

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 17 May 2023

The **SPEAKER (Hon. D.R. Cregan)** took the chair at 10:30.

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

The **SPEAKER** read prayers.

### *Bills*

#### **ELECTORAL (CONTROL OF CORFLUTES) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 May 2023.)

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (10:31):** I rise to speak in support of the Electoral (Control of Corflutes) Amendment Bill and in doing so commend the Leader of the Opposition for bringing this bill before the house. I know that the Leader of the Opposition has for a long time been very passionate about this issue and I thank him for giving us another opportunity today to change the law in this area.

I want to make a brief contribution to this debate as the most recent person in this house to have adorned the streets of Adelaide with my face, and I did put a lot up, sadly, for the people of Bragg. Perhaps, if we can pass this bill today, it might be the last time they see those posters on our Stobie poles.

As the new shadow assistant minister for the environment I say that is not entirely a bad thing because we know there are very serious and real environmental concerns about the impact that election corflutes have. We know there are serious concerns in our community about the very limited ability to be able to recycle election corflutes. This is because they are made out of, effectively, a corrugated polypropylene, which is a single-use plastic that has very limited recycling opportunities.

There are two main ways that they can be recycled, both mechanical, and it is fairly complex and often complicated by issues usually to do with food contact and also the sorting of different types of plastics and also chemicals. We know that so many recycling centres around our state are simply not set up in a way that they can safely recycle these plastics in that way.

Also corflutes are rarely just that—corflutes. Often, they are adorned with stickers or glue or sometimes metal eyelets and that, again, complicates the recycling process, often to a point of near impossibility, and that is before we even get to the scourge of the cable ties, which are used to affix corflutes to Stobie poles and are often found scattered across the streets of Adelaide and South Australia in the weeks and months following elections, although certainly not in Bragg as we clean up after ourselves.

What we see today is just another opportunity for South Australia to continue in its nation-leading work in the waste management space and in the circular economy, whether it be pioneering the successful container deposit scheme back in 1977, or whether it be our proud history of being the first state to ban lightweight single-use plastic bags, or whether it be the more recent work undertaken by the previous Liberal government that banned a range of single-use plastics, including cutlery and straws and drink stirrers and, at that time, also set out an ambitious agenda to roll out further bans of single-use plastics. Pleasingly, that is what we are going to see happen over the coming months and years.

Surely the next step for us as a parliament can be to lead by example and perhaps see the end of the election corflute on our streets. This is not a new idea. We know it has worked elsewhere

very successfully in other jurisdictions, including in New South Wales. We also know it is a popular idea. I do not think the election corflute is much loved by the people of South Australia. Indeed, when the Liberal Party undertook its own consultation on this issue, some 93 per cent of respondents supported the action that we can take today and saw it as a practical and sensible action that we can take to protect our natural environment and help with waste management.

I might add that it is particularly sensible in light of the way that political communication and the methods that we use have advanced and changed over the years with the advent of social media and other technology, where the corflute is simply outdated. I do not think that the people of South Australia are finding it valuable or informative.

It was disappointing during the previous term of government that the Labor opposition did not feel the same way and did not support similar measures that could have seen the end of the election corflute. Perhaps the Premier quite likes seeing his face all around the streets of Adelaide. I say that the election corflute has had its day. It is bad for the environment, it is bad for road safety, it is bad for streetscape amenity and it has to go. I commend this bill to the house.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:37):** I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....	22
Noes.....	12
Majority .....	10

#### AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E.	Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.
Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J. (teller)	Hutchesson, C.L.
Koutsantonis, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Pearce, R.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Savvas, O.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

#### NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A. (teller)	Cowdrey, M.J.
Ellis, F.J.	McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.
Pisoni, D.G.	Pratt, P.K.	Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.

#### PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Champion, N.D.
Speirs, D.J.	Michaels, A.	Pederick, A.S.
Stinson, J.M.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Hurn, A.M.		

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 March 2023.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:42):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....22  
Noes.....13  
Majority .....9

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E.	Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.
Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.	Hutchesson, C.L.
Koutsantonis, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Pearce, R.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Savvas, O.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Bell, T.S.
Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)	Ellis, F.J.	McBride, P.N.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G.	Pratt, P.K.
Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.
Whetstone, T.J.		

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Champion, N.D.
Speirs, D.J.	Michaels, A.	Pederick, A.S.
Stinson, J.M.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Hurn, A.M.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (TARGETS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:46):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....22  
Noes.....13  
Majority .....9

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E.	Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.
Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.

Hood, L.P.  
Koutsantonis, A.  
Pearce, R.K.  
Savvas, O.M.  
Wortley, D.J.

Hughes, E.J.  
Mullighan, S.C.  
Piccolo, A.  
Szakacs, J.K.

Hutchesson, C.L.  
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)  
Picton, C.J.  
Thompson, E.L.

## NOES

Basham, D.K.B.  
Cowdrey, M.J.  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Tarzia, V.A.  
Whetstone, T.J.

Batty, J.A.  
Ellis, F.J.  
Pisoni, D.G. (teller)  
Teague, J.B.

Bell, T.S.  
McBride, P.N.  
Pratt, P.K.  
Telfer, S.J.

## PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.  
Speirs, D.J.  
Stinson, J.M.  
Hurn, A.M.

Gardner, J.A.W.  
Michaels, A.  
Marshall, S.S.

Champion, N.D.  
Pederick, A.S.  
Boyer, B.I.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**ELECTORAL (TELEPHONE VOTING) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 November 2022.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:50):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....22  
Noes.....13  
Majority .....9

## AYES

Andrews, S.E.  
Brown, M.E.  
Cook, N.F.  
Hood, L.P.  
Koutsantonis, A.  
Pearce, R.K.  
Savvas, O.M.  
Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.  
Clancy, N.P.  
Fulbrook, J.P.  
Hughes, E.J.  
Mullighan, S.C.  
Piccolo, A.  
Szakacs, J.K.

Bignell, L.W.K.  
Close, S.E.  
Hildyard, K.A.  
Hutchesson, C.L.  
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)  
Picton, C.J.  
Thompson, E.L.

## NOES

Basham, D.K.B.  
Cowdrey, M.J.  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Tarzia, V.A.  
Whetstone, T.J.

Batty, J.A.  
Ellis, F.J.  
Pisoni, D.G.  
Teague, J.B. (teller)

Bell, T.S.  
McBride, P.N.  
Pratt, P.K.  
Telfer, S.J.

## PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Champion, N.D.
Speirs, D.J.	Michaels, A.	Marshall, S.S.
Stinson, J.M.	Pederick, A.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Hurn, A.M.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (MINISTERIAL DIARIES) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:54):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....	22
Noes.....	13
Majority .....	9

## AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E.	Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.
Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.	Hutchesson, C.L.
Koutsantonis, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Pearce, R.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Savvas, O.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

## NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Bell, T.S.
Cowdrey, M.J.	Ellis, F.J.	McBride, P.N.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G.	Pratt, P.K.
Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B. (teller)	Telfer, S.J.
Whetstone, T.J.		

## PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Champion, N.D.
Speirs, D.J.	Michaels, A.	Marshall, S.S.
Stinson, J.M.	Hurn, A.M.	Boyer, B.I.
Pederick, A.S.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**HERITAGE PLACES (ADELAIDE PARK LANDS) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (10:59):** I rise to speak in favour of the Heritage Places (Adelaide Park Lands) Amendment Bill, a bill that seeks to state—

**The SPEAKER:** That may be, member for Bragg, but I take in the advice that the bill does need to be moved a second time, which would need to be effected by the member for Black, Mr Clerk, as I understand. Member for Bragg, the Leader of the Opposition being absent, I am going to proceed on the basis that you can move that the bill be read a second time. That is on the understanding that the leader is absent. We are attempting to resolve this matter in a practical way. I am reminded that it being a second reading contribution all you need to do, member for Bragg, given the indulgence, is move it and make your contribution. Please do so.

**Mr BATTY:** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am glad we could resolve that because this is a very important and timely issue. This bill is well overdue in this place because it seeks to state heritage list our Adelaide Parklands and our CBD. We know this is overdue because our Adelaide Parklands set our city apart. They support biodiversity, they support recreation and they support heritage, all right here in the heart of our city.

We also know that our Adelaide Parklands are unique, our city being the only one in the world to be built inside a park, our Parklands, of course, being the first planned public park in the world. We also know that our Parklands are under attack. Our Parklands are shrinking. For too long, governments and developers have treated our Adelaide Parklands as simply a land bank, as a source of free land for the pet project of the day.

This bill today is particularly timely because we see yet another attack on our Adelaide Parklands from the Malinauskas Labor government. This latest attack, at Park 21 West in the Adelaide Parklands, is particularly egregious. It is particularly egregious because we know the value of this site at Park 21 West. Some have described Park 21 West as the most significant site for remnant native vegetation remaining in the entire Adelaide Parklands. It supports biodiversity like no other site in the Adelaide Parklands.

It is particularly egregious because it is being done without any proper process and without any consultation. We know there has been no consultation with community groups like Bush For Life, whose volunteers have lovingly cared for that site for the last 15 years. We cannot see any evidence of consultation with First Nations people, and I note this particular site was the originally identified site for the first Kaurna cultural burning in a capital city. We have seen no consultation with groups like the Adelaide City Council and the Adelaide Park Lands Authority, which are there to provide this very advice.

But most of all it is particularly egregious because it is being done by a government that stood up before the election and made a promise. They made a promise to protect Adelaide's unique Parklands. They have broken that promise at every available opportunity. They have broken that promise with alarming speed and alarming severity but, thankfully, they have an opportunity to make good on that promise today. They have an opportunity to make good on that promise to protect the Adelaide Parklands by supporting this bill that will see them state heritage listed today.

It is not overly controversial because we know that our Adelaide Parklands are already nationally heritage listed, achieving that honour back in 2008. At that time, the statement of significance commented on the uniqueness of our Adelaide Parklands. It states:

The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout is rare as the most complete example of nineteenth-century colonial planning where planning and survey were undertaken prior to settlement.

Importantly, the statement of significance at that time also made some remarks about the social value of our Adelaide Parklands, and I quote:

...has outstanding social value to South Australians who see it as fundamental to the character and ambience of [our] city. The Park Lands with their recreation areas, sports grounds, gardens and public facilities provide venues for individual and group activities and events, meetings and passive and active recreation. The Park Lands also have significant social value due to the range of important civic, public, and cultural assets and institutions within it.

On this side of the house, we recognise those values. We see the social value of our Parklands every day, which is why we are standing up here strongly supporting this bill. It is also why we are taking other initiatives, such as announcing that we are pushing for the recognition of our Adelaide Parklands as a UNESCO world heritage site, giving them the international recognition that they, of

course, deserve. So we have world recognition on the way, we have national recognition, and what we need to do today in this parliament is state heritage list our Parklands to give them the recognition that they deserve.

The South Australian Heritage Council has previously given consideration to listing the Adelaide Parklands and CBD as a State Heritage Area. At that time, the council supported it. I want to read a couple of observations that they made at that time. They said that the Adelaide Parklands were an outstanding representation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century planned colonial settlement.

The principal components of Light's 1837 plan are the original layout, width and grid pattern of the city streets; surrounding outer ring of parklands; six internal squares; and the topographical response to terrain. These components remain clearly legible today and served both the economic and wellbeing needs of the early settlements.

We have already had the South Australian Heritage Council consider this proposal and we know that they strongly support it and we know the reasons why. So this parliament should act today to give effect to that recommendation from the state Heritage Council. We already have 17 State Heritage Areas in South Australia and the Adelaide Parklands and the CBD would make a very worthy addition to that list.

Those opposite used to agree with me on that point. When a similar bill was introduced into the last parliament, it was supported by those opposite and it was supported with glowing speeches praising our Adelaide Parklands, glowing speeches talking about the green gold that is our Adelaide Parklands. I do not know what has changed, but I say they have a chance to protect that green gold today. They have a chance to give our Adelaide Parklands not only the recognition but the protection that they deserve, or will they once again show their true colours on heritage and on Parklands?

Now that the election is out of the way, can the ruse be up and can they revert to their true colours on our Parklands and get on with just another Parklands land grab? I have already told you what they promised before the last election, that they would protect Adelaide's unique Parklands. They have broken that with alarming speed and severity. They have been hoodwinked by the member for Adelaide on Parklands.

*Ms Hood interjecting:*

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

**Mr BATTY:** It is not just Parklands where they have broken their promise, it is heritage at every opportunity.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**Mr BATTY:** It was only one month before the last election that the now Minister for Heritage stood up at a public forum and said that she had no intention to demolish any state heritage-listed place in South Australia. How long did it take? I was only in the parliament for about five minutes before we saw another broken promise from the Malinauskas Labor government. They have made a total mockery of the commitments that they made to heritage and to Parklands before the election.

They put the bulldozer through the Thebarton Barracks, they are putting the bulldozer through the south-western Parklands and they are putting the bulldozer through their own election commitments to protect heritage and Parklands in South Australia. They have an opportunity to make amends today. We now have an opportunity to state heritage list our Parklands.

They can make good on their promise to protect Labor's unique Parklands. They can make good on their heritage policy commitment as well, to legislate that proposed demolition of state heritage sites be subject to full consultation and full reports from the South Australian Heritage Council. Or will they once again show their true colours? This is a government that do not care about our Parklands and they do not care about protecting our heritage. If they really did, they would support this bill today, and I commend it to the house.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:10):** I move:

That debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion.

Ayes .....22  
 Noes.....11  
 Majority .....11

#### AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Brown, M.E.	Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.
Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.	Hutchesson, C.L.
Koutsantonis, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Pearce, R.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Savvas, O.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

#### NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A. (teller)	Cowdrey, M.J.
Marshall, S.S.	McBride, P.N.	Pisoni, D.G.
Pratt, P.K.	Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.
Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.	

#### PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Champion, N.D.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Michaels, A.	Hurn, A.M.
Stinson, J.M.	Speirs, D.J.	Boyer, B.I.
Pederick, A.S.		

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

#### *Motions*

### HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:15):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) condemns the Malinauskas Labor government for delaying critical health infrastructure right across South Australia;
- (b) notes that the Malinauskas Labor government has announced delays for the Lyell McEwin Hospital emergency department expansion, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital stage three upgrade, the Flinders Medical Centre expansion and the new Women's and Children's Hospital; and
- (c) expresses its concern that the lack of priority in health infrastructure by the Malinauskas Labor government demonstrates that the South Australian public were misled in the 2022 state election.

Governments are elected to be the custodians of taxpayer money. The promises and the priorities that they go to the people of South Australia with at election time are meant to drive where investment and money are spent over the course of their term in government. Whilst we have seen money flowing into various events, into overseas trips that have been taken by those opposite, we have also in that very same breath and in that very same time frame seen significant delays to critical health infrastructure right across South Australia. I think this highlights quite a profound shift in priority from the member for Croydon and, indeed, the entire Labor government.

Throughout the election campaign (and I am sure I do not need to remind those on this side of the house or those opposite), not a single day would go by when Labor was not out there talking



about health and telling South Australians, desperately trying to convince South Australians, that urgent action was required to address the significant challenges that our health system was under at the time—that urgent action was needed. Indeed, many South Australians voted for this urgent action, but they unfortunately have been let down.

They have been let down not just because South Australia is in the grips of an escalating ramping crisis under the watch of the member for Croydon—and that is obviously placing really significant stress and pressure on our frontline health workers and, indeed, on many pockets of our state—but they have also been confronted with significant time line blowouts on really critical health infrastructure projects.

From the city to the country, this is a Labor government that has placed the delivery of critical health infrastructure projects right into the slow lane—critical upgrades that no doubt would have been able to help alleviate and ease just some of those dreadful ramping hours that we are seeing right across our state. I think that it has actually raised those questions as to whether health is still a priority for this government—health as a whole and, in particular, where health infrastructure particularly sits in that order of priorities.

Just rewinding to last year when the government handed down its first budget, this was a budget that, I think, built on the significant investment that the former Liberal government made in health, where we poured millions and billions of dollars into ensuring that our health system could cope with the serious challenges that we had. Comparing that 2022-23 budget and the Agency Statements with the former government's last budget in 2021-22, as well as looking at various other public statements that have been made by those opposite and those in Canberra, I can advise the house that we have seen the following infrastructure blowouts.

The Lyell McEwin Hospital and the ED expansion was a project that under the former Liberal government was scheduled to be delivered in December 2022. Now what do we see under the Malinauskas Labor government? We see that this is a project that has been pushed off into March 2024. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital stage 3 redevelopment was scheduled to be delivered for the people of South Australia in June 2024. It is now pushed off into the never-never, to March 2025.

Take, for instance, the Flinders Medical Centre expansion. I will come back to this one in more detail in a moment but, when this was first announced, it was announced that it would be completed by 2028. Now we know, according to these budget papers, that it is not going to be delivered until June 2029, and I think that is a very optimistic time frame.

Regarding the new Women's and Children's Hospital, under the former Liberal government this was really a flagship project that was scheduled to be delivered in June 2026, and now we are going to get a new Women's and Children's Hospital that is going to be delivered in 2032—not this decade. So dark clouds continue to hover over the delivery of these two major infrastructure projects, that is, the Flinders Medical Centre in the south and the new Women's and Children's Hospital that really is a flagship of paediatric care and care for women in South Australia.

This again sparks concerns not just about Labor's priority—whether it is indeed still on health—but also really significant concerns about the Labor government and whether they even have the ability to handle the delivery of major health infrastructure projects. I will get to this in a moment, but they do have quite a chequered track record when it comes to the delivery of critical infrastructure projects and delivering for South Australians on health. I think that a hallmark of the Labor Party in South Australia is going into the election and leaning in on all the promises in the world, and then, when the election is over, leaning back on the delivery.

Specifically on the Flinders Medical Centre expansion, the delayed project, as I have already mentioned, will not be delivered until June 2029. This was despite commitments from the member for Croydon and the now Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, who stood at Flinders and said that this would be a project that would be completed by 2028. This delay—the delay until the next year, 2029—actually occurred in a space of 30 days. They had this massive push-off of infrastructure investment in just 30 days, which I found particularly extraordinary.

We know, if we look at what is happening in the south of our city at the moment, that the Flinders Medical Centre continues to face really extraordinary pressure, so much so that we are always seeing the Flinders Medical Centre operating on Code White capacity, which means that there is not a single, solitary bed available for people to get the care that they need when they need it. Let us not forget that this was a government that went to the election promising South Australians that they had the magic bullet to fix all of this. Unfortunately for South Australians, we are now seeing that increase.

In fact, at Flinders we have been in the situation where we are seeing ramping not just escalate but literally reach a whole new level. We have seen those dreadful reports that ramping at Flinders hospital was so bad that ambulances were actually forced to park their vehicles on the fourth floor of the public car park at Flinders. Of course, we also know that there were many instances where patients were being forced into storage rooms that had been converted into beds. We can see that this is something that needs to be delivered, but Labor have put it into the slow lane.

Looking specifically at the Women's and Children's Hospital, there is no doubt in my mind, and there is no doubt in the minds of those sitting on this side of the house, that the people of South Australia absolutely deserve a world-class hospital, a world-class new Women's and Children's Hospital. That is unequivocally a shared goal and is something the former Liberal government was very stridently working towards. Indeed, under the former Liberal government, the construction of the new Women's and Children's Hospital was scheduled to already start last year, with a completion date of 2026-27 and with a \$2 billion price tag. So we should already be seeing shovels in the ground, preparing for what was going to be a fantastic facility for South Australia.

This was a project that went to Infrastructure SA and got that tick, which was fantastic, and it also was a project that went through really rigorous testing. We had hundreds of hours, many hours, engaging with clinicians on this project. We now know that of course this is a project that the now government has gone back to the drawing board on, and they have announced a hospital that is going to be worth an eye-watering \$3.2 billion.

This is a project that is just not going to be delivered until 2032 at best, so not even this decade. So, whilst there is unequivocal support on this side of the house, of course—we want there to be a flagship world-class Women's and Children's Hospital—we are very concerned about the delays and very concerned about the time frames. It represents a \$1.2 billion cost blowout, which is particularly enormous. Think about what you could do with that \$1.2 billion within the health system and of course over the delay over the last five years.

That sparks another question, a concern that we have had and that we have been speaking about publicly, which is what this means for the current Women's and Children's Hospital site. We just cannot allow this site in North Adelaide to go to rack and ruin whilst we wait for the government to get their act together on what types of upgrades are going to be needed. The former Liberal government invested \$80 million into the sustainment works of the current Women's and Children's Hospital on new wards and new facilities, and that was absolutely welcomed by not just the patients the former government had been speaking to, not just the frontline workers there but also the parents and right across South Australia.

That \$80 million commitment was based on the fact that South Australia was going to be getting a new Women's and Children's Hospital in 2026-27, so we eagerly await the government to announce a sustainment program for the Women's and Children's Hospital. We will continue to work on that but, as I say, we have concerns about Labor's ability to deliver this on budget. We have concerns about the cost blowout, concerns about the completion delay, and the big elephant in the room of course is looking at Labor's ability to deliver the project.

In the short time that I have left, I want to touch briefly on Labor's track record when it comes to health infrastructure in South Australia because, for 17 out of the last 21 years, the Labor Party have run the health system in South Australia, which I often find quite interesting when those opposite, those on the government benches, are reflecting on the last four years of government, in which the Marshall Liberal government navigated a global pandemic better than anywhere in the world. Those opposite, the Labor government, oversaw the delivery of a new Women's and Children's

Hospital, building it too small with immense time delays, with immense cost blowouts. They oversaw the disastrous Transforming Health project which some health stakeholders—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mrs HURN:** It is interesting that they interrupt as soon as I mention Transforming Health because I get it. I would not like to be reminded of that disastrous health policy that will come back to haunt them for many, many years. In fact, one health stakeholder, I believe it was the AMA, said of Transforming Health that it seemed to be more about juggling infrastructure and selling real estate than about improving services and patient outcomes. I think that sounds about right.

Members behind me are saying, 'Don't forget that they flogged off the Repat,' and we will not. We will not forget that it was the Labor government who desperately tried to flog off the Repat. Since they have returned to government, we have ambulance ramping that has never been worse and now they are kicking the infrastructure can further and further down the road. So there are health infrastructure delays right across metropolitan Adelaide and right across regional South Australia, which I know the member for Frome and my electorate neighbour, Penny Pratt, the shadow minister for regional health, will also speak to.

I will also make this point: at the same time we have governments at the state level, at the national level and right across South Australia that are really leaning into population growth strategies, we have the government in South Australia that is massively putting the handbrake on critical infrastructure projects. It just makes no logical sense whatsoever because the government should not be putting the handbrake on critical infrastructure projects: they should be putting the pedal to the metal and getting on with it. That is why I will be supporting this motion, those on this side will be supporting this motion and, put simply, the Labor government cannot be trusted when it comes to health.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:29):** Mr Speaker, I look forward to a discussion of particularly your area in the context of this debate. I move to amend the motion as follows:

Delete paragraph (a)

Amend (b): delete the words 'has announced delays for' and replace with 'is delivering a major infrastructure program including'

Amend (c): delete all words after 'infrastructure' and replace with 'by the former Liberal government'.

This motion is cheeky in the extreme from the member for Schubert, as we have come to expect in her tenure as the shadow health minister, because this is a government that has a massive infrastructure program for health that we are getting on with. The reason we are able to deliver that massive infrastructure program for health is very clearly that we made a choice and we put that choice to the people of the state at the last state election, namely: do you want to invest \$662 million into a new basketball stadium, or do you want to invest that \$662 million into our health system? Resoundingly the people of South Australia spoke that they wanted that to be invested in our health care system, and that is exactly what we are doing.

We inherited a situation where there were no plans at all for a lot of the projects we are working on. There were no plans to undertake the expansion to hospitals that we are doing, the new ambulance stations that we are building—we are putting that in place. We have people working on the design right now, and a number of these projects are now starting construction. Take, for instance, the Lyell McEwin Hospital expansion. This hospital has been expanded time and time again under Labor governments.

We saw under the previous Liberal government that the expansion of the emergency department, which was funded way back in 2017 by then Premier Weatherill, was delayed time and time again. We are now finishing the job on that, but also putting in much needed 48 extra beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital to service the growing need in the northern suburbs, and construction is starting on that project right now. We want that done as soon as possible, because these beds are desperately needed in the north.

Take the southern suburbs where, at Flinders Medical Centre, all that was done by those opposite when they were in charge for four years was a project that reduced the number of inpatient beds at that hospital. They switched inpatient beds to emergency department beds and said, 'Look, we've increased emergency department beds at the hospital,' but they actually reduced inpatient beds at the hospital, so there was no benefit whatsoever. An independent report commissioned by the Liberal government said that it made ramping worse at the hospital, so there was no expansion to capacity at all at the hospital.

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** You reduced the number of beds at Flinders Medical Centre.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Elder and the member for Schubert will cease their exchange. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** That is why not only did we commit at the election to put in 24 more beds at that hospital—

*Mrs Hurn interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

*Ms Clancy interjecting:*

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

**Mr Teague:** The member is interjecting out of her seat.

**The SPEAKER:** And I have drawn attention to it and do not need your assistance, member for Heysen. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** As opposed to those opposite, who reduced inpatient beds at Flinders Medical Centre, we committed to increase them by 24, but then coming into government and seeing the serious situation at hand we have now increased that commitment to 136 extra beds at Flinders Medical Centre, the first of which we already have on board. We are also fast-tracking another 20 beds to go into Flinders Medical Centre as well.

There is dramatic change from what was in place previously to what is being delivered now at Flinders Medical Centre, where we know there are significant additional beds needed in the system. Take the situation in the Hills; as you know very well, Mr Speaker, there is a massive growing population in the Hills, particularly around Mount Barker. They had the same number of beds at the Mount Barker hospital that we have seen for over the past 20 years; no action was taken to increase the number of beds at that hospital. We committed to a plan to triple the number of beds at the Mount Barker hospital, which is absolutely what is needed for people in the Adelaide Hills.

What did we see right before the last state election but the then Minister for Health and the now member for Heysen doing a video saying that that was not really needed. That absolutely shows their ignorance of the situation for people in the Adelaide Hills and how that connects with the situation for our city hospitals and reducing pressure on them as well.

The member for Schubert talks about the Women's and Children's Hospital, which I am happy to talk about all day every day because, as opposed to those opposite who had a plan for one extra bed at the hospital, we will be delivering over 70 extra beds at that hospital on a site that is futureproofed, unlike a site that was constrained, that had limitations, where we could not deliver clinical excellence with that design and had to make significant compromises. The member talked about how that was somehow ready to go. That is absolutely not the case, and it is absolutely confirmed by the officials working on that project.

The member for Schubert said that it was going to cost \$2 billion. Well, the work that has been done through the site review made it very clear that it was going to cost in the order of \$2.8 billion to deliver on that site. Very importantly, if we had proceeded with that plan, which would have been the politically expedient thing to do, we would have forever locked out the ability to expand the

Royal Adelaide Hospital into the future, because it is the RAH expansion site it was going to be built on.

Now we are going to have a new hospital that will have more beds, that will be futureproofed and will not be full on the day it opens, unlike the member for Schubert's plan, and we will have the ability to expand both the women's and kids and the RAH into the future, thinking for the long term. This is a plan that has been wholly and completely supported by the clinical staff who work in that hospital, who are excited about what this is going to mean in terms of a much better solution than they were otherwise faced with.

In my remaining time I will point out a few of our other key projects we are working on. There is a significant expansion of Noarlunga Hospital, where there will be a 50 per cent increase in the number of beds for the growing region at Noarlunga Hospital. Once again, we have gone further than we said at the election. We said we would do 24 beds. We are now going to 48 beds at Noarlunga Hospital because we know the need is there—and it is substantial.

At the same time, we are investing in our ambulance services as well, with nine new stations being built across Adelaide, across peri-urban areas, to make sure we have the capacity we need for our ambulance service to improve the response times and make sure that South Australians calling 000 can get an ambulance when they need it. We have now selected the sites for those ambulance stations, the designs are in place and being worked on, and we will be delivering those as soon as possible in line with the schedule we announced at the election.

In addition to that there is the building of the new ambulance headquarters, an issue that was raised time and time again. A patch-up job was done a couple of years ago under the previous government, but that is a facility that is not fit for purpose and does not have the capability our state needs for one of its major emergency headquarters that deals with the sorts of things ambulances deal with on a day-to-day basis, let alone dealing with major disasters. We need a much better site and a much better situation for ambulance services, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

On top of that we are expanding Modbury Hospital as well, and on top of that expanding The QEH. It is worth talking about The QEH because this was yet another project that was committed to by the previous Labor government back in 2017 but which suffered delay after delay after delay under the previous Liberal government. We are looking forward to that project finally being delivered next year, seven years after it was originally committed to. In addition, we will be expanding and putting an additional 24 mental health beds into The QEH, which are desperately needed.

This brings me to my last contribution: country health. One of the benefits of not going ahead with the city basketball stadium is that we can invest in country health as well, with upgrades at Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Kangaroo Island, Port Pirie and Port Augusta. All of those were not funded, were not planned and were not going to be delivered under the previous Liberal government. We are getting on with the job of improving our country health services because they are absolutely critical, and we look forward to those upgraded facilities delivering much greater care for people who live in regional areas of South Australia.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:39):** I rise today to support the motion by the member for Schubert and I am in furious agreement with her that critical health infrastructure delays have indeed plagued South Australia under the Malinauskas Labor government. It has been curious, in our first couple of speeches, to listen to the faux outrage that is coming from members opposite, desperate to rewrite history.

Of course, they do not want to reflect on their shameful legacy of Transforming Health, closing the Repat and downgrading emergency departments in metro Adelaide. But why would they? It is evident that the government has failed to fulfill its promises and has placed the delivery of these vital projects in the slow lane, betraying the trust of the South Australian public.

The recent news of time line blowouts and project delays reveals a different story, though, and it is one of broken promises and a lack of commitment to local health care. First and foremost, I certainly want to acknowledge the significant frontline health workforce. These are amazing professionals who, in my own portfolio space of regional health services, are living in regional South Australia, keeping us safe and well. They are the backbone of a critical but crippled healthcare

system, ensuring that every South Australian should have access to high-quality medical care closer to home.

But I want to recognise that that has become harder and harder for them to deliver. Time and time again I hear great praise for our country GPs, nurses and allied health professionals. If only we did not have to wait weeks to see them. The ones that we do have access to are working extremely hard to keep up with this demand.

What concerns me when it comes to the health system—and I will come to the critical infrastructure that wraps around that—is the number of towns and districts that have lost GPs through retirement and burnout. I am sure that they have reflected on the crippled system they are navigating and that there is an enormous loss of faith in the system as well as in this government.

There are many factors contributing to pressures on our health workforce, but critical infrastructure has to be a part of that story. To retain the workforce that we have and to attract more to the regions, away from metro conveniences—we need to recognise that is sometimes the temptation—we certainly need to appeal to lifestyle choices and advancements in careers. It is too late for this government to now say with some fanfare that they are turning their mind to incentives for a workforce that has been cannibalised and poached by other states. A case in point, of course, is the \$100,000 of total incentives that sit on the table in Victoria. WA has got on board and South Australia is just considering it.

Training opportunities happen in clinics and in hospitals, but this out of sight, out of mind mentality sinks in when decisions about country health are being made by city boffins. Some examples to point to that might be the District Council of Kimba, which felt that to attract doctors—a country GP—to its fabulous clinic that it invested \$1 million in it needed to run its own advertising campaign. Why are our local councils having to get involved in this recruitment strategy?

In my own town of Clare, in conversations with the director of nursing, when we talk about the infrastructure of the hospital there, recruitment is tied to housing. Housing is yet another challenge that the government needs to keep turning its mind to, but our hospitals cannot recruit the staff they need if they cannot house them.

Safety and security issues continue to dog this government, in terms of frontline staff in our country hospitals and what critical safety infrastructure is required to keep them safe at work. We know there have been incidences at Wallaroo, Port Pirie and Port Augusta and, in particular, the Riverland is calling for this type of investment. These issues need to be addressed urgently by the government.

To add to the story of what critical infrastructure looks like in regional health services, it is important to touch on the equipment that is essential to that work. It is not just equipment that needs to be maintained and repaired but often replaced at enormous cost. Our health professionals and frontline workers certainly need to have certainty in their work environment. How and where they work matters to them. We need to see this government deliver a better standard of care to regional health consumers, and when this government sets expectations, like it continues to do, they need to meet them.

The member for Schubert has touched on some of the commitments that have been outlined across last year's budget set by the Malinauskas government. The health minister was quick to point out that he has outlined funding promises for new projects in regional health services right across South Australia, but all that glitters is not gold. The estimated completion dates are the details that our country friends need to be looking at. These projects should concern every regional local health network. If we cannot currently guarantee supply to the construction industry for residential housing, it is not hard to imagine the delays that are set to beleague this government in its promises to country hospitals.

We are going to see blowouts well beyond the patience of sick people who are banking on receiving treatment at a local level. As I draw your attention to some of the promises made in last year's budget, I note that the minister, in his comments on this topic, found no more than 30 seconds to address regional health. It is more critical than he might think and it is certainly worthy of more than 30 seconds.

As I reflect on the estimates completion dates set in the budget, let me draw your attention to particular examples. The Kangaroo Island hospital upgrade has an estimated completion date of June 2026. The Mount Gambier emergency department and the mental health beds, with millions allocated to them, still has an estimated completion date set to be for June 2025 and 2026.

The Naracoorte hospital upgrade is very worthy of \$8 million, and there are a number of members in the house—the member for MacKillop and the member for Adelaide—amongst us who care very much about investment in the Naracoorte hospital, but I would draw the member for Adelaide's attention to the completion date. This is a town and a community that needs to see this done sooner than after the next election.

Mr Speaker, close to your heart might be the new Mount Barker hospital, and we welcome the investment into this facility, but I am sure you would share my concern with the critical services in palliative care and hospice that is also much needed. The hospital is not going to be delivered to your community until an estimated date of 2027. I really want to paint the picture that while this government prides itself on investing in regional health services and infrastructure, we are not going to see delivery dates for our patients, our family, our loved ones until beyond the next state election. I will add, Port Augusta and Port Pirie are caught up in these dates.

The government wants to pride itself on its reputation for investing in regional health infrastructure. What it means is our biggest community centres, and it does not mean it is going to be finished any time soon. They have a track record of delay, mismanagement and cost blowouts, and this should cast doubt on their credibility to deliver on these major projects. The history of the Labor Party's handling of health, including the delivery of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and the disastrous Transforming Health program, demonstrates a lack of trustworthiness when it comes to health care, a lack of credibility.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that these delays in both metropolitan and regional health demonstrate a lack of priority by this government. I welcome this motion as an opportunity to remind the Labor government of its health contract with regional South Australia and its obligations to deliver key infrastructure projects on time.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (11:49):** I have had a quick look at the amendments as offered up by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, and I am sure the opposition were so surprised to see those. I thought actually the Minister for Health and Wellbeing was very kind and very measured in his amendments and did not just strike the pen through the whole motion. What faux outrage! If ever I have heard such a bunch of twaddle—seriously.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** I will start the history lesson with you.

*The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** The member for Unley can blabber on, but we all know how exciting the Christmas dinners must be at the member for Unley's house with the union-enriched brother sitting at the table. It must be fantastic.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Unley, member for Frome, order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** You know when you have them going—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —because they all start talking. It is fantastic.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Can I continue?

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Thank you very much. Yes, I know, and you are not, and thank goodness for that. Anyway, we will start back with the history lesson that led to where we got to—Joe Hockey's cigar. Do we remember that budget? Do we remember when Joe Hockey smoked the cigar, sitting outside, beating his chest. 'How good am I?' he said.

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Frome!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** 'Look at me cutting millions and millions of dollars out of the health budget.'

*Ms Savvas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Newland!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** 'Look at me,' ripping the guts out of health services across the entire nation—not just South Australia but the entire nation. He ripped the guts out of it, and health ministers across Australia were left to pick up the pieces.

I will give you a bit of a lesson. It is not the health minister; the health minister does not decide on the options to provide the health system with. It is the experts within the health system that come together to direct the policy, the people who are expert in the delivery of health care.

I sat around a number of tables, a number of consultation periods within that government—the Joe Hockey, smoked cigar, rip-the-guts-out-of-health budget that was handed down in 2013. What a terrible time that thought process must have been when they were heading into government. 'What are we going to do as soon as we get into government?' said Hockey and Abbott. 'We're going to rip the guts out of health care. We're going to make it impossible for the hardworking nurses, the hardworking doctors to deliver health care.'

What we have here is another motion that does not even consider the workers. It makes no consideration of the workers. It is not just bricks and mortar. For years, people tried to unpick the Hockey budget.

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Frome!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** For years, they tried to put up options as to how to deliver health care when they had a chokehold around their necks. That is where Transforming Health came from. That is where the ideas came from. We are now years down the track, where some of that has been changed, and we have had four years of a state government—a Liberal state government—where they did nothing. They gave no regard to the hundreds and hundreds of casual nurses who were left without work during COVID—hundreds of them who were stood down, who were not able to feed their families, who were left neglected and abandoned by this government.

That was while this government at that point of time in 2020 did nothing. They announced a strategy to upskill workers who had been out of the workforce, working either in areas that were subacute or not working at all, while they had nurses there at the ready, already there to deliver health care as experts, but they were casuals. They could not access JobKeeper. They could not do anything. It took intense pressure to get anyone to listen. That is what people remember of this government. They remember also and they know acutely well—

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —that while the member for Frome might want to go on about the regional workforce and GP shortages, who is responsible for that? Who did nothing? In nine years of federal government the Coalition government did nothing to improve the attraction, the retention, the training, the delivery of regional health under a dwindling GP workforce. You cannot just come in here and try to blame that debacle on the state government. It simply is not the case.



*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** The member for Flinders pretends he knows about health, but he knows nothing. He knows nothing. Stick to what you know, member for Flinders.

**An honourable member:** What do you know?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** I know plenty, and I have great connection with health workers, with health academics. In fact, yesterday in here we had Judy Duchscher from Canada, who is a world-renowned academic who has led the delivery of transitional professional practice programs across the world. Do you know her? No, you do not. She has led the development of a new TPP program, which will ensure much better transition of staff into the workforce, not into a boiling hot bucket of water but with staff development and practice.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** You can laugh all you like, member for Flinders; it just demonstrates you do not know what I am talking about.

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** You do not know, and I will not listen to you about it.

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** I will listen to the nurses. I will listen to the academics who know what needs to be done to support our workforce. We have an opposition who have completely tried to erase the last four years, the last four years when they abandoned healthcare workers, where there were healthcare workers who were desperate for support and they were forgotten.

This government is getting on with providing additional beds, employing additional nurses and employing additional doctors. I am absolutely confident that you, Mr Speaker, will be delighted with the planning and the delivery of what will be a state-of-the-art hospital in Mount Barker, which will support the delivery and the nurturing of hundreds of babies a year and provide the support for families and children that they desperately need.

The estimated build time may well be 2027. It may well be that. Well, thank goodness we are not going to put it together with a bit of ticky tacky and what have you and let it fall down. We are putting a lot of thought into that. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing is providing fantastic leadership on this project with a number of people who work in the health region up there. I have been privy to some of those conversations, and I am very happy with what is being delivered. What would have been the delivery date under those opposite?

**Ms Savvas:** Never.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Never.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Newland!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** There we go, indeed. We are confident that these projects that are realigning the delivery of health care within properly planned and well-articulated infrastructure projects are going to deliver what the people of South Australia need and what the people of South Australia rely on. This is a Labor government that is priding itself on the key mantras: health care, education, early childhood, jobs, skills and training, providing support, and providing the delivery of the infrastructure and the support of the people. All of that is what the Labor Party is doing here in South Australia.

Thank goodness the Labor Party federally can now try to pick up the pieces that started with Joe Hockey and his arrogant, ignorant smoking of a cigar after the delivery of a budget that put a chokehold around the neck of healthcare providers across this nation. You should be ashamed, and you should stop trying to ignore it—all of you.

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (11:59):** I rise today to contribute to the motion that has been moved by the member for Schubert and obviously endorse the motion as presented to the house. I just wanted to take the opportunity today to walk through some of the history around The QEH upgrade process.

I notice that the member for Kaurna, the current Minister for Health, was very selective in his history that he presented on that project to not have taken any of the context prior to 2018 into consideration; sorry, prior to 2017 when, at the very last minute, the Labor Party had a thought bubble that said, 'Transforming Health is actually very unpopular and is potentially going to get us into a lot of trouble electorally in some of our seats in the western suburbs, so perhaps we need to do something about that.'

It is something that the people of the western suburbs have zero confidence in the Labor Party on in terms of delivering any sort of upgrade for The QEH. Why do they have no confidence? Because they have been promised and had the project shelved again and again and again. I will not focus on the project that was promised and then pulled around 2010. I will focus instead on the project that was promised just prior to the 2014 state election, when the then Premier and a number of Labor local MPs were down at The QEH spruiking the fact that the hospital would be upgraded if Labor was returned to government in 2014.

Then, what do you know, in the first budget the Treasurer of the time, the member for West Torrens—and I do note also that the commitment was \$125 million at that time; \$125 million for a stage 3 upgrade of The QEH. That number, now, having needed to be delivered a near decade later, escalated to \$315-odd million. That is the cost that is borne by those opposite and the people of South Australia for their delay. For the first budget, having promised The QEH upgrade for not the first time but the second time, the member for West Torrens, then Treasurer, put the project on ice.

It did not end there. We then had the period of Transforming Health, where we had clinician after clinician at The QEH hospital coming out defending the cuts to local services that were being taken out of that hospital. It started with cardiac, it moved to cancer, it moved to gen med beds. There was service downgrade after service downgrade after service downgrade over that time. As to the cardiac services in particular, this house is well aware of Dr Horowitz and his particular issues with The QEH cardiac services that were ripped out through the Transforming Health process—a very well-respected doctor and very well-respected services.

There is not a month, I think, that goes by that you do not have somebody come up to talk to you about the fantastic service that they received by way of cardiac services at The QEH. But were it not for the Liberal Party being elected in 2018, those 24/7 services we are sure would not have been returned to the hospital.

So we had cardiac services scheduled to be taken out, hospital beds (this is a clipping from 2017) where 55 beds were claimed to be closed including the shutdown of Ward 7 that accommodated 26 general medical patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital—so 55 beds between The QEH and the Royal Adelaide.

Then, given the dilapidated state of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital—in particular, the surgical capabilities at that time—there were periods in 2017 when surgery needed to be closed because the air conditioning was not appropriate to ensure that the surgical bays were kept at the appropriate level of temperature and humidity.

This is the state that The Queen Elizabeth Hospital was in under those opposite. There were upgrades that were cancelled. The facilities were simply left to rack and ruin. Then all of a sudden, I am sure off the back of some polling, we had an epiphany: that all of a sudden we needed to do something and fix this mess, and the upgrade of The QEH was suddenly back on.

Every Labor MP in the western suburbs was all of a sudden straight back down to The QEH for the press conference. We saw every effort possible. There were letters going into the letterbox of every resident in the western suburbs—not just letters, but full-blown colour brochures—ensuring that everybody knew that the upgrade was back on for the second or third time—how many times has this been promised?—but it did not stop services being cut.

Again, I have a clipping here from 12 November 2017, where cancer services were wound down at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital from that day, with the former 20-bed cancer ward closing in preparation for changes. Who was health minister at that point in time? The current Premier was health minister. Now, forgive me if I sit here not wanting to be lectured by those opposite in terms of their commitment to health care in the western suburbs, because there was no commitment. Cardiac services were taken away and only returned because of the Liberal Party's commitment to do so in the western suburbs.

When this project was announced, there was a quote in one of the media releases. It may have been a Budget and Finance Committee transcript, I am not sure, but I distinctly remember at the time that, when announced, the SA Health CEO was asked about this not long after. She was asked a specific question about the upgrade, something in line with how much it was going to cost, how many beds it was going to deliver, and her answer was, 'Well, I can't answer that question because I don't have the plan. It hasn't been given to me yet.'

That tells you everything you need to know about how far advanced the Labor Party's plans were in regard to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that tells you everything about how prepared they were to build that upgrade at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that tells you everything about their commitment to health in the western suburbs—it simply has not been there. In stark contrast, we came into government, we have added additional money to the project, within three years early works had commenced, construction had commenced and the upgrade is soon to be delivered next year.

We had the member for Hurtle Vale here telling us that to do things properly it needs to take 3½ years to build a hospital. Funny that. At the same time we have those opposite telling us that we delayed the project, that we delayed the project, that we delayed the project. Well, you cannot have it both ways. We committed to doing this. We actually did it. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital upgrade stage 3 and the services that are there are servicing our local community in the western suburbs. Thank goodness for the Liberal Party because, if not, we may never have seen the reality of The QE Hospital being upgraded for all those who need those services in the western suburbs.

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:08):** What a history lesson we are having today. The Malinauskas Labor government inherited a health system under significant pressure driven by a lack of investment under the former Liberal government. The inaction and blatant neglect by those opposite resulted in unacceptable ambulance response times, huge ramping increases and devastating outcomes for South Australians. The Liberals had no plan or policies to address ramping and hospital system capacity.

The Malinauskas Labor government has a plan. It is our number one priority and, without delay, we are delivering a generational investment to rebuild our health system. We are investing a record \$2.4 billion to open more than 550 additional beds, recruit hundreds more healthcare workers and build and upgrade key health infrastructure to provide the capacity that our healthcare system needs—and this is happening right now.

The southern Adelaide community and I are particularly pleased that our state government's partnership with the Albanese government will see \$400 million spent on the Flinders Medical Centre, while the Liberals' solution to ramping at Flinders was to cut acute beds, only making the problem worse. Our record level of investment at Flinders will deliver more beds, an upgraded intensive care unit and an expansion of dedicated mental health and older persons facilities.

But, like the member for Hurtle Vale says, it is not just about bricks and mortar. Of course, delivering more beds means more staff, and we are employing more ambos, doctors and nurses to boost capacity across our health network and relieve pressure on hospitals and our emergency departments. In our first year of government, we have hired 550 staff for SA Health above attrition: 278 extra nurses, 89 extra doctors, 141 extra ambos and 42 extra allied health workers. These 550 staff above attrition are allowing us to open hundreds more beds right across the system to deliver better health care for South Australians. This recruitment is far in excess of our election commitment targets.

As part of the \$400 million state and federal government pledge to expand services in the south, construction is now underway—right now—for dozens of new hospital beds at the Repat site, even more than originally committed. Exceeding the original commitment for 24 beds, there will now

be 32 beds delivered at the Repat, a 33 per cent increase in capacity aimed at delivering dedicated care for older South Australians.

These construction works will deliver a bigger, purpose-built Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Unit in a refurbished and expanded ward. The new beds allow the existing GEM unit at Flinders Medical Centre to shift to the Repat, providing specialised care and rehabilitation to older people on site while creating additional acute bed capacity at Flinders—additional beds, not cutting beds. The new Repat GEM service is anticipated to be complete and operational by mid-2024.

A further six beds will now also be established at the Repat with the relocation of the Complex and Restorative (CARE) service to a newly refurbished space. This service helps older South Australians receive appropriate care and, importantly, avoid the emergency department. Its relocation will free up six extra beds for patients in the Bangka Strait Ward, which supports patients to leave hospital and safely return home sooner.

In addition to the delivery of new beds at the Repat, a major expansion of medical imaging services is being delivered at Flinders. The new medical imaging suite will include additional MRI and CT scanners to boost imaging capacity at the hospital, meet increasing demand and improve emergency department flow. The additional CT scanner will have capacity to deliver 25 inpatient scans a day during business hours alone, representing a more than 60 per cent increase on current inpatient capacity.

The additional MRI scanner will have capacity to deliver 12 inpatient scans per day, representing a 110 per cent increase on current inpatient capacity. In total, both machines will deliver more than 9,000 extra scans each year, resulting in fewer patients waiting for imaging, which is also reducing bed block by getting them out of the hospital sooner and getting them out of our emergency departments.

Also for the south, the Malinauskas Labor government will deliver a \$74 million upgrade of Noarlunga Hospital, the biggest ever capital investment at the site, boosting the number of beds by more than 50 per cent. The government will build 48 new beds at the hospital, lifting capacity from 92 to 140 beds and providing much-needed extra healthcare support for the people in Adelaide's growing southern suburbs.

We are not only delivering on our election commitments: we are going further, much further, to build as many beds as we can in our hospital system. This is a government that is investing in our health system, and that is why I commend the amended motion to the house.

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (12:14):** It gives me great pleasure to speak in regard to both motions. I am not going to talk about who has done what and who has not done anything, but I will talk about health infrastructure on the Limestone Coast, and I will talk about two governments.

We have a number of hospitals on the Limestone Coast and particularly in MacKillop. We have a number of hospitals in need of upgrades and that have received some upgrades. During the Marshall years, Naracoorte hospital received \$3½ million for a sterilisation unit upgrade and upgrade to an operating theatre, but that did not fix the leaking roof, and they needed buckets in the corridors whenever it rained. It did not help fix the lift when it broke down. There was no lift in the hospital for a while, but I believe that has been addressed. It is still a piece of infrastructure in Naracoorte, a major hospital in a regional town, that is probably 20 years past its major upgrade date. In fact, 20 years ago, it was planned to be replaced, but it is still there the way it is.

It is very pleasing to see that the Malinauskas Labor government is advocating another \$8 million to that hospital this term, and I am very pleased that \$1 million is going into a hospital review. Rather than just fixing up bits and pieces, it is going to be really interesting to see what the review finds at this hospital, what is required at this hospital and what is needed at this hospital for a major town centre such as Naracoorte.

Naracoorte has around 6,000 to 7,000 people and services a number of small towns around it, including in Victoria. There are two medical clinics in the town with GPs, but it is no different from any other town struggling to find GPs to be in the town and meet the needs of the region.

I move on to Keith hospital, a private hospital with a chequered past. A lot of community funds went into that hospital and, prior to 2018, I believe nearly \$1.2 million worth of donations and philanthropy went into keeping the hospital alive. The Marshall government supported it and moved it forward into a new model, and the Malinauskas government has also supported it in an even bigger way and perhaps even for a longer future than the previous government.

It is going to be interesting to see how the medical clinic at Keith, not being a hospital, meets the needs of the community. It is my understanding it has community support and the Keith hospital board's support. It is a medical clinic with a tier 3 nurse and two medical practitioners backing up the town and so forth. From where it has been and where it is heading, it is in a better place. It sits right alongside a 30-bed aged-care facility, a 28-room aged-care facility, all modernised and fully booked out with a waiting list, working like it is alongside the hospital.

Not far away from Keith is the Bordertown medical system. There is a proposal for a whole new medical clinic that the Tatiara council is very supportive of. It wants to emulate a medical clinic at Nhill that a lot of people in South Australia use. The medical clinic proposal is for a new health hub in Bordertown that sits alongside a new community health centre build, alongside the hospital.

There is also an aged-care facility in Bordertown. If you saw it in Adelaide, you would think, 'Why the hell is that still there?' The aged-care facility alongside the hospital in Bordertown is an old nursing quarters. It is a two or three-storey building built out of besser blocks. The rooms are very aged and the facilities are very aged. I have heard from a lot of locals that they would love to see an upgrade to the aged-care facility in Bordertown. Bordertown is a growing, prosperous town, ready to explode in some shape or fashion once they address the shortfalls of housing and water issues. We are going to need good medical facilities in Bordertown.

Moving to Kingston hospital, before 2018 I remember a well-known grazier in the region went to the hospital for health reasons and they had to bring buckets into his room because the roof was leaking. He then, in a philanthropic way, donated money to remove the old tiles from the roof and fully reroof the hospital. That was the sort of donation this character made around the place. But why would a hospital like Kingston need a donation to repair the roof to stop the water coming in? This is why I am talking about this topic at the moment.

Again at Kingston, they have just upgraded the nurses' quarters through the local HAC board and through John Davidson and the locals who have supported that HAC. I think there may have also been an Apex Club or a Lions Club as well that put money towards the nurses' quarters. I know that the health fraternity there, the nurses and the like, will really appreciate the new, modern upgraded facilities at the nurses' quarters. Again, I believe it did not come from SA Health.

Kingston has two aged-care facilities alongside it, including Lighthouse Lodge, where the Marshall government put in a sprinkler system. It has two rooms that apparently are rather tired and not fit for purpose because they do not have bathroom facilities that are ready to go, and they are looking for funds and upgrades in this area. In the aged-care facilities in the hospital, where there is higher need and a higher quality of care, there are no sprinkler systems or fire systems in place. It has been like that for a number of years, so I hope this is addressed.

At the other end of the hospital is the Community Health Centre. The Community Health Centre used to be at the old end of the hospital, and it is where there are a number of dentists and where vaccination clinics are held. The elderly go there to get their vaccinations and be seen for minor issues. There is a really steep driveway up to this old hospital. They are looking for a new entrance to the Community Health Centre so that the elderly in their gophers or wheelchairs or walking frames can get into the Community Health Centre better than they can today.

The local HAC committee, with donations and philanthropy, have a good lick of money. They do not have enough money, but they are looking to work with the local health network, the Limestone Coast Local Health Network, SA Health, to address these issues. What I am trying to say is that we see all the time that communities in our regions are backing these health facilities and builds and infrastructure and upgrades, and we need the government to be on board to make sure that, first of all, it can occur and it can back up the support that comes from the community.

There is another hospital I will touch on, and that is the Millicent hospital. Millicent has 6,000 or 7,000 or 8,000 people, and it is a major centre not far from Mount Gambier. What is really interesting about Millicent is that it still has a medical clinic but it is really sad that the hospital is nothing like it was in its former glory. I am only talking 20 years ago, not 50 years ago. Millicent used to outshine Mount Gambier in procedures and operations, with two anaesthetists, and where acting surgeons and so forth would come in. There were doctors who could also practise in the hospital. It is nothing like that now compared to its former days.

Now I believe the hospital is taken care of by locums. Not only do the GPs struggle in the clinic to find enough doctors, like anywhere in regional Australia and South Australia, but they do not even have time now to facilitate or help in the hospital as they used to, and that is why locums are used—because they have to be. Again, the hospital has the Millicent Health Advisory Council and there is also the local Millicent and Surrounds Health Support Group (MASHSG). That sits alongside the hospital as well, outside the system. It obviously has working bees and fundraising and anything else to support that hospital.

The other hospital I want to touch on while I have a couple of seconds is the Penola hospital. A major aged-care facility alongside the Penola hospital is being backed up again by locums. I do not think there are enough doctors in the town to be able to support the hospital. It will be interesting to see where this medical precinct goes. Obviously, I will always support whatever we can get for the Penola hospital and the community to keep it open and to keep it functioning. I am just hoping that whoever the government of the day is they recognise the importance of regional health and infrastructure.

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:24):** I also rise to speak on this motion. I do find the member for Schubert's motion quite cute when we are talking about prioritising health infrastructure, given that the former Liberal government's signature election commitment—the jewel in the crown of their policy priorities—was a \$662 million basketball stadium on the Parklands.

Unlike the former Liberal government, we did choose to prioritise health. We chose beds over basketballs; we chose health staff over stadiums. That is why upon coming into government one of the very first things we did was scrap the former Liberal government's \$662 million basketball stadium and direct that funding to health. The fact that we have prioritised health infrastructure over a \$662 million basketball stadium has resulted in great commitments to the health sector—investments like a brand-new Women's and Children's Hospital that will actually provide for current and future generations.

—almost seven years ago this weekend I became a mum at the current Women's and Children's in May 2016. I know from standing out the front of the current Women's and Children's with a petition, talking to doctors, talking to parents, talking to nurses, that they are in desperate need of a bigger and better Women's and Children's Hospital. That is what this government will deliver. We will deliver a world-class outcome that would not have been possible under the former Liberal government's plan. Our bigger and better Women's and Children's Hospital will feature 50 more beds than the former Liberal government's plan.

For the South Australian Ambulance Service, we will build a \$120 million new ambulance HQ, which has been long called for, comprising the new State Emergency Operations Centre and the first State Health Control Centre. On the same site at Richmond Road, we will build a brand-new Adelaide ambulance station featuring two 24/7 crews armed with brand-new ambulances to serve our community because we do prioritise health infrastructure.

While I live in the best capital city in the world, where I am proud to be the member for Adelaide, I never will forget where I came from: the beautiful and bountiful South-East of our state. It makes me so proud that our government is investing significant funds in health infrastructure in my home town. There is an \$8 million upgrade of the Naracoorte hospital, where I and my three brothers were born and where my family said goodbye to my beautiful stepdad, Patrick, and my grandfather, Lindsay Hood. Planning works are well underway as the first stage of a major redevelopment.

We are also investing \$24 million in the Mount Gambier hospital, where my sister-in-law, Ellen Hood, works as a midwife and nurse. This includes \$8 million to upgrade the emergency

department, \$11.4 million to double the hospital's mental health unit and \$4.6 million to fit out and operate two dedicated drug and alcohol detox beds.

This motion is an opportunity to highlight why elections matter, because in an alternative universe—if the former Liberal government had been successful in March last year—they would right now be turning the sod on a new basketball stadium on Helen Mayo Park in our Parklands. Instead, thankfully, the Malinauskas Labor government was successful at the March 2022 election and we are investing in critical health infrastructure: more doctors, more nurses, more ambulances, more allied health workers—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey and member for Newland, the member for Adelaide has the call. I think we should all respect that, thank you.

**Ms HOOD:** I am very proud that that alternative universe does not exist. The sod is not turning on a \$662 million basketball stadium, and the Malinauskas Labor government is getting on with the job of delivering for South Australians because health is our number one priority.

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:29):** I am very glad to rise in this place to speak about the importance of investment into health infrastructure and to support the motion from the member for Schubert. Investment in our health infrastructure right around South Australia is something which we must ensure that continuing subsequent governments continue to do.

If we do not enable especially our regional communities to be sustainable in the long term, with investment into basic services like health services, we are condemning our state's economy to continue to be Adelaide-centric, capital city-centric, and really missing opportunities that other states are taking. Other states are investing into their regional centres, and they are population centres that are growing and they are economic opportunities that are growing because of smart, intelligent investment from their state governments.

Out in regional South Australia every bit of health infrastructure is obviously ageing, but every quality piece of infrastructure is actually paid for by the community. We have heard some of the lessons put to us by those opposite, telling us that we do not know anything about health. That was the statement to me from the member for Hurtle Vale, and I shake my head in wonderment because, in reality, we in regional centres have to live the realities of the health service that we have every single day.

There are people who are volunteering their time and volunteering their effort to ensure that there are health services that are able to be continued into the long term. As has been mentioned already by the member for MacKillop, I will give a bit of a shout-out to the health advisory councils all around regional South Australia, but in particular in my electorate of Flinders. It is those health advisory councils and the many, many volunteer hours of hospital auxiliaries that are actually delivering health infrastructure into the regional parts of South Australia. We really need a state government that actually gets behind communities to give some accompanying funding to make sure these things are delivered.

I will give you some examples. In the electorate of Flinders there are a number of different health advisory councils. I will firstly highlight the HAC in the Lower Eyre and the main hospitals that they cover at Tumby Bay and Cummins. If you go to those hospitals you will find pretty incredible facilities, really, for the little amount of state government investment that has been put into those, especially in the previous 16 years of Labor government.

You go to those areas and you see the amazing investment that has happened because of community fundraising through hospital auxiliaries and also through the incredible philanthropic donations and bequests of community members who actually recognise that what is happening, as far as health infrastructure goes within our regional centres, is not acceptable, and they are doing their part.

I was at a recent—that is, in the last few years—opening at Tumby Bay of an upgraded laundry facility at the hospital. You may think that laundry is a pretty basic bit of infrastructure that really should be delivered in our hospitals all around the state, but this is actually delivered by

donations, bequests and work that gets facilitated by the local HAC, the local hospital auxiliary and the local council. Upgrades and expansions are all enabled by the dollar that is being given through donations.

It is the same at Cummins. There has been incredible work done by the Lower Eyre Health Advisory Council in expanding the facility there, and they are continuing to do it. They are looking at what are the next steps and what are the next needs our community has in the future, that are going to be able to help the sustainability of our community. If we do not invest as a state into our regional communities, then the economic activity that those regional communities drive is going to be lost. We are going to lose the most vulnerable: those at either end of the age scale, the young and the old, will not be able to be in our regional communities without proper investment into our regional health infrastructure.

This is why this is so important. Look at the work that the Western Eyre HAC is doing at Wudinna and Elliston, work that is essential for the longevity of those communities and the health care for those communities but work that has been done and driven by their local communities. The state government needs to get behind these communities. Give them some enabling funding, sure, make sure they get out of the way and do not put extra levels of bureaucratic red tape in the way of good people in the community doing good work.

It is the same with the Eastern Eyre HAC that has done amazing work too. It has already been pointed out that the community in Kimba has been enabled to have incredibly up-to-date modern medical facilities, a medical clinic, without a bit of state government funding at all. The opening of the Leo Schaefer memorial medical clinic only a few weeks ago was an incredible example of local communities in regional areas getting stuff done.

Investment in our health infrastructure all around our state needs to be in response to what our communities need and in response to the needs of our regional communities, because in the end they are the ones that are going to be there, I hope, for the long term, and I hope to see regional South Australia grow even more with their economic contribution to the state and federal economy. Tens of billions of dollars get put into our state and federal economies from regional South Australia and we need to have investment in infrastructure that actually reflects that. There might not be the numbers of people in those areas for the economic activity, and the financial drive that our state gets from those regional communities needs to be reflected in investment back into health infrastructure.

I recently went for a wander through, on invitation, the Yadu Aboriginal health facility, and they are constantly pushing for investment back into their facility. I am really happy to hear that the federal government in partnership with the state government is putting investment back into that facility because if we do not have those investments going back in, it is not a sustainable community. I am not here to try to play party political games like some. All I want is a good result for our regional communities. Those opposite can carry on all they like. I do not need to get involved in that stuff because I am just standing up for my community for investment back into regional infrastructure.

There is some basic stuff that we need to get right as a state. I will give an example. There is infrastructure in place in a couple of small hospitals, a couple of X-ray machines, which have a bureaucratic red-tape end of life. They do not get used a lot but they get used when the time is needed. These X-ray machines have reached their theoretical end-of-book life, and what is going to happen? Either the government needs to invest back in to replace them or the bureaucratic red tape needs to change to allow them to continue to be used, otherwise we are not going have those facilities in some of our regional communities.

We need to make sure that we are responsive as decision-makers to what our communities' needs, especially in regional communities. This is why as the member for Flinders I will continue to stand up for my community to make sure that there is proper investment in the long-term sustainability of our communities so we can continue to be the economic driver, the economic powerhouse, within our regions for the state of South Australia.

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (12:38):** I do find the opposition's motion quite galling today to be honest, as I do the suggestion from the member for Flinders that he is not here to play party politics, when in fact the entire premise of this motion is to play party politics, so I am very interested in that comment from the other side and of course the content of the motion itself.



I will say, however, that this is a good opportunity as always—and the opposition is very good at giving us good opportunities—to promote what is going on in our communities and the investment that the government is making in our communities. So I am really happy for that opportunity to remind the house and to remind the community about the investment that we are making in health, not only across the state but of course the investment that we are making in the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

It is always a pleasure to make that reminder, because we were elected very much on the basis of those commitments. I have very grave concerns about what would have happened had we not been elected, because I will be able to list to you today the number of commitments regarding health in the north-eastern suburbs that would not have come to light should the former government have been re-elected in March last year.

In the lead-up to the 2022 election, a number of things were under attack, but one of those things was mental health services at Modbury Hospital. We know on our side that one of the really key components to assisting and fixing the ramping crisis is to address issues with mental health and the backlog of mental health patients in our emergency departments. We know that it is important to have better triage and treatment of patients presenting in EDs with mental health concerns.

The previous government, however, came in before the election and tried to take away mental health services from our local hospital. They tried to take away those services. They tried to get rid of Woodleigh House, our mental health facility at Modbury Hospital, and referred to it as an expansion of the service, by moving it to another hospital. We, of course, know what that means in the north-eastern suburbs: that means taking away the service.

I would like to give the house a bit of a picture of what it means for residents who live on my side of the track, or perhaps where my family are over in Highbury. It means that to get up to Elizabeth, where that service was going to be expanded, under the words of the former government, it would be over 30 minutes to get to that hospital, as opposed to accessing those services at Modbury Hospital, which is within a five-minute drive.

There was a huge campaign to keep those services, and because we were elected in 2022 not only were we able to keep mental health services at Modbury but also we were able to commit to expanding those services, increasing services at Modbury for mental health by 24 beds. It is important to note here what would have happened if they were elected, and that means that those services not only would not have been saved but there would not have been that expansion either. The new facility at Modbury will allow for continued treatment of mental health patients and also treatment of older persons presenting with mental health concerns.

Modbury Hospital is another wonderful example of something that the former government claimed that they committed to upgrade, when in fact the Premier as health minister spent many months in the basement of Modbury Hospital. He tells the story very well of how he sat with the advocacy groups down at Modbury Hospital and fought for the commitment, the \$90 million investment into Modbury Hospital.

The former government certainly cut some ribbons on that facility and sent out very carefully worded brochures and DLs over the last four years, explaining what they had done at Modbury Hospital, but the way it was worded makes it very clear that that is all they were doing—they were ribbon cutting that facility, when the investment had been made when our now Premier was actually the Minister for Health.

With respect to Modbury Hospital, we have already seen work underway. We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of Modbury Hospital earlier this year with a number of local members from the community and heard from the lived experience advocates, who will be helping with that co-design process, not only keeping that service there but ensuring that those who know what is needed best will be the ones assisting with the design of that facility. We also committed to an extra 48 subacute beds to relieve pressure on the ED at Modbury and also to build a cancer centre, which will have 12 treatment spaces at Modbury, providing cancer treatment services for people in the north-eastern suburbs for the very first time.

I remember very well that I got a call from a resident I had never met before right after we made that commitment in the lead-up to the election and she was in tears. When I was able to chat with that individual, I asked her, 'What's wrong? Is there any way I can help you?' She said to me that she was travelling to the RAH for cancer treatment on a regular basis.

On the many times she had received that treatment she had had to get in a taxi and pay an expensive fare because she was not able to drive herself down for treatment and back home after receiving that treatment. She called me literally in tears because, for the first time, there was now the ability to access cancer services in the north-east within walking distance or a close drive from her home.

Again, that was a commitment we had made. The former government did not make that commitment: they made the commitment to remove mental health services from our hospital. They did not make a commitment to expand the beds at Modbury Hospital and they did not make a commitment to bring in cancer services at Modbury Hospital. Further to that, and as we all know all too well, they did not make commitments with respect to ambulance stations.

Not only did we have a commitment to bring in an extra ambulance station in the north-eastern suburbs but we have actually located where that will be built. There will be an extra ambulance station at Golden Grove, right in the heart of Golden Grove next to the village shopping centre and the park-and-ride. At the moment, for a council area of 100,000 residents plus surrounding suburbs as well, there is only one ambulance station, the one at Redwood Park, which is supposed to service the needs of a really growing community and which is, of course, experiencing significant pressure as a result.

It was another really proud moment to stand with local members at the site of the new ambulance station and know that, because of a commitment our government made when we were in opposition, there will be less pressure on the ambulance station at Redwood Park and surrounding stations, whether that be down at Paradise or up in Parafield. There have also been an extra 20 paramedics already dispatched who will eventually come to service that site. They are based at Parafield already, helping to service the community and assisting with relieving the pressure for ambulances and paramedics in the north-east.

Of course there are many elements that need to be addressed in health, but we know that under the former government's lack of a plan there would be no extra ambulance station to service a community of 100,000 people—none. There would be no extra ambulance station, no extra beds at Modbury Hospital, no keeping mental health services at Modbury Hospital, no cancer services at Modbury Hospital.

In the space of just a five to eight minute drive I am able to show to you the infrastructure investment made by this government to health in the north-eastern suburbs that would not exist had the previous government been re-elected. When I say it is galling to be standing here hearing the motion from the other side, that is one example of a small community, compared to the rest of our state, that is benefiting extremely well from the investment that has been made in health.

The pressure on Redwood Park ambulance station was already immense, and dispatching those extra crews, as well as having extra staff and another physical location, will make a significant difference to the pressure we are experiencing on health in the north-eastern suburbs. Our community knows that, and we know they know that because they chose it and on a very regular basis I hear from community members—as I am sure others on this side of the house do as well—thanking us for the investment we made in health, for the decision to prioritise our health system over a Riverbank arena that literally no-one asked for.

I am incredibly disappointed by the content of the motion from the opposition and very happy to commend our investment in health, particularly in health infrastructure in my community in the north-eastern suburbs.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:48):** I, too, rise to make a contribution to one of the most important agencies in South Australian government budgets, because we all know too well how important a good, robust health system is. What the member for Schubert has brought to the table seems to have agitated the government members because I think, rightfully so, they were elected on

the premise that they would fix ramping. Along the course of the past 12 months we have seen ramping almost double.

It is outrageous that we have had the member for Hurtle Vale, and other members of the government backbench who were not in this place in a previous government, who never really experienced how the now Premier, the now member for Croydon, who was then a member of the Legislative Council but also the then Minister for Health, oversaw the initiative Transforming Health, one of the greatest failures in South Australia's health history.

We also saw what Transforming Health did to the health system in South Australia. It put huge doubt on the capacity of what we would see in our health system. It was not about providing better health services; it was about adjusting the spend in the health system, dealing with the budget and making health savings that were going to see detrimental damage over a number of years to the health system in South Australia.

We saw downgrades of some of those outer hospitals, such as Modbury and Noarlunga. We saw the downgrade of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and we are also dealing with the transition of the original Adelaide hospital, which is now known as the NRAH. The Royal Adelaide Hospital back then was old and outdated, but we saw a huge budget blowout on what is now the centrepiece of the health system in South Australia. The NRAH has seen significant challenges in ironing out all the wrinkles and with all the issues that hospital was brought up with.

What we see now is a government that is continually pointing the finger at what the former Liberal government did within the health system. We had record spending. We saw an extensive upgrade of beds and doctors and made sure that mental health was dealt with and we also dealt with the COVID pandemic. Sadly, COVID has put a significant strain on the health system, not only with people being admitted to hospital with symptoms of the pandemic but also significant strain on the mental health system.

We know that people who present themselves to emergency departments are not able to have a bandaid or to have a cast put on a broken arm. They are there with long-term issues that cannot be fixed overnight and that is why we have seen a significant clogging up of our health system and our emergency departments. The former Liberal government put a lot of measures in place: increasing bed numbers and increasing capacity to get flow through of ambulances.

The now Malinauskas Labor government really has deceived South Australians by coming into government vowing to fix ramping and vowing to fix the health system. We know it is not going to be an easy fix, but we have seen the doubling of ramping. We have seen some of the sneaky tricks that the government has put in place to try to hide what is now very evident: that South Australians were deceived by a very tricky, well-planned and thought-out process to fix the ramping crisis.

Along the way, there has been much talked about with a lot of the upgrades to the health system, particularly at our hospitals. The incoming government were going to do the expansion at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. They are kicking the can down the road at every opportunity. It was going to be December 2022, but it is now March 2024. Stage 3 of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital was going to be completed in June 2024, but it is now March 2025. The Flinders Medical Centre expansion was going to be completed by 2028, but it is now June 2029.

The new Women's and Children's Hospital would have had the sods turned. That would now be under construction, under a former Marshall Liberal government. We are now looking at an estimation of 2032. Not even in this decade is this Women's and Children's Hospital, a much-needed hospital, going to be started, let alone completed. I think we need to put a bit of balance into this argument.

I want to discuss a few of the really important health issues in my electorate of Chaffey. The former Liberal government did great work to make sure that we had health initiatives and health systems in place so that it would help some of my country constituents to not have to travel for procedures or treatment at a faraway hospital. In most instances, that hospital journey was three hours.

It is a three-hour journey away from home, away from loved ones, particularly for cancer treatment, particularly with the high levels of stress that are attached to health procedures. Of that three-hour journey down to Adelaide to have a procedure, we then had to make a three-hour journey home, and that comes at great cost. Not only are you not in your workplace, not surrounded by the support of family and friends and community but it is a costly exercise if you have to stay overnight, if you have to incur the travel expenses and all the other associated costs with health.

I do acknowledge that the former Liberal government was going to double the PATS (Patient Assistance Transport Scheme). We did not do it; the current government did it. I give them credit for what they did because it was long overdue. We saw many, many reviews of the PATS system and it all amounted to very little. What we saw and what we are seeing now is that there is some level of recognition for the hardship and the economic challenge that it is to seek medical and procedural advice when having to come down to our major hospitals here in Adelaide.

The electorate of Chaffey has a number of hospitals. All those hospitals are there giving the best health care they can. Some of them are being sadly downgraded to aged-care facilities, but what we have seen is that the regional hospital in Berri is now the centrepiece of the health system in the Riverland, and the Mallee to some degree. We are seeing that the Renmark hospital still has a capacity to undertake health procedures, and with Loxton hospital, Waikerie hospital and Barmera—they are four critical pieces of infrastructure as part of the health system within the Riverland.

I must say that I would also like to pay respect and thank my HAC (Health Advisory Council) volunteers. The health advisory councils are manned by volunteers. They do great work and they are part of keeping that health system going, making sure that they advise of the issues at hand and making sure we have a health system that is acceptable. We also have to acknowledge some of the hospitals, particularly at Waikerie and Loxton, for the auxiliary funds that have kept those hospitals alive. We have seen significant money, whether it be from bequeathed philanthropic-type arrangements, which has been put into services or upgraded services to see where we will have ongoing capacity to keep those hospitals alive.

I must thank Sally Goode and Justin Loffler as two of my HAC representatives because they are the two hospitals that have seen those auxiliary funds shared and put into the community to keep those health services alive. I want to also mention the helipad, particularly at the Berri regional hospital, because it is a vital piece of infrastructure that sadly has not seen the upgrade that it was promised.

To all the health staff, nurses, administration, our doctors, and all our frontline health services and staff, I say thank you; thank you for the work you do and thank you for going above and beyond, because health is a very important part of everyday life and it is an important part of living in regional South Australia.

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:58):** I am happy to speak very briefly as we head into lunch. The South Coast District Hospital, known also as the Southern Fleurieu Health Service, is a wonderful facility. It is under enormous pressure. Back in 2015, the GPs were removed from the operation of that emergency department and it is now managed in a staff-doctor arrangement. That has delivered a lot more people to the facility who may have previously gone to their GP rather than going to the emergency department. It has put an enormous amount of pressure on it.

The Morrison government committed over \$8 million to an upgrade of that ED. We are still waiting. That commitment was made back in 2019, and it is important that continues to be developed to make sure that we actually bring this forward. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

*Parliamentary Procedure*

## **PAPERS**

The following paper was laid on the table:

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

Lotteries Commission of South Australia—Annual Report 2021-22

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call questions without notice, I recognise the presence in the gallery today of students from Loreto College, guests of the member for Bragg, and students from year 9 at Unley High School, guests of the member for Unley.

*Question Time*

### EXTINCTION REBELLION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:01):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier participated in any Extinction Rebellion protests? If so, will she commit to not doing so again?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**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) (14:02):** No.

### EXTINCTION REBELLION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:02):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier met with Extinction Rebellion? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 1 June, Extinction Rebellion tweeted, and I quote, 'South Australia is the first state to adhere to Extinction Rebellion's first demand.'

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

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

**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) (14:02):** No, I have never met with Extinction Rebellion. I say that, acknowledging that my good friend and colleague the minister for infrastructure, mining, transport and for various other good things has offered to meet with them, but I don't believe he has been successful.

### EXTINCTION REBELLION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:03):** My question is again to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier join the opposition and join the Minister for Energy and Mining in condemning the actions of Extinction Rebellion this morning?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: standing order 97. That question offers debate, asking anyone to join a point of view that the opposition may or may not have.

**The SPEAKER:** It may be. It also may be, of course, seeking an opinion. In relation to matters that we ventilated yesterday, I am going to permit the minister to answer. Questions that seek an opinion are strongly discouraged.

**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) (14:03):** It is hard to answer without giving my opinion. Nevertheless, I have been invited to answer the question, and so I will. I do condemn what happened this morning.

I became aware, listening to the media on the way in, of the incredible disruption that was caused to a number of people.

I am sure there are many stories that we are yet to hear but, hearing those of the emergency workers—the people working in the hospital system, who were exhausted after a long shift and trying to get home, and probably there were several who were trying to get in to work on time who were unable to—just reminds one of the implications of decisions that are made to disrupt other people's lives, and they were very serious implications.

I will always have sympathy for people who have a democratic right to express their views. People who wish to express their views about climate change ought to be listened to because climate change is a serious matter. It would be surprising if there were not people who held very strong and at times emotional views about it, but what they then choose to do as a consequence needs to be weighed up and considered.

Today's activity was not only highly disruptive for a number of people going about their lives but was aimed at a state that has a remarkable history, record and ambition for the future in decarbonising and has already succeeded in detaching economic growth from the growth in carbon emissions, and therefore it was ill placed and, as a combination of both of those, I think probably served to do more harm to the cause of taking climate change seriously than good.

#### DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:05):** My question is to the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. Has the Deputy Premier sought and/or received assurances from the federal defence minister that the Hunter Class Frigate Program will not be cut and that there will be a continuous naval shipbuilding program at Osborne? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** On Wednesday 10 May, the Head Navy Capability said the current discussion in federal defence was about 'no new money or a reduction in the number of vessels to be delivered by the project'.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:06):** I thank the shadow minister for his question. The government has been in active discussion with the federal government in the lead-up to the DSR, all the way through and since then. In fact, as recently as yesterday evening I had the opportunity to spend time with the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss these issues, amongst others.

The state government, as I have made clear to the shadow minister on questions along these lines previously, will be making a submission to the 90-day review that is being undertaken by the commonwealth in respect of surface shipbuilding. We are absolutely firm in our view as a state government that the Hunter frigate program should be continued as has been committed to, and that is the government's current position. I do not anticipate a departure from that position.

The commonwealth is very aware of the state government's view around this, and we certainly have a lot of confidence that there is not any reason for concern or alarm, particularly amongst the workforce at Osborne, who are already working on the prototype on the frigate program. More than that, the DSR itself contains an explicit recommendation that makes clear that there needs to be a continuous naval shipbuilding program at Osborne for the purposes of maintenance of the workforce and, in fact, the building up of the workforce that we know is going to be required into the future.

On Monday evening, I again, along with the Minister for Defence and Space Industries, will be in Canberra at the Defending Australia forum being put together by Advertiser Newspapers Ltd. I will enjoy the opportunity to be in Canberra to catch up with various officials. The Deputy Premier and myself are meeting with Vice Admiral Mead. We are meeting again with the defence minister to go through these details, as we will continuously do for the entirety of our period in government.

I think it is appropriate—indeed, I believe it to be necessary—that the commonwealth constantly reviews these programs to ensure that they are improving in their nature. The Hunter program, the new AUKUS submarine program, the Collins class sustainment program, all of these

efforts are going to last for years, I think in some cases decades, and you would expect the commonwealth, in conjunction with the state government, to be constantly reviewing how those programs are operating to ensure a program of continuous improvement that delivers better outcomes to the Navy's capability and also better outcomes in respect to workforce and, indeed, the taxpayer.

The 90-day review that is due to be underway on the back of the DSR recommendation is principally about the Navy's capability. The Hunter program, being a multibillion dollar investment on behalf of the commonwealth, naturally should be, particularly given that there have been challenges within it—we should actually be ensuring that as there are new technologies that come on board, new methods, they are in sync with the Navy's capability, particularly given the decision to acquire nuclear submarines, which changes the operational dynamic for the Navy more broadly tactically. So this review makes sense, we are happy to participate in it and we look forward to those jobs that we know are coming to be delivered in the not too distant future.

### DEFENCE STRATEGIC REVIEW

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:10):** My question is again to the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. What actions, if any, is the minister undertaking to ensure that small and medium South Australian businesses do not exit the defence sector? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In response to Labor's Defence Strategic Review, Defence Teaming Centre Acting CEO Tim Dore said some South Australian businesses will:

...take what's available, there will be other companies that will work to keep alive by also moving into other industries like agriculture or mining, and there will be those that will exit the defence industry completely...

**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) (14:10):** There is always a churn that occurs in the profile of supply chain companies, particularly in defence. That is the case because there are the often unpredictable—from a company's perspective—changes in decisions about where investments will occur. There was a setback, obviously, when the previous Liberal-National government in Canberra cancelled the submarine contract with the French, for example, where companies that had been—

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

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I'm simply explaining the consequences of some decisions that occur in Canberra—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** —and not seeking to make a party political point. So the consequences for some companies who were engaged in partnerships with French companies, for example, in order to be part of those supply chains, of course, were that they were unable to continue, and indeed many lost funds that were not able to be recovered. That, unfortunately, does cause some companies involved in the defence supply chain to be wary of overinvesting until they are certain that there are investments that are worthwhile and will pay off.

The recent strategic review, similarly, although not a dramatic change in the way in which defence procurement will occur, does have a shift in emphasis, and each company will be working on how that fits for their own priorities. Of course the Defence Teaming Centre, as has been pointed out, is part of working collaboratively across many defence supply chain companies.

The role of Defence SA and also the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science is to work with those companies to ensure that they are fully aware of what is coming up and fully aware of all opportunities and have access to support in determining what investments they ought to make at what time. Part of that, is to make sure that they've got the right skill set in their workforce. The

work that's being undertaken at the moment by the task force that was established following the skills summit last year is part of making sure that that skilled workforce is in train.

There is a deep engagement occurring, noting that we are unable to control all elements, not being the defence procurers, in ensuring that the companies in South Australia are in the best position. What is very clear is that there will be an enormous amount of work, not only for people directly at Osborne, as a result of the decisions made recently by the federal government, but through the supply chain, provided they are able to develop the capability at the right time and at the right level, and this state government will be working with those companies to ensure that that occurs.

### SPACE INDUSTRY

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:13):** My question is to the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. What actions is the government undertaking to ensure that South Australia remains the home of the space industry in Australia? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Federal Labor's recent budget has seen nearly \$80 million cut from the space industry, with industry warning that it could stall critical momentum.

**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) (14:14):** Yes, it is never pleasant to see a sector of the economy that's particularly important to the state having money removed from it in a federal budget. That is certainly something that has occurred with space and is one of the reasons that I will be meeting with the minister, Ed Husic, next week when I am in Canberra as part of the visit that the Premier referred to earlier.

I need to understand not only generally what are the changing priorities but specifically what implications that has in South Australia, because South Australia is very clearly the place where the space industry in Australia—

**Mr Cowdrey:** So you didn't know it was coming?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** —has its centre of gravity, if you will. The Space Agency being located here is essential, and the work that has been occurring across Defence SA and with the Space Agency has meant that we are seeing around 100 companies in South Australia that are involved in space. The very successful Lot Fourteen precinct—which I think we can acknowledge the previous Premier, Steven Marshall, has a great fondness for, and is often at when I attend events—is a place where we are seeing increasing numbers of companies and people working in the space sector.

Our funding for, our support for the space industry, is not being diminished. The involvement of the state government remains undiminished, and we will be making sure that we are using all of our efforts to best position the way in which we are able to support the space industry. We will have more to say about that as we approach the budget and also as I have a clearer understanding of the implications of the federal budget.

### ADELAIDE PARKLANDS

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:16):** My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Does the minister stand by Labor's 2022 election Parklands policy? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BATTY:** Page 6 of Labor's heritage policy document states that Labor will 'protect Adelaide's unique Parklands', yet since the election the government has not progressed action to state heritage list the Parklands, and has announced that Park 21 West has been chosen as the new site to develop the new location of the SA Police Mounted Operations Unit.



**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17):** For the benefit of the member for Bragg, I can advise him that the minister responsible for Parklands indeed is Mr Champion—who of course is also the member for Taylor—who is currently overseas. Having said that, I am more than happy to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** He is there with, of course, the Hon. Michelle Lensink—the stalwart of selling off public homes here in South Australia, in very distinct juxtaposition to—

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —the current government's position.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** For the benefit of—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** For the benefit of the member for Bragg, the government has received advice from South Australia Police that its preferred location as things stand for the relocation of the Mounted Operations Unit is to the South Parklands site that has been publicly identified but, as it currently stands, the government has not made a final decision to go ahead with that site. We are actively considering all options we reasonably can. There is a very rigid set of requirements that South Australia Police reasonably have to meet their operational needs when it comes to the Mounted Operations Unit, and that is something this government takes very seriously.

The Minister for Police, along with the Treasurer and myself, and I should mention the Minister for Health, who is the person who has the final say about the location of this site under the act that the parliament passed not too long ago—we have all been working through the options as best as we can to make sure we meet the police's needs as best as possible, which are legitimate and real. We want to make that decision as quickly as possible so as to facilitate the relocation of the Thebarton Barracks site ASAP. The reason why that's important, of course, is because this government made a decision to build a new Women's and Children's Hospital that's going to be not too small on day one. That is to say, we have chosen—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —a site that sets—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Florey!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —us up for decades to come.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Colton!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** So we are doing everything that is required to make it easier for the relocation for SAPOL sooner rather than later and that's a process we will continue to engage with as collectively and as consultatively as we reasonably can.

#### ADELAIDE PARKLANDS

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:20):** Supplementary: will Park 21 West in the Adelaide Parklands remain open to the public?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:20):** The Park 21 West site is open to the public now. As to the public more broadly, wherever the Mounted Operations Unit goes it will have elements of it that are accessible to the public and elements that aren't. With the Mounted Operations Unit in place now at the Thebarton Barracks site, of course the police horses are in the Parklands, in the Olive Grove site. They are somewhat accessible by the public. Many of us would have been down there, adjacent to the Road Safety Centre. Your kids can go up pretty close to that boundary and the horses are often in close proximity to the boundary on occasions, but it is ultimately a secure site in many respects to protect the Mounted Operations Unit, that is the horses, as you would reasonably expect.

### ADELAIDE PARKLANDS

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:21):** My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Can the minister advise whether she is aware of any threats to the national heritage listing for the Adelaide Parklands? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BATTY:** In a letter dated 27 March 2023 from the Australian Heritage Council to the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, the chair of the Australian Heritage Council states that the council has:

...formed the view that the South Australian government has demonstrated what appears to be complete disregard for the National Heritage listing and obligations to protect the Park Lands and its values.

**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) (14:21):** Yes, I am aware of that letter. I think it was written by Ted Baillieu as the chair. I must admit although there's obviously some time for consideration of that letter by the federal minister, I would be very surprised if in fact the assertions were found to be substantiated. The Women's and Children's Hospital is being built on land that is not identified as Parklands in that particular location. It seemed to me that the national listing of the Parklands captured values far beyond the scope of that area and therefore it would be surprising if it were capable of doing harm to the listing itself.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** My question is to the Deputy Premier.

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Extinction Rebellion?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Can the Deputy Premier provide an update to the house in relation to her office's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I am obsessed with government transparency. Not that I should respond to interjections.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Hurtle Vale! Member for West Torrens! The member for Florey is warned.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Yes, they don't like their deputy being asked questions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Florey is on two warnings. The member for Hurtle Vale is warned for a second time. The leader has the call.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 23 February 2023, the Deputy Premier told the ABC, and I quote:

My office has had some challenges with Freedom of Information and we've had some feedback from the Ombudsman. I've had a really good exchange of letters with him this week and we have put some more resources on and we are reviewing ones that are outstanding at present to make sure that we are complying properly.

**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) (14:24):** Yes, my office has received some 149 FOI applications.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Newland! The Premier is called to order. Member for Morialta! The Leader is called to order. Member for Newland! The Deputy Premier has the call.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Seventy-four of those have come in since 10 January.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** In an office of about nine administrative staff, we have had to dedicate one—

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** That's about 12 per month.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** —entirely to managing FOI.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** There were responses that I think were not adequate in either their timing or their accuracy, early on. Given that we had that feedback, we had some assistance for a short period of time from Premier and Cabinet to regularise our processes—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** —and now we have an additional person, as I say, who has been dedicated solely to managing the FOIs largely, but not only, from the Leader of the Opposition. So although I would say that at times when there are several in a week being dealt with—there are currently, I think, 11 that are live—we are in a much better position than we were previously to manage the volume of questions that have come through.

One of the challenges has been very generalised applications, things like 'asbestos'. We had to look through every single document to try to find the word asbestos. Similarly, the portfolio agencies have experienced a very high volume of requests from the Leader of the Opposition in particular. There was the rather peculiar one that went to one agency that just wanted all documents including pronoun or pronouns, which took some time to manage.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Newland! Member for Morialta! Member for Chaffey! The member for Newland is warned.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Given that the question or the explanation, or perhaps a response to interjection, referred to the importance of transparency, it is a little difficult given that when the Leader of the Opposition was a minister he spent 18 months not replying to a single letter I wrote to him on behalf of my constituents, and indeed—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mawson is warned. The member for Newland is on two warnings. Member for Chaffey!

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** So what you're saying is that this is personal.

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

**The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas:** I think there's a certain obsession going on here.

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** There was an FOI not put in by myself—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** There was an FOI put in by one of my colleagues during that time that took more than a year for the minister's office to respond to.

**The Hon. S.C. Mullighan:** Was the pronoun the royal 'we', David?

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

#### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:27):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Does the Deputy Premier have a process to ensure that freedom of information applications can be determined within a reasonable time and, if so, what is it? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 16 May 2023—yesterday—the Ombudsman said, and I quote:

Ultimately, after having a period of over three months to deal with the application, the Deputy Premier discovered the total combined length of document was 36 pages. I cannot agree with the Deputy Premier's assertion that dealing with an application for access that ultimately finds 36 pages worth of information is unreasonable.

**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) (14:28):** I am aware of that letter that arrived. That was, of course, an external review from an FOI that occurred some time ago, before we were in a position to improve processes. But to say that the result was 36 pages doesn't mean that only 36 pages had to be looked at to find. For example, for a word like 'asbestos' you have to look through a lot of documents to see which ones have it.

There was a significant amount of work that was required in order to reach that. However, that length of time was not satisfactory and it is why we have put effort into reforming the processes and making sure that we are able to respond in a more timely manner.

**The Hon. S.C. Mullighan:** Could you talk us through this morning's tactics?

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

*The Hon. D.J. Speirs interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the leader!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of Government Business is called to order.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson, order!

**The Hon. D.J. Speirs:** A Deputy Premier who cannot follow legislative requirements, that's gone very well from my point of view.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is warned for a final time. The leader has the call.

#### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier received advice pertaining to freedom of information exemption clauses and, if so, has this informed any submission to the Ombudsman? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 5 May 2023, the Ombudsman said, and I quote:

I will be curt and state that the Deputy Premier's submission does not adequately engage with the clauses relied upon, and I do not foresee the utility in discussing those deficiencies at length with reference to each individual case.

**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) (14:30):** I am not familiar with which FOI that letter is referring to, but I can say there was a reference in yesterday's letter to whether the correct reason for an exclusion had been applied, which is not to say that there wasn't an alternative exclusion that I expect will be considered to be applied instead.

Of course, these reviews are of a process that has occurred by the FOI officer who is not myself. It is very important that that first stage of FOI is not undertaken by the minister and that it doesn't have political fingerprints, and therefore those are the challenges which we've had and which we have now sought to resolve.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mawson is on a final warning.

#### MINISTERIAL TRAVEL

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:31):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Does the Deputy Premier have a process in place to determine what accommodation she uses during international trips and, if so, does this include an assessment of the security of that accommodation? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 5 May 2023, the Ombudsman said, and I quote:

If the security of any hotel or accommodation that the Deputy Premier utilises while travelling could be 'endangered' simply by the revelation that she uses that accommodation from time to time, I would sincerely question the security of that accommodation in the first place and the wisdom of staying there.

He went on to describe the Deputy Premier's objections as, and I quote, 'far-fetched or speculative'.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**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) (14:32):** The Leader of the Opposition is referring to an application through FOI for the diary for the period in which I was travelling. Of course, I don't make decisions

about where we stay. In fact, the trip I believe that the minister is referring to is the one that was organised by protocol in DPC, and all the accommodation was determined by them.

In seeking advice, as I understand it, the office, in providing the information, was informed that it is not routine for ministers to indicate which hotels they stay in, and therefore we applied the advice that was provided by protocol in that case. I personally have no objection to revealing where I am booked in to stay, and I think it would be simpler if we were able to simply provide that, but that was the advice that we were provided and I have abided by it.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:33):** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier received any advice regarding how to communicate with freedom of information applicants and, if so, what is it? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 16 May, the Ombudsman referred to communications from the Deputy Premier to freedom of information applicants as, and I quote, 'disingenuous'. He went on to say:

The Deputy Premier and her Office should be actively supporting, rather than discouraging, applicants utilising their legally enforceable right to be given access to documents held by her, noting that this right should only be subject to such restrictions as are provided for in the Act.

**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) (14:34):** I am not certain which correspondence the Ombudsman is speaking about, but we will endeavour to always—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Many. Naturally, we will be taking the advice of the Ombudsman in this matter.

### POLICE NUMBERS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. How many officer vacancies are there currently within the South Australian police force, and is this number putting South Australians at risk?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:35):** I can answer the second part of that question first and foremost by saying no, and any suggestion otherwise is entirely outrageous and scaremongering in the most extraordinary of ways. As for the current number, that does change almost daily, depending upon retirements and resignations as well as the very significant recruitment efforts being undertaken, but I will come back to the member on that particular number today.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

### POLICE NUMBERS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:35):** A supplementary, sir, in recognition of that answer: which area of policing is currently carrying these vacancies, as mentioned by the minister?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:35):** The question itself—which I am happy to try my best to answer—is particularly ill informed and not understanding policing and operational policing, as the police commissioner is charged to do under our legislation. However, it is safe to say that vacancies occur right across the system, and they are occurring right across the system in every jurisdiction.

I am not sure if the member caught 7.30 last night. I know that the Leader of the Opposition doesn't read the newspaper, but he may watch national current affairs. The truth is that there is currently right across the country a—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** So withering you should talk to *The Advertiser* editor about it.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** I am happy to answer the question as best I can, or we can continue with the ill-informed, puerile interjections from the other side. There are currently, for example, in the member's own electorate, a number of vacancies. These vacancies aren't because of shortages in recruitment but are in fact because there is an active selection process currently afoot.

For example, I am advised that in a number of smaller regional police stations as we speak there are a couple of live selection processes that will be filled imminently. On the other hand, of course, with the recruitment challenges SAPOL has been having now for a number of years—with absolutely zero attention by the former government—there have been vacancies that have been carried.

The good news, despite what those on the other side would pretend, is that I can advise that in the last 12 months since coming to government there have been over 2,000 applications to join SAPOL. People are deciding to join en masse. The recruitment efforts have been excellent, they have been sustained and they have been critical in the shortages that SAPOL found themselves with when we came into government.

As have I said, I have done my best to answer the member's question, but it is incredibly difficult to answer a question that is so ill informed.

#### **POLICE NUMBERS**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:38):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Have there recently been more police officers assigned to work within the CBD in reaction to concerns around antisocial behaviour?

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

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

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Standing order 97, sir: there are assumed facts in that question, and I ask the member to rephrase.

**The SPEAKER:** It may be. I will give the member the opportunity to recast the question.

**Mr TELFER:** Thank you, sir. My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Has there been an increase in police officers assigned to work in the CBD and, if so, why?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:39):** There have been ongoing operations in the city, and there have been for a number of years. I can, with some further briefings for the shadow, provide some additional detail around that. City Safe is one of them and Paragon is another, but the short answer to the question is yes.

#### **POLICE NUMBERS**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:39):** A supplementary to that short answer of yes to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services: where did these police get redirected from?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:39):** It's simply not a proposition of where do they get redirected from. They come from the close to 4,600 police, sworn officers, that we currently have employed in South Australia. The member for Flinders may be aware of an operational use of overtime and recall, where staff, so as to not compromise the operational response in other areas, are recalled to duty and paid overtime to do so.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:40):** I have a question for the Minister for Child Protection. Can the minister advise foster carers like Penny in my electorate whether they intend to pursue any changes to child protection proposed in the previous parliament, specifically with regard to independent guardianship and an independent complaints process?

**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) (14:40):** Thank you very much for the question. It's really great to have a question from a person who is deeply interested in child protection and in carers in their electorate. There are just a couple of things to note in relation to the question.

During the course of the term of the previous government, there were amendments put to the Children and Young People (Safety) Act by the previous minister. Unfortunately, those changes to the act never progressed. The bill was stalled for a couple of years, with a number of members being very frustrated by that. In the course of that debate, one of the issues that carers raised with me was the need for procedural fairness to be afforded to them. I moved that amendment to the act on several occasions; unfortunately, it didn't pass. Members of the upper house also moved those amendments; they didn't pass.

When that bill stalled, we actually had the introduction of a bill by the Hon. John Darley for an inquiry into foster and kinship care. We now have the recommendations from that inquiry, and one of the really important things I want to let the member know about is that one of those recommendations was to establish a carer council who will have responsibility to provide advice about a range of recommendations, a range of improvements for carers. The establishment of that council is very, very close, and I am really happy to keep the member up to date about that because that will be really important in contemplating those many issues that carers raise.

The second part of your question was about guardianship. The member may be aware that we have just completed the first round of extensive consultation about the Children and Young People (Safety) Act. We had an extraordinary number of individuals and organisations provide feedback through that consultation, and one of a range of issues that did arise was issues around guardianship, etc.

We are actively looking at the report from the first round of consultation and what may be of interest to the member is that we are in the process of drafting a bill. That will also go out for extensive consultation and I would be really pleased to brief you on that process and let you know about opportunities for you and your constituents to have input into it. I would be happy to make a time to do that.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:43):** A quick supplementary, minister: who will form the carers council and how will they be selected to sit on it?

**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) (14:43):** Excellent question. What I can say is that we are currently in procurement negotiations about a body to facilitate the carer council and in coming days we will be able to announce that. I am certainly happy to give you a call and fill you in on that as well.



**POLICE NUMBERS**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Does the Port Augusta Police Station have its full complement of officers? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** There have been concerns raised with the opposition from the community and within the media, including on the front page of *The Advertiser* yesterday under the headline—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr TELFER:** —'Kid gangs run wild', about crime levels within the Port Augusta area.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:44):** I can advise that, in line with my previous answer, Port Augusta is one of the stations which has a currently live and active selection process for staff. I have met on a number of occasions with staff in Port Augusta. In fact, I have just recently met with a number of new graduate recruits who have been posted up to Port Augusta, all of whom are doing an outstanding job.

The response to Port Augusta from both South Australia Police within the department of my colleague the Minister for Human Services and other agencies is very significant. It is a very important task and one that our government is entirely dedicated to. The question of resourcing is not an issue. The reason I say it's not an issue is because every conversation that I have had with the police commissioner has been the support that the government can lend him in respect of resourcing, as well as the advice that I am receiving back from him.

There are very significant resources deployed in a permanent manner and in an operational manner and in a surge capacity into Port Augusta. Some of the tactics and some of the operations I won't discuss in this parliament, but I can say that there are resources from a wide variety of operational units within SAPOL that have been tasked and are actively and on an ongoing basis deployed into Port Augusta, including the member for Bragg's favourite operational unit, the Mounted Operations Unit, and the STAR Group, the special response unit, as well as the other units which I won't disclose here, including also, I should say, aviation resources.

The dedication of SAPOL is particularly intense, as is that of the government to support the Port Augusta community and, in a deep and meaningful way, to counter and address these particular issues regarding young people that have been many, many years in the making and will not have an overnight answer.

**POLICE NUMBERS**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:46):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Does the Ceduna Police Station have its full complement of officers? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** There are ongoing concerns from my community in Ceduna about the level of crime and antisocial behaviours.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:46):** I will take some advice. I am not briefed on Ceduna as I have been more acutely on Port Augusta, but I think the same goes to my previous answer. The advice that I have from SAPOL is that there are particularly significant and ongoing surging of resources on an as-needs basis.

I appreciate the member, as the local member particularly concerned, using his advocacy for his Ceduna community. One of the first communities that I visited when I became minister, along with the Deputy Premier and the Attorney-General, was Ceduna. We met with community leaders in Ceduna around a raft of issues and a raft of wraparound issues. The work being undertaken from a

variety of government agencies, including the liquor licensing commissioner, is ongoing. We will continue to look for advice from those particular agencies, but the numbers and establishment numbers in Ceduna I will take some advice on.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICE VEHICLES

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:48):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. How many emergency service vehicles currently have automatic vehicle locators, and will the government continue to roll these out to all vehicles?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:48):** Short of a number, I can advise that all eligible vehicles that can have AVL installed, do have AVL installed. The ongoing installation of AVL is done on a BAU basis now. The project of AVL (automatic vehicle location, as it is less frequently known) was an absolute shambles when this government took over. The leadership of the previous minister was absent. He wasn't interested. He wasn't involved. The previous—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Standing order 98: this is lazy debate. It's against standing orders.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Waite! Member for Chaffey, I am seeking to dispose of the point of order and then we will return to question time. The minister is early in his answer. Some context is permissible, but debate is not.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** It's time for Tarzia, but it certainly wasn't Tarzia's time when it came to overseeing this project.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** The good news is that AVL has been fully rolled out. It has been rolled out within budget. It has taken some significant oversight from our government, but we have done so, and I am very pleased to do that.

#### POINT TURTON ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:49):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister advise whether the Point Turton Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol will be given a replacement vessel? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PEDERICK:** The patrol's current 1985 vessel has been deemed only suitable to travel two nautical miles off the coast of Point Turton due to its age.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:50):** The latest advice that I have received regarding that vessel is that it is not recommended within this year's asset replacement. We will of course continue to take advice. I can assure the member for Hammond that I as minister do not pick and choose favourites when it comes to infrastructure or asset replacement. That is not my approach. It certainly is not the approach of this government. So we are taking advice, but I can advise that has not been advised to me as minister as part of this year's asset replacement.

#### RESCUE HELICOPTER FLEET

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:50):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** Seriously.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Hammond, put your question.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Does the government plan on replacing the state's rescue helicopter fleet? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr PEDERICK:** One of the state's ageing helicopter fleet was plunged into darkness over Backstairs Passage after a generator failed. This was the second failure in the same retrieval after one of the craft's engines would not start during take-off. Prior to the election, the former government had been well advanced in negotiations to update the fleet.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Newland! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:51):** As incorrect as the proposition of the member for Hammond is about the well-advanced nature of negotiations, what I can say is that not one single cent was put into the budget or forecast by the former government in procurement of a new contract—not one cent.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister has the call. Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** Also, the member for Hammond asks whether the government will be replacing our asset. I can advise the house that it is not our asset. The government does not have a fleet of owned helicopters; however, our provider, our contractor, Babcock, certainly does.

I am very pleased to advise the member for Hammond that, again, it seems there was a bit of a theme in this space. I am not sure who the former minister was here, but there was a theme under the former government of a whole bunch of thought bubbles when it came to emergency services and, in this case, the SPARAS procurement, that were never funded. They were never advanced. We are well advanced now in the advanced tender and procurement of a new, long-term solution to our state's aviation needs.

The other matter that I can touch on is the incident that occurred over Backstairs Passage. Most people in this place would be well and truly aware of the fact that aviation is amongst the most highly regulated industries in our country, and for very good reason. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority nationally regulates all of this. In fact, one of the remnants of that ongoing change to safety regulations is the noise, the noise that we hear often across our metropolitan suburbs from the use of the rescue helicopter as well as PolAir, and that is the move from a single engine to a twin engine requirement over built-up areas.

It is funny that I get a lot of letters from those opposite about noise, but none of them quite remember that their former government did absolutely nothing to modernise our fleet—nothing.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** Very soon, I will be very pleased to write to those members opposite about the good work this government has done to fix the SPARAS mess and get a fleet that is well and truly fit for purpose and fit for the future.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Hartley.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Newland!

#### **BUS CONTRACT REVIEW**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:54):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. When will the review into the existing bus contract with Torrens Transit be completed, and will the minister release the findings to the public in full?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:54):** Over the interjections from members anticipating the time for Tarzia campaign—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** To be ignored. The member for Newland is called to order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —I didn't hear the question in its entirety, so if I can politely ask the member to repeat it again? I apologise.

**Mr TARZIA:** I accept the apology, sir. My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. When will the review into the existing bus contract with Torrens Transit be completed, and will the minister release the findings to the public in full?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Soon and potentially.

#### **E-MOBILITY DEVICES**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:55):** A question again to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Will the government legalise e-mobility devices, and, if so, when? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TARZIA:** It was recently reported to the opposition, on 15 March, that recently a man was issued around \$3,600 in fines for using such a device. This man has a disability and says he relies on such devices for his own mobility.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:55):** I have a great deal of sympathy for people who require mobility devices, and there are a lot of things we need to sort out in the legalisation of these devices, especially around insurance and other matters. That is progressing very, very quickly as part of our passenger transport review. I hope to have something ready for the parliament and the cabinet relatively soon, and as soon as that's ready to go I will brief the opposition and get back to the house quickly.

#### **POINT TO POINT TRANSPORT**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:56):** Again to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport: can the minister advise the house as to when we can expect to see the government's review into the point to point industry released?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:56):** Soon.

#### **POINT TO POINT TRANSPORT**

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (14:56):** My question is again to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister confirm that the \$1 point to point transaction levy is not heading to general revenue or being used for any other departmental expense other than funding assistance for taxidrivers?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:56):** All of our revenue that we raise goes to good uses—all of it—whether it's health and education, whether it's mobility, whether it's access cabs. Remember this: public transport is heavily subsidised. It's not fully cost recovered. It's not fully cost recovered. We use a dramatic amount of subsidy to make sure that our buses are available and

operating. I will get a more detailed answer for the member, but the truth is we don't raise enough money through our ticketing systems to manage our system. We run those at high subsidy. What we haven't done is what the previous government did in an attempt to close 500 bus stops.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** And actually, on further analysis, it was a thousand. We were told it was 500; it was actually a thousand bus stops. Every precious dollar we raise from the public is spread across government in a way that is put to its best possible use.

#### EDUCATION ADVERTISING

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:57):** My question is to the Premier. What is the cost of the government's current education advertising campaign? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Last night, certainly at least last night, members of the opposition became aware of TV advertisements and advertisements online encouraging enrolments at Findon High School's technical college.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:58):** I am more than happy to take that question on notice in terms of the value of the education campaign regarding the technical college enrolments. We have commenced a campaign, though, advising South Australians around the opportunities that young people have to enrol in the technical colleges. The first of the technical colleges, at Findon High School, will be opening for the beginning of the school year. This is something I know the member for Cheltenham has a significant interest in, it being within his electorate. It is certainly something the minister has been working very hard on.

I was down at Findon Technical College a couple of Sundays ago to launch that campaign and advise that enrolments are now open for that. It's an amazing opportunity down there. For students who enrol at Findon Technical College in the advanced manufacturing course that is being provided, they effectively have a guaranteed job at the end of that program, should they complete it, at BAE.

I don't think we have seen an example in this state's history where a student can enrol in a specific program at a high school and have a guaranteed job at the end of it. It's a pretty amazing circumstance with a specific employer of this nature. We believe the technical colleges are so important in their scope and in their nature that we want as many South Australians knowing about them as possible, particularly young South Australians who will be afforded this great opportunity.

#### EDUCATION ADVERTISING

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:00):** Supplementary, sir: does the cost of the TV advertising and other advertising come from the education budget or new money from elsewhere within government?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:00):** I am happy to confirm to the shadow minister for education that it will come from the state budget.

#### RIVER REVIVAL VOUCHER PROGRAM

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:00):** My question is to the Minister for Tourism. How many River Revival tourism vouchers have been used by South Australian tourists since the summer flooding?

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (15:00):** Thank you so much. Obviously, we had a commitment, the largest commitment ever to two single regions of the tourism campaign for \$4.6 million. As a government, we knew that we had to support when the river was rising, as we feed back and recover and we get back on our

feet. We have made an incredible commitment from tourism with a \$1.1 million campaign and more than \$3 million, of course, in tourism vouchers.

The vast majority of round 1 vouchers, which is more than 4,000, are used by South Australians. People in those neighbouring areas—Mildura—were invited to be part of the ballot, but they received a very small amount. I am pleased to say that \$1.8 million has been booked already. Of course, this booking had to be made by the end of April and the experience taken by the end of June.

Can I thank those South Australians who entered the ballot. We saw more than 130,000 people put forward their desire to win one of the vouchers. More importantly, this is about us not taking our eyes off the river regions. They need our help; they need our support. Our next vouchers will focus on a \$750 voucher on houseboats, as well as experiences and accommodation.

We on this side of the house are supporting the build back of our river regions. We have committed to doing so. We know that tourism is one of the ways that we can continue to give back. We have recently had some workshops down there and some surveys, also, of those people who didn't use the vouchers to understand why that didn't happen, and that will inform us when we do those next rounds.

We have never done it just focused on two regions—very different from the Great State Voucher, which was the whole of metro Adelaide and the whole of South Australia. We are very concentrated. What this means is that we are tightly engaged with the industry. We are being led by the industry about what they need to recover and build back.

#### *Grievance Debate*

#### **SPACE INDUSTRY**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:03):** South Australia is the nation's space capital, but that is under serious threat under the watch of the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. There are major opportunities in the space sector for commercial companies not only to thrive but to grow. Certainly, in South Australia we have some fantastic companies, such as Fleet Space Technologies, Inovor, Myriota, Neumann Space, Southern Launch and Space Machines Company, to name a few.

The former Liberal government seized the opportunity and convinced the commonwealth government to locate the Australian Space Agency right here in Adelaide. It also saw significant money coming from both federal and state funding sources to create Lot Fourteen, which is also the location for Mission Control and the Space Discovery Centre. The Australian Space Agency aims to triple Australia's space industry to \$12 billion and employ 30,000 people by 2030, and South Australia certainly has a great opportunity to be a massive part of this growth.

Again, the former Liberal government recognised this and, by investing and supporting the space industry here, there has been huge momentum in South Australia with capability being established through the entire space supply chain, from design to manufacture through to launch and also Mission Control. Sadly, that momentum has been lost under the current space industries minister, content to sit back and ride on the coat-tails of the former Liberal government.

This has left the industry heavily exposed. Why is that? Because during this time the federal Labor government has caused both uncertainty and delay in the space industry by undertaking reviews. This is when the Deputy Premier needs to be fighting for South Australia's space industry, convincing her federal counterparts to continue to invest in space.

Last week, we saw the Australian Space Forum here in Adelaide, with over 80 Australian space companies and 1,000 attendees. When I spoke to attendees, the usual positivity of previous forums had been replaced by apprehension. Later that night, their fears were justified as the Albanese Labor government slashed nearly \$80 million in programs that had been targeted to support Australia's space industry. These cuts included the Moon to Mars Supply Chain Facilitation grant. This program aimed at helping small and medium-sized space organisations be part of the supply chain for NASA's plans to go both to the Moon and to Mars.

The Albanese government also cancelled a \$30 million program designed to support faster access to space flight by Australian companies with new technologies. This will directly affect South Australian companies looking to put their satellites into space and develop space heritage. Without this space heritage, when they look to bid into some major defence space programs, they will have no proof to show they can put satellites into space when competing against overseas companies.

Also axed is the \$32.5 million allocated to support the development of Australian spaceports. Here in South Australia we have Southern Launch, who have set up a test range in Koonibba and a launch facility awaiting approval in Whalers Way. We need the Deputy Premier to be fighting for this facility because if we are going to have sovereign space capabilities we need to have a facility that can launch satellites into polar orbits.

All these programs provided major opportunities for South Australian space companies to firmly establish themselves in the space supply chains. Companies have gone out and hired staff, and they have bought vital components and semiconductors in order to participate in these programs. These are companies that Australia will need if it is to have sovereign capability in the multibillion dollar space-related defence projects.

When every other government around the world is investing to grow their space capability, unbelievably Australia is defunding ours. These are massive cuts to a space industry that started later than in other countries and is having to compete against them. Today, in question time, when asking the Deputy Premier about these cuts, we found out that she was blindsided, that she was going to have to talk to the minister about what they will mean for South Australian companies.

The Deputy Premier's capitulation in standing up for South Australia's space industry is a disaster. Ominously, we have Professor Melissa de Zwart of Flinders University saying, 'You now have New South Wales claiming it's the centre of space in Australia, not South Australia.' The Deputy Premier must show some backbone and force her federal Labor colleagues to adequately fund the Australian space industry so that South Australia's space ecosystem can thrive and we can ensure that South Australia remains the nation's space capital.

#### STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:08):** I rise to speak about our amazing emergency service volunteers. Whether it be in response to mini tornados, hailstorms or heavy rain, I can always count on the SES to be there doing their very best to keep my community safe and protected.

What is most special about our SES is that they are volunteers who give up their time, often during terrible weather events, doing their very best to keep everyone safe. My community in the north and the north-east know very well the incredibly valuable role that our emergency support volunteers play in our community. Over the last few years especially, as wild weather events are on the rise, they have been there in our time of need.

I have spoken previously in this place about the amazing work they did during one of the storms in recent years, taking over 750 calls for assistance of the 1,200 received in a 48-hour period. Then there was the weather event nearly a year ago today, when our emergency volunteers were back out there in the community, volunteering through another severe weather event where we faced extreme winds, heavy rains and flooding in some spots of our community as well. I understand that in total they responded to more than 400 incidents across our state at the time.

It was only earlier this year, in March, that they were again out there when those severe winds came back, knocking out power to over 51,000 properties, which had the SES responding to over 400 incidents of trees knocked down or weather damage-related call-outs. These volunteers are absolutely incredible. With around 1,750 volunteers across their 69 units here in South Australia, the SES are an amazing volunteer organisation that truly do it all—no matter the time of day, no matter where it is they may be needed, they are always there to answer our calls for help when we most need them.

It's not just about responding to those calls during severe weather events either. The SES play an important role in supporting our police with land search operations, and they even lend a hand when it comes to traffic management. When we have major bushfires, you can be sure that

you will find the SES around, supporting the amazing work of our CFS. Their efforts deserve all the thanks and recognition they can get.

It was such a great pleasure to visit the Tea Tree Gully SES station last week, along with the member for Newland and the member for Wright, to check in and hear firsthand how everything is going. It was great to be shown their brand-new vehicle and given a run-through of its set-up to better understand how it will be able to assist our community. It is quite a bit bigger than the other vehicles at the station, and I am confident it will be a value-add to the tasks managed by these incredible volunteers.

We also discussed other investments that we are making to support these incredible first responders, such as the introduction of advanced emergency service vehicle locators. These locators provide real-time vehicle location data to enhance the safety of firefighters and emergency services personnel in the event of burnovers and other life-threatening emergencies.

It was a \$12 million investment, and it will go a long way to improve the response and coordination of emergency resources and, most importantly, enhance the protection and safety of our first responders. In total, this software will be installed in 1,400 vehicles within the South Australian Country Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Marine Rescue, Metropolitan Fire Service and ForestrySA.

I am glad that we are not the only people to recognise and thank our emergency services staff and volunteers. I may be a little biased when I say this, but I am so pleased that the pride of South Australia, the mighty Adelaide Crows, have joined us to dedicate an AFL match to recognise and thank these incredible people for their daily sacrifices and commitment. What a way to promote the exceptional and positive impact their services play in our community! I thank the Minister for Emergency Services and the Adelaide Crows for this very important initiative.

I strongly encourage all my community's incredible volunteers at both the Salisbury and the Tea Tree Gully stations to get in quickly and apply for the independent ticket ballot, of which 3,000 tickets will be provided to personnel from SA Police, Metropolitan Fire Service, Country Fire Service, State Emergency Service and South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission.

Once again, to the many amazing SES volunteers across our state I would like to extend my deepest thanks for the work that you do.

### **ADELAIDE PARKLANDS**

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:13):** Today, I rise to speak about an issue that is of great concern to people who live in the north-west of my electorate in particular, and that is the loss of public access at Park 21 in the Parklands. It is very important for those who live in Unley because geographically Unley is the smallest of the state electorates. It is small because it has very little open space and a higher density of living, which means we need more public open space. The South Parklands have been part of the life of people who live in the northern part of my electorate for the entire time I have been representing them and a long time before that.

We know that the government has proposed that nearly one-quarter—25 per cent—of a patch of Parklands between Greenhill Road, South Terrace, Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue and Goodwood Road/West Terrace will be fenced off to make provision for the South Australia Police Mounted Unit, in other words, our police horses that we see in the streets.

Forty horses, perimeter fencing—it was interesting when I heard the Premier in answer to a question from the member for Bragg today about public access. The question was: will there be public access to Park 21? The Premier suggested that there could be some limited public access and then went on to talk about how children could see horses at the existing site, but stopped short of horse rides being available for children at the new site. The facts are, this is going to be a fenced facility. It has been described by a government spokesperson in the media as being 'a safe place'. Of course it is going to be safe; no-one will be able to access it. It will be fenced off, and this is the major concern that constituents in Unley have about this development.

Many of my constituents have been spending decades bringing back natural flora and fauna into that area. If you have ever had the chance to walk through there, you could be excused for



thinking that you were back in nature, miles from the city of Adelaide. The tops of high-rise buildings that you can see over the trees are a bit of a giveaway that Adelaide is not very far away but that is not the point.

The point is that it is an area of Parklands that is used, and just because it is not used for sport and not used for formal recreation, it does not mean that you can say it is an unused piece of Parklands that is up for grabs for a government facility. It is used by those who have been restoring that sector, by people who walk through the area, and the people who breathe the very air, the oxygen that is produced by those trees.

We know in the inner suburbs in particular that tree canopy is becoming more and more valuable as we are seeing less and less of it. In the City of Unley we are losing about two Unley ovals a year of tree canopy. While we are talking about Unley Oval, so that the parliament can have a vision as to the area that will be fenced off under this proposal by the Malinauskas government, it is the equivalent of four Unley ovals, an extraordinary amount of space that will be locked away for exclusive government use in an area that now people have access to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and an area where many people have been volunteering and giving something back to the community by restoring the native flora and fauna back to what was perceived to have been there prior to European settlement.

### PALESTINE

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:18):** On 15 May each year, the Palestinian people around the world commemorate the Nakba, the day that 80 per cent of Palestinians living in the land occupied by Israel were forced from their homes and country and made refugees. The remaining 20 per cent became internally displaced people. The partitioning of Palestine without the consent of the Palestinian people was a disastrous decision by the UN to appease the Zionist movement and cleanse the conscience of Europe for their failure to stop the barbarism of the extreme political right across the continent.

The Palestinian people paid and continue to pay a very heavy price for the sins of Western nations to address one injustice by only creating another, in the same way First Nations Australians have paid a heavy price for the forced settlement of Australia by Europeans. There are many similarities between the plight of First Nations Australians and the Palestinian people. Both were and continue to be the victims of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century colonialism. Both were killed and displaced from their homes and homelands by the legal principle of terra nullius. While Australia has slowly come to terms with its colonial history, the West is yet to understand the impact the partitioning of Palestine has had on a nation and its people. However, the facts are well known.

From 1947 to 1949 over 530 Palestinian towns and villages were completely destroyed by Zionist militia, with many of these depopulated towns taken over by Jewish settlers and renamed. Around 15,000 Palestinians were killed during these forced takeovers of Palestinian lands, and 800,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes in Galilee. Those who attempted to return were shot and killed.

Successive Israeli governments have introduced laws and enacted policies that have made Palestinian people second-class citizens in their own country. The discrimination, hardship and indignities experienced by Palestinian people would not be tolerated in any First World or Western nation, yet we continue to turn a blind eye to the plight of the Palestinian people. Again, they share this experience with First Nations Australians.

While First Nations Australians have remained to live in Australia, the Palestinian people live scattered across the world, hoping that one day they will be able to return home, a right that all Australians expect and experience but one that is denied to the Palestinian people. Today, six million Palestinian refugees reside outside historical Palestine and continue to be denied their right to return to their homeland, while the 3.3 million Palestinians who live in the West Bank are denied the right to vote for a government that continues to control every aspect of their lives.

Some 2.2 million Palestinians live in appalling conditions caused by the ongoing seizure of their lands by Israeli forces, while 1.9 million Palestinians who continue to live within historic Palestine do have the right to vote but are subject to different laws, which diminish their inherent humanity and

dignity. While many European powers have accepted the process of decolonisation across the world, Israel continues to be permitted to occupy the lands and lives of the Palestinian people.

As a middle power nation, Australia must use its diplomatic and political influence to address this injustice, as it has done on many previous occasions. Australia helped end the apartheid regime in South Africa, it campaigned for an independent Zimbabwe, albeit reluctantly, and helped end the tyranny of Indonesia over East Timor. It campaigns against injustice across many continents today, and in the Ukraine it has sent a strong message to the Russian leaders that their behaviour is totally unacceptable.

On all these occasions Australia has stood alongside the oppressed. It is now time that Australia stands alongside the Palestinian people. It should not demand that the oppressed make concessions but rather that the oppressor, the state of Israel, behave according to internationally recognised rules and norms.

What does this mean? It means Australia should demand that Israel end its occupation of internationally recognised Palestinian land and territories, that Israel allow the return of Palestinians to their own homeland, that it end the blockade of Gaza and ensure that all people living in Israel enjoy equal rights before the law, including the 1.9 million Palestinians.

It is right that we remember the Holocaust and other atrocities and acts of genocide committed during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries but, in doing so, it should not be allowed to justify the aggression against the Palestinian people, nor should we allow ourselves to be distracted from what is happening in Palestine today and be blind to the hardship and oppression experienced by Palestinian people. It is time for Palestine to be free and the Palestinian people to live in peace.

#### **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:23):** I rise to speak today during National Volunteer Week and on Wear Orange Wednesday, a day when we can thank all SES volunteers who generously give their time to their communities, but in the shadow of what has been an incredibly testing week for the communities of the West Coast.

I would like to firstly give my utmost sympathy to the friends and family of the victim of the tragic event at Walkers Rock near Elliston last weekend. Out of respect for the family's wishes for privacy I will not say any more, apart from that our hearts do really hurt for all of you.

The communities of Elliston and Eyre Peninsula have been rocked by this event. Although we inherently know how dangerous waters can be on Eyre Peninsula, and indeed in South Australia, it is always an incredible shock when a tragic event like this happens. The community of Elliston and surrounds are a close-knit community, and this has been a devastating event, having lost a very well-loved and amazing person in such a horrific way. My thoughts are with them all at this time, especially those at the Elliston Area School dealing with the loss of a teacher and work colleague and those who were in the water and in the vicinity at the time.

I speak of this on this day to recognise the work of our community, volunteering and giving of themselves in times of immense challenge. The work that the SES and volunteers did during the search over days was incredibly challenging. This came in the very same week when there was a six-day search for a lady missing just up the road at Streaky Bay. One event had a happy ending and one had a tragic one.

In my electorate, there is a long distance between small population centres, and thus the burden of responsibility for our community falls on all of us. Many of the volunteers who were involved in the one search were involved in the other, and I can almost guarantee that those same sorts of people were involved in the football club, the RSL, the progress association and more. I would like to publicly thank all those who were involved for giving so much of your time, effort and emotion to your community, working together because that is just what we do in regional South Australia.

I want to speak today on a positive note about something that is close to the heart of many across regional South Australia in particular, and that is country football. It has been a big start to the football season in my electorate of Flinders, an electorate that has four different football associations

and 24 different teams. I would like to highlight the achievements of two individual clubs in particular: firstly, the Boston Football Club in the Port Lincoln League.

Although the Boston Tigers have had a successful juniors program through recent years, and indeed a very successful women's team as well as running their clubroom based at Poole Oval in Port Lincoln, they unfortunately had an unenviable losing streak at the start of the year of over 40 games. I am very happy to congratulate them on breaking that streak and even winning back-to-back games to start their season.

I would like to congratulate their on-field leaders: Brad Keast, their A-grade coach; and their captains, Christian Dorward and Adam Davies. I would also like to congratulate some of the other leaders at the club, people like Jason 'Chook' Fauser, Michael Paech and Tony Baj as well as many, many others. They have also been successful in gaining some funding to upgrade their facilities at Poole Oval and are working together towards a sustainable club. Country sporting clubs rely so much on volunteers for both their day-to-day and long-term operations.

I also want to speak about a club very close to my heart: the Eyre United Saints in the Great Flinders League. Their A-grade side, too, had an unenviable losing streak of over 40 games, which I am very happy to say was broken last weekend with a strong victory that sent the faithful into raptures. Congratulations to all involved in that club, especially Ben Pugsley; the Stratford boys, Brenton and Neville; Jordan Telfer; the Modra boys, Justin and Ryan; and I could go on and on.

As I have said, clubs within regional South Australia are built on volunteers spending countless hours giving back to their community, and Eyre United is a prime example of this. However, in this its 70<sup>th</sup> year since coming together, the club has made the difficult decision to explore options for merging or amalgamation in their future. I know that this decision is not one that is taken lightly, and I for one hope there is a way to continue on their club and legacy going forward, but until then, can I just say, 'Cheer, cheer the red, black and white.'

### ARTHRITIS

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:28):** In the context of International Nurses Day I rise to discuss arthritis. While it is an awful condition, hope is out there for those with it. I say this as someone who has had psoriatic arthritis since 2008. While it has presented a lot of pain and difficulty, I am very fortunate to have support from the right places to help manage it.

Last Friday, we recognised the amazing contribution of nurses as part of International Nurses Day. To celebrate their brilliance last year, I delivered cupcakes to nurses within my electorate. Now that I am older and a bit wiser, I wanted to take my level of appreciation a step further. This involved a trip to Arthritis SA with Thomas Stockbridge, who joined me for work experience, from Thomas More College. Together we met Sharon Carr, who along with her colleague Kate Purvis do an exceptional job providing guidance to those living with arthritis.

At the last state election, the then Labor opposition pledged to support Arthritis SA with \$400,000 over four years to employ at least one nurse to enhance services for arthritis patients. It is great they now have two, and I could not be prouder that this commitment has been fulfilled. In speaking with Sharon and health educator Ben Trobbiani, the funding goes a long way to providing extra support to people living with the condition across South Australia. While the nurses meet people on a face-to-face basis, they also spend a lot of time on the phone, meaning those living outside Adelaide do not miss out on their invaluable support.

People like me belong to a cohort that is not overly exclusive, with arthritis affecting one in four adults and, unfortunately, 500 children across South Australia. I also understand that, beyond mental health, it is the second biggest condition affecting South Australians. I think anyone with arthritis can draw a link to how a chronic case could lead to adverse mental health, so in many ways the two conditions, unfortunately, go hand in hand.

To those not in the know, there are varying types of arthritis that affect people in different ways. How this is managed depends on the type of arthritis and the person it affects. The good thing is that there are wonderful people out there like Sharon and Kate who can point you in the right direction. In my case, it was sheer persistence, with a lot of trial and error, the occasional miracle

cure and lots of going back and forth to various medical practitioners until I finally found out what was wrong with me.

It may seem strange, but I am actually grateful for having psoriatic arthritis, as I often remember how frightened I was during my nine-month journey of discovery, seeking answers to what was wrong with me. There were occasional dark thoughts on what it could have been, so I consider myself to be very lucky, as the eventual referral to my rheumatologist, Dr Barbara True, set me on a path to manage my pain and to by and large lead a good life. We need more people like her, but that is a discussion for another time.

A key point I want to make is that, irrespective of the type of arthritis, there are professionals out there who can help. I often see people who for varying reasons are putting up with the condition, and I want them to know that there is hope. Nurses like Kate and Sharon are fantastic in pointing them in the right direction to learn early, build their skills and explain what works. Getting in the know is as easy as picking up the phone and calling Arthritis SA on 1800 011 041.

I think we can all recall a time when a nurse, or indeed nurses, has made a difference in our lives. International Nurses Day is an opportunity to reflect on this and express our thanks. In my case, this is an opportunity to draw a link to the wonderful work of nurses like Sharon and Kate and reiterate the amazing help on hand for those in need.

Just before I end, it is worth noting that Arthritis SA recently merged with the Hospital Research Foundation Group. I am encouraged by news on how this is further helping arthritis patients. I will finish by wishing the combined team all the very best.

#### *Bills*

### **SUPPLY BILL 2023**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 May 2023.)

**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) (15:34):** I will continue my remarks from yesterday. We are providing \$800,000 to Grandcarers SA to enable this important advocacy body to support and advocate for grandparents who are performing a primary caring role for their grandchildren.

We are also providing \$800,000 in additional funding to the CREATE Foundation to ensure that the voices of children and young people are amplified as they contemplate care and all that comes with that experience. Our government recognises that the right services are desperately needed at the time young people transition from care into independent living, so we have also invested an additional \$5.8 million into post-care support.

Due to the fierce, tireless campaigning of a group of activist women, South Australia became the first place in the world where women could vote and stand for parliament. Today, although it is persistent, South Australia has a lower gender pay gap than the overall national gap. Women's participation in the South Australian workforce is also higher than ever, and 57 per cent of South Australian public sector executives are women. However, whilst we have made significant strides towards achieving gender equality, there is still much to be done.

Women continue to have lower levels of workforce participation compared to men, are paid less on average and are under-represented in leadership roles and in certain industries. Women are also at greater risk of experiencing sexual harassment and domestic, family and sexual violence. We are strongly committed to addressing gender inequality and preventing violence against women, both a cause and consequence of gender inequality.

We have worked tirelessly to economically and socially advance women and advance towards ending gendered violence. In working towards gender equality, our government is proudly investing in industries that predominantly employ women, which were deeply impacted by the pandemic. We have established the Gender Pay Gap Taskforce, re-established the Premier's

Women's Directory, re-established the Women in Sport Taskforce and funded a \$4 million Women in Business package that is providing a suite of programs that will be made available to South Australian female-owned businesses.

We know that gender inequality is the biggest driver of domestic violence, a scourge our community continues to confront. Amongst a range of legislative changes, we are providing funds for preventative actions and options for recovery that help women stay safe. We have rightfully restored \$800,000 of funding to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service and we have reinstated the \$1.2 million of funding to Catherine House that was cruelly cut by the former government.

Catherine House is an incredible service offering a safe and secure place for women experiencing homelessness, often as a result of an experience of domestic violence. It is utterly shameful that any government would consider cutting funds from this extraordinary organisation, and I am so proud that we have acted to restore those funds.

Last year, we launched the Family Safety Framework portal to provide a secure online space that supports the risk assessment, referral and case management processes of the Family Safety Framework. Information is shared across 17 regional areas of the state through family safety meetings, ensuring that representatives respond to risks of harm in real time. This has been a significant step forward for the safety of people experiencing violence, especially in regional areas.

Through state government investment, we have launched an incredibly important public awareness campaign targeting young people to see the signs of coercive control, a pattern of insidious behaviour that can include threats, humiliation, stalking and manipulation and is used to erode a victim survivor's confidence or ability to escape an abusive relationship.

The See The Signs campaign is rolling out across various platforms and can also be seen on various structures around the metropolitan area. We are seeing excellent engagement with the campaign across these platforms, resulting in thousands of visits to the campaign website that shares information for those who may be experiencing this behaviour. This campaign, of course, sits alongside our government's steadfast commitment to introduce legislation to criminalise coercive control.

The campaign follows an extraordinary public forum, where attendees heard from remarkable advocates Sue and Lloyd Clarke, who bravely shared the story of their experience with this insidious form of domestic violence, which culminated in the devastating murder of their daughter Hannah and their three beautiful grandchildren by Hannah's ex-partner. Hannah had been subjected to coercive and controlling behaviour prior to this horrific crime. We understand that in 99 per cent of domestic violence homicides coercive control is a feature of the relationship prior to that horrendous act.

Sport is also a powerful driver in our work to advance gender equality. It is a key way to further conversations on a range of issues our community confronts. Our government's \$1 million investment will ensure that the FIFA Women's World Cup creates a lasting legacy through our funding of initiatives to advance women's leadership and participation in sport and domestic violence awareness.

Like many in this house, I cannot wait for the FIFA Women's World Cup to come to life in our state in just under 70 days' time. Together with community, we campaigned hard from opposition to ensure that Adelaide was one of the host cities. This is going to be an incredibly exciting time for football fans, with the world's best players converging on our city, bringing with them thousands of travelling supporters who will join local fans for one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

Seeing the best footballers in the world play right here in Adelaide and be celebrated for being strong, powerful, physical and talented will be transformative, especially given our investment in funding a strong program focused on growing girls' and women's participation and raising awareness about respect for women to help us build a legacy and advance gender equality throughout community clubs.

Broadly in the area of recreation, sport and racing we are committed to growing participation, ensuring clubs have access to suitable facilities, achieving equality in sport and ensuring that South

Australia embraces the opportunities that come through sport, bringing people to our state and bringing people within our state together.

In the recent round of Active Club grants, we expanded the program to allow access for recreational fishing clubs to apply for funding. Our government is also proud to fund RecFish SA as an independent peak body for recreational fishers. This year, data was released that shows that in the last financial year period approximately 337,000 South Australians, or about one in four, went fishing over that period. With the funding provided to RecFish SA, the peak body will be able to work to increase this participation even further amongst women, children and people from diverse multicultural communities.

Our government's support of the excellent Sports Vouchers program saw a record take-up of vouchers throughout 2022. More than 83,000 vouchers were redeemed, saving South Australian families over \$8.3 million from the costs of supporting children from reception to year 9 to engage with sport, dance or swimming.

As well as assisting families with the cost of sport, we are determined to encourage disengaged, vulnerable children and young people to participate in local structured sport. Through a partnership of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing with the Limestone Coast LGA and West Coast youth community service, young people will be supported to participate in sport and enjoy the benefits of doing so, which will result in more physically, mentally and emotionally healthy young adults across the state.

The two programs, which will run over the next 12 months, will offer our government many learnings that can be used to expand these programs and to roll out similar projects in other areas of our state. From the grassroots through to the elite level, our government is proud to support the crucial role that sport plays in our community, encouraging healthy competition and ensuring all can enjoy those physical, mental, emotional, health and wellbeing benefits of sport and active recreation.

To support the development of our elite athletes, our government is investing in creating a world-class, high-performance sport, research and education precinct thanks to a multimillion dollar partnership between the University of South Australia and the South Australian Sports Institute. Our government will contribute \$68 million toward the development of a new state-of-the-art SASI facility at Mile End, with UniSA contributing a further \$20 million for capital costs of the project. This investment brings together key pieces of sporting infrastructure and creates a hub that will support athletes to perform at their best and attract national and international teams to Adelaide in their preparations for Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games.

Throughout the past year, we have also seen the opening of incredible facilities made possible through state government funding, including the State Centre of Football at Gepps Cross and the Women's Memorial Playing Fields at St Marys. I am really thrilled to see the opportunities that each of these facilities present in making sport more accessible to more people. For local sporting infrastructure needs, our government has just announced the successful recipients sharing in more than \$5.5 million across 44 projects—projects that collectively secured nearly \$15.5 million in co-funding, equalling a total project value of upwards of \$20 million and supporting 86 full-time jobs during construction.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:46):** I also rise to speak on the Supply Bill 2023 and, in doing so, express a degree of pride in the way the current government hit the road running. The contrast in the election could not have been starker when it came to the priorities that were set out. The big ticket item from the now opposition was, of course, the basketball stadium, and we contrasted that with our commitment to investment in health. That sent a real message, especially to the regional communities that I represent, and it is a message that I am not sure has been heard yet. In my electorate, there are a number of communities that are traditionally strong Liberal-voting communities, and the message sent by the government at the time in the lead-up to the last election was not well received.

If you look at communities like Roxby Downs, Labor used to hover around the 32 per cent two-party preferred mark, but at the last election at the booth it was up around 62 per cent. Look at a place like Quorn—a strong traditional Liberal-voting area—and I only lost that booth by four votes. There was a message there to what is now the opposition when it came to priorities. It was interesting

listening to some of the debate today about the health system, about investments in health infrastructure, and I will have a little bit to say about that later.

It is one thing to go to an election with a series of commitments, and then to deliver on those commitments, and that is what we are doing. I think we are going to exceed the commitments that we made to our health system in the lead-up to the election. That is not to say that the challenges are not going to go away.

The health system is incredibly challenging, for a whole range of reasons, and not least is that interaction between federal government policy and funding and state government policy and funding. We had a federal government that was not strongly committed to public health and asleep at the wheel when it comes to primary health services throughout this nation, especially in regional areas. When you have a government that potentially knew they could never do a frontal attack on Medicare, a system they have tried to unwind in the past, they do it in a roundabout sort of way. I will get on to that in a second because it has implications for what happened in this state and indeed elsewhere.

One of the proud things that we can hold up, since the election, is the employment over and above attrition of 550 additional clinicians. That is an achievement in a difficult environment when it comes to attracting and retaining staff. Of those numbers, there are 278 additional nurses, with more to come, and it is great to see the big increase in nurse training and graduations. That will benefit our system.

That does stand in contrast to the policy of voluntary redundancy that existed under the previous government. We have heard before the figure of 300 nurses leaving under the previous government in the lead-up to COVID. In addition to the nurses, there are 89 additional doctors and 141 extra ambos, a number of which will be in my electorate, and 42 allied health practitioners.

That is a good start in trying to turn around the challenges that we face. Of course, as part of all of that are the hundreds of extra beds in our public health system, a significant number of which will be mental health beds. The combination of this ongoing attraction of staff and the additional beds will over time start to have a positive impact on the way the system functions.

Things were made a lot more difficult for all state governments. It is always one of those things when you come in here and you listen to the now opposition—and I remember they were the opposition during the Weatherill years, and when the Abbott government in their first budget broke just about every promise under the sun with their attack on some of those vulnerable people in our communities.

One of the big ones was to rip up the federal-state health agreements. Each state had signed off on these particular agreements. The Rudd-Gillard government introduced a formula which took into account the real-world cost impacts on the public health system. There was a very significant increase in funding for our public health system. It is a system, as we all know, that the states have responsibility for but the federal government is an incredibly important partner and a big funder.

What did the Abbott government do? They ripped up those agreements and introduced another formula, a formula that would allow them to say, 'We are increasing funding.' They were increasing funding, and that was inevitably going to happen irrespective of the government, but the thing about their increase in funding is it fell well short of the real-world cost impacts on our public system. What it did over a period of time was strip billions of dollars out of the public health system nationally and in this state. That was in the lead-up to that big straw on the camel's back which was COVID.

I am not overly critical of the way the then state government handled COVID in this state. There might have been one or two missteps, but I think that is inevitable in a fast-evolving set of circumstances in a pandemic. I would basically give them some good marks for a lot of the work that they did. We did try to be bipartisan at the time. The state faced, as the other states did, these massive impacts as a result of the pandemic but it came on top of a system that was already seriously stressed. That is what we are trying to turn around in this state, and now we have a federal government that gets it.

As a country member, one of the things that deeply concerns me—and it is a federal responsibility—is access to GP services, a fundamental part of the primary health ecosystem in our country. GPs are incredibly important. What did the previous Abbott, Turnbull, Morrison federal governments do? They stripped \$4 billion out of Medicare rebates for GPs. That had an incredibly detrimental impact on the delivery of GP services, especially to the people who could least afford health services.

When I say that the federal Liberal-National Coalition have a history of trying to undermine public health, when it comes to undermining the access to health you can go all the way back to the initial introduction of Medibank, which was scrapped under the Fraser government. The Hawke government reintroduced it in the form of Medicare. They reintroduced it so all Australians, irrespective of their income level, would have access to health services and our public health system. It was Labor that reintroduced that.

For years, the then federal opposition opposed Medicare. They were itching to unwind it again. By the time they got back into government it was an entrenched part of our system, so they could not directly attack it. But this has state implications. Ask yourself this question when it comes to our health system: if you pull out \$4 billion in rebates at a GP level, what impact is that going to have? You are going to see, especially, that some of the most vulnerable people who cannot afford to pay the gap are either going to delay going to see a doctor or they are going to turn up at accident and emergency—so it has an immediate impact or a delayed impact on our public health system here in South Australia.

We have people who cannot afford to go to see the GP, so they turn up at accident and emergency—or, possibly even worse, they will not turn up. They might have chronic conditions but they cannot afford to go and see a GP, so they let it slide and by the time they do turn up to the hospital they are sicker. One of the things that our public health system has to deal with is an ageing population and greater complexity, largely as a result of chronic illnesses—and sometimes multiple chronic illnesses—that people are facing. That is why that Rudd-Gillard government totally rejigged the federal-state agreement, and why it was a disgraceful act on the part of the Abbott government to unwind that and the impact that then had on our public health system. We are trying to turn that around.

In my electorate, there are a number of commitments when it comes to the health system, including \$8 million going to the hospital in Port Augusta for an upgrade. More is needed in Port Augusta, so I guess it is a case of watch this space. One of the really good things is the enhanced ambulance service in the Upper Spencer Gulf. A new station is currently being built in Port Augusta to accommodate an expanded ambulance system.

There is also going to be an upgrade in Whyalla. It might be more sensible to do a new build there as well because we are going to see extra crews. In Whyalla, there is going to be an extra 24/7 crew—something the previous Marshall government did not commit to—and there are going to be two transfer crews between Port Augusta and Whyalla. That is incredibly important as it will prevent, or reduce greatly, ambulances being drawn out of the community for those transfers. The thing about this is that it is not just an empty promise or an empty commitment; the funding is there, we should see it fully implemented come next year and physical progress is well on the way when it comes to the ambulance station in Port Augusta.

One of the other things we did was double the travel amount for PATS. It is interesting to look at some of the regional papers and some of the Facebook pages of those opposite. They had four years in government to do something incredibly simple. We had one minister, or he was a minister in the previous government, claim credit for the increase. He was in cabinet, not for all of those four years, because of some difficulties with the administrative elements of filling in his country members' allowance form, but he was there for a significant period of time. Did he during that period or did any of the other country members in that cabinet double the amount of money for travel when it came to PATS? Well, no. That was a little bit beyond them. So then to claim credit for the work that this government had done—

*Members interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown):** The member will be heard in silence.



**Mr HUGHES:** It might surprise you that those of us who are country members, and there are not many of us, have been consistent advocates for the reform of PATS. I think there is still some way to go in reforming PATS—and I will not get onto some of my favourite hobbyhorses here—but at least now it is doubling, and that is very encouraging.

When it comes to health, we know there is a health gap for country people in terms of both morbidity and mortality in some country areas compared with the metropolitan area. It is always worthwhile to pick apart those figures because some of the social determinants of health apply in some of the more disadvantaged suburbs in Adelaide as well. Clearly, I have some people in my electorate, especially in places like the APY lands, where the health statistics—which are the lives of real people—show that people are dying way before what should be their allotted time. What did they used to call it? Threescore years and 10.

The average male life expectancy in the APY lands is closer to 48 years and the overall average life expectancy is in the low 50s. If those figures do not rock us and shock us and go whoa—this would have to be a major priority when it comes to addressing the complex issues that underlie what is happening in places like the APY lands. I will get onto some of the other funding commitments we made, but I wanted to spend some time on health because we did go to the last election with health as a major priority.

Obviously one of the big ones in my electorate is the biggest state investment in the Upper Spencer Gulf in Whyalla for decades—that is, the hydrogen power plant. The power plant itself is a 200-megawatt power plant, 250 megawatts of electrolysers and the storage for the power plant. This is going to be a groundbreaking piece of work on a par with or will exceed the big battery. With all the denigration that that got, especially at a federal level—that it would go with the Big Banana and all the rest of it—the big battery has exceeded all expectations in the ancillary services it provides for the grid because of the almost instant response times.

With the hydrogen power plant, there is a body of work that has to be done, but the fact that there are 29 formal expressions of interest from around the world shows the focus. I have no doubt that some of those companies will want to piggyback on this incredibly tangible commitment to go beyond what we are proposing as a state-funded power plant, and the private sector might well do other stuff.

Hydrogen has always been interesting to me, and some years ago, back in 2014-15, I did some work with the Melbourne Institute to try to attract some interest in hydrogen in my part of the world. The reason it is of interest is that if you are going to green the steel industry the reductant you can use is hydrogen; in fact, there is no other reductant you can use if you are going to replace coking coal. I do not pretend that it is necessarily going to be easy. It is going to be a step at a time process but, given the resources we have in this state, it is something that is entirely possible.

One of the other things I would like to mention—and once again it is a compare and contrast—is that the council in Port Augusta had to fund what was known as the Safe City program. That was initially a bit controversial because of dogs and what have you, but essentially it was about relationships, especially relationships with people visiting Port Augusta from the lands and elsewhere. When the council quite rightly pulled out of funding and said, 'Well, why are we funding this?' of course it was too hard for the previous Marshall government to do something simple—step in, stand up to its responsibilities and fund that particular program.

It was something we did immediately, and it is having some success. When we look at the numbers, I think that recently over 420 people have returned to the lands, returned to country, and quite a significant number are minors. We do have in Port Augusta a deep and longstanding issue with some young people, a core group of young people, we have to work with, and we are providing extra resources. We will provide even more resources to get on top of some of those issues.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:06):** I take this opportunity today to speak about the Supply Bill 2023. As has been indicated previously by the shadow treasurer, the member for Colton, the opposition will be supporting this bill, which is entirely uncontroversial. It is the convention to pass these bills because they ensure that funding—in this case, \$6.553 billion—is provided for the operation of government until the Appropriation Bill passes through parliament later this year as part of the state budget.

The funding ensured by the Supply Bill allows public services to continue, whether that be for our hospitals, making sure they are running and that doctors and nurses are paid, or for our police force to be able to keep the community safe, or for our schools to be able to educate our children and teachers to be able to be paid as well. It is important. We see other jurisdictions that have troubles around this, unlike here in South Australia. In the US, for example, they are having trouble even as we speak and are talking about shutdowns and actually having government services not being able to run because people are not getting paid—hence the reason for allowing this bill to pass.

The Supply Bill always precedes the state budget and comes around annually. It gives members a chance to reflect on what has occurred over the past 12 months. If we cast our minds back to March 2022, when this new government was elected, there are certainly some major aspects of people's lives that have deteriorated in key material ways.

As has been said by many on this side, the government, when they were in opposition, made a massive election commitment around ramping: they were going to fix ramping. In fact, what they did not explain to the people of South Australia was that as part of that process they were going to more than double it, based on the ramping statistics from the former Liberal government's last full month in office.

In fact, South Australia has recorded the worst 11 months of ramping in its history under this Malinauskas government. It was a catchphrase that has not really been backed up, with ramping continuing to rise. Each month of those record 11 months had over 3,000 hours lost on the ramp, including March 2023 when there were 3,968 hours lost. That is an increase of over 161 per cent.

There have been Code Whites in all the emergency departments in metropolitan Adelaide, which means the treatment rooms in the EDs are fully used, which of course is causing real issues. We have seen how this plays out at the Flinders Medical Centre where ramping has spread to the level 4 car park, so not even where the ramps usually are. They are having to go into a car park.

The government's solution to this is to come up with a scheme such as 'fit to sit', where if people can sit they are put into the ED as a way of helping with the ramping statistics. We know that does not help the situation at all and probably is one of the reasons why this government have sought to backtrack on their promise to fix ramping. They would rather discuss response times for ambulances.

At the same time they are not even getting the basics right. We have heard terrible stories of the elderly not being able to get pillows or linen while they are having their stay in hospital. It really does show that it is no longer a priority. It was talked up every day during the election campaign and now it has taken a back seat in this government's priorities.

Another area where there has been a significant deterioration in the situation in South Australia is the cost-of-living crisis we are having to go through. We have inflation surging not only in Australia but in South Australia. It is running at 7.9 per cent in Adelaide, which is 7.9 per cent more in March 2023 than it was in March 2022. This is higher than any other capital city in Australia.

Recently the opposition looked into what this actually means for families living in South Australia. A normal family with two parents and two children with a medium-sized mortgage are nearly \$17,000 worse off with all the factors going on. Interest rates are going up. They are being increased because of inflation. They are being used to combat inflation, but the people who are feeling this are these families. That \$17,000 amount did not include the most recent interest rate rise announced by the Reserve Bank, so there are still more costs piling onto families in South Australia.

There has recently been the federal budget, and there are real concerns around that adding to inflation and what that means for interest rates for mortgage holders. There are real concerns there and certainly we need to ensure that the upcoming state budget does not add more fuel to this inflationary fire we have in South Australia. Making up that figure of \$17,000 are grocery bills: breads, dairy, meats. Certainly, when you go to the shops it is a big jump and not just in the tens of cents. We are talking about things going up by dollars.

Phone costs, telecommunication and data costs are going up. Petrol and energy are also going up. In particular, the electricity costs that families and businesses are facing are skyrocketing. The Malinauskas Labor government took no plan to the election to ensure that the electricity supply

in South Australia would be affordable and reliable. Unfortunately, now South Australian families are feeling the pain. They are paying for it.

This was demonstrated very early in their term of government when we saw the default market offer announced, with a jump of between \$124 and \$198 for households, and \$450 for businesses. Not long after that, we saw ESCOSA release the average household electricity bill for families. That shows that between December 2021 and June 2022 electricity costs went up by \$218. That is a massive jump. Those opposite say, 'Well, we have doubled the concession payments,' but that \$218 rise totally eats up all of that doubling, so there is more pain being felt without adding further electricity rises to that.

Other jurisdictions were offering rebates for their households when these figures started coming out. Because there was no plan in place, nothing that we could see that this government was looking to do, we suggested that the government do similar to other jurisdictions and offer rebates. That was ignored.

Rebates, of course, are not a sustainable solution to skyrocketing electricity prices—not at all. The better approach is to actually reduce those electricity prices across the board. Whether you are on a concession payment plan, whether you are the average household similar to those discussed that are facing \$17,000 rises or whether you are a business, if prices are coming down, you do not need rebates at all.

We compare this situation with what the former Liberal government did to ensure that the electricity supply was not only affordable but also very reliable between June 2018 and December 2021. We saw the average household electricity bill come down by \$421. That exceeded the commitment we took to the election to bring electricity power bills down by \$302, so we actually overdelivered on what our commitment was. Compare that even to federal Labor.

Of course, this government has no plan. Federal Labor's plan was, 'We will reduce your electricity bills by \$275.' They took that to the federal election last year. In fact, electricity prices have gone the opposite way, and the federal government admitted this in their budget back in October, when they said that electricity bills would increase by 56 per cent over the next two years. This is a massive price rise that households cannot afford, and businesses cannot afford.

Unfortunately, this trajectory has not really changed. In March, we saw the Australian Energy Regulator bring out their draft default market offer. That actually showed that the pain was going in the same direction as what the federal budget said, with the average household electricity bill forecast to rise between \$401 and \$485. It is a 22 per cent increase. Additionally, bills for businesses are set to rise by over \$1,150. This is really difficult for businesses. Yes, households are hurting but so are businesses, which employ people, which give people an income to be able to try to survive in this cost-of-living crisis.

I visited a business with the leader. We went out to see one of these businesses doing it tough—Flambé. It was a great restaurant with innovative food, but they were saying that these electricity prices are biting. They cannot turn their fridges off. They cannot turn their freezers off. They have customers who maybe are not coming in as often because of the cost of living, so they are hurting as well.

This draft default market offer is a draft, but what we have seen in between that announcement and now is the Australian Energy Regulator release the fact that South Australia is the only state in the National Electricity Market to have average quarterly wholesale electricity prices rise this year, increasing from \$80 a megawatt hour to \$99 a megawatt hour.

Energy insiders are saying, with the release of these quarterly statistics, it really does make it less likely that the Australian Energy Regulator will ultimately make any major changes to that draft default market offer. This is really concerning. When I was with the leader, we again called for this government to take up the federal government's Energy Bill Relief Fund, which was co-funded and really was a way for the federal government to try to get out of the fact that it made a promise to bring bills down by \$275. They did not actually say how they were going to do that just by offering rebates to concession holders, but that is what they did.

Thankfully, finally the government has been brought screaming to the table to agree to that, but at the same time the ability to do it was that there has been a big GST windfall into the state. People are paying more for their goods and services, they are paying more for their bread, their meat, etc., so there is GST on that and that inflation is also driving this increase in GST revenues for states.

We made the call to give that back to households and give that back to businesses, not only to concession holders, the vulnerable ones who really do need it, but also across the board to those not eligible for commonwealth funding that allows them to access the Energy Bill Relief Fund. We made that call, and we are yet to see if that is going to come through in the state budget. We certainly hope it does but, as I said, rebates are not a sustainable way to approach this problem. Really, electricity bills need to come down. This Malinauskas Labor government really needs to get its priorities in order, help struggling South Australian businesses and families and come up with a feasible plan around this as well.

Previously, I have also spoken about some of the other issues that we have in South Australia around having a plan. Certainly, there is some relief for households going into the future. ElectraNet has released new modelling that shows that, when the South Australia-New South Wales interconnector is delivered, according to their modelling it will help households. They are set to save \$127 per year. Small businesses will also save \$255 a year.

On top of that, businesses that are quite electricity intensive also stand to have quite significant reductions. As an example, suburban pubs look to make savings in the order of \$18,000. A standard cafe is looking at having savings on their electricity bills of around \$6,000. No wonder Project EnergyConnect was backed in by the former Liberal government. No wonder the Australian Energy Market Operator called it a critical project, a no-regrets project.

It really is about time that, in the absence of any electricity plan to ensure our electricity supply is secure, reliable and affordable, the current government came out and supported the former Liberal government's interconnector plan. Of course, we have the current Treasurer, who has been one of the biggest critics of Project EnergyConnect, saying, 'We think it's a terrible idea.' I would rather take my advice from the Australian Energy Market Operator in regard to Project EnergyConnect.

Other areas where there has been a Liberal legacy have been defence and space. I have spoken before in this place about the announcement of the establishment of AUKUS back in September 2021 by the former federal Liberal government. It is a massive landmark security partnership with two of our closest allies, the US and the UK. Its first initiative is to support Australia acquiring nuclear-powered submarines to be built in South Australia and to work out what that optimal pathway is.

Thankfully, that has continued on under the current commonwealth government, and they have outlined how that is going to occur. It starts off with Australia having the ability to acquire between three and five US Virginia class submarines that have been in service, and after that Australia will be able to build nuclear-powered AUKUS submarines based on the UK's next-generation design. Certainly, it will incorporate technology from all three nations and, importantly, be built here in Osborne in South Australia.

We certainly welcome that announcement. We support that announcement and know that it will have a big impact here in South Australia, but there really are some questions that remain to be resolved. We have to ensure, of course, that it does have long-term benefits for South Australia. So, yes, that is certainly important not only from a workforce point of view but also in terms of making sure that our small and medium defence companies are able to participate in this as well.

If it is based on the UK design, we need to make sure that Australian companies can participate in the first of type that is built. We know it is going to be built over in Barrow-in-Furness. If companies from South Australia and from Australia are not able to participate in its first build, it is going to be a lot harder for them to participate in builds here because, once supply chains are set up, it really is quite difficult for the primes that are running these to take on the risk of selecting alternatives as well. We need to make sure that the Minister for Defence and Space Industries is working really hard to make sure that occurs.

That is a long way off. That is back to the late 2030s. The first submarine is not expected to come into operation until 2042, so we need to maintain shipbuilding up to that point to make sure our workforce is able to continue to be skilled up. That leads to programs such as the Hunter class. We have asked questions around that today in parliament to make sure that that continues to operate here in South Australia.

There is also the life-of-type extension for the Collins class submarines. That was delivered as part of the AUKUS agreement. We had the Premier, when he was in opposition, calling on our government to make sure that the full cycle docking came to Adelaide. In fact, yes, it did, and in addition we also got the life-of-type extension, which means over a thousand employees are going to be there. This government, if they were so strong in advocating for those jobs then, now need to ensure they continue those jobs to make sure all six life-of-type extensions occur at Osborne.

*Message from Governor*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as may be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:28):** I welcome the opportunity to speak on the Supply Bill, which, approved by the parliament, will supply the government with sufficient funds to carry on the business of government in the lead-up to the budget being passed. In doing so I want to highlight some of the achievements and plans we have for our state, including those specifically for the electorate of Torrens.

As a parent and former teacher, for me the education of our children and young people is a high priority, and, I am so very pleased to say, it is a priority of our government. We understand the transformative power of education and believe that all students should have a quality education regardless of their age, postcode or the challenges of learning they are dealt.

We are committed to doing all we can to ensure children and young people get the best education foundation possible. We have strong beliefs about access to quality early childhood education through to primary and secondary years, vocational training and university. We value our teachers—our educators—and acknowledge their incredibly important role in assisting in delivering our next generation of South Australians.

These are the South Australians that will form the workforce of the future, fulfilling the roles of teachers; nurses, doctors and other health practitioners; police officers, emergency services workers, lawyers, fireys and paramedics; tradies, including plumbers, electricians and brickies; hairdressers and dog groomers; and builders, council workers, motor mechanics, veterinarians, administrative staff, retail assistants, technicians, musicians, writers, performers, journalists, researchers, scientists, sportsmen and women and so many more, and of course those that will become leaders in these and other fields.

It has always been my view that education really is a window to the world and that through education come knowledge and opportunity. It is only right that all people should have the opportunity to access good quality education at all levels—as children, as youth and as adults—to enable them to develop and to fully realise their potential throughout their lifetime. This is delivered through quality school leadership, teachers and support staff, along with the necessary infrastructure to support their learning.

Three public schools in Torrens were among the 139 South Australian schools to benefit through the former Labor government's \$250 million investment in the STEM Works program, a program that delivered new or upgraded facilities for science, technology, engineering and maths in our 77 public primary schools, 44 high schools and R-12 schools across the state.

Leading into the 2022 state election, our government made a \$4 million commitment for new infrastructure to the Avenues College school community, and we did it for all the right reasons. Avenues College comprises the amalgamation of two schools—Windsor Gardens Secondary

College (formerly known as Gilles Plains High School) and Windsor Gardens Vocational College—with the Gilles Plains Primary School on the McKay Avenue site.

This school provides quality education to students who live in the surrounding suburbs. It is a birth to year 12 school, early years, preschool, primary and secondary school, in addition to being a centre for deaf education. Also, First Nations students boarding at Wiltja, in nearby Lightsview, participate in the education program offered at Avenues College.

Another election commitment of our government is \$2.5 million to Hillcrest Primary School for the building of a much-needed school hall. Hillcrest Primary School proudly claims a diverse growing school community, with students arriving from across the world. The school currently has limited access to North East Community House building next door for assemblies, school graduations and, occasionally when it is available, for indoor sports and drama lessons. The building of a new school hall is a win-win situation for Hillcrest Primary School and for North East Community House, as it will free up available time for North East Community House to include additional community programs.

Another very worthy election commitment is the \$500,000 upgrade to Wandana Primary School in Gilles Plains. On Monday evening, I attended two governing council meetings: one was at Hillcrest Primary School and the other was at Klemzig Primary School. It was great to hear firsthand from parents and teachers about some of the programs our government has put in place and how welcome they are.

South Australia is leading the way to make our schools more inclusive and accessible through autism inclusion teachers. The government has invested \$28.8 million to provide access to an autism inclusion teacher in every public primary school, including R-12 schools, and this was all part of an election commitment. The role of autism inclusion teachers aims to build their own knowledge and expertise to influence the practice of other staff at the school. This includes advice on setting up calm spaces, emotional regulation techniques and other learning expertise to support neurodiverse students' best school learning environment.

There has been considerable consultation with the autistic community—people with lived experience, parents and carers, educators, school students, families, experts and community organisations—on the autism inclusion teacher role to ensure it fits the need of the community. I held an autism forum in my electorate, which was very well attended and of benefit to the children of the people who attended who live locally.

This term, over 400 autism inclusion teachers began their new roles in our schools to help build South Australians' understanding and knowledge to support autistic children and young people. Each autism inclusion teacher works one or two days every fortnight in their new role, providing practical opportunities to apply their learning across the site. They will develop their skills through a targeted, professional learning package, which includes face-to-face training, workshops and online modules.

We know that there is a huge benefit for students, families, the community and South Australia more broadly by improving the support we put around autistic students. I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the great work that has been done by the Assistant Minister for Autism, the Hon. Emily Bourke in the other place.

Persons who volunteer in our community give something of themselves that is precious. They give their time and they give hours of it, and some give hundreds of hours of their time over months and years of their lives. They give their hours freely, often making personal sacrifices to do so. It is important to acknowledge the generosity of our volunteers and their value to our community during National Volunteer Week.

In 2022-23, the Department of Human Services provided \$667,700 to support the volunteering sector. This included funding to support the implementation of the volunteering strategy for SA, the SA volunteer awards and projects to link young people to volunteering opportunities in northern and southern Adelaide. Now more than 900,000 South Australians volunteer each year.

Today, I want to acknowledge and thank those in my electorate of Torrens who so generously give of their time in a voluntary capacity: the volunteers in our schools, those who volunteer in

classrooms, libraries, on working bees and in supporting sports team and the many other jobs that they carry out.

Also, of course, there are the parents who serve on our state governing councils at Hillcrest Primary School, Klemzig Primary School, Hampstead Primary School, Vale Park Primary School, Wandana Primary School and Avenues College, as well as our Catholic and independent schools: Kildare College, St Paul's College, St Pius X School, St Martins Catholic Primary School, Pinnacle College and Heritage College Adelaide, and those who volunteer on the committees at Gilles Plains children's centre, Klemzig Kindergarten, Hampstead Preschool and Holden Hill Kindergarten as well.

I want to acknowledge and thank the many dedicated parents, grandparents and other members of the community who coach, umpire, manage, administrate and serve on the committees of our local sports teams, beginning with Gaza Sports and Community Club, where football and cricket are actively played.

Gaza is the recipient of a \$750,000 election commitment for much-needed new change rooms for female and male players. This will form part of the new clubrooms to be delivered in conjunction with the Port Adelaide Enfield Council. On Monday, I attended a planning meeting there, where there were many excited members welcoming the news of new clubrooms and the change rooms that are going to benefit so many.

Also the recipient of a \$750,000 election commitment towards new change facilities is North Eastern MetroStars Soccer Club. On game day, when the Metro United women play, the club has to bring in transportable buildings for them to change in. The contribution to the new change rooms and the development of the clubrooms will contribute significantly to the community. The former Labor government also delivered a synthetic soccer pitch to the club, which has meant so much to the players and the local community.

We have amazing and dedicated volunteers across all areas of the Torrens electorate, including the North Adelaide Rockets Basketball Club, Adelaide City Football Club, Greenacres Tennis Club, North Eastern Knights Cricket Club and the Northgate Community and Sports Club—which is in the electorate of Enfield but many of its members live in the electorate of Torrens—the Windsor Calisthenics Club, the Eastern Districts Netball Association and all volunteers who spend their time in canteens, washing uniforms, chauffeuring team members to matches, cooking barbecues and fundraising.

Another volunteer organisation is Vale Park Our Patch, who work with native revegetation and environmental education projects along the banks of the River Torrens. Since 2000, Vale Park Our Patch have planted more than 30,000 locally native plants of at least 200 different species. They also develop educational biodiversity resources for Vale Park Primary School.

The volunteers at North East Community House, which assists in delivering great programs to our community—including many who are amongst the most vulnerable—are truly dedicated, and a shout-out for their ongoing support in serving morning and afternoon tea at my annual seniors' forums. They do a fantastic job.

The Gilles Plains Lions Club, of which I am a member, work hard to raise funds dedicated to helping our community. They have committed to sponsoring a student's participation in Operation Flinders, and this year that is going towards a camp for the Centre of Deaf Education. They sponsor two children through World Vision in Tanzania and Sri Lanka, and they are life members of the Australian Cranio-Maxillo Facial Foundation, having sponsored a child from Malaysia for a full facial reconstruction. Later this year, with the assistance of my office, they will host the Lions skin cancer screening bus in the car park outside my electorate office.

The Gilles Plains and Hampstead RSL volunteers have a long history of serving our defence community and providing meals and recreational activities for returned service members and their families, as well as for other members of our community. In government, this club, through our Fund My Neighbourhood program, were delivered a wonderful shelter for use during inclement weather. We have had a number of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services under this shelter, which provided terrific protection from the sun and rain.

The Regency Community Men's Shed, which is just outside my electorate—again, now in the member for Enfield's electorate—originated from discussion with the Northgate Oakden Residents Association. The shed itself is, again, the result of the former Labor government's Fund My Neighbourhood program. Both men and women work on individual community-based programs here that benefit our shared community, including the building of our little free libraries and wooden jigsaw puzzles that are sold at fetes and fairs, with donations from the sales going to not-for-profit organisations.

Then there is the Holden Hill Community Centre, where the Holden Hill Men's Shed operates. It is solely run by volunteers who give their time to make everyone feel welcome and safe, and it includes women's participation as well.

The Enfield Horticultural Society, of which I am a proud patron, is run by volunteers. It brings together members of our community who have a love of gardening. They really are amazing green thumbs, and their autumn and spring shows are not to be missed—nor are the tea, coffee and cakes that they serve on these show days.

We have the Wandana Community Centre in Gilles Plains, where respecting people from a diversity of backgrounds, cultures and genders is a focus while delivering their valuable program. At the Technology for Ageing and Disability incredibly skilled and dedicated volunteers use their skills to create, modify and repair devices where there are no other solutions (including commercial) readily available to improve the quality of life for people with disability.

Our volunteer-run Neighbourhood Watch programs at Klemzig, Windsor Gardens and Walkerville bring residents and police together to resolve local issues and help create connected communities, reducing crime and building safer streets.

Our local first Hillcrest Scout Group and Girl Guides is run by volunteers, who are helping young people develop lifelong skills to grow in confidence and gain valuable leadership and team skills. There is the Northfield Meals on Wheels team, some of whom have been preparing and delivering meals in our community for decades, and I volunteer there. The Molinara Social and Sports Club is a place for families to meet, where the traditions and customs of Molinara are passed on to their children.

The Royal Society for the Blind volunteers—in particular, the Royal Society for the Blind guide dog volunteers—may be puppy educators, bed-and-breakfast or emergency boarding hosts. They absolutely do an amazing job in raising these dogs to assist those with vision impairment, as well as our veterans with post-traumatic stress. I make mention of my passion also with the RSB for adequate swimming and water safety facilities in our electorate. The state government's delivery of \$150,000 is an election commitment towards the renovation and upgrade of the RSB pool, which is now being operated by Royal Lifesaving South Australia with a number of programs there and is pretty well full, I would say.

Finally, as time will not permit, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the other organisations in Torrens that rely on the dedication of volunteers to deliver our community services along with the work of our multicultural communities, in particular members of our Indian and Nepalese communities who work to continue to be a significant voice for the more vulnerable in our shared community. Volunteers contribute an estimated 1.73 million volunteer hours per week in South Australia, and the dollars saved by volunteers committed to our communities are significant.

I turn now to the very important area of health. On being elected to government just 12 months ago, every existing bed in the system was opened. Particularly relevant to the residents of the north and north-east is our commitment to the construction of the 48-bed expansion at Lyell McEwin Hospital, which is in fact a doubling of the government's original election commitment of 24 beds. Work on the expansion is expected to be completed in 2024. For patients, it will deliver 48 single rooms with ensuites, rooms with specialty care features, improving patient comfort and wellbeing for those who require a higher level of support.

Our government has committed to supporting mental health patients to receive the care they need by making a generational investment in mental health on delivering its election commitment for



24 mental health beds at Modbury Hospital, with a first look at the unit's design revealed on the site at the hospital's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which I attended with the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

The 24-bed unit will support adults who need longer stays in hospital for therapeutic and rehabilitative care in a model that provides therapy in specially designed living spaces to support daily activities, and there is so much more. While implementing these measures and making long-lasting change will take time, the Malinauskas government is working towards establishing a better health system that both current and future generations can benefit from.

In closing, I make mention of our government's commitment to the arts, beginning with the increase of funding to the Adelaide Fringe by \$8 million over four years. The 2023 Adelaide Fringe was a huge success under the directorship of the dedicated Heather Croall. With over 1,280 items across 500 venues, it exceeded the previous record, selling over a million tickets. This resulted in more visitors to South Australia, more business for our restaurants, hotels, cafes and bars, tourism operators and retailers. Our commitment to the arts also includes the additional investment of \$2 million per year to boost arts grants.

The assistance for the recovery of South Australia's live music industry following COVID saw a \$10 million package with a focus on getting local musicians and performers back on stage. Those who attended the Royal Adelaide Show last year would have seen financial support for more than 496 artists as well as support for small music events, mid-tier venues and large music festivals. I commend the Supply Bill 2023 to the house.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:47):** As always, the opposition will support the Supply Bill. It is an important bill that enables the functions of government to work in the time between the Appropriation Bill being introduced but before the Appropriation Bill is passed after the beginning of the next financial year. Effectively, the Supply Bill enables all areas of government, from education and health to transport and the bureaucracy and everything in between, to continue and, indeed, there is therefore no controversy about supporting it.

The Supply Bill by its very nature has a very broad application, and so I take the opportunity to reflect broadly on some themes in my portfolio and local areas. I would like to comment on what the Premier said during question time today. I asked him how much the government's new advertising campaign relating to the technical college at Findon High School was costing and whether or not it was money taken from the education budget or whether it was new money to the state budget. These are important questions.

The Premier did not have an answer to the first question. He did not know how much the Labor Party in government was spending on this new TV ads for Labor's election education policy. In relation to the second question, 'Where was the money coming from?', he said that it is coming from the state budget. It was a non-answer if ever there was one. However, it is clear to me that if the money did not come from the Premier's own budget, then it is most likely to have come from within the education department's budget.

That is money that could have been going to support preschools or early childhood services or schools across South Australia in any range of circumstances. Instead, it has been highlighted by the Labor Party as a spend that needed to happen on TV ads to encourage enrolment at Findon High School.

We have said before that there is no real problem with enhancing the built form at Findon High School with their new technical college; it is a school that will benefit from it. We have some serious questions about the model that Labor is operating for the technical colleges, whether these schools or indeed the department are getting bang for buck. But even that, I will grant, was part of Labor's election commitment and they must deliver it, they should deliver it and I certainly hope they will deliver it. People at Findon High School are expecting no less.

The Premier, in his answer, said it was a unique opportunity for students to be guaranteed a job when they leave school. That was just wrong. We had a thousand school-based apprentices engaged during the time of the previous government, each one of whom was already in a job by the time they left school, and many of them further along in their apprenticeship than will be offered to

students studying at Findon High School who have been promised the possibility of entering an apprenticeship after leaving school.

But put that aside for one minute. I really want to make the point that when the Labor Party and its members talk about whether it is the advertising campaign for enrolments at Findon High School, whether it is the other Labor government election policies, such as the administration of the new technical colleges, whether it is the autism inclusion teachers, whether it is the expansion of what we had put in place of 55 new staff in mental health and wellbeing to 100—which will eventually be Labor's policy—that is not new money that has been introduced to the education budget.

That is money that has been activated by the signature I put on a piece of paper with the commonwealth in 2019 activating the National School Resourcing Agreement, better known as the Gonski agreement. It was, in fact, the Liberal government that, in 2019, activated that funding, and everything the Labor Party has done in education has been paid for by that agreement.

That required substantial new funding to be introduced to the South Australian public schools budget by the former Liberal government—\$700 million of extra funding that we put into the Department for Education's budget over the coming 10 years that had not been left to us by the previous Weatherill government. It is really worth noting that, because without that extra funding that was enabled by the former Liberal government signing up to the national school funding reforms, this Labor government would not be able to deliver on any of those promises.

When we were in government and they were in opposition they were very critical of the nature of the agreement that we signed with the federal government. They said, and indeed the Australian Education Union also said, that there was too much money being allocated out of that agreement to support things like the SACE Board and the Education Standards Board, as well as certain items identified in the agreement that were up to 4 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard that was allowed to be spent on other things that were necessary to deliver education in South Australia.

I make the point that when you are investing \$1.5 billion in new capital in the system, as we did over the four years, while the capital itself was not counted at all in the Gonski agreement and was additional spend over and above what was required by that agreement, it is a cost to the system that should be recognised, that you are managing those assets, and up to 4 per cent was put in that category.

To this point the Malinauskas Labor government appears to have made no steps to recast that agreement, despite all the rhetoric before the election. Until then, and until they get extra money from the federal government—if they ever do—and until they invest one extra cent in public schools over and above the resources that were left as a result of the agreement we signed in 2019, I will be less impressed with their generosity than those Labor members who have talked about these programs over the last couple of days as if they were new investments.

They are not new investments. They are Labor choosing to do certain things with education money that would otherwise have gone to other programs within education, particularly schools. I make no complaint about them delivering on their election promises; they have a responsibility to do that. I do have a complaint if they are using money that should be going to support schools to instead produce television advertisements spruiking the Labor Party's election ads.

I think that is a concern. I think Labor members should be concerned. I suspect many of them do not know about this. It is time, hopefully very soon, for the Premier or the education minister to admit how much money the Labor Party has spent on these new ads and confirm whether or not it has been taken away from the schools budget or it has been new money granted by the Premier's largesse from his department.

On the topic of investments in education, one of the projects that has been supported by governments, Labor and Liberal, for very many years is investment from the education department in supporting community language schools in South Australia. These used to be known as ethnic schools, or ethnic and community language schools, and are now understood better by the title 'community language schools'. Indeed, we celebrate National Community Languages Schools Day on 21 May.

We have nearly 100 community language schools throughout South Australia. They are teaching culture, particularly language, history, heritage and stories in at least 47 languages to thousands of children and young people from around South Australia. Many of these children and young people are learning language, culture, heritage and stories from their own family traditions.

Whether it be the Bo De Vietnamese School, the Dac-Lo Vietnamese Ethnic School or the Vietnamese Community SA Chapter Ethnic School, I have appreciated the fact that they have accepted students from non-Vietnamese backgrounds. Indeed, I have met students from non-Greek backgrounds attending one of our many Greek schools. I think former education minister Jane Lomax-Smith tells the story that, because her children had Greek neighbours and their kids went to the Greek school, her kids went to one of the Greek schools as well. These schools are not just serving their own communities—they do look outwards—but that service to their own communities is tremendously important.

I pay tribute to all of those educators, volunteers, teachers, principals and administrators of those community language schools. Some of them are paid staff; the vast majority are in fact volunteers. I also pay tribute to their parents because, whether it is on a Saturday morning or a Sunday morning perhaps after church, or a weeknight, that extra work that they do to take their children to the community language school benefits not just their children but also our entire state.

The children understanding better their heritage and the stories of their parents and their grandparents, having a sense of place in the world, having confidence in their culture and their background is an asset for them. That helps provide harmony and wellbeing in our community. The language they learn I am particularly grateful for and appreciative of, because a student who has an aptitude for more than one language, whether they speak English and another language or, in some cases, a number of languages, has a benefit for the rest of their life. It benefits the student for the rest of their education in particular. Learning a language helps unlock pathways in the brain that assist students learning other subjects too.

But it is more than that. It is more than what it offers that student. It unlocks economic potential in that student to be more productive once they are in the workforce if they speak other languages, which benefits all of us. Culturally, it benefits our state as well. For students who are able to share their culture with each other in the classroom or in the playground at their mainstream school as well, having a stronger understanding of their heritage and customs is one of the things that helps make South Australia the multicultural success story that I believe it is.

I particularly want to take an opportunity to pay credit to all those schools, principals, staff and parents from around South Australia who undertake that work in so many different schools. I take a moment to reflect on some of the work that is undertaken by our mainstream schools, many of which do hosting for our community language schools. I was talking to the principal at Charles Campbell College, Kevin O'Neil, just this morning. Charles Campbell College, which is in the member for Hartley's electorate but certainly is one of the high schools that services my electorate, hosts the Adelaide Tamil Language School, the Adelaide Marathi Vidyalay School, the Parish of Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Greek School, and the Jivanshilp School of Languages.

I remember seeing the appreciation from some of these community language schools when Charles Campbell College agreed to be their host. Some of them had been in transition and moving. That host relationship is so important, so I commend Charles Campbell College and all the high schools around South Australia. I also commend primary schools, and there are also some excellent primary schools that host this. I remember attending the Japanese school celebrations at Rose Park Primary School a couple of years ago. I pay tribute to all those schools because it is an important thing that they do.

It is not always convenient to have a different school coming in and using classrooms, and that relationship requires some management and investment of time. I hope those schools that are either already supporting community language schools or considering supporting community language schools in the future do so. That investment of time is worthwhile. It is an investment in our community, and obviously the relationship the school can get from the community language schools is beneficial.

Some of those community language schools have taken the opportunity in recent years. One of the things that the Marshall Liberal government did upon election was invest in a program to provide extra support for community language schools to be able to teach students at a SACE level. We have far too few. We have a slowly growing number of students—but we would love the number to grow faster—undertaking language studies at a SACE level, at year 12 level.

It is a difficult thing to turn around quickly because, if students are not studying at year 11, they do not do it at year 12; if not at year 10, then they are not doing it at year 11. When we came to power, there were actually not that many students studying it at year 9 to year 10 level, which has made it difficult to turn the boat around on those numbers, but community language schools are one of the avenues where we have been able to encourage more students to undertake SACE studies. We now have 24 of our community language schools accredited to teach SACE level languages.

I commend the Adelaide Japanese Community School, Alliance Française d'Adelaide and Dac-Lo Vietnamese School, which I mentioned before. I also commend the Greek Orthodox Community and Parish of Norwood and Eastern Suburbs Schools, Greek Orthodox Community Schools, Port Adelaide Greek School, Hungarian Community School in Adelaide, Latvian School of Adelaide, School for the German Language and, School of St Nicholas Parish of Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

I also commend Arabic Language School, Al Salam Academy of Adelaide, Sinhala Buddhist School, Australian Druze Arabic School, Somali Ethnic School of SA, Association of Ukrainians in SA Community School, A. Pushkin Russian School, The Bantu Ethnic School of SA, South Australia Tamil School, Brazilian Ethnic School of SA, Al-Salam Arabic School, Timbuktu Arabic School, Sudanese Community Ethnic School and Russian School of Adelaide.

For all those schools that are doing that extra work, that is a significant dedication of time and resources by those communities in getting their students up to fluency. Some of those schools service a number of schools. I was talking to a principal of one of the schools that is not on that list this morning, and they were talking about how they have a pathway working with their other school that does teach SACE level to help get students to go through there.

I also commend Binh Nguyen, the chair of the community language schools board, and Brett Shuttleworth, the executive officer. I also recognise the work that Darryl Buchanan did for many years as the former executive officer of Community Language Schools SA. Happy National Community Languages Schools Day to all those schools, the administrators, teachers and everyone else. I am really pleased to bring that important work to the attention of the house.

One of the things by which we as a community will be judged by our children in the years ahead is the cultural institutions that we have supported and provided opportunities for them to learn in as they grow up. This morning, I was with the Minister for Arts celebrating the launch of the DreamBIG festival. It is a wonderful children's festival. The next one will be recognising its 50<sup>th</sup> year. I recall as a child myself going along to the Come Out Festival and appreciating what it opened my eyes to, in the sense of the role of the arts in South Australia, performance and music education in particular. This is a tremendously important body of work, and it is an important portfolio within government. It is a portfolio that I fear has been completely underdone and maligned under this new Labor government.

I have heard members of the Labor Party speak in this chamber about the Malinauskas Labor government's support for the arts. Some talk about extra funding that has gone to the Fringe Festival. I have heard mention of the small grant, the modest grant, that was provided to the Film Festival to enable it to annualise. I have heard some members talk about live music grants. These were election commitments that were supposed to be delivered on, and they have been delivered on, so that is fine.

What I never heard Peter Malinauskas say ahead of the election was that those arts commitments would be funded by radically reducing funding to all the other arts community organisations and institutions across South Australia. Some of those cuts to arts institutions in South Australia are now seeing dramatic effects. I have raised in this parliament on a number of occasions the significant cuts to the South Australian Museum that have been instituted by this government.

Whenever this has been raised in the media, the Minister for Arts has said, 'Our cuts coming in aren't as big as the former government's cuts were when they came in.' I have had a look at the figures she has used. She talks about a 5 per cent figure. The only way that arts administrators have told me you can get to that figure is if you include the cuts that were put in place by the member for West Torrens when he was the Treasurer in the Mid-Year Budget Review in 2017 that we inherited on coming to government in 2018. They, imposed by the Labor Party, were dramatic and significant.

There were modest efficiencies applied by the former government but also tremendous new resources applied by the former government. The arts plan was delivered as promised, the first arts plan for South Australia since the early 1990s. There were investments in infrastructure, including the storage facility of \$80 million, the scope for which I understand this new government is reducing, and the investment of \$200 million in Tarrkarri, the Aboriginal arts and culture centre, which this government has put on pause.

From the way the Premier is talking like a real estate agent whenever he gets his eyes on that land in the Parklands, I do not hold great hopes that Labor is not planning on returning to its former policy of building apartments on those Parklands. At any rate, I come back to the cuts to the Museum. The dramatic effect of them has now been exposed by FOI'd board minutes, which have shown that the Museum board were talking about a deficit of \$1.1 million. They have managed to reduce that deficit by applying some internal efficiencies, things like reducing the investment in research that the Museum is undertaking.

I heard the Deputy Premier talking about the extraordinary research that led to the national park around Ediacara yesterday. The Ediacara fossils work was in collaboration with research scientists at the South Australian Museum, a body of work that would not happen in the future as a result of these cuts that this government has imposed on the Museum itself. They are turning off the ultrafreezers, which had some collections that had been among the most heavily used, I am informed, over the last 50 years. The cuts at the Museum are seeing reductions, as I understand it, in security staff.

The way in which the Museum is going to operate in the years ahead will be significantly challenged by this. As I understand it, there is still a deficit of more than half a million dollars, and the Museum is expected to reach into their reserves to be able to pay that. There is no analysis or strategy being applied to these cuts, cuts that are also affecting the Adelaide Festival Centre in its 50<sup>th</sup> year. As I understand it, there is over \$1 million in cuts to the Festival Centre. We were there this morning celebrating the DreamBIG festival, and that is great. They have a good operation there, and they are able still to do a lot, but in its 50<sup>th</sup> year you would think that this government would be interested in supporting the Festival Centre with more than the cuts they have applied.

Most of the arts bodies, significant arts bodies, are facing challenging times. Prices are going up and there is no help from this government. Cuts have been applied and there is no strategy, just a blunt instrument. So, yes, it is good they are meeting their election commitments; I just wish they had more than an ounce of interest in the rest of the arts firmament in South Australia.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (17:08):** I rise to speak on the Supply Bill 2023 and of course commend the bill to the house. Passing the Supply Bill means that we can keep delivering for South Australia as the budget is prepared and the Appropriation Bill is debated. Government investment is important for our community and our economy at any time, but it is never more critical than when we face tough times. When South Australians put their trust in the Malinauskas Labor government last March, we were facing the leftovers from nine years of a chaotic Liberal-National federal government and four years of a do-nothing state Liberal government.

When times are good, bad governments can sometimes get away with not doing the work the community expects and needs, but as national and global events brought challenges in so many areas, the people of South Australia and Australia demanded competent and compassionate government and voted for change. They got leadership with a long-term vision for growth and prosperity combined with helping those who need it most when they need it, which is right now.

The cost-of-living challenge is as it is—a challenge for too many South Australians. Groups in our community struggling to make ends meet have expanded as interest rates and the cost of goods and services grow. That is why I was so proud to be part of delivering the single biggest

concession payment in South Australia's history. We doubled the Cost of Living Concession and provided \$78 million to more than 211,000 households. I acknowledge the amazing work of the Department of Human Services, their concessions team and workers from around government who came together to manage record numbers of inquiries and applications.

I also would like to thank Lyndall, a pensioner and renter from the western suburbs who asked a very simple question last year. She asked why renters had to wait for seven or eight months after home owners to get their concession payment. It was a very good question, and we discovered that the answer was that it had always been done this way. So we fixed it, brought it forward and the payment for around 50,000 renters also at the same time as home owners.

We made public transport free 24/7 for Seniors Card holders. This helps tens of thousands of older South Australians to work, socialise, shop and get to important appointments without paying a cent. Boosting public transport usage is also very important for our environment.

We are working with federal Labor to deliver energy bill relief to households and to small businesses. In the coming year, we will once again deliver the biggest concession payment in state history, almost triple the record we broke last year. Over the coming year, around 400,000-plus households may receive \$500 off their energy bills. Many thousands of small businesses also will get \$650. This is worth more than a quarter of a billion dollars from the state government.

Recognising the challenges faced by a growing group of households, the payments are expected to go to a broader group than our regular energy concessions. These are normally focused on those who receive social security payments, like pensioners, but this new support will also help working households who only receive the family tax benefit or a carer allowance from the commonwealth.

One-off support is important, especially when costs are rising quickly, but we also need to make sure that we have a fair, equitable and sustainable system for the future. Delivering on another election commitment, we have started a review of our concessions system. This work is drawing on expertise from inside and outside government, with social service organisations, peak bodies, multicultural groups and veterans representatives amongst those working with us. I look forward to catching the house up on this important and critical work.

One of the biggest contributors to cost-of-living pressures and stress on people doing it tough is housing. At the 2022 election, Labor recognised the challenges faced by too many people in the housing market and committed an extra \$177.5 million into the public housing system. This funding was designed to deliver 400 extra new homes, later increased to 437, plus to upgrade 350 vacant properties so they can be homes again for people in need. We also committed to doing additional maintenance on an extra 3,000 homes.

We provided an additional \$6 million to inner city homelessness services—Hutt St, Catherine House and Vinnies—that had lost funding under the Liberals. Following the election, we recognised that more action was needed and announced another \$55.2 million for 127 new public housing properties at the Mid-Year Budget Review. Not only did this additional MYBR funding allow for more construction but it also included funds to purchase extra land to minimise potential delays waiting for blocks of existing public housing land to become available.

In our first year of government, we have committed an extra \$232.7 million to public housing—almost a quarter of a billion dollars that will see the first proper increase in public housing in a generation. The last time public housing went up under a Liberal government in South Australia, it was 1982. This was before half the people in South Australia were even born. By the time the Liberals get back into government, it could be half a century or more since the Liberals added one extra home to public housing.

Importantly, we have stopped the planned sale of 580 public housing properties. Combined with our additional construction, this will deliver 1,144 more public housing properties in 2026 compared to the plans that were left behind by the Liberals. This followed public housing dropping by 1,095 homes under the former government, and a drop of around 13,000 public housing properties when they were last in government before that.

I was reminded of the Liberals' record on housing recently, when former Minister Lensink jumped on ABC radio to talk again about public housing and said, and I quote: 'The most generous Treasurer since Tom Playford was Rob Lucas.' Well, when Rob Lucas was Treasurer almost 3,000 public housing rental properties vanished in a single year. If that is a generous Liberal Treasurer, then I would hate to see one in a bad mood.

I am not sure how Thomas Playford, pictured here in our chamber, who was the architect of the Housing Trust expansion and nationalising electricity in South Australia, would feel about being compared with Rob Lucas, who did the exact opposite by gutting the Housing Trust and privatising ETSA.

In February, we announced a comprehensive package of housing reforms, which included the single largest release of residential land in the state's history to support 23,700 homes in Dry Creek, Concordia, Hackham and Sellicks Beach. We are establishing the Office for Regional Housing in Renewal SA. We have doubled the length of time that affordable homes are listed exclusively for low and moderate-income buyers on HomeSeeker SA from 30 to 60 days.

We have expanded the Private Rental Assistance Program by lifting the maximum weekly rent for a home from \$450 to \$600, and we are increasing the asset limit from \$5,000 to \$62,150. I should add here that this change was recommended by the Liberals' own Housing Trust Board in November 2021, but they did nothing—absolutely nothing—even after house prices had jumped by 25 per cent in 2021 alone.

The change we have made has already seen hundreds of people get help with bond and rent in advance so they can secure a roof over their head. We have changed the threshold for private rental bonds for the first time since 1994. For 29 years, once weekly rent was \$250 or more, then bonds could be six weeks' rent instead of four. The threshold has now increased to \$800, and renters have saved more than a million dollars in just the first month of a new system.

We are expanding low-deposit loans through HomeStart Finance and partnering with the new federal government, hopefully, on the proposed \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund and National Housing Accord. Together, these aim to support 50,000 social and affordable homes around Australia over five years from mid-2024, and South Australia hopes to secure more than 3,000 of these. I note here that the Liberals and Greens are currently blocking debate on this critical legislation in the Senate in the federal parliament to establish the \$10 billion future fund, and I really call on them to stop the madness. We have to get started on this work.

At the state level, we are also reviewing the Residential Tenancies Act 1995, with more than 5,000 responses and submissions received. An early reform bill is already here before the house and, without debating it, to avoid breaking standing orders, I note the Liberals have indicated their support. While we welcome their support, it begs the question of why they did not progress and similarly reform during their term of government. Nothing happened. In recent days, we also announced the state government was the successful bidder for a CBD site adjacent to the Franklin Street bus station. That provides amazing opportunities for affordable inner city housing.

Spending and investment are critical parts of our government, but the values and advice that guide it are of equal value. The Malinauskas Labor government has brought a focus on inclusion and compassion, in addition to a long-term vision to build a sustainable and prosperous economy. I was so proud this year to establish our three ministerial advisory councils on youth, disability and LGBTIQ+ in the community. These will help to make sure that diverse voices inform our work.

It is important that we recognise and celebrate the achievements of a wide range of people in our community, no more so than today on IDAHOBIT, and DHS has supported the Young Achiever Awards for over 10 years by sponsoring the Aboriginal Achievement Award. Since 2022, DHS has also sponsored the Pride Award. I attended only a few weeks ago and presented awards at this event.

To boost inclusive education, my colleague the Minister for Education, the member for Wright, is overseeing a \$50 million program for wellbeing workers in schools and a \$28 million program for autism lead teachers in public schools. The Premier appointed the nation's first Assistant

Minister for Autism, and the Office for Autism has now been established with directors in place as well in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

We are working with the autism and autistic communities to develop the state's first autism strategy and autism charter. This work is about recognising the intrinsic value in diverse people and it is a true privilege to be part of a government that does much more than just say nice things; we are actually getting on and doing good things.

In the broader disability policy area, we have halved the number of NDIS participants who are in hospital and ready for discharge. I have worked very hard on this with my friend the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the member for Kaurana. This has included halving the number who had been ready to leave hospital for more than 100 days under a sluggish, non-responsive system. We are working with the commonwealth on reviews for the NDIS and I look forward to updating the house on some really important changes that will arise from this work.

As a final note on disability and inclusion, I applaud my department, the Department for Human Services, for their role in the See Me For Me campaign. It has garnered some incredible awards and international attention. Campaigns such as this bring a fundamental message to the community that people are defined by more than their gender, colour, shape, disability or medical condition.

A key focus in Human Services is building communities, not just buildings. Community centres, men's, women's, community sheds and youth centres are central to this work. One-off funding of \$1.5 million has been made available for women's and men's sheds to promote mental health and wellbeing in the community. A competitive grant round for women's and men's sheds across South Australia was launched on 7 October 2022.

Funding of up to \$25,000 per project was available for initiatives such as creating community gardens, purchasing tools and equipment, and activities to help people build new networks. The round received 87 applications and the assessment panel recommended funding 42 applicants to the value of \$616,852 with over 60 per cent of approvals being in regional and remote South Australia.

Since the election, I was thrilled to announce an extra \$2.4 million per year in state government funding for community centres. This will deliver a record investment of \$49.5 million over the next nine years. It will support over 50 community centres to extend existing programs and create new ones addressing emerging needs. Most importantly, it will reinforce the role of community centres in fighting social isolation and loneliness. This exploded throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and we are ready to support our community. The new funding represents a 60 per cent lift to community centres, averaging around \$30,000 per centre additionally.

Governments have an obligation to plan for the long term. Youth justice is a critical part of investing in the future of our state. It is challenging. When young people have made mistakes or come into contact with the justice system, we need to ensure they get better support, guidance and resources to help a better future. Our ongoing \$21.78 million capital upgrade to the Kurlana Tapa Youth Training Centre will deliver a facility that is fit for the future, including a 12-bed accommodation unit to support children with complex needs, expanding the education and visitor centre spaces and an eight-bed police custody unit.

When times are tough, people can, sadly, turn to gambling. DHS has been at the forefront of efforts to minimise harm. The past year has seen the expansion of Here for the Game. This campaign is an awareness and education program to address the growing presence of sports betting in our community and its potential harm. We are calling out the risks of sports betting, educating communities and saying no to sports betting sponsorships.

With this campaign, an innovative, lively, understandable and reachable campaign, we now have partnerships with Adelaide United, the Adelaide Giants and the Adelaide Crows. I am pleased to report I did not get a rash from wearing the Crows scarf, but it was very quickly replaced by a Port Power scarf. I would love to thank Anne Hatchard and Riley Thilthorpe for the fun and frivolity that we had at the photo shoot. It was a fantastic day.



An important part of government spending is to support the hundreds and thousands of volunteers—about 900,000 here in South Australia—who give their time, energy and passion for free every year. It is National Volunteer Week. I encourage all members to get out and say thank you to as many of their volunteer groups as they possibly can. While volunteers do not get paid, their contribution is priceless.

The South Australian Volunteer Awards were held on 15 May, so a few days ago, and it has been an opportunity to recognise the role that so many people play every day. I attended that with the Hon. Emily Bourke. Katrine Hildyard also attended and, from memory, the member for Heysen was also present. DHS and Volunteering SA&NT collaborate on the Excellence in Volunteer Management Award, and we work with the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia for the Young Volunteer Award. Congratulations to all winners, all nominees and all participants in volunteering. You make life a lot easier for so many South Australians.

Community grant programs never fail to amaze me how small amounts of money can make such a huge difference. Last year, a grant of less than \$9,000 saved the Port Pirie Community Garden from closure, and each year hundreds of communities and organisations benefit from this kind of support. In any given year, the Department of Human Services delivers between \$2 million and \$3 million in grants for a range of purposes.

Grants SA recently opened the Governance and Sustainability round, which focused on supporting community organisations to build capacity. Grants SA also recently opened applications for payment of up to \$10,000. The funding can be used to improve a service or facility by procuring new equipment, supplies or infrastructure to enhance activities, programs and facilities. These grants provide opportunities to reduce social isolation and support community wellbeing. Applications close soon, on 25 May. I encourage organisations to apply.

My agencies play a key role in delivering emergency relief after natural disasters, and the recent Murray floods were no different. A total of 4,010 people attended or received a phone call from the Berri, Mannum or Murray Bridge emergency relief centre from November 2022 to February 2023. To late April 2023, emergency relief support included:

- 425 one-off \$300 travel relief grants, totalling more than \$127,000;
- 573 personal hardship grants worth more than \$383,000;
- 76 private rental grants valued at more than \$23,000;
- 175 accommodation grants totalling more than \$278,000;
- 112 essential services reconnections for \$119,000; and
- 123 people were put up in emergency accommodation.

The work is still going. Since then, recovery centres have opened in Murray Bridge, Mannum and Berri and 1,701 people have attended or received a phone call.

We have also announced more support for flood-impacted South Australians who lost household goods or experienced property damage, to make it safer to return home sooner. In conjunction with the Albanese government, we have jointly allocated \$1.72 million to deliver these re-establishment grants.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. A. Piccolo.

#### **TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS (TOBACCO PRODUCT PROHIBITIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Standing Orders Suspension*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:28):** I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name in an amended form, to change the date from 3 May to 17 May, and other words to remain the same.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (Tobacco Product Prohibitions) Amendment Bill set down on the *Notice Paper* as Private Members Business, Bills, Order of the Day No. 9, for Wednesday 17 May be taken into consideration as an Order of the Day, Government Business, and that the second reading be called on forthwith.

Motion carried.

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:29):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I bring this legislation to the parliament following its passage in the other place. It was originally introduced by the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the last sitting week of 2022. I am happy to provide support of behalf of the government for this originally private members' legislation in the other place. I want to acknowledge Connie Bonaros for her work on this legislation and her willingness to work with the government to improve the legislative mechanisms for addressing illicit tobacco in South Australia.

Sir, as you would know, smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Australia. We know that public health measures have had an enormous impact on smoking prevalence in South Australia and nationally. While we have seen a reduction in the rate of smoking, down to 8.2 per cent last year, the lowest on record, there is still much more to do, in terms of both tobacco and vaping.

Health warnings target messaging to the individual directly from the time of purchase and each time they open the packet for the next cigarette. The production and sale of illicit tobacco in South Australia means that this health messaging may not appear on those packets. Additionally, illicit tobacco that has somehow evaded the excise taxation scheme is often cheaper than legal tobacco, which can lead to increased consumption, undermining the downward trend in smoking prevalence and increasing smoking-related harm.

Existing South Australian laws do not allow for South Australian authorised officers to enforce compliance with the commonwealth laws around the packaging and labelling of tobacco products and therefore requires them to refer cases of possible noncompliance to the relevant commonwealth government enforcement authority.

By amending the South Australian Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products Act 1997, this bill will prohibit the supply and sale of tobacco products in South Australia that do not meet the requirements of the commonwealth's Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011, including health warnings, and prohibit the supply and sale of tobacco products that are prohibited goods or have not had the required excise duty paid as per the Commonwealth Customs Act 1901 and the Excise Act 1901.

The bill will give authorised officers under the South Australian act, including our police, extra powers and incentive to enforce the law with increased penalties, with a view to addressing the illegal trade in South Australia. To ensure the bill provides our authorities with the enforcement measures they need, the government sought legal advice to determine whether any adjustments were required to strengthen the bill's application. As a result of that advice, several amendments are proposed. The amendments provide for:

- future adjustments to the commonwealth legislation without the need for further amendments to the act;
- further clarity and scope in relation to packaging requirements, including health warnings;
- greater enforceability for authorities to be able to act on these new offences; and
- regulation-making clauses to prescribe further packaging requirements, set a possession quantity of illicit tobacco, which is considered to be for the purpose of sale, and ban counterfeit or copied packages.

Sir, as you will know, the government is taking a very strong approach in relation to both tobacco and e-cigarettes or vaping. We have at the moment consultation underway in relation to further changes that should be made to our legislation. In addition to that, we are now working with the commonwealth government in relation to toughening our vaping legislation both at the commonwealth level and in South Australia.

We support these changes. We think they will have a benefit in terms of having that application in South Australia, but there is a lot more that needs to be done to address both tobacco and vaping that we are working on, and I will have further legislation that we will be bringing to this house to make further changes to this legislation. I thank Connie Bonaros and all of her team who have worked on this legislation and the team in SA Health and DASSA who have provided advice in relation to this. I endorse it to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.