we govern for all.

South Australians are ready for this change. My community is ready for this change and when South Australians say they are ready for a First Nations Voice to Parliament we mean a Voice to Parliament, not a Voice to a parliamentary committee, but a Voice to the parliament itself. There is a distinct and very important difference between the two.

As a country, Australia has plenty to be proud of. The world can thank us for the electronic pacemaker, cochlear implants, wi-fi technology and the black box. Most of all, though, we should be immensely proud that Australian First Nations people have walked this land for more than 60,000 years and make up the oldest living cultures on our planet.

But we are also a country built on foundations rooted to stolen land, a country that will forever wear the shame of having taken the children away. We are not in a position to turn back the clock and we cannot erase these events from our nation's history, no matter how ugly it might be, but we can give the people directly impacted by these wrongs a direct Voice to Parliament that presides over our state today and we can take this opportunity to make policies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, rather than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Why would we not?

This government is committed to working alongside South Australia's Aboriginal community to improve outcomes in health, education, finance and justice for its people. Those opposite suggest that this Voice to Parliament will not deliver immediate improvement in these spaces and that for this reason it should not be supported.

No-one on this side of the house claims the Voice presents an immediate resolution to every challenge facing South Australia's Aboriginal population. We understand the Voice is no silver bullet, as do our federal counterparts, but the Voice, as a fully elected advisory body comprised of First Nations people, will play a significant role in delivering positive and long-lasting change and it will inform the state government of what meaningful solutions look like and how these solutions can best be implemented. This, to me, is a logical step and an important one.

Others opposed to the First Nations Voice Bill have suggested the Voice will be too powerful and that it will operate as an effective third chamber in our parliament. This is not true, and I suspect those promoting this view know that it is not true either. The Voice to Parliament will function purely as an advisory body. It will have no legislative capability, it cannot pass legislation and it cannot veto legislation.

What the Voice will provide, however, is the foundation for delivering improved outcomes where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are concerned. They understand the challenges facing their families and their communities better than anyone. They know who is best placed to speak on their behalf. In keeping with the Uluru Statement, this government is proposing to give Aboriginal South Australians additional deserved freedoms in this area. This is important to me. It should be important to all South Australians, and it is of significant importance to the people to whom we owe this Voice.

I would like to place on record my appreciation for the efforts of the Hon. Kyam Maher MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and his dedication to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart at a state level. I can think of no stronger advocate for South Australia's Aboriginal community and no person better placed to have introduced this bill to parliament last month. Thank you for your tireless work in this space and all you will dedicate to the Voice moving forward.

To all who participated in the multiple consultation periods, thank you for your valuable feedback. The bill before parliament at present takes the form it does only because of your involvement in this process. Finally, thank you to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who will form the first Voice to the South Australian Parliament once elected. Your communities will benefit from your drive, your wisdom and your courage to stand. I look forward to meeting with you in the near future and working alongside you as you blaze trails for your families, for your communities and for yourselves.

We have an opportunity here to forever improve the way in which parliament and government interact with South Australia's Aboriginal population, an opportunity to ensure South Australia's parliament represents the needs, wants and interests of all. This will have an impact not just now but on generations to come. Let us see that those who were here before us are included in the discussions that shape our state's future. I commend this important bill to the house.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (16:47): Naa marni, Mr Deputy Speaker. I seek your indulgence to introduce myself officially. Ngai nari Catherine Warrayoo Hutchesson. My name is Catherine Hutchesson, and in my family I am the second-born girl. Marni naa pudni. Kurna myrna ngadlu. Kurna yarta tampinhi. Ngaityalya.

We stand here today on the land of the Kurna people—always was and always will be—and I acknowledge this and pay my respects to all Aboriginal people. I am fortunate to have tutelage from my yungandalya, my brother, Uncle Tamaru, in Kurna language. My role as the member for Waite, as a representative in state parliament, provides for many opportunities and much learning, and none more important to me than the relationships I have and am forming with Aboriginal elders present and emerging. Learning culture, language and history continues to be a great honour, and I thank all who have contributed to my journey.

I rise in support of this bill and do so as a proud member of this government, a government that chooses to be on the right side of history as we walk towards reconciliation. In 2017, almost six years ago, the Uluru Statement was handed down following extensive consultation. The successful passage of this bill will deliver a historic change to the way parliament and government engage with Aboriginal people and will accept the invitation of the statement to establish the First Nations Voice.

In the lead-up to the 2022 state election, our leader made a commitment to Aboriginal people that we would deliver on the Uluru Statement, and after extensive consultation by Dale Agius, the legislation has been delivered by our Attorney-General, Kyam Maher. I take this opportunity to thank him, Dale, their teams and all the people who took part in the consultation process.

I am aware that not everyone supports this legislation, including Aboriginal people, but many believe it is a step in the right direction. In order to deliver my contribution to this debate today, I took time to speak with both Aboriginal people in my electorate as well as those who have spent many years fighting for Aboriginal rights, in order for me to understand what this bill means to them.

My yungandalya, a proud Kurna man, Uncle Tamaru often welcomes our community to the lands of his mother. He takes the time to let us know that he hopes that we can walk together towards reconciliation. He implores the audience that he does not want to walk in front of non-Aboriginal people and he does not want to walk behind them, but he seeks that we walk side by side and asks that we listen and walk together, or kumangka.

Elizabeth Close, an Anangu woman and an incredible artist, let me know that she understands that some feel that Treaty should have come first but acknowledges that this legislation is a step in the right direction and, whilst it may not be perfect, that is okay. She supports the Voice and I thank her for her time in talking with me.

Kurna woman Sherrell Dyer, an accomplished schoolteacher, acknowledges that Aboriginal communities are very diverse in terms of their locations but also their feeling toward this bill. Sherrell is passionate about working with her community and believes that the Voice will mean different things to our young people than it does to our more experienced. She works hard in her role as a teacher to ensure that young people get the right education, that they have access to the truth.

As a young person growing up in our electorate living so close to Colebrook House, I was not afforded that and I am glad that students are now given the opportunity to learn about our past and understand that although bad things happened, these are things that we can all learn from and move forward together. Ensuring our schools have the resources to have their own reconciliation plans will ensure all students, no matter their location, understand Aboriginal peoples' connection to the land and respect that they are the owners of the native title.

This legislation and the federal referendum to come will bring out the worst in some people, and I am saddened by that. In my community I know we are not all united; however, it is my role to listen, understand and educate. I am fortunate to have community members willing to help, willing to stick their neck out and speak to others in conversations that will not always be met with positive responses.

I have spoken about the work of Blackwood Reconciliation Group here before. Last week, on attending their meeting, I asked for their thoughts on this legislation, on what a Voice to Parliament means to them as non-Aboriginal people who have advocated on behalf of, and worked within and for, Aboriginal communities in the past and present. Speaking on the Voice, both state and federal, my community provided the following reflections.

Carol Morrison Logan, a long-term member of the group and actually my neighbour, was very quick to let me know that as an American she remembers seeing Gough Whitlam placing land into the hands of Vincent Lingiari, saying, 'I put into your hands part of the earth itself as a sign that this land will be the possession of you and your children forever.' It changed her mind to choose Australia as her home. She has waited a long time since then, and as a teacher she is now deliriously delighted that children she has taught will now have a voice.

Anne Barkaway, the Secretary of Blackwood Reconciliation Group, gave the following contribution about the federal Voice:

Last week I was with some 8-9 year old friends of my grand daughter—I was wearing my "YES" badge and they asked me why. I thought quickly about how to explain it—I said 'later this year there is going to be an important vote in Australia and the question people are being asked is: Do we agree that Aboriginal people were here first, that they have been here a long time and that we should listen to what they think.' I said I want people to vote 'yes' so I am wearing this badge. In unison the 5 children all said, 'Of course they were here first—of course we should vote Yes!' This week I saw one of the little people again—he said, 'I went home and told my Nan and Pop what you said—and they said "Yes" too.' My heart was full of joy!

While she was speaking about the federal vote, it is clear that these children would not differentiate between the federal and state and would understand, unlike others.

Yvonne Caddy, the Treasurer of Blackwood Reconciliation Group, also provided her thoughts:

It was the educational documentary Blackwood Reconciliation Group film 'Colebrook Reconciliation Park—A place of Learning and Healing' launched in 2022 that really brought it home to me how important a voice is, and few opportunities have been available to First Nation people to express (voice) their needs and requirements. Colebrook Reconciliation Park was the site of a home for children of the Stolen Generation and operated at Eden Hills up until the early 1970s. During the film—

about which I have spoken before—

which is freely available to download from the Blackwood Reconciliation Group Website, several former Colebrook residents or children of Colebrook residents speak about the Stolen Children and its effect on their lives following the removal from their home and culture, and then on the children that follow—down the generations. Listening to them, I thought this film provided a real opportunity to get the message out there. At last, many of them have had an opportunity to speak out and tell it as it is, not available to them previously. The First Nations Voice Bill 2023 is a very significant step forward to the exchange of relevant dialogue and hopefully improving the lives of our First Nations people.

Dianne Grigg, who spends a significant amount of time helping to maintain the Colebrook site as well as taking many schoolchildren and interested adults on tours of the memorial, contributed the following:

I am 76 years young and although I am statistically amongst the group polls say will be No voters in the Referendum for First Nations Recognition and Voice I can say without a doubt I will be voting a resounding YES!

In truth I have been waiting for this day since I voted in the 1967 referendum and as a teacher and now a retired volunteer for the Blackwood Reconciliation Group I have been advocating for Aboriginal Voice since that time.

I am so delighted at the South Australian Government's resourcefulness to lead the country in this initiative to establish a Voice to Parliament. South Australia has been a leading light in this field since the inspirational days of Don Dunstan and his leadership on Aboriginal rights. And since those days I have been an active participant and community leader in the Reconciliation movement. Since its inception I have sought to strive for a just, equitable and reconciled Australia by promoting respect, trust and positive relationships between Aboriginal and Torres St Islander peoples and the wider community.

Dianne went on to say:

The take away lesson for me in all my working was that you can't have an agreement without a partnership and you can't have a partnership without a relationship and you certainly can't have a relationship without a conversation...a Voice.

And so I totally agree and support the Uluru Statement from the Heart—Voice Treaty Truth and applaud the position the SA Parliament has taken.

For me it certainly is time and I will work hard to share across my community the importance of the Uluru Statement, rebutting the myths and the crucial importance of the referendum.

Often people ask me 'What will you do if the referendum fails?' and I have said 'It won't fail! I don't want to wake up in an Australia whose citizens vote this down!'

Let the healing begin!!!

I stand here as the elected representative of the people of Waite, and I am proud to do so. I am proud to represent intelligent, active, committed and compassionate people, and I know, given time, all will see that this has been the right decision. First Nations people have inhabited this continent for over 60,000 years and comprise the oldest living cultures on the planet. The kids get it, and I hope their parents and grandparents take the time also to understand that what has gone before does not have to govern what lies ahead.

We know that policies to support First Nations people are more effective when First Nations people are involved in their design. The model has been extensively discussed by those who have already spoken to this bill today, but I will take a quick opportunity to keep my summary simple. The Voice will give Aboriginal people more of a say on the decisions that affect their lives, and that is a good thing. The First Nations Voice Bill 2023 proposes at least six Local First Nations Voices, elected by local regions. These Local Voices will consider and discuss matters of interest to First Nations

people in their regions and look to collaborate and engage with public sector agencies, local government and other organisations on those matters.

Each Local Voice will elect two joint presiding members. Those joint presiding members will then make up the State First Nations Voice, and the State First Nations Voice will communicate directly with the South Australian parliament and the government, including an annual address. The Local and State Voices are advisory bodies only. The Voice is not a third chamber of parliament, and it is not responsible for administering programs or issuing grants. However, it will be a powerful voice directly to the parliament and government on issues affecting First Nations people.

Just for those who are unsure, the Voice will be directly elected by First Nations people within each region and will have gender balance. To vote, a person must be enrolled on the electoral roll, the same as used in state and federal elections, and complete a declaration that they are an eligible First Nations voter. The bill is considered and meaningful, and I look forward to being part of the first government in Australia to have a Voice to Parliament for Aboriginal people so that they may have a say on matters that affect them.

In closing, I would like to reflect on an event that I attended on the weekend. On the Saturday night just gone by, my community was treated to an incredible experience when the Fringe came to town. The Belair National Park was co-host to Beyond the Trees; Exploring Connection Through Music, Words and Colour. Over 200 people, many of them locals, came to experience something truly magical, all in the spirit of connecting with each other and nature.

The artists, all wearing 'Yes' T-shirts to show their support for the Voice federally, provided the most incredible experience. We were serenaded by the folk tunes of Magic Tortoise, and we had the pleasure of viewing soulful art by local artist Theresa Bassett, who, along with one of the vocalists from the band, Matt Cattnach, works in our local primary school in Upper Sturt.

We were also allowed to think deeply about the poetic words of Jason Tyndall. Jason wrote the following poem, and I think it sums up the significance of this legislation, sums up the message from my community members whom I have spoken about and sums up how I feel. It is called *Side by Side*, and I will say it now.

We can never feel what they felt
We can never see what they saw
We can never lose what they lost
But we can listen
And we can learn
And we can try
We can walk, side by side
As we journey together into a better world
A more united world
We shall never forget the wrongs of the past
Nor sit in their shadows, together we will find a new light.

I know these words really hit home to all in attendance at the event, and I know that Jason wrote them to show his respect to all Aboriginal people and especially to his and my friend, Uncle Tamaru, who really brought home to the crowd the meaning of welcoming them to country. This bill means a lot to many and I am glad to commend it to the house.

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (17:01): I would like to acknowledge that today I am supporting this bill on Kurna land that was never ceded. I would also like to acknowledge, in very broken language: marni naa pudni, Kurna Miyurna ngadlu, Kurna yarta tampinhi. I acknowledge that we are here this evening on Kurna country, and I show my respect to the lands of the Kurna people as well as to Aboriginal authorities past and present. I am already walking side-by-side with my Nyuck Un Talya, my dearest brother and teacher Uncle Tamaru, who is teaching me and some of my colleagues Kurna language.

I look forward—through actions, not just words—to walking side-by-side with all Aboriginal people moving forward. It has been a goal of mine to pass on those teachings from my dearest Uncle, as a small action, to groups and schools in my electorate, and I am always incredibly proud to do so. I extend my deepest respect: ngaityalya to my Uncle and all those Aboriginal people who have fought for outcomes like this one.

It is a privilege to stand here today in support of this historic bill—and it is historic, a change that will significantly inform policy relating to First Nations people here in South Australia for generations. We know that we cannot change the past. What we can do is listen to First Nations people with respect to decisions affecting their lives and, in turn, make legislative changes to ensure better outcomes for those people. This was a key election commitment of the then Malinauskas Labor opposition, and I am proud to say that it was also one of the first commitments that we made.

It is a centrepiece of not just who we are as a party but of who we intend to be as a government, and I am incredibly proud to be part of that. I am also incredibly proud to be led in our team by the Hon. Kyam Maher from the other place, who has spent not just his time as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs or his time as a member of parliament but his entire life advocating for Aboriginal people.

On 9 February, the minister introduced this bill into the other place to a full gallery and to the proudest, most honoured bunch of parliamentary colleagues you could ask for. We are all so proud of his long-term commitment to better outcomes for Aboriginal people across this state and his ability to promote Aboriginal voices in decision-making where it counts. On a personal note, he has taught me so much in such a short period of time, and I feel so privileged to be part of his team supporting this vital work.

Our government was elected with a commitment to implement, at a state level, the three core elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart: Voice, Treaty and Truth. We are here today, following through on our commitment, with the passage of the bill to elect a First Nations Voice to the South Australian parliament.

This bill has been a long time coming. It comes almost six years after the Uluru Statement was handed down in 2017 and follows six months of extensive consultation by the government, led by the Commissioner for First Nations Voice, Dale Agius. I would like to acknowledge his tireless work today.

The Uluru Statement was the start of the process to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution. I note that at that time at least it was a bipartisan approach, as should be Aboriginal affairs more generally. The Referendum Council led First Nations dialogues in regions across the country for First Nations people to provide direct feedback on how this constitutional process should occur, as well as to highlight the desired outcomes.

Following that process, the First Nations National Constitutional Convention was held at Uluru, where 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates drafted and overwhelmingly adopted the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which invited all Australians to walk forward together, side by side, as mentioned very eloquently by the member for Waite moments ago.

That statement contained three main elements: the establishment of a First Nations Voice in the constitution, which was committed to by the then federal Labor opposition in 2019 as an election commitment but later stalled by the Morrison government. It also contained a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations Treaty and we have seen that process very much going ahead in Victoria, and also truth-telling about our history, the Truth component.

After the 2019 federal election, the then Labor opposition here in South Australia made a commitment that we would do our part to adopt Voice, Treaty, Truth in South Australia. We were elected with the mandate to do just that. Federally, our party was also elected with a mandate to deliver outcomes for First Nations people. Now we have a chance to deliver a Voice at both levels of government.

The bill is a historic opportunity for parliament to hear the call from Aboriginal people and to commit to meaningfully engaging with Aboriginal people on issues that affect their lives. By passing

this bill, South Australia can indeed lead the nation and show how the Voice can work ahead of the upcoming referendum on the Voice to the federal parliament.

There are questions and people wondering: why is it that we need a Voice? The reasons that we need this Voice are critical. First Nations people have inhabited this continent for over 60,000 years and exist as the oldest continuous culture on the planet.

We know and we acknowledge with great sadness the reality that First Nations people continue to experience significantly worse outcomes than the wider population in a range of areas, including life expectancy, education, justice, health and more. They are also disproportionately affected by domestic and family violence and over-represented in both the corrections system and child protection.

Government must play a role in shaping those outcomes and it is clear that the current programs and frameworks have not worked to reduce the disadvantage that many First Nations people experience.

In September 2022, our government signed a formal partnership with the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network. This partnership agreement will ensure the government and the organisation work together on achieving the targets in both the national agreement and the South Australian implementation plan.

There are a number of meaningful actions within that plan but also a number of actions being taken in addition to it, those being Voice, Treaty, Truth; another establishing an advisory committee into the incarceration rates of Aboriginal people in South Australia; and another, which I was proud to speak on some weeks ago, enshrining the Nunga Courts into legislation.

The Voice is a key component of addressing those outcomes at a governmental level. It was called for by First Nations people at Uluru as one of the ways to address the issues that they experience—directly, and from the heart.

We are not suggesting that the Voice is a bandaid solution to a series of incredibly complex issues but we do know that policies to support First Nations people are more effective when First Nations people are involved firsthand in their design.

The Voice will give Aboriginal people in South Australia more of a say in the decisions that affect their lives, and that can only be a good thing. The First Nations Voice model proposes a number of Local First Nations Voices, elected by local regions, and a State First Nations Voice, which will comprise two presiding members of each Local First Nations Voice. Those Voices will be directly elected by First Nations people living within the region the Voice is to represent.

The function of the Local Voices is to communicate directly with the South Australian parliament and government, to liaise with the Voice to ascertain the views on matters of interest to First Nations people and present those views to the South Australian parliament, to provide an annual address to parliament on issues affecting First Nations people, and to speak through the joint presiding members on the floor of parliament in relation to bills it considers relevant. The Local and State Voices are advisory bodies. The Voice is not a third chamber and it is not responsible for administering programs or issuing grants. However, it will be a powerful voice directly to parliament and government on the issues affecting First Nations people in South Australia.

The bill proposes the Voice directly to the South Australian parliament, as that is what we were told First Nations people wanted, and that is what we committed to do at the election. It also, quite importantly, wraps up the role of parliamentary committees relating to Aboriginal matters. I have thoroughly enjoyed my own role on the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee and would like to acknowledge the role that First Nations Voices have had in shaping the reports and work of that committee over many years.

Personally, I have had significant learnings from the witnesses and evidence provided to the committee in my short time as a member. It has, however, affirmed for me how inappropriate it is for me to be sitting at the committee table as a non-Aboriginal person when the depth of knowledge, cultural understanding and the like is so readily available in the voices of Aboriginal people across so many Aboriginal nations, here in South Australia.

There is a key reason that we are here in this place fighting for this. First Nations people told us they wanted a Voice directly to government decision-makers, and this bill delivers it. This is very much a brilliant step forward for First Nations people around our country, but it is but one body of work in what could be a seismic opportunity nationally. As we know, the Albanese federal government is currently planning for a referendum, for a nationwide constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament. The South Australian government supports this, and we have been keeping the federal government updated with our work on the Voice.

South Australia, as a state that has often been ahead of the game in terms of the advancement of Aboriginal affairs, is playing its part in this process. I would also like to thank the Commissioner for First Nations Voice, Dale Agius, for his role in the commonwealth's First Nations Referendum Working Group, being co-chaired by Minister Linda Burney and Senator Pat Dodson.

While the final model of the federal government's Voice is yet to be determined, we expect that our work here in South Australia will assist in that process, and I am so proud of that. We also hope that our First Nations Voice will show the nation how important and effective a Voice to Parliament can be, and why the referendum should be supported. I commend the bill and look forward to seeing the results, should it pass.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (17:13): I rise in very strong, excited support for the First Nations Voice Bill. I acknowledge that I stand on the land of the Kaurna people, on stolen land, I acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded, and I pay my respects to elders past and present, as well as future leaders.

I feel an incredible weight on me today as I stand in this place to speak on this historic bill. I feel the weight of responsibility—heavier than that of every other day, and that one is still pretty heavy—the responsibility to contribute to this incredibly important debate in a meaningful way, and the responsibility to be part of a government that makes meaningful change for our First Nations people. It is a great responsibility and it is also a great privilege.

A few weeks ago I stood in the other place and watched my friend the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. Kyam Maher, introduce this bill into parliament for the first time. I stood tucked away by a wall down the President's end of the other place, and I kept getting told I needed to move further back because the joint was packed. I am glad I was back there because it meant that the Public Gallery and what I presume is called the President's Gallery were filled with members of the Aboriginal community.

I cried with joy and of pride as I watched my bloody excellent friend make history—my friend who is so deeply committed to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, my friend who is committed to ensuring Aboriginal people succeed, and my friend who is committed to Closing the Gap. As I walked out of there, I said to the members for Gibson and King through very happy tears, 'This is what we got elected for.'

I truly believe that through establishing a Voice to our parliament, we are helping to facilitate real and meaningful change, positive change that will be felt by generations. Almost six years ago in May 2017, 1,200 people gathered at Uluru to set the way forward for Aboriginal people. There the Referendum Council handed down its final report that endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for Voice, Treaty, Truth.

In 2019, our now Premier, Peter Malinauskas, alongside our now Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Kyam Maher, made the commitment to deliver a state-based Voice to Parliament—our first election commitment. Since our election, the government has been consulting with Aboriginal communities about what they wanted to see from the Voice, what it should look like and how it should work.

In July 2017, the government appointed Kaurna Narungga Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri man Dale Agius, an excellent bloke, as the state's inaugural Commissioner for First Nations Voice. From August to October last year, the commissioner undertook extensive consultations across our beautiful state. This included more than 30 in-person engagement sessions in metropolitan Adelaide and across regional and remote South Australia. The commissioner spoke with around 450 people across these sessions and received a wide range of feedback.

This first engagement round led to the publication of the first Engagement Report. What the commissioner heard from First Nations people was that they wanted a direct Voice to the South Australian parliament, the Voice to represent the diversity of the South Australian First Nations communities, including nation group diversity, gender, youth, LGBTQIA+ people, and direct access to government decision-makers including cabinet and chief executives.

Following the publication of this report and based on the feedback from these consultations, the government released the draft First Nations Voice Bill 2022. The bill was published on the YourSAy website for public feedback and the commissioner commenced a second round of in-person consultations. Following the second round of consultations, the Stage 2 Engagement Note was developed. The note made several recommendations to government, all of which are reflected in the final version of the bill that is before us today.

This bill is the work of many, and I thank Commissioner Agius, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, department staff and every single First Nations person who took the time to contribute to this consultation process. 'Thanks' does not feel sufficient for the monumental contribution you have made to our community, our state and our country.

The Voice will be directly elected by First Nations people within each region. What those regions look like is yet to be determined (the final regions) but once established an interim election will be held. The inaugural First Nations Voice members will hold office until the 2026 state election and from then on the Voice elections will be held at the same time as our state elections. The Voice is designed to have gender balance. It is expected that each Voice will have an odd number of members to be prescribed by regulation, which will include at least half rounded down to be men, at least half rounded down to be women and the remainder to be a person of any gender.

To be eligible to vote in a First Nations Voice election, a person must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. This test is set out at clause 4 of the bill, which reflects the tripartite definition outlined by Justice Brennan in the Mabo decision of the High Court. The three elements are to be a descendant from pre-European settlement, self-identify as Aboriginal and be accepted by the Aboriginal community. This definition has been subsequently used by governments across the country, including the South Australian government, in a range of policies and legislation.

To vote, a person must be enrolled on the electoral roll, the same roll that is used in state and federal elections, and complete a declaration that they are an eligible First Nations voter. A First Nations person can then nominate for a Voice either in the region in which they are enrolled to vote or in the region in which they are a traditional owner, even if they are enrolled elsewhere to vote, but a person can only vote in the region in which they are enrolled to vote.

There are some people who have questions about why it is First Nations people who need a Voice to Parliament more than any other group. I think the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs answered that question beautifully when he said on 891 recently:

...there's no other group who has inhabited the land that we all live on today for tens of thousands of years, has had that land taken without their permission...and the consequences that we see some generations on now from that are very present and I think that's a huge distinguishing factor that means this is not an unreasonable proposition or view to take.

We cannot ignore the immeasurable trauma that colonisation has had on our First Nations people. Our First Nations people cared for and lived on this land for tens of thousands of years. When their home was invaded they faced violence, massacres, sexual assaults, displacement from traditional lands, relocations to missions and reserves, introduced diseases and the removal of their children and, conversely, the removal from their families and the injustice and horror just seems to continue.

Today, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians' life expectancy is around nine years for males and eight for females. The death rate for endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases for Indigenous Australians is around 3½ times higher than for non-Indigenous Australians. The death rate for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is around three times higher than for non-Indigenous Australians. The rate of deaths among Indigenous children aged zero to four is around twice as high as the death rate of non-Indigenous children.

The death rate for Indigenous infants is around twice as high than for non-Indigenous infants. Around 60 per cent of deaths of Indigenous people aged zero to 74 are from avoidable causes. Indigenous Australians die from avoidable causes at around three times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians are around four times more likely to have utilised the access to allied psychological services program than non-Indigenous Australians.

In 2018-19, 31 per cent of Indigenous adults lived in households that were owned or being purchased by a household member, 34 per cent rented through social housing and 33 per cent rented privately. For non-Indigenous adults, 68 per cent were homeowners, 42 per cent rented privately and only three per cent rented through social housing. Indigenous Australians are around 3½ times as likely to be living in overcrowded housing than non-Indigenous Australians. The 2016 census found that Indigenous Australians accounted for one-fifth of the homeless population.

Between 2009 and 2017, the rate of Indigenous children across Australia who were the subject of a substantiated child protection notification increased from 28 per 1,000 children to 42 per 1,000 children. The rate for non-Indigenous children also increased during this period, but from 5.3 per 1,000 to 6.8 per 1,000 children. In South Australia, 29 per 1,000 Indigenous children were subject to a substantiated child protection notification, while the rate for non-Indigenous children was three per 1,000 children.

As of 2017, in South Australia the rate of Indigenous children on care and protection orders was 71 per 1,000 while the rate for non-Indigenous children was seven per 1,000. As of 2017, in South Australia the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was 69 per 1,000 while the rate of non-Indigenous children was seven per 1,000.

In 2021 the rate of imprisonment amongst Indigenous adults was around 14 times the rate of non-Indigenous adults, and Indigenous young people represented about 46 per cent of all young people under youth justice supervision. Devastatingly, I could just keep going on and on. The gap we speak about could better be described as a gaping chasm.

The Voice is about looking for solutions to overcome some of these deeply entrenched problems and inequities, and for government to develop effective solutions. Aboriginal people need to be at the table, because for programs or services to truly benefit Aboriginal people Aboriginal people need to be involved in the development of them, and in the decision-making process.

This bill gives the opportunity for our First Nations people to provide advice to the highest levels of government. The State First Nations Voice is required to elect joint presiding members who will be the primary conduit for the Voice to Parliament. The Voice must provide a written annual report to parliament and address the parliament annually through one of its joint presiding members on this report.

The Voice will also have the right to speak in either the House of Assembly or the other place on any bill, through one of its joint presiding members. To achieve this, the Clerk of each house must notify the Voice of every bill that is introduced. The Voice may also provide a report to parliament on any matter in the interests of First Nations people. Similarly, either house of parliament may request such a report from the Voice, although the Voice is not required to provide one if asked.

As I have just outlined, the Voice will be able to provide advice directly to parliament, but it will also be able to provide direct advice to the cabinet and chief executives of government departments. At least twice a year cabinet must meet with members of the State First Nations Voice and at least twice a year the Premier must bring about a meeting between the State First Nations Voice and the departmental chief executives they would like to meet with.

Every year an engagement hearing will be held where the joint presiding members of the State Voice will be able to ask questions of ministers and chief executives on their operations, expenditure, budget and priorities as they relate to First Nations people.

This bill today is a very important step, and I am proud to play a teeny, tiny part in this historic moment. Bring on Treaty and Truth next. I commend the bill to the house.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (17:27): I rise in support of this bill. Ngai nari Lucy Kudnarto Hood. Kurna miyurna ngadlu. Kurna yarta tampinhi. Ngaityalya. In the traditional language of the Kurna

people I introduced myself as Lucy Hood and Kudnarto, which means the third born in my family, and I acknowledge that we meet on the lands of the Kurna people and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

It is because of the Kurna people, and Aboriginal people right across our state and nation, that I rise in support of this bill. The bill is about elevating the voice of Aboriginal people so that they are finally heard, so to begin with I do not want to use just my voice to explain the importance of this bill but the voice of my Yungandalya Tamaru, my dearest brother Tamaru, who teaches me the traditional language of his people, the Kurna people.

As an emerging Kurna elder it is his voice, the voice of his people, that deserves to be heard in this place. I quote him:

A Voice to me is final recognition of our culture. People listen to our perspective. It is about finally listening to our Voice. To me it is a crucial part of the journey towards reconciliation. We have waited 200 years for this. It should not take so long. And we understand it is going to be a long journey—but we are making tracks.

We just want to be acknowledged. We have got our language being spoken in parliament. We have got an acknowledgement in parliament. It makes me so proud and it makes me humble. It is about working together. Side-by-side.

I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CASUAL VACANCIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

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

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 17:30 the house adjourned until Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 10:30am.

*Answers to Questions***BOTANIC GARDENS**

In reply to **the Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition)** (2 November 2022).

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

There are no ongoing health restrictions or social distancing requirements at the Botanic Gardens.

Regularly featured events such as WOMA Delaide and Moonlight Cinema have returned to their previously scheduled slots in Botanic Park/Tainmuntilla, which is managed by the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium. However, other major concert events have not yet returned to Botanic Park in the same numbers as pre-COVID.

The onsite events program in the Botanic Gardens estates has returned to pre-COVID levels, indeed the success of *Light Cycles* and other partnerships, along with the BGS's in-house program, has meant that onsite visitation to public events has increased compared to pre-COVID levels.

School visitation is currently at 20,789 students to 30 June 2021-22 financial year, which is slightly lower when compared with pre-pandemic student numbers at 21,302 for the 2018-19 financial year.

The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium is currently deploying a broader range of methods to provide school access beyond our sites, including innovations in the digital delivery of educational content.

NATIVE VEGETATION

In reply to **the Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition)** (2 November 2022).

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

The Native Vegetation Council, under the Native Vegetation Act 1991, is responsible for ensuring any clearance of native vegetation is compliant with the requirements of the act and any approvals that have been granted. I am advised the NVC received multiple reports in relation to the property located at 104 Mount Lofty Summit Road, Crafers, and investigations have been conducted to determine if any breach of the act or conditions of approval has occurred.

Where it is determined that clearance has occurred that is in excess of what has been approved, or that is permitted under the act, there are a range of compliance options available to the NVC. In this case, an enforcement notice was issued to the landowners as there were reasonable grounds to believe that native vegetation clearance had occurred in excess of that approved by the Native Vegetation Council. The extent of the additional clearance was in excess of half a hectare of messmate stringybark woodland/forest. The enforcement notice requires that the land owners refrain from any further native vegetation clearance contrary to the act, and take action to rehabilitate the areas of excess clearance.

I can advise you that the NVC will continue to monitor this property closely and will take action as appropriate to ensure that requirements of the Native Vegetation Act are fully adhered to.