

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 7 February 2024

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

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

ELECTORAL (CONTROL OF CORFLUTES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (10:32): I rise to support this bill, but before doing so I want to put on the record that, with the conversation on ABC radio this morning, where the Deputy Premier raised the prospect of, or made commentary about, the bill being scheduled for private members' business today, this is the first time that the government has allowed any debate on this bill.

Mr Odenwalder: That's not true, David.

The SPEAKER: Member for Elizabeth!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The member is saying it is not true, but that is not true. There have been speeches, but there has been no debate to take it through to the vote. This bill was actually put to this place by the previous government. We own this bill. This bill was rejected by the Labor Party in opposition. It has been rejected. There has been division after division after division to disagree with the adjournment motion that has been put by the Speaker and moved by the government every time this bill has come up in the last two years, basically, in this place. Now there is a sense of urgency by the government.

Private business works like this: it is the members' business, and items are listed. When there is a change to the item required, it is negotiated between the government and the opposition. What do we see today? Bullyboy, the member for West Torrens, the Leader of Government Business, comes in here with a formal motion. The first time the member managing the opposition business was aware of it was when he heard it coming out of the mouth of the member for West Torrens, the Leader of Government Business.

It is not a courteous way of doing business. It is, again, the Labor Party seeing a political opportunity—either that, or they are covering up for the Deputy Premier making up policy on the run on the radio when being asked questions. Whatever it is, the government has for its own political reasons opposed the bill when in opposition. They opposed the bill time and time again when they had opportunities to pass this bill. But today, because of a media interview, all of a sudden it is important to them. That is how Nick Xenophon used to operate: whatever the issue of the day was, there would be a political response suggested, and we know what happened to Mr Xenophon. It is not sustainable.

Of course we support the bill. We are pleased that the government has come around, but you have got to question the conversion on the road to Damascus by the Labor government on this. What is the motivation? Is it really the same motivation that the opposition has, where we believe it is an important environmental proposal and that it is long overdue—being the only state, as I understand it, that allows Stobie poles and public property all around the state to be covered with election posters not just at state elections but also at local government elections?

This is a good bill. It is a bill that modernises the political system here in South Australia. It is a bill that has been delayed for years by the Labor Party, in opposition and when they are in government. At any time, they could have moved their own government bill, which would have had full support from the South Australian Liberal Party and delivered the same thing that the Leader of the Opposition has had on the *Notice Paper* for nearly two years.

I think politics is a funny thing. What is disappointing about today is that we were very successful in negotiations with the two parties in managing the quite clumsy, I think, and inflexible method of notices of motion with changes to sessional orders last year. That was done in a cooperative manner. I use the opportunity to thank the member for Elizabeth for the relationship that we have developed as whips over time. We are both very straight down the line with each other. That is why I was very surprised not to be made aware of the government's desire to move this up.

Of course we would have supported it, but the precedent has been set now. The government has bullied its way in without even talking, not even talking, to the opposition. There are a number of other members who have bills ahead of this bill. Yes, we would have agreed; of course we would have agreed. But, again, it is the bullying tactics and the arrogance of those opposite who simply use their numbers. They did it yesterday in trying to cover their embarrassment over the public holiday naming debacle. They did it yesterday by suspending standing orders with very little notice, and today there was no notice at all that there is a change to the order in which the government would like to address private members' bills this morning.

Of course, we welcome the ability to complete this bill, because it is an important bill. It is overdue, and we support the bill, because it is our bill. It is our bill but it is at least four years behind in implementation. We would have had an election in 2022 without corflutes—both a state election and a council election and a by-election—if the government, the Labor Party, when in opposition, had supported the Liberal government's bill when it went through the parliament in the previous term of government.

We support this bill. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition. He was an excellent environment minister, a realist and a minister who responded to the concerns that people had with real solutions, not pointing to things that the state government has no control about and saying, 'Someone should do something about that,' which is what you tend to hear from the left. He actually had skin in the game, making some real decisions for sustainable economic and environmental solutions and engaging the private sector in environmental solutions. This is very important, of course, because we have to have a sustainable economy as well as a sustainable environment. There is no doubt that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Black, achieved a number of those measures.

A lot was done in four years. It is interesting that time and again the government tend to compare what they did in 16 years with what we did in four years. It is quite extraordinary that they see that as being the same—that in their casual approach they need 16 years to do something that the Liberal government was able to do in four years, or, if we did not do the same in four years as what they did in 16 years, that for some reason we failed. It is quite extraordinary really, quite extraordinary.

But that is the debate. That is where it has gone. I welcome the ability to be able to debate and complete this bill. I suspect the government is going to support it, and I welcome that. They have not indicated that yet, but I suspect they are going to support it. Consequently, we are pleased that that is the situation.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (10:42): The government will support the private member's bill. I can indicate to the house that the government will support the speedy passage of this legislation. This is a bill whose time has come.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I note that members are laughing while their leader was on radio today saying he hoped the bill would pass today. It has been a very interesting debate so far. There is outrage that we are debating this bill, despite—

Mr Cowdrey: Yes, outrage at your hypocrisy. That's what the outrage is at—your hypocrisy.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:—the interjections opposite—

Mr Cowdrey: Jeez, you've had a good week, haven't you, Tom.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What was that?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The shadow treasurer cannot control his interjections without playing the man, and I would ask him to follow my example.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens, there is a point of order, which I am bound to hear and will hear.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Point of order: it is against standing orders to respond to interjections.

The SPEAKER: That may be and it is, in fact, and I encourage the minister not to respond to interjections. It occurs to me, too, that the interjections are, indeed, out of order and that that might have been the point first made. In any case, minister.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We thank the Leader of the Opposition for bringing this before the house. I note his comments on radio today, where he hoped there would be a speedy passage of this legislation despite the remarks of the Opposition Whip and the laughs and jeers from his colleagues.

This is an important reform. I do note that the Leader of the Opposition in the last election did not himself display corflutes, which was an interesting sign of solidarity with his colleagues. Nevertheless, I thought it was interesting.

An honourable member: In the manner of Michael Atkinson.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: In the manner of Michael Atkinson.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: You have so much in common.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: You probably do, yes. Actually, I am having him in today; you can come past and say hello.

Having heard the comments on the radio from the Hon. Robert Simms, it is clear to the government that there is a consensus in the house, and almost every other group, that this is a measure whose time has come and, as we head towards a by-election, it seems timely to take action on this issue.

There is legislation before the house. I know members opposite are very keen to have this legislation passed—and I see them all nodding in agreement, thinking it is a great idea—and I look forward to its speedy passage. I am sure members cannot wait to see the Leader of the Opposition's key policy be implemented just before this by-election; I am sure it is going to be one of their crowning victories here in the parliament.

So congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition. He has been a fierce advocate for this policy, in particular. I think it is about to pass the house and potentially pass the other house, and potentially be in place in time to be tested, and we can see the fruits of it. I look forward to the speedy passage of this legislation, and I thank the member for Black for doing this.

To be honest, we had this debate about single-use plastic, and I remarked to the Leader of the Opposition that I had been using the same corflutes since 1997.

An honourable member: You haven't aged a bit.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have aged, I have changed a bit; I have mellowed over time.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: All those ketones, you reckon? No, I do not do ketones. Sir, I think it will be interesting to see the change. I think it is also pretty obvious that, overwhelmingly, the public want this change.

It is interesting to note people's perceptions of corflutes. They hate them, but they are also an indication that elections are on, and it gives them an awareness of who the candidates are. However, this will also encourage members of parliament and candidates to be a lot more active in their local communities rather than relying on corflutes.

It is a very good environmental outcome and probably a good community outcome. It improves the amenity of suburbs in between election campaigns, and we can get back to the old-fashioned knocking on doors, and meeting with people in parks and walkways to talk about local issues, rather than just relying on plastering a picture on Stobie poles, as attractive as we all are and how we would argue that we improve the amenity of the area—some more than others, some less so than others. It is a good outcome for the people of South Australia. I sincerely congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on this victory.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (10:47): I rise today to discuss my support of this bill. It is what I have supported in previous iterations in the previous parliament for very obvious reasons—and the member for West Torrens rightfully articulated a number of those.

I will not take up too much of the house's time with this contribution, because I have put forward a lengthy contribution in past debates as to why I support this legislation. We know that the general public in South Australia has supported a move to this end for quite a period of time, and there is a general consensus view that the use of corflutes is not environmentally friendly, despite the best efforts of the member for West Torrens, who has certainly been doing his bit.

However, other candidates, other political campaigns, occur from time to time, and these corflutes are often used once and once only. Sometimes they are repurposed for other uses, but collectively there is a general view that it is not the most environmentally friendly outcome to use plastics in this way.

They are viewed to be unsightly. It has been pointed out by many that they are often a danger and a distraction while driving on our local roads. In a view to find a way to make the amenity of our suburbs better, it would make sense to not have these up anymore. It is not that we are the first jurisdiction in Australia to make this move. There are others that have different restrictions around corflutes in public places and corflutes being used more generally, and in some ways we are simply getting in line with a push that has occurred more broadly.

Unlike those opposite, my voting record on this issue is consistent. I have supported this bill previously, and I support this bill now. The member for West Torrens threw allegations of hypocrisy around in this house. This, sir, is writ large with hypocrisy.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Colton has the call. The member for West Torrens is called to order.

Mr COWDREY: How many times—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The interjections will cease. The member for West Torrens is warned.

Mr COWDREY: How many times have we had Labor members come into this house and into the other place to vote against similar legislation? What has changed? One can only draw a conclusion. One can only connect two dots. What has changed? The Labor Party's clear view must

be that it is now in their best interests to ban corflutes, because we know it is not about principle on that side of the house.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COWDREY: It is not about principle; it is about politics, and it always has been about politics. Why? Again, one can only join the dots. The Malinauskas Labor government is running scared. This is a thinly veiled excuse. They are scared of their own record on health because they know that it is completely unpalatable to the broader South Australian public but more so the people of Dunstan. They were happy two years ago almost to the day to have corflutes up and down roads in South Australia, scaring South Australians, but now, no, things have to change. It is not about principle; it is about politics, and it always has been on that side of the house.

My record is consistent. My voting record is consistent on this issue.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COWDREY: I will be supporting this bill—proudly supporting this bill—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

Mr COWDREY: —but the question has to be asked not just by people on this side of the house but by the South Australian public: why now? Why now does the Labor Party come to support this? There is only one answer: they are terrified of their own record. This is the third bill in a row in the opening week of sitting for the year, and it is a Labor Party following the opposition. This is the worst week the Malinauskas Labor government has had, and long may that continue. The Liberal Party is setting the agenda in this house this week. This should have happened five years ago. It is happening now.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COWDREY: You blocked it, and you know that. You voted against this bill passing.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert! Member for Waite! The exchanges are unhelpful. Member for Flinders! The member for Colton has the call.

Mr COWDREY: Let the hypocrisy be writ large. We know why the Labor Party is supporting this bill now. It is a pity it has taken five years for them to come to the party and do what South Australians want.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Heysen, your leader is on his feet.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (10:54): I am delighted to close debate after almost two years of this bill being on the *Notice Paper*. I am very pleased to hear today from the member for West Torrens that the government has made a decision to provide us with support for the Electoral (Control of Corflutes) Amendment Bill 2023.

This has been something that I have been advocating for, for the best part of five years now. I think it is fundamentally in step with the views of the South Australian public. Poll after poll, undertaken by media outlets, has made it very clear that South Australians do not like the visual pollution of these posters and they do not like the fact that they are made up of single-use plastics. They are rarely re-used. Some members do re-use them but many do not, and the ones that have single messages associated with elections, of course, do not get re-used again. They generate tonnes of single-use plastic pollution every electoral cycle, and their time has come.

I am delighted to have been able to drive forward this legislation. I made efforts when I was the environment minister to move this legislation which was, unfortunately, unsuccessful in the Legislative Council, despite passing the House of Assembly in 2021; and, of course, in 2022 and 2023 I have tried to advance legislation to ban election posters in this place.

It is fundamental to my motivation as a parliamentarian to look after our natural environment. It is one of my driving motivations to be in this place. It is one of the things that led me into local council in 2010. It led me to put my hand up for Liberal Party preselection in 2012, and I entered this place in 2014 and served as environment minister for four years. We were able to get a ban through on a range of single-use plastics in 2020 which saw straws and plastic cutlery and plastic bowls and things like that removed from our waste stream.

That legislation continues, picked up by the government and supported when Labor came into power. It sets up a regime where we will see a whole range of items banned into the future. This is good for South Australia. We have had a great heritage when it comes to dealing with plastic pollution, whether you go back to the 1977 container deposit legislation which saw 5¢ and later 10¢ placed on our plastic bottles, tin cans and the like. In 2008 we then had a ban on the light plastic bags at point of sale, and then the 2020 ban on a range of single-use plastic items. South Australia has a great heritage here.

We have lagged behind other states in one area and that has been the ban on election corflute posters. Now, with the passage of this legislation, the Liberal Party's legislation—legislation that I am proud to have been able to support and drive forward over several years—if it passes this house today and, hopefully, the Legislative Council at some point in the very near future, we will see election posters removed from public infrastructure and removed from public roadways.

People are still free, of course, to express their political opinions by putting up posters on private land. That is completely acceptable and should be celebrated as part of our liberty around freedom of speech. That is a fundamental part of what our country is all about, so we may still see some posters appear on private property. That is fine, you can do that, but let's not use our Stobie poles, our lampposts, up and down streets and highways across Adelaide and regional South Australia to display the faces of politicians and election messages.

As the member for West Torrens highlighted, I took a bit of a punt actually in 2022 and did not put election posters up. That concerned some of my colleagues, I am sure. My volunteers were delighted because they did not need to put them up. They got out of that onerous activity, because it is not the most exciting activity to undertake. But at the end of the day, I think I made the right choice not to do that in 2022, supporting this legislation as the right choice for South Australia, and I look forward to the ban of single-use plastic election posters in South Australia.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (11:00): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WASTE COLLECTION) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 November 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:00): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes24
Noes.....14

Majority10

AYES

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

NOES

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.	Pisoni, D.G. (teller)
Speirs, D.J.	Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.
Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.	

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Pederick, A.S.	Picton, C.J.
Pratt, P.K.	Mullighan, S.C.	Basham, D.K.B.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (RELOCATION OF SA POLICE FACILITIES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 September 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:06): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes24
Noes.....15
Majority9

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Pederick, A.S.	Picton, C.J.
Pratt, P.K.	Mullighan, S.C.	Basham, D.K.B.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (ADELAIDE PARK LANDS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 October 2023.)

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

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	24
Noes.....	15
Majority	9

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Pederick, A.S.	Mullighan, S.C.
Basham, D.K.B.	Picton, C.J.	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) (11:14): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes24

Noes.....14

Majority10

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Boyer, B.I.
Clancy, N.P.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Piccolo, A.
Szakacs, J.K.

Bettison, Z.L.
Brown, M.E.
Close, S.E.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Savvas, O.M.
Thompson, E.L.

Bignell, L.W.K.
Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
Pearce, R.K.
Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.J.

NOES

Batty, J.A.
Cowdrey, M.J.
Hurn, A.M.
Speirs, D.J.
Telfer, S.J.

Bell, T.S.
Ellis, F.J.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

Brock, G.G.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Pisoni, D.G. (teller)
Teague, J.B.

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.
Pratt, P.K.

Basham, D.K.B.
Picton, C.J.

Mullighan, S.C.
Pederick, A.S.

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) (11:20): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes24

Noes.....13

Majority11

AYES

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

NOES

Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Hurn, A.M.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G. (teller)	Speirs, D.J.
Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.
Whetstone, T.J.		

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Basham, D.K.B.	Mullighan, S.C.
Pratt, P.K.	Picton, C.J.	Pederick, A.S.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:25): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	24
Noes.....	13
Majority	11

AYES

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

NOES

Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Hurn, A.M.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pisoni, D.G. (teller)	Speirs, D.J.
Tarzia, V.A.	Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.

Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.
Pratt, P.K.

Basham, D.K.B.
Picton, C.J.

Mullighan, S.C.
Pederick, A.S.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

Motions

YORKE PENINSULA TURNING LANES

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (11:30): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises the danger of vehicles needing to slow down to a safe turning speed on a highway so as to enter the Yorke Peninsula's coastal communities;
- (b) notes the additional danger caused by the fact that the busiest time of year for tourism to these coastal communities coincides with the time when fully-laden grain trucks are on the road; and
- (c) calls on the state government to invest in more turning lanes for these coastal communities.

It gives me great pleasure to lead off the new and improved system of motions that we have in this parliament, and in so doing would note that that agreement was reached between the two parties without much consultation with the crossbench. That is fine, that is all part of it. It is inarguably an improved system that will have a smaller *Notice Paper*, but it occurred to me, when I was approached to withdraw my motions that had been sitting on the *Notice Paper*, lost in the litany of other motions that had found their way there and were stuck there, that it would be beneficial to keep mine on the *Notice Paper* so as to continue to debate it.

That I did, and it finds itself at No. 1, and I apologise to the parties for having disrupted the start of the new scheme, but it is an important motion; it was one I moved in the first place to bring attention to this issue we have on the peninsula and I suspect in other regional communities, and it gives me great pleasure to now move and discuss it. I will endeavour to keep it brief so that we can get on to normal transmission sooner rather than later, but I want to make a brief contribution about what I think would be a rather cost-effective way to make a significant improvement to road safety in regional communities.

There are a number of coastal communities up and down my electorate that are accessed off the main highway without the benefit of a turning lane. That requires that cars that slow down on roads that are now 100km/h (and hopefully can get back to 110km/h in due course) have to slow down on that highway without the benefit of a turning lane to a near complete stop in order to turn into the coastal community they are visiting or that holiday home they are returning to and are hoping to do so safely.

As I mentioned in the motion, the busiest time for people to visit those communities is often during the summer, when the beaches are at their most enjoyable and people have a bit of time off, but it also coincides with the time that grain trucks are getting to and from port. Those trucks are getting bigger and there are more B-doubles and road trains on the road and they take quite a bit of time to come to a complete standstill when they are fully laden.

If that is the case—and we have these people visiting our community more so who choose to indicate late and brake late to try to make their turn or do not provide as much warning as they should to the trucks behind them—we can have a dangerous situation where a truck driver going about a normal, regular commute has a car slam on its brakes in front of him or her and has to try to pull up that fully-laden truck to a stop in a shorter distance than might otherwise be desired.

That is a dangerous situation in my view: having these cars slow down to a near stop on the main highway. Trucks are just an example; plenty of other vehicles take longer to stop than people realise and it is a problem that could be fixed with a rather cheap and effective solution, that being

that we provide a simple turning lane, which is common everywhere else in our road network, so that those cars can slow down off the highway.

There are a number of communities—and I would like to highlight a few of them in this brief contribution—that would be beneficiaries of such a scheme that have brought it to my attention and have been advocating and lobbying hard to see it brought to fruition. They are the ones I have been pushing for the almost six years that I have been a member of this place.

The first one I would like to bring to the attention of the house is at Hardwicke Bay. This problem pre-dated my time in the parliament. I have sighted a letter from the department under the stewardship of the previous member, Steven Griffiths, who advocated to the then minister to get that turning lane in place. At that time, the department made the recommendation that it was not an effective use of money to try to bring about that change.

If I am successful in getting this fund delivered, Hardwicke Bay would be a prime candidate to have the first turning lane installed. Not only is it an incredibly popular coastal community but the entrance to it is also on a bit of a blind turn, which really exacerbates that problem of cars slowing down to turn off the highway and a truck that may be coming up behind that car cannot necessarily see that the car has stopped at all. Even if that car has provided adequate notice, has given enough gradual slow down for the truck behind it, it might be that the truck does not see it and cannot bring itself to a stop quickly enough.

Ashley Gordon and the progress association have been advocating for a long time and are continuing to beat the drum and it is an absolute priority of mine to ensure that that turning lane is delivered. It would be a wonderful thing. I am sure the locals are getting sick of hearing, 'Yes, I'm working on it; yes, I'm working on it,' and are keen to see an actual outcome now. I continue to repeat to those people that I am doing my best to see it happen and I hope we can bring it to fruition soon.

I will briefly touch on two more towns. One is Port Vincent, which again is an increasingly popular community, a jewel in our coastal crown and such a wonderful community, with the sailing club and so many vibrant community clubs. With that popularity comes increased traffic, and having to slow down on the main road to turn into Port Vincent is creating more and more dangerous situations.

I have to highlight a moment of great bemusement to me and the community of Port Vincent. We have been lobbying over the course of six years for this turning lane to try to make the community that little bit safer. Recently, to our absolute bewilderment, on the site we imagined a turning lane would be built, at the location we thought the asphalt might be laid to enable cars to slow down off the main highway, a series of big lights have been erected so people can see in the dark. Again, a wonderful safety measure but quite bemusing to us that, after advocating for a turning lane and being knocked back time and time again, these monstrosities of lights have been erected exactly where we imagined that turning lane would be.

I do not know if that is a not very subtle message from the department trying to put a final nail in the coffin of that turning lane but I still hope—and it would be a slightly more expensive exercise now I imagine—that we can get those brand-new lights ripped out, a turning lane installed and those lights installed somewhere else where they would be of more benefit. Maybe adjacent to our turning lane would be tremendous. That is another community that has been pushing hard and I hope to see rewarded soon.

Finally, in a slightly different circumstance but just as valuable nonetheless, I recently visited a local homeowner who lives adjacent to the recycling depot at the busy intersection into Brinkworth. He frequently hears the air brakes of trucks going past and the screeching of car brakes trying to slow down to turn into Brinkworth to visit one of the many tremendous community clubs, creating a dangerous situation.

In conclusion, it would be tremendously beneficial for coastal communities and for towns like Brinkworth to have a fund so we can start to chip away at these turning lanes. We could try to chew off one or two a year to make sure they are safe and slowly work our way through the backlog. It would be tremendously cost effective. I cannot imagine it would cost a great deal and it would provide

a significant benefit to those communities and to the people who see those dangerous situations that arise on an almost daily basis and who have been advocating for many years.

To the people of Hardwicke Bay, Port Vincent, Brinkworth and all the other coastal communities, I want to reassure them that we are continuing to advocate and hopefully we will get some progress soon.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (11:38): I rise today to support the member for Narungga's motion. What a beautiful part of the state Yorke Peninsula certainly is. I remember that during our time in government the first boat I helped commission was the *Vincent Star*. No, it was not named after me; it was named after this beautiful place called Port Vincent.

It is worth noting that our time in government gave us the opportunity to travel to many of these wonderful regional towns. I might put a few things on the record to explain to the house—a bit of a refresher—how the former government was certainly investing in some of these regional roads like never before. I remember that we were investing over \$2 billion, in fact, to fix more than 4½ thousand kilometres of regional roads. In fact, the former government, in our four years, spent more than \$1.8 billion on regional roads, compared to a pathetic \$384 million by Labor in their last four years. It meant that we were spending almost five times as much on country roads over the period.

We know that these regional roads were neglected by those opposite for years and years. We inherited a massive road maintenance backlog that we were chipping away at and that we were really achieving great inroads with. There were obviously hundreds of millions of dollars that were spent to benefit roads in and around the electorate of Narungga. That was a \$14½ million regional road network package that included pavement repairs, vegetation clearing and line marking in areas like the Spencer Highway between Maitland and Minlaton, the Yorke Highway between St Vincent Highway and Curramulka, the Copper Coast Highway west of Kulpara township, and Minlaton Road between Minlaton and Stansbury.

I have to say that some of my best family holidays were spent at a place called Stansbury, to which of course I have a very strong connection. We would go there most years as a family. What a great part of the world it is. The member for Narungga has a lot of amazing coastal towns right throughout the peninsula.

I think we certainly do need to be aware of the danger of these vehicles needing to slow down to a safe turning speed on a highway, especially when you have those fully laden grain trucks on the road. Let me tell you, it is not much fun being stuck behind them when you cannot overtake them in certain parts of the peninsula.

Of course, do not forget, we were also delivering the road duplication and overpass—and how good is that? We were delivering the \$124.5 million Port Augusta and Port Wakefield road duplication and overpass, and has that not absolutely been a game changer as well?

We also saw the speed limit on eight major regional Australian roads lifted to 110 km/h from 100 km/h, after significant safety upgrades. I do respect—especially for our country members who are on the road a lot—that 10 kilometres really does make a difference and adds up. Of course, you need the road condition to be apt; it has to be safe to do so. But I can acknowledge and appreciate why that is so important, so that our members can get where they need to go as quickly as they reasonably can. We were able to actually lift the speed limit on some of those major regional roads.

We also delivered the Rural Roads Safety Package, and that included the Goyder Highway between Crystal Brook and Gulnare, Andamooka Road between Andamooka and Olympic Dam, and also Cleve Road between Cleve and Kimba, which is also another fantastic part of the world. Unfortunately, we saw from those opposite that, instead of investing in our regional road network, they actually reduced the speed limit on eight key roads.

Coming back to the motion at hand, we certainly support the motion of the member for Narungga. It is important that the state government does invest more in more turning lanes for these coastal communities. I know that it would certainly be appreciated by those communities, but it would also be appreciated by tourists. We know that many thousands of people, right throughout the year, whether it is just to get away or for fishing, will get along to the Yorke Peninsula. I think that the

government should really take on this motion; it is a very sound, sage motion that has been moved by the member for Narungga. We on this side of the chamber will certainly support it.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:43): I have a quick contribution to commend my friend from across the gulf waters on a motion that looks at the safety and productivity of his community on Yorke Peninsula. It really does reflect the need for us, as decision-makers in this place, to be able to have an open mind and a determined spirit to invest in our regional road network, especially the intersections into our communities. Now that the visitation numbers are higher, we have people on our roads who are not necessarily used to country driving; we have interactions with heavy vehicles, as has already been articulated; and we have ever-increasing domestic use. Investment into our regional road networks is crucial for the ongoing productivity and contribution to our state's economy.

The words that have been spoken here in favour of this motion really do highlight the passion that we, as regional members of parliament, have for keeping our communities safe on our roads. We have had challenges over the last 12 months with road safety and the unacceptable road toll. These sorts of investments into intersections in regional roads across South Australia are essential to make sure we are continuing to be proactive when looking at keeping our communities safe.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

TEA TREE PLAZA CAR PARKING

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (11:45): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes that it has been a year since the government prohibited owners of shopping centres with a gross lettable area of 34,000 square metres or more to charge for parking;
- (b) acknowledges the commitment of the SDA who campaigned to ensure that retail workers, small business owners and members of the community were not unreasonably penalised for the sake of corporate profit; and
- (c) acknowledges that by delivering on the key Malinauskas Labor election commitment to stop paid parking at Tea Tree Plaza and West Lakes, everyday South Australians hit hard by the rising cost of living have been protected from unfair parking costs.

It is a special occasion for shoppers, workers and small business owners in the north-east this week as we celebrate the one-year anniversary—our first birthday—of the private parking areas amendment bill. It is also a special occasion for me personally as a former Tea Tree Plaza worker and someone who, like so many of us in the Gully, grew up in and around our beloved centre.

In September 1970, *The Advertiser* promoted 'Tea Tree Plaza—heralded as the great new Myer shopping centre.' It was described as Australia's most modern shopping centre, set in green rolling countryside against a backdrop of mountains. In fact, our community was very much built around that centre, and each and every resident has a story like I do about growing up at Tea Tree Plaza. Today, there are a few thousand more residents surrounding the Plaza and perhaps a little more obstructed view of the mountains, but the views are very much the same, particularly the views of the strong and unyielding position that we in the north-eastern suburbs should have, like most other places in our state, the opportunity to access our retail hub for free.

On 15 August 2021, I stood up at Tea Tree Plaza and introduced myself as a former Tea Tree Plaza worker and the Labor candidate for Newland. It was then that I affirmed my commitment, as a candidate and as a local councillor representing Modbury, to fight against the greedy cash grab that was being proposed by the Scentre Group. This was a mammoth commitment and a mammoth campaign, and it was not one that was won by a government, or for a government, but by the thousands and thousands of local residents, shoppers, small business owners, workers and union members who fought against this unfair impost on members of our community.

In fact, it was the former member for Newland who said exactly that, on 5 February 2021. In this exact week, three years ago, Richard Harvey made a video in the top car park of the Plaza and said, 'I don't support paid parking at Tea Tree Plaza. These charges are an unfair impost on customers and workers.' He then sent a text out to all of the local residents—I actually received one myself—reminding them of the fact that he did not support paid parking at Tea Tree Plaza, with a little link to his video so we would all remember exactly what he said. I could not agree more with

Richard and I do question, as I often do, why the former Liberal government did not listen to the comments or the advocacy of the local member when deciding not to support strong legislation that was put together with thorough and robust consultation with residents in the north-eastern suburbs.

On 5 July 2022—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms SAVVAS: Don't worry, the residents in the north-east will be well aware that you did not support the legislation.

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey! Member for Flinders! The member for Newland has the call. Order!

Ms SAVVAS: On 5 July, not long after losing seats in the north-eastern suburbs, the Liberal Party announced that they would not support the potential legislative changes and, in their press release, unsurprisingly, did not make a single mention of the residents in the north-eastern suburbs or the employees or small businesses at Tea Tree Plaza. But that is okay; that is perfectly okay, because the residents in the north-eastern suburbs remember who brought in the legislation, and they remember who fought against it, and I will make it a goal of mine, as I have every day since I was elected, to remind them who refused to support the quest to stop the introduction of paid parking at Tea Tree Plaza.

On our side we take listening seriously. Every day for the better part of eight months as a candidate I took that petition against paid parking to houses in Modbury, Modbury North, St Agnes, Ridgehaven, Hope Valley—the list goes on—and every day for the better part of eight months I heard the same thing. As we all know in this house people do not always love it when you knock on their door, but I can say in this place with my hand on my heart that when I told residents what Westfield were trying to do the key would come out, the latch would undo, the screen door would slam and the constituents would say without a word of a doubt, 'Where do I sign? Hand me your clipboard. I want to fight against this alongside you.'

We know that South Australians are doing it tough. We know that the introduction of paid parking would, of course, have made it even tougher, particularly for those who work at the centre. Many times in this place I have spoken about my own time working at the centre as a low-paid worker, knowing exactly what that sort of impost would do to retail, fast food and hospitality workers who work at Tea Tree Plaza.

When I am reflecting on the work that went into the bill, I think it is really important to specifically make mention of the workers who fought hard against the introduction of paid parking at the site. These staff are predominantly women, primary caregivers, people working in retail and fast food to support their families, women who are often in low paid, insecure jobs and earning just a couple of hundred dollars a week.

We know for a fact that at other centres where Westfield succeeded in bringing in paid parking, staff were being charged up to \$35 a day. In fact, it was not that long ago that I was there alongside the retail union when we fought tooth and nail against that charge at Westfield West Lakes, and it was years of fight from the retail union that secured better outcomes for workers at that site: a fight from the SDA and their members against a \$35 parking charge for workers and an unsafe offsite car park at West Lakes and a fight from the SDA against the boom gates at West Lakes, which are finally, finally gone.

I would like to actually put my thanks on the record, as I often do, to the SDA—my union and the union of thousands of people in my community—for fighting alongside us against the introduction of paid parking at Westfield Tea Tree Plaza. Bargaining and advocacy is always stronger as a collective, and I for one am always grateful to have a strong collective like the SDA on the side of working people at Westfield TTP, Westfield West Lakes and Westfield Marion.

Today, I am very much proud to be celebrating the anniversary of this act. The amended Private Parking Areas Act now prohibits owners of regulated shopping centre parking areas from charging a fee for parking at major retail shopping centres unless they have approval from the

minister. I do have confirmation from the minister that as at five minutes ago there have yet to be any applications so far for the introduction of paid parking on a site of that category.

The definition of major retail shopping centres includes any retail shopping centre with a gross lettable area of 34,000 square metres or more but does exclude the Adelaide CBD. From 8 February this time last year, paid parking at these major centres could only be allowed if approved by the Minister for Planning and, of course, that was retrospective. It saw not just the continuation of free parking at Westfield Tea Tree Plaza, but, of course, finally Westfield got rid of paid parking arrangements at West Lakes. What an exciting day it was for residents in the western suburbs to see the boom gates no longer working. We all saw the images of what a really exciting day it was for shoppers, workers and small businesses who fought against that for a really long time near West Lakes.

Employees of businesses at Westfield, shoppers—a huge number of people—have, of course, saved a considerable amount of money as a result of these changes, and I am happy to report that I have received nothing but positive feedback since their introduction. In fact, I was at Tea Tree Plaza just a few weeks ago, as I often am—I only live a couple of streets away myself—and I saw someone I know from a local sports club in the food court. They waved to me and said, 'Hey, Olivia. We've been here a while, and I just wanted to thank you because we parked for free.' Of course, that is not the first time I have been stopped or that someone has come over to mention to me how glad they are to have been able to park for free at our major centre.

Of course, at the time Westfield had many arguments about how they would not be able to continue to upgrade the centre or continue to put improvements into the centre. I have always found that to be a very interesting argument, having a look at the profit Westfield bring in every year, but I am happy to report that Westfield is continuing to invest in the centre, and there continue to be upgrades going on.

A lot of us in the north-east have long been awaiting the opening of MECCA, Tea Tree Plaza, which has been taking a little too long. I actually received a large number of emails over the Christmas break from young women wanting to know when those new shops will be opening. However, Westfield is continuing to invest in the centre, and that is really important to us in the north-eastern suburbs, and that we continue to be able to park for free.

I am really happy to be standing here today acknowledging all the work that has gone into this. Mostly I just want to stand here in this place and thank the thousands and thousands of residents who fought together against this charge. We have listened to our community, we know our community in the north-eastern suburbs, and I for one am very much looking forward to continuing to park for free at Tea Tree Plaza for many years to come.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:55): I rise to speak on this motion, and am surprised that they would note an anniversary of a poor piece of legislation passing, legislation that was put together in a rush without an understanding of the law—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TELFER: —without an understanding of the process, and by handballing responsibility onto local government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Newland!

Mr TELFER: Unfortunately, upon coming into government—

Ms Savvas interjecting:

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

Mr TELFER: —the members across from me discovered—

Ms Savvas interjecting:

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

Mr TELFER: No, actually they did not know about the process they had to follow. They had to scramble to try to put this together—

The Hon. N.D. Champion interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Taylor!

Mr TELFER: —and shoehorn these arrangements into this piece of legislation when it was not appropriate to do so. The discussion and debate that was had at the time highlighted the fact that when it was first considered as a policy position it was not actually in the arrangement that they put it in this way—

Ms Savvas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Newland, you are warned for a final time.

Mr TELFER: —to double down and to pretend, as we got lectured yesterday by members opposite, about some sort of faux culture. Indeed, this is what this motion is all about. They say that, 'Those who pay the piper call the tune.' That is definitely reflective of the motion here, and it really is reflective of the fact that many, if not all, of those opposite are only in their positions because of the slippery pole they are climbing with their union connections—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TELFER: —and the scare tactics throughout this process that have been put together. Here we are, once again, reflecting on the one-year anniversary of a piece of legislation which, as I said, at the time caused uncertainty throughout a lot of the community because of the way it actually had to be managed by local government.

Ms Savvas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Newland is on the final warning.

Mr TELFER: Thank you, sir. It is disrespectful the way those opposite are not willing to—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TELFER: —have an open mind to the processes that had to be followed 12 months ago. It is all well and good to be going out there, as was said yesterday, data harvesting, scaring people on the street, trying to get them involved in a political campaign, but when we actually reflect on this piece of legislation—and it has been noted that it is a year today since it passed—we reflect on the fact that it is poor legislation, poorly put together, a bit of a scramble. Even at the time, there were no clear answers for any of the questions that were asked of the minister.

The Hon. N.D. Champion: That is just not true; you don't even remember it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TELFER: Unfortunately, the minister who tries to interject himself forgets the fact that they were scrambling to try to shoehorn an answer to a political promise into a piece of legislation that did not actually suit the arrangements.

For this, which is a gushing motion—as I said, reflective of those who are there to direct and, behind the scenes, tell members of parliament what they should be doing—a little bit of reflection on this motion; indeed, I am surprised it is something they are willing to highlight. Once again, local government will continue to have concerns around the arrangements around paid parking and the way they are able to manage it. If it ever gets tested I will be interested to see what those results might be.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (11:59): I am very, very pleased to rise to support this motion from the member for Newland because it is the two of us who actually have the lived experience of boom gates affecting the communities that we represent and our constituents. Fortunately for the member for Newland, it was a close shave. Unfortunately for me but more particularly for my constituents, it has been a 10-year nightmare of putting up with these bloody boom gates at West Lakes.

For those of us who are not supplicants to Westfield, who at any juncture when there is any incursion into the corporate rights or profit-making abilities of Westfield respond with a 'Leave Britney alone!' type meme for the benefit of Westfield, for those of us who actually take our responsibility to accurately represent our constituents really seriously on these sorts of issues—we put our communities first, not corporates first—allow me to provide some insight into the battle this has been for a decade.

Westfield put in a development application to install these boom gates in 2012. To their credit, it was a council, the City of Charles Sturt, that refused that application, because at least in that area we had local government representatives standing up for their local community, which I now appreciate is not always the case in other parts of the state. But I am pleased to say that in my electorate and in the City of Charles Sturt they took a stand against Westfield and they denied that development application.

Unfortunately for them, Westfield ran them through the full process up to and including the ERD jurisdiction of the District Court and effectively bullied the community into having to suffer these boom gates at West Lakes. It was just gobsmacking that Westfield would continue doing this, because of course we had a Labor government at the time which was taking football away from Football Park and putting it at Adelaide Oval, so the whole purpose for the boom gates was evaporating before Westfield's eyes, and yet they went ahead and did it anyway.

As the member for Newland has said, the impact on so many people for such a long period of time was dreadful. I met with constituent after constituent, usually young retail workers, who could not afford to pay more than \$30 a day to park their cars inside the boom gates, and instead they had to park them over the other side of Turner Drive on an unsealed paddock in the surrounds of Football Park. Those workers, particularly when working an evening shift on a Thursday night or working an afternoon shift, for example, in the winter months, would be trudging back to their cars in the dark, often finding their cars had been broken into and their personal property violated. Imagine being a 15, 16, 17-year-old young retail worker, often female, walking back hundreds of metres to your car in the dark and finding that it had been broken into.

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Yes, it might be news to those opposite that 15 year olds can work. They can work and they do work. Have you ever been to McDonald's? Goodness me, this is the late-1800s mindset that gets brought into this place by those opposite. Protect the corporate interests at all costs. Do not worry about workers, do not worry about the local community and, in doing so, have a blind ignorance to what actually happens out in the real world. It is just extraordinary the interjections from those opposite.

So, yes, young retail workers do feel like their safety is put at risk from having boom gates in at Westfield, and they do not enjoy walking back to their cars or walking to the bus in the dark outside the boom gates to be able to get home safely. That might be a revelation to those opposite and, hopefully, it makes them think twice so that should they ever resume the treasury benches at some point in the future, then rather than rushing into this place with a piece of legislation—the pro-boom gates Westfield's law type of legislation that they will bring in for the benefit of their corporate overlords—they might actually pay some attention to the needs of their local community.

I had it firsthand, not just because of my local community having to put up with this for 10 years, not just listening to the representations of retail workers but listening to the representations of customers and visitors to the shopping complex, many of whom were elderly, many of whom were infirm. Some people have disabilities and it was physically very difficult for them to have to actually reach and grab a ticket from the machine, let alone go through the palaver of having to have it validated on exit or even pay for it.

Westfield itself told me, year after year after year, 'Don't worry, 97 per cent of people don't have to pay for parking because they are in there for less than three hours.' Then why have the boom gates? The answer, as the member for Newland has quite rightly pointed out, is because they did not want workers parking close to their place of work. It is not like there was not enough space down there of course because, as I said, football moved, football had left pretty much by the time the boom gates went in, so there was always plenty of space down there for the workers.

As I said to them, 'All you have to do is create a nested area for workers to be able to park within the confines of the overall car park where it is lit, where it is safe, where security officers can patrol and protect these often young South Australians and their welfare and safety.' But at every juncture that was rebuffed by Westfield. That is why, as the local MP for West Lakes, representing the local community that used this centre, I campaigned alongside the local community for those 10 years. I was really pleased, throughout that journey, to have the support of the SDA.

While those opposite make snide remarks and sneer at trade unions and their role in representing often workers who do not have the benefit of being able to negotiate with corporate behemoths like Westfield or Scentre Group, while they think that the union's role within society is irrelevant—and they often think these thoughts, of course, while they are on their annual leave, or they are enjoying their weekends, or they are thinking about their future retirement and how superannuation might benefit them and so on—while they are enjoying all those benefits that the union movement has afforded them and while they sneer at the role that unions play, it is unions like the SDA that pursue these issues, alongside community representatives, to deliver these sorts of outcomes.

I have to say, as an aside, what was particularly galling was the Liberal candidate I ran against at the last election, who had just entered a new career as a signwriter—and good luck to him, we want to see more small business people in the local community—who, of course, was a Wilson's car park operator who often went out and spoke in support of the Liberal opposition in previous years. It is little wonder that not only do those opposite rush to join with Westfield against the interests of workers and the interests of the local community but even the candidates they put up for election to represent them in this place have those corporate car park interests at heart.

But the biggest thanks, I think, go not necessarily to this place or for the legislation and those people who supported it, even for the union that campaigned for it as well, but to the local community because there were so many people for so many years who maintained the pressure on Westfield, who had the courage to tell their stories about how their cars were broken into, how at times they had been accosted as they were leaving work and trying to get back to their cars or trying to get to public transport, who had the courage to stand up and tell their stories try to put pressure on Westfield to get rid of these boom gates in West Lakes.

I am so thankful that for their efforts, their courage and their conviction, they were able to play a very significant part in getting this legislation supported and through, and getting rid of these boom gates for the benefit of the West Lakes and the broader western suburbs community.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (12:09): I also stand in support of the member for Newland's motion. It is worth celebrating, because one year ago we did achieve a huge win for workers, business owners, customers and residents in our local community in the north-east. We had made a promise to stop paid parking to ensure that corporate profits are not put ahead of the interest of our community, and we got that done. It was a fight that I was proud to stand alongside my colleagues, worker representatives and the community on.

This fight actually started three years ago. We agreed with our community that it was a cruel money grab that would hurt local retirees, families and workers who could not afford another hit on their cost of living. We heard from people like Marie, who stated that this move would push people to shop online, which we knew would hurt our local businesses. We heard from people like Craig, who echoed the many comments to boycott the centre to shop elsewhere, which again we knew would hurt local businesses. If it would hurt local businesses we knew it would also hurt local jobs, which is why we had workers stand with us, people like Lisa, Nichol, Bernie, Dan, Angela, Joanne, Diane and Gabby, just to name a few. These were workers who joined us right from the start and stayed with us all the way through.

There was a mention before of the uncertainty that has been caused over this issue. I can confidently say that the only uncertainty that was being echoed from our communities in the north-east was the uncertainty on how this benefits absolutely anybody other than a multinational corporate. This is why we were relentless on this fight. We started in opposition and we followed through in government. Many questioned how we could get it done, but we certainly do not shy away from a challenge, especially one that was so important to our local communities.

With all of this in mind I would like to reiterate my thanks to all from my community who supported the member for Newland, the member for Wright, the member for Florey and the member for Torrens along this journey. I would also like to thank the SDA for all of their efforts on this matter—their persistence and commitment to their members is commendable—and, of course, the Minister for Planning for the work he undertook to ensure legislative changes to address this matter. Together, we engaged with the neighbourhood in every way possible. It was a hard fight but we persisted together and we achieved a better outcome for our local communities.

Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (12:12): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes 27 January is International Holocaust Remembrance Day;
- (b) recognises the atrocities committed during the Second World War against many groups, and in particular people of Jewish faith and heritage;
- (c) commends the staff and volunteers of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre for their work on Holocaust education since opening in 2020; and
- (d) commits to maintain continued vigilance against antisemitism and all forms of racism in whatever form they take within our South Australian community today and into the future.

January 27 has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Holocaust, as most people would be aware but we should never forget, was the systematic state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million European Jews by Nazi Germany and its allies and collaborators. The Holocaust was an evolving process that took place throughout Europe between 1933 and 1945 but, of course, increased in significance and horror in those latter years of World War II.

The Holocaust was referred to as the final solution of Nazi Germany. It aimed to exterminate all Jewish individuals within the country's control. By the time that this abhorrent deed had come to an end, approximately two-thirds of the entire Jewish population in Europe had perished. International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an occasion to remember the millions of Jews at an individual level who were victims of the Holocaust, but more broadly than that it is an opportunity to reflect on the incessant attacks that have occurred on people of Jewish faith and tradition for millennia.

The Holocaust is within the living memory still of many Australians. There are still Holocaust survivors living in our country today. It is not that long ago. As someone still in my 30s, it occurred less than 40 years before I was born. That is not a long time ago. We cannot allow the passage of time to dilute or to allow a drift away from the realities of the persecution that the Jewish people face. We cannot allow the progress of time, or the drift of people's memories or the passing of those who had individual experiences in the concentration camps, to let us forget the lessons of the Holocaust.

There are many lessons. There are many opportunities for us to reflect on why the Holocaust happened and to put in place the protections and the awareness and the education across our society, between faith communities, between individuals and between nations, to make sure that such an event never happens again.

But in truth, in recent times we have seen an increase in antisemitism across the globe, and perhaps—although I do not feel qualified to say this definitively—we are looking at a time when it is more dangerous to be a person of Jewish faith and custom, more dangerous to proclaim one's

Jewishness, than at any point in modern history since the occurrence of the Holocaust. That is the feedback that I get from members of the Jewish community here in South Australia.

In recent months, because of global events, I and many people in the Parliament of South Australia have had the opportunity to reach out to, to build relationships with, to talk to and to spend time with people of the Jewish community in South Australia to understand the challenges that they face and to understand and react to the protections that need to be put in place at multiple levels to ensure that people feel safe to practise their customs, traditions and faith as Jews in this state and in this nation.

South Australia has a great history with regard to being a melting pot of cultures and faiths, but it does not mean that we should not continually guard against the possible drift of that cohesion. We should continually fight for opportunities to bring people together and to celebrate what we have here in South Australia, even when other parts of the world might be dividing along racial and faith-based lines.

Education is a really important part of that, talking to people about traditions and customs and stories and why faith is so important to individuals and communities, remembering the Holocaust—why it happened, how it happened, its impacts and the ripple effect that it has had across the globe for more than 80 years now. This is all incredibly important. We must keep those memories alive, we must keep those stories alive, and we must keep those atrocities forefront of mind. It is not nice to need to do that, but we have to do that because that is a way to ensure that this does not happen again.

On the importance of education, of teaching people what has gone before and how to avoid it happening again, we are fortunate in Adelaide to have the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Andrew Steiner Education Centre. The Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Andrew Steiner Education Centre was launched in November 2020 and it is still a pretty new institution here in South Australia. The previous state and federal Liberal governments came together to contribute to the funding to establish the museum, with the Australia government providing \$2.5 million.

John Gardner, my colleague here in the South Australian parliament and Deputy Leader of the South Australian Liberal Party, was there during the launch of the museum and centre and has been a significant champion of that initiative, a supporter of the cause and a friend of the Jewish community.

South Australia's Holocaust Museum is dedicated to telling the stories of the Holocaust to create a fairer and more compassionate world by educating and inspiring South Australians to stand up against antisemitism and racism. The museum, really importantly, supports teachers and principals in South Australian schools and across community groups to teach the history and the lessons of the Holocaust to this generation and to many generations to come.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Holocaust Museum, which can be found on Wakefield Street, back in November. At that time, I was able to catch up with Kathy Baykitch, the centre director. Kathy has now moved on to another role in Sydney and we thank Kathy for her significant contribution to getting that museum off the ground and being a driving force within the South Australian Jewish community to making that happen. I was also able to catch up with Pauline Cockrill, the museum's curator; Thomas, the educator who has been working there for some time; and also in attendance was Elizabeth Ho OAM, a board member of the Holocaust Museum.

We also have the Andrew Steiner Education Centre alongside the museum, which was the work of Andrew Steiner OAM, who is a Holocaust survivor, artist, historian and self-funded Holocaust educator who has been doing that work here in South Australia for more than 30 years. Andrew Steiner turned 90 last year, and continues, where possible, to tell those stories, to teach those lessons and to encourage harmony between peoples and between faiths.

The recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day and other days like it really create a space, an opportunity, a date in a calendar for us to pause and to think about what has gone before and, as I mentioned a moment ago, how we can avoid that happening again. It is an opportunity to look at the past but also assess where we currently are, to delve into whether or not it

is actually the most dangerous time since the Holocaust for Jewish people and is that a reality here in South Australia and Australia, as it clearly is in other parts of the world.

We have seen some progressive Western political movements say some pretty horrendous things against the Jews; not in Australia, though, in my assessment, and long may we guard against that. I believe there is a strong sense of bipartisanship across this chamber, across our parliament, when it comes to recognising, protecting and building relationships with the Jewish people in South Australia and in Australia more broadly as well.

Antisemitism in Australia is reportedly on the rise, but that bipartisanship across this chamber I believe stays strong. We have seen that in action through various contributions from both members of the Liberal Party and the Labor Party—including the Premier—since the events of 7 October 2023. It does not mean we should not remain vigilant, we should not continue to reflect on the past and we should not look forward to where we want to be in the future. We do not want instances of antisemitism to continue to rise. We want that to settle, to trend down, to disappear altogether.

I want to acknowledge the members of the Jewish community here in South Australia who have been in contact with me in recent months, particularly Norm Schueler and the people that he represents in this state. Norm has been a great friend to people across political parties. He is always keen to tell the story of the Jewish people here in South Australia and to encourage us again to reflect on the atrocities of the past and do everything we can to make sure that that does not occur in the future. International Holocaust Remembrance Day gives us that opportunity. It was a couple of weeks ago, but it is timely to raise this matter today in parliament to reflect on what it means and to show solidarity with the Jewish people here in South Australia. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (12:27): I am very happy to speak in support of this motion brought to the chamber by the Leader of the Opposition. I feel it is important that we send a strong and united message that antisemitism or, indeed, any racial or religious hatred is completely unacceptable in this beautiful state. A strong message must be sent and becomes all the more louder, hopefully deafening, when we speak together as one.

I want to preface my support for this motion by making it clear it does not come with favour to any one group. Discrimination, hatred or harassment is unacceptable in any shape or form and, while today we are highlighting the dreadful atrocities committed against people of Jewish faith and heritage, it needs to be stressed that history is littered with these dark chapters that must not only be condemned but also remembered for all the right reasons.

Growing up, I lived in a house where history and politics were dinner table discussions. This probably comes as no surprise, given mum came from Poland and dad was born in England two years before the start of the Second World War. Events relating to war-torn Europe were always close to home, and probably the reason I took up studying history at university. With no ambitions to take up teaching, some would question my decision to study the past and I would always respond by pointing out that it was a way to avoid future mistakes.

While Adelaide is half a world away from the historical epicentre of antisemitism, we do not have a shield protecting us from it manifesting itself in our backyard. The best way we can ensure we do not repeat our darkest days is by placing reminders of the consequences of ignorance, and this is how the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre prove to be invaluable.

When we reflect on some of the atrocities of medieval history, such as trial by water, the crusades, or even some form of crude torture, it is very common they are remembered regrettably with some degree of amusement. Distances in time often dilute the fact that we are dealing with humans and the suffering was real, albeit many centuries ago.

We must hang on to the realities of the Holocaust and ensure that this dark period is never diluted when we pass on its warnings to future generations. There is no novelty element to the murder of up to 17 million people and we must do everything to ensure as much accuracy and human emotion is passed on through discussions like the one we are having today. This is best done when we attach modern relevance to these reminders.

I do not suppose many of the volunteers associated with the Holocaust Museum and the education centre receive the same inner glow that other volunteers do when they help others. I imagine people like Andrew Steiner OAM, a Holocaust survivor, feel it is more duty-bound. For this, they deserve their own set of special words on why they are appreciated.

As we move further and further away from this barbaric era, even with my background and origins, I have concerns that it will be harder to communicate the loss of humanity to my son and future generations if we do not have these days and places to remind us. Given the fact this is a motion with bipartisan support, in many ways the fact that this house can stand together is arguably the best way to express appreciation to the staff and the volunteers of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre.

The people opposite from me are not my enemies. I have only been in this place for a couple of years, but in the short time, dare I say it, I would even count some of these people as my friends. We have our differences but we do not harbour hatred for one another. During one of my very first jobs as an MP, I had the honour of laying a wreath at the now-defunct Dutch club in Greenfields hosted by the Netherlands Ex-Service Men and Women's Association. We remembered the fallen, those who served, and the fact that within the Netherlands, three quarters of its Jewish population were murdered, the highest in Western Europe.

I was new to the job and my team had made quite the effort of organising a wreath. On that same morning, the member for Hammond was present to represent the Leader of the Opposition. He had driven all the way from Strathalbyn and, having not lived too far away from there in a past life, I was appreciative of his efforts. He had been nothing but kind to me since I was elected and I asked if he would do the honour of laying the wreath with me together.

After the ceremony, we both had attendees say how much they appreciated the combined gesture. We were both told that while we stood for different causes, the significance of laying the wreath as one, on a day when we recalled events that have their origins based on division, showed that lessons had been learned. As politicians we must never lose sight of this. For while we have jobs to represent people from different walks of life, we also have a duty to stand as one on the basics of what makes us human.

In April last year, I was shocked deeply when I went onto a social media page from the northern suburbs to see that a group of cowards dressed in balaclavas and under the cover of darkness had placed a banner on a footbridge over Main North Road. I have debated within my mind whether I would recount these words, but for the sake of historical accuracy, it was labelled 'Multiculturalism is white genocide'. It was very distressing but it was also fantastic how quickly leaders in the north came out to condemn these ugly words. The Mayor of the City of Salisbury, Gillian Aldridge, was on radio outlining that such a statement does not represent the wonderful communities of the north. Hats off also to SAPOL and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for quickly having this banner removed.

Given I represent a community where 40 per cent of us are born overseas, myself included, it was felt that if the racists can have their banner, then so can we. A quick brainstorm with my office manager, Ryan Schumacher, and a call to Scott from Replica and we were ready with our own banner and set of words: 'Multiculturalism brings us together'. I was encouraged by how so many locals wanted to stand behind this statement, with local councillors, the Salvation Army and many multicultural groups joining me legally to gather in a park in Parafield Gardens—without the cowardly cover of balaclavas or darkness—to proudly illustrate who we really are in the north.

Fast-forward unfortunately to September, and it would appear that this mob were back, this time back in the same place with a new banner stating, 'It was the Jews'. While we reflect on the past, it is frightening that these people are still out there who would appear to not condemn these atrocities. Such people and their movement must be fought. When we cannot teach them the errors of their ways, we must do everything we can to consign their dangerous views to the far-flung fringes.

While I was saddened that our banner was not enough, coincidentally almost to that day, I was delighted we had something to respond with, following the arrival of 500 bumper stickers using the same set of words that we used on the banner back in April. I am pleased to say that they went quickly and I am sure we can produce more if anybody is interested. It is great to see this message

scattered across the vehicles across the north and I hope it is a reminder to anyone hoping to spread hatred that that is simply not reflective of who we are.

Knowing that the two main parties within this chamber reflect this thinking, I am also encouraged by members of the other place. I am grateful we have also seen One Nation speaking out over the misuse of swastikas and I know the Greens have also gone out in force condemning these awful banners. I can appreciate these balaclava-wearing cowards will be near impossible to recognise, but I am very hopeful the major parties have sent a loud message that there is no room for them in our camps.

Finally, I want to underline and thank the Leader of the Opposition for part (d) of this motion. In my eyes, there can be no greater act of extreme hatred fuelled through mass ignorance than what happened in the Holocaust. I grew up discussing what happened to people of Jewish faith but, at the same time, never ignore that events also inflicted suffering on Russians, Poles, Jehovah's Witnesses, gypsies, Serbs, freemasons, homosexuals, the disabled; in fact, anyone who did not align to a widespread sense of false imagery.

The survivors and those close to them would be the first to tell you that the same ugliness that led to this trail of devastation can and has easily manifested itself against other groups since. This motion may on face value be reflecting on events that happened around 80 years ago, but it is still very much relevant today. We must continually reflect and learn from these events to ensure history never repeats. With that, and in the spirit of solidarity, I commend this motion to the house.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (12:36): I also rise to support this motion from the Leader of the Opposition, noting that 27 January is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a very important opportunity for this house to recognise the atrocities committed during the Second World War against so many groups, in particular people of Jewish faith and heritage. It is a very important opportunity for this house to once again commit to maintaining its continued vigilance against antisemitism and all forms of racism in whatever form they take within our South Australian community today and into the future.

In particular in this motion, I note a commendation of the staff and volunteers of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre for all of their work on Holocaust education since opening in 2020. That is something I really want to focus on in my brief contribution, in particular to acknowledge a lifetime's work from Mr Andrew Steiner OAM, who is my constituent, who is a Holocaust survivor and who is a remarkable man.

Since 1990, Andrew has provided education about the Holocaust to secondary and tertiary students in South Australia. The Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Andrew Steiner Education Centre, which launched in 2020, really is the culmination of Andrew's lifework which he has always said is towards a fairer, more just and more compassionate world.

He was born in Budapest in 1933 into a patriotic Jewish family who had lived in Hungary for generations. Following the occupation of Hungary by Nazi Germany in 1944, he spent most of his childhood in hiding along with his sister and parents before he and his family migrated to Adelaide in 1948. Twelve members of his extended family perished in the Holocaust.

I have had the honour and privilege of meeting with Andrew several times now, having him personally tour me around the Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre and hearing this story from him firsthand, because while he was just a child the types of things he describes are not things one ever forgets. What he has done ever since has been truly remarkable because it has been shining a light on these atrocities to ensure such things can never happen again.

The museum and education centre in the city are the culmination of that work for Andrew Steiner. It tells the stories of the Holocaust to educate and inspire South Australians to stand up against antisemitism and racism and actively contribute to creating a fairer, more just and more compassionate world. Its permanent gallery, the Anne Frank Gallery, traces the history of the Holocaust, and the Lefmann Gallery is being developed to tell the story of Holocaust survivors like Andrew Steiner who made South Australia home.

Can I just use this as an opportunity to really acknowledge and thank Andrew Steiner for his lifetime of work, and also to thank and acknowledge all of those involved in the museum and

education centre, as well as those who have recently departed the museum, including Kathy Baykitch, who I have also had the privilege of meeting with several times. Her passion for the museum and education centre was palpable. There is also Tamas Lorincz, the education coordinator, who does a lot of work with schools in South Australia to shine a light on a very, very sorry time.

I acknowledge all of these people. I also acknowledge my constituent, Norm Schueler, for his work and leadership in the Jewish community. The work that is done by all these people and many, many more helps shine a light on atrocities to ensure they never occur again. They help contribute to a fairer, more just and more compassionate world. I thank them for their contribution, and I commend this motion to the house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:42): I rise to support the motion brought by the Leader of the Opposition to acknowledge 27 January as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and some other related matters. The 27th of January recognises the anniversary of when the Red Army liberated Auschwitz, a site of atrocity potentially unparalleled in human history, with more than 1.1 million people—mainly of Jewish faith or heritage or identification—being killed for who they were, for who their forebears were, for their religion, for their heritage or for whatever monstrously, stupidly, wrongheaded, evil reason the Nazis identified them as Jewish.

The specific importance of Holocaust education cannot be understated. There are a number of instances of horrific, terrible genocide that have existed in human history, but in its industrial application of mechanised horror, the Holocaust stands potentially alone. The idea of getting train loads of people and taking them to warehouses where they would be murdered using the latest technology and scientific development specifically designed to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible was an extraordinarily horrific novelty perpetrated by the Nazi regime during the Second World War.

Indeed, the removal of Jewish people prior to the Second World War from Nazi and Allied countries within Europe, followed by their extinction within Europe during the Second World War, I think, is an unparalleled example of racism taken to an extreme.

Hitler, in writing *Mein Kampf*, gave people a prelude to what were his intentions more than a decade before the Nazis controlled Germany. The measure of how nobody in Europe was able to conceive of such horrors prior to the Nazi regime is highlighted by the fact that, in modern-day parlance, 80 years later, we still use the Nazis as the embodiment of human evil whenever we are talking about a regime. If somebody wants to traduce somebody in modern society, they are called a Nazi. In a world that decreasingly values religion, where fewer people are going to church, I think the devil has been replaced by Adolf Hitler in the way that language is used in many ways.

I think it is the application of that cruel barbaric ideology on an industrial scale to the killing of Jews especially and also a range of other people, as other speakers have mentioned. Many people were persecuted during that time, but the specific condemnation that Hitler and the Nazis had for the Jews, and their pursuit of them in what they argued and convinced many people was somehow virtuous, was extraordinary.

The idea that a democratically elected government could perpetrate that on so many of their own people is something that troubles us still. Germany in the 19th century had as many liberal philosophers and democrats as any other number of countries in the 19th century, and the path they went down was able to be distorted. The mindset of all classes of society in early 1930s Germany, through circumstance but also presumably other things, was distorted in a unique way, and that government was democratically elected.

It is horrific to us to think that a democratically elected government could contribute such horrors to the scheme of human history, yet here we are: we have seen it done. That highlights especially the importance of Holocaust education, because we cannot rest on our laurels at any time. When you have a uniquely significant example of horror that can be perpetrated by a people voluntarily, willingly and enthusiastically in some cases, it is worthy of our schoolchildren having access to that history.

Andrew Steiner OAM and the other Holocaust survivors who lived in South Australia have numbered about half a dozen. Unfortunately, obviously as the passage of time continues, it is a diminishing number. The witness they have borne in recent decades has been tremendously important and useful in helping educate schoolchildren. Andrew Steiner's dream was that this Holocaust Museum would be begun in Adelaide, particularly with his own mortality in mind. All the work he had done for decades and continues to do in his later years—talking to people, using his art to tell the story—he knew would one day come to an end, with no first-person survivors left.

So the museum is able to continue telling their stories, and also how they built their lives in South Australia, but particularly to demonstrate for school tours, for casual visitors and for those interested an educational and museum experience, a cultural experience, that is worthy. The realisation of that dream obviously came about a couple of years ago. On previous occasions I have talked about the opening and the various support from governments, state and federal, and philanthropists who contributed to that. The state education department when I was minister provided some level of support for the education program, and I thank the Minister for Education, who has renewed and increased to a certain level that funding on an ongoing fashion; it is important work.

The engagement between the curriculum and learning division within education and the Holocaust Museum is important because these materials form part of our history curriculum and our social sciences curriculum, as well as our English curriculum—*The Diary of Anne Frank* is one of the most commonly studied texts within our schools, as it should be. The way in which the Holocaust Museum has been able to support the curriculum resources within the department has been useful, and those resources are tremendously useful for schools. I thank everyone in the Holocaust Museum who has had an engagement in doing that.

The work of the museum is broader than just the schoolchildren, of course, because Jewish people have continued to confront antisemitism in ways that non-Jewish people might be utterly surprised at. It is not a large community in South Australia but the specific resentment and hatred or fear of Jewish people has been described as the oldest of hatreds in various times.

Jewish people have been displaced from so many countries at so many different points in history. Last time, I spoke about the displacement of Jewish people from Judea under the Roman Empire in the late first century. These displacements have happened from all these places. Throughout World War II, while the liberating countries did important work in defeating the Nazi regime, prior to the onset of World War II too few of them covered themselves in shining glory in supporting as many Jewish refugees as they could have. We recognise International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January, and in particular Auschwitz as an example of that horror. That is why 27 January is chosen.

The motion particularly identifies the staff and volunteers of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre for their work since it opened in 2020. The board is chaired by Greg Adams, who is supported by other board members: Jill Noble, Sean Hill, Elizabeth Ho OAM, Andrew Steiner OAM and Nicola Zuckerman. There have been previous board members I acknowledge and thank as well. Nicola Zuckerman was the chair of the board prior to Greg Adams taking over.

As the member for Bragg did, I acknowledge Kathy Baykitch, the inaugural director and chief executive. Kathy has returned to Sydney. We are looking forward to the appointment of a new director and we understand it is imminent. When that appointment is made, I look forward to meeting that director, as I am sure the minister and other members do, welcoming them to the role and helping them in any way that we can going forward for that important work to continue.

Later this year, the museum will close for a period of time to enable the grant provided by the former federal Liberal government and other fundraising dollars to be applied to significant infrastructure improvement to the museum. Currently, it is all ground floor and the building that they use on Wakefield Street, which has a peppercorn rent from the Catholic Church, has three storeys and I believe to have a lift installed is part of the plan. To really grasp the opportunity to use that building to its full potential is a wonderful thing, with modern museum technology being applied.

Later in the year when that closes, I look forward to its reopening. I thank everybody at the centre for their work. I stand with the member for Playford, the member for Bragg, and the Leader of the Opposition in commemorating this important day.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:52): I too stand to support this motion and remind the house:

That this house—

- (a) notes 27 January is International Holocaust Remembrance Day;
- (b) recognises the atrocities committed during the Second World War against many groups, and in particular people of Jewish faith and heritage;
- (c) commends the staff and volunteers of the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre for their work on Holocaust education since opening in 2020; and
- (d) commits to maintain continued vigilance against antisemitism and all forms of racism in whatever form they take within our South Australian community today and into the future.

It is important that we recognise International Holocaust Remembrance Day because it was such a horrific time. I think the thing that makes it even more important today is the fact that we are seeing a return to elements, I would argue, of the extreme left who are turning to racism.

Remember, being Jewish is not just about religion, it is one of the few religions that is actually tied to a race. The Nazi attack on the Jews was not because of their religion, it was because of their race. It was an absolute racist attack. It was an attack on the fact that the Jewish community around Europe had, for many centuries, been successful in their adopted countries.

Of course, in the lead-up to the Second World War, Germany was heavily disadvantaged economically by the remissions that they had to pay back to the Allies after surrendering in World War I. We know how personally vindictive Adolf Hitler was in forcing the French to sign their surrender in 1940 in the very same railcar in which Germany signed their unconditional surrender in 1918.

Hitler needed a vehicle. He needed to blame a group of people for the predicament that the German civilians were in, and that predicament of course was an economy that was suffering not just because of their loss of the war but also from being in the time of the Great Depression. So, instead of being a visionary and saying, 'I've got solutions for you: I can bring you out of this poverty; I can bring you out of the position that we are in,' it was a regime based on terror. It got there because of apathy. It got into the Reichstag because of apathy, but then it enforced its power by blaming—giving those people who resented Germany's position and the position they were in someone to blame—and saying, 'It's not your fault. It's not because we lost the war. It's not because we are Germans; it's because of the Jews. It's because of the Jews that you're in the position you are in.'

Then, of course, we saw the invention of propaganda used in politics, with Goebbels. We saw those movies that showed rats in buildings and then talked about the Jews, associating in people's minds the rats and the Jews. We saw, in occupied Belgium in about 1942, I think it was, the same method being used on the locals there, and they turned on the Jewish community. It was an awful period in their history, when civilians believed what they were seeing in those movies that were being screened in the cinemas and took action themselves and bashed and murdered Jewish people just because they were Jews and they needed somebody to blame for the position that they were in, and that is where we are today.

Antisemitism did not start to rise just after 7 October; we had an instance in this chamber where it was reported by the member for Morialta that there was an antisemitic motion by a council group within the University of Adelaide. Fortunately, that person has been removed from their position.

It is important that we remember International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and I support this motion.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (12:57): I would like to thank all the speakers for the bipartisan sentiment put forward in relation to this important motion recognising International Holocaust Remembrance Day. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

ADELAIDE FRINGE

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:58): I rise today to move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the important cultural, social and economic contribution that the Fringe Festival makes to the South Australian arts and the cultural sector of our state;
- (b) recognises the importance of the Fringe Festival in showcasing some of the best South Australian acts across multiple art forms, whilst also welcoming interstate and international acts and thousands of festival goers from interstate and overseas; and
- (c) congratulates those who will be named as winners of the 2024 Adelaide Fringe Awards.

The Adelaide Fringe is known globally as the second largest arts festival in the world. It is our pride and joy that brings our state alive in February and March. That is why the Malinauskas Labor government committed an additional \$2 million annually to the Adelaide Fringe to further enable the Fringe to market the event interstate and overseas.

Just last year we saw the dividends of our investment. In fact, last year history was made, with more than one million tickets sold at the Adelaide Fringe. This was an extraordinary win for South Australia and an incredible achievement for everyone involved in the Fringe. Importantly, it meant more money in the pockets of artists, performers, venues and our arts industry.

As it grows, the Fringe has been steadily bringing in more visitors, and they are spending dollars in South Australia, which not just supports our local arts communities but also the broader South Australian economy. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas)—

Remuneration Tribunal—

No. 15 of 2023—Salary of the Governor of South Australia—Determination

No. 15 of 2023—Salary of the Governor of South Australia,
2023 Review of—Report

No. 16 of 2023—Electorate Allowances for Members of the Parliament of
South Australia, 2023 Review of—Report

By the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Correctional Services, Department for and SA Police—Report on actions taken—
Coronial inquest into the death in custody of Wayne Fella Morrison—
February 2024

Ministerial Statement

MORRISON, MR W.F.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:03): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Pursuant to section 25(5)(a) of the Coroners Act, I hereby table the report from the Department for Correctional Services in response to the coronial inquest following the death in custody of Wayne Fella Morrison.

Mr Morrison, sadly, passed away in the Royal Adelaide Hospital on 26 September 2016 following an incident at the Yatala Labour Prison on 23 September 2016. The Coroner's inquest commenced on 27 August 2018, and on 12 May 2023 the Deputy Coroner handed down her findings. I thank the Deputy Coroner for all the work involved in what was a complex and sensitive inquest.

While DCS and the government have previously publicly acknowledged the pain and the grief experienced by the family of Mr Morrison, I use this further opportunity to again provide my deepest sympathies. DCS has undertaken an extensive level of evaluation following both internal investigations and external scrutiny. Some of the important work completed includes legislative reform in relation to the management of DCS officers and employees, the installation of CCTV in prisoner transfer vans, enhancements to staff training and the admissions and prisoner identification processes.

As minister, I have also engaged Mr Peter Severin, an international leader in this field, to conduct a desktop review of the department's response with respect to the specific recommendations made by the Deputy State Coroner. Mr Severin has an extensive background in both corrections operations and prison management. But this statement is also an opportunity to speak to my ongoing commitment, and that of the Malinauskas government, to address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in our justice system. This includes our commitment to the national Closing the Gap target of a reduction by at least 15 per cent by 2031.

Reflective of this commitment is our \$11.181 million announcement last year to implement Yalakiana Tappa, an Aboriginal community-led initiative that is specifically targeted on reducing rates of Aboriginal incarceration. Yalakiana Tappa is just one program from the suite of Closing the Gap initiatives currently being led by DCS.

I close by saying I am assured that this incident was treated with the utmost of importance, and I am grateful for the thorough and proactive response from DCS. I am also confident DCS continues to take every reasonable measure to identify those prisoners most at risk and, wherever possible, prevent deaths in custody.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (14:06): I bring up the 37th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call on questions without notice, I acknowledge the presence in the chamber today of the Hon. David Ridgway, Agent General for South Australia in London.

Question Time

HUNTER CLASS FRIGATE PROGRAM

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier relaxed about the prospect of job losses associated with a reduction in scope of the Hunter class shipbuilding program? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: On 5 February 2024, a number of news reports claimed that the Premier was relaxed that the federal Labor government reduced the Hunter class frigate program from nine to six. Today's speculation in the media suggests that the build could be as low as three.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:07): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question, although it misrepresents a range of factors, and I think anyone that's been paying attention to my remarks would be aware of that. The government is unapologetic about our pursuit of a continuous ship-build here in South Australia, and we have been very clear with the

federal government that we believe the Hunter class program is the only option available to the federal government to achieve that. We in no way could be characterised as relaxed—I think was the word that the Leader of the Opposition used—about job losses; the opposite is true.

What we are doing is fighting not to ensure but to actually realise the potential job gains that have been on the cards down at Osborne forever. The Leader of the Opposition would do well to avail himself of some facts, as would the shadow minister, and that is that if these frigates are going to be built, then what we need is a massive budget allocation to achieve that end. Everything else otherwise is sort of somewhat immaterial. We know that there are significant deliberations the federal government has to make to achieve that because up until this point it hasn't occurred.

We want as a state government—and we are putting ourselves out there on this; we are sending a very clear message to the federal government, both the current federal government and any iteration that follows—the Hunter class program built. We want a sustained number of frigates to be committed to and funded to be built so that continuous shipbuilding can be achieved. We know, as I said yesterday, that six of the frigates committed to take us to the late 2030s, and that would give the commonwealth time to honour its commitment around continuous shipbuilding with different variants of the Hunter class or an AWD or some other major platform to follow.

What we also know is that anything short of that puts the commonwealth in a position where it is compromised; that is, we believe it would leave it in a very difficult position to actually honour the continuous shipbuilding commitment they have signed up to. That is why we have been forthright and somewhat assertive about our campaign on the issue.

I recall a time when predecessors of mine would be somewhat tempered in their public remarks towards a prime minister or a government of the same political stripe—not me, sir, not me. What we are doing is getting out there, we are advocating, we are sending a clear signal to this federal government—albeit a Labor one—that we expect the continuous shipbuilding promised to be honoured, honoured in full and honoured in funding. That requires a serious commitment now in terms of dollars allocated in the budget to build these frigates, build them in South Australia, and to get on with the job. We will continue to fight for that.

We keenly await the announcements of the review; we want the review to be released. The review was supposed to be released last year, but we are still waiting for it, so we are critical of the federal government in that regard, and we desperately hope they get on with the task.

HUNTER CLASS FRIGATE PROGRAM

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): My question is to the Premier. What is the threshold that must be breached before the Premier is willing to step up and criticise his federal colleagues in relation to shipbuilding in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house I will explain.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a point of order from the member for West Torrens which I am bound to hear, and I will do so. Member for West Torrens, on a point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: There was a lot of debate in that question, sir. I would ask the member to rephrase.

The SPEAKER: Very well. I will permit the leader to rephrase the question.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Is the Premier pursuing every possible avenue to ensure that a full ship build occurs in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: Brent Clark, the chief executive officer of the Australian Industry and Defence Network, has said, in relation to the delay of the program, that 'Australia's defence industry is getting smashed.'

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:12): He is less impressive off script, Mr Speaker, I have to say, because the Leader of the Opposition, if he had paid attention—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —to the answer to the question he was just given, I have been rather forthright in my critique of the current federal government, as I am of the former federal government when it comes this area of policy. As I said just a few minutes ago—

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: As I said only a few minutes ago, we are critical of the fact that we were promised the service ship review last year and we are yet to receive it. We are saying to the federal government, 'No more waiting, no more delay, no more reviews. What we need are decisions and funding allocated.'

I was in Canberra on Monday with a group of leaders of the workforce down at Osborne—some union delegates with actual frontline workers who are building these ships—and we were speaking with each other candidly, as we were when I went down to the shipyard late last year and addressed all the workers who were already there. We are not going to leave any stone unturned. I have every bit of willingness required to critique and actively criticise our federal Labor government, which is something that the former government wasn't willing to do, which is why the outcome—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morialta! Member for Colton, order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is interjecting in this place, telling people they are proud of what they achieved. What they achieved is a press release.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: What they achieved is a 500—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: What those opposite were able to achieve is a botched naval shipbuilding policy that saw billions of dollars being spent—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —on submarines that never got built.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The masters of those opposite, defence minister Pyne, presided over the single biggest policy failure in naval shipbuilding—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —this country has ever seen.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: More than that—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: No, the former government got rid of the submarine program under Minister Pyne's watch.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The member for Morialta's political master presided over the French deal, which was subsequently abolished at billions of dollars' expense to the Australian taxpayer, only to be replaced by something else.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta will come to order.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: In respect of their frigates, there is no funding. There are not nine frigates because there is not the money allocated to that. If you want to build ships, you need to fund the building of the ships, which is exactly what we are advocating for—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —exactly what we expect the commonwealth to deliver.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We look forward to the outcome of the decision in a few weeks to come.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Colton! The exchange between the Premier and member for Colton will cease. Member for Colton, your leader is on his feet and is seeking the call. Before we turn to the leader, we observe that the member for Morialta is on three warnings. He is very close to a speeding ticket. Order! The member for West Torrens is warned.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of comments made by Dr David Pope, President of the South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association and, if so, what actions is he taking to address them? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: In a post on social media last year, Dr Pope stated that emergency department clinicians were being, and I quote, 'intimidated to offload ambulance patients when there are sicker and more urgent patients in the waiting room'.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Yes, of course we are aware of the social media post that Dr Pope made last year. The Leader of the Opposition, I assume, would be aware that, following those posts, we commissioned an independent review within the state government. We appointed two people, Dr Bill Griggs and Professor McNeil, to undertake an extensive piece of work to assess those claims. Of course, that report has been released publicly. Their findings are well known.

The health minister and myself met with Dr Pope during the course of that piece of work, including immediately prior to the release of that report publicly. We enjoy a good working relationship with SASMOA. That's something that we seek to invest a lot of effort in. We appreciate SASMOA as

a source of advocacy. They offer also a source of a range of good policy propositions that this government has taken up—in fact, not just taken up since we have been in government but they contributed wholeheartedly to the policy we took to the last election, including investing in a lot more doctors. That's a relationship that we value.

The government hasn't in any way sought to capitalise in a political way on the findings of that report. There was a set of allegations made; they were investigated appropriately. I don't think anyone, at least on the record, has had the courage to question the legitimacy and the record of the work—

Mrs Hurn: The person who made the allegations did.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert, order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —of Dr Bill Griggs, who conducted the work. Dr Bill Griggs is a former South Australian of the Year, an extraordinary human being.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Why would you disparage Bill Griggs?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We put a lot of weight—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —on the report that Dr Griggs found although, like I said, we don't seek to politicise it or capitalise on it. We are just doing our best to get on with the job and assess the evidence that is presented before us and then make any policy adjustments that may be necessary.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with comments made by SASMOA President, Dr David Pope, in December last year? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: In an interview on radio last December, Dr David Pope said that there is 'an emphasis on unloading ambulances to the detriment of other people'. When asked if those orders have left patients to die in waiting rooms, Dr Pope responded: 'I can think personally of two or three cases exactly like that.'

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:21): Like I said, those allegations were thoroughly examined by the independent review. The independent review went through an extraordinary effort to go to the heart of the specific claims. The independent review—

Mrs Hurn: Ten to 15 people.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The member for Schubert interjects. The independent review made itself available to any submission from any clinician who works in the area. Most clinicians chose not to provide a submission—and that's fair enough, they are all pretty busy. But the independent review can only assess the information it has before it, including a detailed examination of any specific cases. Many of those assertions weren't able to be substantiated by the analysis of the evidence; nonetheless, that is why we have an independent review. That has been done and finalised.

I appreciate there might be an appetite from the opposition to question the independence of the review; that is to question the independence of the reviewers, and I think that is a pretty fraught proposition. We, on the other hand, just want to make sure we are making our deliberations and decisions about policy on the basis of evidence and facts. That is an approach that we intend to maintain.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:22): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. When was the minister first informed of claims made by SASMOA President Dr David Pope? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: In a FIVEaa interview between Dr Pope and Matthew Pantelis last year, they discussed the claims of intimidation to treat ambulance patients ahead of those in our emergency departments. Matthew Pantelis asked Dr Pope: 'Have you raised this internally, you know, quietly behind the scenes with the minister in one of your meetings?' to which Dr Pope replied: 'Oh we have, including my colleagues.'

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:23): I think the Premier has outlined that the allegations raised by Dr Pope—

Mrs Hurn: It's about when you knew.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Unley!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As the Premier has outlined, when the allegations were made by Dr Pope the government took them very seriously. We commissioned an independent review by Dr Bill Griggs and also Professor Keith McNeil to look at any evidence in regard to the claims that have been made by Dr Pope. Those findings have been released publicly. Professor McNeil and Dr Griggs have outlined their findings publicly. They have given their recommendations to the government, which we have accepted and are seeking to implement in relation to working with our clinicians. Where there are improvements that we can make, we will seek to do so.

In relation to the comments of David Pope, that's a matter for him. I am not seeking to engage in a back and forth commentary. We seek to work together with our unions. But when we became aware of these allegations, we took them seriously, and we asked for a review to take place, which was the appropriate thing to do. That review didn't find evidence to support those claims that have been made; in fact, the results of that review show that some of the opposite is occurring in terms of the waiting times—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —for people from the waiting room versus the ambulance room. The review itself makes a number of recommendations in terms of how to address pressure across the system—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —from the ambulance ramp to the waiting room to, importantly also, people waiting for care calling 000. We are now seeking to implement those recommendations and do that on a cooperative basis with SASMOA and also with other industrial bodies, including the AMF and the AEA as well.

UPPER SPENCER GULF

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:25): My question is to the Premier. How is the Malinauskas government engaging with the communities of the Upper Spencer Gulf?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:25): On this side of the house, when it comes to regional engagement, it's less about hashtags and more about serious, substantial policy to help realise all of the economic opportunity—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —associated with our regions. This government is wholly committed to capitalising on the big opportunities we see in the Upper Spencer Gulf. I have been very clear that we see the South-East of our state as being a great source of economic opportunity, but so is the Upper Spencer Gulf. The Upper Spencer Gulf is home to some extraordinary natural resources that have not yet been fully developed to realise all of their potential. So starting in only a few weeks' time, on Sunday 25 February, Monday, the 26th and Tuesday the 27th, we have a major economic summit happening across the three Upper Spencer Gulf cities, starting in Whyalla on the Sunday night, Port Augusta on the Monday, and Pirie on the Tuesday.

This is a big chance for communities in the Upper Spencer Gulf to come and not just hear from the government but actively engage with the government about how we are going to roll out the policy effort that we have been working so hard on over the course of the last couple of years. There is a purpose-built cabinet committee to exclusively deal with the Upper Spencer Gulf and the economic opportunity around it.

We know that it is home to the world's most abundant supply of coincident wind and solar, giving us the opportunity to be able to produce hydrogen cheaper than most other parts of the world, which is immediately adjacent to a steelworks that is committed to decarbonising, which is immediately adjacent to a magnetite mine, which is central to the green iron production, which is not far away from one of the world's best copper deposits where this government has actively funded additional examination in recent months.

We know that BHP is committed to increasingly invest its energy and effort and, indeed, its capital into the decarbonisation trend that is happening around the world. All of that together, with government intervention and government support, can amount to a comprehensive policy to reindustrialise the northern part of our state, a comprehensive policy to take green energy and the decarbonisation of industry globally and materialise it in a way that sets the state up to generate a lot more new wealth, improve the standards of living for our people, and a lot more jobs.

We are serious about it. There has been a lot of talk about decarbonisation and the green energy revolution. We really can be the heart of it here in South Australia in a way that delivers dividends for the standard of living for our people. We have already seen South Australia catapulted over the course of the last two years to be the number one economy in the country. We have already seen South Australia outperform the rest of the country in a big way in terms of exports. We can set that up to be a long-term trend, a long-term outcome, but it takes serious policy and big effort. We have that ambition and, more than that, we have some substantial announcements that we look forward to making in the Upper Spencer Gulf across the Major Economic Summit, because we believe in governments taking action to take decarbonisation globally into real action locally that delivers for the South Australian people, because it's not about a hashtag, it's about setting us up for the long term.

SA AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:29): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. How does the minister respond to comments made by Dr David Pope following the release of the Ambulance Ramping Review Report on 11 January 2024? With your leave, sir, that a house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: On FIVEaa radio, Dr Pope agreed that the report was, and I quote, 'a whitewash'. He doubled down on his earlier claims and said, and I quote, 'there [were] no reality checks done by the reviewers to see whether the data that they were looking at reflected [what was] truly going on'. He went on to add, and I quote, 'If you take the review on face value it will say that everything's fine and there's no problem whatsoever, which is clearly not the case.'

The SPEAKER: The last portion of the purported facts is plainly argument, but I am going to permit the question. It is a difficulty—

Mrs Hurn: It's a quote.

The SPEAKER: I see. Alright, well that is sustained in its own facts. Minister.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:30): Similar to my previous answer, the government took the matters that were raised very seriously. We asked for an independent review that was undertaken by two eminent clinicians who looked at the evidence, who gave Dr Pope the opportunity to provide evidence to their review, who looked at the data, who looked at reports from our emergency departments. They provided a report that clearly set out—and I don't need to repeat what it said—that in relation to a number of claims that were made they were not supported by the evidence that was available to them. That is a report that we have accepted the recommendations from.

We believe that some sensible recommendations have been made through that review, that we are taking seriously, and we are seeking to work cooperatively with the industrial bodies, whether that be SASMOA, also the ANMF and the Ambulance Employees Association to make sure that we have got the appropriate decision-making in relation to the clinical need of patients in the waiting room, on the ambulance ramp, but also those people who are calling 000, because all those patients need to be seen appropriately.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call. The exchange between the Premier and the shadow minister will cease. Minister, you have the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It is an important point that is raised, and I don't believe we have had a request from the opposition to have a briefing from the reviewers.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: Not even at 1.57?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: That's right. I checked my emails—not even at 1.57 today, which is usually the member for Schubert's approach to question time.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: But if the opposition is interested in this matter—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The exchanges to my left and right will cease. The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you very much. If the opposition is interested in meeting with Professor McNeil and Dr Griggs in learning about how they reached their conclusions, we are very happy to facilitate that for them to outline the report, outline the understanding of the issues and outline their recommendations. We have in the government listened to them, we have met with them, we have accepted their recommendations and we now want to constructively work with our industrial bodies who represent the staff in SA Health to make sure that those are implemented.

SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister provide an update on the release of social and affordable housing in South Australia?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:33): Thanks to the member for Gibson for this important question. The member for Gibson joined me and the member for Boothby at this important event, I think the week before last. The member for Gibson, obviously, along with other members on this side of the house, is committed to making sure that people have a safe and affordable place to call home.

I had the pleasure of attending, with the member for Gibson and the member for Boothby, a sod turning at a new housing development known as Oaklands Green. This project is turning around 250 former public housing properties into almost 700 new homes. This includes replacing old social housing with new homes, adding both affordable and market homes to increase the social mix and supporting the expansion of an adjoining residential aged care service.

This project began with an expression of interest in 2017. This was when the current Treasurer was the minister for housing and urban development. While it has taken some years to get this to a position of where we are today, the outcome is most definitely worth the wait. The project means that we can maintain the overall level of social housing here in South Australia. We are swapping old properties for brand-new homes, increasing the social mix in the local community and almost tripling the amount of housing, right when we need it most.

Oaklands Green is a partnership in every sense of the word: state government land and ageing public housing from the 1950s, Junction Housing as a for-purpose partner to manage the new homes, local council, local builders, philanthropy and private finance via a special purpose vehicle called Housing Renewal Australia Oaklands Park. As the project continues, there are opportunities to link the emerging commonwealth housing opportunities like the Housing Australia Future Fund and expand the partnership model even further.

Oaklands Green will be the largest single housing renewal project since the enormous Westwood project that ran for more than a decade from the late 1990s and changed the face of Adelaide's western suburbs. I am proud that Oaklands Green has set a new benchmark but I am hoping that we see even bigger projects before long that benefit from historic investments in social and affordable housing under both the Malinauskas and Albanese Labor governments. This development is not just about the size. It is a shining example of how innovation can deliver results for our community.

Social housing being built with private funds is a rare thing indeed. In fact, I have struggled to find another example anywhere in Australia where this has actually been happening. Oaklands Green is doing just that. By giving the partnership flexibility to mix social, affordable and market homes, they are able to reinvest proceeds from market sales to make the development work. As this project starts to take shape on the ground, we are in the final stages of allocating \$135.8 million in federal funds to boost social housing here in South Australia. We are also well on our way to building and upgrading hundreds of homes under our own government's investment of an extra \$232.7 million into public housing.

As I speak today, applications for the first round of the commonwealth's \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund is aiming to support another 30,000 social and affordable homes around Australia and is currently open. There are three things we need to do to ease pressure on the housing market, and that is, supply, supply and more supply. All of these programs will deliver exactly that. In closing, I am very proud to have been at Oaklands Green last month to see the first outcomes from a seed that was planted in 2017.

AMBULANCE RAMPING

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Is the minister aware of comments made in a recent SASMOA survey and, if so, does he agree with them? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: In response to a question about delays to seeing patients in the waiting room, one respondent stated, and I quote:

SA Health prioritises patients who present via ambulance to those that walk in. This has worsened since the previous election and is political.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:38): Again, this is a matter that was taken seriously. There was an independent review that was ordered by very experienced and eminent clinicians to look into the allegations that Dr Pope raised. That report, provided to the government, made a number of conclusions that clinicians were very clear about in the media a number of weeks ago. They also provided the data in relation to the time in which people are to be seen through waiting rooms and the ambulance ramp which, obviously, I think very clearly said that the people who are waiting in the waiting room are waiting shorter than people on the ambulance ramp.

Consistently, there have been SA Health policies in place for a number of years, including under the previous government, essentially saying that for people who are of the same level of acuity people from the ambulance should be seen faster obviously because we want to make sure that those ambulances are able to respond to 000 cases in the community. That's a policy that the review finds should be kept with some changes made to it, but fundamentally that process should be what's maintained in the future, with appropriate clinical oversight.

Also, one of the key things that the report recommended was making sure that the people in the emergency department have the ability to see what's happening not just in the waiting room but also on the ambulance ramp and also in the community in terms of 000 responses, which are obviously very important as well and which this government is taking extremely seriously. Those recommendations have been accepted. The government is going to be working with industrial bodies and staff to implement those recommendations.

This does come back to the issues that we have across the health system as a whole in terms of capacity. There's no doubt that we need to improve capacity in the system so that people can be seen faster, whether they are coming through the waiting room, whether they are coming through the ambulance ramp or whether they are waiting for a 000 response for an ambulance.

A lot of that comes back to the issue of access block, as well as processing times and flow through hospitals as well. That's where the government's focus has been. That's what we believe needs to be addressed in terms of addressing these issues at the front door. Anything that we can do to improve patient experience at any level of the system we are very eager to do and that's why, having received these recommendations from these eminent clinicians, we have accepted them and we will be working to implement them.

HYDROGEN POWER STATION

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:41): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Will the \$600 million experimental hydrogen power station reduce South Australian household electricity bills and, if so, by how much?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:41): First and foremost, we have always said this is about trying to get an improvement for industrial users. It's commercial and industrial customers we are targeting.

I note today that two generators in South Australia have announced their closure, claiming that renewable energy is crowding them out of the market. We have seen dramatic falls in wholesale power prices across the NEM, but a lot more dramatically here in South Australia. The reason those power prices are dropping in terms of wholesale measures rather than the retail prices, which will come out in the DMO, is because there is less and less gas-fired generation being dispatched and more and more renewable energy being dispatched.

One of the great arguments we have always had with our opponents is that renewable energy is cheaper, it is cleaner and it is the way of the future. What we are attempting to do, like we did with our Hornsdale battery, is show that with our overabundance of renewable energy during low-demand periods like the middle of the day, we need to store that energy. Storage has always been the key to our renewable resources.

What we did in the fifties and sixties was pump water uphill, the Snowy Mountains scheme, and dam rivers in Tasmania to try to store that energy. Now, what we are doing is building batteries

to store that energy at times of oversupply. Of course, the other option is to manufacture a fuel source.

If you used energy from a gas-fired turbine from gas fields, that fuel source would be expensive. But if you have an oversupply of renewable energy, rather than just earthing that energy and turning it off or not producing that energy, you produce hydrogen and store it, and then at times of peak demand you are able to use that energy that you created cheaply through renewable energy in a gas-fired turbine designed to lower wholesale power prices in the spot market. Those flow through to everyone.

We had this game at the last election, which the Premier well and truly put an end to. The previous government promised to reduce power prices by \$303 and got nowhere near it—nowhere near it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I would ask Dan how that went, but he's not here.

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: These games that politicians play—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —where they get up and they say, 'Vote for me and I will reduce power prices by X'—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Members opposite proved it is a lie. It is a lie.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What we are doing is changing the market. We are embarking on a transition.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hartley! Member for Morialta!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: They can howl at the moon all they like.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Climate change is real. The release of carbon into the atmosphere by man-made, by human endeavour is causing the heating of the planet. We need to decarbonise our electricity manufacture and we are doing that by embarking on new technologies. Members opposite can watch or get on board.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE TRANSPORT SCHEME

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister consider adding taxi charges to the eligible reimbursements for the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme? Mr Speaker, with the leave of the house and yourself, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: A constituent in MacKillop travelled to Adelaide on the bus to see a specialist. She then had to catch a taxi to the Flinders Medical Centre. While the bus fare was covered by the PAT Scheme, the taxi fare wasn't, leaving the constituent out of pocket.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:46): Thank you very much to the member for MacKillop. I thank him for his advocacy on behalf of his constituents and his very genuine interest in improving health outcomes for people who live in his electorate.

As the member knows, this is something on which the government has been taking action in relation to PATS in the almost two years that we have been in office; firstly, in terms of the most substantial increase in PATS that we have seen in a number of decades, with the doubling of the fuel subsidy rate that has provided help for many thousands of people across South Australia. In fact, 16,580 clients received \$9.4 million in travel and accommodation assistance in the past financial year through PATS.

In relation to this particular example of whether taxi fares in the Adelaide metropolitan area could be eligible, that is not something that has been raised with me before. I am very happy to explore that and to talk further with the member for MacKillop around his constituent's particular experience, and whether that is something that the government could contemplate in further reforms to be considered over time in relation to the PAT Scheme, because we know that this is a very important scheme for many South Australians to make sure that they can get assistance for the vital health care that they need.

I know there were similar issues raised last year by the member for Mount Gambier as well, in terms of the processing times for PATS. That was something that the government has taken very seriously. There have been additional staff put into the PATS team to make sure that those can be improved. In fact, I was just speaking recently to one of the staff members who works there who was saying that they have been making good strides in terms of reducing those processing times. I thank the member for Mount Gambier for raising that issue as well.

CRIMINAL LAW REFORM

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:47): My question is to the Premier. Will the government instigate a review into the current penalties for serious crimes and breach of bail conditions?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:48): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. There is a range of work that remains ongoing within the government regarding criminal law reform. We have already announced some substantial changes to the penalty regime around offences, particularly pertaining to child sex offences. That piece of legislation is pretty substantial in terms of the power that we are investing in the courts. We are proposing legislation that will see people essentially locked up for their natural lives unless they can pass a high-threshold test by proving to the court they are willing and able to control their sexual instincts. In the absence of that test, they will be in jail for the rest of their lives, and even if they pass that test we are proposing that they be subject to electronic monitoring for the rest of their lives.

We are actively examining those types of reforms amongst others, including a few different options in terms of bail reform. That work remains ongoing. Where we see opportunities to legislate, to criminalise particular behaviour, to strengthen sentencing laws or to address bail and remand, then we have no hesitation to do so, in both opposition and now in government. We will be very clear that, if we think it's the right thing to do, if we think it will make the community safer, we are willing to pass whatever laws are required. We won't hold back.

That brings with it some criticism. The Law Society of course is critical of this government for some tough legislative change regarding law and order, but that's criticism that we are willing to cop where we believe that imposing sentences that are harsh on people in the name of keeping people safe is the right thing to do. When it comes to child sex offences or DV, these types of areas of criminality, we make no apologies for taking a tough stance. I think there is a judgement to be made by the parliament around the sentencing of prisoners not being about retribution, but at some point it has to be about actually keeping people in jail because it keeps them off the streets reoffending.

As a government, we are also pragmatic about the need to invest in reducing reoffending. It's something that I have felt strongly about since becoming the corrections minister back in 2016. It's something I know the current corrections minister is particularly dedicated to, along with the Attorney-General, looking at options we can do to continue the reduction in reoffending.

The minister for corrections has been out recently reporting on a statistic I think the state can be proud of, and that is that we have been able to achieve the status of having the lowest reoffending rate of all states in the country, well below 40 per cent, and that's a trend the minister continues to work on in order to maintain, with a particular interest in also seeing a reduction in the representation of Indigenous people in the rate of reoffending, which brings with it its own challenges and a lot of work.

Reductions in reoffending we are committed to but, equally, we are committed to locking people up forever if it actually means taking them off the streets and preventing reoffending from occurring. We think child sex crimes is a good example of that, but there may be other opportunities for heavy-handed legislation, and if we deem them appropriate we will bring them into the parliament.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL WAIT TIMES

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister please advise if wait times at the Mount Gambier hospital have decreased since the introduction of the urgent care clinic in Mount Gambier? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr BELL: In November last year, the Mount Gambier urgent care clinic opened, offering bulk billed, no appointment, urgent health care in a bid to ease pressure on the Mount Gambier hospital emergency department.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52): I thank the member for Mount Gambier for his question and his very passionate advocacy on behalf of health care in Mount Gambier. As the member knows, Mount Gambier and the Limestone Coast has been a region where it has been particularly difficult to access primary care for a long time, and almost impossible to access bulk-billing care for a long time.

That has placed, therefore, significant pressure in terms of attendances at the Mount Gambier emergency department. We have seen over the past decade the number of attendances at the Mount Gambier emergency department going up and up to quite significant levels. A number of those would have been people who would have otherwise gone to a general practitioner.

The other thing we always talk about when we talk about primary care is the number of people who, because of their inability to access primary care when they need it, become sicker and then have no choice but to attend an emergency department. Hence, we were very delighted that one of the locations for the Medicare Urgent Care Centres was to be in Mount Gambier. I know that there was a lot of excitement about that, but there were a few people in the community who were sceptical as to whether it would happen or not, given the difficulties in terms of being able to attract and retain a workforce.

That has opened over the past couple of months and the anecdotal feedback I have had so far is that it has certainly helped to reduce the number of presentations at the Mount Gambier emergency department. It hasn't fixed everything, of course, but it has helped to take enough of the pressure off. The data that I have been given recently shows that the urgent care centre is getting about 20 patients per day coming to it, which is a good number. We would like to see that increase, I think particularly as they start to improve their opening hours, as their workforce becomes more sustainable there.

The question the member for Mount Gambier asked is something I have already asked the department to do some work on in analysing the data, because this is going to be a very good example and a very good test case, not only for his community and the Limestone Coast but also as a demonstration of the value of these projects more broadly. It is essentially a controlled environment, whereas in metropolitan Adelaide it is more difficult to judge the catchments for locations for people.

We should be able to see the difference this urgent care centre makes both in the hours it is open but also in the hours more broadly in terms of the number of presentations and in terms of waiting times, etc. When you speak to clinicians, a lot of people who work in emergency departments will say that it is not necessarily the people with the minor conditions who are the issue but the people

who have more complex conditions but, obviously, if we can help people earlier they can avoid getting to that point.

The other thing I will say is that this is not a remedy for primary care more broadly; people still need access to GPs, and we are very welcoming of the fact that the federal government has taken action in terms of tripling the bulk billing incentive for GPs. However, I think there is further action that will need to be taken in terms of primary care and Medicare as well, particularly in regions such as Mount Gambier.

Essentially, that is a long way of saying that I have already asked a number of similar questions. I am very keen to release that data, once we have that consolidated, and be in contact with the member for Mount Gambier. We thank him for his interest and also thank the community. We particularly thank the team behind the Medicare Urgent Care Centre, which I think has been very well received by the community.

CRIME STATISTICS

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Police. What action is the minister taking to respond to crime levels across the state? With your leave, sir, and that the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: In *The Advertiser* today it has been reported that 10 small businesses at three shopping centres have been targeted in an overnight crime spree. Recent figures released by SAPOL indicate that in the past 12 months home invasions have soared by 359 incidents, with assaults on police increasing by 41 per cent.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:57): I can talk a little, and give the member and the house some more detail, about the first matter he raised, and then talk about the disgusting and abhorrent incidents of assault on our police, which I am sure every member in this house would say is never acceptable.

I am informed that in the early hours of this morning, at 6.42am, SAPOL released a statement regarding a number of break-ins in a range of locations around the city, predominantly north and west. The advice I have received is that these have been some of the most brazen and hard to comprehend incidents, if there ever is any way to comprehend people doing stupid and incredibly selfish and criminal things in these instances; that is, they were highly focused towards doing damage.

This damage has no doubt deeply impacted, both short and potentially medium-term, the good, hardworking businesses involved. Sadly, whether it be this morning or at any other time throughout the year, we acknowledge that criminal offending impacts many people, both individuals and those decent, hardworking mums and dads who undertake small business in our state.

SAPOL has already dedicated specific resources to this investigation in addition, of course, to Operation Measure, a longstanding, specific task force on shop theft that has been implemented by SA Police. Let me make it clear that when the good work of SAPOL is undertaken, when these idiots, these thugs, are apprehended by our police, I hope and expect that our courts will exercise their prerogative in an appropriate, harsh sentence which does put a very firm focus on the impact that these crimes have had on the victims.

We do have strict offences in this state. We do have a number of offences, particularly serious criminal trespass, where life imprisonment is an option for the courts. I know from my discussions and the Premier's discussions with the Attorney-General that the Attorney-General is absolutely committed to ensuring that our law book and our statute book is focused on ensuring that victims, no matter what the offence is, are protected, feel supported through the process and see justice done. I want to take this opportunity to thank police for doing exactly that. They bring justice, and they keep our community safe. That is exactly why our government is investing so heavily and in such a focused way on bringing more cops onto the beat.

There are a multitude of things we are doing, not the least of which is bringing 900 cadets through our Police Academy with new funding. We are not just, as the former government did, hoping

that the police could do more with less. We have brought more funding on line to bring more cops on line. We are also dedicating ourselves to ensuring that we get—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Elizabeth, as earlier foreshadowed.

SANTOS

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:01): My question is to Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister provide an update to the house on the future of Santos?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:01): In short, it is bright. Today, the South Australian government was advised that discussions between Santos and Woodside regarding a potential merger have ceased. This is unmitigated good news for the people of South Australia. I bet the employees of Santos are just as relieved as is the Australian government—indeed, I would say a majority of the government.

Santos stands for South Australia Northern Territory Oil Search. South Australia is the first two letters of that very important company. We sought guarantees for a strong presence, but of course none of that can be guaranteed if Woodside took over Santos—indeed, if anybody took over Santos.

Santos means a lot to this state. It means a lot to us in terms of its corporate presence. It means a lot to us in terms of our state pride. Santos was a company that began exploring in the Cooper Basin looking for oil and gas at the encouragement of former Premier Tom Playford and has grown and grown ever since to now be a legitimate multinational. It has operations across the globe. It has, I think, an excellent reputation. Importantly, its philanthropic works and its commitment to the arts and, of course, sports are very important to people here in South Australia. It is important to have CEs in South Australia, to have the CFOs in South Australia, to have regular board meetings in South Australia. That is why we worked hard to get Oz Minerals here. Unfortunately, they were taken over by BHP, but of course BHP's ambition is more than just Oz Minerals. It is for an expansion of our copper province here in South Australia.

We want Santos to grow, to be prosperous, to be profitable, to continue to operate here in South Australia. Today is a good day for the people of South Australia, and it is a good day for their shareholders. Anecdotally, it is important to note that South Australians are a large portion of Santos's shareholders. Mums and dads put their life savings and their savings into Santos, buying their shares, and that is good. It is to be encouraged, along with Beach Energy, another great South Australian company. There are many South Australian companies we want to protect and look after, whether it is companies like Codan, whether it is companies Beach and Santos. We want to make sure that these companies are nurtured and helped to grow and that we create an environment for more homegrown companies to grow. The oil and gas sector and the mining sector are very quickly becoming a fourth pillar of the South Australian economy. They are growing. The Minister for Trade and Investment yesterday announced a dramatic increase in exports, and mining and energy are a big part of that.

An honourable member: And lentils.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, lentils are very, very important, but remember that we are talking about oil and gas. Pay attention. It is important that we remember that oil and gas play a big part in our economy. More importantly, gas plays a big part in the decarbonisation story.

The work that Santos and Beach are doing for carbon capture and storage could be groundbreaking, not only for this state or this nation but for the world. If we can direct air-capture carbon, or remove carbon and store it in reservoirs where oil and gas were previously held, it can have a dramatic improvement for our planet and, importantly, for these companies. The South Australian government will use every regulatory and legislative tool in its arsenal to protect these companies and keep them here in South Australia where they belong.

CRIME IN REGIONAL AREAS

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Police. What action is the minister taking to respond to crime levels in regional South Australia, including locations like Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (15:05): I thank the member for his question and, of course, his advocacy on behalf of his communities, as well as members on our side from regional communities. The good news is that I can advise the member that staffing levels in our regions are strong. There is natural fluctuation in staffing of SAPOL (in fact of any of our public sector agencies), but I was advised very recently in my meetings with SAPOL that those numbers in our regions are holding strong. Where there are the usual relocations in or out—or, in fact in many instances, promotions of really good people from our regions into positions across SAPOL—they are being advertised and filled. The thing that we can do the most is to ensure that our police have the police that they want, that they are funded for, on the frontline.

As I didn't get an opportunity in the previous question from the member that I began to speak to, I can elaborate more now. Not only are we asking to bring on more police—having developed and now executing a plan to do exactly that; we are bringing them on at double the rate that we saw when coming to government—but we are also going to international jurisdictions with similar cultures to us to immediately put a shot in the arm of the number of police we have on the frontline, and we are actually funding it.

We ask a lot of our police and our community asks a lot of our police. The job of policing is difficult, it is complex and, as I remarked on in my previous answer, the job of a cop is often dangerous. We know through tragic circumstances of the last few months that the most extraordinary trauma can happen and an innocent cop, an innocent officer, can go to work and be murdered—cold-blooded murder. We also see in far too many cases that police can be spat on, they can have their hair pulled, they can be assaulted by morons in our community who have absolutely no respect for the job that our police are doing.

In funding more police to get through the academy to get on the frontline, we are doing what police have asked us to do. We are doing it with new money—not what the former government did, which was ask so much of our police through the COVID pandemic but not give them any resourcing to pick up the pieces of an extraordinarily dramatic drop in applications. For a time there, people effectively stopped wanting to be police. What we have seen is a dramatic turnaround, where the number of applications coming into police has returned to what we expect of normal standards. The attrition rate of police has stabilised and I am advised is starting to decrease.

Mr Telfer: It's the highest it's ever been.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I hear comments, not interjections—I never respond to interjections—from those opposite about 'the highest it's ever been', well, we have amongst the lowest attrition of any police service in the country, and not by a little bit but a long way.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: The more that those opposite want to pull apart the good work of police, the more that they want to pull apart the plan to bring more police onto the frontline, the more we will be resolved to standing up for our police and the extraordinary work they do.

Grievance Debate

ADELAIDE HILLS TRANSPORT SERVICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (15:10): Unfortunately, rather than a trial of the Talgo Spanish train going full steam ahead—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: —what we have here is a trial that is having a bit of a siesta. The reason why it is having a bit of a siesta is because of this Minister for Transport who, quite frankly, must have been asleep in a recent radio interview when he was on the ABC where we learnt about a recent comment and discussion between the minister and also that company in question when he said:

When I mentioned that this was a metropolitan service within a city, they all stopped, looked at each other, spoke a few words in Spanish to each other and [looked back and] said, 'well, that's not what our trains do'.

Is that not absolutely amazing? It is amazing for a few reasons: firstly, we know that several representatives from Talgo have actually visited South Australia; but not only that, the minister and many within his department have also actually gone to Spain. We know that they have gone to Spain, we know that they have spent—not \$10,000, not \$20,000—over \$30,000 in taxpayer dollars going and apparently checking out this company.

For over \$30,000 what did they get? Did they get paella? Did they get sangria? Did they get a ticket to run with the bulls? What have they done for over 30 grand? It is just absolutely astonishing—an absolute amateur hour, a complete amateur hour. Before the election, sir, I think even you had the good sense to say things like, 'If the government actually wanted to put a tender together and put it out to the private sector and say, "How would we go about getting a train service to the Adelaide Hills?"', they are more within their capability in government now to do that.' But have they done that? Alas, they have not.

Whilst before the election the minister and his now government vowed to allow this trial with Talgo—which is known, by the way, for its production and distribution of high-speed trains right across major cities—we see, unfortunately, that it has gone on siesta. This is completely baffling. Freedom of information documents that were provided to the opposition show that people like Jesus Rodriguez actually visited Adelaide. At that time, surely these representatives from Talgo would have had the opportunity—I am sure the minister may have even been quite hospitable with them—to take them to actually see the size of Mount Barker, to see the distance from Adelaide to Mount Barker, to see the population from Adelaide to Mount Barker.

The minister and the department had been in regular communication with Talgo. How could Talgo not have known the apparent purpose of the train service, the size, the population of Mount Barker, until the minister enjoyed, how much: an over \$35,000 taxpayer-funded trip to Europe in February 2023? What was the minister actually doing in Madrid? Was he enjoying a siesta himself? Was he enjoying some sangria himself? Was he enjoying the great hospitality of the Spanish people? Who knows? Running with the bulls? I am absolutely bamboozled, as many South Australians are.

How could you go and spend over \$30,000 in taxpayer dollars and not have any answers, and not have any solutions to the congestion. We in Adelaide are the third most congested city in Australia at the moment. The minister needs to explain to the public: why do you have to spend around \$35,000 on this trip to Spain if Talgo knew that the purpose of the train was not to their standard?

Talgo visited South Australia in 2022. Why did they not say from the start that that is not what their trains do? This would have saved South Australian taxpayers over \$30,000. Mr Rodriguez did not just visit Adelaide in 2022. From our records, he was also at the meeting with the minister in Madrid in February 2023. So I will be intrigued to see who blamed who in that meeting. I would love to have been a fly on the wall as those discussions were taking place. How can Jesus not have communicated to other Talgo executives? The minister and Mr Rodriguez not only held meetings in Madrid, but they also went on a factory tour. They attended meetings with the minister and the Spanish Ministry of Industry. As I said, this is absolutely amazing stuff.

After the minister and his department spend over \$35,000 on business class fares, trips, flights, accommodation—you name it—the minister has very little to show for it. Do you know what I say to that, sir? Well, I say this: *la gente esta loca*.

The SPEAKER: It's my favourite topic.

GIBSON ELECTORATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:15): I would like to take the opportunity today to acknowledge the recipients of recent awards in Gibson. At the City of Marion, the Citizen of the Year was awarded to Rob Gray. As it turns out, I had doorknocked Rob only the week before and, like so many volunteers, is modest about his contributions and did not mention the hours he gives to the Glandore Community Garden. Instead, we talked about trees and the impact of urban infill. He was particularly interested in our parliamentary committee inquiry into the urban forest and so it was a delight to see him receive the award for Citizen of the Year. He has contributed countless hours to the Glandore Community Garden in the member for Badcoe's electorate—work that really does make a difference for people and for our environment.

Sports Team of the Year in the City of Marion was awarded to the Marion Swimming Club, with club captains Ellysia and Clancy proudly receiving the award on behalf of the whole club—a club that creates champions, a club ably led by president Paul Conroy. In addition to supporting members' athletic improvement, they have also focused on creating an inclusive culture. In January this year, the Marion Swimming Club became the first club in South Australia and possibly Australia to create an Indigenous swimming cap. This was designed by club member Latoya, one of their youth members. This Indigenous cap not only represents her heritage on country but incorporates her connection to elders past and present. Congratulations Latoya.

At the City of Holdfast Bay, it was fabulous to see the weekly Community Meal provided by St Jude's, Brighton, win Event of the Year. Having volunteered there on numerous occasions to serve meals and having spent time chatting and connecting with diners, I recognise how valuable this service is. It may simply be a lunch, but volunteers spend days shopping, preparing, creating the roster, making the meals from early in the day, and that is because they always serve a three-course meal. You start with the soup and a toastie, you then get a hot meal and dessert, meeting all your nutritional needs. Thank you to the many volunteers at Brighton who make this happen.

I think it is worth noting, too, that people think of Brighton as a wealthy suburb and like all of our communities there is an underlayer that so many of us do not see. They are not visible when they are living in their cars or out in the rough, and it is so important that all communities find a way to support those most in need, and I thank St Jude's at Brighton for their work. In fact, Paul, who had one of the leading roles in the St Jude's Community Meal, was nominated at the City of Marion for Citizen of the Year, and it was fabulous to see him shortlisted having last year won the Westfield prize.

At the City of Holdfast Bay, the Active Citizenship award went to Virginia Summers. Those in our community will not be surprised by this. She collected this award having just been on stage as part of the contingent, receiving the Event of the Year award for her key role at the St Jude's Community Meal. Virginia helps source funds each month to ensure the meal can be provided on a weekly basis. She was also a key advocate to have Scouts and Guides included in the school Sports Voucher scheme, enabling more young people to get involved.

In fact, the first time I met Virginia was when I was doorknocking in the campaign, and of course she raised this with me and advocated strongly at that very first meeting and ever since, and I am so proud to be a part of achieving that expansion of the school Sports Voucher scheme in conjunction with our minister, Katrine Hildyard. In addition, Virginia also hosts an annual fundraiser for breast cancer research and volunteers for the Brighton Jetty Sculptures, another fabulous community event that has just concluded in my community.

As I wrap up, it is an opportunity once again in this house to thank the countless volunteers who make our community so much better.

CHAFFEY ELECTORATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:20): I rise to talk about celebrating Australia Day. Chaffey is made up of dedicated, passionate and proud people and many volunteers, the active community members who make the Riverland and the Mallee a better place to live. On Australia Day, I had the opportunity to celebrate with many of my community members who enrich our regions and provide invaluable service to our communities.

In the Berri Barmera awards, which I attended, the Citizen of the Year was Chloe Drogemuller-Fiebig. Chloe has been a leading advocate for brain cancer since losing her husband Dave in 2022. Her foundation, Brave for Dave, has raised over \$55,000 to support critical research and raise awareness, and she has accomplished so much in the last 15 months. She is currently lobbying the state government to fund and implement a specialised brain tumour coordinator to assist patients and families. This month, the Governor will present Chloe with an award recognising her support, advocacy and commitment.

The Young Citizen of the Year is Amelia Humphrey. She has huge dedication and a strong environmental and volunteering ability, and she is also a Monash CFS volunteer. The Event of the Year was the Rowing SA 2023 Riverland Regatta and second grade state championships, which I also attended and sponsored. It was a huge weekend event that would not be possible without the volunteers, attracting over 2,500 people to the region.

The Building a Better Community Award went to the Barmera-Monash Football Club Wellbeing Committee. It is a great committee, established to provide mental health support for players, coaches and their families. At the Loxton Waikerie awards, the Loxton Citizen of the Year was Genevieve Lehmann. She was the Riverland and Mallee Citizen of the Year back in 2006. She has volunteered for more than 35 years with Novita and Red Cross, for 24 years with Loxcare, and has mentored children for 54 years through the Learning Assistance Program.

The Loxton Junior Citizen of the Year is Zane Sheffield. He is a CEO of his own AgTech business, and he is only 19. He was awarded Regional Entrepreneur of the Year at the Teens in Business Awards last year. He participated in the national Shark Tank competition, received a University of Adelaide ThinLab internship, and he is also coaching basketball. The Loxton Event of the Year was the Loxton Agricultural and Horticultural Society—the Loxton Show—which I also attended, a great event.

The Waikerie Citizen of the Year was Bob Kemp. He was part of the Waikerie Community Club Board for 24 years, he was in Apex and was the men's shed president for eight years. The Waikerie Event of the Year was the Rotary Club of Waikerie's Waikerie Fringe.

In the Renmark Paringa awards, the Citizen of the Year was Alan Coulter, who spent most of his life helping others through rehabilitation and injury prevention. He improved the lives of many and helped them recover from sports injuries, vehicle accidents, falls and joint fatigue.

The Community Event of the Year was the Renmark Christmas Pageant, which I also attended and which made a comeback after a five-year hiatus. There were thousands of people in attendance and it was a great event to lift community morale. There were two recipients of the Award for Active Citizenship: Ann Ryan and Grant Schwartzkopff. Ann has been outstanding with her passion for preserving and showcasing local history, and we all know Grant. He attends sporting competitions and events almost every weekend, capturing photos. He was awarded Best Photographer 2023 by *The Advertiser*.

The Karoonda East Murray Citizen of the Year is Elizabeth Kerr, a local historian, proudly dedicated to preserving Karoonda's rich heritage and identity, and also a great strength at the local netball club. The Young Citizen of the Year was Matilda Baumgurtel, who just graduated year 12. She had a busy last 12 months but never shied away from being a leader in her community. The Community Event of the Year was the Karoonda and District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital 50th anniversary, which showcased the hospital's historical significance and the team's unwavering commitment to health care.

Community Event of the Year, (Special Commendation) went to the Sandalwood Hall Centenary Celebrations, which I also attended, organised by the hall's 10 committee members. The Award for Active Citizenship went to Janine Dutschke who played a pivotal role in creating community opportunities and who recently stepped into an executive role with the Karoonda Farm Fair.

In the Australia Day celebrations, the Mid Murray Council Awards Citizen of the Year went to Vaughan Mustard, who uses his business to help move temporary buildings used for Blanchetown sporting bodies. He has served 40 years with the SES and helped establish the brigade.

The Youth Achievement Award went to Hunter Danton, who is just 11 years old. He represents Morgan Primary School in sports across the state, SAPSASA, and he set the shotput record that had not been broken in 21 years.

The Community Event of the Year went to the Mannum Golf Club's Camping Sounds by the River. It was a concert and camping experience pulled together at the last minute after the regular venue, the Mary Ann Reserve, was impacted by the River Murray floods and the Mannum Golf Club stepped in.

I thank all the volunteers and all the community champions who have been given the awards. I also want to pay tribute to all the volunteers who make the Riverland and the Mallee a great place to live, work and play.

LIGHT ELECTORATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:25): Like the member for Chaffey, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Australia Day award winners in my electorate of Light. At the outset, I would also like to thank the service clubs of Gawler, the Apex Club and other service clubs, that put on the Australia Day breakfast in Apex Park with the support of the town of Gawler. I would like to put on record my congratulations to the people who decided to become Australian citizens on that day, which is an important thing as well.

I take the opportunity to congratulate the various award winners. When I go through the list of names and activities, you will see how the work of these people, these organisations and groups enrich the life of our community and make Gawler a better place to live.

The Citizen of the Year Award was shared between two people this year. The first award winner was Ann McGonigal. Ann has been involved with skating since the age of eight and she is now 83. She was a founder of the Gawler Skating Club and taught people how to skate, etc. For all that time she has been involved in that activity and is still teaching skate skills in Gawler.

In addition to that she has also volunteered with the Gawler Amateur Swim Club where she has taught young people to swim. She has been doing that for a long time. In fact, she is currently still coaching new swimmers and is almost always out there to lend a hand. She was awarded one of the two Citizen of the Year Awards.

The other Citizen of the Year Award went to Jayne Polito. Jayne has spent many years in sport, contributing to the Xavier Tennis Club. Her nomination was also for her work with the Gawler and District Tennis Association, where she has been a committee member for many years, doing a lot of social media and fundraising for the association as well. She and others have been involved in boosting participation in tennis in the district. Jayne also played, umpired and coached with the Willaston Netball Club over a period of 25 years. These two women have made a huge contribution to sports in our communities.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Jade Hancock. Jade has been a member of the Gawler Youth Advisory Committee for six years and has spent the past two years as its chair. Jade has been involved in a range of groups across Gawler, including the Climate Emergency Action Plan working group. She is also a member of the Gawler town band, is assistant secretary and about to become secretary of that organisation, supporting music in our town.

Outside the town of Gawler, Jade was recently appointed undergraduate student representative at the University of South Australia City East Campus. She has also been nominated for the 7NEWS Community Award. Again, another young person making a huge contribution to our community.

The Corporate Citizen of the Year Award went to Damian McGee. Damian is the operator of the Exchange Hotel. Through his corporate role and as an employer he provides a lot of support for employment for young people in the community and also sponsors a plethora of sporting groups, including cricket, football, tennis, netball and gymnastics. His business also hosts a weekly fundraiser where \$5 from each cheeseburger sold on a Tuesday night goes to local community groups and other sporting groups and charities around the town. Outside the Exchange, Damian is also president

of the Gawler District Tennis Association, where he has worked hard to lift the profile of tennis in our community.

The community group of the year was Willo's Men's Shed. Willo's Men's Shed mainly serves men 50 years and over, particularly helping people who have transitioned out of work. It provides a good and important support network. They also do a great deal of work with young people, particularly young men who are neurodivergent. They are having great success working with young men, and I support that group.

The Community Event of the Year was the Gawler Christmas Parade. After a 40 year hiatus, the Christmas parade returned. My office was involved in supporting that event. It had a huge turnout and was a huge success. I would like to thank Villawood, the Town of Gawler, Gawler Business Development Group and the Gawler Central Shopping Centre for their sponsorship. I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Gawler Light, the Gawler Town Band, Father Christmas—of course—and other parade entries for making this event the community event of the year.

MORIALTA CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:30): Every year, it is my pleasure as the member for Morialta to honour and recognise the significant work of a range of students in the Morialta electorate who have won Morialta Citizenship Awards. The award consists, as it has for nearly 14 years, of a prize worth \$150 per campus, either to one student or split amongst several. It is a book voucher and a certificate, and I am sure that the certificates are the highlight of many a pinboard around the Morialta electorate to this very day.

For 2023, we were able to recognise the role modelling behaviour and achievements of 20 students from schools across the Morialta electorate. Their involvement in school and community service has been varied but distinguished. All are to be congratulated on their tremendous achievements.

That service to school and community has taken many forms. Some had leadership roles within their schools as house captains or SRC representatives, and some mentored, tutored, coached and supported younger students. I particularly noted, when making these presentations during the course of graduations towards the end of last year, a trend of significant numbers of these awardees providing mentoring and support to younger students, and that being seen and noticed by their schools and given this recognition.

Other students were involved in SAPSASA athletics, swimming, football, basketball, futsal, soccer and netball, and I recall cricket as well. Many volunteered time in their libraries, sports sheds, canteens, classrooms and, in some cases, all of the above. A commitment to music programs, bands and choirs was also seen by multiple award winners.

The students' extensive involvement in school life has supported many, and demonstrates a strong sense of passion for social justice as well. Some of these award winners raised money and volunteered their time to a variety of causes, including mental health, aged care, church groups, St Vincent de Paul, Caritas and, in one case, the Sikh community. All students demonstrated a commitment to their school, to their community, to their state and, very importantly, to other young people.

I know that while we have made these 20 awards—and I was very privileged to be able to present these 20 awards we are particularly recognising today—these students highlight a trend amongst so many young people towards service and community that encourages me and reassures me whenever I visit our schools. I have very high hopes for the future, as demonstrated by the wonderful young people who I meet every day, and I am sure other members do as well. Today, I am delighted to commend the following students to the house:

- from Athelstone School, Celestine Moeliana and Liam Pederson;
- from Charles Campbell College, Jaeda Tizio and Gabrielle Centofanti;
- from Highbury Primary School, Isaac Anderson;
- from Modbury High School, Ewan Enthoven;

- from Morialta Secondary College, Luca Paronis—the inaugural winner from Morialta Secondary College, of course as a new school;
- from Norwood International High School, Isabelle King;
- from Rostrevor College, Jack Haddad;
- from St Agnes School, Matthew Whittle and Mackenzie Handke—Mackenzie's grandfather, Wayne Atkins, was also one of my Morialta Community Award winners last year after 50 years of service to the Athelstone CFS and the broader CFS community—a proud family indeed;
- from St Francis of Assisi School at Newton, Christian Post;
- from St Ignatius College, Hiral Kalra;
- from Stradbroke School, Sasa Zhu, Iliana Edginton, Kara Lee, Sreenanda Retheesh and Rose Boettcher—and Stradbroke School is a very, very large primary school in my electorate;
- from Thorndon Park Primary School, Mikayla Iasiello; and
- from Torrens Valley Christian School, Chelsea Schar-Grant.

These outstanding young South Australians are deserving winners of the Morialta Citizenship Award for 2023. I congratulate each and every one of them. I cannot wait to see the things that they achieve for their community, for our state and our nation and for the broader world in the years ahead. I commend them to the house.

I thank all of the schools for participating. Nearly all of the schools in Morialta have participated in this award over the years. Nearly all of them participated in 2023 and all will do so in 2024. I look forward to hearing their suggestions, their nominations, towards the end of this year. I can't wait to meet this year's group of students, and I wish them all well.

TORRENS ELECTORATE SCHOOL AWARDS

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:35): It appears as though today is the day for awards. As a member of state parliament, one of the highlights of the year is presenting awards to students in our local schools. Today, I would like to take the opportunity to shine a light on some of the amazing people in the electorate of Torrens and the high esteem in which they are held by their school communities.

The first is Avenues College Senior School, where I presented the Avenues College Value Award to two students—it is usually one, but students who have demonstrated one or more of the college's values of courage, creativity, resilience and respect during their time at the college. The first year 12 student is Rita Mann. Throughout her schooling Rita has demonstrated the values of courage and creativity through her leadership and support of many extracurricular activities, including the Cheltenham Exchange, mock trials and house leadership. She has also showed outstanding resilience in managing study with her many extracurricular activities, which also included undertaking university studies through the Adelaide University Headstart program. Rita has always demonstrated respect in her interactions with her peers, teachers and school staff.

The second Avenues College student to receive the College Values Award is Joe Harrison. Throughout his years of schooling at Avenues, his participation in the student wellbeing team over two years has seen Joe demonstrate a commitment to promoting wellbeing and creating a positive school climate. Joe Harrison has played a key role in fostering a student voice and participation in decision-making with regard to promoting college values and improving student wellbeing as well as having contributed to implementing wellbeing initiatives, including the values poster, totem poles and school special events.

He has continually demonstrated respect for others in the school community by treating staff and peers with courtesy and consideration at all times. In addition, he demonstrated a commitment to ongoing evaluation and improvement of school culture through regular attendance, thoughtful

participation, solution-focused thinking and innovative ideas in student wellbeing leadership meetings.

Also at Avenues College, which is a birth to year 12 school, we move to the primary school, and we have the Torrens Academic Achievement Award. This award was presented to Salima Subedi to acknowledge outstanding academic achievement. Salima is a quiet achiever who demonstrates unwavering diligence in pursuit of continuous improvement in learning along with a genuine concern for the achievements of other students, frequently offering support to them in their learning. Salima Subedi exemplifies the qualities of diligence, conscientiousness and a commitment to excellence.

Also at Avenues College Primary School, I presented the Torrens School Spirit Award, and this was to Dallandra Owen. Dallandra embodies the core values of Avenues College, consistently demonstrating respect in interactions with others and eagerly extending a helping hand or volunteering throughout the school community. Dallandra exhibits a sense of courage by embracing new challenges, speaking up and sharing ideas and opinions. Determination, especially in pursuit of academic goals and an exceptional level of resilience when confronted with challenges, are commendable characteristics of this student.

I move now to Hillcrest Primary School and the Torrens School Spirit Award. This particular award was presented to two students, Dhyan Patel and Aarya Patel. Dhyan and Aarya are two wonderful students who are full of spirit, which they display in everything they do. This goes beyond their excellent values and skills and reflects on the type of people they are. Dhyan and Aarya are students of exceptional character and disposition; charismatic, courageous and energetic. Most importantly, they are the kind of people who bring happiness and kindness into the world. These were the words of their principal.

The Vale Park Primary School Torrens School Spirit Award was presented to Ashlee Pettigrew. Ashlee embodies everything about what it is to be an active participant in all elements of school life. She conducts herself with maturity and a high level of accountability, both socially and academically, while embracing all opportunities to support and represent Vale Park Primary School values with pride and diligence. She takes on roles of responsibility and approaches all aspects of her schooling with a positive attitude and growth mindset, and she encourages others to be confident and courageous in their learning. That is something that is very commendable.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:41): The man we all know as Eddie died on 27 December after waiting 10 hours for an ambulance—which is 10 times longer than he should have. The public actually only found out about Eddie's death once the ambulance union released information publicly more than a week after it had occurred.

We know there are a number of questions around the circumstances of what happened around that death, but one thing we do know is that during that month of December, when Eddie passed away, 3,594 hours were lost in ramping. That is one of the worst months on record, and it is the very thing the Premier of South Australia promised to fix.

We are really disappointed, as was the family, that the Premier failed to front up on that day and explain not just to Eddie's family but also to the people of South Australia how this could possibly happen. I noted today that the government is out talking about response times, focusing only on priority 1 cases and priority 2 cases, essentially ignoring all the rest and ignoring the fact that a recent productivity report showed that South Australia has the worst response times in the nation.

Putting that aside, it is safe to say that I would encourage the minister and the Premier to perhaps focus more on their promise to fix ramping in South Australia and a little less on organising arts and crafts for a media stunt to try to make a desperate point. They are happy to front up to talk about ambulance response times, but they are nowhere to be seen when it comes to explaining to Eddie's family what possibly occurred on the day of his death. We know there were Code Whites right across the system.

I would like to pay tribute to Eddie's family, his uncle Steve and aunty Brenda, who bravely came forward to share their grief and encourage the government to get on top of its number one election commitment. They deserve answers, and so do the paramedics.

The SPEAKER: I did not wish to interrupt the member, but it was also necessary for me to put the question in relation to the house noting grievances. The member for Schubert's contribution was of course the first of our personal statements.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:43): I would like to mention a truly remarkable member of my community, Robert Styling. He has provided 51 years of devoted service to the Salisbury CFS, for 12 of which he held captaincy. He has been a group officer of the Para Group, overseeing six very active brigades in the northern region.

He has also been the chief fire and rescue marshal for the last five years, making him responsible for 120 marshals as well as being incident commander should anything occur around the track. He is currently the chair of the Mobo Group Board, on which he has served for seven years, and has previously served on the board of the CFS Foundation, having spent two years as its CEO.

In a 28-year tenure as the general manager of Human Resources at Phoenix Society, he played a national role in government committees for disability employment programs and was instrumental in establishing an employment facility in the northern suburbs. Through his involvement with the CFS, Robert utilised strategic thinking to develop and diversify the Salisbury brigade as the area developed a more urban focus. His efforts have ensured sustained membership and resource development for broader community impact. It is why I always enjoy seeing Rob and the Salisbury team each year at my community safety day. They are incredibly passionate about working with our local community to keep everybody safe.

If all that was not enough, Rob has been a JP since 1989. He has spent over 35 years at motorsports as a fire marshal and has been in a senior role with the Formula One Grand Prix since 2001. With all these under his belt, it is no surprise that Rob was awarded the City of Salisbury Citizen of the Year. On behalf of my community, I would like to thank and congratulate him for all his work.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:45): I take this opportunity to speak in parliament today about some of the Australia Day award winners who were recognised for outstanding voluntary contributions to the community. This year saw two excellent volunteer members of the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club recognised for their work in our community by the City of Holdfast Bay.

Peter Tidswell was named Citizen of the Year. Pete is a legend of Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club and has been a crucial part of the growth of the club by increasing professionalism and the profile of the club in our community. Fellow surf member Josh Warne was also recognised with the Young Citizen of the Year Award. Last summer, Josh spent around 360 hours on patrol and in emergency operations for the club and also volunteered on New Year's Eve, keeping partygoers at Glenelg safe around the water.

In the City of West Torrens, Novar Gardens resident Brenton Gill was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award. Brenton was recognised for his work as a justice of the peace for over 50 years—an amazing achievement. I would also like to acknowledge Glengowrie local Jessica Williams for being a co-recipient of the City of Marion's Young Citizen of the Year Award. A young Indian immigrant, Jessica was recognised for her work establishing Small World Networking, which aims to assist newcomers to Marion by connecting them to vital services. Congratulations to all the award recipients.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:46): I just want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one incredible member of our community. There are many, but on this occasion I want to speak about Jody Moate. I first met Jody a few years ago when she was part of the Friends of Springbank Secondary campaign to save the school. She was such an incredible leader. Since then, I have come across all these other things that she does that connect people and improve our community. She has the gorgeous little library on Lloyd Street, which is a lovely gathering place for people and a spot where people trade books but also herbs, and she makes dog biscuits.

She also was integral to the community campaign to turn an old Sea Scout's hall in Pasadena into a community centre, which I was really proud to commit funding to for the last election. We have

seen that funding delivered. She has continued to play such an important part of that community centre. She also started the Pasadena and St Marys Action Group.

It was really, really exciting on 25 January to see all of her efforts recognised when the City of Mitcham named her Active Citizen of the year. I know Jody would be a bit mortified that I am doing this, but I think it is really important to pay tribute to somebody who works so hard and is such an important part of our community and who continues to bring us together and make us stronger and look out for one another.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PORTFOLIO) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 6 February 2024.)

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (15:49): I would like to make a contribution to support the bill before the house today. In my opinion, ANZAC Day is our nation's most solemn day—a day when we pay tribute and give thanks to those who have defended, and continue to defend, our country and our way of life.

Military service and the veterans community have long held a very important place in my life and in the life of my family. I am the son of a World War II veteran and brother to a Vietnam veteran. I also have a younger brother who was in the regular Army for a short period of time. As a young man I served in the Army Reserve in Port Pirie and then in Port Adelaide. It is a great privilege for me to serve as the Minister for Veterans Affairs in this government.

I understand that nothing in the act passed by the state parliament last year changed that ANZAC Day would continue to be commemorated on 25 April every year. Nevertheless, I understand that, to avoid any doubt, the Premier announced on 4 December 2023 that the legislation would be amended to include the names of the public holidays that fall on all the fixed dates. The bill before us today fulfils this commitment. This will mean that in addition to the ANZAC Day Commemoration Act 2005 that enshrines the commemoration of ANZAC Day on 25 April, we will now also include the name of our annual ANZAC Day public holiday.

The veterans community is a very special group of women and men who have worn our nation's uniform. It includes their families and others who support them. I have always been very grateful for the services of those who have fought in defence of our country and the values that we hold dear to us today. Since becoming Minister for Veterans Affairs I have gained a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices made by the families and surviving members of our Defence Force.

Data from the 2021 Census indicates that 47,852 South Australians have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force. It would be a very terrible shame if any of those proud South Australians suffered a single moment of stress or worry because there are people around who say that the government wants to cancel ANZAC Day. That is what I have heard out in the communities.

I meet regularly with members of the veterans community, including the state President of the RSL, Mr Dave Petersen. He himself is a 37-year-old Australian veteran who served from 2006 until 2017, including a deployment in Afghanistan in 2012. Mr Petersen is a very impressive representative of the veterans and a proud resident of regional South Australia. He lives currently in Crystal Brook, which of course I am very familiar with.

The member for Cheltenham, I understand, has already mentioned during his remarks on the bill the impressive contribution that Mr Petersen has made in calling for calm when there were veterans out there worried that their most important day may be cancelled. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Mr Dave Petersen on his wise and measured public statements.

As I am sure many members in this house are aware, our veterans do not like it when we play politics with these sorts of things. Quite frankly, our veterans deserve better. I can assure you—

everybody here and the community—that ANZAC Day is enshrined as a public holiday in South Australia, and will remain as our most solemn day of commemoration forever and ever. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:53): I rise to speak in support of this bill. I have been watching with interest some of the contributions that have been made. Those contributions are made in the shadow of the debate that was had about this exact same step last year in this place and in the other place. I have been surprised by the continued arrogance of those opposite to keep pushing forward that their perspective is best and now everyone has just misunderstood what was put forward. I think what those opposite should really recognise is that they are out of touch with their community and the expectations of their community.

What we heard, even before this was voted on, was that people were questioning why: questioning why these names were being removed. What is the motivation behind it? They were questioning the reasons that the Labor Party and government have decided to take these definitions out: for what reason? It was not something that we came to in hindsight, like those opposite seem to have. When this legislation passed through the parliament last time, we did not hear these sorts of words from those opposite; instead, we heard jeering and sneering.

I would especially like to highlight the words that were said and the way that my colleague the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place was treated for bringing up her community, our community's concerns with the changes that were made. The level of vitriol, the level of bitterness that was aimed at her amounted to bullying. I would encourage everyone to review that *Hansard*, to review those videos where those on the other side of politics treated her with the utmost disrespect and hatred and to reflect on that now, reflect on that in the shadow of a mistake being recognised. It took the Premier to come in and say, 'What's going on? No, we need to do a backflip on this,' for there to be a little bit more context to the words that were spoken.

We on this side were trying to be constructive. We said that at the time. I remember when we were debating this bill, we were putting forward constructive amendments to make sure there was no doubt about the motivation of the legislation, but, in fact, those who were putting the legislation, either out of incompetence or out of conspiracy, kept on boring through. They have come now in the new year—'new year, new me' they say—and backflipped on this. They have not done it in a way that is contrite, they have not done it in a way that recognises their failings but in a way that we have seen with those opposite: full of arrogance, full of aggression, full of hatred because they got caught out.

I would also encourage people to reflect on the *Hansard*, the words that were spoken by the member for West Torrens yesterday. If you were watching like I was and hearing those words, he was trying to pretend there is some sort of aggressive culture war. In the opposition, we were trying to put forward constructive corrections to the legislation. But as I was listening, as I reviewed the *Hansard*, I saw the words of arrogance continue on because the Labor Party got caught out—got caught out in a mistake, got caught out in misreading the South Australian community.

Instead of being humble and recognising their shortfalls, they have doubled down. They said, 'There is no real need for this change, but we will do it anyway.' If the member for Stuart was listening to the members of the Returned and Services League all around regional South Australia, he would have very clearly heard that those members of the community at the grassroots level thought that it was wrong. People who would not ordinarily have any sort of insight into what was going on in state parliament were coming up to me and saying that it was wrong. I am glad that there was a recognition from the senior leadership in the Labor government that it needed to be fixed.

I have been surprised and I have been disappointed with the way that that recognition of their failings was articulated as part of the debate. South Australians value those days which had their names erased on the first pass of this legislation. We have heard about the importance of ANZAC Day. We have heard about the importance of Christmas Day. We have heard about the importance of Australia Day. As I said, this is what people who ordinarily would not even give a casting, fleeting thought to what is happening in this place, people at the grassroots level, are telling us in our communities. But when things like that impact them, they start to question the motivations, the reasoning, and they start to question their decision-makers. That is exactly what happened.

The people of the community of South Australia said, 'No. You have gone too far. You need to step back.' I commend this bill, I support this bill. I supported the changes when they first were put by the opposition. I challenge the government to reflect on the way that they have gone about this process and, as I said, reflect on the way that the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place was treated through this debate, and perhaps even consider being a little bit humble through this process.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:00): I will take some short time to speak on this as well because, of course, once this bill is passed, if in fact that is the will of the parliament, we will actually get to acknowledge properly ANZAC Day on 25 April. Of course, it came into existence in 1915—

The Hon. J.K. Szakacs: You weren't planning to? You were going to boycott it, were you?

Mr PATTERSON: Well, that's what it seems was written.

The Hon. J.K. Szakacs: You were going to boycott it?

Mr PATTERSON: Maybe that was going to happen, and that is why in the upper house the Hon. Heidi Girolamo—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please! Member for Morphett, resume your seat. Members on my right, if the member for Morphett can be heard please.

Mr PATTERSON: As I was saying, in the other place the Hon. Heidi Girolamo made some constructive amendments to actually know that these dates are more than just dates on a calendar: they actually mean a lot to so many people. As I was saying, ANZAC Day is an example. We should note that when she tried to make those constructive changes back in November there was vitriol, bullying and aggression directed at her: the arrogance that this could just be rammed through and no-one would be paying attention, and how dare people call into question what was being put through, change to dates.

We now find three months later, when it has been revealed and there has been public scrutiny and pressure, that those changes have been brought in under this guise and, as has been said by others, not in a humble manner but by saying, 'These aren't really necessary anyway. We are just doing them as well.' But it is important, as I said, that the naming of these holidays is put in there, too, because of what they mean to people.

On ANZAC Day each April, on the 25th of course, we have the dawn services. It is a time when we do remember the sacrifices that were made, not only on that morning in 1915 but in other conflicts since. Also, we see other days being rightfully named as well. Christmas Day, after the passing of this act, will be acknowledged in the legislation as Christmas Day; Australia Day also will be put in as 26 January in the statutes.

I noticed in the minister's second reading speech that he steered clear of mentioning Australia Day. He gave other examples, but he did not go so far as to acknowledge that Australia Day has been put in here, which is again—as I spoke about probably 30 minutes ago in one of my contributions—a day of celebration. It is a day where people's service to the community is recognised by citizen awards, by community groups and what they do. Of course, they want to see these days recognised. They do not want to see them just passed off as a date in the statutes. They want it acknowledged and written down. So here we see on this day of backflips, another piece of legislation coming through—

The Hon. J.K. Szakacs: The day of backflips was yesterday. Today is just getting on with it.

Mr PATTERSON: This is another day of backflips; it continues. Thank you for highlighting that. Two days in a row of backflips—good point: backflip Tuesday, backflip Wednesday. So I just confirm and add my support. I know on this side of the house we have had a sustained position on the naming of these public holidays. On that side, we hear them again chiming in, trying to heckle, flipping around, being dragged kicking and screaming—they are still kicking and screaming—to the realisation that this is important to people, and so that is why we on this side support the naming of these public holidays.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (16:04): I thank members for their contributions, those opposite, and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport who I think quite succinctly and eloquently put on the record the attempts of those opposite to enliven culture wars and to bring into question, as more than one of them did, the notion of disrespecting or being less than good Christians because of a nomenclature in the bill which passed this place.

Mr Teague: That was a straw man if you were following. Nobody did that. The member for West Torrens made it up.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Do you want to keep going because if I respond, it goes on the record, but Josh it was you. It was you, Josh.

Mr Teague: Who did that?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: It was you. Did you forget?

Mr Teague: How? Have you read the *Hansard*?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I was sitting in here.

Mr Teague: Have you read the *Hansard*?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Which one? Heidi's? Because I am going to get to Heidi's *Hansard*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me. I just remind members that the debate is through the Speaker and not across the chamber. I also remind the minister—

Mr Teague: It's extraordinary.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Heysen, while I am speaking, I would appreciate if you did not speak or you can leave the chamber, one of the two. Okay? Minister, you have the right to reply uninterrupted. You also have the responsibility not to refer to members by their first name.

Mr Teague: And refrain from misleading the house—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Heysen, you are warned for the second time.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Mr Speaker, I ask the member to withdraw that egregious comment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, I didn't hear it. I have been advised that if you are going to accuse a member of misleading the house it has to be done by substantive motion. If not, you need to stand up and apologise and withdraw your statement. It is your choice.

Mr TEAGUE: The words that I used, Deputy Speaker, were to admonish the member for Cheltenham, asking him to refrain from misleading the house.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is an accusation. My interpretation of that comment is that you have accused him of misleading the house. I have outlined to you what the remedy is. You can choose to use it or not, and, if you don't choose to use it, I will have remedies.

Mr TEAGUE: I withdraw in the circumstances.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: There are a few matters that I wish to touch on, particularly the Holidays Act, which has been much debated through the last short period of time in this place and particularly on the public record; that is, the Holidays Act that the former government who spent four years administering had no concerns about. They did not call out the great takeover of the woke brigade. Sorry, they did actually. That was their backbenchers talking about their leaders and the right of their party talking about the woke takeover of their own party.

They administered this act for four years. That is context. That is important context that cannot be lost in the consideration of what has been, both in this place and outside of it, the absolute fearmongering and politicisation of an extraordinary matter. The logic that you follow from those

opposite was that this was some less than clandestine attempt by our government to ban Christmas Day. Let's digest that for a moment: we are, as a government, hellbent on banning Christmas Day. Or, as was so disgustingly put to our veterans: that we were hellbent on dispensing with the most reverent of days, ANZAC Day.

It has been brought to this house's attention in this debate that not only are those comments and the logic that has been put forward by those opposite total nonsense, but there are other substantive pieces of legislation on our statute books here in South Australia that deliberately and expressly protect the relevance and protect the integrity of those days—of ANZAC Day here—a bill that the Minister for Infrastructure informed the house and reminded the house was brought in by the Labor Party in government, I think in 2005. So not only is the logic nonsense, it is factually incorrect.

There was also some suggestion that there was this wholesale ripping out of names, as has already been put, as this clandestine culture war, woke, vanguard revolution to get rid of the most extraordinarily important of days in so many of our lives, and that is Christmas Day.

I know the member for Morphett came into this place just a moment ago, talking about the fact that now he can celebrate it again. I do not know what he was doing a couple of weeks ago. His kids would be pretty annoyed. Notwithstanding his own boycotts—we know the Liberal Party love a boycott or two—this is just nonsense.

This bill is doing the right thing to ensure that those people in our community who felt personally aggrieved by the mistruths and the nonsense that was put out there can be absolutely satisfied at law about just how serious our government is about not cancelling Christmas Day, about not cancelling ANZAC Day, about not cancelling Australia Day, all of which, particularly ANZAC Day and Australia Day, are confirmed within law in other pieces of statute notwithstanding the Holidays Act.

I also note that maybe every member, certainly a vast majority of members of the opposition, referred to the contributions of the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place. I think there was some commentary around the way that they feel that debate occurred. I must admit I did not, and if I am really honest, I do not often sit in my office and watch the debate of the Legislative Council, but I was invited by a couple of members to read the *Hansard*, which I have.

At the vanguard of the opposition's attempt to politicise, disrupt and cause chaos for those people in our community who had no right to feel aggrieved in the way they were because of the nonsense that was put out there was the Hon. Heidi Girolamo. Such was her passion for that counteroffensive that she was mounting in the pursuit to save, in their eyes, our government's attempt to ban Christmas, this was her contribution.

A question, notwithstanding the commentary made by members opposite, by the Hon. Connie Bonaros, I think, certainly on my reading of it, is reasonable, and I quote from the Hon. Connie Bonaros to the Hon. Heidi Girolamo:

Some might like a history lesson, but my question is: what is the threat in this bill and what is the need for this amendment? What is the mover concerned is going to happen that has brought about the need for this amendment?

The response from the protagonist in general, the Hon. Heidi Girolamo, was as follows:

In regard to this bill, we feel that this is an opportune time, given the changes that are coming through for the Public Holidays Bill, to ensure that Australia Day remains on 26 January to recognise when Captain Cook first came through.

If the person running the argument for the opposition feels so passionate about an administrative nomenclature in a bill that she does not even know what 26 January symbolises, or is in recognition of, then I think we really do demonstrate the lack of integrity of the opposition and just how foolhardy they have been in the pursuit of this fear campaign.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr COWDREY: As a precursor, did the government consider any other titles for this bill?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Not that I am aware of. I understand it is a portfolio bill and it is common practice.

Mr TEAGUE: In the same vein, I heard the minister responsible for the carriage of the bill in this place read in a contribution that described the contents of this bill as being suitable for a portfolio bill because the amendments that it contains are of a minor or technical nature. Does the minister want to update or correct the record in relation to that observation?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: No.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: On the title, is it standard practice for an amendment bill to not actually in some way describe what the major amendment may very well be in the bill? It is certainly my experience in the last 18 years in this place that there is some ability to be able to have some understanding as to what the amendment bill is about, before actually going to the content of the bill. Is this a practice that is common, where there is no clue as to what the bill is about in its title?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I cannot speak to the member's comments that he or others would have no clue what the bill was about. I would anticipate that they read past the title, but it is a common portfolio bill and my advice is that it is common practice to use this nomenclature for the title.

Clause 1 passed.

Clauses 2 to 5 passed.

Clause 6.

Mr COWDREY: My question is more specifically on subclause (5) in regard to the capitalisation or not of ANZAC Day. I am being very genuine here, in terms of the question that I am posing. In the debate to this point, government members have referenced quite frequently the existing legislation around ANZAC Day that is in statute. In that act, the reference to ANZAC Day uses an entirely capitalised ANZAC.

While I am certainly aware that there is guidance from the federal government in terms of the use of a capitalised or non-capitalised version of ANZAC Day, I am seeking to understand why there has been a divergence from the existing use, and the difference between the existing act and the bill that is before us today. Is this a result of any work that the government has done in terms of consultation with the likes of the RSL, with veterans generally?

I do have an amendment drafted, if that is going to be helpful for the government to deal with this. I do not necessarily seek to move that, depending on the answer and the suggestion from the government in terms of the reasoning for this and why the divergence from the existing statute. Can you explain, firstly, if any consultation was undertaken with regard to reaching the use that is contained within the current bill and, secondly, the government's reasoning in using the non-capitalised version?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I am advised there was no direct consultation on the bill other than broad consultation with the RSL. With respect to the capitalisation of ANZAC Day, I am not aware of any specific consultation. As for why it was in this form as opposed to an alternative form, the best advice I have is that the drafting was on advice from parliamentary counsel. For the purposes of brevity and collegiality, we would be not opposed to an amendment if the member chooses to move it. I do not have any advice, if that were to be moved, about whether there would be any issues. It was largely, if not exclusively, a matter that was arrived at through the drafting by parliamentary counsel.

Mr COWDREY: That being the case, I am not necessarily of the view that we should move it in this house. I think it would be useful for the government to go away and consult with the RSL to determine whether that is the best use or characterisation, for lack of a better term, of ANZAC Day for inclusion in the bill, and if that is something that we need to change in the other act and legislation on statute and whether that can be done in the other place. I think it is entirely sensible to have this

conversation in the context of where we are and where we have arrived at today if there is no genuine reasoning for why the amendments were drafted up to the original bill that the government presented to the house in November.

I, too, obviously sought the assistance of parliamentary counsel in drafting the amendments at that time. I note for interest more than anything else that parliamentary counsel use the capitalisation of ANZAC in the version that I was handed and in the amendments to the bill that were moved in November. Perhaps it would be a helpful suggestion that the government reach out to the RSL to determine and seek their position on what version of ANZAC Day would be useful for inclusion in this bill, and we can make that change in the upper house if the government is so minded.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I note the member's comments. I undertake to seek for the Attorney, who will have carriage of this bill in the other place, to engage in a way that can provide some clarity for the member and also particularly with the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

Mr TEAGUE: For the benefit of the committee, I reiterate that the opposition's amendments brought by the shadow treasurer, when those amendments were moved, had ANZAC in what a person may regard as the appropriate form, recognising, as it does, that ANZAC stands for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

I will only add, for the purpose of the current debate, that reference has been made to the South Australian act which also adopts the capitalisation. I see in all references in the *Hansard* to the debate in the course of the debate of this bill also use of the capitalised form of ANZAC Day. I commend the shadow treasurer for the approach he has taken and commend the government's further inquiry into adopting that form should there be no impediment to doing so.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Thank you, and I note that with a couple of members making statements it has given me time to do some quick research. I can advise that both the RSL and the Army use the capitalised ANZAC when it is standalone—not referring to ANZAC Day, but ANZAC as a standalone word—and in their written form, where ANZAC Day is written, they use capital 'A' and lower case 'nzac'.

Mr COWDREY: I hate to use my last contribution on this, but there is a guidance note provided by the federal department that looks after this saying that it can be used interchangeably. While I have noted the use on the websites, in particular, there is also further guidance that suggests it is up to interpretation as to which is used. I just suggest that whichever we land on, whichever is preferred through a level of consultation, perhaps that can be cleaned up as part of this portfolio bill. We may as well have consistency if we are going to go to the effort of ensuring we have these names in the bill.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Can the minister advise if there is a protocol when referring to the Sovereign's Birthday as a public holiday, or for any other purpose, and whether that protocol was followed with the removal of the Queen's Birthday holiday and then the insertion, in the amendment to the act, that is now the Sovereign's Birthday?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: My advice is that we are not aware of a protocol. I am further advised that different jurisdictions use different forms. This bill uses the Sovereign's Birthday, as do other jurisdictions, and some other jurisdictions have used the Queen's. I am not certain whether there have been any amendments that have updated to the King's. However, the preference that has been taken in the parliamentary counsel drafting of this has been the Sovereign's Birthday, and I am advised that is not inconsistent with any protocol policy.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Was the Palace advised of the removal of reference to a sovereign's birthday in the bill that is now an act of parliament? Was the Palace advised that reference to the Sovereign's Birthday was removed for the June holiday that was traditionally known as the Queen's Birthday when the bill became an act, when it was proclaimed?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Can the member advise which palace?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The palace where the sovereign resides, and their office.

The CHAIR: I just remind members that the standing orders of this house were amended to use the word 'sovereign' rather than 'king' or 'queen' last year. That was agreed to by the house, and I am not aware—

An honourable member interjecting:

The CHAIR: That's right, as approved by the Governor, as well. The changes were approved by the Governor, as well.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I am not aware whether the Attorney-General or his representative have contacted the Palace. I would suspect that has not occurred, and I would also hazard a guess that the Palace would be better consumed with other matters of state. But I can give the member some reassurance that the previous Holidays Act had neither the King's Birthday, Queen's Birthday or Sovereign's Birthday noted. It was simply noted as the second Monday in June.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Can you advise whether SA Unions were consulted about the removal of the name Labour Day for the October long weekend and whether any contact was made by SA Unions after the bill had passed the parliament?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: The answer to the member's question regarding whether SA Unions were consulted is no, they were not, but I can confirm for the member that the previous bill that passed SA Unions were very supportive of. In particular, it would be of no surprise that they did and always will oppose the attempts of the Liberal government to reduce the pay of low-paid workers.

Mr TEAGUE: Turning to subclause (2) for a moment—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The CHAIR: The member for Heysen has the floor.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The CHAIR: Member for Unley! I think you have the call, member for Heysen.

Mr TEAGUE: Thanks very much, Chair.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The CHAIR: Member for Unley, you have been warned a second time. The third time I will ask you to leave.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The CHAIR: Member for Unley, I suggest you just listen.

Mr TEAGUE: I just go to subclause (2) in particular. Was the Australia Day Council consulted about the additional reference to the name of the public holiday on 26 January reinserted as Australia Day? Is there anything that the Australia Day Council in that case has indicated that the minister might like to put on record in the course of the debate?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I can confirm that the Australia Day Council were not consulted in respect of the insertion of the words 'Australia Day' and so I have nothing to add regarding their commentary. Again, I note that under the bill and in the Holidays Act the name 'Australia Day' was not previously mentioned. It was '26 January'.

Mr TEAGUE: We have ticked off a number of these. It might in completion be good to ask a general question. Was any interested party? We have had an example for subclauses (6) and (2). I do not know that we have specifically addressed subclause (3). We have obviously addressed it at some length, and there has been considerable focus in the course of the debate on subclause (5). Was really anybody consulted about clause 6 and its contents prior to the government bringing this bill to the house?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I can confirm that Racing SA made recommendations to government in respect of the March public holiday and put their view that Adelaide Cup Day should be noted.

Mr TEAGUE: Arising from that, and in general, I wonder what form that took? Is the minister able to enlighten the committee as to the form that took and any particular issues that were raised by Racing SA?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Other than that, I am advised, they made a representation, I am not advised or able to provide any information now on what form or whether other matters were canvassed. I would suspect and suggest that may be a matter that can be dealt with between the houses and that the Attorney, as the carrier of this bill, will be able to illuminate.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (7 to 9) and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (16:36): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (16:36): Thank you for the opportunity, Deputy Speaker. I just take a moment to respond to contributions in the course of the second reading debate, particularly from the member for West Torrens and, more latterly, from the minister responsible for the bill, the member for Cheltenham.

In terms of what I have described informally in the course of this debate as a series of straw men that were introduced into the debate by the member for West Torrens first yesterday evening, what I want to emphasise is that in making the contribution that I made to the debate it is particularly important that when we bring legislation to the house and when we engage in debate, we do so in terms that are genuine and thoroughgoing and addressing the subject matter before the house. I was critical of the minister for characterising the bill in terms of it being minor or technical, and it was a matter that I raised again in the course of the committee debate just now.

The contents and the character of my contribution to the debate were focused on taking the opportunity when these matters arise to put up in lights those values that we hold dear. Far from insinuating anything, far from looking to cast aspersions upon any member of this house and the extent to which they share in values that underpin these important days, the words that I used at all times were directed towards the identification and promotion of the importance of those days. I am pleased to see that the house has seen fit to name those days.

I have identified the fact that many of them are nationally important. Some of them are of particular importance to the people of the state of South Australia and yet some of them have particular significance even more locally. There was quite a lot of emphasis in the course of the debate on just how comprehensively ANZAC Day meets that description—a national, state and local day of commemoration of great significance.

I do take objection to a characterisation of anything that I said in the course of the debate that somehow involves character assessment or insinuation as to the views or values of any individual member opposite. Of course, that is not to be found in the contents of my remarks and in those circumstances I was moved to admonish the member for Cheltenham in the course of the debate.

These things are important. It is important that we take the opportunity that the original bill presented to re-emphasise, as the Australia Day Council I think so succinctly and appropriately reminds us each year on Australia Day, to reflect and to respect and to celebrate, and I think that can apply to days that reach the heights of being referred to and being included on the statute book of the public holidays of South Australia. Long may we celebrate them. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**PASTORAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION (USE OF PASTORAL LAND)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 30 November 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) (16:43): I read the second reading speeches with interest and heard many of them sitting here, and I was pleased to see that there seems to be a degree of unanimity. There is a prospect perhaps of some amendments being considered in the upper house that was foreshadowed by the leader, but otherwise it seems that we have a sense of a shared purpose with this piece of legislation and I thank all participants.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, will the government be providing any additional resources or resourcing to the Pastoral Unit to ensure that conservationists and pastoralists continue to work together as cooperative neighbours with each other—as an example, maintaining stock fence lines, controlling pest plants/weeds—on their respective properties?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: As the member may be aware, there was an election commitment that was fulfilled to add \$1 million over the four years to the Pastoral Unit. That was in response to concerns that had built up over a number of years that the assessment of the leases was not proceeding as quickly as was suiting pastoralists in order to be able to continue to have their rolling leases. That money has been used to employ pastoral officers who are able to work on the ground with pastoralists and, of course, with other landholders in the area.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, you have given me an understanding that it was an election commitment. Will those extra resources come from a government budget or will they come from the existing levy?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: They were added from the central government budget into the department in 2022 for the four years.

Mr WHETSTONE: We have talked about the election commitment. For conservation purposes, does the government intend to undertake broader reform of the act, as an example, to allow land condition assessments to be conducted using some of the modern approaches—drones and satellite imagery—to continue to monitor, to manage?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am aware that there are other technologies that have been contemplated to assist with land assessment. Their view is that there is no need for further change to the act in order to facilitate that. While I think on-ground assessments will probably always be an important part, there is no prohibition on that unit from continuing to explore different ways of making sure that the assessment is as accurate as possible.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, with the interpretation of land management, is carbon farming already occurring in pastoral lands and, if so, on how many leases is it occurring?

The CHAIR: Clause 2 is the commencement clause, member for Chaffey.

Mr WHETSTONE: I beg your pardon. I have none on the commencement clause.

Clause passed.

Clause 3.

Mr WHETSTONE: Again, the question on the interpretation of carbon farming: does it already exist on pastoral lands and, if so, how many of those leases?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I understand that six have been approved and that five are in progress where the application has been made and being considered at present.

Mr WHETSTONE: Are those approvals on pastoral lands or on conservation property?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Bearing in mind that they are all pastoral in the sense that they are all covered by the act, but I appreciate the distinction that you are making. Largely, they are on pastoral, but there is some on both.

Mr WHETSTONE: Have the regulations on carbon farming already been prepared? When will the government conduct consultation with the stakeholders on these?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Those regulations have not yet been drafted, but that will now happen as soon as we get this legislation through and immediately we will go to consultation on that.

Mr WHETSTONE: Will the Pastoral Board or the relevant department produce policies associated with the use of pastoral leases for either pastoral or conservation purposes?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am advised that there are existing guidelines but that they will be updated once the legislation is through so they have the final form of the law.

Mr McBRIDE: I have a question for the minister, bearing in mind that I do appreciate the fact that the minister is moving this legislation to allow for carbon farming in the pastoral regions, which we personally as a family are indulging in or pursuing for the benefits that carbon farming may bring to our pastoral lands. The question that I bring to the minister was probably highlighted with the briefing I had. In regard to carbon farming, one of the things that we are concerned about as a family that has operated in these areas for a long time is the desertion of pastoral leases by human activity and pastoral pursuits.

I know in the carbon farming market and world and meeting criteria, it is a prerequisite that these farms are not totally locked up and walked away from just solely for carbon. I am just wondering how the minister or the government of the day—and that may not be the government today, as in the Labor government; it might be future governments—are going to manage and address the land and this carbon capture being perhaps overextended for the pastoral leases and the pursuit of agriculture in general, which may be cattle or sheep, for example.

It might be considered not appropriate and yet I know and believe that the rules say that these properties must still be operating as farms as a percentage, and then there is a percentage of the farm or pastoral lease that can also go to carbon. I am wondering what the minister's knowledge of this area is, and how any government will make sure that these pastoral leases are not deserted?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Thank you; that is a very thoughtful question and it is useful for me to be briefed in answering. The way in which the pastoral leases are being approved to have carbon farming requires that the pastoral activity continue and that there is an overlay of carbon farming but on a continuing activity of actively using the lease for pastoralism. That is the approved methodology at the federal level. While that is, as I understand it now, concluded at the federal level, we are waiting to see what the update will be. The idea of continuing to do carbon farming while there is active pastoralism is the model that is being used today as part of the guidelines that we use.

Mr McBRIDE: Thank you for that answer; it is appreciated. I am glad you are learning, as I am learning through this process, too, minister. Another question is in regard to pastoral leases that have been purchased by previous state governments—and I am sorry I cannot remember the name of these pastoral leases; I do not want to get it wrong so I am not going to mention a name—and certainly there have been leases purchased by state governments in the past and turned into parks or national parks or suchlike. Are these parks that have been purchased, that were pastoral leases that were destocked—and from my knowledge of one of them, it was sheep—going to be able to be measured for carbon capture, or was the purchase and the locking up of these pastoral leases too early to meet criteria around carbon farming?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: It might be useful if the member would care to provide some specific examples perhaps between the houses and we can give a further briefing, because it will vary depending on the pastoral lease that has been subsumed by government for other purposes. It depends on which one we are talking about. Usually and perhaps always they are not being then used for carbon farming.

One I am thinking of is the Nilpena Ediacara lease with the Farghers, incorporating that into the new national park that celebrates, of course, the incredible fossil record. That has been taken for conservation, fossil preservation and tourism purposes, not for carbon farming. Whether there is any example where carbon farming has been looked at, I am not certain. We can have that conversation perhaps separately in more detail. The human-induced carbon reduction is what has been applied in pastoral leases that are seeking to have carbon farming and that requires the continuous activity of both.

Mr McBRIDE: The minister might not know the answer to this, but I want to raise it because it comes back to that fear as a pastoralist that one of the things we always had to work with is isolation in these areas, the vast distances and the large scale of these pastoral leases. If this carbon capture is looked at as a real model for pastoral leases into the future that sees the tyranny of time, we are really concerned that these pastoral leases obviously have a great deal less stock on them, a great deal less human activity, and a great deal less occupancy because of less stock and stocking rates.

Has the government considered what perhaps a depletion of 50 per cent of our stock numbers, for example, or even more might mean on a state basis in our pastoral regions? If it is required that you can lock up a property 60 per cent, for example, to carbon and leave the other 40 per cent for stock and management, then there is a real depletion in the stock numbers on these pastoral leases.

Has the government given any consideration to what this means for infrastructure, such as roads, the population base in these areas, the lack of production in agricultural terms and what that might mean for the state as a whole? Is there any consideration to the changing of habits in our pastoral areas and pastoral lands with perhaps the success of what carbon farming might mean for these areas?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: In many ways we are collectively in the early days of how we manage our land in the context of carbon farming. In some elements of the answer, carbon farming represents an opportunity for pastoralists to have another source of income. That should not be underestimated. As we move into looking at biodiversity credits as well it will be interesting to see how that might form another element of income for landholders.

It is also the case that with the pastoral leases that have been approved to date for having carbon farming, we have not seen an overall drop in human presence or in stocking. What is happening is it is managed slightly differently so the stock is moved to different paddocks at different times to enable the regeneration of the native vegetation. That then becomes that carbon credit. Although we are in the early days, I think the concerns that you are raising are not yet ones that ought to be present.

I would put a larger lens on this. I was just reflecting on the question of how we make sure we are sustaining the land for future generations to continue to be able to have pastoral activity or whatever other primary production activity we might be talking about. We do need to create the incentives to manage the land in the best possible way that not only contributes overall to a reduction of carbon but also helps that particular bit of land be more robust and more resilient, and it appears at present that they are the guidelines that are being used to inform carbon farming in the pastoral region.

Mr TEAGUE: I go to subclause (1) and the introduction of these two new defined activities. Is it fair to characterise these two—if we are looking for a distinction between carbon farming on the one hand and conservation purposes on the other—that carbon farming might be described as an adjustment in pastoral uses that might otherwise continue, an adjustment for some economic benefit, so that it might, in simple terms, be described as reducing the permitted stocking rate from full capacity down to something less so that some carbon farming might fill that gap, but otherwise that it is the continuation of that traditionally defined pastoral use, on the one hand, and the further defined

purpose that is introduced—that is, conservation purposes—is clearly distinct from pastoral purposes use of the land. The minister might agree or otherwise with that characterisation.

Perhaps the bottom line question is: does one or both, and I have in mind particularly the introduction of conservation purposes—is that so novel now in the statute book as to raise a question of changed use, and can the minister rule out, for example, triggering things like native title claims and so on being made on the basis of a change of use, as opposed to a gradation of use that is perhaps the subject of the carbon farming definition?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I will try to keep my thoughts on three things here. One is a correction and update to the figures I gave earlier: six have been approved, and not five, but eight are in progress, just so that we are completely accurate. Broadly, the characterisation that the member gave of the definitions is a reasonable one. Specifically, we have advice that the use of conservation purposes does not trigger any changes in native title, so that final question is answered.

I would like to add a lens, which is really the reason that this bill exists, which is that there were concerns raised that it was ambiguous whether conservation purposes were allowed under what was known as the pastoral lands in the pastoral act. They had in fact been occurring for some time, but there had been this sort of legal question, so my commitment was that we would look to make sure that that was no longer a question mark.

The other element was that there was an argument that there needed to be an extension in the term of these leases in order to facilitate carbon farming, and I wanted to make sure that while we were not extending the term, carbon farming was in fact going to be able to occur and there would be no legal impediment residing within this piece of legislation. As I understand it, carbon leases are usually about 25 years, and so I could not see that a 42-year lease would imperil a 25-year lease. In any case, it is attached to the title which is forever, rather than the lease which may be transferred to other owners, for example. Nonetheless, that was in fact the motivation for this piece of legislation.

Mr TEAGUE: I note that subclause (3) requires the minister's consultation as to the definition of carbon farming with those number of stakeholders, and that is welcome. In relation to the definition of conservation purposes, which we see expressed in a more complete form, it captures a sort of catch-all at the end—other ancillary conservation uses.

We can take, for example, the largest of the Nature Foundation SA properties, Witchelina, which is about 4,200 square kilometres, about the same size as Kangaroo Island, and which covers a whole range of different areas in the arid and pastoral country. We can bear in mind that it has been managed for a variety of what one might describe as conservation purposes by Nature Foundation SA for many years now, including droughts, floods and all sorts of things, and perhaps further recognising the particular special mixture of participants of Nature Foundation SA that include pastoralists, environmentalists, researchers and experts.

All of those people have an interest in perhaps a whole variety of different aspects of what might be caught under the umbrella broadly of conservation, and it might include seeing what the pasture does when it does not have stock on it for a while, and it might include a curiosity in having some stock on it again, mixing up the use.

What I have particularly in mind is what perhaps might be described as a colonial history of the pastoral use of Witchelina, and that includes buildings on the station, water infrastructure, in particular the famous Chinese wall that was one of the more significant versions of such things, and the huge amount of toil put into preserving what amount of water could be preserved for pastoral purposes.

It is not spelled out as such. That is a fairly wide range of uses of a former pastoral property that might include the preservation of those aspects of pastoral history as well as perhaps what might be caught more as a core part of the definition in terms of biodiversity, geology and other natural observation and learning about the country. Can there be confidence that that broad range of conservation activities, including those of the pastoral history, will be caught by the definition as it is expressed?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: It is nice that you know Witchelina so well. I did not realise it is quite as big as Kangaroo Island; that is enormous. I think that we should not get too caught up in an

exhaustive definition of everything that can occur on a pastoral lease that is for conservation purposes in order to be justified. I do not mean to trivialise this at all, but a pastoralist family might well hold a birthday party or a wedding, and that does not necessarily conform to the activity of pastoralism but it does not breach their lease. There will be activities that occur on any of these leases that are part and parcel of the operation of the people who are involved with that, but the definition here of conservation purposes is intended to be sufficiently broad to capture the kinds of activities that you have described that Witchelina undertakes, yes.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps I might be even more particular, reflecting on the example the minister has just given; Witchelina is engaged in the eradication of feral cats and the study of what they are consuming and the process, the baiting of feral animals, and the study of those things as well. One might say, 'Well, they are caught up in what pastoralists do to manage pests, as well.'

To highlight another core area of activity on a property that has been set aside for conservation—and Witchelina provides a good example for these purposes as well—is the capacity of that property to attract what are known as SEBs (substantial environmental benefit provisions) and hence, membership of organisations like Nature Foundation—I hasten to add that I am a member; I have been involved in some way over the years. The capacity for it to meet the criteria for the receipt of those SEB payments as part of its having been established for those activities, is that also clearly caught by the definition set out in the legislation?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: At this stage our advice is yes.

Mr WHETSTONE: Chair, would you be gracious to allow me one question?

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Brown): One quick question, Mr Whetstone.

Mr WHETSTONE: Thank you sir. Minister, with the interpretation, I understand you will consult one of the five bodies—the board, or whether it is the council or the Indigenous corporation—but what is the process for a neighbour's carbon farming actions that impact on a neighbour?

As I understand it, currently there are no wind farms or solar farms on pastoral country as such. If there is an impact by a neighbour on his or her neighbour, what is the process? As the minister, who will you refer to with an impact on a neighbour? Should there be power poles, should there be power lines, that type of infrastructure that will impact on a neighbour that I do not think currently exists on any of the pastoral country?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: To disentangle this a little bit, with the renewable energy projects that have not yet been approved but may well be in the future, the provisions for the approval of that have all been swept into the hydrogen act, including on pastoral land. So the way in which communities are consulted sits in that act, and that belongs to Minister Koutsantonis. We can arrange for a briefing to make sure that is clear.

With carbon farming it is far less likely that there would be a deleterious impact, particularly of infrastructure, on a neighbour. The way in which the neighbour-to-neighbour management occurs at present is that there are pastoral officers. There is an encouragement to engage directly—I am sure that is largely how things get resolved—but we do have pastoral officers, and we have the board that can be appealed to if there are concerns.

There are certain requirements and obligations, particularly around fencing, which of course is one of the areas that can be a hot area if you are not maintaining fencing and stock is getting out and causing issues. However, I think the heart of your concern is now sitting in another act.

Clause passed.

Clause 4.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, what does the government expect will be covered by the term 'appropriate purposes'? Under the current amended bill, you will allow pastoral land to be used for conservation purposes and you will allow pastoral land to be used for pastoral or conservation purposes or other appropriate purposes such as carbon farming. Does 'appropriate purposes' embrace tourism offerings?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The board does have a list of what are broadly regarded as appropriate purposes that are consistent with holding a pastoral lease or a lease that is for conservation purposes. Tourism is included and some infrastructure such as telecommunications towers are included, but there is quite a long list and that is under the aegis of the board.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, in your second reading speech you mentioned that there are currently 21 pastoral leases which are used wholly for conservation purposes. Are there any leases which are used for pastoral and conservation purposes or pastoral and other appropriate purposes concurrently?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Just to be clear, in my previous answer I probably implied that there was a list that said tourism, tick; telecommunications, tick. It is a guideline that enables the board to make the decision that then leads to things like telecommunications and tourism to be approved, just to be specific. There are currently nine pastoral leases that have been approved by the board to be for both pastoral and conservation purposes.

Mr McBRIDE: In regard to clause 4 and allowing pastoral land to be used for conservation purposes, a number of people in this chamber right now were lucky enough to go on a Natural Resources Committee tour up to the APY lands. It was chaired and headed by the member for Heyesen. We obviously got to observe the APY lands and a cattle business up there and a community. It was clearly highlighted and I saw for the first time that this corner of South Australia is very unique in the fact that it is obviously nearly the centre of Australia isolation-wise, perhaps even temperature and heat-wise, but it receives a great deal of rainfall, more than what we are accustomed to in our neck of the woods. One of the things that came to mind was the fact that the APY lands is a lease and is operated as a cattle lease. Pastoralists are working with the APY lands Indigenous community to operate a cattle property there.

Coming back to the conservation purposes in clause 4, one of the big issues was camels. No doubt camels in the landscape are not going to be great for carbon capture. They were a menace and seen as a menace by the community up there at the APY lands. Just like goats are a menace for us in some of our pastoral leases closer to Adelaide, they are also going to be a menace, these vermin-type animals.

I am just wondering whether the minister can shed some light on the management of vermin like goats and camels but particularly the camels. Goats have a market and are managed by pastoralists, but the camel herd and the management of camels was seen as a really difficult task because of the sheer size and numbers of the animals. There was and is a market for camel meat, but the tyranny of distance I think kills that market, and accessing it does not allow it to happen. I think even the Indigenous owners of the land and perhaps those working with Indigenous people are not that happy about destroying camels and leaving them in the landscape, which then adds another complexity to the removal of camels. I just wonder whether the minister could help highlight what effect these sorts of animals are going to have on carbon capture/conservation purposes around this bill and act.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I remember the trip that the three of us were on. I nearly had heatstroke at—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Oh, four of us were on it, yes.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: You didn't go? He was on the committee but not on the trip. I almost got heatstroke in Nilpena Ediacara by the time we got up there after the plane incident, but we will not go there. It was a good trip, though.

To start with, the APY lands of course are the land of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and therefore are not subject to this act because they are not part of the pastoral leases run by the government. However, we did see there an example of what looked like very bad stocking practice and also a lot of camels, as well as quite a few donkeys.

The management of pests is essentially a combination of the landholder being responsible and, of course, landscape boards making decisions to come in and do large-scale culls. Every so often landscape boards will go through and get rid of camels, including on the APY. I am advised there are fewer camels in the rangelands, in the pastoral lands that we are talking about here, but they are nonetheless present from time to time. The landscape board is the entity that will come in and do aerial culling, as I say, from time to time. What then happens with the carcass is, of course, challenging. It is a resource question. It is a question that is also partly the responsibility of the landholders, given that they are responsible for managing ferals.

Goats are an interesting one. You spoke about them in exactly the way that describes why they are complex, because they are regarded as meat as well as being a pest. At present, the stocking rate that is managed by the board in the pastoral leases only looks at cattle and sheep. It does not include goats. I am aware that over the years there has been a debate about whether you ought to include goats, particularly if you are effectively farming them if you are using them for meat, but that is not the case at present. The legislation does not restrict the species that are included in the stocking, but the board's practice has long been to only include cattle and sheep.

I am also aware that in some parts of South Australia we have had great success in reducing goat numbers when there has been that will—through the Flinders, for example—a very determined effort, along with some excellent shooters. There is a bit more of a debate, I think, in the pastoral lands about that.

Mr McBRIDE: Thank you for that answer. Just to capture that magnificent, excellent trip that we did on the Natural Resources Committee, one of the things was we had a nearly 40° day in amongst the oldest fossils in the world and our minister was struggling to stay on her feet. I said, 'Two things: you need to stay on your feet away from the ground where it's the hottest and, secondly, breathe through your nose, not your mouth, because your mouth dries out so much quicker.' So I did help you survive these conditions, minister, and back you up in those trying times.

I remember the President from the other place might have been with us too. He had some real feedback about what the hell we were doing in this 40° heat looking at bloody fossils. Anyway, it was a magnificent trip.

I just come back to the vermin control and obviously the act of trying to capture carbon in the pastoral lands and all the benefits that represents. I am positive about this process. The station I was also going to talk about (I have just looked it up) was Bon Bon Station. We are neighbours to Bon Bon in this neck of the woods, which is about 300 or 400 kilometres north-west of Port Augusta. Of all the recent acquisitions, this one is more recent in terms of the time when the government purchased it—it might be 10 or 20 years ago.

The reason I raise this is that the pursuits of pastoralists recently have been of the Dorper sheep. It is not one that our family has engaged with, and I have to say thankfully so. There are lots of names the Merino sheep breeders give to Dorpers, like 'ground lice' and 'nearly feral goat-like activity'. We are talking about goats, but the Dorpers are really hard to fence and control.

I feel that, for those who have pursued the Dorper sheep across these pastoral properties, it is going to be very hard for them to keep their Dorpers at bay from carbon capture, just like the feral goats will be. I was also going to come back to what were pastoral leases but are now national parks or purchases by the government and how the government will keep goats and/or Dorper sheep, for example—I consider there is very little difference—at bay from carbon capture.

I also want to talk about the question asked by the member for Chaffey about fencing and neighbourly relationships. If the member for Chaffey was out there running a major pastoral lease and he was into Dorpers, like he could be, how we may then be a Merino sheep enterprise and we might want to close up part of our property for carbon capture, and yet his Dorpers do not know where home is anymore, particularly on his own property. Whether he sees them again or not—

Mr Whetstone: Is it a Dorper fence, not a dog fence?

Mr McBRIDE: It could be. I am just wondering whether the minister knows of those sorts of complexities that the pastoralists are going to have to work through in the neighbourly negotiations and also the management of tough animals like goats and Dorper sheep and the like.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I think much of that was commentary rather than question because the member is accurately describing the complexity of managing across this landscape with a lot of introduced species, some of which were accidentally introduced in the sense that we no longer have a particular use for them and they are out there and causing havoc, and others which were introduced firmly because we want to make money out of them. Then there is that little bit in the middle where they escape and cause trouble, but if they were well managed they would not be a problem or would be significantly easier to manage.

This is the nature of being in primary industry in South Australia—I do not need to tell you that. As far as the government is concerned, obviously, PIRSA is a very active participant, as is the environment department, particularly when it is land that is under their care and control. However, the landscape boards are really where everything meets and these kinds of challenges are identified, prioritised and addressed.

Mr McBRIDE: In my preamble, I think one of the questions I asked was about Bon Bon Station. Could any of your staff or the minister's advisers give a little bit of intel about Bon Bon because we have already felt and seen the Bon Bon Station being accessed by dogs and Dorpers. I am not sure about goats—I cannot give you any sort of intel there. The question is about the government's parks and their management. I am not sure whether you are still going to be able to capture carbon on a property like Bon Bon or whether you purchased it too early for this process. Secondly, if it is able to be accessed for carbon capture, how is the government going to go about keeping things like Dorpers and goats out of it?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: With Bon Bon specifically, I will get you a briefing so that we can make sure that we are covering off on all the particular questions that you have associated with Bon Bon. There is of course an obligation on landholders to maintain fencing in order to keep their stock in, and I am advised that the board is working on an improved guideline on fencing that is exactly directed at the management of Dorpers.

Mr TEAGUE: The legal advice that the minister referred to in relation to my question on the previous clause, that is Crown law advice, I presume?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am sorry, I missed the very beginning—which advice?

Mr TEAGUE: The minister referred to legal advice in relation particularly to my question about change of use and native title; I presume that is Crown law advice?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Yes, it was.

Mr TEAGUE: In light of that answer, is there any impediment to the minister making that available to the committee or otherwise publishing it?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: My understanding is that we never publish Crown advice because it risks removing the client privilege and therefore I think both sides of parliament. I recall asking for the Crown advice that related to Martindale Hall and was unable to receive that, so I think that is just standard practice.

Mr TEAGUE: Of course, it is the government's privilege to waive as it sees fit so I do not understand the response to indicate any particular impediment to its release, and I understand there might be common practice in relation to advice of various kinds. The minister has given a fairly definitive answer, I suppose, to my question on clause 3. Is there anything further that the minister can say about the subject matter the advice covered and anything else of relevance that can provide comfort to the committee in relation to that matter?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: What might be best is if we take this between the houses on notice and we will seek a written briefing to give the best comfort that we are able to without breaching our privilege.

Clause passed.

Clause 5 passed.

Clause 6.

Mr McBRIDE: In regard to the point in the amendment, 'Pastoral land not to be freeholded', is that a change in the legislation or is that just maintaining the status quo?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: This maintains the status quo.

Clause passed.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

At 17:33 the house adjourned until Thursday 8 February 2024 at 11:00.