

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 28 June 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

PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT (AUDITOR-GENERAL ACCESS TO CABINET SUBMISSIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 June 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:31): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	23
Noes.....	15
Majority	8

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.
Cowdrey, M.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Hurn, A.M.
McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.
Pisoni, D.G.	Speirs, D.J.	Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B. (teller)	Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Bettison, Z.L.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Pratt, P.K.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

ELECTORAL (CONTROL OF CORFLUTES) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

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

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes22
 Noes.....16
 Majority6

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Bell, T.S.
Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Hurn, A.M.	McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.
Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G. (teller)	Speirs, D.J.
Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.
Whetstone, T.J.		

PAIRS

Bettison, Z.L.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Pratt, P.K.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 March 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:41): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes21
 Noes.....16
 Majority5

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Bell, T.S.
Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Hurn, A.M.	McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.
Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G. (teller)	Speirs, D.J.
Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.
Whetstone, T.J.		

PAIRS

Bettison, Z.L.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Pratt, P.K.		

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	21
Noes.....	16
Majority	5

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Bell, T.S.
Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Hurn, A.M.	McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.
Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G. (teller)	Speirs, D.J.

Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

Teague, J.B.

Telfer, S.J.

PAIRS

Bettison, Z.L.
Pratt, P.K.

Marshall, S.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:

Ayes21
Noes.....15
Majority6

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Champion, N.D.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Mullighan, S.C.
Piccolo, A.
Stinson, J.M.

Bignell, L.W.K.
Clancy, N.P.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Picton, C.J.
Szakacs, J.K.

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
Cowdrey, M.J.
McBride, P.N.
Pisoni, D.G.
Teague, J.B. (teller)

Batty, J.A.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Speirs, D.J.
Telfer, S.J.

Brock, G.G.
Hurn, A.M.
Pederick, A.S.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Bettison, Z.L.
Pratt, P.K.

Marshall, S.S.

Boyer, B.I.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

HERITAGE PLACES (ADELAIDE PARK LANDS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:55): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes21
 Noes.....15
 Majority6

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.
Cowdrey, M.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Hurn, A.M.
McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.
Pisoni, D.G. (teller)	Speirs, D.J.	Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Bettison, Z.L.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Pratt, P.K.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

Motions

INTERNATIONAL PARAMEDICS DAY

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:00): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises International Paramedics Day is 8 July 2023;
- (b) acknowledges the crucial role paramedics play, putting the interest and wellbeing of others first;
- (c) thanks paramedics and ambulance staff for their tireless work in the most challenging of circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (d) condemns the former Liberal government for failing to appropriately fund and resource South Australian ambulance workers; and
- (e) reaffirms the Malinauskas Labor government's commitment to supporting and appropriately funding ambulance staff.

Mr Speaker, 8 July marks International Paramedics Day, a celebration of the important and at times life-saving work of paramedics and first responders across the globe. First launched in 2022, International Paramedics Day occurs annually on the eighth. I am advised that this day was chosen as it is the birthday of Baron Dominique-Jean Larrey, a Napoleonic military surgeon, who is described as the father of ambulance services.

Inspired by Napoleon's use of fast-moving artillery, Baron Larrey created a horse-drawn carriage that was able to quickly move injured soldiers from the battlefield to field hospitals where they could be triaged according to injury seriousness. Triage is also another of Baron Larrey's

innovations. Until that point, wounded soldiers had been left on the battlefield until the cessation of the battle, causing many to die.

In 2023, paramedicine has come a long way. Since 1 December 2018, paramedicine, and the use of the title 'paramedic', has been a registered profession that is regulated in a similar fashion to that seen with medical practitioners and nurses. In the 2021-22 financial year, there were 1,489 registered paramedics in South Australia working across multiple sectors, including through the Ambulance Service, but also paramedics employed by both private and public healthcare providers, the mining industry and First Nations bodies. Indeed, their expertise in out-of-hospital care is highly regarded, with Jobs and Skills Australia projecting that the number of jobs for paramedics will have increased by approximately 8 per cent between 2021 and 2026.

In 2021, the *Reader's Digest* annual survey of 3,000 people named paramedics as the third most trusted profession in Australia, only beaten by doctors and nurses. In 2022, they held ground in the Governance Institute of Australia poll as the third most trusted profession, just to be pipped at the post by our firefighters. We know that we can rely on the paramedics and ambulance officers. They are a special breed of human willing to work long hours to be on call to help us when we really need it.

This government takes access to ambulances seriously. Every South Australian deserves to receive an ambulance when requested within a clinically reasonable time. Indeed, under this government, response times of priority 1 and priority 2 incidents have improved and continue to improve. In January last year, when ambulance response times for priority 1 were at 47 per cent, things were dire. That is an ambulance only arriving within eight minutes of the call 47 per cent of the time. It is currently at 68 per cent; that is, 20 per cent more calls to 000 for priority 1 events are seeing an ambulance arrive within eight minutes, and I can vouch for this.

Our family have had to rely on SAAS quite a bit lately for my father, who has been struggling with illness. No matter when we called, the ambos arrived quickly. They were professional, kind and incredibly caring. In Goolwa, in Glenalta—it does not matter which crew—they are all angels. Arriving within minutes of the call, in one case within four minutes of the call, they arrived on the scene.

For the five times our family has had to call for SAAS in the last year, there have been no delays, no worrying where they are, and this goes to the improvements we have achieved in response times across the network. Whilst our family will not be calling on SAAS for my father anymore, I know that he would want me to thank them from the bottom of his heart for all the help they gave him over the past few months. They were there when we needed them.

Not only have I had to rely on paramedics for our own family, as a CFS volunteer we work closely with SAAS, whether it be assisting them with patient transfers, working at an incident with them or for us to receive their help should one of our own require it. Firstly, I again look back and thank Blackwood CFS for assisting on multiple occasions with my own family, helping SAAS to carry my father to the ambulance.

Our first responders work together to rescue those in need, so it is important that we understand each other at an incident. Just last week, on Monday, at our CFS training we were joined by an ambulance crew who come out to stations to help us better understand what they do, how we can help them and the patients so that when required we are not faced with an unfamiliar situation.

They talked to us about their rig, where they store their things in case we need to fetch something for them, and we also practised CPR and handing over patients. It was so valuable to learn and better understand, and it was timely. Following this, our brigade swung into action on Friday just gone when there was a serious accident. We were very glad to see our friends in green arrive to assist the drivers of the vehicles. They were brilliant, and I know that the drivers were very appreciative of the care they received.

Our paramedics and ambos go above and beyond when they are at work, but I can tell you they never really shut off from their commitment to community and their passion to help people. At almost every accident I have attended, you can almost count on an off-duty paramedic, nurse, doctor or firefighter being one of the first cars to come along. Almost every time when you arrive on scene, someone will be there assisting. It is a sense of duty, I guess. They do not have to reveal who they

are, they do not have to do it, but they do it, and quite often it is when they are on their way home from a long shift.

I was recently at a dinner where an attendee was having breathing difficulties, and they had possibly passed out. In keeping with what I have just said, on my own table there was an ambulance 000 operator and a trained nurse, along with an intensive care nurse ready to spring into action and assist. The ambulance arrived and the patient was taken off to Flinders and the dinner resumed. I thanked the two ladies for their help and asked if that had ever happened to them before. They advised that they are always willing to help and always ready to step into action. These are the kinds of people who take up this profession.

Recently, the government launched the GoodSAM app. This innovation sends an alert to registered responders if there is a cardiac arrest near them. The responder can accept the call for help and head to the scene to provide emergency care while an ambulance is on its way. The app launched in South Australia in December, with SA Ambulance Service staff and volunteers initially able to sign up as responders.

More than 540 SAAS staff have already registered as GoodSAM responders since its introduction. The two ladies from my dinner signed up immediately when we talked about it—just incredible people. More recently, SA's 84,000 registered health practitioners and tertiary healthcare students can also register to help. GoodSAM responders will only be alerted to cardiac arrest cases, and their role is to provide CPR while ambulances are on their way, along with defibrillation if an AED is available. GoodSAM will also later be extended to emergency services personnel and people with first-aid training.

We know that our ambulance officers and paramedics are under pressure—they have been for a long time—but, having spoken to some of them recently and also spoken to their union, it is clear that they know our government is throwing everything at the issue, and for that they feel some sense of relief, that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Prior to us coming to government, there was no light. They were calling out for help, but they were met with nothing from the then government. So desperate were they that they wanted our community to know about it. They took the chalk and they wrote on their rigs trying to tell their stories.

When I attended an incident back in January 2022 in Stirling, the ambulance was there and it was the only one in the Mount Barker area, as you would realise. The ambulance was there, it covered 35,000 people and it was in Stirling, not in Mount Barker. Through all their efforts to try to let the government know they needed help, those opposite were only interested in removing the chalk.

In March 2022, just before the election, the Marshall Liberal government succeeded temporarily in its attempts to gag ambos from writing public safety messages on ambulances. The Department of Treasury and Finance issued a dispute notification with the South Australian Employment Tribunal on 24 February seeking that ambos cease and desist from chalking public safety messages on ambulances, stop wearing union T-shirts and resume billing patients for ambulance call-outs.

Our ambos were calling out for help but were held to ransom by the then Treasurer. Sure, he offered to employ 50 extra ambulance officers, but not until they negotiated their enterprise agreement. The then government wanted to change the ambos' shifts and change where they could have their lunch. Our ambos were crying out for help, and those opposite were only worried about where they would be taking their breaks.

Our community was not seeing ambulances arrive when they really needed them. Those opposite were haggling over shifts, yet they stand now suggesting we are not doing everything we can to help. Our government is investing in 350 additional ambos statewide—not 50—and is not trading off their entitlements. There are 350 new ambulance officers to help lessen the stress that existing crews experience, ensuring ambulances can arrive within a clinically reasonable time. This investment includes 315 paramedics and ambulance officers.

This includes not just within the Adelaide metropolitan area but also the Adelaide Hills and Limestone Coast, just to name two. It does include Mount Barker station, which will now see a new

ambulance station, 12 extra paramedics and an additional 12-hour regional medical transfer crew comprising three paramedics and three ambulance officers will also join next year. That one ambulance that had to cover the whole area can now breathe a sigh of relief.

This investment is a testament to the Malinauskas Labor government's commitment to our ambos. We stand by our ambos, supporting them to do their job for our communities, unlike those opposite, who refused to commit to the vital resources that our ambos need to do their job safely. We are also building a new station at Edwardstown. This will be built on a 3,275 square metre parcel of land at the Repat Health Precinct on the corner of Daws Road and Francis Street, Daw Park. It will house the 16-person Edwardstown paramedic crew, which came online last November as part of the government's quick actions to ease ambulance pressure.

The station will also house 12 emergency support service ambulance officers for Edwardstown, who are due to come online in 2024. This will ease pressure on the Mitcham station, which looks after my own community and my own electorate along with the Marion station, providing faster response times for my community when we really need it. Our government is absolutely committed to supporting our ambos, who in turn support our communities when they really need it. International Paramedics Day is 8 July, and I know you will join me, Mr Speaker, in thanking every single ambo for all they do whether they are on duty or not.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

REGIONAL HOSPICES

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:12): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises the need for varied end-of-life care in regional areas; and
- (b) calls on the state government to investigate the potential for a dedicated palliative care facility based in the City of Mount Gambier and servicing the wider Limestone Coast region.

What is a good death? According to the Grattan Institute in their research paper *Dying Well*:

A good death meets the individual physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of the dying person. Most people prefer to die comfortably at home or in a home-like environment with minimal pain and suffering. They hope to be surrounded by friends and family and the care services they need.

A good death means choice. Approximately 70 per cent of South Australians wish to die at home, yet only 15 per cent manage to do so, with a majority being in hospitals or residential care homes. Rising rates of cancer, chronic illnesses and other conditions such as dementia coupled with our ageing population have led to a rise in demand for palliative care services. Palliative care in Australian hospitals has increased by 28 per cent over the last four years. The impact of ageing and increased numbers of single-person households will continue to place a greater demand on health services.

Country patients have to do it tough. Those who suffer with cancer and chronic illnesses will have already had to spend countless hours travelling and days away from home to undertake treatment in Adelaide or Warrnambool. They do not have the luxury of returning to their home and family after treatment each day.

Currently, the Limestone Coast is serviced by a hardworking team of specialist palliative care nurses who cover an extensive area from Mount Gambier to Bordertown. They provide these services between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Our local hospital has one dedicated but not exclusive palliative care room, which is situated in an environment that struggles to provide person-centred care that meets the holistic, cultural and spiritual needs of the patient and their loved ones. There is no resident palliative care specialist.

Recently, through the efforts of the chair, Maureen Klintberg, and a dedicated group of volunteers, we have seen the introduction of the Mount Gambier In Home Hospice Service. This service provides vital non-medical support and assistance to help ease the burden on carers and families, allowing patients to stay home and out of hospital for longer. Too often in regional areas we lack access to the same services our metropolitan counterparts enjoy.

Whilst we applaud the government's recent addition of an additional part-time specialist care nurse to the Limestone Coast, there is still much more to be done and many gaps that need to be filled. An example of this is 53-year-old Mount Gambier resident Glenys Smith and her sister Annette Smith. Glenys was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015 and received a terminal diagnosis in December last year. She suffers from severe lymphoedema in her right arm, which has led to Glenys requiring round-the-clock care, as she requires assistance for general everyday tasks. Glenys was a carer for her mother, who now resides in an aged-care facility.

As Glenys now lives independently, her sister Annette has moved out of her own home she shares with her partner to help care for Glenys. Annette, who suffers herself from rheumatoid arthritis, has spent countless hours advocating on behalf of her sister and navigating the regional health services to find assistance for Glenys so that she can maintain her own employment. When Annette first called Carers SA, she was told it would be two weeks before anybody would be able to return her call.

She has been receiving assistance from the palliative care nurses and the volunteer In Home Hospice Service. Homecare Plus was visiting three days a week for a total of two weeks; however, the funding for this package was only available for a two-week period, as this was for end-of-life care. Annette then had to apply through Carers SA; however, limited funding meant this was now reduced to 3½ days for the next two-week period, leading to the constant stress and worry of what the next week would bring and who would care for Glenys.

Whilst we rightly speak about the patient's needs, we also must not forget about the carer's needs. The emotional and physical burden for those caring for loved ones can be great. Just two weeks ago, Annette reached the point of exhaustion and needed help. The only option available was to have Glenys admitted to the local acute hospital in Mount Gambier. Glenys has now undergone an ACAT assessment, and it has been assessed that her needs do qualify for respite care. ACAT stands for Aged Care Assessment Team; Glenys is 53.

The only option available is an aged-care facility. This then depends on availability, with patients often being sent to Millicent or Naracoorte, up to 100 kilometres away. Glenys has now found accommodation for respite in Mount Gambier; however, there is a wait for this to occur, and in the meantime she is still in the Mount Gambier hospital.

Another Mount Gambier resident, Fay Lamond, was unable to be placed locally. I became aware of Fay's story through the advocacy of her granddaughter Gail. In early 2020, Fay became unwell. At this time, she lived at the Woodlands retirement estate with her husband, Col, for whom she cared after he suffered a stroke in 2018. In March, it was discovered that Fay had bowel cancer and required surgery. This required Col to go into an aged-care facility. No beds were available locally, so he was transported to Sheoak Lodge in Millicent, which is 50 kilometres away.

After Fay's surgery, she needed to be transferred from the hospital to a respite facility. Again, there were no beds available in Mount Gambier. She, too, was transferred to Millicent but ended up in a different facility from her husband of 64 years, that is, Boneham Lodge. During this time, COVID arrived and Fay's family had to travel over 50 kilometres for a half-hour visit. At a time when Fay's family wanted to be by her side, Fay spent most of her days alone, with overworked aged-care workers and nurses trying their best in unprecedented circumstances.

Her last three weeks were spent in Mount Gambier hospital, the family restricted to 15-minute visits by no more than two family members at a time for two hours a day and her great-grandchildren unable to visit at all due to COVID restrictions. There was no designated palliative care room, and the family found themselves congregating in corridors in the clinical hospital environment with no place to go for a moment's reprieve other than the hospital cafe. Since the passing of her grandmother, Gail has become a passionate advocate for palliative care and fundraised for a cuddle bed, which is now being used in our local hospital. Too often, country residents are taken for granted and made to feel like we should be happy for what we have.

I am calling on the state government to investigate the potential for a dedicated palliative care facility to be based in Mount Gambier, the state's second largest city, and to service the nearly 70,000 residents in the Limestone Coast—a facility that provides a homelike environment for those who have a chronic life-limiting illness, a facility that provides respite for both patient and carer, a

facility that can be a home to our specialist palliative care unit, a facility that can be home to our invaluable in-home hospice service, a facility that can give our student nurses and doctors the ability to specialise in palliative care, a facility that gives people a choice in their end-of-life journey. Let's give those who have been given an end-of-life prognosis the dignity of choice and give them a good death.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:21): I am very proud to rise to speak to this motion as the lead speaker for the opposition. I am proud of the chamber for the number of people who are going to speak to this motion today, and I thank the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this motion to the house for debate and discussion.

When I think about my grandparents and great-grandparents, who were born and who died on the land, and what options and services were available to them as they approached their final years with serious ailments and diseases, it certainly gives me a sharp focus on the motion before us reflecting on end-of-life care in the regions, and I look forward to the speeches that will follow.

There is certainly an increasing call across regional South Australia for more attention and investment into ageing well at home, preparing for end-of-life for people of all ages sadly, downsizing of homes for those who are older and sourcing essential services for domiciliary care, which is more often than not paired with a disability or at least immobility. While this motion asks us to consider services in Mount Gambier and more broadly the Limestone Coast, I cannot help but reflect on what my electorate of Frome also needs in the way of health services for cancer treatment, aged-care services and retirement housing.

When it comes to the rest of state, there are certainly many valid examples of communities that are deserving our attention, our investment and our resourcing in palliative care and in providing hospice services. Again, as the shadow minister for regional health services, I reflect on the needs of the entire state, factoring in distance, population mass and an ageing demographic. Towns that come to mind immediately, alongside Mount Gambier of course, would be Port Lincoln in the electorate of Flinders in terms of probably demographic but certainly distance and population mass, and Victor Harbor as a growing destination for retirees.

I reference Mount Barker as a regional community, Mr Speaker, which through your advocacy is calling for not just the expansion but in fact the implementation or the rollout of a hospice. In reflecting on hospice services, I pick up on the member for Mount Gambier's reference to Maureen Klintberg, who is widely known certainly on this side of the house as a very fierce advocate for hospice services in the South-East and who has done extremely well to extract funding from the current and former governments. May she continue to advocate for that.

Living and teaching in Mount Gambier as they did for over 10 years, there is definitely a soft spot for the Limestone Coast, member for McKillop. In listening to the comments of the member for Mount Gambier, there are six degrees of separation often in our comments. I played softball with Gail Lamond, and it is heartbreaking to hear those personal stories. Again, her advocacy, tied to her family and her grandma, drives us to deliver a cuddle bed for the Limestone Coast and is just one example of a variety of services that we should be calling for.

In reflecting on what the current services are, I want to recognise the current government's commitment to and announcement of funding 10 additional palliative care nurses across regional South Australia. It is not clear to me through the recruitment whether all those nurses are yet in place but, to reference the local health networks where they are going to be established, 3½ FTEs in the Barossa Hills Fleurieu; two FTEs in Eyre and Far North; one FTE allocated to Flinders and Upper North; to the member for Mount Gambier's point, only half an FTE in addition to the Limestone Coast; two FTEs of the Riverland Mallee Coorong; and one to the Yorke and Northern, which encompasses my electorate of Frome.

We welcome that investment as well as the federal government's announcement of \$7.5 million towards palliative care services in South Australia, but it will not surprise the house that I will go further and say there is always more to be done. Navigation pilots are an essential part of planning and mapping support services for end of life, and I know that the government has its eye on that as it reviews palliative care services through the Health Performance Council.

Again through my portfolio and travels around the state, whether it is cancer treatment, the Cancer Council Lodge itself provides a cancer support coordinator, as does the McGrath Foundation. I will touch on the MND Association shortly, but there is a need and a call for more investment in those navigators who assist our loved ones as their illnesses are diagnosed to support them through what must be a terrifying time.

It is quite timely that today I have shared with the member for Davenport the role of co-convening our inaugural Parliamentary Friends of MND group, and we welcomed a number of patients, their carers, the board and we heard from Karen Percival, the CEO. I want to make the most of my time reading into *Hansard* some of the comments Karen shared with us today about MND—that is, it is about:

...supporting patients and carers from initial diagnosis to end of life, and for those who grieve beyond.

She said:

We do this at home. Research shows that over 95 per cent of time spent by dying and grieving people is at home. Less than 5% of time is spent in front of a doctor or nurse.

I think the conversation we are having today is one of those compassionate options that we need to provide to people who should be allowed to make the decision to die at home.

Karen Percival said that we need to address the provision of palliative care from diagnosis to end of life. We note the recent joint federal-state initiative in this area to provide navigators, which I touched on just briefly. Over the last two years, MNDSA, with the help of palliative care grants, completed a palliative care pathways project for those patients and also introduced a loss, grief and bereavement support service led by volunteers.

MNDSA has the opportunity to play a central part in health and wellbeing. They see the new palliative care initiative around navigators to link the terminally ill with palliative care services, which they can do, but they also see expanding this work with the wider personal networks that patients and their carers already have. I want to thank Karen again for her words. We heard examples from sufferers and from carers, and I note that some of our guests popped into the chamber in recognition of the motion that was put forward.

I have been saving my final comments to touch on yet another heartwarming and heartbreaking example of a human story of a South Australian who, once diagnosed with a terminal illness, is confronted with the decisions before them. I want to recognise and pay my respects to a lovely young lady called Lily Thai, whom I did not get to meet. At the risk of no-one else in this house recognising her life, I want to do that.

At the age of 17, she was diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, a disease called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and later on she was diagnosed with autoimmune autonomic ganglionopathy. She passed away last Wednesday at the age of 23. She was very brave. She made a brave decision to access the newly legislated voluntary assisted dying laws. May she never be forgotten. She deserves no less.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:32): I also would really like to thank the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this incredibly important motion to the chamber. I know I have spoken in this place before about previously having worked for Minister Mark Butler. He is now the federal Minister for Health, but back when I worked for him he was the minister for ageing. The time I spent with him, meeting with different people working in palliative care across our country, was incredibly moving and challenging, and it really brought home the importance of people being able to die with dignity, die with choice and also being able to have really good services near them.

The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to delivering end-of-life care options across South Australia so that people can access the care they need and make choices for their care, no matter where they live. The government committed \$5.1 million to recruit 10 new palliative care nurses in regional South Australia. That is part of our commitment to deliver 76 more nurses in areas of priority need. When we formed government, we took very strong advice that these new positions need to be based in regional South Australia: 9.3 FTE of these positions have been filled, with recruitment for the final part-time position now being finalised.

We are also partnering with the federal Albanese Labor government to launch a new palliative care pilot program in South Australia. Palliative care navigators will be employed to connect terminally ill patients with local palliative care services in both Adelaide and in South Australian regional centres, in a three-year \$7.5 million pilot program. As well as palliative care navigators helping individual patients and their families, the pilot will invest in a user-friendly phone line, a dedicated website offering information around the clock, improved volunteer coordination and access to bereavement supports.

People with a terminal illness in regional South Australia will be able to contact palliative care navigators directly by phone. As a statewide service, palliative care navigators will have the capability to assess people's needs, either remotely or in person, and the expertise to link people to the supports they require, particularly in their local community.

We also partner with the federal government to jointly invest in improving the provision of palliative care for people in aged care. A total of 15 state-funded residential aged-care facilities are taking part in the regional hospice in the residential aged-care pilot across six regional local health networks, including Bordertown, Naracoorte and Millicent. That is delivering training and embedding palliative care practices as business as usual across these facilities.

Supporting people with choice in end-of-life care is an important component of access in regional South Australia. We continue to promote the use of advance care directives to raise community understanding of advance care planning, foster self-determination and establish innovative peer volunteer roles. Support is being provided to local councils through codesigned project workshops, resources, online training and volunteer roles. This work was developed with the Inner Southern Councils Advance Care Directive Collaboration and is now being rolled out in the Southern Fleurieu, Murray Mallee and Adelaide Hills regions.

Another end-of-life choice for South Australians is now voluntary assisted dying, with the commencement of those laws on 31 January this year. Of the 30 regional doctors who have registered to undertake the mandatory training, 16 have completed it and are eligible to deliver voluntary assisted dying in South Australia. Doctors from metropolitan Adelaide are also able to support regional patients, with supported travel and telehealth consultations where appropriate.

We have also established a statewide Care Navigator Service and dedicated regional liaison nurse for voluntary assisted dying for both the community and health professionals to seek support and advice on access to voluntary assisted dying in regional South Australia.

The Malinauskas Labor government has tasked the Health Performance Council of South Australia with undertaking an inquiry into the provision of palliative care services in the state. We have asked the Health Performance Council to provide recommendations for the most effective and efficient improvements that could be made to palliative care services in South Australia, and I expect this to also include recommendations for palliative care services in regional South Australia.

The Limestone Coast Local Health Network provides level 2 palliative care services to the Upper Limestone Coast and level 4 services to the Lower Limestone Coast. Level 4 services are available seven days a week in Mount Gambier. In the Upper Limestone Coast, care coordination is available five days a week through the specialist team in Mount Gambier or the community nursing team in Naracoorte.

The Limestone Coast Local Health Network palliative care team includes registered nurses, clinical nurses and a nurse practitioner as well as an occupational therapist, physiotherapist and social worker, with referrals to other services as required. There has been 0.5 FTE palliative care nurse funding provided to the health network under election commitments, which has been utilised to create a registered nurse level 3 palliative care role. This role has been recruited and is providing direct clinical care and assisting the local health network to provide an increased level of service in the upper Limestone Coast.

There are end-of-life-care packages available from the specialist palliative care team which can include after-hours care in the terminal stage on a case-by-case basis. These packages support community-based end-of-life care for individuals and their caregivers and families and are designed

to provide end-of-life care to people with palliative care needs that require additional support outside of that already available from existing services.

Palliative care services are provided in the community, at acute hospitals and in aged care facilities within the Limestone Coast Local Health Network with trained staff and appropriate amenities for patients and families to ensure appropriate palliative and end-of-life care in the person's place of choice. The network has been undertaking extensive and inclusive service planning activities to guide the growth of clinical services across the region.

As part of these service planning activities, access to hospice care, whether at home, in hospital, in the community or in a dedicated facility will be considered as part of these activities, because access to a range of end-of-life choices is something we can all agree on.

I know that through my experience with loved ones in palliative care in Adelaide, it is obviously a really challenging time for everyone involved. I was really, really grateful to the staff at the Repat in 2009 for providing incredibly loving, compassionate and understanding support while my nanna was dying. They were just absolutely beautiful, and I am really, really appreciative of it.

I was actually just at the motor neurone disease event, which was put together by the member for Davenport and the member for Frome, and had the opportunity to speak with a doctor from the new palliative care facility at Flinders hospital, which is just over the border from my electorate and obviously something a lot of people in my community, when they do need to access palliative care services, go to.

I was really touched when he said that the nurses there just make people feel like they have been enveloped in this big hug as soon as they walk in there. The staff are just so incredible, and he said that the services for the patients are second to none.

My friend's mum, who I was also close with—and she was part of my book club—passed away at the Laurel Hospice in January. My friend said that for their family it was a really beautiful environment for them to spend their last few days with her. The opportunity to easily wheel her outside—which was not available at the previous facilities at the Repat, it was a bit challenging to get outside to the garden—meant they were able to take her out to watch the sunset and get that fresh air, and try to feel, for a moment, like they were not in a clinical environment. It was very special to them.

They had also heard of the tiny horse that is in that palliative care facility some days who, apparently, is dressed in little pink boots so she—or he, I am not sure—does not slip over; they also have a little pink poo bag for any accidents. The doctor I was speaking with today said he actually had a GP call him and say, 'I'm really worried about my patient; I called to see how they were doing and they were talking about how there was a tiny horse who had pink feet.' The GP was concerned that the patient was hallucinating, but the doctor from Laurel was able to say, 'No, we really do have a tiny horse who wears pink boots there.'

Those incredible services are available here in the city: we should also be able to have incredible services available at the most challenging time for members of our community in our regional areas. Thank you again to the member for Mount Gambier for this motion.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:42): I thank the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this important motion to this place. It is a challenging subject, because I am sure each and every one of us have been touched by someone who has had to go through end-of-life care, palliative care, whether it was a friend or a family member.

In particular, paragraph (a) of the motion recognises the need for varied end-of-life care in regional areas. Coming from a regional electorate a similar sort of distance away as the member for Mount Gambier's electorate, and with far-flung areas of my electorate, it is a long way away from that high level care that we get within the metropolitan area. It is also an area, when you are at that stage of life, that is an incredibly challenging time not just for the individual but for their family, their carers, the people who have been supporting them—often through long and drawn out illnesses.

The support for the terminally ill and those within palliative care within regional areas does vary. Obviously it is more challenging to deliver those services there, but it is so incredibly important

for those people; the further you are away from your safe place, your home, your area of comfort, the more challenging it is.

I look especially at some of the challenges faced within my electorate in, as I said, some of the more far-flung communities, some of the Indigenous communities that have that connection to country, that connection to home. If you are forced to be further away from that at the most vulnerable time of your life, at the end of your life, it is incredibly sad to see a situation like that.

I recognise the government's commitment to additional palliative care nurses across regional South Australia. A lot of things happen in this place that are bipartisan and there is agreement on all sides, and I think no-one could argue against this. We have seen additional allocations and another two palliative care FTE nurses in my area (they are in the Far North), bringing the total palliative care nurses to 3.3 FTEs. The rise is fantastic, but the need is even greater unfortunately.

The distance even between Port Lincoln and Ceduna, where there are some 400-plus kilometres up to the further-flung areas from Port Lincoln to my neighbouring electorate of Giles, to Whyalla, is 2½ hours away. The expanse of our electorates cannot be underestimated. Really, to recognise that there are people with need for end-of-life care throughout that whole area is something that is really important. Increasingly, people are choosing to have hospice care for their end of life. There is a real focus now on the care, the comfort and the quality of life of a person with a serious illness who is approaching end of life.

Obviously, we all know that at some time these serious illnesses can get to a point where they are not possible to cure or the person might decide that they are not going to continue to undergo certain treatments. It is at this point that that hospice care is really important. The patient beginning hospice care is under the understanding that, because their illness is not responding to the medical attempts to cure or slow it down, this is the next step. As I said, it is something that is very confronting and something that I am sure each and every one of us has been touched by, but in regional areas it has that extra layer of complication.

There is a growing body of evidence in the literature that demonstrates that that home-based palliative care, hospice care, to treat and help manage patients' symptoms, improve their quality of life and try to prevent avoidable hospitalisations, is really important. To have a team of care around patients, around people going through this with specialised palliative care—specialists, nurses, general practitioners—is so really important.

A lot of the time in regional areas, within my electorate and others comparably, medical professionals are doing the best with the skills they have and the knowledge they have, but this palliative care work is specialised in nature and specialised in what it actually delivers for patients. That is why it is incredibly important that we do what we can as decision-makers to make sure that those sorts of supports are in place for people within the regional parts of our state and recognise that the quality of life it does deliver at end of life is something we should be really striving for.

There should not be an assumption that, because someone lives further away from Adelaide or the major health centres, the level of care they get is somewhat lessened. We understand in regional areas that you are not going to get all the wide range of services that you do in higher population areas, but there is a standard, a level that we should expect as a state—that every one of us, wherever we live within our state, should and does deserve.

With these sorts of motions, the individual stories, the individual experiences, always hit home to you. My family have had experience of this, and it has been front of mind for me at the moment. Only last week, someone who was well known to me lost their life after a long battle with breast cancer. I note in this place Deb Glover, who spent the majority of her life battling breast cancer—and she did battle. I note her parents, Robin and Valda Glover. As I said, only one week ago she passed away. Her funeral is on Friday. I will be in this place, so unfortunately I will miss the funeral.

In the funeral notice, the family noted the incredible work of the Port Lincoln palliative care team. They recognised that, although it is a challenging and most difficult time of a life for family and for carers, to have quality of life at end of life is incredibly important. As decision-makers, we should have an expectation that those of us within regional areas have that same capacity to access this

sort of care. I commemorate Deb Glover here today, a brave, courageous woman now finally at peace, leaving us a beautiful legacy.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:49): I also rise to support this important motion, especially as a regional member. I think all regional members deeply appreciate some of the challenges when it comes to delivering services to regional communities, especially the smaller communities. It can be a challenge in terms of finding the appropriate staff and facilities, but I think we should all expect, as best as possible, to have a quality end.

As people have said, many of us have been exposed to the passing of family members or close friends. Certainly I have had that experience in Whyalla with the death of my younger brother from cancer. As the member for Mount Gambier said, usually when there is a diagnosis of that nature some time is going to be spent in Adelaide, often for surgical intervention. That does require specialist teams. Even big communities are never going to replicate the capacity you would find in the big cities, but there is much else that can be done.

There was a \$70 million investment on the part of the Rudd-Gillard government and the Rann government that led to a big improvement in facilities in Whyalla. It is not just the improvement in the facilities; it is what happens in those facilities. To have a cancer treatment centre where, in many cases, people can have their chemotherapy and not have to go to Adelaide is certainly a plus.

The new facility in Whyalla was where my brother spent the last six weeks of his life. It was a very high-quality facility in terms of both the personal care that was provided and the built environment. He was in a room that had its own kitchen, its own ensuite and its own deck overlooking a beautiful garden. We could all turn up, mates could turn up, and we had barbecues on the deck. It made what was a very difficult situation somewhat easier.

My sister was over from New South Wales, where she works in the private health system. She saw this facility in a public hospital and said it was better than anything that she had come across where she has worked in the private sector in New South Wales. Good quality facilities with caring staff can make an enormous difference at the end of life. The flexibility of the staff is also important.

My brother was a smoker from the age of 16, a very heavy smoker. There was no point in his giving up at that stage of his life. If the hospital had been very tight on the rules, he would not have been able to smoke on the hospital grounds. He was in a wheelchair in the last few weeks of his life, and they had no issue with us pushing him out onto the hospital grounds so he could take care of his very strong addiction. That combination of things made easier something that was incredibly difficult.

It would be good to see the quality of what was provided back then in 2015 replicated in our major regional communities, whether it is in Mount Gambier—and I have heard what the member said about Port Lincoln and the service is great there. I do not know what the quality of the facilities is, but if we can replicate that in those hospital settings that is great. Ideally, we should have the resources to enable people to die at home. For most people, that is what they want to do.

Often, for a whole range of physical and other constraints, that can become difficult. It becomes difficult because—and this is especially in regional communities—the services to support a person dying at home are often not in place. It is good that there are some initiatives being taken with extra palliative care nurses, and the inquiry that is going on at the moment is great. I will be interested to see where that leads. We need more support in regional communities when it comes to services like this.

It was interesting to reflect upon when my brother passed away. Especially for those of us from the regions, we often talk about the metro-centric culture and the concentration of resources in the big cities. To a big degree, that is understandable, but my dad died in Sydney in one of the largest public hospitals—that was in 2008, so it was not all that long ago—and the quality of the palliative care there at Concord Hospital was absolutely appalling. My brother had far better at a regional hospital in South Australia than my dad had in that major public hospital in Sydney towards the end of his life.

This is a very important motion. I wish the member for Mount Gambier all the success in the world in prosecuting his case. Likewise, to other members who represent regional communities, we

need to see our services enhanced and especially, because it is easier, in our bigger regional communities, with the appropriate outreach and other services and supports that are needed for people in smaller and more remote communities.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (11:57): It gives me great pleasure to speak on this topic. I must thank and congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on his advocacy not only for Mount Gambier; he has clearly highlighted the Limestone Coast with his motion. I would also like to thank the member for Frome, the shadow regional health minister for the opposition, and the member for Flinders and also on the other side the members for Elder and Giles for their contributions on this important motion. Hopefully, we see some sort of traction.

I must also acknowledge the Labor government with its 10 additional nurses, which was mentioned by the member for Elder. They are regionally based, and point five of them have ended up on the Limestone Coast. This motion touches a heart chord in the fact that my wife is a nurse. She worked for community health for 20-odd years from Millicent. She also travelled the regions of the Limestone Coast up towards Bordertown and Naracoorte. She headed a Limestone Coast community nursing role, and one of their strong roles was palliative care. If I may, I can touch on how valuable this service is to the region, and not only for the patients and families who fall into this sort of situation.

There is no doubt that any sort of news that any human being receives that their death is near, that they have something terminal, whether it be months or years, is never good news. Ultimately, there is an end in sight, and that end is obviously a wish that we would all like to be in the most comforting, supportive and caring place possible, knowing that not all ends are as dignified and easy as others.

Obviously, there will always need to be that hospice or hospital-type role when things become complicated, difficult and perhaps beyond what this palliative care service could offer, but I think it is really important that this service is offered as much as it possibly can be. Some of the data I have here is that we know that 30 people died in 2019 in the Naracoorte hospital. Fifteen of those would have liked to have participated in palliative care at home but did not get that option because there was no service provided.

Then there are also the options—when we talk about palliative care and when we talk about nursing, what does that actually mean? It means that a nurse will generally come around five days a week, sometimes even on weekends if it is needed, on some sort of contract basis. The nurse goes there to talk on, and meet with, the patient who is in this palliative care for all the things that they need today and will need tomorrow.

What does that look like? It means pain relief and it means that the medication is working—and if it is not, the nurse has an obligation to then speak to the GP to make sure that GP is aware of the patient's needs and requirements. It might be about the needs of the house, so there might be some handles, movement aids in showers, or ramps in the house. When a patient might be moving towards a wheelchair or mobility device, the house is then fitted so that that aid can actually work in that house. They are all small little bits and pieces, but the palliative care system puts in these sort of additives to the home to keep people at home for as long as possible.

Another thing that comes on top of this is the fact that we are taking and keeping people in their home and not in the hospital system, which we know is already under strain and stress. There is all that positiveness in that financially, with obviously a better outcome and cost, where people can live at home as long as possible with the visitation of a palliative care nurse who makes only that visit and then goes on and visits other patients. I would imagine it would have to save the medical system a greater amount of money than if people were in the hospital care system.

The other thing I will just touch on and go through is that, with the patient being allowed to stay at home, what is the benefit to the family surrounding that patient—the families that see the loss or the losing of their loved one over a period, but know that they are having good care in their home in the family environment and not in the hospital environment.

This is what this palliative care system is all about. This is why I believe it does need to be funded well, I think it needs to be represented well, and it certainly needs to give those options to all

those who want to participate—whether you are a city resident or you are a regional resident. As this motion talks to, it is about the regions, and particularly the Limestone Coast, but regional South Australia as a whole.

So, without speaking further, I would like to congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on this motion and I hope that the state government can do all that it possibly can to make sure that this service is well funded, well resourced and can be utilised by as many regional South Australians as possible. I support the motion.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (12:02): I first of all would like to thank the members for Frome, Elder, Flinders and Giles, and of course my electoral neighbour, the member for MacKillop, for their comments, which I really appreciate. It is a really important motion and I am looking forward to working with both sides of parliament to progress the motion. I assume it is going to pass without dissent, which means it is supported by this parliament as an important motion that has bipartisan support. With that, I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL PARAMEDICS DAY

Adjourned debate on motion of Ms Hutchesson (resumed on motion).

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (12:04): I move to amend the motion as follows:

Delete paragraphs (d) and (e), so that the motion now reads:

That this house—

- (a) recognises International Paramedics Day is 8 July 2023;
- (b) acknowledges the crucial role paramedics play, putting the interest and wellbeing of others first; and
- (c) thanks paramedics and ambulance staff for their tireless work in the most challenging of circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world comes together on 8 July to celebrate International Paramedics Day and it really is a fantastic opportunity to be able to thank and recognise our fantastic first responders. On behalf of the opposition, I would like to sincerely thank the thousands of career and volunteer paramedics in our state who really do support us when we need it most. Particularly, whether it is from emergency care to supporting our elderly, they have a strong sense of duty to our community, and I believe that that is absolutely felt regardless of which part of the state you are from. Paramedics do deserve our protection, they deserve our support, and deserve a government which prioritises the health system so that they can do their jobs.

I would like to spend a little bit of time recognising the significant challenges that our paramedics did face throughout COVID-19. There is a deep sense of gratitude for all of our healthcare workers right across South Australia, and that was never more apparent than throughout the global pandemic that we have endured over the last couple of years. Our paramedics were among the many health professionals in our community who worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep us safe, and to ensure that we had access to health care when we needed it most.

In so many examples that have been already reflected on in the house, our paramedics did go above and beyond. They had a strong sense of duty and they prioritised in many cases the health of others above the health of themselves. That is a true testament to the professionalism that we see in our paramedics, and that is exactly why on 8 July we come together to celebrate International Paramedics Day.

Our paramedics did face extraordinary challenges throughout COVID-19, whether that was from the first ever recorded case at the start of 2020, through the Omicron wave and everything in between. They were there for us at every single step along the way, making sure that they kept South Australia safe. Despite all of the uncertainty that COVID-19 presented to us, we could rest assured that we really did have the best paramedics in the world, and we do have the best paramedics in the world. They worked with us as we battled COVID-19, they worked with all of the healthcare

professionals to help keep our health system ticking, and to really help ensure that South Australians were safe throughout that period of time.

There is little doubt that the former government working hand in glove with so many healthcare professionals really did manage to navigate the global pandemic better than anywhere else in the entire world. As a direct result of that, there are more South Australians who are alive and that would not have been possible without a collaborative working environment with all of the healthcare professionals, but particularly our paramedics who responded to all of the emergency care that was absolutely needed through that time. Yes, it was tough—it was a really tough period—but more of our loved ones are here today as a direct result.

Yet despite the initial harsh impact of COVID really now being behind us, there is no sense that the pressure has been alleviated on our health system and on our paramedics. In fact, what I would say, and from speaking with many frontline health workers, the pressure on our health system is continuing to escalate and that is obviously placing extraordinary stress on all of our healthcare workers, on our paramedics, and ultimately on South Australians.

They are now having to operate under very challenging and difficult circumstances, and I think that there is a sense of frustration and disappointment in this government, because this was a government that went to the election with a number one election commitment to fix ramping here in South Australia, but since the election we have unfortunately seen those ramping numbers continue to climb and climb and climb.

This is a promise that has really been foisted upon our hospitals and our healthcare workers and there is clearly now extreme pressure on both our hospitals and our frontline workers to deliver Labor's political election promise to fix ramping in this state. It is one thing to promise something at an election—it is very easy to promise something at an election—but it is another thing to deliver what you promised, and that is exactly what the people of South Australia expect.

They expect that the government will deliver on their promise to fix ramping in this state and, as an opposition on this side of the house, we will always continue to shine a light on this promise because many South Australians voted for urgent action. They voted for urgent action for the government to fix ramping and it was this government who claimed to have the plan to fix it.

Those opposite have not just failed to fix ramping, they have actually smashed all records when it comes to ramping. They have set a new record for ramping and this really is not one of those records that you should be proud of because what it ultimately means is that patients are waiting much longer on our ramps. Patients are waiting much longer to be seen and that can only lead to much worse outcomes for our patients here in South Australia.

Rather than accepting responsibility, what we have really witnessed is a rather clumsy and desperate attempt to really shift the goalposts since the election, trying to pretend that they never promised to fix ramping; that they only promised to fix ambulance response times. I find that interesting because certainly at the election I never saw election posters which could have easily said: 'We will fix ambulance response times'. It was so clear about what the promise was and interestingly now that this government has presided over the worst ramping results in the history of the state, climbing month after month after month—only now are the government trying to shift the goalposts.

I think that is completely dishonest and it is exactly this type of dishonesty that we saw from those opposite at the election campaign. The people of South Australia, our paramedics, they remember exactly what was promised. The member who moved the motion, the member for Waite, people in her community and her electorate remember what was promised. People in my electorate remember what the government promised and people from right across South Australia remember it as well and that was to fix ramping. Our paramedics, like all South Australians, would have seen the Labor candidates standing in front of, holding placards saying: 'We will fix ramping'.

It is not going to be one of those promises that can be walked away from at all, because we will keep holding them accountable, just like the paramedics will keep holding the government accountable. Despite all of those promises that I have already mentioned, the government has failed to turn the dial at all when it comes to ramping. In fact, those opposite actually promised to fix it but

it just keeps going backwards. I can understand—and I have mentioned this in this chamber before—but the government's main argument is, 'Well, we're trying. We're trying and we've got our flashy social media posts and don't forget what we promised.'

It is actually going backwards for South Australians and the pressure is rising for our paramedics and that is what matters here. It does not matter if you have a glossy social media or document or you say that you are now promising to fix ambulance response times, trying to gaslight South Australians. It does not fly at all and we will keep holding them to account. Again, at the election, there was this sense that urgent action was going to be taken. There was never a sense that there was any time to waste. In fact, South Australians were told to vote like their life depended on it and now we are constantly being advised that the goalposts have changed and that we are now kicking the problem further down the road.

I think that so many South Australians knew that the election was about the future. They just had no idea that the practical solutions and the fix that they were hoping for, that they voted for, would literally be so far in the never-never that it is almost out of the grasp of so many South Australians. Paramedics, rightly, are wanting to fight to save lives in South Australia. They do not want to fight to get their patients into hospitals or fight to be able to get their patients off the ramp. They want a fix to ramping just like we do, and that is why on days like International Paramedics Day we actually on this side of the house also stand with our paramedics.

I am speaking to so many of them who are disappointed with the lack of action that we are seeing, because it is one thing to be able to have the placard, to be able to have the slogan; what really matters is what you are able to deliver. When you start to peel back all of the detail—not just looking at record ramping and those transfer of care numbers—but when you peel it all away and look at what is happening not just outside of the EDs on the ramp but now inside our hospitals, it is not a pretty thing.

In fact, when we actually look at a number of the details, the budget papers do highlight the true crisis. It shows that, no matter if you are in the north or in the south of South Australia, you are now 80 per cent more likely not to be seen. That means that four out of five patients who need emergency care are not getting it within the clinically advised time frame, and that is an absolute disgrace. South Australians deserve better.

The truth is that this government only want to talk about the good things: the big announcements, the photo opportunities and the social media. They are not a government that want to roll up their sleeves and deliver what they promised—to fix ramping. They are always looking for someone else to blame, and who are they going to blame in the years ahead? Will it be the paramedics and the health system that Labor has run for the past 17 out of 21 years? One thing is for sure, Labor will always look for someone else to blame.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:15): I rise in support of the amended motion:

That this house—

- (a) recognises International Paramedics Day is 8 July 2023;
- (b) acknowledges the crucial role paramedics play, putting the interest and wellbeing of others first; and
- (c) thanks paramedics and ambulance staff for their tireless work in the most challenging of circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To stop and remember this work is really important. It is interesting to note that International Paramedics Day recognises and celebrates, all around the world, the role of paramedics and first responders and the vital role they play. It acknowledges the difference that paramedics make to people's lives in almost every imaginable situation. It raises awareness of all the settings in which paramedics work, including primary and secondary care, GP surgeries, the military, offshore, helicopters, emergency medical services, education, research, and telephone triage systems.

International Paramedics Day also promotes the profession to aspiring paramedics and students. I think it is incredibly important that aspiring paramedics and students are encouraged to continue to come into this profession because it has been shown that it is a profession that is going to see an ever-increasing need.

There is plenty of talk in this place about the challenges that are faced at the moment: the higher levels of ambulance ramping that we are seeing and the challenges that we have with our medical system. I think it is really important that we as decision-makers do highlight that, although the need and the challenge are great, and although we are seeing some frightening numbers in ambulance ramping at the moment in South Australia, it is a profession that we continue to encourage, inspire and incentivise people to come into.

Paramedics are experts in providing unscheduled care in unpredictable environments. They play a critical role in our healthcare system and in emergency response, from on-road paramedics to those working in the other sectors I mentioned before, including community paramedics and everything in between.

As a regional member of this place, I especially would like to highlight the difference between having an ambulance come to you here in Adelaide, on North Terrace, where the paid paramedic staff would come and treat your needs, as opposed to the regional areas, where we are completely reliant on volunteer ambulance officers and the incredible sacrifice those volunteers make each and every day to serve a need within our community. We have people who are putting aside their own lives to serve their community, and not just serve the community in a broad volunteer sense. Think about the time, the effort, the emotional strain and the physical strain that being a volunteer paramedic within a regional area actually does bring.

If you are volunteer ambulance member within my electorate of Flinders, wherever that might be—whether it is Cleve, Cowell, Tumby Bay, Cummins or Streaky Bay—you are often called to circumstances where, more than likely, you know the person you are going to attend, and, if you do not know the patient you are going to, you probably know their family and you probably know their friends. These are people within the community serving their community; it is as obvious a service as you can get within regional areas.

As someone who has unfortunately had to call upon the services of regional ambulances throughout my life, and for family and friends as well, that is always so confronting for me—to recognise community members serving community members in the most front of mind way. Near on two decades ago, I was involved in a serious car accident in an isolated place, but you know there are going to be people at your call to come and serve you for no other reason than they care for their community, they care for the people of their community and they want to continue to make sure that that community is sustainable.

As we recognise International Paramedics Day, I think it is an opportunity for us as decision-makers to consider, and I urge the government to consider, looking at expanding out their paid paramedic facility to some of these areas that are reliant completely on volunteer service. I think there is a way that we can structure some of these supports within certain areas put together—so Eastern Eyre Peninsula and Western Eyre Peninsula—to better support those volunteers who are doing that important work and put in place a better potential for a paid paramedic position, because unfortunately a lot of the volunteers who are putting up their hand for these positions are getting older.

It is more challenging for people who are in the midst of their career to take time off work to be a volunteer paramedic and to be called on at any time of the day or night often. Can I give a shout-out to a couple of people who are examples of that community paramedic volunteering network, which, as I said, is reflected all around the state. It is a couple of friends of mine, who happen to also be the mayors of their local districts: Mayor Geoff Churchett at the District Council of Tumby Bay and, next door, Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley of the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula.

They are a couple of people who are volunteering in the Port Neill and Cummins ambulance services, people who are very busy, people who are already giving so much to their community but recognise how important it is to volunteer for your community as a paramedic and to be part of the ambulance service in regional South Australia. They are examples, as I said, of people from all walks of life who put up their hand to do this work.

We know that COVID-19 was an incredibly difficult time for our frontline health workers, including paramedics, who worked extraordinarily hard to keep us safe, and paragraph (c) of this motion I think rightly recognises that extra burden, that extra uncertainty, that extra stress that was

caused in that most challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our health system stood up when it was needed most, and our health workers were outstanding, and that includes paramedics.

It is also really important that we continue to look ahead at what the need is going to be for our state. As I look at the challenges that were faced by our regional paramedics in particular, can I point out something I hope the government and the bureaucracy are considering at the moment: the inconsistencies faced with vaccination requirements for paramedics.

At this time, there is a big push, a recruitment drive, for more volunteers for our ambulances, and that is fantastic—I see the advertising all around our state—because it is so important that people are aware that this is a service that relies on volunteers, and it encourages people to volunteer. But at the same time that there is that recruitment drive at the moment we have a policy that actually precludes people from being active ambulance volunteers if they do not have the policy designated level of their COVID-19 vaccinations.

For me, it is staggering that we can be at a point now, such a long way through the challenges of COVID and as we adapt as a society to the current needs of our health system and the way we are reacting to the COVID-19 pandemic, that we still have a policy in place that precludes good people from being volunteers within their community because of a policy. Can I point out the hypocrisy, in that members of my community who are qualified, paid paramedics can go and work as paid paramedics with their vaccination status but they cannot be accepted as volunteer paramedics within their regional communities.

At the moment, the inconsistencies are pretty clear for me. As I said, it is staggering, and I hope it is something the government and the bureaucracy are considering, because at the moment our volunteer ambulance services can potentially be hamstrung because of this policy.

At the time, there were over 100 ambulance volunteers who were precluded from volunteering because of the vaccination requirements from a couple of years ago. Times are changing, the expectations of our community are changing, and I hope it is something that the government and bureaucracy really take into consideration—to change this policy so that the good people who are looking to volunteer are not hampered because of their vaccination status.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (12:25): I also rise to speak to this motion today and provide my thanks and gratitude to the amazing paramedics out in our communities here in South Australia. It has been really interesting to hear some of the comments that have been made, particularly the 'where are you' comments that have been thrown around the chamber, and I would like to put on record where I have been in recent years and times.

I have certainly stood on the steps with our paramedics and I have marched with them, all for the very important cause of what they were calling out for at the time, which was resourcing. They were underfunded and they were under-resourced and they wanted to be heard, listened to and supported in that.

Not only did I do that on that level here in the city but I met with them in my local community as well. I had the amazing Ces, who was a paramedic who brought together different paramedics who work in the north-east to share their experiences and the pressures they were facing and experiencing. We also brought them together with the now Minister for Health as well as our now Premier to have those discussions.

Ces is an amazing person who did what he could to support paramedics, even though he no longer is one, often providing refreshments and support to those who were ramped or experiencing difficult times. He is now an active member in Trojans' Trek, providing a big service in terms of helping to address the stresses that can often be experienced by first responders, helping them to keep their health and their wellbeing in check.

From that and from these engagements we made some pretty clear promises. We made a promise to build five brand-new, state-of-the-art stations in our state, to completely rebuild another four and to upgrade another 10 stations—that, as well as employing an additional 350 ambulance officers and paramedics in our areas.

I am very lucky: I already have an additional 20 servicing my local community, which I am very happy about, and after July we will have an additional 12 coming on board, which I am really excited to see. I thank those at the Parafield station for currently housing and supporting them while they are supporting our community and while we await the highly anticipated build in the heart of Golden Grove.

As we announced the location for our station out in Golden Grove, I was really pleased to meet one of the new paramedics who came on board in March. His name is Sam. He actually had a career change. I believe he was a painter in recent years, but he then made the change and has recently completed his training to become a paramedic in our area. This is really exciting because Sam was actually born and raised in the north-east; he lived and grew up only five minutes away from where the new station will be built, which means he knows our local community intricately and will be able to provide the best services possible to our local community. It is something we are really excited to see, and he is already very much enjoying his time out servicing our local community.

There were also some comments about how the community was feeling at the moment about first responders in our area, and I want to share a post that was recently put up on the Tea Tree Gully WhatsApp page by an anonymous member, who said:

I just want to give a massive shout out to our emergency services. I unfortunately had to ring 000 tonight, as my husband was showing classic signs of a stroke. Within 10 minutes paramedics were here. Six of them. While three worked [on my hubby] one helped me calm, and two of them helped my two young kids calm down. One even managed to get my 'talk to no-one' child in his arms to say bye to daddy before they loaded him in the ambo.

Thank you paramedics, for everything you do. My teen wants to be one, and after tonight especially, I couldn't be prouder. (I am always proud of my kids, but circumstances can make it more so.)

Thank you to all our emergency services, and nurses. You guys are living legends.

It just goes to show that the actions we are taking are having a real impact in my local community. It is being felt, and it is incredibly appreciated. As has been touched on by that local constituent, we should be thanking them absolutely on 8 July.

Every day we should be grateful for our paramedics. It is something that I was certainly taught. My dad at one time was a volunteer paramedic in his early days. From my conversations with him, what he has seen and experienced as a result of that is a real indicator definitely of what they are exposed to day in, day out that we do not get to see—hopefully, do not get to see at all, and, if we do, maybe the rare case in our lives. What they put themselves through to keep us all safe should be incredibly appreciated. With that, I would like to thank them for what they do and commend this motion.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (12:30): It gives me great pleasure to speak to such a topic. I do support the amended motion of the member for Schubert, our shadow health minister. Paramedics in general on the Limestone Coast in regional South Australia have been a godsend. Their importance first came to my attention, and I then had a greater understanding of their role in the community when I had to go and back the paramedics in the little town of Robe.

Robe is a little township—a sleepy town—with a thousand-odd people generally during winter. It used to be only about 500 10 or 20 years ago, but it certainly has a bit more of a winter population today than it used to. It blows out to something extraordinary like 15,000 to 20,000 people between Christmas and new year, and it can be in the thousands well and truly either side of that peak period. The little town of Robe has one or two doctors who see people from Kingston, Robe, Beachport and Lucindale. The only way they can do that is through the paramedics that we have at Robe and what we advocated for there in support of the GPs.

What does this look like? There are two paramedics based in Robe. They are obviously there all year round. They do not just do Robe; they are actually called out well and truly beyond the limits of the township of Robe and go all the way down to Beachport and out towards Millicent, towards Naracoorte, to Kingston and beyond. I imagine that, perhaps the quieter the road might be during the winter, the more that these paramedics might traverse the regions of the Limestone Coast.

In regard to the sense of how it works, I had a firsthand experience on the Princes Highway last summer. There were actually three accidents within about 20 kilometres of where I live on the

Limestone Coast, at about the centre, between Robe, Kingston and Lucindale. One of them was on the Princes Highway where a car had a head-on. There were no fatalities, thank goodness, but a severely injured driver. The volunteers came onboard, including the fire service, and then the local paramedic arrived.

The paramedic took over, brought in some pain care and got the patient comfortable. He was suffering a great deal of pain from a head wound that was bleeding quite profusely. Obviously, that was stabilised as quickly as possible to get that patient comfortable. What I really noticed was the skill of the paramedic and I also found out that this paramedic had a great deal of background history in medical-type trauma, as well as being a paramedic driver, and I believe he had been in the hospital system as well.

If you can imagine that sort of skill out on the road, backing up those sorts of incidents in whatever the accidents might look like, then all I can say is that they are almost like a mobile doctor service to a huge degree. If you think about the fact that we have a shortage of GPs, and our hospital system is struggling to meet the needs of nursing staff and other types of professionals, anything we can do to simplify and build the medical system in our regions the better off we will all be.

Another one I want to mention is the Keith hospital and the model for the Keith hospital. It was a private hospital, it has been a bugbear to Labor and Liberal governments and we have tried to find solutions for this hospital. The fact that it was a private hospital and could not really deal with public patients was always a nemesis for the facility. One of the answers now is that we have a public medical hub there alongside an aged-care facility and the model includes a tier 3 nurse practitioner who is of a high calibre backed up by two paramedics who would work out of the township of Keith.

Knowing how the paramedics work, it is not just about the township of Keith. These two paramedics will be based in Keith, but they will obviously work the Dukes Highway. With the amount of traffic that we have on the Dukes Highway, we have seen some horrific accidents over many years and the Keith hospital played an important role in providing access for helicopters and had doctors and an emergency department for the stabilisation of badly injured patients and then they would be moved on from that hospital. The hospital does not exist in that framework anymore but I take great comfort in the sense that these two paramedics can play an equal, if not better, role in health services in these desperate situations

In the regions, the ambulance service has always been serviced by volunteers. It has become very hard to find volunteers who have the time and the training to drive the ambulances on a 24/7 basis. When volunteers cannot be found, paid ambulance drivers are brought in from farther afield and then backed up by the paramedics. That is helping the volunteers to know that the paramedics are there.

When I attend emergency meetings in regional towns about recruiting volunteer ambulance drivers, they talk about the onerous and constant training the volunteers have to do. I was clearly reminded of this the other day when I was around the Penola area and there was a gentleman there in the 60 to 70 age bracket and he talked about when they were volunteer ambo drivers they basically had no training. The main objective of a volunteer was to get out, collect that patient and get them back to the local hospital to be treated.

We know that we would like as much expertise and as much medical support as possible when the ambulance arrives but now if you do not have all the passes, checks and medical expertise that is required—I think that is putting people off becoming volunteers. A lot of people are of working age and we are very busy these days. Anyone who is employed does not have a lot of free time and if they want to give their time to the ambulance service, which a lot still do, it is another level of busyness and time taken away from other activities.

In recognising the paramedics and the volunteers, I have some data here that talks about the Limestone Coast where we have around 85 volunteer officers and 49 paramedics. We are also currently recruiting and training 41 more volunteers and we have a number of other specialities. We are talking very good numbers.

I know a couple of volunteers in the Lower Murray Mallee that takes in areas like Pinnaroo and Lameroo and sometimes they have to traverse the Victorian border from Pinnaroo. I know there

are some magnificent volunteers out there doing magnificent work to support the local ambulance stations at Lameroo and Pinnaroo who have to drive a long way to take patients back to Murray Bridge, or even further if needed, in the sense that sometimes there are no GPs close by. I know that they have this Teams-type electronic medical system in Lameroo and Pinnaroo. It is not always ideal, but generally it is a backup system, again working with nurses. That is how valuable our nurses are in this system.

The paramedics in the system are important. I can see in the Murray Mallee, which encompasses Taillem Bend, Karoonda, Lameroo, Pinnaroo and Morgan, there are 43 paramedics with 33 volunteer officers, so there are more paramedics than volunteers. I think that speaks volumes about how important our paramedics are and the role that they are playing. I hope that we can maintain those levels and even build them with more resources and more training. I support the amended motion. It has been a pleasure to speak to.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (12:40): As members know, prior to a commitment from this government, there had been a single ambulance in Mount Barker since 1992. Despite many representations to the then government in relation to this issue, it was unable to be resolved. The situation in my community had become unsafe.

Many thousands of people not just in Mount Barker but in the district surrounding and further afield were left with a situation that one ambulance officer described to me as 'ambulance roulette'. That was this: if it was the case that there was the need to respond to, for example, a first cardiac arrest incident, the local ambulance would be dispatched. If there was not sufficient cover from other ambulances, any second incident would mean that there was unlikely to be a response within a time—

Mr Whetstone: Welcome to the regions.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: —that would mean that your needs would be addressed. The member for Chaffey interjects and says, 'That's the regions.'

Mr Whetstone: I said, 'Welcome to the regions.'

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: 'Welcome to the regions.' Of course, just yesterday I heard from the opposition that Mount Barker is not a regional community.

Mrs Hurn: That's what the government says.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: It is a regional community—the government or the opposition. Your leader indicated that it was not, and I made very clear at the time that it is. My community does need somebody to stand in this place and say what occurred prior to this investment, and that was this: many thousands of people were left without adequate cover in the most significantly growing community in our state.

For four years, that issue was left unaddressed—totally unaddressed. I brought story and story to this place and to the inquiry that occurred in this place, and I was deeply concerned. More particularly, people who had given their careers, their lives, to the Ambulance Service were deeply concerned. I am particularly grateful that that issue has been addressed.

I can say this: land has been identified and secured off Bald Hills Road and Springs Road in Mount Barker for a fit-for-purpose ambulance station. A second crew is now operating in my community with 12 paramedics, and I was very pleased to meet Maddie and Harrison, two of those paramedics. Harrison grew up in the Hills, and he understands the needs that we face as a community overall.

Of course, it is not just ambulances: it is the need for a new hospital. It must also be said that in the course of the state election campaign there was only one major party that was prepared to commit to a new hospital in my community. I said at the time that I would welcome a commitment from both parties, and I still welcome a commitment from both parties to additional health investment in my community. I hope that in the course of the next election campaign, both parties will have learned the lesson that my community will be heard—my regional community—and there will be adequate investment, not just—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: The member for Hammond interjects in relation to the question of whether my community is regional or not. It seems to me that some people in this place have not learned their lesson about whether my community will be heard or not because there was no commitment to a new hospital at all.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: I will represent my community, member for Chaffey, interjections from you or not—and I have been sent to this place by my community, not by you, it might be said as well. So I will say that and I will say more.

My community needs ongoing investment. My community needs investment to match its growth profile, not just in terms of ambulance resources but also in terms of wider resources. I am pleased that those additional resources, in part, are being invested. Of course we need additional investment, particularly in palliative care—the member for Frome touched on that, rightly, earlier—and also in relation to paediatric services. I will continue to speak in this place, interrupted or not, in relation to these matters.

Can I say to my local ambulance officers, and I intend to provide a copy of these remarks to them and to many other people who have contacted me in relation to this issue, keeping in mind that more than 5,700 people signed a petition calling for additional ambulance services in the Adelaide Hills. I will make clear to them, and I make clear in this place, that we are deeply grateful for their service and expertise. They have saved many lives, they will continue to save many lives, and the 12 additional paramedics joining my community are welcome. We say thank you.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (12:45): I also rise to talk about this important motion. It was very interesting to listen to the member for Schubert. One of the things that happens when you just run lines and just run spin is that eventually reality will catch up with you. I know that those opposite have an issue getting their heads around time and lag impacts. We are a government that in two budgets has massively increased the health budget and is rolling out the things that need to be done: the extra doctors, the extra nurses, the extra beds. When it comes to paramedics, when it comes to ambos, we have runs on the ground—and far more runs on the ground to come.

I will look at the community in the seat that I represent. In that seat, I wrote to the previous health minister of the Marshall government about the under-resourcing—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER (The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell): Member for Schubert, just tone it down. I do not want to have to kick you out again.

Mrs Hurn: Again?

The ACTING SPEAKER (The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell): No, I have never kicked you out. I just made that bit up. If we could just calm our farm, that would be lovely, thank you.

Mr HUGHES: —of ambulance services in the community of Whyalla. What did they do? They did nothing. What are we doing: two extra transfer crews are going to be put into the Upper Spencer Gulf, an extra 24/7 ambulance crew is going to be put in Whyalla, the ambulance station in Whyalla is going to be improved and expanded and a new station is being built in Port Augusta. So we are actually delivering tangible stuff when it comes to the Upper Spencer Gulf, which did not happen under the previous government.

Mrs Hurn: What have you done about birthing services in Whyalla?

Mr HUGHES: We are doing a lot on birthing services in Whyalla. There is more to come out on the birthing service situation in Whyalla.

The ACTING SPEAKER (The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell): Member for Schubert!

Mr HUGHES: We did not close that service; there is more to that story than meets the eye, and that will be coming out in the very near future. We are fully committed to the reinstatement of

birthing services in Whyalla, and that will happen. That is a rolled-gold commitment, that we will reinstate those important services in our community.

What the opposition cannot stand is the fact that we made a commitment to our health system and we are starting to deliver on that commitment. We are just over a year into a new government. Let's see what happens in the next year, the next two years, the next three years, when it comes to turning around the challenges that the health system faces—and we will turn around those challenges.

You went to the last election with absolutely no commitment to health. You wanted to build a basketball stadium. You wanted to build a basketball stadium in the CBD—the CBD. There was no commitment to improving, to seriously expanding the health services, to providing the funding necessary to create those improvements.

Members interjecting:

Mr HUGHES: That will happen, and it is happening. There are more doctors being employed, there are more nurses being employed, there are more beds are being rolled out and there are more ambulances on the road. There are more paramedics on the road, there are more ambos in general on the road, so we are improving the situation, something that was not done under the previous government. I had people in my community coming to see me about the Ambulance Service, about the long waits in my community and the distress that was causing. What did you do? Did you act? No, you did not. It was left to us to act.

The ACTING SPEAKER (The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell): Thank you, member for Giles. I think you go better with a little bit of noise in the background and something like that.

Mr Whetstone: It's called spin, Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER (The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell): No, I think the member for Giles was absolutely spot on.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:50): I rise to support a very good amended motion by the member for Schubert—because on this side we are not about spin. We are about acknowledging the great work that our paramedics do, our frontline workers, our frontline paramedics who come in all shapes and sizes; whether it be an ambulance officer, whether it be a medical facility staff member or whether it be a volunteer it is a critically important space in any community. Whether in a metropolitan community or a regional community, I have witnessed over many years the valuable contribution that all paramedics make.

International Paramedics Day should be celebrated. I feel that every member of this chamber should have made a contribution because of the importance of the highly skilled men and women who grace our communities day in, day out, interacting with people and the forces of nature in extreme circumstances.

What we have seen, living on a federal highway, particularly in a regional setting like mine in Chaffey, is that sadly regional road accident incidents are growing. That shows me that those paramedics, those first responders, are doing an outstanding job rising above the adversity of the natural role they play. They have to deal with not only their professional attitude, and the way in which they attend any incident, but living in a community as well. There is a balancing act that paramedics perform looking after our people, keeping us safe and attending and addressing emergency situations. It really is an outstanding frontline service, and I call them frontline heroes because that is exactly what they are, and they are regularly forced to face challenging and traumatic situations.

It has already been highlighted that during the recent COVID pandemic it became apparent just how these amazing workers worked and how they protected us. They went above and beyond because we know that some of those first responders were putting their safety in second spot over looking after those people they attended. Over 2,700 career and volunteer staff provide aeromedical, rescue and retrieval services across the entire state, and I say thank you to every single one of them—every one of them. Whether you are paid or you are a volunteer, you are an outstanding contributor to South Australia.

In Chaffey, we have a number of ambulance stations in our larger town settings, most notably Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Loxton, Waikerie, Morgan, Swan Reach and Karoonda. In my previous life as an avid motorsport enthusiast, I was occasionally cared for by paramedics. Whether it was me being attended to on the side of a racetrack or in the river, there were a number of times when paramedics were the comforting factor in the circumstance I found myself in. I know that my son and I almost shared a hospital bed for a little while because of the nature of our pastime and sport. The paramedics played a big part in that, not only attending trackside or riverside but also getting us to a place of care.

In Chaffey, we have some notable paramedics: Mr Jason Hughes and Andrew Edwards are Loxton-based paramedics and together they run AJ First Aid, education and supply, and it is a great initiative that they have. Russell McQuade is a paramedic in Waikerie. He is also the Ambulance Employees Association state councillor for the Riverland and he does a great job. Mr David Lodge is a Morgan-based Ambulance Service volunteer and also a team leader. He was awarded the Premier's Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Volunteer Service back in 2019. Again, I say thank you. In the most recent floods, we saw the Renmark hospital residents relocation team receive a CEO commendation at the 2023 SA Ambulance Service Excellence Awards, which is another outstanding achievement.

There are a small number of paramedics in our region doing an outstanding job, covering a large area, some 25,000 square kilometres. The majority of those paramedics based in those ambulance stations have that outreach program and that will help their communities. Again this year, like every year, I want to thank those paramedics, those first responders, the volunteers and all the other associated paramedics who come to the benefit of those in need. Whether it is a medical condition, whether it is a medical episode, whether it is an injury or whether it is, sadly, a road trauma, it really is a great comfort to see an ambulance coming up the road to help and play their role in making sure that people are kept safe.

I also want to give a big shout-out to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. They, too, have a paramedic service. They are obviously a flying institution—aeromedical they might call it—and they do a very good job. I want to say thank you to Peter de Cure, the Chair; Tony Vaughan, the CEO; and all the staff and volunteers. I know that they are professional and that their volunteers are passionate.

In Renmark, we are now seeing at Renmark Airport the construction of the new transfer facility, which is a small piece of infrastructure that has been long needed. We have waited very patiently for that transfer facility because we know the adversity of weather when transferring patients who need medical attention from the land-based situation into an aircraft so that they can be taken to a greater medical service provider, usually in Adelaide. It is a great institution.

I also pay tribute to that service, the Angel Flight service. A couple of my children have been on that Angel Flight, and there is nothing more comforting than seeing the great care, the compassion and the service the Angel Flight has given not only to my children but also to me as a parent knowing that they are in good hands. It is a great opportunity to thank paramedics on International Paramedics Day. Again, I say thank you. Thank you for your service, thank you for your dedication and for going above and beyond.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:58): I, too, rise to support the amended motion and very much support the paramedics of our community in the work they do. Personally, I have needed very little direct engagement with paramedics, but certainly I have had some family members who at times have had need to call the ambulance and have the paramedics turn up.

One relatively recent time was for my father, who had a suspected stroke. The work they did and the care they gave him were fantastic—the care not only for him but also for my mother, who was worried about my father at the time. It was fantastic to have them in our community doing that role. I am also very much supportive of the investment that is going into the paramedic space. I have been in my local region advocating with the previous health minister, but I was not able to convince him. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Petitions

GREATER ADELAIDE 30-YEAR PLAN

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson): Presented a petition signed by 864 members of the Sellicks Woodlands and Wetlands Action Network and residents of greater South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to urgently review and update the Greater Adelaide 30-Year Plan and to pause the approval of all major developments in Greater Adelaide until the review is completed and endorsed.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. G.G. Brock)—

Local Council By-Law—

City of Port Adelaide Enfield—No. 9—Local Government Land Amendment

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (14:01): I bring up the 27th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call questions without notice, I recognise the presence in the gallery of students from Mid North Christian College, who are guests of the member for Stuart. Welcome to parliament today.

I also welcome Suzanne Duell and Simon Duell, who are guests of the member for Waite; Max Choate from Concordia College, who is performing work experience in the member for Elder's electorate office; and City of Mitcham Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross. Welcome to parliament.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: It is not for me to add to this, but also visiting are the Mayor of Victor Harbor and the Mayor of Holdfast Bay.

The SPEAKER: Welcome.

Question Time

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:03): My question is to the Premier. What are the key benefits the Premier sees as resulting from his university merger plan, as opposed to what our institutions currently provide for South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:03): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The now state government, but then opposition, committed some years ago now to go to the election with a policy to pursue university amalgamation. In terms of the method of the policy, we committed at the election more specifically to establish a university amalgamation commission, should that be required, in order to achieve that objective.

Since then, the government has been very grateful for the fact that the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia have come together to actively pursue the proposition of them creating a new university, as they have in the past. This time, of course, what they are in receipt of

is support from the government, both in terms of principle and in terms of willingness to aid that effort as best as we can.

The objective of the policy, first and foremost, is to increase the capacity of a new university to undertake research in the community, and the second principle objective that the government has is to improve accessibility of the university. I think on this side of the house we fervently believe that education is the most powerful tool at any government's disposal to provide opportunity to as many young people in our community as possible. It literally has the power to turn around lives. Higher education is an important element of that equation, and obviously universities speak to that.

If we can improve the accessibility of the university and also improve the volume of research that is undertaken in our state, then we are on a trajectory to improve the economic complexity of South Australia. That means better jobs. Better jobs mean better pay and more secure work. They are the principal aims of the policy.

In this regard, in order to pursue both of those things size does matter. We know that even today out of the top universities in Australia, as per the QS rankings that were released in the last 24 hours and appeared in *The Australian* this morning, the major top universities from Australia that appear in those rankings—the highest ranked universities—are the largest universities, because of course the volume of research undertaken at those institutions informs their outcomes.

We need more research undertaken in South Australia, and by freeing up the ability of universities to have the volume of research that underpins yet more growth in that area, that is wholeheartedly a good thing. Of course, one of the main sources of revenue for universities, revenue that actually underpins the volume of research that is undertaken by universities, is international students.

If we can increase the number of international students, not at the expense of our capacity to educate students domestically, clearly, but if we can attract more international students to South Australia that brings a range of economic benefits that have been spoken about in this place on numerous occasions, but it also means more revenue for universities themselves. It gives them the ability to invest a lot more on research.

I think it is in some respects unfortunate that international student revenue has been critical to research funding in our country, but nonetheless that is the system that we operate in. We have to participate within that system, and we have to have the ambition to grow research in our state from that source of revenue.

The final point I would make in the 30 seconds I've got left is it's all too well known that in this state we have actively contemplated the university amalgamation question over decades. All too often that can has been kicked down the road, often for reasons that aren't consistent with the state's interests. This government will not abide that. We are determined to pursue this policy, and we look forward to an outcome in the not too distant future.

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07): My question is again to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the house what cost-benefit analysis has informed the government's current plan to pursue a university merger? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: The Labor Party's election commitment was to establish a university merger commission which would explore the risks and costs as well as the benefits and opportunities of a realignment of our tertiary institutions. After the election, the government instead entered into direct negotiations with Adelaide University and the University of South Australia.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:08): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I do want to thank the opposition for their interest in this subject matter because it is of material significance to the state.

The work that has been undertaken over the course of the last six months is being led by the universities themselves. Naturally, there has been engagement with the state government, given that we have a substantial interest in the policy outcome, but each university, in conjunction with each other but also, crucially, independently of each other, has been undertaking their own work around the cost-benefit analysis of the creation of a new university between both Adelaide and the University of South Australia.

It is important that each university council forms a view consistent with the best interests of those institutions individually, but it's also important, and I think appropriate, that those institutions think about the long-term interests of the state as a whole, which is our only consideration in terms of government.

Naturally, we have a different imperative from what they may have individually. Nonetheless, if the University of South Australia—and it is an 'if'; there are active deliberations underway at the moment—and the University of Adelaide independently arrive at their own view that the creation of a new university is in the interests of those institutions and their students, as well as in the interests of the state, then clearly that is something we would wholeheartedly support.

We announced that we were putting the university amalgamation commission on hold upon receipt of the news that those two universities were engaging with each other and undertaking that work. I am happy to say publicly that we understand both universities have done their own business cases, have done their own active consultation and have done their own very deliberate analyses that will be the subject of review and then subsequently a decision from those two university councils, and the government awaits the outcome of that endeavour.

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10): A supplementary, and this is again to the Premier: the Premier referred to business cases and cost-benefit analyses being undertaken by the two universities. Will the Premier commit to initiating an independent review of those cost-benefit analyses or business cases and, if not, why not?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:10): No, they are matters for the universities themselves. They are their pieces of work: that is not work that is owned by the government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: What I will say is that the prospect of South Australia being home to the largest educator of domestic students in the country does excite us. The prospect of such a large base of domestic students being educated here, being able to grow into the future with a clear eye on equity, with a clear eye on accessibility, does excite us. The prospect of using that as a base to underpin yet more growth in international students coming to South Australia from countries we engage with, and them bringing that source of income to underpin growth in research in South Australia, that excites us.

The idea of more South Australian students getting access to a world-leading institution that gradually, over the years to come, makes its way up the rankings so that South Australians are in receipt of one of the most sought-after pieces of paper anywhere in the world, then applying that learning to be able to pursue the extraordinary economic opportunities coming our way, that excites us.

Let me be clear about something that is well known, that is, there will be those who are opponents of the idea of the creation of a new university. That is nothing to be surprised at; those opponents have been around for as long as this idea has been on the cards. What is new here is, first, potentially those universities forming their own opinion that now is the time for them to come together for the benefit of their own institutions and the state and, secondly, that they have the prospect of doing that with a government that has got their back, with a government that is willing to be innovative and bold, a government that is willing to potentially invest in universities because we appreciate the value of higher education.

We appreciate the power that tertiary education provides to young people in our state to be able to participate in the economy of tomorrow. We are a government that is willing to lead. We are not going to be a government that gets approached by universities and says, 'We would like, we believe that—

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

The SPEAKER: Premier, there is a point of order from the member for Morialta. I anticipate—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members to my left and right! I will hear the member for Morialta, who I anticipate is going to draw my attention to the fact that our timing device—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: No, sir. I was drawn to standing order 98. The Kennedy bit aside, the question is actually specifically about a review of the university's business cases.

The SPEAKER: Very well, member for Morialta. I will listen carefully—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens is called to order. I will listen carefully. I observe—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you have two minutes.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: In the event that the universities do arrive at the conclusion that they would like to create a new one, and the government is able to facilitate that, then, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to in a recent InDaily article, there will be a need for legislation. This is something that the Deputy Premier of course has been turning her mind to in great detail. Of course, if in the event that the—

Mr Patterson: So they have already made their mind up?

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morphett!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: If in the event that the universities do arrive at that conclusion, there will be a need for legislation to be introduced into the parliament and that will be an opportunity for all and sundry to be able to see the formation of that and for the opposition to scrutinise, as they absolutely should, that proposition. It will also be an important test for everybody in this parliament: an important test of whether or not we are committed to making the bold decisions into the future to set this state up for the long term or whether or not we are going to only contemplate the sort of hold-back mentality that could deprive a new institution being formed in a way that they both want. That would be an extraordinary thing for people in this place to actively consider doing. We on this side of the house are on the side of progress, we on this side of the house are about advancing the state's interests into the long term, and we are willing to make those decisions accordingly.

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): My question is to the Premier. Does Treasury have funds set aside for a contribution to the university merger? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The budget handed down last sitting week contains no identified provision for the university merger despite identifying in the Budget Statement that funds have been set aside for the new National Skills Agreement, and for the delivery of three-year-old preschool, pending the completion of the national agreement and the royal commission, respectively. No such provision have I found for the university merger.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:16): I thank the deputy leader for his question. I am grateful on the second day of sitting, after the release of the budget, to finally get a question about the budget.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Maybe you are entirely relaxed about it. No complaints.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Colton! Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: No complaints.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Too much like hard work.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for West Torrens! The Treasurer has the call.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I am grateful to him because he is right to point out—and he has clearly potentially, unlike some of his colleagues, been assiduously reading the budget papers and I think that's a good thing to do—that the budget has specific provisions set aside for those initiatives that he mentioned before, in particular three-year-old preschool. Without going into too much detail about that, as I have already said, we will make our allocations more formal once we've got the royal commission report and the recommendations of the royal commission report.

What I can say to the deputy leader is that in setting the budget, putting the budget together, we have ensured that the budget settings have sufficient room to make a contribution to the universities in the event that they should agree amongst themselves to pursue a merger. We would only provide that support on the basis that they both resolve that it was in their interests, and that we could be confident that our support would deliver the aims of a merged institution. Obviously, we would want to understand from the universities what their expectations would be in that event. But given that it's not yet an eventuality, given that it's only a potential outcome—not a foregone conclusion—we have not set out a particular quantum of funding in the budget papers for that purpose.

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): A supplementary: the Treasurer in his response described there being sufficient room for there to be a contribution to the university merger. Given that, has the cabinet determined the quantum that would be available for such a contribution and, indeed, has the government talked about that contribution to the universities?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:19): I'm clearly not going to disclose what cabinet has considered or what the discussions have been in cabinet, but I can reaffirm my advice to the house that the government is comfortable, as we have gone about the process of framing the budget, that should we need to make a contribution towards a merged institution, on the basis that the two institutions separately agree to pursue a merger and that we understand the basis of those decisions that they respectively take and what their expectations of government are, we have put the budget together on the basis that we would have sufficient capacity to make a contribution towards those efforts.

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): One further supplementary to the Treasurer or the Premier: can the government rule out that that contribution would be used to fund staff redundancies at the two existing universities?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:20): Again, we haven't got a decision from the universities so we are talking about hypotheticals but I can't imagine that we would look to

commit any of our funding for that sort of purpose. I suspect in the alternative what the government—I don't suspect: I know that our thinking has been if the two universities were to make a decision separately that they wanted to pursue this, if we make any contribution it would be in the effort to support such a merged institution delivering over and above what the two separate entities have been able to do themselves separately to date and I don't see us specifically funding staff redundancies would fit into that line of thinking.

DEFENCE WORKFORCE PLAN

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:21): My question is to the Premier. How is the Malinauskas government supporting highly skilled defence jobs for the future?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:21): I thank the member for Newland for her question. In fact, I was very happy earlier this morning to be with the Deputy Premier down at Osborne talking to people employed by BAE Systems working on the Hunter Class Frigate Program. We had the opportunity to meet with apprentices who themselves were from the north-eastern suburbs and may well have been from the seat of Newland.

It was really quite a heartening experience to be with the Deputy Premier to see the progress that BAE has made over a pretty short time, particularly around the ramp-up of the number of people they now employ—over 1,000 people. It's an extraordinary effort to be able to employ over 650 more just in the last 12 months, given the status of the labour market in South Australia.

You can't find a business anywhere at the moment not complaining about how hard it is to find people. Imagine trying to find 650 during that very period. But, to add to the size of the challenge, BAE Systems are going to employ an additional 2,000 people—which is almost twice as many who worked at Holden at the point of its closure—between now and 2026. Their ability to be able to do that will in no small way be underpinned by a collaborative relationship they have with the state government that is actively investing in education, training and skills, with a very clear eye on the opportunities that we know are coming our way.

The Minister for Education and Skills in particular, along with the Deputy Premier, has been formulating a range of policy interventions to assist us in that regard. The one that I think is the most exciting for a young person out there in the community at the moment is that in the member for Cheltenham's electorate there is a technical college being built as we speak that has enrolments open today, that will be open at the beginning of the school year, where any young person can enrol in the Advanced Manufacturing course and, should they complete that course at the end of their studies, they get a job at BAE Systems: a well-paid job, a secure job, a job that will last for a long time to come.

That is just one example of the type of innovative policy efforts that this government is undertaking to partner with a company like BAE, but we are going to need to do a lot more because we know that the sheer volume of people going to be required is going to increase into the future.

The government is undertaking a number of actions that are under active pursuit at the moment, including reaching an agreement with the commonwealth regarding land swap, where we as a state government hand over to the commonwealth land down at Osborne, which will facilitate them building a brand-new academy that will train thousands upon thousands of people to work in the naval shipbuilding industry.

In exchange, the state government is pursuing land at sites such as Cultana and Keswick—sites that will underpin our expansion into the future in the hydrogen sector, being critical land that the state government has never been able to get access to in the past, despite some efforts. But also there is the ability to acquire the Keswick Barracks site, which could be an incredibly strategic piece of land used for innovative housing policy but also, potentially, useful strategically for the state government as an innovative precinct.

These are the types of pursuits that the state government is engaging in, as well as the pursuit of the creation of a new university where we have already been able to secure additional commonwealth-supported places that are worth a lot of money to the state government as part of that effort. This government is leaving no stone unturned in supporting the naval shipbuilding opportunity in our state.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, I acknowledge the presence of Emilie Meier in the gallery, who is performing work experience in the Opposition Whip's office, from St Martin's Lutheran College in Mount Gambier, and also Jacqui Bateman, an internationally acclaimed photographer, guest of the member for MacKillop.

*Question Time***UNIVERSITY MERGER**

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier told universities that if they do not voluntarily agree to a merger he will force them to merge involuntarily?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:26): We have made it clear that our university amalgamation commission is on hold, given that discussions are being undertaken between Adelaide Uni and the University of South Australia, independently of the government. Naturally, we are seeking to be party to those discussions in terms of the government supporting that effort, but our university amalgamation commission is on hold pending the outcome of those negotiations.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My question is again to the Premier. What campuses will be retained and what campuses will be closed under the government's university merger plan?

The SPEAKER: That question, of course, is potentially argumentative. However, there is no point of order. The Premier has risen and I will turn to the Premier.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:27): Happy to, Mr Speaker. The government's clear ambition with the potential creation of a new university is to grow a new university, which means a greater presence in the community. This government is determined to pursue the policy accordingly.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): My question is again to the Premier. How does the Premier respond to staff and community members concerned about the government's university merger plan? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: A survey of more than 1,000 staff by the National Tertiary Education Union found 75 per cent were opposed to the merger plan, with many expressing particular disappointment at the poor process and lack of consultation. A survey of nearly 2,000 South Australians—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: —by the opposition found significant opposition to the use of taxpayer funds being used for the merger. The NTEU SA division secretary said:

The process must be evidence-based. It needs to be managed with the strictest public oversight protections and stakeholder engagement mechanisms imaginable. Getting this wrong would be catastrophic for South Australia.

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 had an interesting meeting with the NTEU recently about that survey and about the merger process, or the proposition that there might be the creation of a new university in South Australia. It was interesting to me the amount the Leader of the Opposition is leaning on a survey to which 90 per cent of staff did not respond, and 20 per cent of the respondents—

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

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —came from Flinders University, which is not currently in any sort of discussion about merger. I am not at that point dismissing the legitimate feedback from those staff who did choose to participate in the survey, but let's understand that this is a self-selecting response. This isn't a random survey of 10 per cent of staff across three universities—

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

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morialta!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —it is a survey to which 90 per cent of staff chose not to respond, and those who did doubtless are the ones who are—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned. The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. Nonetheless, clearly there are a small number of people who are involved in the two universities who are currently working through a feasibility study process who have some concerns. I understand that. The way in which the university sector has been treated by the federal government over the last 10 years, for example, until the Albanese government was elected, was a disgrace.

The war of the Morrison government against universities has meant that university staff and management have felt under siege. Let's not forget the way in which international students were treated by the Morrison government when COVID hit, for example—and, I would say, in contrast with the now opposition and then government, who were supportive of international students during that time alongside the universities, and I congratulate them on that.

Nonetheless, that does not take away from the effect of Canberra's attitude towards universities for those last 10 years, so I understand that there is a degree of anxiety and concern. I believe it to be misplaced, as I said to the NTEU and I am happy to say now. There is a proposition to consider creating a new university that will be high equity and research intensive. It will be large enough to attract significant research dollars, and let's not forget that for every dollar that is attracted to research nearly \$10 dollars is spent in the private sector, so let's not try to dismiss the importance of attracting more research dollars here.

Let's not forget that we have well under our population percentage of researchers in South Australia in comparison to our population share, and we can do better. One way we can do better is to have a university of mass that is high research intensity, that will be globally ranked well and that has a large enough student body that it is able to attract more and from a more diverse student base and attract more international students.

These are goals that all of us should think are worthy. In fact, at the time, the opposition expressed that they thought that if the universities thought this was a good idea they would be happy to support it. That seems to have evaporated unfortunately, along with the general idea that maybe we could occasionally be bipartisan—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —about the growth and prosperity of this state on behalf of our people.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Colton! Member for Schubert!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Schubert! The Deputy Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: So, to return to the nub of the question about the anxiety, I have responded in detail to the NTEU. I will continue to discuss with staff. I think it's misplaced and I don't think it's significantly held.

ADELAIDE AQUATIC CENTRE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (14:32): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister guarantee that all users of the current Adelaide Aquatic Centre will be redirected before the centre shuts down for works? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: On 23 June, a former swimming instructor, her name is Louise, told 891 AM radio:

I've been at the Aquatic Centre all this week because my children's school has been there doing the school program. There's no way they're going to be able to fit them in elsewhere.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:33): We are doing our very best.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: That's it, is it?

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: No guarantee.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey, order! Member for Adelaide!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey is warned. The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We took to the election a policy—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: Yes, we saw it—the one you deleted.

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

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Hartley! You have asked the question, the minister is answering.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: My young friend is prematurely interjecting again.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Do you think?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We took to the election a policy of offering two options to the people of South Australia. The overarching policy was a brand-new aquatic centre. The question that we were posing to the people of South Australia, especially in the seat of Adelaide, was that we

would either build a new aquatic centre on the existing site, which naturally would have facilitated the closing of the site, or building on a new site—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

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

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley, you have asked the question and the minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We offered the public a choice, and they overwhelmingly opted to choose the Labor government's choice. We have now been implementing that policy. We initially wanted to have a site that was able to utilise the existing Aquatic Centre to remain open while we were building the new site. After having consulted with the local users of the Parklands and the people who use the Aquatic Centre, the difficult but best decision in the long term was to close the facility and utilise some of that site to build a new facility, which gives us a number of wins.

It gives us two playing fields a lot earlier to allow more activation of the Parklands faster and sooner. It gives us a better outcome in terms of the built form for the facility. We have made this decision well over a year in advance to try to help move and relocate people who use the pool, but there was always the risk that we would need to close the centre for a period of time.

Mr Cowdrey: Why did you commit to not doing it?

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Unlike members opposite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Unley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —what we did was take a comprehensive plan and inform people well in advance that this was a risk because what they are getting at the end of this is a brand-new aquatic centre that is world class, a great recreational centre that is going to help people not only get fit, healthy and active but learn to swim. It will incorporate the Parklands—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, there will be water slides; that's right. People like using water slides. People like aquatic sports.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Elder!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I don't know what the aversion is to having fun. I don't know what the aversion is to using the Parklands. I don't know what the aversion is to being fit and healthy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is a good outcome for young people.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We are doing everything we can to try to utilise the other existing sites that we have to try to keep some of these services ongoing, but it is going to be difficult. We are making a tough decision for the long term. We are not going to make the easy choices: we are going to make the tough decision, and the tough decision is to close the centre, because it is the right one. We stand by that decision because we are going to get a better outcome at the end.

What the Premier wants us to do, what the Premier is demanding of us, is long-term thinking: not building on, sterilising, the expansion site for the RAH to try to save time and money. We are doing the right thing. What we are doing is building an aquatic centre that is going to last and making sure we get the right outcome for people.

BEACH DRIVING

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:36): I have a question for the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise which beaches will be shut off to beach driving? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: Birds SA members were recently advised that trials of vehicle bans on beaches would commence on a number of beaches, up to five according to the correspondence. Constituents of mine, especially those around Wauraltee Beach and Flaherty's Beach, are interested to know whether any local ones will be included.

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) (14:37): Thank you for the question. Members may remember that the Natural Resources Committee of the parliament during the last session, chaired by the member for Heysen, had an inquiry into the effect of beach driving. Once that report was finalised with a number of recommendations for consideration, promptly and immediately nothing happened. Since then, we have had an election, and we have been looking carefully at the results of that report.

It is apparent that two things are true at the same time. One is that beach driving is very much loved by at least a portion of the population in South Australia and, indeed, by a lot of Victorians who come over here because they cannot do it on Victorian beaches. In fact, I think we are almost the only state that allows any significant amount of driving on beaches, so we tend to get quite a lot of interstate tourism.

At the same time, it is also true that there are some places where damage is being done not just generally to the natural environment but specifically to rare birds such as hooded plovers, who perhaps tragically regard it to be an adequate nest simply to hollow out a little bit of sand and sit themselves on it, blending in beautifully, unfortunately. This is what was confronted by the Natural Resources Committee, and it is what is confronted by our community.

What the department is proposing to do is come up with a trial whereby—and they have not yet identified the beaches, just to jump to the end of the story—we can identify some beaches where there will not be significant community pushback on not having access to driving and where there could be some significant environmental benefit at least for the breeding period when hooded plovers are on the beaches. I am yet to receive that briefing, but I am looking forward to seeing it, and I am hopeful that it will be greeted with a degree of goodwill to see if we can trial ways in which we can better manage those two realities.

PICCANINNIE PONDS

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:39): My question is also to the Minister for the Environment. Is the minister aware of the significant algae outbreak at Piccaninnie Ponds, resulting in the closure of the site to divers and snorkellers, and are there any steps being taken to address the issue?

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) (14:39): Yes, I am aware of that and it is quite disturbing. It means that that beautiful clarity has essentially gone and it is of concern that we are not able to have diving take place there. This has been creeping up for some time, as I understand it, and work is being done to understand why. Part of the challenge in dealing with how to fix it is that it is not immediately apparent why this has been caused.

The latest I have is that there has been significant research done by the landscape board as well as by DEW into what the interaction between land and water is that has generated this, how much it's to do with recent rains and how much it's to do with perhaps some localised challenge. So

I will get an update on that. If there is any more information, I will both bring it directly to the member but also to the house.

ADELAIDE AQUATIC CENTRE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (14:40): My question again is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Has the minister contacted all leaseholders of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: As of last week the opposition has been informed that all leaseholders have not been given written assurance of their relocation. One lease alone is in the tens of thousands of dollars. As has been reported, the Aquatic Centre is reported to close in August next year, with a new centre due for completion in summer 2025-26, meaning that facilities could be out of operation for at least 16 months.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:41): I haven't personally, no, but I understand the Office for Recreation and Sport and the Adelaide City Council, who owns the current facility and who are the people who the lease is with, have made contact. I will check to make sure on the accuracy of that, but that's the information I have from my memory. The difficulty here is that we are dealing with a facility that we don't actually own. It's owned and operated by the Adelaide City Council. We will be building a brand-new facility that we will own and operate.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, we are not kicking people out. We are building a brand-new facility that members opposite for the entire four years they were in office did absolutely nothing to improve.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: In fact, they boasted about some imaginary deal with the commonwealth government—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —that never existed. It didn't even exist—not a dollar.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Elder!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: So we are working with the users of the facilities to make sure we can find alternatives for them. I don't walk away from this. This is a difficult decision. Closing the pool is a difficult outcome, as opposed to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —the easy decision, which members opposite took, of doing nothing, absolutely nothing. Instead of pretending that they have—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —some imaginary deal with the commonwealth government and that they were somehow going to come to the party with tens of millions of dollars—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —which never actually occurred. Instead, we have put money on the table. We are prepared to run this community facility—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —in the public good, because this facility isn't just for the people of the City of Adelaide. This is a facility that people across the state will use. It is an important piece of state infrastructure. Learning how to swim, a recreation centre like this is an important piece of infrastructure, and we are very keen to make sure it is a success. So the office of recreation and sport, my department—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is on a final warning.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and the Adelaide City Council are working very, very hard. We have given the users of the pools over a year's notice of what we are intending to do, and in the end we are building a brand-new facility for the very people that the member for Hartley is claiming are being wronged—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and being done harm by. We are building a new facility for them. I have to say—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —my young friend can't seem to think more than two moves ahead and thinking more than two moves ahead is very, very important—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —because it is important that this infrastructure be rebuilt—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Reynell! Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —to ensure that this infrastructure lasts a long period of time for those potential users.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: That is right, member for Hartley: 137A, for the remainder of question time.

The honourable member for Hartley having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We are very keen to work with all the users. We are consulting, we are talking to the users, but again I accept that there will be some people who will be upset about the facility closing. One person whose story has really affected all of us is the 87-year-old gentleman who uses that pool, who says that it is part of his everyday social activity. That is very difficult, but everyone, I think, understands the long-term ambition of the government to build a new facility that is going to last generations, that is going to be there for the long term.

It is going to be a bigger and better facility that is going to serve our community exceptionally well. It will keep what we currently have and offer us a better alternative. It will also incorporate the

Parklands, and it will also incorporate two new playing fields rather than one. It will be a better outcome than what we had. Sometimes, the tough decisions are the right ones.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

GLENELG DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTRE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Is the minister aware of any concerns regarding the location of a new drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre at Glenelg? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: Uniting Communities has been provided with government funds to establish a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre at Maturin Road, Glenelg, which is 200 metres away from the local primary school. The outdoor space identified for the centre borders the footpath on the main route children use to walk to school.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morphett!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The question has been asked.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey, your contribution on this occasion is not required. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:46): This government makes no apologies for the fact that we are investing in extra drug rehabilitation services across this state. We took it to the election. We said we need more rehabilitation. We said it's important not just for health outcomes but for whole-of-society outcomes—

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —justice outcomes across the community, that people are unable to get into drug rehabilitation in our community, and we committed additional funding to make sure that there are additional places available to get drug rehabilitation in this state. The department, DASSA, have gone through a procurement process, gone through an open tender process. Uniting Communities have won the tender to provide those services.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Uniting Communities are a service that have a strong track record of providing high-quality drug rehabilitation services in this state. I think it is shameful that the opposition are opposing—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —these additional services.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, there is a point of order. Please be seated momentarily.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, your colleague the member for Morialta is raising a point of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98: it was a respectfully asked question, asking if the minister was aware of concerns and identifying the same. The minister, by saying that it is shameful and going on to say anything, is clearly debating.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Schubert! There is some force in the point of order that has been raised. I bring the minister to the question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It's not lost on me that you've got the member for Morphett running around speaking on radio, talking about how concerned he is about law and order issues in Glenelg, but at the same time he's opposing additional drug rehabilitation services—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond! Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —that can make sure that people can get the help that they need and don't become an issue for the rest of society in his community. You can't have it both ways.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert! Member for Hammond!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That's exactly what he's doing with his blatant nimby attempts, the member for Morphett, of what he is doing.

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Uniting Communities have a strong track record in this state.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It should be an organisation—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morphett!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —that receives bipartisan support from this chamber, but sadly it does not because you've got the member for Morphett opposed to what they are doing, opposed to providing drug rehabilitation services and opposed to providing help for people where ultimately it means they can end up out of hospital, out of the law and order side of services—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Mr Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER: Minister, there's a point of order, which we will turn to under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sir, standing order 98 again.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has provided some context. Some context is permissible, but of course standing order 98 is clear on its face. Minister, we will come to the question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Uniting Communities have provided information to the community. They've been working with the community. They've been able to provide information about how they provide these services in suburbs right across South Australia without the issues that the member for Morphett is shamefully trying to scaremonger his community with at the moment.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: They should be supporting these services, supporting people who need their help, because it could be any one of our families who need admission to drug rehabilitation services.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hurtle Vale! The member for Morphett!

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, your colleague is seeking to raise a point of order. However, it may be that the minister has concluded his answer. Very well. I call the member for Morphett.

GLENELG DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTRE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:50): Supplementary: were any other locations considered by the minister for the Glenelg drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre prior to funding being provided?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:50): As I have already explained to the member for Morphett, this was a tender process that was run by Drug and Alcohol Services so not a decision that the minister made. I would invite the member for Morphett in his nimby world—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —to identify which suburbs he thinks it's okay for drug and alcohol services to be provided in and which ones they shouldn't be provided in, according to his view of the world. Because we listen to the experts, we work with providers like Uniting Communities—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —and we're not out scaremongering and stigmatising like the member for Morphett is. This is absolutely disgraceful behaviour.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Unley! I call the member for Davenport.

SA ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:51): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier inform the house about the SA Environment Awards 2023?

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) (14:51): I am delighted to talk about the environment awards which, I think as a rarity, in fact, were able to be held on World Environment Day, on 5 June, which was terrific—to be able to line those up rather than trying for some time approximate to.

I would like to run through quickly those people who were recognised at the awards, because—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —some of them—

The SPEAKER: The exchange between the member for Hurtle Vale and the member for Morphett and the contribution from others will cease. Deputy Premier.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: —because so many people work—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Reynell!

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morphett, you are warned.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Many people volunteer so many hours, months, years of their lives to bettering the environment for all of us and are rarely recognised more widely, so to have an environmental awards each year is extremely important and, as I observed there on the night, meant a lot to the individuals, both those who were recognised but also their families and those who volunteer alongside them. So I would like to run through those names with the chamber today.

Enid Robertson won Lifetime Achiever; she has been very involved in the conservation and management particularly of native vegetation in South Australia, which has made a significant difference to slowing down biodiversity loss. Neville Bonney many people will know as an author of many books about botany and is a beautiful public speaker as well and enthusiast for preserving our natural environment.

Many, many people here will know Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch, who was recognised, and, I'm sure he wouldn't mind my saying, was very moved by receiving that and slightly overwhelmed, which was delightful given how much he has given not just to the First Nations community, although that is very significant, of course, but, in fact, to all of us in bettering the shared environment.

Pam Catcheside was recognised, again, as a Lifetime Achiever for her establishment of citizens science initiative called FungiMap, which is a way of mapping how much fungi we've got out there, which, if people care about biodiversity, will know that that is also very important. Maureen Christie was awarded Lifetime Achiever Award, and in the context of the question that was asked by the member for Narungga, is very committed to coordinating shorebird monitoring and protecting shorebird species.

Dr Anthony Cheshire won of the Conservation Science Prize for his work in marine research, and Dr Mary Retallack won the Innovation Award. She has been working with winegrowers and producers internationally on making the wine industry more sustainable.

Professor Sarah Wheeler won the Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection. Jill died many years ago now, and has been honoured ever since by an award for a special achiever. Professor Wheeler's work was on water policy reform, in particular but not confined to the importance of the River Murray, and it was wonderful to see her recognised.

Rhys Abbott won the Lief Justham Young Achiever Award, an award named after a young man who is no longer with us. Each year I have been, his mother has had the courage to come along as well and give the award personally, and it is a very moving moment for her. Rhys and I are catching up together to talk about his insight into the expectations of young people on how we better protect our environment. James Smith won Green Adelaide's Pelzer Prize for his work on the wildlife of greater Adelaide, creating a legacy by which South Australians can better understand their state's unique biodiversity.

Finally there was an organisational winner in the Working Together Award, which was the KI Feral Pig Eradication Team. I would like to say, for those who haven't heard, that feral pigs have essentially been eradicated from Kangaroo Island, which is a remarkable achievement. There are, I believe, two pigs left, and they are on the hunt for them, but they are not able to breed, and we are hopeful that they have now, in fact, been eradicated.

PORT PIRIE HEALTH SERVICE

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister direct the CEO of the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network to provide restraint-trained security guards for the Port Pirie hospital and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: Today, it was reported that two nurses at the Port Pirie hospital had been attacked by a patient, with one nurse punched in the stomach and one in the torso. It is the second violent incident in a week after three doctors and two nurses were also assaulted by a patient.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:56): I thank the member for Frome for her question. I was concerned to hear the reports from the ANMF this morning in relation to an incident at the Port Pirie hospital, and I have asked for information from the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network.

The early indication I have had, awaiting a full briefing, is that there was an incident involving a woman in her late 70s who was a resident of the adjacent aged-care facility and who has dementia. There was a Code Black called in relation to her care. Obviously, I think all members of the house would understand that in relation to people who have dementia in aged care they can sometimes be difficult cases in terms of the management of those cases.

Ms Pratt: But security would help.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That is an appropriate question that needs to be asked in relation to a case of a woman in her late 70s with dementia, in terms of whether that is the appropriate action that should have been taken in that regard. However, I will get the full briefing in relation to the matter.

Clearly there is a broader concern in relation to the ANMF that they have raised in relation to security guards not just at that hospital but other hospitals across the state.

Ms Pratt: Wallaroo, Berri—

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes, and there were a number of hospitals where they have been raising this issue for some time—

Ms Pratt: So have we.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Not that long, in fact, member for Frome, because this issue was raised for many years in relation to the Port Lincoln hospital under the previous government, and there was a refusal to put in place any security guards at the Port Lincoln hospital. We have now put in place a review of security arrangements there, and we have put in place a security guard at the Port Lincoln hospital. We have increased security guards in place at the Mount Gambier hospital, but no doubt there is more work to do.

The Yorke and Northern Local Health Network board is actively considering this. I spoke to the chair of the board, appointed by the previous government, only last week—

Ms Pratt interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —in relation to this matter, and that is under active consideration by the board in both Port Pirie and Wallaroo, as they consider the security arrangements in place for staff and patients at both those hospitals.

Ms Pratt interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Frome is called to order. I am going to turn to the member for Elizabeth because this is only the third government question for the day.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:59): Thank you, sir. My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house on the budget's initiatives to increase the supply of housing and any alternative views on these measures?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:59): I thank the member for his question and his interest in this important area, because members would be aware that the budget included a package of more than \$470 million for improving housing supply in South Australia. That included not only increasing the amount of new public housing builds but also stopping the sell-off of 580 public housing properties budgeted under the previous government, more affordable homes, developing an office for regional housing in Renewal SA to build more regional housing and, of

course, abolishing stamp duty for eligible first-home owners who either buy a new home valued up to \$650,000 or purchase a vacant block of land valued up to \$400,000 to build a new home.

This was warmly received by the community, and I can advise the house that some of the positive reports came from the Master Builders Association. I quote:

This is a fantastic announcement for first home buyers, it's also a fantastic announcement also for builders, tradies, apprentices, suppliers.

Stephen Knight from the HIA said, 'Stamp Duty relief is always a good thing.' Indeed, the Property Council's Bruce Djite said:

We certainly welcome and applaud the Government for the housing measures that they've introduced in this budget, abolishing stamp duty is fantastic news especially for first home buyers.

Mr Speaker, you would be as surprised as I was to learn that, on the weekend after the budget, the member for Colton and his colleague in the other place Heidi Girolamo issued a media alert about Labor's 'budget fail', saying, 'We will take all questions on first-home buyer announcements,' and then saying, 'Here are the only suburbs in Greater Adelaide with median house prices below \$650,000.' The journalist who sent this to me was surprised, thinking that the list of the only suburbs might only be half a dozen or a dozen suburbs. In fact, it was followed by a list put out by the member for Colton of 100 suburbs in Greater Metropolitan Adelaide—100 suburbs.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Remarkably, the media was concerned that there was the whiff of snobbery—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Elder! The Treasurer has the call.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —in the approach from the member for Colton identifying the following suburbs.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I will start with the suburbs beginning with a D, given the member for Colton's familiarity with that letter.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Devon Park and Dudley Park are highlighted as suburbs. I wouldn't have thought this was a problem for first-home buyers, given they are both located less than five kilometres from the GPO—but there's something wrong with those suburbs according to the member for Colton—or, in the electorate of Torrens, Gilles Plains and Hillcrest; even in my electorate, less than 10 kilometres from the GPO, Albert Park, Hendon and Royal Park. What was really of interest to the journalist was the member for Colton highlighting a range of suburbs in marginal electorates, sneeringly saying that these apparently aren't good enough for first-home buyers—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

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

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —and putting Modbury, Modbury North, Ridgehaven, St Agnes—

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, there is a point of order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Newland! Member for Elder! Member for Chaffey! Member for Morialta.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: In characterising somebody else's commentary in the way that the Treasurer sees fit, in the way that he has just done, he is in breach of standing order 98 for debate.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Well, it may be that another standing order could also have been raised by the shadow treasurer, but it wasn't.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Brown: He's not actually the shadow treasurer; he just acts as the shadow treasurer.

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey, that contribution is unhelpful.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We have the question, we are listening carefully, the Treasurer has the call.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Just to clarify—not my characteristic, but the characteristic put to me by those in the media, listing suburbs in the marginal electorates of King, of Mawson, of Newland, of Wright, and even listing a suburb in the electorate of Heysen—an extraordinary attempt by those opposite to denigrate suburbs as apparently not being good enough for first-home buyers. We are pleased that we are opening up home ownership to first-home buyers in not only more than 100 suburbs in Greater Metropolitan Adelaide but in every regional centre—

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —across South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer's contribution has concluded and so has question time.

Grievance Debate

UNIVERSITY MERGER

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:04): Today in question time, the government put forward their arguments as to why they have changed their election commitment from a universities commission to, instead, pursuit of a university merger without a commission, without a cost-benefit analysis, without a business case, without having made the case for why their approach will deliver what they say it will deliver.

To be clear, the Liberal Party has come at this proposal, as we have come to proposals for a university merger in the past, with an open mind, with potentially a level of scepticism, given that this proposal has not come organically from the universities, or from the community or from industry or business, but from the fevered imaginations of the campaign unit in the Labor Party headquarters. Nevertheless, we have said that if the universities sought an amalgamation, if indeed it was in the state's best interest, then the Liberal Party would take to it with an open mind and we would be prepared, and remain potentially prepared if we are convinced, to support legislation.

In our very first question today, we invited the Premier to outline the basis upon which he supports this proposal. We asked him what key benefits he sees resulting from his university merger plan. The Premier outlined very clearly that he sees two benefits for South Australia as a result of this. He said, firstly, that it will increase the volume of research being done in South Australia, and later on he went on to say that would automatically lead to a lift in the university rankings. I point out

to the Premier that it is not the only thing they take into account in the rankings; nevertheless, an increase in research is not necessarily a bad thing.

The second point he made was that the government is keen to increase accessibility to as many young people as possible to get a university education. Of course, that is a good thing too. Over the course of nine or 10 questions, what he failed to do was explain how the government's proposition necessarily results in those two outcomes. To the point of the scale of universities, the government that initially wanted a top 100 university, now that we have a top 100 university by all the rankings that are coming out, now say we need a top 50 university. The government proposes that it will be a good thing to have the largest provider of higher education in the land, without taking into consideration the fact that a small minority of the world's top 50 universities have a scale of over 50,000 students, the sort of scale we are talking about. Size does not necessarily lead to a lift in the rankings.

The Premier talked about how it was going to provide better accessibility for students. He went on a Kennedy-esque peroration to suggest that this was something the government would do not because it is easy but because it is worth doing. I forget which quote he was trying to pretend to do. The fact is that the government has put forward no evidence as to why this proposal will lead to greater accessibility.

In fact, when the Leader of the Opposition raised a question about whether campuses would close, the Premier had no idea and refused to answer that question. He said, 'That's up to the universities.' When we asked about a business case or cost-benefit analysis or the sort of work that might have been done by the Labor government's initial promise of whether there are risks and costs in addition to the benefits and the opportunities, the Premier said, 'Well, the universities have done that work. The universities have done their business cases and their cost-benefit analyses.'

When we asked whether indeed there was going to be any analysis of those business cases so that the taxpayers of South Australia and South Australian students and staff at those universities might have some opportunity to analyse whether or not it was in the state's best interest, the Premier said, 'No, that's a matter for the universities.' So we asked the Treasurer—we asked the Premier, but the Treasurer answered—about the funding: 'How much funding are we talking about? Is it in the budget?' and the Treasurer said, 'No, it's not in the budget, but we have enough,' but I cannot find the word he used, but that is okay. He said that there was enough flex in the budget, that there was enough wriggle room in the budget to provide that funding.

They will not tell us what they have had discussions with the universities about. They will not tell us what the taxpayers are going to get for their money and how much it is going to cost. They dismissed sneeringly the concerns of academics and other staff, the union and stakeholders, and they completely dismissed concerns raised by the community.

We do not come here desiring to oppose this plan if it is in South Australia's best interest, but it is in taxpayers' interest for their government to be up-front and clear about how much money this is going to cost and what taxpayers are going to get for their money. So far, the government have utterly botched this process. They need to come clean, they need to be transparent and they need to start right now.

MOUNT GAMBIER DANCERS BALL

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:09): I rise to discuss community values and looking to the past to see those values and portray them into the future. I think many times we look around our communities, and we certainly have a very close, collaborative community in Mount Gambier. I attended an event on Friday night that gave me pause to reflect on these values. It was an amazing event of well over 400 community members coming together: the event was my first debutante ball. The community came together to celebrate a group of 32 young men and women.

Whilst the traditional meaning of the deb ball has changed over the years, many aspects are still relevant to today's society. What is now known as the Dancers Ball began as the Caledonian Ball, and it has been a Mount Gambier tradition for well over 60 years. During the 1970s and 1980s, the young women and men were instructed by Margaret Reichelt of Margaret Cleves School of

Dancing. In 1982, Margaret's daughter, Maria Slape, made her own debut and then began assisting her mother and took over the institution in the mid-1980s.

Maria now runs her own successful dance studio, MJ Dance Studio. In the late 1990s the Caledonian Ball was cancelled. However, over the next few years Maria was approached by some of her students to bring back the deb ball, and in 2001 the first Dancers Ball was held at the Barn Palais. It has now been running for 19 years. Many of the traditions of the Caledonian Ball are still present today, a factor Maria felt was important in keeping the debutante ball going.

The young women wear a tartan sash and are encouraged to research their family history to find if they have any Scottish connection—something almost half of this year's debs managed to do. Many of the girls also had a piece of jewellery or a brooch that belonged to a grandmother or a great-grandmother. Debutantes were piped down by bagpiper Janet Bellinger and presented to Mount Gambier Mayor Lynette Martin. They performed a choreographed dance, the Gay Gordons and the Queen's Waltz, with someone significant in their lives.

While some may say the debutante ball is now an outdated notion, I would like to focus on the positive aspects that it provides. Thirty-two young men and women from all four of Mount Gambier's senior schools gave up their Friday nights for six weeks to learn the dances for the evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to forge friendships with others outside their usual social circles. It takes a great deal of courage and confidence to get up and dance in front of 400 people—family, friends and strangers. It was something completely outside their comfort zone. It starts conversations, with many of the young men and women hearing about their own parents', aunts' and uncles' stories of their experiences and the traditions that have been passed down.

Each year, the MC of the evening is a senior dancer from MJ Dance Studio. On Friday night, the task was given to 19-year-old Mia Bellinger, and what an amazing job she did. I would like to thank Maria Slape, MJ Dance Studios and the Barn Palais for continuing to host this worthwhile community event. It was wonderful to see so many residents of all ages coming together for a social evening and celebrating our young people of today in such a positive way.

On a personal note, my son did the deb ball and it is a memory that will stay with him forever because he took his grandma and did a dance that he had practised and that they ended up practising together. It is a memory that will live on forever. What really struck me was a community coming together, having discussions (when you know probably half the room, if not more), and people coming together as a community on a Friday night to really encourage the young people in our community and celebrate the efforts they have put in. It was truly an amazing experience and it gave me a real chance to sit back and reflect on what a great community we have in Mount Gambier.

ROTARY YOUTH MUSIC AWARDS

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:14): On Saturday night, I attended the third Unley Rotary Youth Music Awards at the Goodwood Theatre and Studios on Goodwood Road. The Rotary Youth Music Awards supports emerging musicians aged between 10 and 21 years in our South Australian community. The initiative, led by Rhonda Hoare and her subcommittee of the Rotary Club of Unley, is supported by Tabor College. It aims to encourage, nurture and foster the musical talent of young people here in South Australia.

The awards include a range of categories from solo artists, original or cover songs, ensembles, digital music and a specialist percussion section in a supportive environment. These awards provide easy access to music resources, masterclasses to help applicants' performance techniques and the opportunity to perform at the Goodwood Institute in front of a paying audience.

There are a range of prizes including cash, music store vouchers, professional music photography, recording sessions, instruments and more. The awards and the opportunities they present for young people demonstrates how the Rotary Club of Unley values the arts and the importance of music and creativity in our society. A big thank you, too, to the sponsors, because of course these community events cannot happen without generous sponsors such as Derringers Music, Billy Hyde Music, Harrison Music, Winston Music, Anaconda, Size Music and Officeworks.

Although it was predominantly a locally organised event, the first act was a band called Exit Plan from Murray Bridge High School and they played an original composition. Then Plato Minyaeva

from St Ignatius College performed a waltz from *Blizzard* on the piano. Mia Huang performed a classical piece in the year 7-9 category, again on the piano. Xiaoyun Zhang in the year 7-9 instrumental category, also performed a solo piece on the piano. Anika Hiriyan from Pembroke School performed *Home (Wonderland) Music* in the year 7-9 vocal category.

Holly Westbrook from Loreto College also performed a vocal piece in the year 7-9 vocal category. Andrew Kim from Prince Alfred College performed two movements of *Winter* on his violin and that was a stunning performance. The Loreto College Quintet also performed, and Molly Silvey from Loreto performed her own composition in the year 10-12 original music category. Iris Nissen from Cabra Dominican College also performed an original piece. Kelly Ramsay from Tabor performed another original piece, and Chayse Larsen from Nuriootpa High School performed *Soldier's Eyes* on guitar and vocal.

Antonia Pajor from Cabra Dominican College performed her piece in the year 10-12 vocal category. Amber Hallett from Loreto College sang *Once Upon a Time* by Charles Strouse in the year 10 vocal category. Antonia Mazzone from Loreto College performed *Alegria* by Renee Dupere in Italian. With her Italian heritage, she had no trouble singing in Italian, and she was very proud of her heritage on that night. Jack Elms was in the year 10-12 vocal category from Prince Alfred College, and Mia Luppino was in the year 7-9 vocal category from Loreto College. A big thank you also to Timothy Frahn, Bachelor of Music, who for the third year in a row has been the adjudicator and had the tough job of being on the panel to determine the winners, the runners-up and the other prize holders.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:20): I rise this afternoon to share my excitement that the Women's World Cup is only a few weeks away, and it is the first time it is going to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. Those of us who are mad football fans will be thrilled that not only can we go to our local stadium to support the teams but also we do not have to get up at 2am, 4am, nonstop for four weeks.

I was so lucky four years ago to travel to France to follow the Matildas in the Women's World Cup as well as also taking the opportunity to watch some legs of the Tour de France. Attending the World Cup gives you an incredible opportunity to see parts of a country you would not normally go to see. We visited Montpellier and we visited Grenoble, towns that were not on our radar but now we know how beautiful they are.

When you go to support a sporting event such as football, the game only lasts 90 minutes, but of course you are there for a few days. We got to go hiking, we got to support their local restaurants, we got to go to music concerts and we got to go to art galleries. For us in Australia and our neighbours in New Zealand, to have this massive international event come to our shores is an incredible opportunity for all of us.

I was then lucky to attend the semifinals and the final in Lyon. Not surprisingly, the US made the grand final. It was a brilliant game to be at. In the days leading up to the final, we were spending our time wandering around Lyon. Suddenly, waves and waves of Americans arrived in France, having come over once they discovered their team was in the grand final. The beauty of women's football is that the majority of supporters are women and their families. I must say that compared to many other sporting events it is a very welcoming and lovely atmosphere to be amongst. You certainly feel safe as a football supporter being in those enormous crowds.

One thing I will always remember from the grand final is when the President of FIFA came out to present the cup. He came out onto the stage, and spontaneously the crowd starting chanting, 'Equal pay!' It was a moment I will not forget and, of course, participated in. Unfortunately, at that World Cup, the Matildas were not as successful as we had hoped, but this time, being on home soil with their families and their friends, their ex-teammates and all of us there to support, we do hope that it will be a successful tournament.

Over the last four years, so many of our players for the Matildas have had the opportunity to play in higher leagues. Now they are playing in Europe and the UK. I must mention Sam Kerr, our captain of the Matildas. She is Australia's most successful international goalscorer ever. She has

been playing with Chelsea for the last number of seasons. Just over the last few months, they have won the league title and the FA Cup, an incredible success for Chelsea. Of course, Sam Kerr has been integral in their success. All of those experiences are going to be brought to Australia for this World Cup.

I am particularly excited to be following South Australian Charli Grant in this competition. She played at Cumberland United and then at Adelaide United and now for the Matildas. She recently scored as a defender her first ever goal for the Matildas in the recent friendly against England. It just so happened I was out doorknocking a few days after. Obviously, I had watched that game and seen her score. I was out doorknocking, and this elderly gentleman answered the door: 'Are you here for my autograph?' I said, 'No.' Next, it turns out that he is Charli Grant's grandfather and he is the proudest man in Adelaide. We had a lovely chat talking about her wonderful success, and I am really excited to be seeing her play.

Of course, my teammates at Westminster Old Scholars' Soccer Club are also keen to get along to Hindmarsh to support all of the countries that will be playing there and to see football played at its highest level in the world. I wish the Matildas all the best. I think we are going to have an incredible competition and I reckon we are going to come away with gold. I am really looking forward to it.

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:25): I rise to give an industry outlook, particularly in the Riverland, with the wine industry in the doldrums that it is currently in. Sadly, I speak on the perilous condition of the wine industry at the moment, and a lot of it is derived from the red wine sector and, yes, it has been the loss of the Chinese wine market that the wine industry had been geared up for. The majority of wine grapes in South Australia are red wine grapes and a lot of that red industry has been geared up for the China market.

Back in 2014 is where it all began, and what I have seen over a number of recent years is a world decline in wine consumption. That has been a part of the problem, as well as other issues and headwinds that the industry is currently facing. The oversupply of red wine has already been stated, particularly with the loss of the Chinese wine market, but one in two South Australian wine businesses has reported a huge amount of unused oversupply.

The 2022 vintage was the beginning of the rot. We know that China had put tariffs and barriers on Australian wine, as they have on other commodities, but what we have seen it do to an industry that has specifically geared up for red wine exports into China is that that huge export driver that it has been over a number of years currently has high inventory levels. Red wine stock is expected to last a further 2.6 years if there are no more wine grapes grown. The 2023 red grape intake has not been low enough to reduce stock levels and now winemakers are likely to be restricting intake of red grapes for 2024. Shiraz, cabernet and merlot will need to be reduced by some 250,000 tonnes. If we put that into bottles, if we put that into cases, if we put that into pallets, it is a significant inventory of wine that will go begging.

Currently, sadly, if we look around South Australia—and I see this on my travels—as a former wine grape grower, I have witnessed a lot of fruit that has now been harvested onto the ground and a lot of fruit that has been left on the vine. It is not just in the Riverland, but the significant amount of tonnage that is affecting the Riverland wine industry is going to have a significant ripple effect, not only on the wine industry but it is going to have a significant impact on the local economy. Sixty per cent of the local economy is derived from the wine industry, and unless we see a move to redirect some of the inputs into growing vineyards and growing wine grapes, we are going to see a huge cliff fall by that industry.

The 8.3 per cent increase in red wine is now being exacerbated by wineries and buyers looking for growers to convert from red to white grapes. What has been reported to me is that it would not take much of an adjustment and then we will see an oversupply of white. So in my recent travels I have not heard anything from the state government, there was nothing in the budget, and I know that the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Trade and Investment are aware of the situation that we currently face. Sixty-five per cent of businesses will still be impacted by wine duties and just under half of South Australian businesses are classified as extremely affected.

As I said, we are looking at diversifying our markets but what we need now is some level of diversification. We do not want to see the industry collapse in a heap, and so my meetings most recently in Canberra were about initiating some form of solution. Those solutions are around diversification; it is about diversifying those irrigation properties and it is about diversifying those farm businesses so that we can put other commodity sectors into the mix so that we are not totally reliant on wine grapes.

It happened in the sugar industry. I know that small family businesses in Mackay were given a restructuring package so they could diversify their economy, so that the region could move on and not fall off the cliff with what we see coming now. The adjustment mechanism is more diversity—new crops, new ideas—and of course our next generation needs some level of certainty so that we can produce food and wine for the world.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:30): Today, I would like to talk about service clubs. The reason I raise this today is that, like most members in this place, I either have attended or will be attending a number of handover dinners and other events to mark the change in leadership of our local service clubs. I have already attended two so far: the Lions Club of Gawler, of which I am a member, and also the handover event for the Rotary Club of Gawler Light.

The reason I talk about service clubs is that they play a very important role in our local communities. I am aware that some service clubs are finding it challenging to find new members, while others are thriving. I am aware that over the last 10 years or so some service clubs have closed across the state, which is very sad because they not only provide opportunities to raise funds for important community projects—as I will elaborate on in a moment—but they also provide a venue for people to get together, have a sense of community and do things together, which is really important.

With an increase in the sense of isolation and loneliness in our communities, we need organisations that foster doing things together. Service clubs certainly give opportunities to people to do important work together in their own local communities and to undertake projects that benefit their greater local community. As an example, I will mention the two clubs I have been to for their handover dinners, and I will also indicate the sorts of activities they undertake right across the board.

The Lions Club of Gawler get involved in organising hampers at Christmas time. They support the Biggest Morning Tea, raising funds for cancer research. Through their various activities, like the Lions Sunday Market and also doing things like gate duties at various community events, they have raised funds and given money for childhood cancer, prostate cancer, diabetes research, domestic violence, the Leukaemia Foundation, flood victims, the local Gawler East Primary School, hearing dogs, rail care, and gym equipment for the Gawler Health Service.

These are some of the things that just one club has done in the community over the past 12 months, under the leadership of Libby March; secretary, David Schwartz; treasurer, Nick Brown; and past president, Helen McGee. The local executive of the Lions Club have done an outstanding job in promoting and raising funds for local community organisations. I would also like to mention the new incoming executive: the president and treasurer will be Nick Brown, the secretary will be Aileen Castigo-Hancock, the catering manager will be Rodney Sutton and the administration coordinator will be David Schwartz. This small group of people does an outstanding job in supporting our local communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the work they do in recycling programs to help Third World nations, that is, the spectacles and hearing aids they collect. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by the Phillips family from Gawler Caravans, who are great supporters of the Gawler Lions Market.

As I mentioned, the other event I attended was the handover event for the Rotary Club of Gawler Light. I have been involved in some of their activities to raise funds. They have had an online auction, they have held a giant family picnic for the community, they support the Australian Heart Foundation, they raise funds through working the football gates and they sponsor students overseas.

Under the leadership of Steve McLaughlin during 2022-23 and incoming president, Darryl Matthews for 2023-24, they also organised a riverbank Christmas display. They undertake car parking duties at the swap meet in the village fair, they help out at Australia Day, they help out with the Christmas carols, they actually support a youth exchange and they have actually helped establish an Interact club in the Gawler and District College, etc. That is just a range of the activities they undertake.

In the last few moments I have, I would like to acknowledge other clubs: the Gawler Apex Club, the Bottlebrush Ladies CWA group, the Country Women's Association of Gawler, the Elizabeth Freemasons, the Gawler Freemasons, Kiwanis Barossa Valley, the Lions Club of Angle Vale, the Lions Club of Elizabeth Playford, the Lions Club of Gawler, the Rotary Club of Gawler, the Rotary Club of Gawler Light, the Rotary Club of Playford, the VIEW Club of Gawler and the Zonta Club of Gawler. These are all community organisations that serve my community.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:35): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Thursday 6 July 2023 at 11am.

Motion carried.

Resolutions

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGALISATION OF MEDICINAL CANNABIS

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

That this council—

- (a) supports all six members and supporting staff of the Joint Committee on the Legalisation of Medicinal Cannabis attending the 2023 Australian Medicinal Cannabis Symposium to be held in Brisbane from 11 to 13 August 2023;
- (b) acknowledges the value of the joint committee holding meetings and hearing evidence while attending the symposium; and
- (c) requests the clerks of the houses to provide funding for the members and staff of the committee to travel to and attend the symposium and hold meetings.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:37): I move:

That the House of Assembly concurs with the resolution of the Legislative Council contained in message No. 86 as received by the house.

Motion carried.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2023

Estimates Committees

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:37): By leave, I move:

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting that the Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector, the Hon. K.J. Maher, and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Minister for Forest Industries, the Hon. C.M. Scriven, members of the Legislative Council, be permitted to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill.

Motion carried.

DISABILITY INCLUSION (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (15:38): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Disability Inclusion Act 2018. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (15:39): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2023 seeks to make important changes to the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 that is a critical part of our legislative scheme. The act promotes the recognition of essential human rights in South Australia in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and interacts with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031. The act also sets out a number of principles aligned to the United Nations convention and requires the creation of the State Disability Inclusion Plan, known as Inclusive SA.

In addition to the overarching statewide plan, the act requires almost 100 state authorities, including government agencies and all 68 local councils, to develop their own disability access and inclusion plans, often referred to as DAIPs. Since the legislation was passed and enacted, state authorities have consulted and developed these DAIPs that have been an important step in making our community more inclusive and responsive to the needs of people with disability. Together, Inclusive SA and the DAIPs provide a range of benefits, including requiring agencies to:

- consult people within the community;
- critically analyse their services and processes; and
- commit to actions that improve responses to people with disability.

These plans are not perfect, and the needs and views of people with disability change over time. For that reason, these plans are subject to review, and Inclusive SA will be reviewed later in 2023. I welcome input from members of this place, local constituents, organisations and anyone who wants to make our community more inclusive.

It is not just the various inclusion plans that require review. Under section 21 of the act, the minister is required to cause a review of the operation of the act before the fourth anniversary of its commencement. This review was undertaken in mid-2022 by an independent reviewer who some in this place would know—Mr Richard Dennis AM, PSM—and who consulted widely in his work. A final report was provided to my office detailing 50 recommendations for consideration, and I tabled the report in this place in September 2022.

I note that 30 of the recommendations were not for legislative change, so are outside the scope of the bill, but I am happy to report that a number have already been actioned and completed. Despite not all the recommendations being legislative, they are all important and the government will consider them closely, along with other upcoming findings, recommendations and reviews.

In late 2023, we are expecting the outcomes of the major NDIS review that is looking at the first 10 years of this critical national reform. Around the same time, we are also expecting the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. This will be happening while we consult on the next iteration of Inclusive SA, the statewide disability inclusion plan that is made under this legislation.

To say that 2023 will be a critical period in our history for disability policy is an understatement, and this bill is an important first step. People with disability are not responsible for the limitations imposed on them by outside forces. Social change is needed to provide equality, inclusion and justice for people with disability, and this is done by removing barriers arising from the physical environment, attitudes, law, regulations and policy.

In response to the Dennis review, my department worked with parliamentary counsel to develop the draft Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2022 that dealt with 14 of the 20 legislative recommendations. Although all recommendations were broadly

supported by my department, some require further scoping to determine how they can be actioned effectively. Subject to the outcome of this scoping work, further legislation may be required, and I will consider this in the context of the other recommendations, findings and review outcomes that we expect this year.

After developing a draft bill, there was further consultation. Between 27 February 2023 and 6 April 2023, the Department of Human Services conducted a consultation via YourSAy, a portal that seeks community feedback on the draft bill and commenced discussions on the State Disability Inclusion Plan more broadly. Peak organisations, and those that had provided feedback in the first phase of consultation, were invited to provide written submissions.

Overall, the feedback we received in response to the draft bill demonstrated community support. I would like to express my thanks to everyone who gave their time to contribute to the multiple consultations and draft the bill that helped us get to where we are today. Specifically, this bill proposes to:

- enact provisions currently appearing in the Disability Inclusion Regulations 2019 as provisions in the act;
- include a definition of barrier in the act, given the significance of the concept of barriers in the definition of disability and within the wider issue of achieving greater inclusion;
- include new paragraphs within the act to provide expressly that people with disability, regardless of age, have a right to be safe and to feel safe through the provision of appropriate safeguards, information, services, and support;
- amend sections within the act to enhance clarity and/or definition of the principles as they relate to people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to their disability;
- amend sections within the act relating to the reporting requirements and time frames for the state plan and state authority Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, as well as the specific functions of the chief executive of the Department of Human Services; and
- require consultation with people with lived experience, and authorise the formation of groups to facilitate consultation.

The bill aims to enhance the act, support greater access and inclusion for people with disability and ensure the state government and local councils remain responsive and accountable. The act currently defines disability in section 3 as, and I quote:

...in relation to a person, includes long-term physical, psycho-social, intellectual, cognitive, neurological or sensory impairment, or a combination of any of these impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;

The word 'barrier' appears here as well as in other places in the act, but is not defined. As noted earlier, the Dennis review and draft bill proposes a definition of the term 'barrier' to be included in the act, as follows:

Barrier includes something that is—

- (a) physical, architectural, technological, or attitudinal; or
- (b) based on information or communications; or
- (c) the result of a policy or practice.

I also recently discussed the concept of defining barriers in the act with my ministerial Disability Advisory Council, and I found different views on the detail but a common view that a definition would be useful. Members of the council also noted value in seeking to adopt a consistent approach to defining barriers in different state and federal legislation.

The second proposed amendment area relates to a greater emphasis of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, often referred to as the UNCRPD. Specifically, it has been proposed that an additional paragraph be included under section 8, as follows:

- (f) making significant gains towards achieving an inclusive community where principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underpin the development and delivery of services, especially by removing barriers so that people with disability, regardless of age, are able to access services and to participate in the community in the same way as other members of the community.

It was broadly accepted by respondents to the consultation that greater emphasis on the UNCRPD principles was a positive improvement to the act, and underpins the overall intention of the act.

Several written submissions highlighted that greater emphasis on supporting the universal design approach to buildings and spaces that accommodate the needs of people living with disability, and other groups with diverse needs, is required. One respondent said, 'If people are shut out of society, they may question their ability to make a valuable contribution or feel too intimidated to try.'

As members of this place should be aware, the Malinauskas Labor government has agreed to changes to the National Construction Code from October 2024 that will improve building accessibility. I also note that this could have been done under the previous government, but they failed to do so in preference of a voluntary model that was not expected to achieve universal take-up. No-one should underestimate the impact of having accessible homes that exist within an accessible community.

The third proposed amendment area relates to the provision of appropriate safeguards, including information and reporting mechanisms. Specifically, it has been proposed that an additional paragraph be included under section 9(1) as follows:

- (ja) people with disability have the right to be safe, and to feel safe, through the provision of appropriate safeguards, information, services, and support, and through appropriate and accessible reporting mechanisms in cases of neglect, abuse or exploitation.

Respondents to the YourSAy survey and through written submissions highlighted that the South Australian government should invest in mechanisms to enhance the safeguarding of people living with disability and consider how this commitment can be reflected in the next state plan. As one respondent outlined, and I quote:

Safeguards include natural safeguards like personal relationships and community connections, and that it is [with] these safeguards that need to be built into the lives of every people living with disability in order to truly make inroads into preventing abuse and harm.

In South Australia, and Australia more broadly, there are various formal safeguard mechanisms in place including the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission and the Adult Safeguarding Unit. The state government will consider further improvements to safeguarding policy when the royal commission is handed down in late 2023, along with the NDIS review.

The fourth proposed area of amendment relates to the right to participate in the design and delivery of inclusive policies and programs. Specifically, it has been proposed that additional paragraphs be included under section 9(1) as follows:

- (p) people with disability and their families and representatives as appropriate have a right to participate in the design and delivery of inclusive policies and programs; and
- (q) insofar as people with disability may not be able to find out about their rights or may not be able to understand their rights because of their disability, state and local government should take reasonable steps to assist them to learn about their rights and to develop ways in which they can, or their families or representatives can, report violation of those rights.

The rights of people with disability to actively contribute to the design and delivery of inclusive policies and programs was resoundingly supported by YourSAy survey respondents and written submissions. YourSAy respondents provided meaningful suggestions on how state authorities can engage with the disability community on matters concerning them, including:

- genuine co-design principles where a diverse range of people with relevant skills, experience or interests come together to provide advice and make decisions in a project, policy, program or initiative;

- engagement with relevant disability-led peer groups and organisations, providing alternative forms of communication, including Auslan; and
- providing sufficient time and transparency.

Respondents commended my announcement of the disability minister's advisory council, that we call the DMAC for short. We sought expressions of interest for the DMAC in late 2022 and commenced formal meetings in 2023. This was seen as sending a clear message to the rest of government that people living with disability must be involved in government policy, programs and services.

Of critical importance to the community is that groups such as the DMAC are not tokenistic and have a genuine opportunity to contribute to the conversation. The only change from the draft bill to the one before us today relates to this advisory council. The draft bill provided lengthy detailed and prescriptive arrangements for the council and I note it was drafted before I formed the current group. As such, the bill before the house requires me to consult with people with disability and allows me to form groups like the disability ministerial advisory council, but we have removed the highly detailed provisions.

Before placing a high level of detail into the act, I want to see how the council operates and give the council an opportunity to provide input as to how its role, membership and operation should be reflected in the act.

The fifth area of amendment relates to supporting people with significant intellectual disability or high levels of vulnerability due to disability. Specifically, it has been proposed that additional paragraphs be included under section 9(3) as follows:

- (5a) In addition to the principles set out in any other provision of this section, the following principles are to be acknowledged and addressed in the operation, administration and enforcement of this act as it relates to people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability.
 - (a) people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability have a right to feel safe, to enjoy dignity in their lives and to participate in the community in meaningful ways;
 - (b) people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability may face major barriers, which they may not be able to understand and so need support from others to advocate on their behalf when seeking to remove or deal with those barriers.

Section 9 of the act includes separate and important principles that apply to certain groups of people who may face additional barriers, inequities and other challenges associated with disability inclusion. During consultations for the Dennis review, a submission indicated that people within the community with profound intellectual disability or who have heightened vulnerability need special recognition, resulting in this proposed amendment.

The inclusion of this new priority cohort reflects the additional challenges and vulnerability that they face, and ensures that the act places greater priority on the needs of these groups—and I quote from the Dennis review—'where their situation may compound various barriers to disability inclusion.'

The Dennis review identified that those with profound intellectual disability or who have heightened vulnerability may need to rely on others to advocate for them, or may face additional barriers that require additional protections or assistance for them to lead their lives. This proposed amendment will support greater recognition of their situation.

The overall intention of section 9 is to highlight the need for state authorities to observe select principles in the operation, administration and enforcement of the act, and for those principles to be acknowledged and addressed, where relevant, when enforcing various aspects of the act. This will be achieved through state authority DAIPs.

During consultation, and when developing his review, Mr Dennis considered the terminology used within the recommendation. The subsequent bill has incorporated this feedback in the design

of the amendment. I note here that my advisory council, just like respondents to the various consultations, had differing views about reference to vulnerability in the act. I will listen carefully to the range of views now and in future changes to legislation.

The sixth area of amendment relates to the functions of the Chief Executive of the Department of Human Services. Section 10 of the act currently outlines the functions of the Chief Executive of the Department of Human Services under the act as:

- preparing reports as may be required under the act;
- monitoring the extent to which the objects and principles of the act are being achieved;
- monitoring the state plan;
- monitoring state authorities DAIPs; and
- making recommendations to the minister, as required.

The bill proposes an additional paragraph be included under section 10(1) as follows:

- (ga) advising the Minister on systemic or emerging accessibility and inclusion issues;

This amendment also makes it clear that the department is responsible for any potential out-of-scope systemic or emerging accessibility and inclusion issues, and will be considered further during the state plan review.

The seventh and final area of amendment relates to the State Disability Inclusion Plan and reporting requirements. A number of amendments have been proposed relating to the state plan and the associated reporting requirements. As these proposed amendments relate mostly to the operational updates for state authorities, feedback was sought on how the state government can most effectively inform the community on the work we are doing to improve access and inclusion. Feedback received indicates that initiatives such as the award-winning See Me for Me campaign are valuable for educating the community about what it truly means to live with disability, but that it needed to extend further than just observing physical, visible disabilities.

The Department of Human Services has committed to ensuring that future iterations of the state plan are supported with guidelines and tools to support effective reporting, implementation and delivery of actions where relevant. I commend the bill to the house. I seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

2—Commencement

This clause provides that the measure will come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

Part 2—Amendment of *Disability Inclusion Act 2018*

3—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause inserts a definition of barrier to the interpretation section of the Act.

4—Insertion of section 7A

This clause inserts a new section 7A into the Act.

7A—Minister to seek views of people with disability

Proposed section 7A requires the Minister to seek the views of people with disability regarding the operation, administration and enforcement of the Act, and furthering the objects of the Act. It provides for the Minister to create a committee for the purposes of advising and assisting them in doing so.

5—Amendment of section 8—Objects

This amendment makes clear that the objects apply to persons with disability of all ages, and adds a new object to the Act.

6—Amendment of section 9—Principles

This amendment inserts new principles to the Act.

7—Amendment of section 10—Functions of Chief Executive

This amendment inserts a new function under the Act to the Chief Executive.

8—Amendment of section 13—State Disability Inclusion Plan

This amendment requires the State Disability Inclusion Plan to contain a variety of provisions, and that any documents prepared for the purposes consultation are in a form accessible to people with disability.

9—Amendment of section 14—Annual report on operation of State Disability Inclusion Plan

This amendment changes the reporting period for each annual report to cover a calendar year instead of a financial year, and shifts the date a report is due by.

10—Amendment of section 15—Review of State Disability Inclusion Plan

This amendment requires that a report to the Minister for the purposes of the section include or be accompanied by information regarding any recommended changes to the State Disability Inclusion Plan resulting from the review.

11—Amendment of section 16—Disability access and inclusion plans

This amendment requires a State authority's disability access and inclusion plan to include strategies ensuring the needs of priority groups identified by the measure are addressed by the plan, and requires that any documents produced prepared for consultation are in a form accessible to people with disability.

12—Amendment of section 17—Annual report on operation of disability access and inclusion plan

This amendment adds a requirement to the report prepared by each State authority, changes the reporting period for annual reports under the section to cover a calendar year as opposed to a financial year, and changes the date the reports are due by.

13—Amendment of section 18—Review of disability access and inclusion plans

This amendment provides that should the State Disability Inclusion plan be varied, a State authority must ensure that their disability access and inclusion plan remains consistent with it.

Schedule 1—Transitional and saving etc provisions

1—Annual report on operation of State Disability Inclusion Plan during transitional period

This clause ensures continuity of reporting during the transition to reporting on a calendar year basis from reporting based on a financial year basis.

2—Annual report on operation of disability access and inclusion plan during transitional period

This clause ensures continuity of reporting during the transition to reporting on a calendar year basis from reporting based on a financial year basis.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.A.W. Gardner.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2023

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 June 2023.)

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:59): I am pleased to be able to speak today on the Appropriation Bill. This is the budget. This is the bill that the government seeks approval to withdraw the money that will pay for our Public Service, for our schools, for our hospitals, for our police, for everything the government does over the coming year. It provides an enormous level of detail around some of those initiatives. It provides very scant detail in others, but such is the way of things. We have the budget papers to consider.

The opposition will of course support the Appropriation Bill. It would be madness for any opposition ever not to. It is necessary to enable services to continue for the people of South Australia. We take this opportunity to reflect on some of the matters contained within the budget, some of the

information contained in the budget, and what it says about the government's stewardship of our tax dollars, of the public money, and the public's trust in the government as to how they are spending that money.

Today, I am going to make some general reflections and talk specifically about some of the things that people in my electorate of Morialta would have been very eager to see in this budget but were disappointed to miss out on. I am then going to spend the bulk of my time reflecting on one particular area within my portfolio, that of the government's response to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care. For the Deputy Speaker's benefit, there are budget lines specifically relevant to that response that I can provide to the Deputy Speaker if needed.

This is the Labor Party's second budget since coming to government that I think belies the unrealistic optimism the first budget contained. I think its major measures are in many ways optimistic, to say the least, and they certainly present spin and a lack of substance to the South Australian people. Last year, the Labor Party came to government and immediately presented a budget where they said this year we will again have a surplus of more than \$200 million.

They applied an efficiency dividend to every government department, with the exception of some frontline agencies, and they said that all those agencies would deliver on those efficiencies and that that was how Labor were going to pay for their significant spending promises, election promises—some of them worthy, some of them pet political projects built around electoral cycles in marginal seats.

The fact that almost every single department and government failed to meet its budget in the last 12 months is a sign of reckless mismanagement. It is a sign of negligence. It is a sign that there is no discipline in this government at all because, of course, when almost every other department—except the Electoral Commissioner, who saved \$1 million, and except TAFE SA, which benefited in the last couple of budgets from a resetting of their expected revenue and the cuts imposed on them by Tom Koutsantonis, the member for West Torrens, when he was the Treasurer in 2017—blew its budget.

The challenge for a government when it has \$1.3 billion worth of overspend within its departments is to say, 'Well, are we going to do better next year? Are we somehow going to reimpose some discipline on our departments? Is there some central guidance that can be given to agencies to assist them in meeting their savings target?' We are talking about taxpayers' hard-earned money, and every dollar that these governments fail to meet their budget by are dollars that have to be taken out of the pockets of hardworking South Australians, residents, small businesses, taxpayers. It is not a small thing.

But, no, this government's response to that overspend of \$1.3 billion, that deficit of more than \$200 million they have turned this budget into, was to provide that funding going forward, to bake those overspends into the forward estimates, as has been described by some. There are still some cuts to come as a result of the efficiency dividend applied last year. So even the surplus next year of another \$200 million or so that the government now says is going to be delivered is predicated on their actually achieving those efficiency dividends that were put in the budget last year in future years.

But why would anyone believe that those departments will achieve those efficiencies when they failed to in their first year? Indeed, those failures to deliver on those efficiencies have been forgiven by this Treasurer. I think it is a sign of poor management. I think it is a sign of fiscal negligence, and I think it is a sign of a government that is unlikely ever to achieve a surplus for the people of South Australia. Bear in mind there are two major expenses for which the government has said there is provision in the Treasury. They are identified on page 6 of the Budget Statement, Budget Paper 3, as existing, but no sums are identified.

We are talking about the preschool reforms for three-year-old preschool, which I will come to later, and the skills agreement, both of which are waiting on detail to be provided by, in one case, a royal commission and, in the other case, a national agreement. When those agreements come, the government has had a guess at how much that will cost and put that into the budget. That is fine; that happens. There is a third major expense coming in terms of the university merger, where the government has said it will provide substantial funds but has not said how much. The Treasurer said today that they have not identified it in the budget. That is a further cost to come out.

Even the skills agreement and the preschool agreement are going to have significant and growing costs in the years to come. Commissioner Gillard said that by 2029 we are talking about \$200 million a year extra going into our early childhood education budget, and that is not the money that is in the forward estimates: it is a much smaller amount in the next four years. So we do not have much faith in the budget papers presenting a true and accurate reflection of what our future budget condition is in South Australia. It is a typical Labor budget where they spend the money, and then when they are turfed out, they expect the Liberal Party to fix the economy.

Residents in Morialta would have been very disappointed in this budget were they looking for cost-of-living relief measures, particularly average South Australian mortgage-holding families. The average South Australian family with a mortgage is about \$20,000 worse off now than it was 12 months ago at the election. Many such families are the sorts of families who live in Morialta. A family in Morialta with an average mortgage and two kids is \$20,000 a year worse off due to particularly the increase in mortgages but also electricity bills, the increase in government fees in many cases, the increased price of shopping and the challenges that are imposed on that family budget.

Many of those families went into 2022 with a certain level of hope and optimism. They had a shiny new Premier with a penchant for JFK impersonations. They potentially had the power to get out of a pandemic, the hope that the economy would be going forward and record low interest rates. But if they were getting ahead in April or May last year, it has taken just 15 months of a Labor government and, all of a sudden, they are \$20,000 a year behind. That is a significant concern, but the cost-of-living concessions and approaches that this government has taken are not geared to those people at all.

I have particularly supported some concession increases, and certainly we make no complaints about that. There is some relief for first-home buyers who are seeking to build a new property so long as that property is valued at under \$650,000. There may be some Morialta residents, probably not a large number but there will be some, who will benefit from that, and that is welcomed. We are interested in that discussion about whether it should go further.

There are a substantial number of South Australians and a substantial number of Morialta residents who benefit from none of this, who may possibly get the \$100 discount on their school fees, a measure proposed by Rob Lucas, for public school families who are not eligible for School Card. That is about the only cost-of-living relief that is going to support these families who are otherwise \$20,000 worse off. Perhaps they are just \$19,900 worse off. These residents in Morialta are disappointed by this budget. It does very little for them, if anything, and their costs are continuing to feel worse and worse. Their belts are being tightened and tightened. Small businesses and families in Morialta are disappointed.

I described before the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care. I will spend the remainder of my time in this speech talking about the government's response to the early childhood education and care royal commission interim report. I say of this royal commission that it was a government election commitment to have a royal commission, and in the Hon. Julia Gillard they have a person with a high level of experience in governance, a level of interest in early childhood education and an understanding of how the system works.

I disagreed with many, many of the things she did as Prime Minister, and I disagree with her fundamentally in relation to her politics, but she is a qualified individual to fulfil this role and I know that she has thrown herself into it with enthusiasm. She has been given a task by this government to deliver an election policy that there were too blasé or disinterested or lazy to write the detail of themselves ahead of the election.

Indeed, it is a significant task to describe how you would change the system to introduce three-year-old preschool from 2026. We are very clear, and we have it in black and white in the government's policy documents and in their posters, that this was expected to see universal three-year-old preschool from 2023. I think families voting expected that to mean that they would get a preschool-type program for their three year old, similar to their four year old, available at a public preschool or at a long day-care service with an agreement—and, of course, that is free of charge for those four years olds.

I think that families voting on this expected that would apply for their family if they had a three year old in 2026. It has been months and months since the government walked away from that, to the point where they did not ask the royal commissioner to design that. They provided terms of reference to which the commissioner has delivered an interim report which meets those terms of reference. Then the government, having walked away from their commitment to provide universal three-year-old preschool for every child from 2026, having decided the royal commissioner has to do all of the hard work, all of the detail work, then produced this document, which is on the royal commission's website, 'South Australian government response to the interim report'.

Having declined to do the hard work themselves, we then find over about five pages no less than 16 examples of passive-aggressive criticism of the royal commission in their work. I say to the minister and I say to the government: if you did not like what the royal commission proposed, it might have been more polite to do so in a polite and constructive way, to put forward some suggestions, maybe even rather than having a policy of having a royal commission to do the work to just design the program yourselves, rather than giving the royal commissioner a task and then having a go at the commission in so many ways. I found no less than 16 occasions where we see phrases like:

The Royal Commission is encouraged to undertake further research...The government encourages the Royal Commission to consider whether this method of capacity management may result in unintended consequences...The government would welcome further consideration...The Royal Commission is encouraged to consider...The Royal Commission is encouraged to look further...the government would welcome further clarity...

That is particularly pointed if you have heard Department for Education bureaucrats and officials write memos. That is pointed. I like this one:

The government is willing to participate in further discussions with the Royal Commission.

That was a very generous one in relation to workforce. The report continues:

The government would welcome further testing of this assumption...

I think the thesaurus ran out at some point because then there is a stream of the following:

...the government would welcome the Royal Commission identifying...the Royal Commission may wish to consider...

And then we are repeating:

...the Royal Commission may wish to consider...the government encourages the Royal Commission...

This sort of language is bureaucratic, but in terms of the 16 points that it raises it is very clear the government are unhappy with the interim report. I think they should be more respectful of the royal commission.

I will go through the issues. In relation to the interim report stating, and I quote from the government document:

The interim report states that there are many families who value government preschool over and above long day care, as demonstrated through 4-year-olds attending both a long day care and government preschool. However, the government is aware that session times in government preschools often do not meet the needs of working families, and that opportunities to provide before and after care at government preschools need to be further explored.

The Royal Commission is encouraged to undertake further research to test its assumptions about the likely pattern of demand and usage...

Potentially useful—the government could have provided such information in its original submission. The government goes on to talk about what is in fact this issue of progressive universalism. Indeed, in its introduction, the government says:

The Royal Commission's principle of progressive universalism is welcomed...the value of preschool as a means to redress disadvantage...

Yet, contradictorily, they also talk about the need to provide universal high-quality three-year-old preschool in South Australia. The question is: is the government seeking to provide universal service for all South Australians or are they providing a progressive universal service which is designed particularly to support some South Australians but not others? They cannot have it both ways. The government talks about how under current policy every child can have access to a preschool program in their local government preschool in the year before full-time school. They say:

This policy aims to ensure that preschool is accessible and low-cost.

The government points out:

Where 3-year-old preschool is delivered through long day care, a child's local preschool program may be delivered by a long day care service, with the family meeting the gap between childcare subsidy funding and the cost of the program. The government would welcome further consideration of how the model can meet the aspiration of every child to have access to their local preschool program.

It goes on to also talk about being critical of the royal commission. The government talks about preschool enrolments feeding into school enrolments. The point the government is seeking to make is that where the royal commission suggests a new need for three-year-old preschool, who are not currently being supported in long day care, it will be provided in new government preschools. This is a cohort of children who are vulnerable: children who are not accessing three-year-old long day care now tend to be vulnerable children.

The point the department makes here is that if all those children go into the new preschool places, and those children continue in the four-year-old preschool places, is that going to create pockets of particular disadvantage rather than having our preschools reflecting the whole of their local communities? If wealthier families with long day care have all their children's preschool services provided in long day-care sites, and all the children who are not in long day care now, particularly the vulnerable, are provided for in government preschools, that exacerbates disadvantage and inequity, and that is a concern that is being raised here. But it is the necessary corollary of the task that the government set the royal commissioner.

If this was their concern, that it be avoided, then it was something that the government could have turned its mind to before describing this policy, and that is one of the concerns that we have expressed with this policy as well.

It is interesting when we talk about this mixed model where the government is trying to have its cake and eat it too. As they said:

The government sees the value in a mixed model approach, in that it is likely to have the broadest reach, it makes greatest use of existing capacity, and is likely to be the quickest to roll out.

So the government is in favour of the mixed model, but we have 16 reasons and concerns with it. It is very clear that there is a disconnect between what the government is saying and what the government is writing to the royal commission. The government says it:

...would [welcome] further clarity on how the proposed model of 3-year-old preschool will interact with the existing 4-year-old programs...

I think that is particularly related to the point I was just making before, about whether those three year olds will continue in the same service. Of course, part of the benefit, if you are going to have a three-year-old preschool program, is that it is seen as one two-year program for the child. If you have some kids doing 12 months in their long day-care centre, with the expectation that they will continue to follow historical trends in the numbers at a local level and do their four-year-old preschool at the local public preschool, that is not a two-year preschool model. That is a disjointed 'set in here' transition, another 'set in here' transition and then a third transition to school before a child has turned five. That is a risk to that child.

The government talk about workforce and that they welcome further clarity from the royal commission on the proposed staffing configurations. That is a difficult challenge ahead. It is not an unreasonable question to ask, and the royal commissioner particularly attended to this in the media she did on the day she announced her interim report. We will be very interested to see how they do it. I think it particularly talks to the unachievable promise the government made when they said that people would have this in 2026. The government say:

The Royal Commission has found that, irrespective of the model chosen for 3-year-old preschool, it is likely that impending changes to the Child Care Subsidy will result in more families choosing long day care centres for their 4-year-old preschool program, despite it being more costly than government preschool. The government would welcome further testing of this assumption as part of considering family choice, particularly in light of rising cost of living pressures.

That is, of course, the nub of the challenge we have been describing. I think that, in terms of the breakup of responsibility between state and commonwealth, the government has welcomed that the royal commission has requested that the commonwealth do some extra heavy lifting. I do not mind that idea as well, but I do make the point that, when they talk, in relation to the national conversation, about infrastructure needs, the government says:

...in community-managed early education and care services in regional and remote areas. While the Royal Commission has recommended that state government consider taking on this role, it is arguable this may better align with a role in ensuring the accessibility of services.

That is, the commonwealth should be doing it. I am putting the government on notice that this is something that we are watching very closely. I expect the royal commission probably will recommend that the state government take on this responsibility. It is one that is of intense interest to many members on this side of the house. If the state government tries to shirk that responsibility of the commonwealth it will just be an example of them promising one thing and delivering another. I commend the bill to the house, but I have significant reservations about how the government proposes to proceed in these areas.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (16:19): I rise to make a quite brief contribution to the Appropriation Bill in acknowledging the government's latest budget and the effect that it will have on our wonderful constituents in the electorate of Narungga. In commencing that, I would like to open with some of the good things, some of the things that I thought might have a good impact on our electorate. I do commend the government. I think some of the initiatives with regard to housing might well have a positive impact, particularly in regional South Australia.

It was wonderful during the course of country cabinet, actually, where the government announced their new Office for Regional Housing. I think that will be a good initiative. It might be somewhat out of character to commend the establishment of more bureaucracy, but this potentially might have some flow-on benefits for our electorate, and I have already made a number of submissions to that office about land or property that might be of use to that department in establishing more regional housing. We have not had a significant increase in the public housing stock for quite some time, and having that office there and identifying suitable parcels of land and likewise for more regional housing will be a wonderful asset.

That will flow perfectly into the initiative that has started already, I believe; it is the building of housing for public employees—teachers, doctors, other people that work for the public system or the state. The housing provided for them should get them out of the private rental market. It should mean that those private rentals are now open to other people that need them, and it should hopefully attract more people to our regions.

If we have some more housing, some nicer housing, some more contemporary housing, then we should be able to attract those teachers, those people that we need so desperately to staff our schools and other public institutions, out to regional South Australia. Hopefully we continue to see a strong flow of well-qualified and talented people out doing those jobs.

Finally, the waiving of stamp duty for first-home buyers will be a wonderful thing and will hopefully stimulate home ownership and get people out of the rental market and ease the burden on that sector at the moment. That should be a wonderful addition too. I think the threshold amount that the government has settled upon might lend itself better to houses in the country as opposed to houses in the city. I cannot quite remember the number, but I think that there will be more houses available in regional South Australia than there are in metropolitan Adelaide at that number. Those three initiatives I think should or could have a positive benefit to our regional community, and I am hoping that that rings true.

The second thing that I would like to touch on—and I have put it in my 'good' category, but I think it could well fall into both—is jetties. It was wonderful to see an allocation made for the sustainment of our jetties, most of which sit in regional South Australia and quite a few of which sit in my electorate. The \$20 million committed over four years will be a wonderful contribution toward that, but, by the same token there could have been a lot more. There is quite a large number of jetties, and a large number of them are in a state of serious disrepair, and 20 mil might well be a drop in the ocean (pardon the pun).

We certainly need to see that number ramped up, and we certainly need to see commitments made to specific jetties. Although there are quite a few in my electorate, I would like to touch on a few specifically. The first of those is Edithburgh. We know that there has been a business case done on Edithburgh to establish the cost that would be required to remediate that jetty and to bring it up to standard. I would like to know what that recommendation was.

It is probably fair to say that I have been banging on the minister's door quite a bit over the last few days to see if we cannot get Edithburgh brought forward and allocated a significant percentage of that \$20 million, because currently—concurrently—there are works going on at Edithburgh to install a new diving platform. We know that it is one of the foremost diving locations in this state, with a significant amount to see underneath that jetty there and in that precinct, so there is work going on currently to install that dive platform, and if we can time those works to remediate the jetty at the same time I reckon that would be a smart way to go about it.

Edithburgh would be a good thing, and, as I said—I do not want to repeat myself—I have been banging down the minister's door now to see if we can secure a significant allocation out of that \$20 million and here is hoping that in the fullness of time we see that come to fruition.

The other couple of issues I want to touch upon include, firstly, Ardrossan, which is a seriously popular jetty and is really falling apart. There are a number of piles there that are serving no purpose at all at the moment. Although the council is sort of plugging away, trying to replace as many as possible, it is a job beyond their means, and it would be a handy thing to see some of that money or some more money go toward helping fix up the Ardrossan jetty for all those people that use that on a regular basis.

Finally, I have been at the Port Victoria Progress Association meeting and they are trucking away on, I think, a 160th anniversary coming up in a couple of years' time. For the celebration of that occasion they would like to have the jetty brought up to a standard that would allow a historic boat to be sailed in and moored up to the jetty, as a homage to the work that port did in its heyday carrying grain and whatnot out of that port.

It would be wonderful if we could have the jetty brought up to a standard to enable that to happen. I know the progress association is assiduously working away to try to put that celebration together, and it is their fervent desire to have the jetty brought up to that standard. I am hoping we can get stuck into trying to fix that one up, as well, to enable that wonderful celebration of the long history of Port Victoria to go ahead. Again, I will be working with the government to try to see that happen.

Those are a couple of the good things I thought of but, just quickly, I was disappointed to see there was no more money for infrastructure spend on health facilities in my electorate. Wallaroo Hospital is only a 21-bed hospital for a catchment area of well over 15,000 people. That borders on being a comical-size hospital for a catchment of that magnitude. We really need to ramp that up and bring it into the same sphere as its contemporaries. Pirie is quite a bit larger—it might be a 50-bed hospital—and it serves a catchment area of a very similar size.

Wallaroo needs to be brought up to spec and renovated to be made a hospital befitting its status as a major regional hospital. It needs to be expanded and renovated and renewed so that it can serve that wonderful community. It is the only major hospital on the entire Copper Coast, and arguably the entire peninsula. We need to see some investment in the infrastructure to bring that up to spec.

It was disappointing not to see anything there, and likewise it was disappointing not to see any new spend at Maitland or Yorketown as well to bring their emergency departments up to spec. It was only in the last government that we got significant investment in the Yorketown surgery to bring that up to spec and into the 21st century. They are doing lists down there now for minor operations, so that has been a wonderful success. It now only needs the opening up of the ED to bring it completely up to spec and have a brand new hospital down there.

It would be wonderful to see some investment in infrastructure and health services, and it would be wonderful to see some investment into security services to keep our nurses safe. I know it has been the focus of their union, which has been working tirelessly for their members to make sure

they are kept safe, those wonderful workers we cherish so much in regional South Australia, those health workers who are so difficult to attract.

It would be a dreadful shame if they were wanting to leave our community because of the concerns they felt about their safety, so it would be wonderful to see investment in security at Wallaroo, particularly, in the not too distant future in line with their union demands. It is wonderful to see them advocating for that, and I support them wholeheartedly in their exploits.

Another thing I was really hoping to see—and I look forward to getting stuck into it in estimates in the coming days—was more investment in our regional road network. We made quite a head start over the four years of the previous government in addressing some of the concerns, but that work is coming to an end now. Those roads are fixed, people are driving on them and enjoying them quite a bit, and we need to start that next tranche of work to ensure that backlog of roads is starting to be addressed and eaten away at, that we are not just stopping now and letting it build up again to what it was before.

I desperately hope to see works done at Arthurton and Kulpara, which Grain Producers SA have identified as the worst grain road in the state. I hope to see funding of the Port Broughton to Bute road, and it would be wonderful to see work done between Minlaton and Yorketown as well, to name just a few. There are a great deal more, but those are a few I would hope to see. As I dig into estimates we will see if there are any of those less explicit allocations of money that might be used to bring about the expenditure. I sincerely hope there is.

The other thing I look forward to digging into during estimates is the SABFAC funding, the better boating facilities funding. I have been working away for some years now trying to ensure that there is a new boat ramp at Marion Bay. It is an extremely popular tourism destination with a boat ramp that is basically just a concrete slab going into the ocean. It is very difficult for people who do not go there regularly to launch their boat when the tide is high or the winds are up, for inexperienced boaties or maybe those who are just a little bit out of luck, trying to come in and line their boat up with its trailer when the conditions are not quite there.

There has been significant local advocacy happening down at Marion Bay to try to get that boat ramp fixed. The council has been ticking all the boxes of the bureaucracy to try to make sure it happens, and we are finally at a point now where that funding submission is with SABFAC. We are hoping they will tick off on it and recommend funding to the minister, and then the government can fund that work and we can finally get that new boat ramp at Marion Bay which has been needed for so long. I am looking forward to that in the fullness of time, and I will dig into that in estimates.

I highlight those few things in summary and reassure the government that, as an Independent, I will continue to work with them collaboratively as best I can to ensure the best outcomes for our electorate. I will keep banging the door down for things like the jetty at Edithburgh to make sure that we get our fair share of the pie.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (16:29): I rise to make my contribution to this year's Appropriation Bill before the house as the shadow treasurer for the opposition, and I begin my contribution in much the same way as the opposition leader. It is not my default position to be negative by any stretch of the imagination. There are a number of measures contained within the budget that clearly the opposition supports and that we think are valuable and will be of benefit to the state. The leader articulated a number of those in his contribution to this debate yesterday.

We welcome the support for Lot Fourteen and the startups, but again we are quite concerned in regard to the momentum that has been lost in that space and that was built up over the four years of the former government. We certainly agree with the stamp duty concession, and I will stress that it is certainly not an abolishment of stamp duty. The government has been quite cheeky in their advertising and their communication so far in regard to the stamp duty concession for first-home buyers, those who are purchasing newly built or who are going to build on particular plots of land, with the asterisk of a value of under \$650,000 in regard to a newly built property.

Certainly, we welcome the energy bill relief but agree and have made the case that it should have gone further. You have to remember that the relief that has been provided comes in the face of the federal government's election commitment to lower household energy bills to the tune of

hundreds of dollars. We know the reality is that it has been the complete opposite, particularly here in South Australia, where, as of 1 July, we will now be paying the highest prices for electricity in Australia.

I was also paying pretty astute attention to one of the answers provided by the Minister for Human Services yesterday, when she was discussing funding going to Foodbank. In particular, she outlined that nearly 50 per cent of those newly presenting clients to Foodbank are in employment and that 30 per cent of those have mortgages. The Minister for Human Services yesterday made the exact point the opposition has been making for the last two, three or four months: this government chose to actively not provide any form of energy rebate for those people, those families, those households in South Australia that are now nearly \$20,000 a year worse off since this government came to power in March 2022—those families who are dealing with trying to find \$400 a week additionally to cover their bills.

We are essentially seeing people rocking up at Foodbank who have never had to need those services before, and this government made an active decision not to provide relief to those households. That, we think, is a shame and that, we think, should have been extended further. Certainly, we believe we made the case for that to be extended further.

In regard to the budget itself, the leader has quite well described it from a high level: it is buy now, pay later budget, it is a budget filled with missed opportunities and, as just discussed, it is a budget that failed to deliver any form of new relief for the typical hardworking South Australian household. More broadly, we have pretty significant concerns in regard to where the high-level budget position sits and where this budget presents South Australia moving forward in regard to our fiscal position.

In the same vein, I also concur with the leader's comments that this budget fails to set any sort of real economic narrative or vision for the state beyond what has been articulated already in regard to the federal government's significant investment in shipbuilding. Certainly it is very clear that there is broad and bipartisan support for that work to be undertaken to support, to provide and to ensure that South Australia makes the most of every opportunity that comes from naval shipbuilding and the AUKUS agreement, but that cannot be our only vision.

To have the government come in last year and completely disregard the Growth State agenda that had been worked up with industry to provide a clear and defined focus for where government programs should be aligned, should be working towards and what departments should be seeking to achieve in regard to a broader economic vision for the state, we think was a mistake. I think it goes without saying that there needs to be more of a focus by this government on the broader economic vision of where we are heading outside AUKUS.

Some commentators have described this budget in many ways. One of those ways was a \$500 million whoopsie. Certainly we agree that clearly the difference between the projected surplus and the deficit that is going to be returned to the state was a near \$500 million difference between the two. It was a blown budget, but the underlying issue we have on top of the fact that the budget was clearly blown this year is that we squandered such a significant and historic uptick in state taxation and GST revenues to the state over that period.

The Treasurer has been very keen to use the Mid-Year Budget Review point, to use that as his baseline in regard to where things have shifted. The reality is that you set the budget in near June, his 2022-23 budget, you set your next budget in 2023-24 the following June, and your comparison is one to the next. What has not been communicated by the Treasurer in his commentary so far is the fact that he has had \$324 million in additional GST come into his budget than was expected last year and the fact that he has had \$326 million of additional state tax revenue come into his budget that he did not expect when he set down the budget just 12 months ago.

This is revenue that was driven by increased stamp duties due to the labour market here in South Australia. This is payroll tax revenue, this is gambling taxes and this is increases to the GST pool based on significant inflation, based on South Australians and Australians paying more for their everyday goods and services. So, yes, we did think that there was a case to return some of that additional GST windfall to South Australians.

Interestingly, when we look back six months ago, I distinctly remember the Treasurer on morning radio essentially putting the call out to South Australians asking how he should spend the additional GST windfall that was coming into our state coffers based on the increased inflation. What a stark contrast to the final budget position we see ourselves in just six months later. It is almost like the Treasurer was completely blindsided to what was happening within his own departments and what was happening in terms of the complete lack of fiscal discipline across nearly every government agency.

If you look at the projections in terms of the net operating balances, I think there are a couple of things to pull apart moving over the forwards. Again, this is a Treasurer who, in the very last press release put out prior to the election, confirmed that he would be keeping the budget in surplus. There was a small surplus that was forecast by the previous Liberal government in the last budget handed down by us for the 2022-23 year. You have to remember that was before the additional \$650-odd million of GST and state tax revenue came into the state.

The Treasurer in his first budget projected a \$233 million surplus; again, that is clearly lost. The more worrying thing is that, despite projecting modest surpluses in the out years, they are significantly down on last year's projections—the surpluses over the forward estimates, that is—across the 2023-24 year, the 2024-25 year and the 2026-27 year. That completely flies in the face of what is happening from a revenue perspective coming into the state over that time.

In the first Malinauskas budget compared with the second, if you look year on year over total revenue expected to come into the state, the total increase is upwards of \$6 billion across forward estimates—as we mentioned, the \$324 million in GST that was expected this year; next year, an additional \$761 million in GST; the year after (2024-25), \$742 million of additional GST; the year after that, \$573 million of additional GST, plus the additional state taxes that are now projected to come in over that period of time. So, despite historic and significant increases on the revenue side, we are projecting smaller surpluses. The question that of course everyone then asks is: how in the world is that possible?

For starters, you look at the operating expenses budgets of every government agency this financial year. It was interesting to see the public commentary from the Treasurer leading into budget day, when he obviously foreshadowed the significant overspend in health and foreshadowed the significant overspend in child protection. But what he did not discuss was the significant overspend in just about every single government agency—every headline government agency, outside of the poor Electoral Commissioner, who saved South Australians a million dollars this current financial year. Every other government agency, outside of TAFE SA, overspent their allocated budgets.

These were not small overspends by any stretch of the imagination. The leader already pointed out yesterday the environment department, with a departmental budget of \$300-odd million this financial year, overspent by \$54 million. Frontline services like SAPOL only just overspent, but the more bureaucratic in nature those departments, the more it seemed they spent. The Department of Treasury and Finance—the Treasury department that sets the budgets for every other department—overspent their budget this year by \$13 million; trade and investment, \$24 million; tourism, \$36 million; primary industries, \$43 million. The list goes on, with blowouts of tens of millions of dollars across just about every agency to the point where the total overspend this financial year was \$1.353 billion. That is what the Treasurer's own budget statements say—\$1.3 billion of overspend.

What is even more worrying is that instead of asking for discipline from those public servants, those chief executives in charge of those budgets, and instead of asking them to explain why they had overspent, to hold them to account for that, those blowouts have effectively been baked into the forward estimates across every agency moving forward. Essentially, all the additional revenues coming into the state have now already been allocated across those departmental budgets moving forward.

Where that becomes an issue for us, particularly when we look to next financial year, is we know the savings task that was allocated across government last year was in the order of \$200-odd million. We know the savings task allocated to departments next year—well, we know last year's is largely irrelevant, for a start, because everybody blew their budget. But next year we are actually

asking Health to save \$200 million, to spend \$190 million dollars less than they did this financial year. I am not sure the last time that occurred. If our whole surplus is predicated on that, we have some pretty interesting structural issues within our budget.

The other thing I wanted to touch on quickly is this comparison that the Treasurer has made with Victoria. He has been on a crusade over the last little while to deflect and point the finger to say, 'Look how competitive we are in South Australia from a business perspective. If you're in Victoria, you should be moving here.' Well, yes, fundamentally the opposition agrees with that.

I am glad that the Treasurer was happy to acknowledge the work that the previous government did in lowering water bills for South Australian businesses and families. I am glad the Treasurer recognised the work that the former government did in reducing the payroll tax burden for South Australian businesses by lifting the threshold. I am glad the Treasurer recognised the work that the former government did in regard to the interconnector to New South Wales, which we know and has been confirmed will lower bills here in South Australia for business and households. It is not anything through this budget that has reduced the cost impost on South Australian business moving forward by any stretch of the imagination. It was work that was done previous to now.

To make the contrast, when you have a budget that now bakes in \$1.3 billion of overspend but flies in the face of the advice that is coming from central banks around the world, and here in South Australia, to rein in spending; and when you have a budget that essentially sets us on a fast track to a situation like Victoria where they are in a position where they are having to increase taxes, where they are having to increase levies to ensure that they can support the spending decisions that are being made, that is not a solution. That is what we have in front of us at the moment. We have the Treasurer handing down an early years Andrews' government budget.

In regard to my particular local area, I just wanted to very quickly touch on one of the biggest issues in regard to sand replenishment and the issues at West Beach, Henley Beach South, Henley Beach, and now progressively moving closer to Grange with every day of inaction from this government. We did have an allocation of near \$7 million for sand replenishment this year, which I obviously welcome because without that we have nothing. But I do ask the question: what happens next year and the year after that? Is this simply another bandaid solution where we do not even have money in the budget moving forward or know what the plan is to fix this longer term issue?

We had environment department officials down at the Charles Sturt Council on Tuesday night putting in a submission wanting the Charles Sturt Council, effectively, to invest in a rock wall to put out the front of a particular spot at Henley Beach where we now have infrastructure in jeopardy. So, instead of doing what the state government is responsible for, which is fixing our beaches and providing sand replenishment, we have the state government going to councils wanting to split the cost of putting in infrastructure that only potentially causes more problems further down the coast. That is where we are at under this environment minister in regard to our local area.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to reiterate some of the comments that were made yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition in regard to being open to a conversation around nuclear energy. It is clear that the technology, particularly around SMR reactors, has progressed a significant way since the last conversation that we had in this state. To see companies at the point of having these devices in a form that is close to commercial is something that in some ways should assure South Australians that the conversation is worth having.

This technology has obviously been around for many years in regard to submarines. It is something that we now are going to be embracing as a country in regard to having nuclear submarines, purchasing and building nuclear submarines, but also to be having those constructed here in South Australia. If we are serious about having South Australia as a low-cost jurisdiction for business, if we are serious about having low-cost energy for households, if we are serious about reducing those costs to South Australians, then we should be open to the conversation. It is our duty to be open to the conversation.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (16:50): I also rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill. I think that this budget hit the target when it came to what the priorities are in our state. Clearly, health, housing and, at this juncture, cost-of-living relief are the three important areas.

For two budgets in a row now, we have significantly increased the funding going towards our health system, and it is a health system that is on the challenge. We did go to the last election making a number of commitments, especially around funding but, importantly, what that funding was going to be used for. It was going to be used in part to employ more doctors, employ more nurses and increase by some 550 beds the capacity in our public health system. That is an ongoing body of work that is going to take some time, but moves are already occurring. We have employed extra doctors, we have employed extra nurses and we have installed more beds.

Importantly, some of those beds are dedicated to mental health patients. It is only by fully rolling out and maybe even going further than we have committed to that we are going to ultimately diminish the ramping that is occurring. Of course, when it comes to our ambos, we have made a number of very tangible commitments. It is why the union is not out there attacking us—because they see what is going on in comparison to what was happening with the previous government.

I know in my electorate we have a new ambulance station going in at Port Augusta and more ambos employed in Port Augusta in the coming year. In Whyalla, we are going to have an extension to the ambulance station and an additional 24/7 crew. There are going to be two transfer crews in the Upper Spencer Gulf. In total, there are going to be 33 extra people employed in the Upper Spencer Gulf by next year once the recruitment process has run its course.

These are real, tangible commitments that are being delivered on, and people can see that. People will give us credit for doing that, which is not to say that there are not real challenges with health, as there are in all our public health systems throughout the nation and indeed in a number of Western countries. We are committed to addressing that particular set of issues, some of which are complex.

The other area is housing. As a local member, it is really hard when someone approaches your office who has been in private rental for an extended period of time. She works part time, she has five children and, despite my efforts and despite the efforts of the Housing Authority, we could not find her somewhere to live. She is actually with that family, with the five kids and her dad with an illness, living in a tent in somebody's backyard. I know the Housing Authority in Whyalla will address that as soon as they can.

There is an additional commitment to investment in housing, in fact the first significant investment in public housing in over 30 years, which reflects poorly on governments of the past, including Labor governments, that were more than willing to flog off properties. We have to reinvest in public housing. If you look at it nationally, there has been a collapse, depending on what timescale you look at.

Once upon a time, when it came to new builds, 14 per cent of the investment in Australia if you go back far enough was in public housing. I think it is under 2 per cent now, so it is something that has to be turned around. Public housing needs to be seen not just as welfare housing but we need to look at a 21st century version of the Housing Trust. For those people on low incomes who are working, it could be a starting point for them as well in order to assist them to eventually move into the private housing market, which is something I did in Whyalla and something that most of the people who worked at BHP did. We rented from the Housing Trust and now we are nearly all in private housing.

We need to have a bit of a rethink, but it is incredibly encouraging to see the moratorium on the sale of public housing in South Australia. Over 500-odd houses that were on the chopping block are no longer on the chopping block and it is also very encouraging to see the new builds, some of which will happen in Port Augusta and some of which will happen in Whyalla, so that is a start. It is also good to see within Renewal SA the Office for Regional Housing, which is a start to address some of those worker housing issues we face in many regional communities, which is really having a detrimental impact on the capacity for the private sector to invest in job creation in many regional communities, so there is a very good start in this budget.

Of course, there is the cost-of-living relief. Families—obviously not all families—and pensioners are going to significantly benefit. Some pensioners are taking, in total, with the energy relief and the other concessions, well over \$1,000 in cost-of-living relief. I think it might be something like \$1,700 in cost-of-living relief for some pensioners; and for families who get either tax benefit A

or B it is about an additional \$700 to help them, especially when it comes to relief for energy prices. For those families, that should take care of the increases that in fact go beyond the increases that are rolling out.

I think in those three areas they were an incredibly important set of very important initiatives. You can always argue we could do more, you could have a far more generalised cost-of-living relief, but then there are issues associated with that. In opposition, it is always the mantra: you should do more, you should do more, you should do more. I bet if the current opposition were in government they would not be doing more, more, more. We just have to have a look at the their federal colleagues when they were in power and their attacks on the most vulnerable people in our communities, starting with the Abbott government and schemes like Robodebt—an illegal scheme that was just an all-out attack on the most vulnerable in our communities. So I think the priorities were right in this budget.

I want to say a little bit about my electorate. It is good to see some additional funding for the northern water project. I am sure that is a project that has bipartisan support and, to me, it is an important project because it is one of those pieces of infrastructure that will underpin job growth in my electorate. Coming from an electorate like mine that has experienced over the years very significant job losses that drove Whyalla from having a population of over 33,000 to now just under 22,000, that all reflects the job losses that occurred in my community.

When I look at Port Augusta—and I have the western part of Port Augusta in my electorate—the loss of rail in Port Augusta and the loss of the power station in Port Augusta had a major impact on that community. They have some other advantages in terms of services and being on a transport hub and what have you, but these losses, when it comes to employment, have significant impacts. They have long-running social impacts upon communities, especially communities that have had a legacy of public housing, which means that we end up as regional communities disproportionately sharing the burden with regard to people who are disadvantaged. It is not to stigmatise those people, but it is just that this is something that is not shared on an equal basis throughout the state.

Usually as a result of the loss of jobs over generations, there are some parts of our state that have ended up in a position where they have a raft of social problems without the services to support that, especially in regional communities, so you end up with entrenched disadvantage. That is another reason why housing needs to be seriously looked at and longer term strategies put in place to diminish the impact on regional communities when it comes to social disadvantage.

I started with the Northern Water Supply Project, and that is an underpinning element of what might well happen in the north of our state. I am proud to have the biggest mines in the state in my electorate. With BHP now acquiring OZ Minerals, they clearly need a water source that is not the Great Artesian Basin. They eventually need to stop or reduce their draw on the aquifers within their region, and the Northern Water Supply Project will help to enable that.

We can see that BHP, with its acquisition of OZ Minerals, sees that whole area in the north of the state as a copper province, and I have absolutely no doubt that there are going to be other copper deposits found in that part of the state. We already know that there are significant resources that have not been developed as yet. There is all the work that is going on at Oak Dam, there is the Fremantle Doctor north of Carrapateena, and there are a number of other interests in the areas in that part of the state.

The Northern Water Supply Project is very important, if ultimately there is a commitment to building it. At this stage, the analysis is around about 260 megalitres a day, so it is a significant plant with the capacity to expand beyond that. Of course, if the big hydrogen proposals do deliver, they are also going to need large quantities of water. A number of things have been said about the state government's hydrogen power plant when it comes to water. I would suggest that some of the people opposite, and some of the people opposite federally, do a quick back-of-the-envelope assessment of how much water the power plant will take. It is well within our state's allocation of water.

If we are looking in isolation at the state's electrolyzers and power plant, we do not need desalination for that. There are other ways around that to deal with it. Of course, if some of these very large gigawatt-scale projects with large electrolyser capacity come on board, there is no financial closure on any of these projects yet. I think that is something we all need to bear in mind. If one or two or maybe more of these projects come on board, there is going to be a very significant demand

for water, and we do not want to draw from the River Murray to meet that demand, so desalination, in an area where it can be expanded, is sensible.

I would urge everybody involved in this not to revisit Point Lowly, for a whole range of reasons. Mullaquana, to the south of Whyalla, is a sensible location closer to the mines and some of the other proposals further south that have been suggested, and I think it is the direction to go in if we ultimately do commit funding.

To me, this is all about jobs in our part of the state—in the northern part of the state: jobs that will benefit Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Eyre Peninsula. Potentially, we are looking at a lot of jobs if copper production meets its full potential. That is important, and there is a little bit of money in the budget to also invest in that copper initiative. Of course, it was the Weatherill government with Minister Koutsantonis that came up with the copper strategy, the magnetite strategy and the hydrogen strategy. These are all things that we can very significantly build on.

Indeed, there are already desalination plants in the north of the state. There is obviously Sundrop Farms, with multiple effect distillation, but there is also a desalination plant at Whyalla, at the steelworks, that provides the water for the magnetite slurry that comes from the Middleback Range. They will have to expand that desal plant—and we are not talking about the huge scale desal plants here—if the whole magnetite strategy in the Middleback Range comes to fruition. I am told that it is looking fairly positive, with external parties interested in going into partnership with GFG to exploit the very significant magnetite resource in the Middleback Range.

There are a number of other initiatives in this budget. Some of the smaller stuff includes the significant investment in a new bus suite for the APY lands—four-wheel drive buses, smaller buses—and it is great to see that. I think that will serve those communities well over the coming years and built on the ambulances that we committed to for the APY lands when we were last in government.

It is good to see another police station going in at Indulkana in the APY lands. That is a positive. There is a \$30 million build at Port Augusta Prison, and that helps generate jobs. It would be great if we had fewer prisons, but we do have prisons at the moment and, if we are going to have prisons, I do not mind seeing them in my community because they do provide jobs. Hopefully, there is some investment going into rehabilitation, as I think we need more in that particular area.

I was down in the member for Flinders' seat the other day, catching a whole heap of salmon at Salmon Hole. It was very good fishing indeed, and it was great to see the look on our teenager's face. She had never been fishing before, and there she was, pulling salmon out of Salmon Hole, these good-sized fish, so she is now hooked (no pun intended) on fishing. I was a bit surprised that the cafe now at Tumbly Bay has gone all Greek, and I had lunch there before heading back to Whyalla. It was sad to see the Tumbly Bay jetty all fenced off. Once again, we can say, 'Well, there's not enough money,' but at least there is a \$20 million to start getting some of the work done.

There are a lot of jetties. I know in Whyalla the council built its own fishing jetty, the new fancy jetty, with public donations. They largely used their own funding and some steel from GFG, and then the Weatherill government kicked in \$1 million towards that jetty. You sometimes wonder about councils, and I wonder if I was the only one, though I was not on council, who read the prudential report. The cost blew out to I think close to \$7 million to \$8 million, when the initial costing had been \$2.3 million, so that is an interesting set of circumstances up there in Whyalla. It is a fantastic looking jetty, and hopefully it will stand the test of time and be there for many years.

But I have some sympathy for regional councils because a lot of these jetties were under the Department of Marine and Harbors. It had these, they were offloaded and this and that happened over time. You can have a go at regional communities and say, 'Oh, you didn't maintain them,' but it is often the case that councils out in the regions and out in small communities are really strapped for cash. They do not have abundant sources of revenue.

It is not just the state government that offloaded jetties. If you look at the federal government, they must have been rubbing their hands with glee when they offloaded the airports in regional communities as well. I dread when the capital costs for some of the runway upgrades come up in those regional communities because the councils will not be able to afford them. There is no way they will be able to afford them.

As I said, I think some of the priorities in this budget were right, and there are a number of elements in the budget that I think are very good.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (17:10): I take this opportunity to speak on this year's Appropriation Bill, which deals with the state budget handed down just a fortnight ago. After talking with many people, what is quite clear is the way it has been described by many of them, that is, it really is a buy now, pay later budget.

When we talk about putting things on credit, it comes at a time when the nation is experiencing high inflation, and South Australia, in particular, is experiencing ultra high inflation compared with other states. We have the highest inflation rate in the nation, at 7.9 per cent in South Australia, and that directly affects vulnerable people especially, because where that inflation bobs up is in food prices when you go shopping, in your groceries and in your petrol at the service station. The more we can get this down the better.

Unfortunately, the Reserve Bank, whose sole focus is to keep a lid on inflation, only have interest rates as their tool. We have seen interest rates go from record lows, with the Reserve Bank rate at 0.25 per cent, now increasing substantially in a very short time. These rate increases have not been seen for a decade. The whole idea behind that is a very blunt instrument, but it is designed to try to take spending out of the economy.

Of course, it hits mortgage holders very hard. Not everyone has a mortgage, but it hits businesses as well. A lot of businesses rely on access to capital, to debt, to service their business and keep the wheels of industry moving. This also has an impact there and means they do not have more money to spend on employees as well. The method of interest rate rises is hurting people and it is hurting people hard.

Despite the Reserve Bank trying to slow down spending, it needs help from governments as well. It also needs fiscal policy because, if it is just the Reserve Bank, then there is only one lever available to them. We need governments ensuring they are acting in the best interests of bringing down inflation as well, and not letting Philip Lowe, the Reserve Bank Governor, take all the blame. We need governments moving in this direction.

As I said, despite these interest rate rises, with the Reserve Bank trying to slow down spending in the economy, in the financials of this state budget we see a massive problem with overspending, putting money into the economy and continuing to fuel those flames. What was, when we sat here 12 months ago, a projected surplus for the 2022-23 financial year of \$233 million has now been turned into an actual deficit of \$249 million.

People say, 'Okay, that's inflation that made that effect.' Well, the budget, with that projected \$233 million surplus, did take into account that we were going to have inflation—not the 7.9 per cent, but a fair amount of that, so it cannot just be passed off as that. That seems like an overspend of \$500 million, rounded to the nearest amount if you do the rough calculation, but it is actually much worse than that. When you look through what was really going on, you see that from a revenue side the GST income the states receive had increased by \$324 million. That is a massive surge in revenue coming in.

Additionally, at the same time you have had state tax revenue also increase by \$326 million. Right there, you have nearly \$650 million worth of additional revenue which you would have thought, 'That could have certainly ensured that we stayed in surplus.' In fact, what you have is not only \$500 million in the actual numbers but it means that, because of this increase in revenue, what should have been a much bigger surplus shows that the overspending that actually forced us into deficit was \$1,132 million, to keep in the same unit step—that is \$1.1 billion there of overspending.

What this really confirms when you look through the papers—we have heard the shadow treasurer in his speech and the leader in his reply to the budget as well—is that just about every government agency had experienced cost blowouts, that major infrastructure projects had experienced cost blowouts. This comes at a time when you have hardworking South Australians having to try to find savings that probably do not exist and trying to cut back to deal with this inflation environment, with high interest rates as well, and having to go without. You hear horrible stories of having to choose whether to put the heater on or pay for dinner. They are having to go without. At

the same time, you have bureaucrats with what you would have to say is ill-disciplined spending. They are not trying to save where they should to keep the budget in surplus, and keep too much money from going into the economy.

What is happening here is that it is going to have an impact. What is worse is that we sat here in the last budget and we saw efficiency dividends for just about every department. I remember in my estimates talking to the relevant ministers about how they were going to achieve those efficiency dividends, which really is trying to make the bureaucracy do more with less, trying to be innovative. What we have found is that those efficiency dividends clearly have not been met in just about every department but, rather than the Treasurer saying, 'I expect better next year. We want you to really work that back,' those overruns for departments have been baked in.

If we talk about some of those overruns, Health and Wellbeing overspent by over \$750 million; we had overspending in Education of \$387 million; the environment and water department, \$54 million; and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, \$66 million. So there we have the Premier and the Deputy Premier, who should be setting an example for their ministers, just having their bureaucrats overspend. When they say the fish rots from the head, if you see what the leaders are doing, and they are overspending, then you can understand now why you see other ministers just reflecting that poor behaviour.

As I said, by these expenses being baked in, not only do we have a variance in the budget in terms of expenses all-up of \$1.35 billion—so \$1,350 million for the 2022-23 year, but going forward to 2023-24 we have expenses going out by over \$2 billion. So you can see that this poor behaviour has been rewarded. As has been said, the Electoral Commission at least underspent with their budget. Defence SA was \$1 million over budget which, in the scheme of things, is one of the better ones. Their discipline has not been rewarded, whereas the ones that overspent have more money for next year.

I remember when I was a minister—and I was talking about trying to have that discipline—you would go through it and not just wait until the end of the financial year and see what pops out. You have to actively manage these things. That is what business owners have to do all the time. They can't just set a budget and then wait for the next 12 months and see what profit or loss pops out at the end. You have to be constantly managing it. I know that a minister will be given reports on a monthly basis as to what is going on with your expenses. You will sit down when it comes to the Mid-Year Budget Review and talk through what is going on.

I remember when I was Minister for Trade and Investment, it was a small budget, just over \$50 million, but when that looked like having overspend I got the CE in and talked through what was going on and made it quite clear to the bureaucrats that going over budget was not acceptable. Clearly, that is out the door with this government. The effect is, of course, that that money flows into the economy in a high-inflation environment and fuels the fire in terms of inflation. It also has a big impact on the state's debt, which is racing towards \$37 billion and that does not include \$10 billion worth of the north-south corridor. That is still outside the forward estimates, and this has come in a high interest rate environment.

If I can bear back to the COVID pandemic, these ultra low interest rates came at a time of great economic peril, and the emphasis was that that was a time when government should be stepping into the economy and actually trying to help ensure jobs are kept and we do not have massive unemployment. To counterbalance that spending, there were very ultra low interest rates which could be locked in over the long term so it was not going to have a massive impact in terms of having to pay back interest rates on that debt.

Now we are in a totally different environment, where we have very good employment, thanks to the Liberal government handing over very good economic credentials, very good employment rates, 3.9 per cent unemployment rates that those opposite have tried to take credit for ever since but we are coming into an environment now where we are in a high interest rate environment and they are consciously taking on large debt. It is not just debt on infrastructure where there is a payback for the community in the long term, it is operational overspends as well. That is the money that is being put on to the credit card.

It has been shown that it is expected that the interest rate annual expense goes from \$800 million to \$1,600 million over the four years. That is a massive amount of money just spent paying off interest. It is the equivalent of the budget for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. We could have two of those spending money on our regional road maintenance and spending money on maintaining roads in Morphett. Money could be spent on the Morphett Road tram crossing. While the tramline will be closed next year, it makes perfect sense to invest money on the tram crossing while it is closed and I have asked the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure about that. They are the sort of things that you miss out on, the opportunity costs, when you have this overspending.

As I said, households are experiencing high interest rates at the moment and I think they are now starting to understand what it means for debt and why it is important that governments do not have massive debt burdens they then have to pay interest on as well. As we said, if we cast our minds back 12 months, as we have been doing, things have certainly deteriorated massively since then.

Ramping was the big promise at the election, that those opposite were going to fix the ramping crisis, but what has happened is that South Australia has recorded 11 months of record ramping. The Premier promised to fix this but he did not explain that part of that fix was that he would actually double ramping while he was about it. As I said, record ramping with each month of those 11 months having 3,000 hours lost on the ramp, including March 2023, when 3,968 hours were lost. That is 161 per cent. So 100 per cent is double, 161 per cent of what the figures were back in February 2022, the last full month that we were in government.

Not only is there ramping but we have the EDs having to suffer code whites, where there are no beds in the emergency departments. In fact, just this month we have had code whites in all EDs in metropolitan hospitals. This has happened 11 times already. This is shocking. Despite record spending on health and Labor's repeated promises to fix ramping, it has now reached record levels.

As I said earlier in my remarks, we are currently in a cost-of-living crisis here in South Australia. Just looking through the impact of inflation for the typical South Australian family that has two children and an average mortgage, they are nearly \$20,000 worse off than in March 2022, so since the Malinauskas Labor government has been in. Living costs—whether they are interest rate rises or rental increases, petrol prices, food or groceries—are all rising, and all South Australian households and businesses are feeling the pain. What is also very alarming is the fact that skyrocketing energy bills are being experienced here in South Australia, both for households and businesses.

In May this year (so just last month), the Australian Energy Regulator released its finalised default market offer, which included not only South Australia but also New South Wales and Queensland. This is for those electricity users on standing offers. What it meant for South Australian households is that on the default market offer they will be experiencing increases of nearly 24 per cent, which translates to up to \$512 for the average South Australian household electricity bill. This is going to take effect in the very near future, on Saturday 1 July, and it is just going to heap even more pressure onto families and their household budgets. When I talked about that \$20,000 additional spending that families are having to make under the Malinauskas Labor government, that was not including these massive electricity bill hikes.

Now, of course, the default market offer is a standing offer, so not all households are on that; about 60,000 are. The default market offer is an indicator. What we have found just in the last two weeks is that a lot of households are getting emails from their energy retailer, they are getting notices in the letterbox and they are finding also that their contracts for electricity are going up—some of them in line with the 24 per cent; others, it seems, even more because, yes, they were on a good contract, but now the energy market is getting more and more expensive, so they are having to deal with that while their retailer takes that into account. These energy bills are going to be crippling for households, especially the most vulnerable as we progress through winter.

Of course, it is not just households that will feel these electricity bill increases; it is also small businesses. Again, the default market offer for small businesses showed an increase of \$1,310 for the average business. This is really hard. In Morphett, we have a lot of tourism-based businesses—

hospitality, restaurants, cafes, especially around Jetty Road. They have to have their fridges and freezers on all the time, and air conditioning to make sure that it is amenable for people to come in, as you want to attract customers in there. They cannot just turn off their electricity for savings, so what they are finding is they have to bear that burden of those extra increases. I mention that figure; that is a 29 per cent increase on their bills. These increases are the highest in the nation. South Australia, again, is now starting to lead the nation in terms of having the highest electricity prices.

Out of this, what is the solution? The best solution is to actually make electricity prices go down, but in this state budget, in terms of a policy or programs in place to have overall electricity prices go down, there are none. We were looking for that and found none. The federal government went to the federal election saying they would promise to reduce people's bills by \$275. Instead, they have gone in the total opposite direction. They have had to come up with an energy rebate, so at least some vulnerable people in South Australia, in the country, are able to pay for their electricity and put the lights on.

Because of the fact that there was record GST income and there was record state revenue, as I said before, there was a great opportunity to partner with the commonwealth government—not only for those who are eligible, because they receive commonwealth payments, but also for those who are not—to use that to also provide non-eligible households in South Australians with \$250. Unfortunately, that was not forthcoming, so we what we now have, especially in Morphett, is hardworking South Australians for whom this budget does not deliver. There is no relief for them. They have to work through it themselves. They are coming in and saying, 'It is effectively like the working poor here.'

Really what we need is some effort and focus by this government to come up with a plan on how to make electricity affordable here in South Australia. As I come to the end of my remarks here, we have another opportunity to speak post estimates, so I look forward to speaking on more matters when that opportunity presents itself.

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) (17:30): I am really pleased to speak today in wholehearted support of this Appropriation Bill and, in doing so, commend the incredible work of the Treasurer, his ministerial staff and, of course, the Department of Treasury and Finance staff for their work toward this 2023-24 budget, a budget that delivers the biggest cost-of-living package in the state's history, major long-term investments in health and housing and significant investment in our child protection and family support system.

As shown through the significant investments made in this budget, our government has a strong commitment to ensuring government spending creates positive change with and for our community and for our economy. This budget is rightly focused on ensuring equality of opportunity, fairness and inclusion, whether that be through enhancing access to a place to call home, easing pressure to pay bills or ensuring paying the school materials and services fee is within everyone's means. This is a budget that prioritises the wellbeing of so many South Australians and, in doing so, demonstrates that we as a government have the right priorities.

In addition to investments in the child protection and family support system, which of course I will speak to in a moment, I also speak about a range of significant investments delivered through this important budget which are aimed at tackling the challenges our community confronts. Initiatives to address the housing crisis and unlock the possibility for thousands of South Australians to get into their own homes are a central plank of this budget, for young people and, indeed, for anyone who has young people in their lives or others who aspire to realise the dream of owning their own home—this is a budget for them

I have spoken with my own children and their partners, a number of their friends and other young people in my community about that crucial budget announcement and what it might mean for them. In some of their words, it means that they will not have to wait 10 years to save for a deposit, that they will be able to find a home that suits them and is affordable to them a whole lot sooner and that it is really good to see that their needs, their futures, were so deeply thought about.

This initiative includes the abolishment of stamp duty for eligible first-home buyers, assisting to make the prospect of owning their own home within reach for many South Australians. In addition, the First Home Owner Grant property value cap will also be raised, from \$575,000 to \$650,000, and our government has also announced in collaboration with HomeStart a new lending product to allow eligible borrowers to build a new home with as little as a 2 per cent deposit.

Alongside this, we are seeing the single largest residential land release, with approximately 25,000 new blocks across our northern and southern suburbs delivering more homes for more South Australians. In addition to these reforms aimed at supporting South Australians to get into their own homes, our government has also announced plans to support tenants through reforms to residential tenancies legislation to make rental bonds more affordable, ban the practice of rent bidding and protect tenant rights and information.

As many in my community have raised as a matter of importance to them, I was so proud to see reform recently announced to make it easier for tenants to have their pet in their home. Pets are so important to so many people. They are a much-loved part of the family, and they offer comfort to people. We do not ever want people to have to choose between a safe place to call home and their beloved pet, and we will help make sure that they do not ever have to.

This budget delivers the biggest cost-of-living package in the state's history. As we all do, I hear every day the pressures that the cost of living is having on households and families across our state and the choices families and individuals are making to get by. We are listening, and our government is responding through initiatives including the provision of energy rebates worth \$500 for eligible households and \$650 for eligible small businesses and by increasing existing concessions by 8.64 per cent in line with higher inflation, such as the Cost of Living Concession and energy concession.

To assist families and ensure South Australian children have the best start to their day, our government has invested an extra one million meals through the School Breakfast Program, equating to \$6.5 million of further funds. We know kids start and continue their days happier and stronger when they have a full stomach, and we are making sure that they do. In addition, eligible school parents and caregivers will receive a \$100 subsidy on the materials and services charge. I have spoken with many community members who speak with me about how difficult it is to pay that particular fee, which often comes at a time just after Christmas. This relief at this time of year is incredibly important.

Our government is continuing its record investment in our health system to provide better health care for our community. Aimed at easing pressure on the hospital system, this state budget sees more than \$130 million invested into virtual care services alongside a package of investments aimed at reducing bed block, including the provision of additional doctors, physios, pharmacists and other staff working on weekends at major metropolitan hospitals, ensuring patients can be discharged seven days a week. It is illogical for patients who are well and ready to be discharged to stay in a hospital bed when they would likely rather be home and when that bed can be used by another person in need.

As indicated by the Treasurer in his budget speech and captured in the Budget Overview, and as I have spoken about many times in recent days, the state government is investing an additional \$216.6 million into the child protection and family support system over five years. Total new investment into child protection and family support equates to \$372 million since coming to government, an enormous commitment that absolutely speaks to our government prioritising the advancing of the reform that begins to tackle the difficult, complex and deeply interconnected issues that many children and their families confront.

It is not easy, but we are utterly committed to doing what we can to begin to make improvements in the child protection and family support system. This reform requires deep, ongoing, careful thought and a harnessing of the wisdom that comes through listening to children and young people themselves to families, carers, the sector and other experts, and that comes through aligning and mobilising whole-of-community, whole-of-government and whole-of-sector effort. We are determined that we genuinely bring to life that oft-repeated mantra that child protection is indeed everybody's business.

Our initiatives carefully focus on three areas: supporting children already in care, strengthening and supporting carers and effectively intervening to support and empower families. In recognition of the crucial role that foster and kinship carers play in the child protection and family support system, I am really pleased that our government has dedicated funding to increase carer payments from 1 July, assisting carers in meeting increasing cost-of-living pressures. This increase includes a 4.8 per cent increase to all carer payments and further increases for general foster and kinship carers through an additional \$50 per fortnight for each child being cared for under the age of 16.

The aim of these increased payments, as I said, is to relieve stress and to better support carers in the incredibly important role that they undertake. Through this and through other commitments, we will continue to support carers and work to attract more people to this absolutely vital role. We will continue to deeply listen to carers through my ongoing forums, round tables, conversations with carers right across the state, and indeed through the establishment of our Carer Council.

Of the \$216 million, \$109.5 million is to provide additional resources to appropriately support the actual number of children and young people in residential care—an investment that finally responds to this need, an investment that builds on a similar and also significant investment in last year's budget. We are investing \$107 million to help strengthen families and to keep them together when it is safe to do so. This dual investment speaks to our understanding as a government of the need to appropriately support the most vulnerable children already in care and to balance that with investment in programs that effectively intervene, when children and young people are at risk, in ways that give them the best opportunity to safely stay at home.

I am really proud that our government is continuing to deliver a range of other key initiatives, as well as committing to a series of new and improved supports which include investing an additional \$35.7 million in intensive family support services, as announced in May, which will support an additional 250 vulnerable families. We are investing \$13.4 million to expand resourcing for family group conferencing, particularly for Aboriginal families. This expansion of family group conferencing includes a focus on specifically supporting families during pregnancy, and once children are born, through an Aboriginal-specific program facilitated by Aboriginal Family Support Services.

We want to strengthen, include and empower extended families to come together to strengthen families and to enable individual family members to contribute in ways that help keep children safely at home. We need to recognise the strength and the love that exists in extended families and enable that strength and love to support children, young people, parts of the family when needed.

Family group conferences are led by families for families and provide an opportunity for family and community members to come together with the right support and resources to make decisions that enable children to be safe and to be strong at home. It includes opportunities for families to make decisions together, before children whom there are concerns about have been born.

The extended family plays a paramount, crucial role, particularly in Aboriginal families, and we intend for this expanded family group conferencing to recognise and harness these strengths. Family group conferences have been achieving really positive outcomes in keeping Aboriginal children with their families. We intend to build on this success, not just with family group conferences but with other family-focused services that are Aboriginal-led and that empower Aboriginal families to make the critical decisions about their children.

Within all these programs and all our work focused on the wellbeing of children, we must address the cycle of violence that can be within family units. I am really pleased to report that since the initiative commenced, 665 families have been referred and 338 conferences have been held to proactively manage child safety issues, with 60 per cent of these referrals and 57 per cent of conferences having been held with and for Aboriginal families.

Another crucial aspect of our investment includes \$3.2 million to establish a peak body for Aboriginal children and young people, which is being established by SNAICC. The funding agreement for the peak body has been signed, and I expect the group to be formed later this year.

This is such an important step in genuinely empowering Aboriginal people to make decisions about their children.

As I have spoken about before, we have provided \$800,000 of new money to Grandcarers SA to enable them to advocate for grandcarers. We are increasing family reunification services to reunite families with children and young people who have been in care, with an additional \$2.1 million over four years within this budget. Delivery of transitioning-from-care initiatives, including the Next Steps Pilot Service and Stability Post Care individual packages, have also received additional funding.

This state budget has also set aside \$200 million over five years for a digital investment fund to drive strategic and targeted investment in digital initiatives across the South Australian public sector. This fund will, amongst several key initiatives, support the replacement of C3MS, which is the Department of Child Protection's Connected Client Case Management System. Our government knows that the current system is not meeting the needs of the department, as was recognised by the Nyland royal commission and, indeed, by Mal Hyde in his recent review, both of which recommended that issues with C3MS be addressed.

It was so incredibly disappointing on coming into government to see the utter lack of work undertaken on this by those opposite when in government. We have done the work, we have developed the business case and we have now made a clear commitment about funding. Each of these commitments made in our recent budget amplifies our desire to improve capacity in our systems, our workforce, to support families and carers.

At the core of each of these aims are, of course, the children we are supporting—helping to ensure they have the opportunity to grow up safe, loved, cared for and with the best opportunity to physically, mentally and emotionally thrive and succeed. Our additional capacity will assist in improving the support to children and young people and other necessary service responses. As allocated in the budget, \$1.9 million over three years will also provide five additional FTE for the department's Redress Response Team.

Kinship carers also play a central role in the child protection and family support system to ensure children and young people in care grow up safe, happy, healthy and nurtured to reach their full potential. In recognition of the incredible efforts of kinship carers, I am really pleased to advise this house that the state budget also allocates \$4 million over four years to build the capacity of DCP's Kinship Carer Assessment Team. This funding will support an additional seven FTEs, which will rightly accelerate kinship assessments and, as a result, increase the number of kinship carers available to provide care for children and young people in a family-based environment.

We are focused on recruitment to vacancies and will continue to explore innovative approaches to attract quality candidates for child protection and family support work. We are improving hiring outcomes and significantly improving the employee and candidate experience, and we have started significant work to develop our workforce plan for the future.

All of this additional funding and support is reflective of listening to carers, to workers, to our peak bodies and other stakeholders, to community expectations, to those with direct experience of the child protection and family support system, to other experts, and—so importantly—to children and to young people themselves.

It is right that these child protection and family support measures have children at their centre and a focus always on supporting and strengthening families and carers to provide the best chance for children to grow up safe and strong in family, community and culture. I again thank the Treasurer for his work in creating a budget that reflects our government's priorities and the priorities of our broader South Australian community.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (17:49): I also rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill, and I do so for the first time in this house—speaking on an appropriation bill—since arriving here last year. I have to say as far as first experiences go this one has been pretty disappointing, although not all that surprising, because—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You shouldn't speak about your side like that, member for Bragg.

Mr BATTY: Well, in fact, Deputy Speaker, it is what we see from the other side that has disappointed me. We have seen very quickly a return to same old Labor. We have seen a government opposite that have blown their very own budget by more than \$1 billion in this first full year of government.

It was only a couple of years ago that the now Treasurer was putting out media releases and going around saying and promising that he would keep the budget in surplus. It was only one year ago that the Treasurer was in this place pretending that he had kept that promise. He was promoting his apparent budget surplus that he was going to deliver for the last financial year. Well, how much has changed in a year? Very quickly the \$233 million for this financial year that was projected by the Treasurer this time last year has suddenly turned into a \$249 billion deficit. That is a half-a-billion-dollar turnaround in the course of the year, a half-a-billion-dollar budget blowout.

But, as we have heard from other members in this place, it is actually even worse than initially appears, because at the same time that we have seen that half-a-billion-dollar turnaround to the bottom line we have also seen a record intake in revenue, a record intake of state taxation and our GST intake. When you take that into account what we have in fact seen in the course of the year is a budget blowout of over \$1 billion and, in doing so, the Malinauskas Labor government breaking their promise that they stood up before the election and gave, which was that they would keep budgets in surpluses.

Worse still, we have nearly nothing to show for these budget blowouts. There is no grand new vision or investment or projects. What we in fact see is this record revenue just squandered on run-of-the-mill budget overspends, run-of-the-mill financial mismanagement across nearly every single government department.

What I think we see is a government that are addicted to spending, that have no control over their own departments and that pay no regard to their very own budgets. I say this is particularly bad when it is happening in a context where there is then no consequence for this financial recklessness. Indeed to the extent that there has been a consequence, all these departments that have overspent have actually been rewarded by having their budgets increased for this year. The overspends have simply been baked in, so there has been no consequence and there is nothing to show for these budget blowouts.

I mentioned there have been no grand new projects or investments. The other thing there is not is any broad-based cost-of-living relief, which we could have seen this money spent on and, indeed, there is nothing, really, in this budget to deliver for hardworking South Australians who still face the highest rates of inflation in the entire nation and who still have to face electricity bills that are higher than anywhere else in the nation.

In fact, opposition analysis has shown that the typical family is \$20,000 worse off under Labor, with higher rents, higher mortgages, higher energy bills and paying more for their groceries and everything else. There is nothing in this budget, this huge budget blowout, to help those hardworking South Australians.

It is bad for South Australia; unfortunately, this budget is also bad for my local electorate of Bragg. Once again there is really nothing in this budget for my constituents in the eastern suburbs, who are also doing it tough as they face cost-of-living pressures, and who also rely on government services and infrastructure that have been underinvested in in this budget—just as they were throughout the 16 years of previous Labor governments.

Looking very briefly at two agency portfolios, and seeing how there is not a lot in it for my constituents, the first is the infrastructure portfolio. My number one concern there is trying to get freight off our local roads in the eastern suburbs, including Portrush Road and Glen Osmond Road. Sadly, this budget will not do that. We know the problem very, very well: that there are 650,000 trucks that come down the South-Eastern Freeway every year, and most of them come out onto Portrush Road, over a thousand trucks a day on Portrush Road. It is a really big problem for congestion, it is a really big problem for health, and it is a really big problem for road safety—as we sadly see all too often.

What does this budget do? Pleasingly, in this budget we see some funding still set aside for the Truro freight route, which I see as an important first step of a Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, although I am concerned, given the federal Labor government's 90-day infrastructure review, that projects like the Truro freight route might be in doubt as well. However, I must commend this budget for including that funding in there still.

However, that is about where the good news stops, because this budget mentions the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass but only in the form of a planning study, a planning study that was meant to be released at the end of last year. We are now being told it will be delivered at the end of this year. We do not need to wait any longer for this planning study. What we need is funding, which this budget sadly does not deliver.

The other matter in the infrastructure portfolio that I want to touch on from a local perspective is road safety. For quite some time now I have been calling for improved road safety measures around Marryatville High School in my electorate following what was a really shocking accident that rocked my local community. Sadly, this budget does not deliver that: what it, in fact, does is delay the existing school crossing program that is working at improving infrastructure around schools to improve road safety. It delays it by a year, and that is very disappointing.

I was very pleased yesterday to hear, in this house, the Minister for Road Safety confirm that there will be some additional infrastructure going in at Marryatville in the form of early warning signs, advance warning signs. However, there is a lot more that needs to be done at Marryatville. Indeed, I want to see a safety audit at all schools in my electorate.

Finally, while we are on the topic of schools I want to make a comment about the education portfolio and, once again, the chronic underinvestment from Labor governments in schools in my electorate. I have some of the best schools in the entire state in Bragg, but they are victims of their own success because they are bursting at the seams. Linden Park, Burnside and Rose Park primary schools are all subject to capacity management plans, and they all face ever-increasing demands.

Meanwhile both high schools in my electorate, Glenunga International High and Marryatville High, are facing ever-increasing pressure and are going to be some 100 or so students over capacity by next year. There is nothing in this budget that might alleviate that pressure, ideas like a new school. Sadly, there is nothing that is even investing in those schools that are there and that are already struggling with insufficient infrastructure.

A school like Marryatville High, which is coming up on 2,000 students and 100 over capacity, still has one gymnasium with one court. It has only two change rooms, which require up to 275 students going through there before and after each lesson. Time and time again, we see the eastern suburbs schools overlooked, and this budget is no exception.

It is a budget that is same old Labor. It is a huge budget blowout, over \$1 billion, which is bad for cost of living, bad for inflation and bad if you want to see responsible financial management here in South Australia. I am very disappointed that it does not deliver for South Australia, it does not deliver for the environment portfolio, and it does not deliver for my community.

Sitting suspended from 18:00 to 19:30.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (19:31): I rise to make a brief contribution regarding the budget and Appropriation Bill. I would have to say that, over the journey of the last budget and this budget, Mount Gambier and particularly the Lower South-East have received considerable funding and considerable attention from the government. I really do acknowledge and appreciate that type of support because we are the state's second largest city and, quite honestly, one of the economic powerhouses of the state in terms of not only gross domestic product but also possibilities going forward.

With some support and attention, I am very confident that the entire Limestone Coast, but of course my patch, the seat of Mount Gambier, will contribute to this wonderful state and contribute to prosperity, to jobs and, of course, to a better future for all South Australians. That is a thing to keep in mind, that if everybody and every region does their part the state as a whole will grow and prosper. I certainly see our region batting above its weight, but with support it can certainly be doing a hell of a lot more.

There are a couple of topics that I will talk about tonight. If I break them down, they include hydrogen and the opportunities for hydrogen in the Lower South-East; midwifery and nursing, and attraction and retention of that vital industry and skill; tourism opportunities, particularly around the Gather Round; a Telstra proposal, which I think is very exciting and something for which a modest input from a state government will give complete coverage; medical cannabis, and people have heard me talk about this for a long time; palliative care, which I spoke about today, so I will not go into great detail about that; some initiatives around roads and infrastructure; and the Patient Assisted Transport Scheme. When I first got into government—actually, I was campaigning in 2013, which seems like a lifetime ago—we were able to negotiate with both sides of parliament, making a significant contribution to patient assisted transport.

If I start with hydrogen, some work has been done by Iris Engineering. This is in collaboration with my good friend and political neighbour of MacKillop Nick McBride. He has a copy of this report that shows that the seat of Mount Gambier and the seat of MacKillop are ideally located to further hydrogen production and also the research and development of that. I sometimes look with envy at some of the technical colleges being built in the CBD and regions here, because the defence industry is a natural employer.

I heard the Premier today talk about pathways for kids into that industry, and I am sure the technical college based in the education precinct located in Mount Gambier will play into that, and we need to make sure it does because the number of jobs that are being talked about are actually mind-boggling when you sit down and think about it. It is not in the tens, it is not in the hundreds—it is in the thousands.

I was a schoolteacher for a long time, probably over 20 years. I may not have taught that number of kids, but if you start adding up you think that this is a very significant development for our state and obviously brilliant for our kids coming through and also those who are going to repurpose and retool to enjoy that pathway going forward.

Iris have put together a document that both the member for MacKillop and I have and I will be talking to the Treasurer as soon as he gets through estimates and can focus on our region versus perhaps the tricky questions coming and the broader aspects.

What really struck me about this proposal were the competitive advantages that the South-East possesses, and I will read them out. I will not go into the business case per se, but water availability is number one. Limestone Coast water run-off has been identified as vast in quantity and outstanding in quality in terms of its purity, being fresh water pretty much running out to the sea and being collected. If you are in the South-East at this time of year, you will see more water than you think is possible.

The Wattle Range region has excellent wind resources, with existing wind farms already in establishment. Most of the sites are only about two-thirds to two-fifths capacity (i.e. it has been scoped already for additional wind turbines). While the need is not there yet, they have the approvals and the capability to increase the number of wind turbines considerably, particularly in the Wattle Range area. In terms of solar and wind opportunities, the potential, as I said, is great. Approvals have already been done and they have obviously been built.

In terms of offtake agreements, we have Kimberly-Clark. During the pandemic, who would have thought that the most prized possession in your pantry would have been a roll of toilet paper, but that is what we produce in the seat of MacKillop in the South-East. We also have our coal, which is an aluminium smelter that will take every bit of green energy that we will be able to produce. How good would it be to be producing green hydrogen and then exporting it over the border to Victoria for use.

What I am really impressed with is the establishment of a world-class educational hub and this comes back to the education precinct that I was talking about. The University of South Australia has an existing facility and programs in Mount Gambier, in addition to the considerable investment that the state government is making into our education precinct. This can be expanded to develop further research opportunities within the university to make sure that the hydrogen journey we are on continues to expand beyond the building of one site.

I do want to put on the record that I really wish Whyalla all the best. I hope that that project gets off the ground. I am talking about a subsequent project after Whyalla or at the same time—it does not really matter. I fully support the Whyalla proposal. It is a great region and certainly a part of the state I have spent a lot of time in.

Of course, its location in the South-East is strategically important, being located between Adelaide and Victoria, in becoming a hub for education, hydrogen development, distribution and power supplies. I think hydrogen has a very bright future. I would like to see it expanded into the South-East and I think we can play a part in exporting green hydrogen over the border into Alcoa.

In terms of midwifery and university courses, I need to put on the record that my daughter is doing the midwifery course so when I talk about subsidies for midwives and nurses having to do their placement in Adelaide it will not necessarily affect us, but I have firsthand experience on the difficulty. In fact, I will be honest: I think the course needs to be seriously looked at by the government because it almost seems to do everything it can to disincentivise regional nurses and regional midwives from doing their course in a regional area and this is of great concern to me.

I think one of the reasons that some students in regional areas are not completing their courses is not because of their skill level, it is because of the university making it so difficult that it borders on the absurd. That is something that we should take very seriously in here. When I talk about subsidies, it is not for my daughter or anything like that. We have a rental unit in Adelaide, so she would not be part of that. But the number of people in her course who have dropped out because of the onerous and restrictive conditions that are put on them is something that we seriously need to address.

I want to talk about a couple of people who are in her course and their experiences. They sent my daughter emails and texts because they knew that I was talking about this tonight, and it is quite unbelievable. I will talk about Sophie. Sophie has been required to travel to Adelaide three times already this year. She has six children in Kangaroo Island and cannot get suitable accommodation to do her midwifery placement here in Adelaide. She has also had to add an extra year to her studies, since Kangaroo Island would not take her placement, and she was only given three weeks' notice of needing to do that placement in Adelaide.

Here you have a person who has children and is given three weeks' notice: 'You need to be in Adelaide and you need to do your placement here; otherwise, you need to tack another year onto your course.' That type of stuff is ridiculous. Another student, Georgie, is also required to add an extra year onto her studies because she was going to be required to fly over to Adelaide—this student comes from Port Lincoln—and she needed to fly, get accommodation and do a 30-minute face-to-face assessment that the university claimed could not be done over Zoom. Obviously she could not do that, so she has added another year onto her course because of it.

That is four weeks of uni placement in Adelaide during the first year, over seven hours from home, with no subsidies and no help. Sometimes we think of students as being 19 or 20, but in actual fact many of the students in the same course that my daughter is doing—and my daughter is 20 but she lives at home—are in their 30s, or their late 20s, and have to drop everything at a minute's notice. It seems the assistance from the university is minimal—and I am trying to be kind—bordering on the fact of not caring that they are adding extra time.

Another student in my daughter's class has a six week old at home and is on placement next week. This placement is, of course, in Adelaide. Her shift ends at 9.30 at night and starts at 7 o'clock in the morning. Her partner now has to take care of the child—again, this person is in Port Lincoln—and my daughter says this is the situation that a lot of mums are facing doing the course.

We have some pretty vigorous debates in our house and I welcome them. I often lose, so I am obviously not the greatest politician going around. One of the debates that we do have, and my daughter did the research on this, was that for a lot of male-dominated degrees you are not required to attend this type of placement, or if you are, you get paid, it is part of your apprenticeship, or the course does not require that level of placement outside of where you are doing the course.

It really got me thinking about the divide between male and female-dominated courses, and I suppose midwifery is one of those, versus let's say a carpenter who is doing a four-year

apprenticeship on site, where most of it is on site, and when they are required to travel to Adelaide they are paid, there are subsidies often applied and they can do that as part of their normal course.

The placements are really hurting these courses, particularly female-orientated courses, and no surprise, a lot of them are in Mount Gambier. I wish there were more males doing primary school teaching, but they are required to do placements unpaid; social work, placements unpaid; midwifery and nursing, placements unpaid. If you are not a 20 year old living at home with mum and dad picking up all the bills and you are trying to upskill yourself and better your life, as a female you are incredibly disadvantaged by the requirements of these courses and the unpaid placement.

It is bad enough if you have to do the unpaid placement in your home town but you put on top of that country students, and when I say students let's say 30 year olds, who have to travel to Adelaide, get accommodation, do unpaid placements for up to 10 weeks, particularly for teaching and social work, you can see how disadvantaged our young people are and it is something that I think needs to be addressed.

As a state that wants to attract more people to the health sector, there has to be support for regional students doing placements in Adelaide in particular. I give my daughter credit. She has raised a number of times the unfairness of female-dominated industries, if I can say that, versus male-dominated industries and the different criteria and the different supports that are available for them.

In terms of Telstra, we have an amazing opportunity. I have already spoken to the Treasurer briefly about this. Basically, for \$5.5 million from the state government we could see complete mobile coverage in the Limestone Coast region. It is a proposal that has been put to us: \$5.5 million from the state government, and around \$11 million from the federal government, and Telstra will do that lobbying and that work. The rest, about \$28 million in total cost, will be made up by Telstra and there will be a 5 per cent contribution from the local councils.

To be able to pull this off and say that in my time at parliament, and I am sure the member for MacKillop's time in parliament, we were able to get full coverage for the entire Limestone Coast would be an amazing achievement. Really, for \$5.5 million from a state government point of view—which is not needed in 12 months' time, it is over a two-year period—it would be an amazing outcome for this state government as well.

Tourism I see as an amazing opportunity. We will not get an AFL game during Gather Round. We accept that, but how we attract the most Victorians to come through the Limestone Coast on their way to Adelaide for the Gather Round is really a tourism opportunity. I think we need to put on a major event like a Tasting Australia around that time of year, which gives people from Victoria a reason not to go the short way between Melbourne and Adelaide but to go the long way, through Mount Gambier, up through the Coonawarra or through Robe on the journey into Adelaide for the Gather Round. These are things I will be talking a lot more about.

Medical cannabis I have spoken a lot about. I spoke about palliative care today. In regard to roads and infrastructure, the minister already knows what my thoughts are around having a depot privately funded in Naracoorte versus locals looking after local roads. That is a theme they are going to hear a lot more about.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (19:49): I rise to speak on this very important Appropriation Bill in reaction to the budget that was delivered a couple of weeks ago. Over the last couple of weeks we have been able to unpack some of the detail within those papers which perhaps may have been missed in the major announcements, but it certainly is important to the community of South Australia and especially to regional South Australia.

It is an interesting budget to start to unpack and to realise the deficit and debt that goes with it, and it is worrying. Speaking as someone who runs a business, who is aware of the challenges of running a business at the moment, to see government going into the level of deficit and debt at the moment which we see is concerning. We know that there are going to be challenging times ahead financially, not just here in South Australia but across the country.

Looking at last year's budget and the numbers that have flowed out of that, the numbers show an overrun of \$700 million within the health budget, an overrun of \$370 million within the

education budget, an overrun of \$54 million in the environment budget and an overrun of \$66 million within DPC, which really is worrying for that year. Also worrying for me as someone who is dissecting those numbers is to see how those overruns have actually been baked into the operational budget for those departments going forward. It is something which we have seen across the vast majority of government departments.

Twelve months ago we were hearing that there were savings that were going to be made, there were going to be challenges put down to CEOs and departments for them to tighten their belts to make sure they are being responsive to the needs of South Australians, but actually what has happened is we have seen budgets blow out, we have seen spending go over and above what has been budgeted and, as I said, for the vast majority of departments, those blowouts have then been factored into the ongoing budget.

Worrying for me, and it is probably increasingly worrying for South Australians, is to see where the levels of debt are getting to for us as a state and to see within the forward estimates that it is going to surpass the \$37 billion mark. We throw these numbers around in this place, but to actually get your head around the fact that we are likely to be looking at a daily interest payment of near on \$2 million that is going out just on interest on the debt that has been incurred.

What can you do with that \$2 million every single day? You could do some pretty incredible things. This is the level we are getting to as a state and, for me, alarm bells are ringing. As someone who knows that you have to be aware of your spending and live within your means, especially as a business, you look at government running in this way and you certainly have concerns about those deficit and debt levels. Only time will tell if those presumptions are accurate or it is going to be even more than that, which we have seen already in the comparisons with last year's budget and what was actually delivered.

As someone who is a representative of regional South Australia—a significant portion of regional South Australia—it is always of interest to me to delve into the budget papers to unpack what has been invested into the parts of the state which, as we have already heard in the other contributions, contribute somewhere between \$20 billion and over \$30 billion annually into our state's economy. Those numbers should never be underestimated. Especially when you have seasons on the land in agriculture and horticulture like last year, where production was incredibly high, the impact economically was really positive for our state. Our regions really are the economic powerhouse comparatively for the populations that are there. We need to be making sure as decision-makers that we are actually investing back into those regional areas which are putting that economic activity within the budget, within the state's economy.

As has already been mentioned, and the leader did it, it is certainly not my spot in opposition to be negative about every aspect of the budget. I have been going through and trying to pick out aspects I am optimistic, excited or even positive about, because there are aspects I think could be really positive for regional South Australia in particular if they are done well.

I will highlight the \$10.2 million over four years to establish the Regional Skills Development Fund that will ensure that TAFE SA can offer more courses in rural and regional South Australia. I hope that that investment within regional skills development is actually conscious of the skills that are needed within our regions. It is no good putting those funds into areas that do not have the job opportunities.

We know there is already a massive skills gap in regional South Australia in areas like child care and aged care. I hope this is where that some \$2½ million a year might be targeted—it might be targeted towards the areas where the need is now, where the jobs for now and for the future are within regional South Australia. As people who represent regional South Australia and live in regional South Australia, we know that if you train someone up from regional South Australia with the skills that are needed they are more likely than ever to actually be working within those regional areas.

I have noticed \$10 million over four years within the budget to undertake additional regional road safety infrastructure upgrades, including audio tactile line marking, safety barriers, and Rural Junction Activated Warning System signage. At first glance, you may think that is a good thing—and I am sure it is—but \$2½ million a year for all of regional South Australia? To undertake additional regional road safety infrastructure upgrades, \$2½ million is not going to go too far.

It is going to be really interesting to see how these funds are spent, because we know the challenges that are being faced at the moment with the road toll here in South Australia. The numbers are higher than we should be accepting. They are scarily high, especially within regional areas. We need to be making sure we are investing in the areas that are going to be best bang for buck. Two and a half million dollars a year? I hope there will be some work done; I am pessimistic about how much.

I am curious to see the \$3½ million over five years for a dedicated regional housing office within Renewal SA to work with local governments, economic development agencies and employers to address housing shortages in the region. I think that \$700,000 a year for this regional housing office is a step in the right direction; I will give the government that, and I have had that conversation with the minister. I think it is a positive move, but it is only going to be positive if they actually develop policy and strategy and cut the bureaucratic red tape that is within the system, to actually deliver positive outcomes for regional South Australia with housing.

If all it is going to be is just another arm of Renewal SA that continues to toe the bureaucratic line, I think it is going to be unproductive and really miss the opportunity that we have to get housing right within regional South Australia. I will be watching closely, and hopefully the Renewal SA regional housing arm will be able to work with those local communities and local councils to actually target those policies and get that investment opportunity enabled within regional South Australia.

The \$3 billion backlog in roads and infrastructure has already been mentioned. For me, in Flinders, I have been hopeful that the money that has been budgeted will actually make a difference within our regional road network but, like the vast majority of people within my electorate, I have been frustrated with how poorly managed the projects have been where there actually has been funding allocated. We have seen disruption, we have seen delay, we have seen poorly delivered projects, we have seen projects that have had to have a third/fourth/fifth time back over of repairs that should have been done right the first time. This is why regional South Australia gets so frustrated: there is not enough money invested, and the money that is invested does not actually hit the mark for the needs of the community.

In the electorate of Flinders, I have been hopeful that the federal government announcement around the junction upgrades within Port Lincoln of Porter Street and Liverpool Street will be able to be delivered. I am also hopeful that the government continues to look at really sound investment in the areas of our road network that really serve the most productive parts of our state. I will highlight the work that has been done previously on the Tod Highway and the Lincoln Highway as really smart investment into productive infrastructure.

I will also then highlight the Flinders Highway up the West Coast, the area south of Elliston and the area between Ceduna and Streaky Bay as major aerial state highways which, if you were to drive down as a visitor, you would think you are in some of the backblocks of our state because of the dangerous situations that you will face. The lack of a shoulder within that road, the drop-off, the interactions that have been had between heavy vehicles, caravans and visitors really do lead to some dangerous situations.

I cover many tens of thousands of kilometres on the road as the member for Flinders. I see these roads every single day and I continue to be amazed that there are not actually more accidents and incidents on our roads because we have some situations which could develop very easily and could have some terrible, tragic outcomes. The government needs to be looking at sound investment in productive infrastructure, because without that our state will be hamstrung. Our state will actually continue to be behind the eight ball. In supporting the existing industries that we have within our state that give so much economic activity also involves enabling infrastructure for new potential industries.

For my electorate in Flinders, the opportunities for economic activity are incredible. I look around every little corner of my electorate and see that there are infrastructure projects, energy projects, mining projects and primary industry projects, which if the accompanying infrastructure is invested in by state government the economic bonus for us as a state is going to be incredible.

Not a single day passes without someone within my electorate highlighting the challenges that we face with regional health. Regional health has so many different aspects. Front of mind for my communities is obviously the delivery of basic general practice health care for our communities;

to have those basic surfaces, GP services, and ensuring that there are appropriate levels of nursing within our hospitals. For me, there are some 11 hospitals and health services within my electorate—there are not too many members of this place who can point to that level, and they are spread out.

I understand the challenges of delivering regional health, but I have not seen enough proactive smart investment and policy from the government within this budget. It is investment into infrastructure which needs to be continuing; that infrastructure which provides the highest level of service for people within my community and across regional South Australia so that they do not feel isolated, so they do not feel vulnerable as patients within these services.

This is one of the core basic foundations that we need to get right within our state. If we do not have health care right within our regional areas, that economic opportunity I talk about is going to be missed. People are not going to be living in our regional areas if there is uncertainty about their health care. I also encourage the government to be proactive in looking at the expansion of the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATs) for those of us who live a long way from the city. We know we have vulnerable members of the community who rely on PATs to give them the funds to be able to travel to specialist care.

These are the sorts of things the government should be looking at—the structure, the expansion—because if the base services cannot be delivered within regional areas you at least have to support people appropriately to be able to get to those services within the metropolitan area. I would strongly urge the government to make sure that they are continuing to look at the PAT Scheme and its future opportunities for what the needs of our communities are going to be.

I was optimistic to see within the budget the \$20 million over four years—the \$5 million a year—of investment into regional jetties. It is something which I continue to talk about in this place, because for me the closest jetty is the Tumbay Bay jetty, but it is only one of 18 jetties across my electorate. Once again, the number is astronomical and I cannot go to any one of those communities and say, 'Well, you know what, there's another jetty 70 kilometres up the road, so you don't need your jetty.'

These are the central pieces of infrastructure for our coastal communities that communities are built around, for not just tourism and visitors but also for the locals to experience a unique marine environment and to be able to know that you are close to that wild side of nature which we have on Eyre Peninsula. I am optimistic about the \$5 million a year, but it is only—no pun intended—a drop in the ocean for the need of what is facing us as a state with over 60 jetties dotted around the coastline of our state. That need is ever expanding. I am disappointed when I hear the minister take political jabs at me when I am asking questions about it, saying that councils should be investing more.

Local communities and their councils have been putting hundreds of thousands of dollars into their jetties over decades. I compare it to someone who is renting a house: when you are renting a house, like the councils leasing the state-owned jetties, you do the upkeep. You keep things clean. You do well to make sure that it is presentable. But when there is something structural that needs to be done, when you need to replace a roof or fix up a wall, the owner of the property takes on that expense. It is exactly the same with the jetties of the state government.

The state government own these jetties. They lease them to councils for their ongoing upkeep, but when there is major investment that needs to happen into their capital renewal that is a responsibility of the state government. As I said, I am optimistic, hopeful, but not blind to the incredible burden that there might be on communities if there is an expectation that they are going to have to carry the load for our regional jetties.

Our cost of living is a challenge we are facing across the whole state, and regional South Australia is certainly at the pointy end of that. We know that the cost of fuel, the cost of getting products to remote regional communities, is even higher than for our metro cousins, meaning that there is an ongoing burden on some of the services that are being provided to people as they start to realise that financially they are struggling and they need some help.

I would like to highlight the plight of Community House. For over two decades, Community House have been providing services to those at risk, vulnerable people, within the community of Port Lincoln. They have been doing it for over two decades out of an SA Housing premises. Services that

are provided are vast and incredible, really, for the amount of funding that they get. They are in a situation now. They are facing a more than doubling of their lease from SA Housing to try to continue to operate out of that premises.

They are also facing the chance that, if they do not pay that higher lease, SA Housing may move to move them out of that premises. They have been there more than two decades. They provide services in Port Lincoln to the most vulnerable within that community, and the need is growing. They are seeing more and more people every day. We are in a situation where they need a collaborative solution from DHS and from SA Housing to make sure that we do not lose that valuable service in Port Lincoln.

I have had conversations with the minister, who to her credit is trying to work through this process. We need to have a solution so that those people within my community who are most vulnerable have some certainty about the future. I hope there can be some negotiation to sell that premises to Community House, who are willing to pay a price that is fair for something that I hope will continue to serve my community for, once again, decades to come. I hope the government can show some compassion and some understanding so that such an important community service that is delivered by Community House continues to be able to be delivered to the people of Port Lincoln.

I only have a minute to go. I probably have another half an hour of words that I could speak about my community and about the investment the government needs to be continuing to make. I have not touched on education, I have not touched enough on housing and I have not touched on the challenges that we are facing with regional policing.

These are all things that I hope we will be able to unpack within the estimates process so we as decision-makers can have an understanding of where the government's direction is, challenge them on areas where we see the need is not being appropriately met and really get them thinking as a government, as decision-makers, as a bunch of ministers who are responsible for the budget and for their departments so that they are actually responsive to what the community needs are not just here in metropolitan Adelaide but all across regional South Australia.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (20:09): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill. As a former journalist who covered state budgets, and also having worked for the former Treasurer in this place, Tom Koutsantonis, delivering around four or five budgets, budget day is always somewhat a bit like Christmas Day for me. I love seeing how we are putting money towards the priorities for South Australians and for people in my local community.

I think this budget was really defined by health, housing and cost of living. I want to talk about the housing policies and the impact that will have on, in particular, young people in my local area. We are abolishing stamp duty on brand-new homes for first-home buyers; we are delivering 1,140 more public homes; we are undertaking the single largest land release, with 25,000 new blocks in Adelaide's north and south; and we are also providing more affordable homes for sale and rent in the city at the old Franklin bus depot, which we are transforming into a 392-apartment community.

On stamp duty, I benefited from policies like this. I bought my very first home in the city when we had a policy for abolishing stamp duty on new apartments in the CBD, and combined with the First Home Owner Grant this was really the only way that I would ever have potentially got into the housing market. It got me a foot in the door and set me on a path to achieve something that perhaps growing up in a country town I never thought I would be able to achieve, which is owning a home in the middle of Adelaide, in the middle of our capital city, so I am forever grateful for that opportunity.

When this budget announced that we were abolishing stamp duty for eligible first-home buyers on brand-new homes, or if they would like to build a home, that is an absolute game changer for people in South Australia, particularly young people looking to get into the housing market. Specifically, it abolishes stamp duty for homes valued up to \$650,000 and then the relief progressively phases out for properties valued up to \$700,000.

Combined with the \$15,000 First Home Owner Grant—I cannot help it, but sometimes I want to call it the FHO, because that is what I used to call it when I worked in Treasury—eligible first-home buyers will be able to have relief of up to \$44,580. That is massive and it means that so

many more South Australians, in particular young South Australians, will be able to achieve their dream of home ownership.

We are also undertaking a massive investment in public housing. It is a generational investment, an extra 1,140 more public homes. We are doing that by stopping the sale of 580 homes that would have occurred under the former Liberal government. We are building an extra 564 new public homes. I understand that this is one of the most significant increases in public housing that we have seen in the last few decades. There may have only been perhaps one occasion when we saw a slight uptake in public housing, so this is an amazing opportunity to provide people with a stable and secure home, a roof over their head, which we know makes such a difference.

We are also undertaking a massive land release, as I was saying before, of 25,000 blocks in Adelaide's northern and southern suburbs. For those first-home buyers looking to build their first home this residential land release will give them an amazing opportunity to purchase a block and use the policies around abolishing stamp duty, along with the First Home Owner Grant, to build their very first home, to have a backyard, to have a lawn, to perhaps have a couple of kids—I highly recommend getting a trampoline early so that you get your money's worth—and again realise that amazing dream of home ownership.

There is one particular project I am really excited about in terms of affordable housing, which is in the CBD, and that is the old Franklin Street bus depot. I was able to go along with the Premier; the Minister for Planning, Nick Champion; the Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide, Jane Lomax-Smith, who is really passionate about creating more affordable housing in the city; and the Property Council's CE, Bruce Djite, to announce this exciting new housing project right in the heart of the CBD. We will transform the old bus depot into a 392-dwelling apartment complex, which is part of our plan to make sure that we are delivering affordable homes for sale and for rent in the heart of our capital city.

It is an exciting announcement because it will provide much-needed affordable housing in the form of studios and one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, and they are right across the road from the Central Market. As I mentioned before, I was able to buy my first home in the CBD, and it was just a stone's throw from the Adelaide Central Market. It was like my living room. I had my two babies there, and that was their very first home. The first place we ventured out to after I gave birth, when each baby was about four or five days old, was the Adelaide Central Market—it is a site of many happy memories for people who live in the CBD. Having this major housing development right near the Central Market makes living in the city just so much more amazing when you get to be living right next door to an absolute icon.

In terms of the budget, we are looking at the biggest cost-of-living relief package in our state's history. We are providing rebates of up to \$500 on electricity bills for eligible households, or up to \$650 for eligible small businesses. We have \$100 off the materials and services charge for public schools. For those who do not have kids in a public school, it is basically the fee that we pay, as parents, at the start of the year for things like books, stationery and pens and pencils and things like that. As a mum of two—my daughter goes to a public primary school—I know that this is a real help for so many families in my local community.

We are increasing the investment in concessions by \$44 million to really help the most vulnerable in our community. We are also extending the School Breakfast Program to provide an extra one million breakfasts. That is huge because, when you think about it, if a little kid comes to school on an empty tummy it makes it so much more difficult for that little person to concentrate throughout the day. They need the fuel to learn, and that is what is so important about the School Breakfast Program. It is an investment that I am really proud that our government is delivering on.

This budget, as I said, is about housing and about cost of living and also about health. One of the biggest projects in my community, something that I was really proud to campaign on, is a bigger and better new Women's and Children's Hospital. We are going to be delivering a hospital that will provide an extra 56 overnight beds, a larger emergency department and clinical care services all on the one floor, which is absolutely crucial.

Good governments listen to feedback and make the tough decisions for the long-term interests of our state. Bad governments do not, they take the easy way out, and that is what was

going to occur under the former Liberal government. We were going to have a hospital that just was not big enough, that we were basically going to outgrow before we even set foot in the new hospital that they were going to build.

I do not know if you have ever seen *Zoolander*, but you might remember a scene in which Zoolander says, 'Is this a centre for ants?' Basically, that was pretty much what was going to happen under the former government. They were going to build a hospital that just would not have fit everyone. We are a good government that makes the tough decisions for the long-term interests of our state, and we are building a bigger and better brand-new Women's and Children's Hospital.

We also have to think about the current hospital. During the election campaign, I would stand out the front of the current women's and kids' hospital with Professor John Svigos and Professor Warren Jones of the Women's and Children's Hospital Alliance. We would hold petitions and we would collect signatures, calling for more investment in the current hospital.

I know I became a mum at that very hospital just over seven years ago. I have spent many hours in the crowded emergency department, and I can see just how incredibly hard our healthcare workers do work. I am very proud that our government is making a \$20.1 million investment to upgrade the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital which will go a long way to looking after our most vulnerable and sick kids at the women's and kids'.

The best preventative health policy when we talk about health is making sure we can keep people fit, active, healthy and also connected. There is something about physical health and also mental health that also needs to be kept healthy. One of the best ways we can do that is by making sure people feel part of the community, that they get up every day and have a place to go where people know their name and where they have social connections, as well as a place where they can stay active. That is why I am incredibly proud to be delivering a brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre. You will see that this year's state budget makes allowances for the brand-new centre.

The difference between this side and the other side is that we did have a funded plan. We went to the election knowing that we were able to deliver a fully funded, brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre. There was a really important point around that, around the state government taking on this project. It had become somewhat of a political football over years and years between the city councillors of the time, and we realised that this is actually a centre that does not just service the Adelaide City Council ratepayers; it is a real regional facility for the inner north, west and east of Adelaide.

It was actually quite unfair, when you looked at the participation rates of the centre, the demographic, because only 11 per cent of Adelaide City Council ratepayers used the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, yet they were being asked to shoulder the burden of the operational costs, the ongoing maintenance and any future capital costs of building a new centre. We really took that on board in developing our policy for the Adelaide Aquatic Centre.

Those on the opposite side, the former Liberal government, did not listen. They did not understand that challenge and presented a plan that was not actually even funded. They thought they could throw a few million at the problem and say that Adelaide City Council ratepayers could pick up the tab. In fact, the former Treasurer at the time said, 'Well, if the federal Coalition government isn't going to stump up the cash, then Adelaide City Council ratepayers can.'

I listened to our local community. I looked at the numbers and I looked at the fact that only 11 per cent of users actually came from the Adelaide City Council area, and I acknowledged that this was very much an inner metropolitan regional facility. So we delivered a policy to deliver a brand-new centre that was going to be owned by South Australians for all South Australians, and we have undertaken significant consultation on developing this brand-new facility.

On the weekend, last Thursday night and on Saturday afternoon, with the department I held a couple of consultation sessions with the community. It was great to see people come along and view the new designs because what we are delivering is more facilities, more Parklands back to the local community, and indoor and outdoor pools, and I think that is really going to be a game changer for the area. I grew up on a farm; I am not much of a beach person and I do not know how to surf. I very much prefer a nice clean pool and no sand, so I know that in the summer we are just going to

have our area completely changed. You are going to have families there, you will be able to bring picnic rugs and you will be able to play in the outdoor swimming pools. It is just going to be absolutely fantastic.

The difference between us and the former Liberal government is that we actually listened. Good governments listen and then they deliver for the long term. We could make the easy political decisions for the two or three years that are left but, no, we make decisions that are in the best long-term interests of the community—and that is what we are delivering with this new centre. We are getting back more facilities, we are getting back more Parklands, indoor and outdoor pools, a dedicated swim school and a dedicated warm water rehabilitation pool, and we are expanding the number of lanes in the indoor lane lap swimming pool as well, catering for Water Polo SA and for deep water aquarobics. There really is something for everyone at this new centre.

Like I said, it is really important, as well, that we are actually delivering an extra 1,000 square metres of Parklands as part of this project, which is something that I am really passionate about in my community. I know that we have received some really positive feedback about that particular element of this project.

I come back to the fact that this is a centre that is very unique, in that you do not get many community hubs where you literally have people from little tiny babies through to seniors all coming together in one facility. People from all ages, all walks of life are coming together to stay fit, to stay healthy, to stay active, to stay connected to their communities and, importantly as well, to learn to swim.

Growing up in Naracoorte, I was lucky enough to have the Naracoorte Swimming Lake, where I learnt to be a swimming instructor and also was a lifeguard. I like to joke that I was probably the palest lifeguard in the history of all lifeguards, but I grew up knowing how important it was to be safe around the water. It is amazing that this facility is going to teach a whole new generation of kids not only how to be safe around the water but also to have that love of swimming and the water and recreation and doing that in an amazing parkland setting. So we are really excited to be delivering this project.

We will continue consulting with the community, and I am looking forward to next week, I believe—heading along to one of the deep water aqua aerobics classes to check out the participants in action. Of course, we will also be there, as I am every week, with my kids for their swimming lesson. It is important that we have this significant lead-in time ahead of closing the pool in August 2024 so that we can work with all the participants, go out there, talk to the users and work out alternative solutions so that we can make sure that we are keeping people fit, active and connected during that transition phase. We are really excited to be delivering that project.

To circle back, this budget is a budget about housing, it is a budget about cost of living and it is a budget about health. We are delivering on all those outcomes, and I am very proud to be part of the Malinauskas Labor government.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (20:27): This is obviously my opportunity to speak to the Appropriation Bill and the budget that just was. It is a really perhaps interesting mixed bag for MacKillop, in the sense that there are some really good initiatives, which I am going to touch on first of all.

We were very, very fortunate to be looked after and represented in the education field in MacKillop, with the Meningie Area School receiving \$9.7 million to finish the upgrade that was started probably way back in the Labor days but certainly rolled out during the Marshall years, between 2018 and 2022. It will consist of an administration-library build at the school. I think there is another building there as well, and two or three buildings to finish off that school build.

It is an important little area school. Meningie finds itself quite isolated but also belongs to the very important Indigenous and Aboriginal community of Narrung and obviously supports that community with education. Although there is a primary school out there, it is certainly the area high school for those students from Narrung.

We also were lucky enough to see another six or seven other schools receive further funding. These are upgrades and builds and maintenance works that have been long overdue, and it is really

a pleasure to be able to recognise these schools. We have the Coomandook Area School, which I think is receiving at least \$1.5 million or \$1.6 million for a new science lab. The Coomandook Area School is obviously on the Dukes Highway, south of Tailem Bend and north of Coonalpyn and Tintinara.

Again, it finds itself perhaps in the middle of no-man's-land. There is not a real town there of any sort of substantial development. They used to have a store at Coomandook, but that has now closed. I do not know why the member for Hammond did not look after that store well enough to maintain its vibrancy. He certainly did not help or participate. I know the Mayor of Coorong District Council was also a regular attender of Coomandook store and was not able to keep it open either. Anyway, the area school is still going. It does have a valuable cohort of students and they do need a new science lab, so that is wonderful news for that school.

We also have the Newbery Park Primary School, which is having a roof replacement. This is a primary school in Millicent. There are two primary schools in Millicent. This is the south primary school. It is a big complex, obviously at the southern end of Millicent. I think there are about 300 students there. Obviously, there is a north primary school as well, with another 300. Millicent is a vibrant town of MacKillop, second biggest town, if not equal first with Naracoorte, with about 5,000 to 6,000 people, and it is good to see the Newbery Park Primary School recognised as well.

Another one that we looked at is Naracoorte High School. We have a music room. I know the music room they were using was an old wooden-cladded building stuck on stumps that started to rot away. The walls started subsiding, it became unsafe and they had to move out of this music room. There has been no real alternative room found for music, and it has been stuck in amongst other rooms, and it does not help students in other classrooms concentrate when you have a music room making all the noise and sounds that they can. Sometimes it is wonderful; sometimes it would be obviously in the learning infancy.

Naracoorte South Primary School is another one. We also have two primary schools in Naracoorte, north and south. The south one has already had bathrooms done up during the Marshall years. There is further bathroom refurbishment there for the Naracoorte South Primary School, which is wonderful to see. So bad were the toilets in the south primary school that the students were reluctant to go and use the toilet, so this is a wonderful addition and upgrade to that school.

The Tintinara Area School has a restumping, ceiling and cabinetry replacement. Tintinara is also an area school. Coonalpyn does not have a school at all. The next school south of Tintinara is Keith, so it finds itself again sort of in the middle of nowhere. There is a bit more of a town in Tintinara. They do have a supermarket and a great sporting club. It is sometimes a good highway stop for the Dukes Highway. It is a really sound area school, and I am sure that they will appreciate this. Not only that, but they are also getting a second round of funding, when the pool remediation is happening, to keep that school and the pool going as well.

Then there is Lameroo. It has a district kindergarten receiving upgrading to toilet facilities. We have been really recognised in the education area, and we are very much appreciative of these upgrades. I thank the minister for that and for thinking of us in MacKillop.

In the way of health, we were very fortunate in the last budget that the Labor government rolled out \$8 million to the Naracoorte hospital. On top of that, in this budget they have added another \$1 million to look at a review of the hospital and what the hospital actually requires over the long term. This will obviously consider the fact that this hospital had \$3.6 million spent on it during the Marshall years, which upgraded a disinfectant room plus an emergency operation or recovery room to a sterilisation room. That was the \$3.6 million.

The Malinauskas government has rolled out another \$8 million. I know that the Naracoorte HAC (health advisory committee) has given an undertaking and a plan to the Minister for Health, or SA Health, and their wishes for the hospital, so it will be very interesting to see where this \$8 million is going to be spent. I have yet to see and hear from them, but I know it is not far away. Then there is \$1 million for this review.

I hope this review finds what it should. I hope it can look at everything about the hospital, for aged care, emergency operations, day surgery, overnight stays, beds and so forth, and whatever

that upgrade should look like right across the whole piece of infrastructure, recognising that I believe at least 20 years ago that hospital was up for a major upgrade. It has been put back and back, until we have now recently seen some funds, and good funds, being spent on that hospital. I am sure the Naracoorte and surrounding communities will be looking forward to that.

Moving on, they now have an electronic medical records system and regional expansion of \$31 million. It will be interesting to see how that works around the local health networks. I believe it will be mainly run out through the Mount Gambier system. Mount Gambier is a major medical hub for MacKillop. When Naracoorte and other small hospitals around the region cannot handle any small operations, they generally end up towards Mount Gambier, and if it is of a serious nature then everyone heads north towards Murray Bridge and Adelaide for their health requirements. I am hoping that the electronic medical records system actually does cover off the regions with this expansion, and that the medical records work better than they have in the past to look after patient confidentiality but also so that the records actually follow the patients.

It is interesting to see the Regional Skills Development Fund of \$10 million across TAFE and the expansion, I imagine, mostly through Mount Gambier and the TAFE development down there. I know they have also seen funds go towards forestry, funds go towards skills. We know with the area of the Limestone Coast—working with the member for Mount Gambier in this area about TAFE, university, skills, and all that happens around and in Mount Gambier and up into MacKillop—that any sort of spending in skills will be welcomed by business, industry and investment.

One of the interesting ones—and, as we know, it is widespread across regional South Australia—is the SA jetties renewal program. It is \$20 million over four years, which is obviously around \$5 million per year. At least there are funds there, and it will be interesting to see where these funds end up. I know Kingston is one of, I think, four or five towns or jetties that are earmarked to be first out of the ranks for an upgrade. The Kingston jetty has been closed because of its state of disrepair, and it is certainly missed by tourists and locals who are not able to walk down that jetty. It is a real tourist drawcard, as has already been talked about by the member for Flinders when he spoke about the local towns on Eyre Peninsula, their jetties, and how they are pieces of iconic infrastructure for tourists and locals.

Further down we also see money—\$26 million—towards additional aircraft for the state's firefighting capabilities. I am not sure where that will line up. I am led to believe that Mount Gambier and Naracoorte are going to benefit from this process. I think at least another two aeroplanes are to be stationed on the Limestone Coast for those horrific types of days. We do have those horrific types of fire events and the aircraft are part of the firefighting armour we have to protect life, assets and everything else that can be wiped out in one of those terrible fires. We welcome that expenditure on the CFS towards that aircraft, and it will be interesting to see those planes put to good use.

Something I will cover off further down, but that I want to also note here is the abolishing of stamp duty for first-home buyers. We welcome this process and the whole new idea in the sense of trying to get first-home buyers into new homes with the removal of that stamp duty, and obviously making it as easy as possible for first-home buyers. Most importantly, I would like to see those first-home buyers with those builds in regional South Australia. That is most imperative.

The Office for Regional Housing is a new office in the sense of a regional key worker scheme, and spending by the government to look at health workers, teachers, police officers and regional workers. It is an announcement by the Labor government that has been out for at least a few months. They rolled out their social housing and, in parallel, they rolled out their government housing policy at the same time.

We welcome this policy. We think it is a great policy for regions to have this government employee housing starting to be built out in the regions because I believe, through the minister responsible for regional growth and housing, Nick Champion, that it has not been done since the eighties. There have been a number of governments over that period that have shied away from it or thought it was not needed for the government to be in this housing area for their employees like teachers, nurses and police officers.

It is now more important than ever, and we welcome the integration from government being in this area of building this housing again. Obviously the government has been, let's say, given

responsibility in taking the initiative of getting these houses built in regions, and I am all for getting as many houses as possible into the regions.

Slightly on the negative side—although at least there is some money there; we will always be wanting more, but this probably was not the budget to address this—we saw \$10 million being rolled out for regional roads. We are not sure how that works and what it will fund, knowing that there is a \$3 billion road backlog regionally. That is not just this government's fault; a number of governments obviously have not met this area to let it get to where it has. We will always want better roads, safer roads for regions, and particularly in the Limestone Coast and MacKillop.

The other one that is a little bit interesting is seeing that there is \$3.2 million that is going to be rolled out over two years to support the sheep eID, the electronic identification scheme. I am not sure where this is going to land. I was very much in favour, and still will be, that the money goes towards infrastructure to monitor and manage the tag readers, but I am not sure whether it is a great use of government funds to spend money on tags for one or two years, perhaps putting a false sense of value on those tags when they are really going to cost producers \$2 and they might be saving a dollar by having a 50 per cent reduction over one or two years.

Anyway, all I will say in regard to that sheep electronic identification scheme is that we really do want exemptions in this system for farmers who breed their lambs and sheep but never sell them and only go straight to slaughter. We wonder whether they really do need an electronic tag in their ear, and the old system may, should and could work for them.

As to the change in the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme, we have seen the Malinauskas government come out and double it from 16¢ to 32¢ a kilometre, which is one of the Marshall policies. It is great to see them pick up on this scheme. Now we also would like to see a little bit of an increase in the overnight stays from \$40 to a more commensurate type of rate that would represent what it really does cost to be in Adelaide seeking health outcomes that the regions cannot provide.

I heard from the other speakers where they talked about this budget being for the cost of living. I am not sure how you get that sort of analogy in that area because it is a really, really tough one. We have massive inflation. We are going to find it hard to find employees. We have energy prices moving upwards. We have the cost of housing going up. We know that rentals are going up, and to change all that in any one budget, I think, would very much be a big ask of one budget ever to be able to do that. But what I will say is that this budget does recognise housing.

I do know that this Labor government is considering finding, and will find, a model for affordable housing, and that is the number one thing I would like to see rolled out in the regions. There has never been a bigger opportunity to capture population and growth and employment in the regions as it is today, and obviously we need to house these people.

One of the things that I really do think has been a failure—and we know that a little town like Bordertown has had a shortage of affordable housing since 2002—is that it is now across the board. There is a shortage of affordable housing right across regional South Australia, and then we even hear the member for Adelaide talk about the shortage of housing. She is getting a number of affordable housing builds in the City of Adelaide, and it is being addressed. All I can say is I am envious. I am envious because they are getting the 200 or 300 houses in Adelaide, and I want those houses also to be built out in the regions because I know we can use them, and I know we could get the population out there, and I know that jobs are out there.

In the sense of energy, we talked about the energy bill just yesterday. I just want this government to do all they can to address energy and electricity prices and getting them down as fast as they possibly can—yes, recognising carbon free; yes, recognising clean, green energy will be the way of the future—but please do not make it at the peril of a high costing system or a high cost of energy where people cannot afford to use it. I say 'people', be it households, and I am talking about businesses, and I am talking about families. We just need affordable energy as much as we need affordable housing.

We have already touched on the roads, but MacKillop is not foreign to the massive backlog. We have a number of roads that we would like to address. We do need a massive amount of

expenditure. We need roads to be safe. We need roads to be actually able to get the trucks and the heavy freight out of MacKillop, out of the Limestone Coast to the markets, and we obviously want all road users to be able to use them in a safe fashion to get from A to B. That should be something that we always aspire to.

We have had a good rollout in the way of health, whether it is this Naracoorte hospital, but there is a lot more to do. We do like the fact that we want infrastructure, be it the Naracoorte hospital, but we know that the Kingston hospital needs money, we know that the Bordertown hospital needs money and funds, as do Millicent hospital and Penola hospital. They all need that little bit of upgrade all the time just keeping them apace with modern expectations. Services: we need more nurses, we need more doctors. We would like more palliative care, as we have already talked about.

As to education, yes, I talked about a magnificent rollout of education, and this government here again, the Minister for Education, rolled out a good amount of money toward the Kingston school and the early learning centre. Hopefully, we are going to build an early learning centre childcare facility right alongside the school, which was part of what the Marshall government was trying to achieve and the Malinauskas government has come along. Working with the local government as well, with the Kingston council, hopefully we get a really good build there. We would obviously like to see a lot more child care probably in regional South Australia.

I know there is child care in Bordertown, where I think there are 40 or 50 children there being looked after. I know that they could double that facility and just meet the expectations of the town, as we know that there are children who cannot get in to child care. That would not be foreign to many towns; they would all be wanting greater childcare access and early learning. We all know, too, that early learning is a great way of capturing students at a young age, stimulating the learning process, recognising schools are important. The end of school results by children who have been through early learning are marked way up in terms of outcomes for students when there are those options and opportunities for early learning.

In terms of regional growth, we want greater population, great employment, and cheaper and affordable energy. If we can do that and grow the regions, who is complaining? We just want to see MacKillop prosper. With regard to infrastructure in terms of SA Water, we know that Bordertown is getting very close to being at its maximum water use. We know that a pipeline between Keith and Bordertown could cost up to \$43 million. We know that the aquifer that they are sucking water out of for Bordertown is becoming stressed and we may need to look at future options there.

Wellington East, a little development on the eastern side of the River Murray at Wellington, also is looking for better infrastructure for potable water. I heard the member from Mount Gambier talk about Telstra. Telstra is trying to address I think it is either 27 or 29 (but it is at least 20-odd) blackspots for the Limestone Coast with towers, working with the state government, federal government and local government. It would be good if we can make that model work, if we can capture local government. I know that it is a bit of a stretch asking local government to be part of a tower spend, because it is not part of what they call the three Rs—roads, rates and rubbish—and it is an extension of their responsibilities.

As the member for Mount Gambier highlighted, this might be the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address this, get these towers out there, fill in the blackspots and recoup those funds. I have said this, and I am not sure if it is a bit mischievous, but there may be an opportunity that the rental of these towers goes back to local government until they have paid back the investment they made, but we have not got far in those conversations yet.

There is more to do and more money is required. I appreciate the spend that the Labor government have spent in MacKillop; we have some good infrastructure there. I accept the Appropriation Bill as it is and I support it.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (20:47): This government had an opportunity to address the cost-of-living crisis, to address the inflation crisis, to address the cost-of-living increases that people are seeing each and every week. Some people out there in the community are struggling even just to pay their power bills. There was a golden opportunity from this government to do something about these issues that affect South Australians, but instead what they have done is squandered that opportunity in this state budget.

What we are seeing is an increase in debt towards the highest on record here in South Australia. We know that future generations here in South Australia are going to be burdened by this debt and we are all going to be paying for this debt for many, many decades to come. Again, we are seeing deficits into the hundreds of millions. They will continue for some time and that is very disappointing because, at the end of the day, this has to be repaid at some point.

We have seen the warped priorities of this government, despite coming in on an election promise to do things like fix ramping. What have we seen? We have seen ramping double. We have seen that this government has priorities in things like putting in water slides in North Adelaide, for example. You are seeing this exposed far and wide.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: And they can cackle and carry on as much as possible—

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Savvas): Order!

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: —but the truth hurts.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Savvas): Member for Elder!

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: I will not respond to interjections because that would be disorderly, Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Savvas): That is correct.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: You are doing an excellent job and I thank you for your protection at this late hour. Labor's budget delivers next to nothing for hardworking South Australians. This is a golden opportunity for this Labor government to actually do something to help the people of South Australia, people who are struggling with the cost of living, people who are struggling with the cost of power going up and with groceries going up—everything is going up at the moment, but this government has squandered the opportunity to do something about it.

We know that energy prices are the highest in the nation, inflation is running rampant and ramping remains at record levels. Cost blowouts are adding to that inflation and, of course, there is interest rate pain as well. We know that typical families are some \$20,000 worse off since the election in 2022. We know that people in our state are facing this cost-of-living crisis, but unfortunately this budget does not do anything to help South Australians struggling with soaring rents, mortgages, groceries and also fuel, and we know that it is more expensive to keep your lights on at the moment.

Despite promising to deliver a budget surplus, and the need to get inflation under control, what have they delivered? I do not know why people are laughing; I do not think it is funny. Labor has blown their own budget by a shocking \$1.1 billion. We have seen that most of the agencies have blown their own budgets, and I know from having been a minister that you have to hold these agencies to account and you have to have these hard discussions with them.

Instead, what do we see? We see zero fiscal discipline from this Labor government. This Labor government has reverted to form—more debt, more deficit, no way to control inflation, no way to get power prices down, and you are going to continue to see future generations paying for the fiscal mismanagement of this Labor government. South Australians already, of course, have the highest inflation in the country and Labor's massive budget blowouts will continue to fuel inflation.

If I can just talk on a local level and about my part of the world, Hartley, it is a great electorate and I would say the best electorate by far. There was a real opportunity for this government to do something about the increase in density that their friend, John Rau, put on the people, especially in Campbelltown, many years ago. We are seeing increased density in our electorate because it is a great place to be. People want to live there. It is close to the city. It has fantastic coffee and an array of wonderful amenities, and who could argue with that? But, of course, there is more density and more density means more traffic.

What we have not seen from this government is a direction or a policy format to actually address rising traffic in our area. There are intersections like St Bernards Road and Reid Avenue, and Moules Road/St Bernards Road/Arthur Street. These intersections actually require an upgraded road traffic management plan, yet we have seen nothing from this government in terms of addressing this increase in density and that is very disappointing. I will continue to lobby on behalf of my residents for an updated road traffic management plan and also traffic treatments that address these key intersections.

It is great to see that the Morialta Secondary College has been put online, and we look forward to seeing that continue to roll out to other year levels as well. However, it is disappointing that there really has not been much at all by way of cost-of-living relief, relief for growing the economy, delivering more jobs and doing more to attract local talent here to South Australia especially in what is a very tight job market.

There was the key election promise, the one that we are all too familiar with. What did Labor promise? They promised to fix the ramping crisis. Instead, alas, what have they done? We have seen the ramping crisis nearly double. Funny that, isn't it? Unfortunately it is not funny. Let's face it, people shifted their vote on the basis that they thought that this Labor government had this magic potion, this silver bullet, to fix the ramping crisis, but of course they did not, and they have taken the people of South Australia for a ride. But people will not forget. I have been around for long enough to know that people will not forget the broken promise from this government and they will punish this government when the time comes.

To talk a little bit about portfolio-related matters, there is road safety. We have seen, unfortunately, the worst road toll. We are heading for the worst road toll in 20 years here in South Australia. We also have a road maintenance backlog of around \$3 billion, so of course we would welcome every iota, every cent of investment into this area to address this issue. We have seen \$40 million for a Mount Barker roundabout upgrade. That is fantastic but what about the rest of the state? That was the disappointing thing to see. We have not seen enough invested around the rest of South Australia to address this issue.

There is \$31 million for new speed cameras. Of course, speed cameras are there to deter bad driver behaviour, not to raise revenue, and we look forward to seeing them rolled out. If it saves lives, it will be worth it.

There is \$10 million for regional road safety measures, including tactile lines and barriers. We know that empirical evidence tells us that these give a positive result, so we need to see them rolled out quick smart. For road safety campaigns, there is \$6 million to improve Kangaroo Island roads, but what about the other roads? *The Advertiser* recently covered the \$3 billion road maintenance backlog. When we came into government, obviously we chipped away and were getting that down, but, alas, what do we see? We have seen it skyrocket under this government.

The north-south corridor is the single largest infrastructure project of our generation. Unfortunately, what do we see? There is more delay from this government. There is more indecision, more delay, more acquisitions and changes in design. When you stop something and you start something and you change something, do you know what happens? It takes you longer to do. Not only that, but the price goes up as well. Of course, when we finished our time in government, we had it priced at \$9.9 billion. It has gone up to \$15.4 billion and guess what? That price will continue to rise.

Where is the tender? Where is the expression of interest? We know that Labor is kicking the can down the road, and it is not only with the north-south corridor that they are doing that. They are also doing it on projects like the Truro bypass. They want to talk about the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, but do you know what a key part of that bypass is? The Truro section of that road and under the federal Labor government's 90-day review if that project gets scrapped or gets kicked down the road, do you know what that means? It means that the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass could be dead or it could be buried or it could be kicked down the road for many years to come.

We know we have to get trucks off our suburban roads if they do not have to be there on roads like Portrush Road, Glen Osmond Road and Cross Road, but instead what we see is crickets from this government.

What can I say about the Aquatic Centre? We support a redeveloped aquatic centre; however, the plan that the opposition—the government at the time—had was to engage with other levels of government and prudently seek a contribution from those levels of government because you do you know why? Because, as the minister has pointed out, this is not a FINA-qualified swimming pool that we are getting here.

What we are getting here, by his own admission, is a recreational facility, so why should only South Australian taxpayers pay for this? This is a community swimming pool, effectively, therefore the community, the council and other private sector people should also be paying and contributing to this centre just as they have with other recreational facilities.

Instead, what have we got from this socialist, utopian government over here? They are all about statewide control and controlling what we do in our daily lives and that is why they are paying for the whole lot. On the whole, South Australians are having to pay for something that probably only residents of Adelaide, let's face it, are actually going to use. That is truly disappointing.

There is \$1.2 billion over four years to start the Women's and Children's Hospital. Again, it is another project, as my friend the member for Schubert has continually pointed out, that continues to spiral and blow out. Will we ever see it built under this government? Unbelievable.

Mrs Hurn: Toddlers will be teenagers.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Toddlers will be teenagers by the time that that thing is built.

There is \$30 million for upgrading Port Augusta Prison. We know we have an obligation to look after and do what we can to rehabilitate our most vulnerable and those who end up in jail. We know the incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are far too high in this state, so we welcome investment in our correctional services area.

There is \$20 million to upgrade regional jetties—again, it only scratches the surface. We know we have been prosecuting this argument for some time that we need more investment in our regions and in our regional jetties as well.

Regarding regional bus services, we would like to see the outcome of the review that the government has undertaken; we still have not seen it. The taxi industry is another industry where we would like to see the outcome of that review. There is much uncertainty, especially when it comes to access taxis. People who use these are some of the most vulnerable in our community, yet we have not seen a great deal or heard a great deal from this government.

We welcome investment in education and skills. We know that we have a very tight job market at the moment, and so we welcome investment in these areas to ensure that we can get the best and brightest minds into our state.

When it comes to money invested for a new licensing scheme to be implemented for ultra high-powered vehicles, we would certainly support that. We have seen that in response to a direct tragedy and we know that we have to do better in that area.

The AUKUS investment and the implementation of the Office for AUKUS is of course a very important generational initiative and we will certainly deliver our bipartisan support every possible step of the way.

In terms of first-home owners, we welcome the support that has been given to first-home owners, but it does not go far enough. When you look at the threshold, when you look at that level, whilst there are some suburbs where you can purchase a brand-new build under that threshold, there are still many that you cannot. I think that does not go far enough and I think there should be more support to giving people that confidence, that peace of mind, that equity, that ownership in their own home.

What was really worrying to see, however, was the failure to deliver in terms of fiscal discipline at a time when there are economic challenges. There are significant economic challenges—we would be in denial if we did not accept that—and not just here in South Australia but in Australia and across the world. There are many forecasts for recession in certain states and in certain countries right across the world. This was an opportunity for not only fiscal discipline but also

an opportunity to grow the economy. Instead, what we see is a lazy budget. We see a lazy budget from this state government, heading towards record debt, deficit and no real plan to grow our economy in South Australia.

Hydrogen, what can we say about hydrogen? The Hydrogen Jobs Plan is a project that will certainly not deliver lower energy bills for South Australians. Do you know what the residents in my electorate want? They want their power prices to come down. They want to be able to afford to pay their power bills. They are not interested in some experimental, maybe it is a silver bullet, aspirational item down the track that might do something. They are not interested in that. What they want to see is real relief. They want to see their energy prices come down, and this hydrogen plan from this government will not achieve that at all. That is very disappointing. That is extremely disappointing.

I move on to the cost of living. A rebate of \$500 on power bills for some eligible households—obviously there have been a whole range of issues in terms of getting that out the door, and what about everyone else? What about actually reducing power overall for all South Australians? It was a real golden opportunity to do that but instead what we are getting is this experimental hydrogen plan that will not actually achieve that for some time.

The rebate for small businesses—\$650 for power bills, I mean really. Every small business that I talk to at the moment tells me that their power bill has increased dramatically, in the thousands and thousands of dollars every single quarter. I do not think that goes far enough.

Money for food charities such as Foodbank, we welcome that relief. We know, and I know as a former police minister, that unfortunately there is a link between homelessness and the economy, there is a link between homelessness and the economic situation. With that also comes crime rates.

Believe it or not, during COVID, when people were inside more often and there were quite generous stimulus and government handouts, I think what you saw was that crime rates actually went down. I certainly cannot claim credit as the police minister. There were generous economic handouts at the time and that certainly, I think, assisted in reducing the level of crime.

What we are seeing at the moment is that some people, unfortunately, just cannot afford to pay their bills. They cannot afford their groceries. They cannot afford their transport or their kids' school fees. What we are seeing is that crime is up. It is one of a varying range of issues, but it is certainly economically linked.

We welcome investment in child protection. We have to do more to provide additional resources for kids in care. We have seen in recent days and weeks and months that unfortunately in South Australia some of our most vulnerable continue to slip through the cracks and that is not good enough.

In terms of housing, abolishing stamp duty for eligible first-home buyers buying or building their first home, whilst that relief is welcome I think it does not go far enough. At the moment, we know that it applies to properties valued up to \$650,000, phasing out at \$700,000, and to land valued at \$400,000 to build a new home, phasing out at \$450,000. There is also a cap on the \$15,000 First Home Owners Grant lifted to \$650 from \$575 and 1,140 new homes for public housing.

Again, the government wants to try to claim credit for opening up new blocks released for housing in Adelaide's north and south. I have got news for you, Acting Speaker: this did not just happen overnight but it is happening. The former government actually did a fair bit. It does not just happen overnight. We well and truly set the foundation. We got the maps out and we met with the industry. This government wants to claim that it has the answers. You know what? This government helped to create the crisis in the first place.

Do not forget, this government has now been in power for 17 out of the last 21 years and unfortunately 1,140 new homes for public housing just does not go far enough. We have all seen them in our electorates. They come to our doors, to our offices, and they are on these waiting lists and we know that some of them wait for years and years. I have met and personally lobbied the minister and she always gives me the time of day. I want to claim some credit for this change. We have to do more to help people get into their homes, to give them that equity, to give them that ownership, to give them that head start so they can then build their own little castle.

There have been 25,000 new blocks released north and south of Adelaide, but there is a long way to go. We know that migration is going to increase in the coming months and years. Where are these people going to go? This is a golden opportunity for our state to embrace these new migrants and provide housing for them. But again, this government is not moving fast enough on this front. With those few remarks, I commend the Appropriation Bill to the house.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (21:07): It is a great pleasure to be able to rise and make a contribution on behalf of my local community in the Barossa and the northern Adelaide Hills about the 2023-24 state budget.

I thought I would take a leaf out of the Leader of the Opposition's book by making some positive remarks at the get-go because, of course, in a budget that is so enormous and worth many billions of dollars there are some things that I genuinely think are really positive, and I thought I would start in the health space particularly.

Whilst we are seeing increased spending in the health budget, it is disappointing that we have not yet seen that translate into better health outcomes for the people of South Australia. One thing that I am really genuinely pleased to see is the investment in terms of the virtual care emergency departments. This was the brainchild of the former Liberal government and it was the first ever virtual emergency department that was set up in the entire nation. That was done throughout really uncertain times, when the government and the people of South Australia were battling a global pandemic. If we look at the results, I believe they do speak for themselves.

Over 42,000 patients have been seen since the former government opened up both these services in 2021. It has saved 36,000 South Australians from an unnecessary trip to a really busy emergency department. It has saved regional South Australians one million kilometres in travel or over 19,100 hours in the car travelling to an emergency department. This is just one of the really practical measures that the former government was taking to help alleviate some of that pressure on our emergency departments.

I was really proud to see that this government saw the value in that and has extended it further, because these are the types of things that we really need to be looking at. It has a central part, I believe, in future health care here in South Australia. I do want to take this opportunity to particularly commend Stephen Wade, when he was the health minister, for showing this initiative and also for the fact that it was driven mainly by clinicians. That is something that I believe shows what can be achieved when governments work hand in glove with people in the healthcare sector.

It is interesting because now the government are saying that this is a key anti-ramping measure. Again I say that this was a practical solution that the former government were implementing because we knew that it would really deliver results for people and that it would help divert some of that traffic away from our busy emergency departments.

There were challenges over the course of the last government, and there is no doubt about that, particularly in the health space. Over the four years of the former Marshall Liberal government, we spent half of that time battling a global pandemic. I think the government was always up-front and honest about those challenges, that the pressures on our system just continued to rise. It was not just difficult for South Australians who were trying to access health care in this state but it was so extraordinary and difficult for our frontline healthcare workers.

When we left office, I think we were really clear and honest that there was so much work to be done. I do believe that this is in contrast, very much so, to the approach by this government, which is all about having flashy slogans, all about having corflutes that say, 'We will fix ramping,' but when you delve a little bit deeper what we actually see is that, despite record spending in health, despite expanding initiatives like ones I have just mentioned and investing in more, the results for people in our healthcare system are going backwards. That is something that I believe as a state, and potentially across both sides of this chamber, we need to look at in a collaborative way.

When it comes to ramping, there is no denying that Labor had a very clear promise to fix ramping. In fact, it is true to say that you are more likely to be ramped under Labor than you were at any time throughout the former Liberal government. That is true: you are more likely to be ramped under Labor than you were at any time throughout the former Liberal government. I think that,

because this was such a central theme of the recent election campaign, you would expect that we would start to be seeing some green shoots, that we would expect to start seeing some of that progress, but unfortunately we are not, and I think the results are going backwards for the people of South Australia.

If we look at some of the ramping statistics, in February 2022, which was the former Liberal government's last full month in office, those ramping statistics or the transfer-of-care data for the last full months of the Liberal government, which was February 2022, show that 1,522 hours were lost on the ramp. This was of course in the context and at the time when those opposite and the Premier, the member for Croydon, were saying, 'Vote Labor like your life depends on it.' There was this real sense of urgency that South Australians would expect, but fast-forward to the latest statistics and they are actually punching near 3,000 hours. That is something that is really concerning for us on this side of the house. What it shows is that our state has endured the worst 12 months of ramping this state has ever seen—the worst 12 months of ramping the state has ever seen since the Labor Party introduced ramping to South Australia in 2010.

In fact, over the last 13 months under Labor, 44,000 hours have been lost. That means that 44,000 hours of paramedics' and patients' time have been spent stuck outside our hospital departments, outside our emergency departments on the ramp. That is the equivalent of five entire years—five entire years that South Australians and our paramedics have spent stuck outside our emergency departments waiting for our care.

I made this point earlier in the house, but I believe that our paramedics want to be fighting to save lives. They do not want to be fighting to get patients into our hospitals; they do not want to be fighting against record ramping. They voted—in fact, so many South Australians voted—for a fix for ramping, and we are just not seeing it.

One thing I did find interesting is that in a budget of over \$8 billion just 1 per cent is deliberately allocated towards anti-ramping measures—just 1 per cent, 1 per cent for ramping-specific measures in a health budget of \$8 billion. I find that particularly extraordinary for something that those opposite went to the election promising very much to fix. Perhaps this is emblematic of a government that are trying desperately to shift the goalposts, and of course we know that they are. This has been canvassed on so many occasions.

What the budget papers show us is that we are seeing ramping not just outside our emergency departments; we are actually seeing a new phenomenon that is emerging, and that is internal ramping. When you look at the key performance indicators, what you see is that South Australians are worse off under this government than at any point under the former Liberal government. It does not matter if you are in the north or if you are in the south, under this government four out of five South Australians accessing emergency care in the north or the south are failing to be seen in the clinically appropriate time. That is 80 per cent of South Australians from the north or the south.

When we are talking about the north or the south, of course we are talking about Noarlunga Hospital, Flinders hospital and in the north we are talking about Modbury and Lyell McEwin Hospital. This is something that is just not acceptable. In fact, South Australians deserve so much better when it comes to their healthcare system. This result is by no means reflective of the hard work that all our frontline healthcare workers do. I know that they work around the clock to help keep us safe. I know that they put in so much time and effort and compassion working in a hospital system that is just under so much extraordinary pressure, but they are being let down by this government.

It is an indictment of this government that, despite all this spending, our healthcare results and outcomes for South Australians are going backwards on nearly every single measure. It does not matter which way you look at it, when you look into the budget papers on nearly every single performance indicator they have gone backwards from the last budget of the Liberal government up until now.

In such a pressing time for our healthcare system, I do believe that we need a government that is willing and able to really put together a comprehensive and competitive package to help attract and retain frontline health workers to our state. In fact, attracting and retaining doctors and nurses has really become a worldwide competition. We are seeing states like Western Australia,

Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania come to the party and put on the agenda some very competitive incentives to further bolster their health workforce. We are just not seeing this in South Australia. It does not matter in which direction you look, we are being outflanked.

What that means is that we risk the next generation of doctors and nurses just packing their bags and heading across the border. That is the risk if we do not put on the table some really competitive incentives to help keep people here. I believe that as we head towards the election—but hopefully the government can do something about this beforehand—we should be looking at things like contributions towards HECS and sign-on bonuses to encourage our next generation of doctors and nurses to sign up to our public system, which I believe should be, and in many ways is, a really fantastic health system. But it can be better.

These are just some of the things that we as an opposition will continue to work with so many stakeholders on and really put forward some of these alternative policies as we head towards the state election. It is not good enough for the government to sit idle. As I mentioned, I believe that this was perhaps one of the biggest missed opportunities in this state budget, the fact that the government failed to step up and put forward a competitive package of workforce incentives. Comparing it to the approaches of other states, it just shows that we are so far behind the eight ball.

In May of this year, we had the Victorian government put on the table well over \$200 million worth of incentives—\$200 million worth of incentives right on our doorstep in Victoria. That is a great risk to our state. We do not want our next generation to be packing their bags and heading across the border. That is the risk. That really is the risk and we have spoken about this in this place previously. Something that I know that many people in this house really do understand is when you strip away all the infrastructure, our healthcare system is not just about the patients; it is about the health workforce. If we do not have a strong and stable workforce in South Australia, then that is a very real risk to our future here in this state.

In a budget of \$8 billion and a health blowout of well over \$700 million, the best that this government could come up with is a second-rate reimbursement scheme which, just on back-of-the-envelope type mathematics, actually shows that people who are coming to South Australia are going to be \$23,000 out of pocket. That is what we are expecting and asking of people. It is not an incentive scheme. It is a reimbursement scheme, and a family of four who are packing up and leaving their life in a place like England are going to be thousands of dollars out of pocket.

I think it speaks volumes to the priorities of this government. As I said, this is something that we will very much be looking at as we are heading into the election. We also need to build health infrastructure to provide our health workforce and our patients with the best possible facilities, but it does not matter which part of the state that you are in, health infrastructure is in the slow lane. From the Lyell McEwin Hospital to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the new Women's and Children's Hospital, these were delays that we saw in last year's state budget and they are very much now entrenched here in this new budget.

I would like to reflect just quickly on the Mount Barker hospital, which I believe is a great piece of infrastructure. At the election, it was costing \$220 million, and now the budget papers show that there has been a \$100 million cost blowout with seemingly no new services, no new doctors, no new nurses, no new equipment. It is a \$100 million blowout with no reason. We believe that it does not matter which part of the state you are in, health infrastructure is in the slow lane.

When it comes to the Barossa hospital, it is very pleasing to note that the money the former Liberal government fought for and in fact put in the budget for the very first time is still in the budget. That is very pleasing and it is a great result for our community who, frankly, have been waiting far too long to see this delivered.

There is no reason that this government cannot fast-track the purchase of that land. When the former government put money in the budget for the very first time it was for the purchase of the land, for the start of early works, and for the finalisation of the plans. You put that money in the budget because you have an ironclad commitment to build a Barossa hospital and we will keep fighting to keep that momentum going for our community.

I would like to touch on cost of living just in the short time that I have left. I believe that this is another one of those missed opportunities that the state government had. There are so many people who are really hurting. They are hurting with increased fuel prices. They are hurting with the highest energy prices in the nation. They are feeling the squeeze on nearly every single element of their life. They are trying so desperately to get ahead, but there is no more blood to get from that stone.

Whilst I acknowledge that the government cannot actually directly influence every single element that I have just mentioned, there are levers that the government can pull to help provide some support, and that is exactly what we had hoped to see in the budget. It was particularly disappointing that we did not, because on opposition analysis we know that under the Labor government the average South Australian family is around \$20,000 worse off than they were under the former Liberal government.

That is something that we must change because there are so many people, hardworking people, in my electorate of Schubert who are aspirational people who are working around the clock, creating their businesses, running their businesses, and they are really struggling to make ends meet. We must stick up for them. We must do more to protect middle Australia, and I believe that was a missed opportunity.

For regional communities more broadly, I believe that this was a budget that did actually miss the mark. There was an opportunity to really step up and tell the people of regional South Australia that they matter under this Labor government, but alas, disappointingly but perhaps not surprisingly, we saw a return of the same old city-centric budgets that people in my electorate and those right across the state have become very much accustomed to.

Something that lots of people come to my electorate office about is regional roads. We know that there is a \$3 billion road maintenance backlog here in our state, and that is right across the regions and right across the city. In a short-sighted move, there was just not enough money to be able to address that, to be able to eat through some of that backlog. It is not just about making sure that we have a safe road network—we know, of course, that we are battling with one of the most tragic road tolls we have seen in recent times—but it is also about really enhancing the productivity of our state, making sure that our farmers have the best roads possible to be able to get our excellent goods to market. That is something that, on this side of the house, we really value.

I was disappointed that there was no specific line funding for the Amy Gillett bike path. This is something that people in the northern part of the Adelaide Hills are really passionate about. It is something that I am really passionate about. We have \$2.6 million of funding on the table from the federal government. That was a commitment that was made under the former federal Liberal government. Now that is at risk. That is very much at risk unless the state Labor government come to the party, step up and make a contribution. I am looking forward to exploring those avenues over the coming days and weeks ahead.

In summary, I think that this is a budget that shows departmental spending is unchecked, and it shows a budget blowout overall. It has hidden crevices with cash stuffed right in them for pet little projects, and unfortunately it has financial mismanagement that is really baked into the budget, and that sets a very bad example for economic management of the state. It means that South Australians are going to be all the worse off because of it, but I will keep fighting for people in my community to ensure that they get the projects delivered that they need and deserve.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Savvas): I thank the member for Schubert for her contribution and would like to acknowledge in the gallery a former member for Schubert, Ivan Venning, and thank him for his contributions and hearty support of the electorate of Schubert from the gallery as well.

*Bills***APPROPRIATION BILL 2023***Second Reading*

Debate resumed.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (21:28): I am honoured to rise to speak after the contribution just now of the member for Schubert, the shadow minister for health and wellbeing. I just make the observation as I do that here we are, early in the evening in the course of the debate in response to the budget, and we have one opposition member making cogent and forceful submissions in response to this budget followed now by another, and it appears that the government members, who outnumber us in this place, have lost interest in the debate.

They appear to have lost interest in speaking up for a budget that the Treasurer has delivered only in recent days. I think it speaks volumes for where we are at now a year into this Malinauskas Labor government as to where we find ourselves because I stand here with the Budget Statement, Budget Paper 3, in my hand, and my goodness—has there ever been a more straightforward, single-page report card of mismanagement, of ill-discipline and of basic neglect over the course of a single year?

Let's put to one side questions of the merits of spending policy, the merits of program delivery, the arguments that might be taken from time to time about competing policies, and let's just look at basic questions of discipline and management. The people of South Australia need look no further than page 23 of Budget Paper 3, which sets out in a table neatly and in a straightforward way the operating expenses of those agencies within the responsibility of the Treasurer of this government and, my goodness me, what a story of mismanagement this tells—a full \$1.353 billion of overspend to budget that we see for agency after agency after agency.

The one exception—well, there might be another. There is a single exception: the Electoral Commission of South Australia has conducted itself in a way that it has managed its budget and come in \$1 million under, but we see other than that a catalogue of overspend. One goes down the list, whether it is those areas of responsibility of the Attorney-General and the courts, through to those significant areas of budget expenditure in health and education, there is significant overspend to budget everywhere that you look.

Those who follow the process year on year will think back a year to the budget that was presented in the early months following the election, in which there were a combination of objectives to deliver on election commitments, to deliver operating efficiencies and to ensure there was some sort of discipline towards budget management. What we see here is a flagrant disregard for anything resembling budget responsibility at all.

We can talk about those areas of need, and the Department of Child Protection was the exception in the budget last year; it was the recipient of significant additional funds, and well it is that it receives those additional funds. It was no exception; notwithstanding significant additional funds in last year's budget, the Department for Child Protection did not manage to operate within its means. We see a budget blowout in that department of \$52 million.

If we go back to health and wellbeing, where the member for Schubert was focused just a moment ago, we see that so egregious was the blowout in the budget spend year on year that, if one looks from the estimated result for 2022-23 of \$8.469 billion—that is, over the budgeted \$7.715 billion—we see that the budget in 2023-24 actually involves a \$200 million reduction in the health spend, and necessarily so because of the extraordinary lack of discipline in terms of just keeping to budget constraints year on year.

There is an irony that results from that lack of discipline, that the government will be forced into a situation where its estimated result for 2022-23 will lead to what we find in the budget—a \$200 million cut in the health budget. Of course it should not have been so. With just basic responsible ministerial oversight department to department, and a Treasurer who was capable of holding ministers to account in terms of their capacity to run their departments, we should not have seen anything approaching this \$1.353 billion overspend.

The only reason, in this context, that we are seeing a deficit delivered in the order of \$250 million is because of course we have had all these windfall revenues that have come in over the course of the last year and have provided a cushion on this massive overspend. I say that by way of overarching remark.

We all want to say positive things about what public money can do and what commitments can be achieved by the deployment of public money from this space. We all want to endorse the capacity of good work to be done by public money, but it must be attended by discipline. I would really love to hear anybody on the government side say just how exactly an overspend in the order of \$54 million on the \$301 million budget in the Department for Environment and Water makes any sense at all in terms of good management and good sense.

So let's get on and talk about the merits of programs and policies. Let's get on and talk about the merits of prioritising scarce resources. But for those South Australians who are out there struggling every day to make ends meet—seeing their government, a year in, exhibiting this sort of profligacy and lack of discipline in terms of the deployment of public resources—it needs to have the light shone on it. It is mundane and it is ordinary. It is not a matter of high-minded macro-economic planning or policy delivery based on deficit spending of some virtue; this is simply a matter of saying that, year on year, budget accountability has not been achieved. Delivery against estimations, year on year, have been blown out and egregiously so. Let's just make that really clear.

I want to say to South Australians that this is not something that is just out there in the ether. This is real and the consequences of it are real. It means that over recent years we have gone from talking about a South Australian state budget that is spending in the order of \$20 billion to what we see right there in Budget Paper 3, the Budget Statement, on page 23: a budget that, over the forward estimates, sees us projecting an expansion to a budget spend of nearly \$30 billion. Before anybody contemplates where that might take us, just look at what is being projected for this year and what has actually resulted, and then think about what the results are in four years' time if this all comes to fruition under the current management.

It is one of the objectives in this place to avoid going over ground in a hackneyed and clichéd way, and I hate to engage in a dialogue that appears to go around the block in a way that we have heard before, but this is a completely straightforward, down-to-earth assessment of the numbers on the page. South Australians ought to have it loud and clear that, whatever your objectives are, you make sure as a government that you set yourself benchmarks and you hold yourself accountable to those benchmarks. The Treasurer should hang his head in shame at this page. This is \$1.353 billion of failure to meet budget expectations. It is up-front and it looms large in the budget this year.

All of us on this side have of course been at pains to highlight those aspects of the budget that are positives and to ensure that we can get behind the commitments to spend on meritorious programs where they are identified, and I am no exception. Indeed, as has been said by a number of those who have contributed, and particularly on this side of the house, the infrastructure backlog in this state is now truly extraordinary.

The government has managed to achieve a \$3 billion backlog on infrastructure spending in the state and one cannot see any end in sight. It needs to be addressed and, as a member representing a district that really provides a transition from the metropolitan area through to the regional parts of the state, I can tell you that, while the cost-of-living crisis looms largest and most comprehensively for all of those residents through the Hills, if there is one thing that comes up over and over again, it is the state of our regional roads in the Hills.

We have seen a large volume of rainfall in recent times, and we are now in the midst of winter weather. We have seen the potholes emerging and growing, we have seen those roads that are in dire need of improvement, and the cracks are literally showing and beginning to loom large. It is not lost on my electors that that \$3 billion backlog is leaving them in unsafe territory when they venture out on the roads. There are examples of this throughout the district, but it comes back to that basic question: how are you deploying resources and what outcomes are you achieving with the deployment of resources?

Residents of Mylor have been living for months and months now with the ongoing process of a bridge repair and rectification process that was supposed to be finished at the end of May. It was

supposed to be completed, we were told, around April-May. It has been the subject of repeated correspondence to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and that now sits as an embarrassing sore on the record of the minister, as it is still, as we head rapidly towards the end of June, a one-way stretch across that unfinished bridge. The red light that appears for those who would cross it looms very large as an indicator of the government's impotence when it comes to delivering on even those works that are underway.

Of course, we have seen as well what ought to be a readily resolved matter of improvement and cooperation with the Adelaide Hills Council, the rectification of really very modest improvement works at the Aldgate park-and-ride. For those in the metropolitan area, we talk about park-and-ride in terms of really quite substantial facilities. For those residents of mine at Aldgate it would be enough just to have a bit of bitumen that rendered the park-and-ride navigable by two-wheel drive vehicles, and perhaps, if it was not too much to ask, a little bit of light and security be to be able to cross the road to the bus shelter on the other side. But even that appears to be too difficult for the time being for this government to deliver.

I applaud the students of Macclesfield Primary School, who are joining with me in calling for the delivery of improved safety and the provision for a crossing outside the Macclesfield Primary School. It is those kinds of infrastructure improvements that are sorely needed and ought to be delivered as a matter of priority, but we do not see any sign of them in the budget. Addressing some of those specific matters in the Hills provides some context to that \$3 billion.

Of course, there are also significant capital works that the government has walked away from. It has been the subject of great angst in the Hills for many months now, since the government walked away from any commitment to deliver the necessary bypass at Hahndorf, money that was committed at state and federal levels to solving a problem in our state's premier tourist town that will now, it appears, have to languish because Labor governments, state and federal, have decided, 'We're not interested. We're not interested in the Hills, and we're not interested in delivering meaningful improvement.' It is a matter of course that is well documented.

In some good news, we see that there is to be carried forward upgrades to the Crafers park-and-ride. It is an occasion to reflect on the fact that in February of last year the former Marshall Liberal government announced, as part of a suite of improvements to public transport through the Hills—\$19 million, in fact, of improvements—\$6 million to expand the Crafers park-and-ride to a facility that would provide 140 extra parking spaces. We know that those who come to the Crafers hub come from all parts of the district, and the 140 parking spaces are well and truly overdue.

The government in its announcement has committed at least to carrying on the work, unlike what it has walked away from in Hahndorf, but unfortunately we are learning that it is only now going to deliver 85 car parking spaces. I will be happy to see the Crafers park-and-ride as it is delivered, but like so much of what we have seen in terms of the government's conduct of day-to-day business, as we have seen expressed on page 23 of Budget Paper 3 of this year, you have to see it to believe it in the course of this government's trajectory, because what we have seen so far is a promise, a non-delivery, a massive blowout and a range of ill-discipline.

In conclusion, perhaps drawing on and remembering the great Tina Turner, who recently passed, this government is not one where what you get is what you see. Quite to the contrary: we wait to see what comes. On the face of this document, we are in for a great deal of strife in the future years. There will be a lot more to say in the course of the estimates.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (21:48): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2023. I note that this is, as they are every year, the biggest budget I have seen for this state in 17 years. With the Supply Bill, it is close on \$26 billion. But the issue I have, even though it is the biggest budget for the state, is that there is nothing in it for a typical South Australian family, a family of people contributing to the economy, paying tax, paying their way and then having to put up with cost-of-living increases, whether it is interest rates, whether it is groceries or whether, as we see, it is some wicked power price increases that are coming in. I will have a bit more to say about that later on.

I do want to concentrate on some parts of the portfolios that I handle as a shadow minister. Certainly, in regard to regional roads it is disappointing, really disappointing, to see the absolute stark lack of funding in regional roads. As someone who drives all over the state—I must admit I have not

seen every kilometre of this state, but I have seen a fair bit of it—whether it is up to Innamincka, whether it is up the Stuart Highway, as I did recently, up to Kulgera and across to Finke in the Northern Territory, whether it is down to the South-East, whether it is the Mid North or whether it is around the Mallee, roads are just falling apart.

Sadly, the around \$350 million over four years—over four years, I stress—over the forward estimates for road maintenance just will not cut it. It just will not cut it when you have a \$3 billion maintenance backlog in this state, and it is not just that. It is the fact that we are not seeing the vision that we had when we were in government for four years. We put \$18 billion into infrastructure right across the state, and much of that was on major road projects.

The Port Wakefield overpass project is still ongoing, the duplication up to Lochiel is ongoing, there are a whole range of projects. The eight roads we brought to 110 kilometres an hour was originally going to be a \$37 million project. We needed \$5 million more to do a bit of work on the Browns Well Highway between Loxton and Pinnaroo.

It was so pleasing to see that 200-kilometre section of road between Loxton and Bordertown with the shoulder sealing and some other road upgrades. There were some rough patches that needed to be fixed, and a bit of guardrail. I have mixed views on guardrail, but I will leave it there. That brought those roads to 110 kilometres an hour, because what we must understand is the productivity gains that we need to achieve in this state.

I am really pleased that when we were in government we commenced the Strzelecki Track upgrade. I have had a bit to do with the Strzelecki over my lifetime. Forty years ago, I worked up there for a couple of years. I have driven up and down it multiple times. I was up there only a year ago, the last time up to Innamincka and then the 29 or 30 kilometres on Adventure Way through to Queensland. That will be a fantastic project when it is completed. It will be, when it is completed, probably the quickest way to get to Brisbane: straight up to Innamincka and then just turn right.

I am really pleased about the projects that we instigated in government, but sadly we see the typical South Australian family left behind. We see regional South Australia left behind. I look at some of the projects that are in the budget this year. There is a \$98 million road safety package over five years, and \$40 million of that is going to a Mount Barker roundabout upgrade. I am not too sure that Mount Barker is out in the regions, but anyway it is what it is.

I have been around that roundabout many hundreds of times, whether I am linking through to Strathalbyn in my electorate or coming back from Strathalbyn to head back through to Adelaide, and quite frankly I cannot see a lot wrong with it. There has not been a death on there that I am aware of, which is a good thing. I am just so sad that that money could have been utilised in regional South Australia proper.

There is some money there to deploy and maintain some additional road safety cameras, \$31.2 million, which includes some new mobile speed detection cameras, and over the four years of the forward estimates there is \$10 million to undertake additional regional road safety treatments—audio tactile line marking, safety barriers and rural junction activated warning system signage—but that takes over four years.

I am pleased that \$6.2 million is going to Kangaroo Island because, like any regional area, it deserves it, but it could do with a lot more. I have been over there multiple times, including helping to mop up after the big bushfires in 2020, and the roads need a lot of work, with only a small council.

There is money for some road safety campaigns over four years, \$6.2 million, and \$3.8 million to deliver motorcycle Rider Safe programs, which is to be applauded. There is nearly \$500,000 to implement the new licensing scheme for motorists who operate high-powered super sports cars, but that is spread over four years. I have already mentioned that, sadly, there is no new money to address the road maintenance backlog, no new road projects of any size for regional roads, and important existing projects are at risk due to the federal government's 90-day review of infrastructure projects.

This includes projects like the Princes Highway upgrade as well as the, I think, \$202 million for the Truro freight bypass. With the Hahndorf supposed bypass, we see that Labor has reneged on

completing that project, that \$250 million project. It would have been ideal if it had gone through in its proper form, but we are seeing politics played there.

We hear a lot of talk about the new Greater Adelaide freight route, and that has been mixed with projects like the duplication of the Swanport Bridge in the South East Links project. The South East Links is the first five kilometres of duplication, that has not happened for 40 years, on the Dukes Highway between Taillem Bend and the Mallee Highway, heading out towards the motorsport park. I am really concerned that some of these projects are either getting forgotten about or are being put out into the ether. They all need doing and they all need completing.

On the larger end of the spectrum there needs to be at least \$10 billion—and that will rise as time goes on, and I am probably at the lower end—for the duplication of the Augusta Highway, the Sturt Highway and the Dukes Highway, on which I live at Coomandook. There are about 177 kilometres that have not been finalised to be done north of Lochiel to Port Augusta. This really should be done, because that is the road, amongst those three roads, that has the most road deaths.

There are close to 200 kilometres on each road, whether it is the Sturt Highway or the Dukes Highway, that need to be completed as well. We have seen too many accidents on both of those roads, even though on the Dukes there are overtaking lanes and that kind of thing. I tried to tell the Public Works Committee many years ago that instead of spending \$100 million on overtaking lanes and a wide centre strip in the middle of the road they should start the duplication again. It was overruled, sadly; we might have saved some of the carnage on the Dukes Highway. I think it is the fourth busiest highway in this country with the freight between Adelaide and Melbourne. It is disappointing, to say the least, let alone for the people who have lost their loved ones on that road.

I have already talked about the road maintenance backlog, but let me talk about some of the good things in the budget in other sectors. I want to talk about the \$26.7 million over four years to secure an additional nine aircraft to enhance South Australia's aerial firefighting capability. This is a good thing. I can tell you that I have been on a few firegrounds, whether that is active firefighting in the heat of the moment so to speak (without even trying to put in a pun) or mopping up, and it is just so nice to know the planes are up there.

When you have a red-hot fire but you know they are up there—sometimes they are not dumping near you or on you (which does not hurt, you just drop your lid if you know it is coming, drop your helmet)—it is so nice to know that they are hitting the hotspots so that the ground crews can get through. The McCabe family I have known for many, many years. Aerotech are one of the main operators in this state, and I know contractors work with them, and they have the Black Hawk helicopters now. I have heard they are doing some international work as we speak, and I commend them for everything they do. I think that will be a great advance, especially from where we were way back in the eighties with Ash Wednesday.

There is some money, nearly \$2 million, for investment over four years to increase mental health, wellbeing and support for our volunteers and emergency services. I do applaud the \$1.3 million over four years to establish a strategic flood barrier cache and provide training on the use of flood barrier materials. Alongside that, we have the government saying they have contributed \$9.8 million to support the State Emergency Service to respond to the River Murray flood event.

This was a major event right up and down the river channel, and I commend all the volunteers in the SES, and the CFS—and, right across the board, our volunteers, paid workers, paid contractors—for the massive number of volunteer hours and also the massive contribution of everyone, whether it was local government, whether it was contractors and whether it was those vital SES and CFS volunteers and others, so that the impact of the River Murray floods could be lessened.

In saying that, as I did alongside my colleagues today, including the leader, David Speirs, we called on a full review of what happened and, yes there was a lot of good stuff. As I have said here before, I was working directly with chief executives, taking advice and giving advice, and I appreciated that all the time when we needed to make stuff happen—and we made stuff happen locally. We need to see what worked well, we need to see what did not work so well and we certainly need to see with the River Murray what we have learnt and what we need to do in the future. One of the big things is the management of the levee banks from around Mannum and south, where I looked after that 110 kilometres of levee bank area, and what we do next.

Quite frankly, a lot of work needs to be done, not just on where we set the levee bank height but on runways (and I will call them runways), especially on somewhere like the access points through to the River Murray levee around the Jervois Irrigation Trust, where there was 18 kilometres in the end, because of valiant work by the farmers—and, yes, the government contributed as well—to make sure we had those levees high enough. I worked alongside of them as well to make sure that we could do what we could to beat the flood event running over, but we need to do that work going into the future.

In regard to veterans affairs, I applaud a half million dollar investment over four years for a veterans community framework to support the veteran community through a veteran and families growth support program and comprehensive outreach program. Also, there is \$730,000 for the redesign and upgrade of the Pathway of Honour in preparation for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II on 15 August 2025.

I will note some local programs that are happening. We have the completion coming up of the \$5 million Murray Bridge North Primary School upgrade, which was funded by our previous government, and the continuation of the Old Murray Bridge refurbishment, which was funded by our government with \$36 million and another \$10 million now by the Labor government, with the estimated completion date blown out to June 2025 though.

What I am sad about is that there is no new funding for health or education services in Hammond. I had a very fruitful conversation with the Minister for Education today, and I will say that there are quite a few schools, quite a few area schools and primary schools across the state—I know there are some in the member for MacKillop's electorate and some that were my electorate previously, before the redistribution. One school that is very close to my heart is the Coomandook Area School, where I completed my first 10 years of education.

The school is getting a valuable \$1.6 million upgrade to convert a sewing room in the home economics centre to a science lab. We had said we will give \$2 million to put a new building in and demolish another building and that the old building will be demolished either way. It is to be applauded that this is going in because some of the talk around Coomandook has not been that positive on the future of the school with declining numbers from, at its peak, around 330 students, now at about 120. That is just a sign I guess of declining regional population.

One thing that really sticks in my neck is some of the virtue signalling around power prices and where we are going with that. I am really concerned. I am not too fussed what anyone thinks about whether it is climate change or whatever, but we in the Western world—whether it is here, Australia, across the United States and over a lot of Europe—are driving ourselves into oblivion with some of the management of energy.

Certainly, here we have seen since coal-fired power stations—and, yes, it is a dirtier way to generate energy, but they do generate energy—have been knocked down since 2016, our power prices have been going through the roof. I want to give a list of coal-fired power station closures. These are all linked to South Australia through the connectors through to the Eastern States:

- closed in May 2016:
 - the Northern Power Station in Port Augusta, 544 megawatts;
 - Playford A, South Australia, 90 megawatts;
 - Playford B, South Australia, 240 megawatts;
- closed in March 2017:
 - Hazelwood in Victoria, 1,600 megawatts; and
- just closed recently in Lidell in New South Wales in April 2023, 2,000 megawatts.

That is 4,474 megawatts that have gone out of the system—nearly 5,000 megawatts—and I certainly believe that has something to do with where we are today with power prices going through the roof, yet we still have people bagging gas. We see caps come in for coal and gas and I really worry about

what it is going to do into the future, especially when you see the rewards that are coming to Queensland, New South Wales as well, and WA on the export of coal and gas.

We are getting belted with power price increases, with people coming in really concerned about the notices they are getting from their energy companies, and this really strikes at the heart of cost of living. This is the highest one that has come into our office: Sumo power, controlled load usage, up 171 per cent.

Mrs Hurn: Wow!

Mr PEDERICK: Yes, wow. Peak usage up 104 per cent. The advice we gave to that constituent was, 'You need to look elsewhere.' This is where we are and we really need to have a good hard look at ourselves as a society because we are going to be in real strife because what is going to happen with the cost of living and these higher power costs is we are going to see not thousands but hundreds of thousands of people literally on the streets, and that worries me. It worries me deeply, not just for the seat of Hammond but for the state and the rest of this country. I hope we can find a way out.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (22:08): I take this opportunity to make my own remarks in response to the Appropriation Bill and will use this time to reflect on the last 12 months as being the member for Frome and some of the comparisons or improvements I was looking for from this budget after the last one. Disappointment, I think it is fair to say, is the overarching emotion that I get from this budget. I had hoped that the recent budget handed down by the state Labor government would herald some relief for the voters and residents of Frome, but sadly there is no good news for us in the Mid North.

For a second budget in a row to have overlooked the region of the Mid North, the Clare Valley and the Adelaide Plains, broadly speaking, put me in mind of a good Broadway classic: *Brigadoon*, this lovely little hamlet in the Highlands that would only appear through the mist every 100 years. For the electorate of Frome to be overlooked in such a significant way by this budget makes me very concerned that a large portion of regional South Australia is just not on this government's radar.

Mr Pederick: Shame!

Ms PRATT: Shame indeed. My reflection over the last 12 months is that the issues that are trending in the electorate of Frome and the themes that frequently come up or continue from 12 months ago are still trending on roads, housing and health. This is not shifting; it is not budging. These are still issues that create anxiety and concern in my local towns and communities. While every endeavour is being made on this side of the house to bring attention to roads, health and housing, we are slipping backwards, to be quite honest. I will use roads as my first example.

The RAA released a report that identifies a \$3 billion backlog in road maintenance. It is just an astounding figure: a \$3 billion backlog. Homework has not been done, the work has not been done, and I am just trying to process on behalf of my residents the frustration that they feel as they travel along. We know that roads connect us all. They connect us to sport, they connect us to work and they connect us to family visits. I continue to think about people who are unwell and are required to travel to health appointments, holding broken bones and just feeling generally unwell, rattling along and having to grab onto whatever they can as they navigate disintegrating roads along the way.

Late last year, I was forced to document for the government, for the minister, 17 kilometres of disintegrated bitumen with craters, not potholes. There were 13 requirements for repair. While that prompted a meeting with the minister and opportunities for my constituents to feed in other concerns, it just really highlighted that this is one road in one district in one electorate of many across the state. When we add up all of these roads that country members are cataloguing in their own offices, it actually does make sense that we are \$3 billion behind.

Grain Producers SA took an opportunity to engage with producers, drivers and community members to audit our country roads. They came up with the top 10 worst grain roads, and I am sad to say that Frome came out on top. As I list off those 10 roads, four of them were in Frome: the Upper Yorke Road, Artherton to Kulpara; Nine Mile Road; Worlds End Highway in Frome between Robertstown and Eudunda; the Mallee Highway; the Flinders Highway; Owen Road, which is between Hamley Bridge and Templers in Frome; Booleroo Road; Templers Road, which is between

Freeling and Templers in Frome; Frances Road; and, coming in at number 10, the Barrier Highway in Frome.

When we look at the budget and identify that \$10 million of additional funding over four years has been allocated to road safety, line marking, widening and safety barriers, they are all welcome. We always want to see that investment, but \$10 million against a \$3 billion backlog is laughable. We are talking about \$2½ million of new money each year and it is just not enough.

I have maintained a communication line with the Minister for Regional Roads, and I welcome his attention on the feedback that country Liberal members are reporting to him about the state of these roads, but I have written to the minister at least 50 times, providing photos and evidence, to make sure that we are doing the work to report to the Traffic Management Centre based in the city what is required for repairs in the country. I think that for the Minister for Regional Roads to exist as a title without a discrete agency makes him a bit of a toothless tiger and what concerns me is the palpable anxiety, distress and frustration that my locals continue to report to me.

Housing and health were two of the other common threads. I have paid a lot of attention to the southern end of the electorate of Frome where we are seeing an enormous housing boom. From Riverlea to Concordia to Buckland Park on the coast, swirling around in a north-easterly curl that hugs the Gawler River is a horticultural and industrial tranche of land that will make the Adelaide Plains unrecognisable.

Two Wells, Lewiston, Roseworthy and Freeling are all townships in the southern end of my electorate. They are certainly experiencing a housing boom and we welcome our country towns expanding with new families coming into them. But all these towns need to see better decision-making and practical service delivery by this government when it comes to critical infrastructure, such as water connections and water pressure, which is unresolved in Freeling.

Residents in Two Wells, Kapunda and Roseworthy talk to me about access to public transport. While the electrification of the Gawler line has been completed—and I know young people in Kapunda will drive to Gawler to make use of that—we really need to see a lot more of that pushing north to some of our peri-urban regional townships. It gets much, much harder the further north you go.

When it comes to housing in these areas and announcements in the budget, one such announcement was the Regional Key Worker Housing Scheme, which was identified to build homes for government workers, such as teachers, nurses, police and doctors and specifically 30 of those homes being built across the Copper Coast, the Riverland, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Ceduna.

You did not hear me say the Mid North because the Mid North is not included. When we talk about new housing for frontline workers across regional South Australia, all the big towns are represented. In last year's budget the reference to the Mid North was a funding commitment to Port Pirie. It is an hour away; it could not be further from the truth. We moved on from that and, in reference to new money invested in the regions, the Mid North does not come close. It is disappointing to go fishing and fossicking for crumbs and still find that it is not there as a priority.

When it comes to 30 houses being built across those many big country centres, my office would have received pleas for assistance from at least 30 people just throughout Frome for housing, so we encourage and welcome the government investing in housing, of course, but we can always do more. Housing has been a chronic pressure point for so many families and professionals, for people with means and those without. I think it is cold comfort for frontline workers who live in Frome to discover they are just not part of that program.

Health is a big mountain to climb in the regions. It is part of the triumvirate of themes that create pressure points, disappointment, frustration and anxiety. I want to make my concluding remarks with a focus on health, given that it is what my community talks to me about the most and it reflects the portfolio responsibilities that I have.

The government baked into its own budget a headline promotion about returning country cabinet, as though they were the heroes of regional South Australia. Country cabinet written into the budget is one thing but, with the language that was used, it was set to describe people living in

regional areas as having the opportunity to engage directly with the decision-makers in government—and is that not a great thing. We would welcome people in the regions and people in the city always having access to decision-makers in government. They have that voice, first and foremost, through their state members of parliament.

But what comes with the responsibility through country cabinet of being available for a couple of days as a collective in a region is the responsibility to address the problems that are uncovered through those conversations and forums. I think this government has failed to understand that, and I point to a couple of examples.

In February, the government's country cabinet was held on Yorke Peninsula—in Maitland I think—but that very night all of South Australia discovered that the Wallaroo Hospital was under siege. We learned of assaults, violence and damage to property. It took this government four months to repair a glass panel at the front door. It is one thing to offer a country cabinet, rock up, take the photos and tell the story, but this town and community were left waiting. I know it was a great frustration to the member for Narungga that a glass panel could not be sourced for four months. It took for him to ask a question in the house for that to be resolved the next day. In fact, cardboard is being used to patch up some of this damage.

Most recently, the government went over to Kangaroo Island for a country cabinet, hosting a forum and, naturally, people flocked to these opportunities to have access to decision-makers, but problems were uncovered. It was harrowing to listen to the story of a mother who lives on the island and had a terrible experience—her daughter had a terrible experience—with a misdiagnosed ruptured appendix.

Children get sick and the health system is there to support families as best as it can but, in raising the concern, surely the solution is in front of us all. It is an emperor's new clothes moment. Instead of insisting or expecting that families are having to add to cost-of-living pressures by flying or ferrying themselves off the island, the answer was right there in front of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, and that was to source a paediatrician and fly in the paediatric services to Kangaroo Island, and it should happen immediately.

On Kangaroo Island, the announcement by the government from its budget was a \$15 million allocation for the update or rebuild of workforce accommodation, which I really welcome. I know that nurses on the island who were using some of the old accommodation—some of them having to move 11 times in 10 weeks—were sometimes accommodated at the 'last resort hotel', as they called it. So it is a farewell to that, and a \$15 million injection into accommodation, and I would love to think that more of those announcements are pending around regional South Australia for our workforce.

I am really concerned about the frequency and the acute nature of problems that we are uncovering in regional health. It seems, by the long list of deficiencies, that the regions are really the second cousins, with money pouring into city health, and again it is a disappointment.

We know that security in hospitals is an issue and in Wallaroo, Port Pirie and the Riverland General Hospital in Berri there are constant examples of people in those communities who are experiencing distress, mental health disorders or an illness that means their behaviour is unregulated but doctors, nurses, patients and visitors are at risk. There is nothing in the budget to suggest that that is about to be addressed.

Birthing services, while they have just been returned to Kangaroo Island after four months' withdrawal, we now know do not exist in Whyalla. The pressure on pregnant mums in Whyalla pushes them down the peninsula to Port Lincoln or more likely back to the city and we are constantly talking about the pressures that the city health system is seeing.

My greatest disappointment, but the issue of least surprise, is a failure to invest in the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme. Reflecting on the comments I made 12 months ago in this house, I was also talking about the PAT Scheme and calling for an increase to the reimbursement for travel. Lo and behold, on 1 January on a sleepy summer's day in a city paper a little announcement appeared to show that that increase had gone from 16¢ to 32¢ and we welcome that.

The next challenge is to invest in the overnight subsidy and to play catch-up with commercial rates for staying in a hotel when your health treatment requires you to come to the city. There is

nothing in the budget that points to any movement in that direction, but maybe on 1 January next year I will get another pleasant surprise.

Palliative care, end-of-life services in our country towns, has been spoken about in this house today. I want to double my efforts and recognise the passing of Lily Thai, who was receiving hospice care, end-of-life treatment, at Flinders and made a decision through the voluntary assisted dying legislation to bring an end to her suffering. My condolences go to her parents, but I really want to leave a tribute for Lily in recognising her bravery for making those decisions and honour her legacy of hoping to see this government, or another, invest in hospice services for young people.

Funding of \$31 million over three years for the extension and deployment of electronic medical record programs seems to be the most significant funding announcement that the government has made towards regional health. I would say that is just what governments should be doing and it is nothing to herald and nothing to celebrate; it is just business as usual.

Where the Treasurer was quick to trumpet that \$2.3 billion would be additional spending in the health budget, really all we have seen from that is record spending and record ramping. This is a budget that has no incentives for the workforce, it has no ideas and it has no pulse.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (22:28): I also rise to make comment on the Appropriation Bill. As others have stated, there are many concerns in this budget. It has been a cause to reflect on the environment five years ago as we saw the new Marshall Liberal government come into power and deliver its commitments in my electorate.

The two election promises that were made early on in the campaign and delivered in the electorate were two pieces of important infrastructure. Mount Compass, one of the smaller towns in my electorate, had no playground, no playground at all. Alexandrina Council very much wanted to put a decent playground in and, with assistance from the state government, they were able to do so. About \$300,000 of state money went towards that playground, which included a BMX track, a skate park and a general playground, and it has been very much welcomed by the community.

The other one was also another important piece of infrastructure at Victor Harbor, and that was for the new roundabout on the corner of Crozier Road and Torrens Street. It was \$2.3 million to put that roundabout in, and it has changed the way traffic moves in Victor Harbor. It has certainly made it much easier and much safer for people to travel through the town to get to shopping centres, etc. It really has made an enormous difference, much more than I ever imagined the impact would be.

There has also been some significant funding into the surf lifesaving community in my electorate. I am privileged to have three surf lifesaving clubs in my electorate, and all three of them opened new facilities in the four years we were in government. The Chiton Rocks Surf Life Saving Club was the first, followed by the Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club, which went from being in a tin shed to a magnificent building looking over Goolwa Beach, one of the toughest beaches in South Australia to patrol. Talking to my three surf lifesaving clubs, their opinion is they are the only surf lifesaving clubs in South Australia because they are the only ones with surf. The rest of them—

The Hon. K.A. Hildyard interjecting:

Mr BASHAM: I said that's their opinion, not my opinion, that they are the only true surf lifesaving clubs. I was privileged to be at the Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club on Friday for their annual awards night. It was wonderful to be there and also for them to recognise one of their members, Ian Grant, who received an Order of Australia Medal. Ian is a wonderful human being who has made a huge commitment to lifesaving not just here in Port Elliot itself but in South Australia and right around the world.

His passion is to save people from drowning worldwide, and he is doing that fantastic work internationally in trying to improve those numbers. He was talking about over a thousand a day worldwide who drown, and 600 of those drown in open waters. If we can just improve the swimming in many countries, we will actually save many lives. Well done to Ian.

Also they recognised, sadly, that this year they have lost three of their life members who passed away during the year. To lose three life members is sad for the club—Rod Ellis, Raelene

Smith and Terry Green, who were all great contributors to the club over different periods of time. It was a very sad day indeed to lose them.

We also have seen other significant spends in the electorate. Goolwa PipiCo is a great business that operates in the town of Port Elliot. Interestingly, Goolwa PipiCo is in Port Elliot, but that is where they are currently located. They have done some fantastic upgrades in their business. We have seen about half a million dollars injected into that business to see a great improvement.

Another great spend in the electorate was the Mount Compass Area School, where about \$11 million was spent. I am an old scholar of Mount Compass Area School, and I spent my primary school years there from year 3 through to year 7. I went back there not long after being elected, before this upgrade and made the comment to the principal at the time, 'I'm not sure the buildings have even been painted since I left.' That is how little change there was, whereas now they have a great facility, amazing buildings and opportunities for the students to prosper in this fantastic new environment. That is another great investment.

Another one that I was also very proud to see invested in the area was the chemotherapy unit in Victor Harbor to allow patients who needed chemotherapy to actually have the treatment in Victor Harbor rather than travel. Victor Harbor through to Goolwa is an older than average population, and so sadly there are probably more people requiring chemotherapy generally in that community than elsewhere. It is fantastic that we are able to give them the opportunity to be treated locally. I guess the sad thing, though, is that there are also other things that we would love to see there. Radiotherapy is another treatment that is also needed. People are having to make daily trips to Adelaide for radiotherapy. It would be nice if we could get that locally as well.

One of the disappointing things that I have seen since the change of government is we have been waiting for the plans for the new emergency department at the South Coast District Hospital to be progressed. The money was made available from the state Marshall government as well as the Morrison federal government to make these upgrades. It has been sitting in the budget; the plans just have not progressed. We need to see the work actually get on the ground. It is very important that we see that money invested into that hospital.

One of the pleasing things that I have seen is one of the commitments that the government made in opposition for a new ambulance station—something that I had certainly been advocating to the previous minister, Stephen Wade, to invest in this space. Unfortunately, I was not able to convince the government of the day to do so, but I am pleased to see it is progressing. My only concern is I think it is in completely the wrong location. I have written three letters to the minister pointing that out and suggesting alternative locations.

I have real concerns about the traffic movements. The proposed location is not far from where the Aldi is coming into Victor Harbor, and during the summer the traffic there can be clogged—absolutely clogged. I sent the minister a video that was taken between Christmas and new year most recently, where it took me about eight minutes to travel from Aldi to the roundabout, which is about 250 metres. I do not think that is a great place to locate an ambulance station when you have a known clog like that in high peak periods. It is only going to get worse because one of the major subdivision areas that is about to be developed in the next 10 years will feed into that exact spot as well. So it is only going to get worse.

There have been other great spends around the electorate. The Goolwa sporting complex is a fantastic complex there now. I went and visited the previous change rooms prior to the upgrade and then went and talked to my dad. He said, 'Well, they haven't changed since I played footy,' and when he played footy they were the worst change rooms in the league. They were still the worst change rooms in the league 55 years later, so it was really quite disappointing for them to suffer under those circumstances for such a long time.

Another upgrade that I have the privilege of attending this Friday night, and I believe the minister is also attending, is the opening of the new facilities at the Encounter Bay Football Club. That is a club that really knows how to make a government grant work for them. There are a lot of retired tradies who work within the club, and the amount that they received from the government, both state and federal, they have turned into an amazing facility. It is a big credit to those people to be able to turn that money around. It was very much project-managed by club members. As I said,

there are many retired tradies there. There is a fantastic wooden bar that has been built by one of the members. It is an absolute credit to them and really pleasing to see.

We have also seen investments in tourism in the area. We have seen investments into the caravan park over at Goolwa. It has turned that area from a very sad space to a very vibrant caravan park. Despite the fact that I live in Victor Harbor, I would happily go and stay over at Goolwa in the caravan park for a bit of time in the cabin, sitting by the pool, enjoying the life that has been built there for the purpose of tourists.

We have also seen a significant investment that was made into other tourism ventures, including out at Sofffoot which is out Hindmarsh Valley way. They have put some wonderful accommodation on the property where you can go and stay. It is quite amazing, with very private little venues through the scrub that they have built. You can sit in the bath outside and not be concerned that anyone is going to see you enjoying the wonderful environment of the Fleurieu.

Another project nearby that is really, really disappointing concerns a group of locals who were passionate about seeing mountain biking occur on some wonderful terrain that operates down there. When the member for Black (Leader of the Opposition) was Minister for Environment, he declared that the Hindmarsh Valley National Park was going to be proclaimed and that mountain biking was going to be a key part of that project. Unfortunately, the new government has ruled that out.

This is a wonderful piece of land—a former dairy farm that has been able to be brought back into the national park network—with the uniqueness of having a very steep terrain with many tracks through it already because the cattle and vehicles used to track up through the rise. It would have lent itself to mountain biking. I really would hope that the government would reconsider its position in that respect.

We have seen some significant upgrades in Victor Harbor itself with the Mainstreet upgrades that have occurred at different stages. The last one certainly has brought the southern end of Ocean Street to life, with some amazing sculptures that are lit up at night that have the town talking. They are big circles and are meant to reflect sea creatures. I do not see the sea creatures in them—others sometimes do—but they are an amazing scene within the town.

We also have investment at Goolwa, with the wharf area in particular that is only just getting underway. The work there is going to transform that wharf area to see an amazing change to the environment down there. The Signal Point building that was opened by the King, when he was the Prince of Wales, has certainly deteriorated since 1988 when that building was opened. It will be wonderful to see the investment there and get it activated so that it has air conditioning and can actually have events both in the heat and the cold. It will change that space.

I was also privileged to be with the member for Dunstan not that long ago down at the Hotel Elliot with the opening of their new upgrade called Salt, another wonderful tourism grant from the previous government that has actually transformed The Strand, the main street of Port Elliot with the development that has occurred. We have seen further upgrades including caravan parks in Victor as well.

We have seen money to build an indoor archery centre for the national training of archers in Australia to occur just at Back Valley, just outside Victor Harbor. Pat Coghlan is a fantastic archer himself, an Olympic archer, and he has very much championed this and delivered this indoor facility to give archers the ability to train there in all capacities.

Reflecting back on what has been delivered, there are two items that really stand out as investments in my community and they are long-term investments, generational investments. The causeway across to Granite Island is an amazing investment in the community of Victor Harbor, the Fleurieu and South Australia. The ability to just wander across to Granite Island is just one of those lovely things that you can do in any weather. No matter whether it is blowing a gale or whether it is a lovely sunny day, you can still do it.

I have reflected before that I have actually never been alone on that causeway. During its build, I would sometimes pop out there on my way to cabinet on a Monday morning just to have a look and see where it had got to in the previous week. I have been out there at three in the morning,

still not alone. The people of the community are very passionate about this causeway, and it is amazing the number of visitors who are down there.

One of the things that I am probably most proud about in my electorate—and, as I said, it is generational—is the Goolwa high school. Goolwa is a community that has been a key part of South Australian history. It was alongside one of the possible sites for the capital city when Light was looking at options and, being a river port, always had an enormous ability through the 1890s and 1900s to see goods brought down the river and exported through either Port Elliot or the port of Victor Harbor to all parts of the world.

They have been very much wanting a high school for many years. I first went to school at Port Elliot Primary School, and I wondered why all these big kids were on the bus with me on the way to Port Elliot Primary School. It was because they were going from Goolwa across to Victor. They were desperate, even at that stage, for a high school. In my lifetime, people have been advocating to get that high school.

To see it actually delivered for the community is a wonderful thing and was a great opportunity with Investigator College moving out of that site. I am so pleased that I was able to convince the Marshall Liberal government to seize that opportunity and invest about \$10 million to upgrade that facility. It is now a fantastic school. It is something that town can be proud of that is actually going to deliver an outcome for that community. It is going to drive that community to continue to grow.

It gives an opportunity for families to remain there, and it will actually change the culture of the town. Sadly, the culture was that, once you got to year 7 or 8, you had to leave. The sad thing is that many of them never came back. This will really give that opportunity, and I am looking forward to watching it grow as a school as it progresses through the years to build up to being a year 12 school. Currently, it is only up to year 9, but in a couple of years' time as those students travel through, we will see that school turn into a wonderful asset for that community. With those few words, all I can say is I am so proud of what we were able to deliver and so disappointed in what has not been delivered.

Bill read a second time.

Estimates Committees

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) (22:48): I move:

That this bill be referred to estimates committees.

Motion carried.

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

That the proposed expenditures for the departments and services contained in the Appropriation Bill be referred to Estimates Committees A and B for examination and report by 6 July, in accordance with the timetables distributed.

Motion carried.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I seek leave to incorporate the timetables in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2023

TIMETABLE FOR ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

THURSDAY 29 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Premier

Legislative Council

House of Assembly

Joint Parliamentary Services

Administered Items for Joint Parliamentary Services

State Governor's Establishment

Auditor-General's Department

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Attorney-General

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector

Courts Administration Authority

Attorney-General's Department (part)

Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)

Electoral Commission of South Australia

Administered Items for Electoral Commission of South Australia

FRIDAY 30 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Energy and Mining

Department for Energy and Mining (part)

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Minister for Regional Roads

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

MONDAY 3 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Department for Environment and Water

Administered Items for the Department for Environment and Water

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department for Energy and Mining (part)

Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science

Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (part)

Minister for Defence and Space Industries

Defence SA (part)

TUESDAY 4 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Small and Family Business

Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs

Attorney-General's Department (part)

Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)

Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (part)

Minister for Arts

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (part)

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Minister for Tourism

South Australian Tourism Commission

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Department for Education

Administered Items for the Department for Education

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

THURSDAY 29 JUNE AT 9.00 AM

Treasurer

Department of Treasury and Finance

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Minister for Human Services

Department of Human Services (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Human Services (part)

FRIDAY 30 JUNE AT 9.30 AM

Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Minister for Child Protection

Department for Child Protection

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Department of Human Services (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Human Services (part)

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Department for Health and Wellbeing

Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health

Wellbeing SA

MONDAY 3 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

South Australia Police

Administered Items for South Australia Police

Department for Correctional Services

South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission

South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

South Australian State Emergency Service

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

TUESDAY 4 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Minister for Forest Industries

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions

WEDNESDAY 5 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Trade and Investment

Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Minister for Planning

Department for Trade and Investment

Administered Items for the Department for Trade and Investment

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Minister for Local Government

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (part)

Minister for Veterans Affairs

Defence SA

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

That Estimates Committee A be appointed, consisting of Hon. A. Piccolo, Mr Batty, Ms Savvas, Hon. D.J. Speirs, Hon. V.A. Tarzia, Ms Thompson and Ms Wortley.

Motion carried.

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

That Estimates Committee B be appointed, consisting of Mr Hughes, Mr Cowdrey, Mr Fulbrook, Ms Hutchesson, Mr McBride, Mr Odenwalder and Hon. D.G. Pisoni.

Motion carried.

The Legislative Council gave leave to the Attorney-General, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector (Hon. K.J. Maher), and the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, and Minister for Forest Industries (Hon. C. M. Scriven) to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill, if they think fit.

At 22:52 the house adjourned until Thursday 6 July 2023 at 11:00.