

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 10 April 2024

**The SPEAKER (Hon. D.R. Cregan)** took the chair at 10:31.

**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*

#### **CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (SEXUAL PREDATION OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Introduction and First Reading*

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (10:32):** I seek leave to move Notice of Motion, Private Members Business No.1 in an amended form.

Leave granted.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 and to make related amendments to the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016, the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006, the Evidence Act 1929 and the Sentencing Act 2017. Read a first time.

##### *Second Reading*

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (10:32):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I have the honour and the opportunity at this time to introduce this bill at a moment where we know that—and there is data that is being released in an ongoing way, but we know already fairly reliably—we are living in circumstances in Australia where the number of sexual assaults that are reported is at an all-time high. Not only that, but we know from research that that only covers a proportion of the incidents of sexual assaults that are occurring in the country—so an all-time high against what is an ongoing awareness that this is a scourge that is under-reported.

In terms of the present circumstances in which the bill is brought to the house, we know also, because the most thoroughgoing analysis tells us, that three in five victims are under the age of 18 at the time of the incident. In data from recent years, we know that, unusually in terms of criminal offending, the sexual assault offenders are male and within a cohort of young men among those highest offender rates and, as I have said at the outset, in circumstances where estimates have been given in terms of that rate of under-reporting being as high as 85 per cent of incidents not coming to the attention of the criminal justice system.

The bill addresses what is, I think, unfortunately but well-known enough described as 'date rape': sexual predation in circumstances of social, romantic, organised interaction in which predation occurs. We know that we have on the statute books offences that apply in relation to the spiking of substances, particularly spiking of drinks. What we do not have on the statute books is either substantial enough penalties that apply in relation to such offences or a sufficiently robust capacity to prosecute the incidence of those offences—so much so that in terms of making good the offence of spiking, we need to see a whole range of deliberate elements proved.

What the bill will do is increase the penalties that will apply to the administration of substances. To an extent it might be characterised as a bill that is increasing penalties, and it does it most dramatically where young people are the victims. If a victim is under 17 and, in turn, if a victim is under 14—in that most abhorrent of circumstances, increasing penalties for the administering of prescribed sexual predation drugs. It goes another step and, in this particular form of legislating,

identifies particular substances that we know, in addition to alcohol, are commonly used for the perpetrating of those crimes. We see that spelled out, and I will address it in a moment.

Importantly, what this bill is going further to do is to call out the reality of what is going on in social settings by saying enough is enough. If you are in possession of what the bill identifies as a sexual predation drug and if you are there at a prescribed place, which the bill spells out, or if you are engaged in a prescribed interaction of the kind that I have described—an organised, social, romantic interaction, one that has been planned for people voluntarily to associate with one another—and you are in possession of such a substance, then, without more, you have committed an offence. It is for the offender, in those circumstances, to resort to defences that might be available in terms of legitimate reasons for the possession, and that might be particularly apposite in relation to the second aspect of those possession offences which apply in relation to possession of a prescription drug.

The bill, importantly, sends a clear signal that these substances are not to be present in public and social settings, and well before there is the administering of them, police can be in a position to identify serious criminal conduct at that point of possession. Of course, that applies in relation to controlled drugs. In relation to prescription drugs, then those provisions are set to apply in circumstances where the relevant prescription drug is a drug that is capable of producing a state of intoxication, not labelled in a compliant manner and, as I have indicated, not possessed in circumstances where it is clear that there are relevant and legitimate reasons for the possession.

We know that currently the spiking of food and drinks is criminalised—and that is the subject of section 32C of the act—and the adding of a substance to food or drink that is done so with an intent to cause impairment of another person's consciousness constitutes that offence. The two problems with it are that there is a high level of proof in terms of evidence and the series of steps associated with it and, coupled with that, inadequacy of penalty, even in the event that the offence is proved.

By providing for a new offence that is constituted by possession, there is already a very significant step forward in terms of identifying those substances and that conduct which, without more, is intolerable. By further addressing the scourge of administration of such substances, the bill is also doing work to highlight that the parliament can respond to circumstances that are already known, and one might respond at the outset to say there is a spiking offence on the books. The parliament can respond to circumstances in which the data tells us we are in an environment where this is highly prevalent and, without more and better intervention, is not showing signs of improvement.

In terms of penalty, the bill would increase the penalty that applies to the existing spiking offence. For example, the offence against the proposed section 42(1) would incur a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment whereas the existing penalty under section 32C is three years.

There is then a group of sections that are added to the act: those are sections 41, 42 and 43. Section 41 would define conduct that falls outside of the scope of a sexual predation offence, including if the object of the conduct lawfully consented to the conduct, or if the conduct lies within the limits of what is generally accepted in the community as a normal incident of social interaction or community life. So there is a direct and practical interaction here that recognises that, in criminalising predation behaviour in these circumstances, it is particularly necessary to deal with questions of mutuality and of what is generally accepted in the community.

Section 42, as I have begun to advert, provides for sexual predation offences, firstly in relation to the administration of a prescribed sexual predation drug to another person in a prescribed interaction in a prescribed place. As I have indicated, penalties are prescribed, including up to life imprisonment where a victim under the age of 14 is involved. Secondly, it is in relation to the administration or supply of liquor to another person with the intention to make them vulnerable to sexual assault. Again, the penalties are increased, ranging from eight years for a basic offence through to 15 years in circumstances where the victim is under the age of 14 years.

Thirdly, it is in relation to possession of a sexual predation drug in a prescribed place or in a prescribed interaction, for which the penalty is eight years and, fourthly, section 42(6) would provide that possession of a prescribed or controlled drug capable of producing a state of intoxication and

not labelled in a legally compliant manner in a prescribed licensed premises, and between the hours of 9pm and 5am, is an offence, with a penalty of five years.

Section 43 would provide for alternate verdicts if a jury is not satisfied that a charge of sexual predation has been established. It is open, therefore, on the face of it, for a finding of a lesser offence if the lesser offence is found to be proved.

For the balance of section 42, there are defences and exemptions of the character that I have described, and related amendments follow in relation to the acts that are the subject of the long title. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

## **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 6 March 2024.)

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (10:49):** I rise on this proposal to replace what was an excellent committee in this parliament, the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Parliamentary Committees (Aboriginal Affairs Committee) Amendment Bill should be voted through so that we can reach out to our Aboriginal communities and have the ability to visit communities under the auspices of the parliament and look at issues, as we did. I certainly did so in the time that I was on the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, and I learnt some interesting information along the way.

As I said, this would introduce a new Aboriginal affairs standing committee by amending the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. The First Nations Voice Act 2023 repealed the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003, and that act—the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act—established the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, whose functions were:

- (a) to review the operation of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013, the Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981; and
- (b) to inquire into matters affecting the interests of the traditional owners of the lands; and
- (c) to inquire into the manner in which the lands are being managed, used and controlled; and
- (d) to inquire into matters concerning the health, housing, education, economic development, employment or training of Aboriginal people—

among other matters.

The recommendation, and what we are saying here from our side of the house, is to re-establish this Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee with an expanded scope to cover all Aboriginal affairs, and this bill would put into effect that outcome.

Clause 2 of the bill would insert new part 5F into the act to establish the Aboriginal Affairs Committee, its membership and its functions. Section 15Q would provide for the committee to be comprised of three members of the House of Assembly (two government and one opposition) and three members of the Legislative Council (one government, one opposition and one crossbench) so it would be a tripartisan committee as it was previously.

Section 15R would establish the functions of the committee to review the operations of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013, the Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984 and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 and to inquire into matters affecting Aboriginal Australians, and any other matters or functions referred to it by the parliament.

What we saw in the government's haste to legislate for the First Nations Voice is that it failed to amend the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990, to remove reference to the additional salary for the Presiding Member of the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, and schedule 1 of the bill would amend the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990 to refer to the proposed Aboriginal affairs committee.

In my time that I had—and I wish it had been longer—with the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, we had some great insights into how communities are operated, their governance or lack thereof, because we were certainly doing an inquiry into governance of Aboriginal corporations and Aboriginal communities. We certainly had some great trips around to see people on site.

Sadly, I have not had the opportunity go right into the lands, apart from obviously living in a community where there is quite a large Aboriginal population around Coomandook, Meningie and Murray Bridge—I played footy against them, with them. Certainly, the Aboriginal population were very respectful during the federal Voice campaign; in fact, they were the most respectful people I had dealt with over that campaign, whereas some others were a little bit out of control in my mind, but we will leave that there.

In regard to communities, we visited the community of Yalata out on the Far West Coast on Eyre Peninsula, and saw the great work that is being done there in establishing education facilities for children, new homes being built and other facilities. We talked to people at Koonibba, and I think they had one of the better governance models in place. Certainly, they have been embracing the ability, with Southern Launch, to be part of the rocket launch program, and I commend them for working alongside people in the development of science.

They, like other communities, were concerned about the lack of population and the splitting up of footy leagues, where less population meant that, at times, they would have to travel 100 kilometres. One of the concerns they brought to me was the simple fact of, 'How would we get all of the kids, in the first instance, to the games that far away?' I am sure they have worked through some proposals to work through that.

I think the most concerning thing I learned during my time on the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee was around the governance inquiry, where we saw communities that have not had meetings for their elected bodies for maybe 20 or 25 years. I note that under the Voice proposal they are supposed to be a form of governance as well, and I wonder whether that will be upheld into the future. You would never get away with that anywhere else, and I found that frustrating. Sadly, these community groups probably just need assistance, but they are not brought to order. If any of us are in a company or a business and something is up, I am sure ASIC or the tax department or someone would be coming at us like a tonne of bricks. I found that very frustrating.

Another thing I find frustrating, and I think it is where the Voice is going to fall apart in the state parliament—and we note that it literally fell apart with the federal referendum, with 64 per cent no versus 36 per cent yes—is that people with, and I hate using this term and am not trying to use it in a negative way, lived experience voted against the Voice. The issue I have is that Aboriginal groups have been split on various decisions over time. I can see trouble coming with representation. It has happened forever; it does not matter whether you have a Voice or not. I have seen it in my community. I have seen a smoking ceremony that has been interrupted because someone else thought they should be doing it. It is quite embarrassing when you are there seeing it live in front of you.

Apart from the governance matters in relation to committee annual meetings and annual reports, it is the reporting to the committee about—I probably should use the word 'alleged', but I have privilege, I guess—missing tens of millions of dollars in relation to mining and other royalties that have not been distributed to whole communities. I find that really alarming. What we need to do, as part of the \$40 billion that is spent annually on our Aboriginal population, is make sure that it gets to the ground level.

We have seen the trouble in Ceduna, we have seen it in Alice Springs, it is in Port Augusta and it is in Katherine. Where we need that support is on the ground, and I think the best way to focus on on-the-ground support for our Aboriginal communities is when parliamentarians can, in a bipartisan way, visit those communities, see the reality and get the real work done that needs to be done on the ground to make sure that taxpayer dollars—because it is not government money, it is taxpayers' money—are used in a meaningful way to get meaningful outcomes for all of our Aboriginal communities.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:59):** I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....	25
Noes.....	17
Majority .....	8

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.	Speirs, D.J.
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Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

**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) (11:04):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....	25
Noes.....	16
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.	Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.
Hildyard, K.A.	Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.
Hutchesson, C.L.	Koutsantonis, A.	Michaels, A.
Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)	O'Hanlon, C.C.

Pearce, R.K.  
Savvas, O.M.  
Wortley, D.J.

Piccolo, A.  
Szakacs, J.K.

Picton, C.J.  
Thompson, E.L.

## NOES

Basham, D.K.B.  
Brock, G.G.  
Gardner, J.A.W.  
Pederick, A.S.  
Tarzia, V.A.  
Whetstone, T.J.

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

Bell, T.S.  
Ellis, F.J.  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Pratt, P.K.  
Telfer, S.J.

## PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.  
Hurn, A.M.

Speirs, D.J.

Close, S.E.

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) (11:08):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....25  
Noes.....15  
Majority .....10

## AYES

Andrews, S.E.  
Boyer, B.I.  
Clancy, N.P.  
Hildyard, K.A.  
Hutchesson, C.L.  
Mullighan, S.C.  
Pearce, R.K.  
Savvas, O.M.  
Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.  
Brown, M.E.  
Cook, N.F.  
Hood, L.P.  
Koutsantonis, A.  
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)  
Piccolo, A.  
Szakacs, J.K.

Bignell, L.W.K.  
Champion, N.D.  
Fulbrook, J.P.  
Hughes, E.J.  
Michaels, A.  
O'Hanlon, C.C.  
Picton, C.J.  
Thompson, E.L.

## NOES

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

Batty, J.A.  
Cowdrey, M.J.  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Pratt, P.K.  
Telfer, S.J.

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

## PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.  
Hurn, A.M.

Speirs, D.J.

Close, S.E.

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) (11:12):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....25  
Noes.....15  
Majority .....10

## AYES

Andrews, S.E.

Boyer, B.I.

Clancy, N.P.

Hildyard, K.A.

Hutchesson, C.L.

Mullighan, S.C.

Pearce, R.K.

Savvas, O.M.

Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.

Brown, M.E.

Cook, N.F.

Hood, L.P.

Koutsantonis, A.

Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)

Piccolo, A.

Szakacs, J.K.

Bignell, L.W.K.

Champion, N.D.

Fulbrook, J.P.

Hughes, E.J.

Michaels, A.

O'Hanlon, C.C.

Picton, C.J.

Thompson, E.L.

## NOES

Basham, D.K.B.

Brock, G.G.

Gardner, J.A.W.

Pisoni, D.G. (teller)

Teague, J.B.

Batty, J.A.

Cowdrey, M.J.

Patterson, S.J.R.

Pratt, P.K.

Telfer, S.J.

Bell, T.S.

Ellis, F.J.

Pederick, A.S.

Tarzia, V.A.

Whetstone, T.J.

## PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.  
Hurn, A.M.

Speirs, D.J.

Close, S.E.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

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

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:16):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....25  
 Noes.....15  
 Majority .....10

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.	Speirs, D.J.	Close, S.E.
Hurn, A.M.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

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

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 September 2023.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:20):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....25  
 Noes.....15  
 Majority .....10

AYES

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



Savvas, O.M.  
Wortley, D.J.

Szakacs, J.K.

Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.  
Brock, G.G.  
Gardner, J.A.W.  
Pisoni, D.G.  
Teague, J.B.

Batty, J.A.  
Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Pratt, P.K.  
Telfer, S.J.

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

PAIRS

Close, S.E.  
Hurn, A.M.

Speirs, D.J.

Stinson, J.M.

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) (11:24):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....25  
Noes.....14  
Majority .....11

AYES

Andrews, S.E.  
Boyer, B.I.  
Clancy, N.P.  
Hildyard, K.A.  
Hutchesson, C.L.  
Mullighan, S.C.  
Pearce, R.K.  
Savvas, O.M.  
Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.  
Brown, M.E.  
Cook, N.F.  
Hood, L.P.  
Koutsantonis, A.  
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)  
Piccolo, A.  
Szakacs, J.K.

Bignell, L.W.K.  
Champion, N.D.  
Fulbrook, J.P.  
Hughes, E.J.  
Michaels, A.  
O'Hanlon, C.C.  
Picton, C.J.  
Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.  
Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)  
Hurn, A.M.  
Pisoni, D.G.  
Teague, J.B.

Batty, J.A.  
Ellis, F.J.  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Pratt, P.K.  
Whetstone, T.J.

Bell, T.S.  
Gardner, J.A.W.  
Pederick, A.S.  
Tarzia, V.A.

PAIRS

Close, S.E.  
Telfer, S.J.

Speirs, D.J.

Stinson, J.M.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

### **MINING (LAND ACCESS INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 November 2022.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:28):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (11:28):** It is commendable how quickly this matter was dealt with today, Mr Speaker, but I still retain hope that it will be debated fulsomely at the next opportunity.

**The SPEAKER:** Indeed.

Motion carried.

### **ELECTORAL (TELEPHONE VOTING) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 November 2022.)

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:28):** I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes .....	25
Noes.....	14
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.	Cook, N.F.	Fulbrook, J.P.
Hildyard, K.A.	Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.
Hutchesson, C.L.	Koutsantonis, A.	Michaels, A.
Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)	O'Hanlon, C.C.
Pearce, R.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Savvas, O.M.	Szakacs, J.K.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

#### NOES

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

#### PAIRS

Close, S.E.	Telfer, S.J.	Stinson, J.M.
Speirs, D.J.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Motions*

**REGIONAL SCHOOL MAINTENANCE**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:34):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that regional schools are disadvantaged by the current Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements (AGFMA), which require Ventia-approved contractors to carry out all maintenance;
- (b) acknowledges there is a shortage of Ventia-approved contractors in regional areas, which leads to increased project expenses for country schools and increased stress in principals; and
- (c) calls on the state government to allow principals to manage maintenance projects up to \$100,000 and engage local contractors.

I would encourage every regional MP to get out and talk to the principals of their schools. A couple of weeks ago, I booked meetings with every principal of the public schools in my electorate, and I went around and talked to them about issues that they are facing.

What became very apparent to me was that a lot of our public schools are looking tired. Principals were explaining to me the huge cost of basic maintenance in regional areas, and I will explain some of the outrageous costs in a minute. We have to have a better system. We have to have a better way. I really do encourage every regional MP to make sure that they get out and talk to principals. Do it in a two-week block so you get real examples of current themes coming through your schools.

Every student deserves to learn in an environment that is safe, well maintained and equipped with the necessary resources to support their education. The school environment plays a crucial role in fostering academic achievement, student engagement and overall wellbeing. For students, having access to essential school facilities can significantly improve their educational journey. Their physical environment fosters motivation, engagement and a sense of belonging, which not only enhances their academic achievement, it also contributes greatly to their emotional wellbeing and fosters a sense of pride amongst students and their school.

As parents, we want to be confident that our children are attending schools that meet the necessary standards and provide a safe and suitable learning environment. We want to ensure our children have equal access to resources and facilities, regardless of where they go to school. For educators, having well-equipped facilities is essential for effective teaching and learning. Adequate resources such as modern classrooms, libraries and technology empower teachers to deliver high-quality instruction and engage students in interactive and meaningful learning experiences. Accessible facilities, including ramps and bathrooms, are also essential to ensure inclusivity, enabling all students, including those with disabilities, to actively participate in their educational pursuits.

With all this in mind, I recently spent three days visiting public schools in my electorate and speaking with their principals. I wanted to see firsthand what the conditions are like in the buildings that house and educate our regional students and how the system is working for principals in completing maintenance issues once they are identified. What was very evident is that our public schools need a facelift.

My electorate has a fantastic number of small schools providing a wonderful education experience for country students. A majority of those principals spoke to me about the issues they were having losing students to our local private schools. As one principal said:

We can't compete with the shiny new buildings down the road. I have parents tour the private school, then come here and see the windows painted shut, paint peeling off the walls and they go straight back to the private school. It has nothing to do with the education that we can provide them.

At one of the 11 schools I visited, there was a vast array of maintenance and facilities issues, ranging from fresh coats of paint to a new gymnasium. A consistent theme throughout discussions was that

current Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements, which require Ventia-approved contractors to carry out all maintenance and building works, are not serving our regional schools.

The system may be effective in Adelaide with multiple contractors competing for jobs. However, it presents huge challenges for our local schools in the region. For many cases, schools have limited options, often needing to hire tradespeople or building companies from Adelaide and being forced to do this. This results in huge additional project costs, as schools are required to cover travel and accommodation expenses for contractors, as well as extensive time delays in completing projects as contractors are travelling to and from Adelaide and the job each week.

I was given multiple examples throughout my visits of how these additional unnecessary costs were putting essential maintenance projects out of reach for schools. One example was from a primary school that had a new young student start with a tendency for jumping the fence. This school is adjacent to a main road, so it was very concerning and very stressful for the principal. It was deemed as a matter of urgency that the fence height needed to be lifted.

Going through the government system, there were no local contractors available and a quote was provided by an Adelaide company. The quote was \$65,000, and the fence was no longer than you to me in distance, Mr Speaker. A local contractor who is not Ventia approved contacted the school and provided a quote of \$2,000—\$65,000 versus \$2,000 by a local contractor.

Another school I visited required a permanent outdoor shelter to provide a safe, undercover outdoor play area. It does often rain in Mount Gambier. The school had managed to save \$70,000 towards the project, and this was just a single outdoor basketball court, again no longer than from me standing here to you sitting there, Mr Speaker, putting it undercover. As I said, the school had managed to save \$70,000. A local contractor had quoted the job at \$100,000. The principal was required to go through the Ventia system and was given an official quote of \$300,000. Needless to say, that project is not going ahead, and there is still no undercover outdoor play area for students.

The same issues are also occurring with smaller maintenance requirements. A local primary school has always had the same local company clean their gutters, once a year in July just after the leaves have finished falling and the gutters need clearing before the main winter rainfall in the South-East. In December last year, they received a phone call from the new provider confirming that they were Ventia approved and would be arriving the following week to conduct gutter cleaning as instructed by Ventia. The school had not requested the clean and was unaware the request had been issued, particularly in December only five months after the gutters had previously been cleaned.

They requested the work order to be cancelled only to discover that another work order was raised, and the contractor carried out the work a week later, none of which was communicated to the school. To make things worse, the invoice for the unrequested gutter clean was sent to the school for a total of \$5,437.39—\$4,438 for labour, \$902 in travel expenses from Adelaide. The local contractor who had performed the clean five months prior did it for a cost of \$493.57—so \$500 versus \$5,500 to clean gutters. I am pretty sure what my next company is going to be if these prices are allowed to go on around our schools.

Another example I was presented with was from a small school that was advised in October last year that a student would be joining the school in February this year who was high needs and would require a disabled toilet, something they currently do not have. The school immediately sent through the request for what they required to accommodate this student. They are still waiting for a response, and staff are having to help in their usual, small, cramped facilities that are not disabled approved.

One school that had managed to fund upgrades to their classrooms spoke to me about the long time frame taken for projects to be completed, during which time students were being taught in makeshift classrooms. The building company that was awarded the contract was from Adelaide. The workers begin their day on a Monday, travelling down from Adelaide, being paid. Then they rock up on site, on Tuesday, work through until Thursday and on Friday travel back to Adelaide, being paid.

Now, I certainly don't begrudge workers being paid to travel. What I do take issue with is that of five days when people should be on site they are effectively on site for three days, because they

are travelling on the Monday and the Friday and getting paid the rates that they would also get paid if they were on site for those two days.

There has to be a more efficient way of spending our taxpayer dollars to maintain our government-owned schools. A solution I am proposing is to tackle this issue by giving principals the authority and the tools they need to manage some of these maintenance issues themselves and engage local contractors; normally you will find parents or grandparents of students who go to that school.

In Victoria, all schools are required to develop and maintain a five-year maintenance plan to help budget, schedule and manage the maintenance of their buildings and grounds. Principals are responsible for this maintenance with their student resource allocation funding. The school maintenance plan supports the schools to address maintenance issues identified through the Rolling Facilities Evaluation, which is a five-yearly assessment of the condition of the school's buildings and other infrastructure that is carried out by the Victorian School Building Authority.

This evaluation is followed by a condition assessment report. The report identifies school defects; the priority and recommended timing to address the defects; actions needed to address the defects; the types of tradespeople required to address the issue; and issues that may require further investigation. The school is then able to tailor their school maintenance plan to their unique school environment while being guided by the Rolling Facilities Evaluation recommendations and available maintenance budget delivered by the Victorian government.

Schools are then responsible for implementing the endorsed school maintenance plan, including completing scheduled maintenance activities and ensuring the plan is constantly updated to reflect changes.

The key parts of the Victorian system that I am proposing we adopt are the government taking responsibility for assessing the maintenance required for its schools and then empowering school principals to manage non-major infrastructure decisions for their schools without them being required to use Ventia.

This could be achieved by the education department visiting our schools and identifying their maintenance needs, most of which would already be identified. Major projects would still have to be dealt with via the current Ventia system; however, smaller projects and maintenance with an estimated cost of \$100,000 or less can be managed by the principal. They would be required to obtain three quotes—this is the Victorian system. Those quotes are then presented to and approved by the school's governing council.

While this is not a fix-all solution, what it does is empower the principals to make the best decisions for their schools, utilising local tradespeople and securing the most cost-effective quotes, enabling more projects to be completed within allocated funding. It also fosters community support, investment and connection to our local public schools. Let's empower our regional schools to provide the best environment and also, importantly, value for money and quality education to our country students, parents and the taxpayers of South Australia.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:48):** I thank the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this important motion to the house. However, we do have an amendment to the motion, as follows:

Delete paragraph (c) and insert new paragraph (c):

- (c) calls on the state government to review the AGFMA contract to determine if it can allow principals to manage maintenance projects up to \$100,000 and engage local contractors, and any potential unintended consequences of that course of action.

It is clear on this side of the house that the former government's privatisation agenda has failed the people of South Australia again and again. ETSA, trains and trams, backup generators—you name it, they privatise it. One of those many privatisations was the management of critical maintenance across government facilities—schools, government buildings and hospitals, to name just a few.

Indeed, when that privatisation was going on, I had a range of people who were involved in this particular area telling me that this will not end well. Once again, we are outsourcing, we are complicating and we are taking away some of the capacity that government has to do the things that

are necessary and instead placing a for-profit company as the intermediate force that you go to. It is not just this example but there is a range of examples like this that need to be seriously looked at.

The contract known as the Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements (AGFMA) was contracted to a company known as Ventia. The member for Mount Gambier is certainly not alone in expressing these concerns to the government on behalf of his community. The complaints about Ventia's management of maintenance under this contract have been numerous, and, in some cases, quite serious.

Some of the examples that the member has given are perfect examples. There is cost inflation associated with some of these contracts. When you go around and have a look at some of the schools and at some of the jobs that have been done, you say, 'How much did it cost?' and it is hard to believe.

It must be said—and I am sure that all in this place will agree—that proper maintenance of government facilities is important. When maintenance goes wrong, there can be serious repercussions. We must remember that safety systems are part of this contract. The government needs to review the contract to ensure the action requested by the member is possible.

Secondly, we need to ensure that there would be no unintended consequences. I will provide a few potential examples. One of Ventia's responsibilities is the maintenance of asset registers that tell us, for example, when a sprinkler system part is due for maintenance or replacement, or when a fire extinguisher should be pressure checked, or when a boiler valve needs to be replaced. Failure to do this on time can have serious safety consequences. So the accuracy of these registers is critical.

Thirdly, Ventia is required to ensure that all service providers hold all the appropriate tickets and checks to do the work. Schools would, in the absence of using the current contract, be forced to do these checks and they may not have the expertise to do so.

Lastly is the issue of liability. Imagine that a school principal arranges for mulch to be placed on the school playground and it turns out that, like in New South Wales recently, it is contaminated with asbestos. I trust that this makes clear the need to review the contract to ensure this is possible, to check for unintended consequences and see what mitigations, if any, can be put in place to minimise or eliminate them.

The arguments put by the member for Mount Gambier I think are very sound arguments and hopefully we can find a way through this so that those of us in regional communities have a more sensible set of options. I commend the amended motion to the house.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:54):** I thank the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this important motion to the house, and I thank the member for Giles for his contribution and the amendment that the government is offering to improve this motion. The opposition will support the amendment; the opposition will support the motion. This is an issue with which I grappled on many occasions in the four years that I was the Minister for Education.

To be clear, the Ventia contract is, as the member for Giles identified, an Across Government Facilities Management Arrangement. It deals with much more than the Department for Education; it deals with government facilities across the state. But as the basis of the motion is in relation to schools, I will maintain the focus of my contribution in relation to its effect on schools. I think it will become clear why I think the government's amendment improves the motion and gets it to what the member for Mount Gambier is seeking to achieve, which is indeed what the opposition supports. I think the amendment gives us the best chance of having these improvements.

Across our public schools and preschools we have 500 public schools and 400 public preschools. While I think slightly fewer than 200 of those public preschools are co-located with schools, we are still talking about in the order of 700 or 800 separate entities. We are talking about 500 principals and 400 preschool directors, and nearly 200 of those preschool directors are in fact the principal, who has many things to do. Across those 900 schools and preschools we have tens of thousands of buildings.

The historical legacy tracking system within the Department for Education is not capable of providing accurate advice to the minister, to me as the former minister, or to any of the former ministers about the status of any of those individual buildings at any one time. The principal of a school does not necessarily always have the technical expertise to identify the particular legislated requirements as to whether it is up to the fire safety code or the disability safety code or whether it is at the end of life and needing replacement, at various times.

From a legal point of view, to ensure that our legislative requirements regarding fire safety, disability regulations and everything else are met to a certain code, there has to be some level of specific assistance provided through facilities management. Prior to the Ventia contract in place, that was provided through the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, but in regard to schools about half of the schools and preschools were managed by facilities managers who were public servants for DIT and about half of them were done by a private provider, being Spotless as it was then.

The Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements were put in place to try to have one source of expert advice, one source of responsibility for ensuring that all of those legislative requirements were met and also, obviously, provision of further facilities management services. Is it working perfectly? It certainly is not and, I would further say, that it never was before that either.

I recall being Minister for Education, when I would go to schools. I visited several hundred schools and a couple of hundred preschools during my time as minister. I have had more time as shadow minister, unfortunately in a way, before and after that time, so let's assume that I have visited probably half of South Australia's schools and preschools, if not more. I have had hundreds of conversations. In every one of them I tend to ask, 'How is your facilities management going?' Often it will be volunteered that this is an issue beforehand; sometimes it is not. I ask. The truth is that before the contract change and now, the number of people who say they are happy or the number of people who say that they would like a better service has been about the same proportion. Certainly, during the transition there was a peak of challenge, and there always is.

How do we best resolve the situation? What are we trying to achieve? We want schools to get excellent facilities, have maintenance dealt with in the best possible way, and, indeed, when APAs need to be put in to improve facilities, we want that to be timely and responsive to the school's need.

The example given by the member for Mount Gambier was a disability accessible toilet for a student with a disability coming to a school. It requires an APA. That would be above the \$100,000 threshold identified by the member for Mount Gambier, but it does not undermine his point, which is that we need this to be done in a timely fashion. The student is arriving at the beginning of this year, so we need the toilet to be in place by the beginning of this year. Ultimately, we will want these toilets everywhere, but certainly when we know a student is arriving.

So the particular solution here would not help that problem but the underlying issue raised by the member for Mount Gambier would. I think that the solution of having a review of how the contracts can be managed, if it means that we can speed up the approval for some of the simple ones—speed up and enable the company that is doing the guttering—would be for the good and would be of benefit.

Certainly, we accept the premise that we want to do better, but underlying this there must be some sort of person with expertise who is able to catch the legislated responsibilities and ensure that we are delivering the services that our school students require. They require them in Mount Gambier, they require them in Milang, they require them in Moorook and they require them in Marleston. Wherever you are in the state, if we have regulations requiring disability access, or fire safety, or the end of life of certain things that need to be replaced, we want consistency and service to be provided.

Why does that not happen? I think the member for Mount Gambier and the member for Giles identified some of the reasons. If I go to the member for Flinders' electorate, or the member for Chaffey's, or the member for Frome's, or the member for Schubert's, or the member for Finnis's, or to the electorates of any of the members of the opposition front bench representing regional seats—and I also include the member for Heysen, whom I particularly point out, and the Speaker, with those Hills small community schools—one of the things they will often say is that they feel like they are not getting the same level of attention and service as some of the larger schools.

A facilities manager might be responsible for a number of schools, and some of the larger schools might have as many buildings combined or as many issues combined as half a dozen smaller schools put together, but the pressure on the principal in the smaller school is still significant. They do not have the backup within their administrative team that the largest school might have to share some of that load, so I am very empathetic to the issue that they raise.

Any review that the Department for Infrastructure and Transport can do, prompted by this motion that feels like it might get the support of the whole house, can only go to supporting good outcomes for principals of small schools, principals of remote schools and principals of any school that does not feel like they are getting enough flexibility to meet their school's needs. It is very frustrating when you have an inability to get a service that you know can be done cheaper, better and quicker by a local provider, rather than by another one. I highlight again that, if we just moved to a Victorian model—and I know the member for Mount Gambier did not say, 'This is the model we have.'

As an example of some of the problems, having a provider selected from a panel that is approved can be the quickest and most efficient way to do it, when it is done right. The member for Mount Gambier has provided some examples of where it has been done wrong, but certainly it can be the quickest way. It can be quicker than a principal having to go off and select three quotes and then having to manage a process themselves to ensure that they are meeting all the other legislative requirements. There are a lot of principals who I think would rather be focused on their staff, their instructional leadership, what is going on in classrooms and engaging with the community, over and above managing small contracts and their legislative requirement.

I think the member for Giles has suggested a sensible way forward. The Liberal Party is very supportive of giving schools flexibility and autonomy as much as possible and as much as will benefit those schools to manage their projects.

We had \$1.5 billion worth of work commissioned during the time of the Marshall Liberal government. I am very proud of the infrastructure opportunities that we provided for schools. There is an enormous amount more to do because of course the fleet of buildings across the education department, across those 900 schools and preschools, is worth many more billions than that.

Many of the schools are older: the average age is, I think, in the order of 40 or 45 years. Some of them are in spectacularly good condition and some are not. The replacement budget is always a scarcity environment where there are more projects available to the Minister for Education to suggest to cabinet than there is funding to fund them. I am sure the new minister finds this to be so, as previous ministers did as well.

The good thing about a lot of the new buildings is that their maintenance requirements will be much reduced and much less. The new infrastructure at Riverbanks or at Aldinga or at Rostrevor is going to have some of the older building challenges reduced, which will make things easier. But there is a long way to go. Principals are seeking to deal with this as local schools, and local communities are seeking to get the best outcomes for their students.

I commend the motion, and particularly the amendment, to the house. The Liberal Party will continue to stand up for small schools, for remote schools, for regional communities and for all schools that want to get better maintenance opportunities and infrastructure for their schools.

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (12:04):** I rise in support of the motion. I have not yet quite read the amendment, but I suspect I will support that, too, once I have had a chance to properly interrogate it. I congratulate the member for Mount Gambier on bringing this motion. It is an important issue and, I have to admit, as members of this parliament who are members of a party would be well aware, there are times during which the party you are a member of does not take the course of action that you would like for them to take, and this is one of those instances that caused me a great deal of consternation when it was in train and in the process of being implemented.

I have some letters in front of me that were addressed to the former minister, Corey Wingard, that came about as a result of a multitude of contact that I had from many different contractors around the place who had voiced to me their concerns about what the outcomes from this change would be way before it commenced, way before it happened.



I recall vividly having a meeting with near on 20 different contractors who were working in collaboration with the facilities manager at the time, Mr Simon Harley, who had a wonderful rapport with many local tradespeople who had shared with me their concerns. It was not without precedent. They put forward the example that the community housing process had been privatised previously and that had resulted in the outcomes that we are currently seeing with the Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements.

The previous outsourcing of that community housing arrangement some five years prior had resulted in an increased cost, more bureaucracy and tradespeople coming from out of area to do the job. On behalf of those 17 contractors, we had a catch-up, we had a big chinwag about the different problems that might arise as a result of that. We managed to get the then minister, Corey Wingard, to come to the Copper Coast to host a forum with those people, to hear from them about the concerns that they had forthcoming, and unfortunately I have to report that it did not necessarily have a positive outcome.

The plan was progressed, and Corey heard from those people—and I like to think he took their views on board at least—but it certainly did not motivate him to change his course of action. As a result, the issues that were forewarned by those people at that meeting have come to fruition. They have come to fruition, and whilst this motion focuses on schools, and it is a wonderful initiative that the member has put forward to improve the school facilities, I would contend that it could be rolled out further across government.

The scheme, the Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements, is just that; it is across government. It is not limited to the education department. A lot of those contractors that I had at that forum were working in a multitude of different government buildings. They were not limiting themselves to just schools. They would benefit, I think, from having this scheme that the member for Mount Gambier is proposing rolled out further.

I would like really quickly to acknowledge those people who were at that forum some 2½ years ago. We had a full room, and they were quite passionate at times. At the heart of the problem was the fact that, in their view, this would centralise the process. I think Simon Harley was based in Clare, based locally, and he had a wonderful rapport with local contractors who he could call up on short notice. We were now going into a system with Ventia that was centralised in Adelaide. You lose that local connection, you lose that local knowledge about who can do what job, and that has resulted in a step backwards for those people.

Recently I contacted all those people who I had at that forum and asked for their feedback 2½ years on. I just thought I would read a couple onto the record, which is direct feedback from the tradies. Steve McDonald Electrical, a wonderful local provider, thankfully have not noticed a great deal of difference working for Ventia and are more than happy to keep contracting for them at this stage. Unfortunately, the feedback goes down from there.

Dayna Zanker, who was a tremendous advocate at the time—she spent some time on the steps of Parliament House opposing these changes on behalf of local contractors but also on behalf of the company that she works for, Lamshed Electrical—reports, unfortunately, that:

The model is not great, never has been and hasn't got much better for us as contractors and those on the sites.

Under the DIT model we would see the Facilities Manager fortnightly if not weekly, he would also attend and liaise with sites, there would always seem to be some project or new work in the pipeline. We have not seen this happen under Ventia.

Majority of the work we receive is preventative maintenance and their system is a nightmare, there are also breakdown works here and there.

The administrative work has increased, a major concern we raised in the beginning, and most of the time the system does not work for the guys to use on site so all processing within their system falls back to me.

She is the admin officer. So it is not positive feedback. Similarly, we heard from Kelly Cuthill from Landscape Logix at Wallaroo. In her view:

DIT was a far better system for small business in the country. The work is now being done by bigger companies that can afford a secretary or administrative staff to do all the extra [expletive] paperwork that is required. We are signed up and appreciate the work, but the system is so much more time-consuming. You have to employ

another 10 people, with it in Ventia, to do what one person was doing well before. Now we are dealing with people who do not know the area, do not know which businesses are good and who don't have that local knowledge. As far as getting paid, that is another drama in itself. I know we have added to our jobs just to get the money back that is spent on the extra paperwork involved.

So some great small businesses with one or two staff are now not signed up because it is too busy for them to deal with. We had feedback from Van Schaik Carpentry along a similar line, where they are grateful for the work but concerned about the extra paperwork that has come about because of the change in the system that Ventia are operating. I have rather comprehensive feedback from Tom.

Concerningly, as well, I had feedback from Neil Dutschke who was, again, one of the leading advocates at the time for concerns about the impact that this would have. He is one who has decided not to register their business with Ventia because of the extra paperwork and the extra hurdles they have to jump over to secure work as a result of it. Here is a local business that has decided not to undertake all of that extra work just to get the little bit of facilities management work they had prior, and that is more local contractors who are missing out as a result of the change.

At the heart of the problem is the centralisation of this process. Before, Simon Harley would be localised and able to call a local builder or tradesperson to do the job, but we now have a system where Ventia are trying to do it from Adelaide. Again, I am repeating myself a little bit, but while this motion is centred on schools, it is across government where we see this problem arise.

I was having a coffee with Rowley Woods in Kadina only the other day at his house. Looking out over his front yard is a Housing SA property—no complaints about tenants, they have all been wonderful and he has had a great deal of time for all of them, but he did have a complaint, which was the reason I was there, and that was the time it took for repairs to get done between tenants. It was months and months that house was sitting empty.

Chief amongst his concerns was that the contractors that were seen to be coming to fix those houses and to do the repairs and upgrades for the next tenant were coming from all over the place. I cannot remember the specific trade, sorry, but he reports having seen a trade from Blackwood come there to do that task. That is an extraordinary drive, and you have to wonder at the costs that would be involved in transporting a person from Blackwood to do that task and back again, as opposed to getting a local person to do it.

That is just one example. Thank you, Rowley, for having me at your house for coffee and pointing out that problem. Hopefully, that house is filled by now and we have people in there, because Lord knows we need it. But people coming from Blackwood is the exact problem that was foreshadowed by the tradespeople at that meeting with the minister, and it has come to fruition.

This motion is based on schools, but the idea of local institutions having autonomy is the part that I am endorsing. I think it could be rolled out further. I cannot see any reason why a hospital board or hospital admin staff could not identify maintenance projects under a certain threshold, as long as they followed the same process of getting a number of quotes and checking the proper boxes so that they are not compromising themselves.

I cannot see any reason why the Wallaroo Hospital could not undertake the same process. I know for a fact that they are fed up with Ventia as well. I think they might have even withdrawn from Ventia's services because of the difficulties they were having in getting the most basic of tasks done. I am sure that it could be rolled out more fulsomely across a number of different institutions to ensure that we get that really localised decision-making, local contractors are being rewarded with tasks on local buildings and we make sure that that money stays in our local economy and circulates and grows from there.

As I said at the start, this is one of the things that caused me a great deal of consternation when the previous government were implementing it. We did our best as a community to forewarn of the problems that would arise as a result of it being implemented. Unfortunately, some or most of those have come true. There is now a significantly more difficult computer system that people have to engage with, as evidenced by the submissions made by local contractors. There are now significantly more outside contractors coming in to do local jobs, as evidenced by people like Rowley Woods who lives across the road from Housing SA properties.

I think it would be tremendously beneficial if autonomy was returned to local people to undertake basic maintenance tasks with builders they know and trust, and we can keep that local decision-making going. I endorse the motion. I hope that it can be rolled out more fulsomely when the contract is reviewed and I will be writing to the minister to make that suggestion in due course.

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:14):** I rise to speak on this motion from the member for Mount Gambier and, in particular, as a regional member recognising and acknowledging, as has been said, the challenges that our regional communities are facing because of a shortage of Ventia-approved contractors in regional areas. That is leading to an increased project expense for country schools, as this motion puts, but, as has already been mentioned, for projects right across the different aspects of regional life, and the challenges that small businesses are facing when dealing with a system which is not suited to what the reality is on the ground in regional areas.

We have budget allocations being made by schools that end up delivering value to the school community that is a lot less than what the dollar figure should actually deliver. I have heard from school leaders right across my electorate, up and down the coast and through the middle, their frustration with having a limited budget which they are hoping to put back into investing into buildings and facilities within their school grounds and, unfortunately, the only option for them is to look for a contractor to deliver that who ends up coming from many hundreds of kilometres away. With that comes a much higher cost and thus the dollar does not stretch as far and the projects delivered by that budget allocation are a lot fewer.

The challenges that are faced within regional communities to be able to access these Ventia-approved contractors are not just within education but are also reflected across other aspects as has been mentioned, such as housing and health, because the arrangements that are put in place may well suit the metropolitan area where there is a wide choice of contractors, builders, subcontractors and other tradespeople who can come and do the work, but in regional areas it is a limited pool. There are high-quality small business owners and tradespeople but there is not as great a choice in regional areas.

The frustration that I have heard from school leaders right across my electorate is around what in the end does not get delivered for our communities and that is the aspect I am wholeheartedly in support of when it comes to looking at opportunities to do things differently within the arrangements that we have in regional areas.

Also, the structures that are in place are not suitable for small businesses, small business tradespeople who may be an owner-operator or have a small number of employees who now are having to put significant time and effort into the reporting structures which are necessary. So you end up having extra costs within a business that is unnecessary and that extra cost gets passed on to the end user, and that end user is usually working within a very limited budget line and, in the end, smaller regional communities are getting lesser outcomes because of these arrangements.

I welcome the opportunity to be able to review this contract to try to see if there is the opportunity to nuance this to make it better for regional communities because at the moment we are being let down by a system that may be suitable for a metropolitan area but certainly is not suitable for regional communities that have significant distance in between. To have a situation where there is a tradesperson, a builder, a plumber, an electrician close by who could do the necessary work within a school, within a hospital, within the public housing space, to be not doing that work because of the structures that are in place is a poor outcome for our community and ends up being a poor outcome for government that is investing.

So I welcome that aspect that we can have the opportunity to review these Ventia contracts within regional areas in particular because what our regional communities work so hard to do is get value for money, value for their school community. At the moment, unfortunately, what I am hearing from my schools right across the electorate of Flinders is that is just not happening.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:19):** Given that the member for Mount Gambier was probably ready to jump up, I am sure he will not mind me making a very brief contribution, firstly to thank him for bringing this motion and, secondly, in recognition of our shared professional experience in education.

I think this is an opportunity to bring attention to what many school principals would see as an important point to make about their duties as curriculum and education leaders in a school site. I reflect on my time as a primary school teacher, particularly through the Building the Education Revolution program, which uniquely brought hundreds of millions of dollars to the education infrastructure or capital infrastructure program and really put principals for the first time on a pathway to becoming project managers.

I think the motion that is before us today just gives me an opportunity to signal to principals across the state, those I have worked with and those I now represent, and recognise the additional burden that they carry as pastoral care workers of their site. They are responsible for the welfare of their staff, their students and the whole school community, but being loaded on top of principals these days is an increased expectation around running budgets, maintenance programs and dangerous worksites, all while needing to remain focused on the curriculum, on outcomes for students and on providing a fantastic education program.

The motion before us is calling for some review, some reform, some reflection on how school principals interact with these maintenance projects that they identify, the process and pathways by which the contracts are conducted, the barriers that regional principals and schools face in the absence of services, and the opposition's ongoing commitment and belief around the importance of autonomy and more flexibility and choice at the local school level.

This is an opportunity to enhance autonomy and support principals through their global school budget to know best what their site requires, particularly in the regions, recognising the barrier that all schools face when accessing a variety of contractors. I thank the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this motion. I support the motion, and I support the amendment.

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (12:22):** I want to thank the members for Giles, Morialta, Narungga, Flinders and Frome. I also add that the member for MacKillop also supports the motion but is away because of another meeting that he had at the same time. He wanted me to mention that.

What is really disappointing is when people on the ground—and I think the member for Narungga said this the best—were forewarned of exactly what was going to happen and the difficulties, particularly for regional areas, where there are tradesmen there but they are not Ventia-approved. This is a very key point: people who perhaps live in the metropolitan area or another part do not have the same connection to a community.

There is an example of a preschool that was built for \$1.8 million under a Ventia contract. Eighteen months later the roof leaks, and the contractor is refusing to come back to Mount Gambier to fix that type of maintenance issue. In fact, a local plumber has gone out and looked at it and believes the entire roof needs to be taken off and replaced, because it has not been done correctly.

So if we are going to pay these exorbitant prices you would expect that the care and backup support for a principal for a leaky roof on an 18-month old building would also be there, but unfortunately, again, this principal is feeling very much abandoned by Ventia and very much not supported in dealing with an issue that should be looked at.

I really want to thank all the speakers for making a contribution to this. I applaud the government for doing the review and looking for unintended consequences around this. We have to be able to do better. The amount of money that is being spent is not being spent wisely. I have been shown buildings that have cost a school \$500,000 and quite literally it is a transportable rectangle that you could build for \$35,000. There are no bathrooms in there. There are no bedrooms in there. They are a rectangular building, called a classroom, that is transported onto site. How they cost half a million dollars is absolutely beyond me.

Like I said, the intent behind this motion is to support our public schools, to make sure that we can deliver the best outcome for our kids who are in public schools, and support our principals who are, again, dealing with exorbitant costs, time delays and, quite honestly, a very unsatisfactory situation. With that, I commend the motion to the house.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

**ALTAVILLA IRPINA SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (12:27):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club on celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024;
- (b) thanks the hardworking volunteers past and present for their dedication to the club and community; and
- (c) congratulates the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club on a successful 50 years of bringing together families and communities from throughout South Australia.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club occurs in 2024. Obviously, the club began with what was a group of migrants meeting with a view to promote their cultural roots, over time that group got bigger and there was this idea to form somewhat of a football club, and in 1974 the club, led by the late president Pasquale Rossi, was formed and incorporated.

Over the next years, members of the soccer club strongly felt they needed a club to go back to and to bond with friends and family and their community and, throughout this journey, the soccer club and the Altavilla social club became united, creating 50 years thus far of strong community, social, family and sporting success as well.

Located on The Parade in Beulah Park, the club has an amazing food service run by dedicated volunteers, a function area for family and social events, as well as an outdoor playground for the next generation to enjoy. The club continues to enhance their value of family essence and connection to their Italian heritage and also to allow the next generation of families to continue the enjoyment of the club brought to life by their ancestors.

The actual town of Altavilla Irpina itself is only around 45 minutes to an hour away from, if I was to give you a landmark, the Amalfi Coast, for those of you who follow southern Italian areas of interest and tourist locations. I know it is very familiar to yourself, sir, with family from not far from there, if I am not mistaken.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Not my family; I was born there.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** You were born there? There you go, exactly right. It is said that there are actually more people from Altavilla now living in Adelaide than there are in the town of Altavilla itself. Of course, many families, including my own family, had relatives who left Altavilla after the Second World War to seek a better life here in South Australia. What better way than to acknowledge in this place the hard work, sacrifice and dedication of many of those families who came here and set up this club to make sure they could continue to share in their heritage and their cultural celebrations.

I have had the fortune of being able to go back and visit a few times now and engage with even elected members of Altavilla and I know that they are extremely proud of their relatives who have set foot in Australia and made the most of the opportunities over here.

It is certainly a great club that allows families to come together, whether it is for the very famous fusilli nights, which I attended way too many over my time not only as a member but also as a child, or various fundraisers. You name the cause and over the years they have done a fundraiser for it. They are always making sure they put their hands in their pockets to help the local community and also the international community as well. Whether it has been over time floods or earthquakes back in Italy or local charitable causes here, the club really is used to serve the greater good.

I want to acknowledge the many people who have served as volunteers, whether it be in an informal or formal capacity, whether it has been through the soccer club or whether it has been through the religious element of the club, of course, supporting the feast of Saint Pellegrino. Saint Pellegrino is a feast that is now celebrated in my own electorate in Hectorville, but of course many would remember the famous two-day feast that took place in Norwood at the St Ignatius Church and surrounding grounds.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the many volunteers who have served on the committee in various roles, whether it is the presidents, whether it is the treasurers or whether it is

the secretaries. Many of these people, of course, have been either directly or indirectly related to me in one way or another or at least drawing their roots from the same village.

I want to especially acknowledge people like my great-uncle, my late grandmother's brother, Pietro Varricchio, who was a long-term president of the club. I also acknowledge the current president, Dominic Reppucci. I should probably also issue a shout-out to my parents, who still serve on that committee in one way or another, and various good friends and family who continue to serve the club in one way or another.

They also do these very famous pension days and not long ago our team on this side of the chamber was able to buy a table to one of these pension days. It is a great way, at an affordable rate, to offer a lunch to members of not only the Italian community but the wider community and I think that is one of the strengths of this club. This is why the club has been able to flourish when some of the other clubs—their peers—have not done so, because they do open up their doors to the wider community. It is also because of the leadership of the committee, who saw there was this need to adapt and anticipate and look at what the needs of the community were and to provide a place for people to come together to enjoy a quality meal at a fair price with great surroundings.

If you go there on a Friday night, you will see a playground that is often full. I know that my own son, Leonardo, enjoys that playground on weekends. You will see a wood oven that is often cranked up, especially in the nicer weather. You will see a big screen out there that has been utilised for anything, from things like movies that can be broadcast, all the way through to AFL Grand Final day. If I am lucky, every now and then, when the AFL Grand Final day falls on my birthday, it is always a convenient location to have a birthday celebration.

The dinner dances are, again, another great way of the local community coming together to celebrate what is good about their culture. I can remember over the years key performers who have come through, whether it be comedians or things like hosting celebrations for both of the Italian radios over the years, or other performers who come here. There are sometimes international musicians. You know how these things work, sir; on their way through they might discover that there is a critical mass and they can conduct a few performances along the way, if they are here for one large celebration. Of course, the club has also dug deep and tried to assist them.

The club has also done a good job in supporting the next generations, which I think is very important. If these clubs are to survive then they need to be agile and they need to adapt and they need to also promote and encourage the next generation to take their place. Even with my own child through time I have attended things like the Dante Alighieri language programs, mainly for toddlers. Most of the kids that I have seen there with their parents would be under the age of five, and they have been encouraged to participate in language courses that are, again, provided to the local community to whoever wants to become involved at a really nominal, affordable rate. What that allows them to do is to also participate and effectively become the next generation of volunteers and participants in the club.

There are a few plaques on the club. As I was walking my dog last week I thought I might take a couple of photos and talk through some of the history. With your indulgence in the remaining six minutes I have here I might talk a little about them. For example, one was a plaque commemorating the visit of His Worship the Mayor of Altavilla Irpina, Avv (lawyer) Alberico Villani, and the parish priest of Altavilla Irpina, Giuseppe Martino, Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club Inc., on 17 January 2004. What this highlights are the very strong links that still exist between the club here in South Australia but in Italy as well.

What you will find is that there have been premiers—I do not think the current Premier has been, but he is probably due to visit at some point. I am sure he will be received by a couple of people who know who he is. I know that former premiers have certainly been there, such as former Premier Marshall. I do not want to mislead the house but I know that Labor premiers have definitely been over there to Altavilla throughout time. Premier Rann, of course, would have been there. He certainly enjoyed his time in Italy, I can vouch for that. He even hosted me once for lunch in Altavilla.

You can see that there are strong links between this particular club and the Italian community still, and that is shared right across the chamber as well. Of course, my good friend the member for Morialta also visited Altavilla Irpina not that long ago. There is another plaque from 1981, Circolo

Sportivo Altavilla Irpina Club Inc., stating that this building was blessed by Trinitarian Father Antonio Bosco, Native of Altavilla Irpina, on a visit to Adelaide on 15 February 1981. What you see is that these visits have continued to occur through this very proud 50-year history, again showing the really strong links that exist.

When I look at another plaque it says Circolo Sportivo Altavilla Irpina Inc. Clubrooms, officially opened by the Hon. Greg Crafter MP on 23 February 1986. There you have it, all the way back then, a clubroom opened for the club. Then, of course, the final plaque I want to talk about is another plaque commemorating a visit to Adelaide by Filomena Caruso, the Mayor of Altavilla Irpina Italy, on 5 February 1994. What it says here is that it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club Inc.

It is important to congratulate the club—50 years is a long time. Many clubs have not achieved the 50-year status. I know that the club is in good shape. It is in good shape from a financial point of view, it is in good shape from a resources point of view and I am sure, because of the way that it has been able to be agile and adapt, that it is in good shape for the future as well.

I do sincerely want to take the opportunity to thank the hardworking volunteers—those who have come before us but also current ones—for their dedication to the club and the community, and I do congratulate the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club on what has been a successful 50 years, bringing together families and communities from right throughout South Australia. I commend the motion to the house.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:40):** I, too, rise to support this motion in celebrating the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is a club and a community that has been built by dedicated volunteers who sought to create a home for the number of the Altavillese who migrated to South Australia. The state government congratulates the club on this achievement.

This is a community that has made an immense contribution to the state and the eastern suburbs. The people of Altavilla Irpina have their roots in agriculture and mining. These tough working conditions of the migrants from Altavilla Irpina have ingrained a spirit of hard work, and it is reflected in each and every person who made the journey to South Australia. We have seen the descendants of this community excel in their fields of choice and, of course, we have just heard from the member for Hartley, who is a proud descendant of this community.

With the boon of postwar migration, it was clear that the significant number of Altavillese needed a place to call home. Since that time, the Altavilla club has not just been a home for its own community but a home for the wider community that surrounds it. This is a testament to all the volunteers and the executive team who work so hard to make it a club for everyone. On Friday and Sunday nights, the place is buzzing with people from all walks of life enjoying the very best of Italian hospitality, with authentic fusilli pasta and pizza.

Faith and sport have been a key foundation of the community—and to think this all began as a social club of young Altavillese who played soccer with each other. These humble beginnings in 1974 were the foundations of the club, and in 1977 led to the club premises at 281 The Parade, Beulah Park. This allowed for the current premises to be built and now enjoyed by the first, second and even third and fourth generations of Altavillese. It is also recognised as a fabric of the community, as a much-loved member. The premises at 279 The Parade Beulah Park was added in 1985 through the generosity of two committee members who transferred it to the club. I think that point needs to be made, and I think the member for Hartley also touched on that.

Recently, in recognition of the contribution of the club to the community, the Premier, along with the newly elected member for Dunstan, Cressida O'Hanlon—who at the time was a volunteer, and is a volunteer, who helps out in the kitchen and serves meals and has told me about the monthly pensioners' lunch, which is looked forward to by very many members of the community—announced funding for the much-needed kitchen upgrade. I know that that will go some way in helping to contribute to the community and to continue to support in particular the pensioners' lunch and some of the elderly in the community. It is something they look forward to each month. It will allow the community to enjoy the very best of Italian cooking in a family-friendly atmosphere.

The San Pellegrino Festa is also a key multicultural event held each year by the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club management committee and through the San Pellegrino Martire subcommittee. The San Pellegrino Festa has been growing significantly since 1978, with the Altavillese expressing their devotion to the patron saint of Altavilla Irpina. The state government was able to support the 2024 event through the Celebrate Together grant. Thousands of parishioners and community members enjoyed the festa of this year at St Joseph's Hectorville grounds. We hope that this festa continues its success for the years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the president, Dominic Reppucci, the executive committee and the many volunteers who have made this club—and continue to make this club—the community place it is today. We look forward of course, as do the local community and the member for Dunstan, to the next 50 years.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:45):** It is a great pleasure to be able to talk on this important motion and share my congratulations with the volunteers and, indeed, everyone who has been involved in committees over 50 years for the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club. Many of those volunteers and many of the people who founded the club live in my electorate of Morialta. Many of them are known to me—and not just those who are in the member for Hartley, Vincent Tarzia's, family, although there are many of those as well amongst my constituents who are proudly involved in this important club.

Whenever I go to the Altavilla club, which I do on a fairly regular basis, it always feels like coming home. I was at the pensioners' lunch with the member for Hartley, the Leader of the Opposition and Anna Finizio, the Liberal candidate for Dunstan at the recent by-election, just a month ago. It was an enormous joy to be there with the excellent service of everyone involved at the Altavilla club and all the volunteers as well. Being able to go around that room, it is like family. It is like being in Morialta with some people from Hartley and Dunstan there as well. The Morialta community, of course, supports this club in many ways.

When the member for Hartley gave his speech he outlined some of the specific history and he thanked a number of people by name. I do not propose to go over that ground; I want to add some of my own reflections. But I do acknowledge the member for Hartley and his family, obviously, because of the connections that he has given me, not just in the club when I first became the member for Morialta in 2010 but also the opportunity to meet with members of his family in Altavilla. That was an exceptional experience which I will come back to.

The Altavilla club hosts so many different fundraisers. I have been to the Altavilla club to support heart research. I have been to the Altavilla club to support a range of Italian causes, including after natural disasters in Italy. The Altavilla club reaches out to the community more broadly to make sure their facilities are available to support worthy causes at a reasonable price. Of course, the food is always terrific, but the facilities are tremendous as well.

The playground upgrade was talked about earlier. I can share with the house that that came in particularly handy for my family when the Altavilla club was the host venue for one of my daughter's first birthday/baptism lunches, which went exceptionally well. We filled the club. It is no easy thing for us to find a suitable venue for, well, I will say my wife's extended family, because mine is the very smaller component of the arrangement. It was a tremendous day. We will always think fondly of that day, and especially the fact that that playground was the answer to the prayers of all the parents in the room. The casual meals that are offered are tremendous and an opportunity to connect with community and to connect with culture as well.

The Altavilla club plays a really important role in the San Pellegrino Festa. As is well understood, it is one of the most significant cultural and religious activities in the eastern suburbs. It is currently located at the Hectorville Annunciation Church and the grounds behind, and the school obviously adjacent. That festa is really popular. It comes at a time of the year where we are seeking to re-engage after potentially a little bit of Christmas cheer and the opportunity to spend a bit of time with family. It is one of the first significant community events of the year, and it is a moment of significant joy.

Over the last few years, as often as the member for Hartley, he and I have both represented the Liberal Party there, as has former Premier Marshall, in speaking to the crowd. But the radio



engages, the community engages, enjoying the trippa. I do not enjoy the trippa, but people tell me it is fantastic. Pasta and pizza are always obvious. Extraordinary efforts are made by the volunteers to have that festival that brings in the people and has the music. My goodness, the music is special. The opportunity to engage with members of the community, ascoltatori a casa, listening at home through the radio is much appreciated by many.

When speaking at the festa this year, I had cause to reflect on the trip that the member for Hartley referred to, when I went to Altavilla. That was a really important trip for me, not having been to the south of Italy before, where so many of my constituents' families come from. It was an eye-opener in some ways, but a real opportunity to engage with the culture with which I was becoming very familiar as a result of being the member for Morialta.

You doorknock certain streets in Rostrevor, and Italian is more necessary than English to engage with some residents—the majority of residents in some streets. Many of them are from not just Altavilla but surrounding towns in Molinara, Sant'Angelo a Scala, Pietrastornina, and the larger communities of Avellino, Benevento and of course the broader Campania area. Probably 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the Italian community in Morialta are from these sorts of neighbouring regions.

That trip gave the member for Hartley and I the opportunity to visit with many of those communities. It was not the member for Hartley's first time. I remember doing the passeggiata in the evening down the main street of Altavilla. One of the things that struck me was that I think there were as many Adelaide accents as there were Italian accents from people passing down the street and in that community. If you go to Altavilla in August, chances are you are not the only person from Adelaide who is visiting family there.

It is an amazing connection that people maintain. It is really important. People have given up enormous things in their life, made great sacrifices in the 1950s and 1960s, in many cases at great risk, at great courage, to come to Australia to provide opportunities for their families that they had heard that Australia might offer. Several years later, in most cases, they had bought family out but not everybody. There is usually some cousins, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, that remain in Italy. There is a bond between the regions within Adelaide that have large Italian communities and the regions in Italy. As the member for Hartley said, they often have fewer members of those communities left in Italy than they do in Adelaide. Those bonds are really precious. They speak to people's cultural identity. Their capacity to continue to maintain those traditions is very strongly supported by the existence of a club like the Altavilla sports and social club.

Sometimes people have suggestions about combining the Italian clubs. There are occasions when, due to a lack of local volunteer support or financial difficulties in the past, not every club that started 50 or 40 years ago has been maintained through to today. Sometimes that is very sad. It is one of those facts of life that often we regret. Some of the clubs are going very strongly. My view is that, unless it is absolutely necessary through a lack of ability within the community to provide the necessary volunteers, we should fight to protect these clubs. Any ad hoc or from-top-down proposals to shut down or merge local community clubs in favour of having broader representative clubs for entire regions would be mistaken.

I think that would be a disservice to the volunteers and the community members who started these clubs—in the case of this club, 50 years ago. Certainly, I want to place on the record my support for these clubs continuing independently for as long as they want to. It is great that there is always bipartisan support when there is a need for investment in communities such as this. In the years ahead, the Altavilla club will surely continue to thrive, hopefully encouraging the experiences for people who have connections to the Italian community through marriage or local representation to connect in Italy.

I want to acknowledge Pietro Rosato, who was in Adelaide very recently. He works for the council in that area and has built a very strong bond with Adelaide and facilitates engagements very strongly. He was in Adelaide recently participating in community life at the club, and it was great to see him at the Altavilla club just three or four weeks ago.

To all of the leadership, Dominic and the team on the committee, staff, former committees, former volunteers, I offer my thanks, my support and the continued support of the Liberal opposition for the operation of the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club. Congratulations on 50 years of

success. May there be 50 years and more going forward when we can enjoy the fruits of Altavilla Irpina and its social, cultural and culinary contributions to our state as they continue in the years ahead.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (12:55):** I want to take this opportunity to thank the members on both sides of the chamber for supporting this motion. The member for Mordialta has helpfully reminded me that we should also pay tribute to the various saints who obviously have a very close affiliation to Altavilla Irpina. We should certainly mention them. Obviously, much has been said about Saint Pellegrino already, but also Alberico Crescitelli. We had the good fortune to actually visit the local church when we were there and be taken through with the local priest and people like Pietro Rosato as well.

In winding up, I would like to take this opportunity to thank members on both sides of the chamber for supporting this motion today. I wish the Altavilla Irpina Sports and Social Club all the very best in their 50<sup>th</sup> year. I want to thank the volunteers past and present for all that they do for a very strong club that is widely regarded right throughout the whole of South Australia. All the very best for the next 50 years as well.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would like to add my personal congratulations to the club on its 50 years.

Motion carried.

### WORLD PARKINSON'S DAY

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:56):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that 11 April 2024 is World Parkinson's Day; and
- (b) acknowledges the support provided by Parkinson's South Australia Incorporated for people with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders and their families.

In doing so, I would like to say that the Malinauskas government is committed to supporting South Australians living with Parkinson's and other neurological and movement disorders, which is why we have implemented a \$2.5 million program over four years provided by Parkinson's South Australia.

This funding has allowed the recruitment of four full-time Parkinson's nurse specialists to better support people living with Parkinson's across both metropolitan and regional South Australia. This investment will have a positive impact on the lives of South Australians living with Parkinson's and other neurological and movement disorders and their families and carers.

During the period November 2023 to February 2024, Parkinson's nurse specialists saw 329 clients, who were made up of 256 clients from the Adelaide metropolitan region and 73 clients from regional South Australia. A total of 17 education sessions were also delivered to local support groups, and online sessions were delivered to aged-care facilities and health professionals living in regional areas.

The support and education provided by Parkinson's South Australia includes providing a better understanding of this condition, how to best manage symptoms and being instrumental in supporting clients to prepare for their neurologist appointments. The commitment made by this government will mean these positive impacts will continue to progress into the future.

Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological and movement disorder and, while there have been significant advancements in treatments, sadly there is no cure for this progressive and debilitating illness. With Parkinson's, day-to-day tasks become increasingly difficult, impacting one's overall quality of life.

Aside from the tremors and other movement symptoms that most people associate with Parkinson's, this illness can also impact a person's memory and speech. It can cause fatigue, sleep disturbances and pain, and also lead to poor mental health. Some of these other symptoms are not as visible to others, which is why it is so important that we raise awareness of this illness, to ensure

those living with Parkinson's feel less isolated and are more supported when managing their symptoms in the community.

I am pleased to recognise World Parkinson's Day and thank Parkinson's South Australia for their commitment in providing excellence in care and support to people living with Parkinson's and other neurological movement disorders and their families across our state.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:59):** I am pleased to support the motion. April is Parkinson's Awareness Month and tomorrow, 11 April, is World Parkinson's Day. Each day, up to 50 Australians are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. There are more than 150,000 people in Australia with Parkinson's and another one million affected by it. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

#### *Petitions*

### **NORTH EAST ROAD SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION**

**Mrs HURN (Schubert):** Presented a petition signed by 19 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate action to address safety concerns on three particular sections of North East Road by reducing the speed limit from 80km/h to 60km/h.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science (Hon. S.E. Close)—

StudyAdelaide Charter—Report

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

Landscape South Australia Act 2019, Report on the Independent Review of the—Report

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Electricity—General—Planning and Forecasting Function

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Public Sector (Data Sharing)—Relevant Entities

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Planning, Development and Infrastructure—General—Miscellaneous (2024)

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (14:08):** I bring up the 41<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation, and move that it be received.

Report received.

**Mr FULBROOK:** I bring up the 42<sup>nd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation, and move that it be received and read.

Report received and read.

**Mr FULBROOK:** I bring up the 43<sup>rd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation, and move that it be received and read.

Report received and read.

### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of year 11 students from Glenunga International High School. Welcome to parliament. It's a pleasure to have you with us, guests of the member for Bragg.

### *Question Time*

#### **NUCLEAR ENERGY**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier support a nuclear energy industry in South Australia?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:12):** Yes, we are getting one. We are going to have a nuclear industry not too far from where we stand right now, or where I stand and everyone else sits. Around about 15 to 20 kilometres from where we are now, there will be a nuclear industry in our state, with the construction of nuclear submarines.

#### **NUCLEAR ENERGY**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12):** My question is again to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his comments on 5 December 2022 relating to nuclear energy? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 5 December 2022, the Australian *Financial Review* reported that the Premier has said that, and I quote:

...the ideological opposition that exists in some quarters to nuclear power is ill-founded.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:13):** I absolutely stand by my remarks in regards to the nuclear industry. I have been on the record, indeed long before I was fortunate enough to become a member of the state parliament, that I believe the nuclear energy sector that is for civil purposes is absolutely central to being able to achieve decarbonisation globally. That has always been my view, and remains so today. In fact, I hope that we see in appropriate countries, where all the necessary safeguards are in place, nuclear power on occasion expand its operations because that of course generates demand for uranium, which we mine here in South Australia.

There has recently been a significant spike in the uranium price which is actually quite important to the economics of the work that we are doing with BHP to be able to realise greater operations at Olympic Dam, particularly because we want to see more copper being mined in South Australia and being benefited in South Australia, which is particularly important to global decarbonisation as well.

Of course—and this is where some people struggle with a degree of nuance—my support for a global civil nuclear energy industry does not translate to my support for South Australia having nuclear power, and not because I have an opposition to nuclear power. In fact I reject those who have an opposition to nuclear power on the basis of some sort of ideology. Nuclear power is safe and, where it is done properly, it is clean and it results in zero carbon emissions. But what we also have to be conscious of, particularly here in Australia, is what the economics of nuclear power looks like versus other parts of the world. Of course, it is fundamentally different and that is particularly true in our state.

Nuclear power for civil purposes in almost every context has a huge capital investment that is required to see its construction. The most recent examples in both the UK and also most recently

in Georgia have seen nuclear power stations constructed that have blown out in costs. In fact, I think the Georgia power station resulted in an over \$US30 billion investment for a power station not particularly large in size. Now, where nuclear power is sustainable is where there are very high volumes of industrial demand 24/7 to sustain the capital or to pay down the capital costs associated with nuclear power.

Here in South Australia we have a very different energy market and our demand profile is fundamentally different, particularly considering that we have a penetration of renewable energy in South Australia that now equates to over 70 per cent of our market. It would simply not be sustainable in the context of the current prices to build a nuclear power station for the economics to stack up in South Australia.

Now, other proponents who want to seek to ignore the capital cost will say, 'How about SMRs?' SMRs, of course, are an evolving technology but not a technology that is being deployed anywhere in the world for civil, commercial power uses, and if there is an example to the contrary, then I am more than happy for those to point it out. But we will not support a form of power in South Australia that will make power prices more expensive in our context.

### NUCLEAR ENERGY

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier spoken to the Prime Minister in relation to nuclear energy in Australia?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17):** Yes; and the most recent conversation I have had with the Prime Minister about this was on stage, in front of the public, in front of the media—

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** And the Leader of the Opposition.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** And the Leader of the Opposition. It was a suite of public comments and remarks at the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —Building a Bigger, Better South Australia forum held by the Adelaide *Advertiser*, a forum that I think is a good one and one that I very much hope continues into the future with the Prime Minister's presence, as he committed to that day. But my remarks have been consistent in this regard.

Now, for those who are arguing for nuclear power, we have seen this come up at a federal level more recently with the federal Leader of the Opposition arguing for nuclear power. The Leader of the Opposition here is suitably consistent in his inconsistent position on this, but in regard to the federal Leader of the Opposition, Mr Dutton has articulated his desire to have nuclear power but, again, what we haven't seen is any form of substance or cogent policy around what they are proposing to do in that regard. What we need when we think about interventions into the energy market is—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What we need in this country when it comes to energy policy is thoughtful, considered analysis to underpin thoughtful, considered interventions.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What we have lacked—

**The Hon. V.A. Tarzia:** Maybe start with the unemployment rate.

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

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —at a federal level is a policy and a set of conditions for people to invest, knowing what the rules of the game are. The simple fact is this: Australia needs to be committed to the decarbonisation of our energy sector. We have had a federal Coalition government that had been operating in some parallel universe where they believed climate change is not real. On this side of the house, we fervently believe it is. On this side of the house, we believe that decarbonisation needs to happen in a considered way, and in South Australia we are very proud to be part of a government that is leading on a national stage in that endeavour.

We believe, on this side of the house, that in order to be able to cede to a greater penetration of renewables, over and above what is already the case, we need to see more firming capacity in the market. In the long term, we like the idea of that being green firming capacity, and that's why this government is so aggressively pursuing the hydrogen opportunity. In the interim, we see there being a role for gas-fired generation as a firming service to actually unlock yet more renewable investment.

Federally, what we are seeing happen on the conservative side of politics is, yet again, some culture-war-driven debate trying to persuade Australians somehow that the most expensive form of power that we could think of in an Australian context would somehow be a good intervention. I reject the insertion of the culture wars in the energy debate, particularly at a federal level, because that is what has led to a set of disastrous policy decisions being made over a substantial period of time.

Here in South Australia, we have a big opportunity to continue to show leadership to the rest of the country about what thoughtful leadership and decarbonisation looks like in such a way that delivers better outcomes for people in our state, and that's what we will continue to pursue.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the leader, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of Jim and Jamie DeYoung, guests of the member for Narungga. Welcome to parliament.

#### *Question Time*

#### **NUCLEAR ENERGY**

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** My question is again to the Premier. Will the Premier advocate to the Prime Minister to remove the moratorium on nuclear energy in Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** In February 2024, when asked about nuclear energy, the Premier was quoted in *The Advertiser*, saying that he was, and I quote, 'agnostic about the source of green energy coming into the market.'

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:22):** Yes, I support green energy. I support green energy and I don't think—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Unley! Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I sincerely welcome the Leader of the Opposition pointing out my remarks. There will be plenty of them on the public record, as there will be plenty of them that have been made in other conversations I have every day, because we see a massive opportunity within this government to pursue green energy in any form that is economic for the people of South Australia to capture the opportunity of global decarbonisation. I should add that the decarbonisation of our energy sector—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —actually translates to an opportunity to decarbonise heavy industry in our state. When we think about opportunities, particularly around the production of green iron, we know that we can do that, potentially, at a far more economical price than what we

see in other parts of the world because of our capacity to produce green hydrogen, hence our policy. We will continue to make principled but also pragmatic contributions to the debate around energy in this country, and that is something that we intend to maintain at every opportunity.

#### OFFICE FOR AUKUS

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the Office for AUKUS, including any work being done to prepare South Australia for nuclear reactors as part of AUKUS pillar 1? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** On 12 June 2023, the Premier announced a \$5.4 million investment in establishing the Office for AUKUS. AUKUS pillar 1 focuses on Australia acquiring a conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarine fleet.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:24):** Yes, I can, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The Leader of the Opposition is right in that last part of his remarks around Australia purchasing a conventionally armed nuclear submarine—I think the term the Leader of the Opposition used was 'fleet'. There will be at least three Virginia class submarines that the commonwealth is acquiring that will be based in Western Australia. The Office for AUKUS, which sits currently within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and works closely with Defence SA, naturally is not so much focused on that acquisition but far more focused on the work that needs to be done in South Australia pertaining to the building of conventionally armed nuclear submarines here at Osborne.

The work that the Office for AUKUS has been focused on most recently is a number of things, and I will give a highlights reel. First and foremost, of course, has been working with the commonwealth around getting the land swap completed and enacted and then put to best use. That is actually a first, incredibly important piece of the puzzle, because that needed to occur and be enacted in order for the commonwealth to then start facilitating all of the initial infrastructure works that are required to be undertaken at Osborne. Much of this will be not immediately visible to people driving around Osborne, but the moving of powerlines and existing gas lines, and then other enabling of works have to be done first. There is \$2 billion worth of expenditure being undertaken exclusively by the commonwealth in conjunction with ANI in being able to do that work.

Following the very important announcement that was made only a few Fridays ago—in fact, it was in between parliamentary sitting weeks—the announcement of BAE as the builder of the nuclear submarines in conjunction with ASC, and also following the land swap, that now provides a foothold for the commonwealth to pursue the design of the model and of course the physical building of the shipbuilding skills academy at Osborne. That work is now in train with the commonwealth, and the state government has a seat at the table in those works.

We hope to see construction of that training and skills academy next year, although still a fair bit of work needs to be done in terms of the design and the models that will be applied in order to be able to do that. That is something the Office for AUKUS contributes to as well. Other efforts around training and skills the Office for AUKUS has been central to, but now there is also engagement with both ASC and BAE in terms of helping to contribute to and facilitate the exchange of workers that we know will be taking place.

The other specific element of the Leader of the Opposition's question was in regard to nuclear. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services was only in the UK in the last fortnight undertaking the important work of starting to prepare the state government's preparedness and readiness for what we are doing around emergency services in the vicinity of what will be a nuclear site. There will be a range of responsibilities that sit within the state government's control in this regard, and the minister was there in Davenport in the UK meeting with Babcock and others who are responsible for these efforts.

This is just one example—one important example—of the sorts of efforts that the state government is making in order to get in advance of all of the complexity and all the functions that will

have to be new to the service delivery of state government in the preparation of a nuclear industry existing at Osborne.

### KOONIBBA TEST RANGE

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (14:28):** My question is to the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the new launch facilities at the Koonibba Test Range?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:28):** I am very pleased to talk about the Koonibba Test Range. I was over at Ceduna just last week—a couple of days there—looking at various fabulous things occurring in that part of the country, but also went up to Koonibba to have a look at the permanent launching facility that's in the process of being built at present. There is an expectation that there will be shortly a suborbital test launch of the German manufacturer Hylmpulse's SR75 rocket. That is still subject to final regulatory approval. It hasn't received the clearance from the Space Agency, at least last time I checked, but there is an expectation that, once that is provided, there will be a test launch of this large-scale rocket from Koonibba.

What is magnificent about this proposition is that we are seeing the oldest living culture being the host of a high-tech, very modern technological approach to not only gathering information about the world that we are living on but also, crucially, exploring ways in which some forms of manufacturing might be able to occur in space, because this facility will have the capacity to receive returned vehicles from space. What that means is that the kinds of crystals that can be grown only in zero gravity can be produced up there and brought back here, which is immensely important for the capacity of us to be able to detect information at a very, very fine level. Those crystals, as was demonstrated by the IPAS facility at the University of Adelaide, are extraordinary. There are other forms of technology also that appear to benefit from manufacture in space, including drug testing and drug creation and manufacturing.

This is a remarkable confluence, where the Koonibba community has been able to gain a grant to invest in this facility and will be able to lease out its use to Southern Launch long into the future, provided all the regulatory approvals are given.

There are some complexities around this, of course. There must be the appropriate environmental considerations and also those of Aboriginal people who, while not of the Koonibba community, are part of Aboriginal nations that have regarded that area as being very special to their culture and their law. While I was up there, I did urge the company to make sure that they were having all the conversations necessary with all of the Aboriginal groups to ensure that this is something that will continue to be supported across the wider Aboriginal community.

But what we are seeing here is an investment in space, which has long been part of South Australia's history but has really accelerated since the international space congress in 2017 was hosted here and then the Space Agency was placed in South Australia when it was established in the following year or two. What we are seeing is not only the growth in research, the growth in manufacturing, but now the capacity to be able to launch rockets from South Australia. We are starting to see the full lifecycle. To see that occurring on Aboriginal land to the financial benefit and the inspirational benefit for the students at Koonibba school is one of the truly inspiring parts of having a strong space industry in South Australia.

### POLICE NUMBERS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:32):** My question is to the Minister for Police. How many officer vacancies are there currently within the South Australian police force, and is this number putting South Australians at risk?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:33):** I will take on notice for the member today's most recent number of underestablishment, but I can give the member a very good piece of news, and that is for the first time in some time, certainly since we have come to government, we are in a position now where we are recruiting more police. We are seeing a very significant net increase in the number of police who



are active on the frontline employed by SAPOL. Most importantly, we have seen a massive increase in the number of people wanting to apply to be police.

Upon coming to government, what we had seen is two things, which had really set up SAPOL for some concern. The first of which was that there was a bottoming out of the number of people applying to be police. Of course, without the pipeline of applicants to be police, SAPOL were having a pretty tough time of filling courses. Under the former government, course after course after course were cancelled—not running with reduced numbers but simply being cancelled because of a lack of numbers at all. What we also saw was that there was a distinct lack—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** We also saw what was associated with that. Because the time to train a new police officer is about nine months, the work simply wasn't being done to enable and ensure a pipeline of people who are joining police to account for people retiring from police or people choosing new careers, which is unfortunately one of the byproducts of training an exceptional workforce as we do with our police. The good news is that since coming to government we have doubled the number of people being trained through our Police Academy—doubled. We are now seeing, and have now for some months, a significant increase in the establishment number of police—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** —and that is only because we gave police, and we charged the police commissioner with, the resources, the financial investment from our government, to actually recruit. What was previously the case was that they were falling behind with applications, they were falling behind with courses, and there was no plan to change that.

We have come into government and we have done that. We have invested heavily. We have doubled the number of recruits and, as I have noted in this chamber before, we are also proudly building on the success of previous recruitment drives and building on the success of Health and Education and other departments within our government, recruiting experienced officers from other jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Ireland. That is important, because not only do we want to shift the dial when it comes—

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Flinders!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** —to the number of people joining police, but we want to increase—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** —in a really advantageous way the number of people who are joining the police immediately.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** There are interjections, sir. I am probably—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** There are interjections about a number, and I think within the first seven seconds of my answer—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is on a second warning.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** —I undertook to get the answer from—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** That's right. What I will do is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister has an additional 15 seconds, if he wishes to use it.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** What I will be pleased to do in that 15 seconds is set out the plan that demonstrates that when it comes to increasing the number of police in our state we are delivering it with real action, real investment and a real plan to back the police.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

### POLICE NUMBERS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:37):** My question is to the Minister for Police. How many SAPOL police officers left the force in the first three months of 2024?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:37):** There have been a number of retirements. The attrition rate of South Australia Police is around 5 per cent. It has been decreasing over the last six months. The reality is that we had, and we still have, amongst the highest retention of any police service in the country. There is a very good reason for that: South Australia Police is a wonderful employer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** It is led by exceptional people, including Grant Stevens, the police commissioner. The idea that at 5 per cent people shouldn't be retiring from South Australia Police—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey, you are on three warnings.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** —after 10 or 20 years, seeking to pursue other career opportunities, including—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** —in a very significant way in the rest of the Public Service, is quite remarkable. I don't, as police minister, have an aspiration where we tie as chattels police to one job for the rest of their life. We want to support them. We retain the highest number of police by way of retention in the nation. At the same time, we have recently released ROGS data showing that we have the highest number of sworn police per capita of any state in the country.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Flinders, then the member for King.

### CBD POLICE RESOURCES

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Police. What additional police resources, if any, have been allocated to the CBD, specifically Rundle Mall, in response to concerns about escalating shop thefts?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:39):** I am not sure if there has been a previous question to me on this

matter. If I repeat information that I provided at the time, I do apologise. Dedicated additional resources have been applied to the CBD, particularly in the Rundle Mall precinct. The allocation of resources is ongoing.

The latest advice I have from SAPOL is that that will be dedicated on an as-needs basis, of which there is no conclusion, as I have been advised by the police commissioner. That includes resources from multiple operational support units within South Australia Police, the most visible being our police horses and other operational units within not only the eastern district but other specialist operational units within the state.

#### **CBD POLICE RESOURCES**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:40):** Supplementary: can the minister specify where these additional police resources have been shifted from to serve in the CBD?

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:40):** The characterisation that they have been shifted from anywhere is not a reflection of the operational deployment that has been made. They have not been shifted from anywhere. I will, as best I can, respond to the member's question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS:** They have simply not been shifted from anywhere, so the characterisation of that question is one that is both difficult to respond to but also wrong in its proposition. The resources are from the existing eastern districts. As I noted in my previous answer, they are from additional operational support units within South Australia Police, including the SRS, including the Mounted Operations Unit, including the Dog Operations Unit and also other specialist operational units.

I will not be delving into the hour-by-hour deployment of those FTE on the ground because the advice that I have received from the police commissioner is that it is inappropriate to do so from an operational safety perspective, but I have, and South Australia Police have, indicated the suite of additional resourcing support that has been provided. Again, I reiterate in response to the member's question that they have not been shifted or taken.

#### **CBD POLICE RESOURCES**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:42):** An additional supplementary, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Flinders, you do test the house's patience, but I will turn to you.

**Mr TELFER:** In addition to that, minister, if the resources that you refer to have not been shifted from elsewhere—they are from within existing resources—is this a case of the existing resources being asked to work longer hours to fill the additional obligation that has been put on them?

**The SPEAKER:** That does sound to me to be a little argumentative, but in any case, we turn to the minister.

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:42):** No.

#### **PUBLIC HOUSING**

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister update the house on the government's additional investment in public housing?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:42):** I thank the member for this question and her commitment to ensuring that more South Australians have a safe, stable and affordable place to call home. Before the last election, we recognised the challenges in the housing market and committed an extra \$177.5 million to public housing for 400 new homes and major upgrades on 350 vacant properties. After the election, we found the previous government had left plans in place to reduce public housing by 700 homes from 2022 to 2026.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** This was due to a combination of planned sales and only having enough funding to replace some of the homes that faced demolition because they were too old or damaged to repair. Even with our significant investment of extra funds, we faced the prospect of public housing going backwards in a housing crisis, so we drew a line in the sand and said that couldn't happen.

We cancelled the planned sale of 580 homes. We boosted our election commitment funding by another \$55.2 million, bringing our total extra investment in public housing to \$232.7 million from 2022 to 2026. These policies meant we could stop the decline in public housing, replace homes that were falling over and, mostly importantly, see real growth in public housing for the first time in a generation. Today marks an important milestone because we have now completed more than 100 new homes linked to our extra funding.

This morning in Hectorville I joined one of our fantastic building partners, the Brazzale family, to see the 100<sup>th</sup> new home. Three generations of the Brazzale family have been working on public housing projects since the early 1990s. This really does demonstrate the importance of public housing to both tenants and local businesses. They tell me they have built around 500 homes for our public housing system over the decades. We thank them and, indeed, all our partners for their work.

These new homes they have built for us in Hectorville are quite literally the gold standard. They meet the gold level of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines, which means they are more accessible and adaptable for everyone whether they are older, experiencing disability or have other needs. The new homes have been allocated to people from our housing register who face homelessness and a range of other challenges.

In addition to 102 new homes that are already complete, another 110 are currently under construction, 91 are out for tender and another 84 are going out for tender in coming months. This work is on top of the ongoing building programs undertaken by the South Australian Housing Authority to replace ageing stock and provide affordable housing for purchase by low and moderate income households.

At a time when we are hearing about a slowdown in new home construction, the work of the SA Housing Authority, Renewal SA and our partners in the community housing sector is more important than ever, particularly for delivering new homes in great locations near transport, schools and services. This work often involves replacing larger, older properties with multiple homes that better meet community needs. It results in ups and downs in housing numbers on any given day, but the final outcome is that we are committed to at least 400 more public homes by 2026, replacing hundreds of others to make our system bigger and better. It is important to note that at least 150 of these public homes are being built in regional areas in addition to the work of the new Office for Regional Housing.

#### **TRANSITION TO HOME SCHEME**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:47):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. How many individuals have been supported into permanent out-of-hospital disability housing under the department's Transition to Home scheme since April 2022? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** The previous Liberal government facilitated the transition of 134 patients out of long-term hospital care in April 2022 and into alternative temporary facilities, including at St Margaret's centre, Semaphore, and other facilities near Noarlunga Hospital as part of the Transition to Home scheme. The next step was designed to have them move into permanent out-of-hospital housing.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:47):** I thank the member for the question. In terms of accurate numbers, I am happy to get back to the member with the answer to that. Needless to say, when we came into government there were literally hundreds of people stuck in hospital and some of them had been in hospital for months and months and up to a

year—even longer than a year, I understand, in some cases. Not only that, we know that the standard of governance and the clinical practice processes—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —you might learn something—around the care and support of these complex individuals in an environment designed for hospital care was completely substandard. There had been numerous complaints made by people within the Transition to Home pathway and their family members through the department and through other agencies, including the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner. These were serious complaints. Some of them had been made public.

I won't speak about individual cases but some of them were quite sickening in terms of the descriptors about the failure of clinical practice processes that were in place under the previous government in a system that was established by their ministerial colleagues. Since coming in, we triggered a review of that. It was an independent review. The lead on that review was the highly respected Christine Dennis, who undertook the review of clinical practice and governance.

I put in place, with our department, people who would support that review and ensure that there were rigorous clinical practice processes that ensured the safety, dignity and care of those people within that environment. We proceeded to move the location of the southern section of Transition to Home down to Noarlunga, to an area that had been previously closed by the previous government and lay idle: a new, high-quality environment for support and care which we use to transition dozens of people out into the community.

We continue to see numbers flow through the Transition to Home program. These numbers are much, much lower than what they were. We have worked really hard with the federal government to drop, reduce and prevent barriers being put in place to discharge and to funding these people who require shorter term accommodation under the NDIS—those barriers that were in place under the previous state Liberal government and the federal Coalition government, under an NDIS that was constantly failing people who were complex and needing movement out of hospital.

The whole process to actually assess, respond to and put in place services for people who had higher needs and who were stuck languishing in hospital failed under the state Liberal government—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —and the federal Coalition. Thankfully, we have worked across—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Schubert!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** —a newer system. We have seen a refresh and a renew of the federal NDIS in terms of the processes, and we see more to come.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley! Member for Schubert! Member for Chaffey!

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** There are much fewer people now stuck in hospital longer term. The number is in the dozens rather than the hundreds, and we continue to ensure that those people are managed with dignity and using best practice clinical guidelines.

#### **MILLICENT HOSPITAL, ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:51):** My question is to the Minister for Health. What is the future of allied health services at the Millicent hospital? With your leave and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** Therapy for Life Physiotherapy has been based in a dedicated physio room at the hospital for 20 years. They have recently stopped providing services there due to uncertainty surrounding their tenure.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:52):** I thank the member for MacKillop for his strong interest in health; I think he is going for a record of number of questions on health in a row. I am aware of the issue that has been identified in the local paper in relation to Therapy for Life Physiotherapy at the Millicent hospital. This was recently reported.

Therapy for Life, I am advised by the Limestone Coast Local Health Network, had been engaged two days a week within a dedicated space within Millicent hospital, and shared the space with several other functions. The local health network advised that the arrangement had been longstanding, and that earlier this year, they started initial conversations with Therapy for Life to establish a formal agreement. I am advised that these conversations never progressed, as the employee who was delivering the service through Therapy for Life has since been engaged for an alternative role with Flinders University, delivering an allied health course in Mount Gambier, which is obviously an important element of teaching in the area.

However, the good news for the area is that physiotherapy services continue to be provided at Millicent hospital. Country Health Connect are actually providing, I am advised, more physiotherapy services than were previously provided by Therapy for Life, and this has been the case since February. The Limestone Coast Local Health Network are continuing to review how they can broaden and improve allied health and community nursing services for the region. There are no plans to remove allied health services from Millicent hospital.

Therefore, this is an area where we are expanding services locally. There was certainly, I am advised, no element where this was ending the arrangement from the hospital or the local health network. Obviously, the workforce issues for that private provider led to that, but we have been able to step up and provide more services locally.

#### **SA HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:54):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. What percentage of SA Housing Authority properties that are identified as priority 1 are having maintenance call-outs being attended to within the required time frame? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** Properties that are categorised as priority 1 are required to be attended to within four hours.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:54):** Again, I would be happy to get back to the member with an accurate time frame on all of those. There is quite a complex breakdown in respect of the numbers, but the maintenance services attend to thousands and thousands of call-outs every year. In terms of the actual breakdown from one category to another, I am really happy to get back with a more accurate figure, but we are working closely with the maintenance head contractors all the time to ensure that we are able to service people.

It's fair to say the public housing maintenance and building sector is under pressure, just like the private sector is, in terms of availability. We are striving to ensure that we have an adequate number of contractors available to ensure that people are able to live in their homes as comfortably as possible, with all the amenities that are required.

I think it is fair to say as well that one of the things that public housing does for people is offer extra support, if there is a delay for any reason, and some essential provisions to homes around water or electricity, and they do in fact offer emergency accommodation on many occasions for people who aren't able to live in their homes with a full suite of service provisions. This is contrary to what happens in private tenancies and private housing situations. I will certainly get back with a more accurate answer for you.

**SA HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:56):** Supplementary: on that answer, is the minister committing to taking on notice the response times for maintenance in all categories of priority levels?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:56):** I am committing to get back to you with the answer to the question that you asked me.

**WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES**

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:56):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the house on state government initiatives to increase access to women's health services through community pharmacies?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:56):** I thank the member for Gibson for her excellent question and note her participation in the recent select committee of this house, which was chaired by the member for Badcoe, looking at this specific issue in relation to urinary tract infections and how women can be better supported, particularly through pharmacies.

Following that inquiry of the house, the government has taken action to put in place new regulations that have enabled community pharmacies to provide assistance for women with UTIs in the community who otherwise would have faced long waits to get into a GP or who in many cases are faced, unfortunately, with having to go to an emergency department. That's been in place from 1 March this year, with women aged 18 to 65 with an uncomplicated UTI able to go directly to their community pharmacy.

I am pleased to report to the house that in just the first month of operation of that new scheme, 600 women have been able to go to the local pharmacy to get support for their UTI. This means women have been able to access care without having to wait for a GP, without having to go to an emergency department. That's really excellent news for women across South Australia. We expect that that will grow and grow as we see more pharmacies and pharmacists take part in the program and as awareness of this avenue grows in the community.

Already, 860 pharmacists have completed the training and another 160 have enrolled, and some 40 per cent of pharmacies have now provided one service already from some 200 sites across the state. This is an excellent element. It is not the only element in which we are helping to access care through pharmacies. Of course, we now have in place 24/7 pharmacies in three sites across metropolitan Adelaide. The first one is operating in Norwood, which I know is very close to the heart of the member for Dunstan, and this has seen 3,000 customers come through in its first two months of operation.

We have now had the other two sites, nearby in the member for Gibson's and the member for Elder's electorates, at Clovelly Park. There is also one in my colleague the Minister for Tourism's electorate and nearby in the member for King's electorate at Saints Shopping centre. The one at Clovelly Park has had 2,790 extra customers coming through in those hours in which it would have otherwise been closed, and Saints has seen 6,401 customers come through in the times that it otherwise would have been closed. So 12,000 customers have been seen when it otherwise would have been closed, which is excellent news for the community. I understand they have also dispensed 5,154 scripts and taken 1,154 phone calls for people seeking pharmacist help, so it is another way that people are able to access care other than having to go to an emergency department.

There is more to come, I am glad to say, in that we are about to launch the next element of that work which is enabling women to be able to get access to replenishing the pill through their pharmacies without having to go via the GP as well. So I can update the house that from 6 May next month, eligible women will be able to visit participating pharmacies for access for resupply of the oral contraceptive pill without needing to see a doctor for the script.

This service will be available to women 17 to 50 who have been supplied or prescribed an approved contraceptive by a registered medical provider. Women 17 to 40 will be able to access one pack at a time through their pharmacist up to a maximum of 12 months' supply. Women 41 to 50 can access one pack without a new script, or being referred to their GP or other authorised prescribing

professional for a review. The exact details of this have come out of the expert review that we have had looking at the mechanism of that scheme. We think this will be a great opportunity for women to access more care through their local pharmacy.

### REGIONAL HOUSING

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:01):** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Can the minister inform the house of any developments in Mount Gambier to address the housing crisis we are experiencing, along with many other parts of regional South Australia?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:01):** The member would know that we have just started pouring allotments—the Office for Regional Housing, which was established as part of Renewal SA. When the government came to office, we were acutely aware that we had inherited a housing crisis not just in metropolitan South Australia or in the city, but in regional South Australia as well. It is a really huge problem right across the state. So one of the things we have done is to establish the Office for Regional Housing within Renewal SA. It would be fair to say that Renewal SA has not had a long history—or indeed its predecessor. The Land Management Corporation had had entirely city-based origins.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I hear members opposite. But Renewal SA, which previously was the Land Management Corporation, was designed, essentially, as an urban Land Management Corporation and, of course, we had a challenge in the regions and so that is why we created the Office for Regional Housing. In all my briefings with those opposite or with the parliament more generally, I think it has been an institution that has been warmly received.

We have been out in the regions. We were up in Port Augusta and we went to the beginning, the turning of the sod of four houses in Port Augusta, and the Premier had a great chat with the builders up there. Those are for police and nurses and I would have thought that would be welcomed by those opposite. We have, I think, just laid the slabs on maybe four allotments at Mount Gambier, and the member, I think, went there and had a look at the site more recently.

Obviously these are reasonably humble beginnings. We want to scale up the Office for Regional Housing, the purpose for us beginning with 30 houses, which has now stretched to 35 thanks to the member for MacKillop's very strong advocacy for this. The councils in his region were amongst the first to talk about the importance of regional housing. We wanted to create a model that could be scaled up and could work for the next decade, and we have set about doing that.

The other thing we have set about doing is working with local councils, following the model, the Bordertown model I think we are calling it in our conversations with other councils, because Bordertown did the right thing. They have put their money where their mouth is. They have bought a site in the centre of town. We have bought five blocks out of an initial 15 allotment release. The importance of our five allotments in that is it gets the project going. It is something of a pre-commitment to get the project going, to de-risk it for the council, and that's a very important thing.

It's a very important thing to work with local government. We have put the call out. We were on a conference call I think last month with the Local Government Association and having very good conversations with them. We want to have partnerships with regional councils. We already do as a government. I know Minister Brock talks to them on a regular basis, both through his ministerial office and just through his travels through regional South Australia. We want to work very seriously with them to boost land supply in regional South Australia. We know that land supply is a critical issue across the country and across the state.

### REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:05):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, what is the government doing to attract and retain nurses in regional areas? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.



**Mr McBRIDE:** In 2022, the Department for Health and Wellbeing agreed to implement rural and remote incentives that would encourage nurses to work in the regions, but as yet this hasn't occurred.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:05):** Thank you very much to the member for MacKillop for his question. Firstly, we do have a number of incentives that are in place in relation to regional nurses and midwives. These have been in place for some time. I understand these range from \$1,138 for a nurse's first year in places such as Kangaroo Island, Mount Gambier and Port Lincoln, and go up to \$5,039 for a nurse's first year in locations such as Roxby Downs, Woomera and Coober Pedy.

Current staff are also eligible for locality allowances, payable per annum on an ongoing basis. The maximum allowance applicable for an employee with a spouse and two children, I am advised, is \$12,095. The incentives have been in place for some time and there is a cohort of different localities that determine the incentives that are in place.

That is separate from what we put in place last year, which was a number of incentives in terms of attracting staff to work in SA Health, and particularly additional incentives if they came to work in regional areas. That was up to \$15,000 in reimbursing their expenses in moving to those areas, and that includes if somebody was to move from a metro area to one of those regional areas as well.

I think what the member is also referring to is that, as part of the last nurses' enterprise bargaining agreement, we agreed with the ANMF SA to review those incentives that have been in place that I referred to earlier. That review has been ongoing. We are working with the ANMF in relation to that. We are hopeful that we can reach agreement in terms of updating that schedule of those allowances and incentives that are in place, but those existing incentives continue to apply across regional South Australia.

As the member will also be interested to know, we are continuing to hire more nurses and undertake more graduate nurse training based in regional areas as well. Through the course of this year, some nearly 25 per cent of our graduate nurses and midwives will be engaged across regional local health networks. The member and I, late last year, were in Nelson hospital, where they had taken on graduate nurses for the first time in the hospital and that's an excellent sign of us continuing to develop those graduate nurse roles in regional South Australia, which we are obviously very keen to make sure continues.

In fact, I am advised that the largest group of our regional new graduates coming in this year is in the Limestone Coast Local Health Network, where there are 49 nurses and eight midwives starting. Of course, these are the future of our health workforce and may well be looking after all of us one day and we want to make sure that they have very successful careers.

#### **SA HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:08):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. What percentage of SA Housing Authority properties that are identified as priority 2, or any other separate category of properties, are having maintenance callouts being attended to with the required timeframe? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** Properties that are categorised as priority 2 are required to be attended within 24 hours.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (15:09):** Thank you very much. Again, I will get back to the member with the specific number for priority 2. I think it might be helpful if we talk about what the priorities are, because they are listed quite specifically from 0 through to 4. So I am happy to inform the members what those categories are which might be helpful for the future and, as the question was asked, I am happy to get back to the member with the specific on 2 which has just been asked.

Obviously, maintenance is prioritised on the basis of its urgency, with priority 0 happening where emergency services have attended and requested urgent maintenance. The attendance by

the head contractor on that particular priority is required in around 45 minutes to ensure safety. Then there is the priority 1 where maintenance is required as it may affect the health and safety of a person. That may be live electrical parts and, in that case, attendance by the head contractor is required within four hours under the contract. That is to make sure it's safe, and then the expectation is that works are then completed within five business days. So there is that ensuring of safety for the person and then the completion of the work. There are the two time frames that are expected.

Priority 2 is where maintenance causes a severe inconvenience to the tenant. I referred to that in part just before as well, where sometimes it might be no hot water or a blocked toilet. These are sitting in a priority 2: major inconvenience. We ask the head contractor to ensure that there is attendance within 24 hours for those particular priorities. The expectation, according to the contract, is that the work is completed within seven business days.

Priority 3: maintenance work is not that urgent—dripping taps, leaking gutters, downpipes. Those are all priority 3s. We ask our head contractor to attend within 10 business days and complete work within 20 business days. The lowest level of priority is a priority 4. The priority 4 repairs with a specific start or completion date are determined by the authorities, such as programmed maintenance, vacant properties, and that is directed by the authority.

Other maintenance contracts: there are the horticultural services, fire safety services, occupational therapy advice. Other things are done based on negotiations. So there is a different level of category for a whole range of maintenance targets, and we work with our head contractor to ensure that works are done as quickly as they possibly can be for the safety and the comfort of the tenants. The maintenance contact centre stays in close contact with those contractors, and we try to ensure they meet the KPIs, but I will get back with that specific answer.

#### *Grievance Debate*

#### **WAGES GROWTH**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (15:12):** Today, I want to talk about some economic challenges that some of my local residents are raising. Of course, these are also economic challenges that are being raised by everyday South Australian's right across the board. The first one of those is in relation to wages. While the government likes to talk highly of the South Australian economy and its so-called rise from strength to strength, we know that many South Australians, and many of the local South Australians that I have been talking to, are being left behind by this government. They are getting hit where it hurts, and that is in their pockets.

Despite the current low unemployment rate, we know that everyday South Australians are still being left behind by this government. In fact, recent data shows that the typical South Australian family is actually \$20,000 a year worse off under Labor. As has been reported recently in *The Advertiser*, and many of my local residents are sharing this as well, we know that average wages in some instances have actually been cut by 7.6 per cent in real terms—the worst in the country—and pockets of South Australia are certainly hurting, and that is what many of my local residents are telling me at the moment.

While this government seems to be applauding itself on the back of what it calls our growing economy, and some of these major events, we know that many local people are not being able to keep up with the growth of the nation when it comes to their wages. In fact, recent reports show that our wages growth in South Australia remains materially lower than the national average, which is something that we really need to improve, but also we need to see and discuss how that actually correlates into housing.

Many residents in my own electorate—many residents who actually are on good incomes—are telling me, 'Vincent, we are at the moment struggling to make ends meet. We are struggling to pay our bills. We are struggling to pay our interest rates each and every month under this Labor government.' That also has an effect on housing. We saw some really diabolical figures just recently, but there are significant local economic headwinds that my residents are talking to me about.

The opportunity for home ownership is something I think we really need to grasp and we really need to talk about a bit more and help people with. The opportunity for home ownership in this state is so important. Home ownership is important for financial security. Home ownership is so

important for stability. It is important for aspirational people to get a foothold on the home ownership ladder.

Adelaide has the second-worst dwelling affordability amongst capital cities right across the country. That is affecting many of my local residents as well. Historically, however, South Australia has been better off than the national average, but unfortunately under this government it is now more affordable to buy in parts of Melbourne than it is to buy in parts of Adelaide. That is what has happened only in the last couple of years under this Labor government.

New data released by Master Builders Australia shows that South Australian new home builds in 2022-23 declined by some 21.2 per cent to just 11,250. This data includes a 17.3 per cent reduction in new detached house starts, while the higher density home building market suffered a 37.5 per cent drop in South Australia. That reduction in new home building activity came at a time when the housing market pressure intensified—rents in Adelaide rising by 5.8 per cent over the year to December 2023, and the cost of new-build homes in the city climbing by 8.3 per cent compared with 12 months ago.

The question is: how can South Australians afford this? The rising cost is a bigger escalation than in nearly every other capital city. At a time when real wage performance in South Australia is well below the national average, when there is a rise in the cost of rents, when rental property availability is decreasing to below the national average and when there is such a rise in the cost of building a new home, how this government is giving itself a pat on the back is beyond me. This government needs to work on improving housing. There is a little bit of talk about releasing land—not a lot of building going on, I have to say. They have to continue to look at rental affordability, look at the cost of new builds and also ensure that South Australian wages follow or exceed, preferably, the national average.

In a nutshell, this government is failing young people when it comes to them trying to get onto the housing ladder. They are failing young people when it comes to wages. Despite having a low unemployment rate at the moment, there is still a lot of room for improvement in the local economy when it comes to helping South Australians to get ahead.

#### WAITE ELECTORATE

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:17):** I would like to take this opportunity to talk about a few excellent things that have been happening in my electorate. Over the Easter weekend, one of our newer community groups, WRAG, held their inaugural Easter egg hunt at the Woodlake Reserve within Craighburn Farm. The Woodlake Reserve Action Group were formed when committed locals came together with a joint passion to improve their reserve for the whole community to enjoy. They have worked hard to convince council to support them in this mission, and council have begun to oblige.

The community group have drop-in sessions and working bees. They have a fairy tree, and they have organised an Easter egg hunt. Angela Hills, Sophie Mavroudis and all of the WRAG volunteers hid over 500 plastic bags for children to find and then exchange with their parents for chocolate ones. Plus, the Easter Bunny arrived with a whole lot more extra chocolatey goodness. There was a colouring-in competition, the Waite badge maker was there, and the children and their parents and whole community just loved it. A huge congratulations to all involved on organising this event, and I thank them on behalf of the whole community for all the work that they are doing in that space.

Last night, over 150 community members joined the Mitcham and Hills Wellness Education session. Last year, I visited the Green Dispensary to make a contribution to a fundraiser that was happening to help a community member who had lost everything in a house fire. That is when I met Tracey Yeend. Tracy has been an excellent community advocate for many years, and we started talking about a forum to have a health discussion with our community, and it grew and grew and now it is a monthly event.

Every month we have a different speaker who is from a different health professional background. Last night we heard from Wendy Hall, who works to help people with dementia and their supporters. Wendy spoke last year at our very first session and returned last night with a session

called Remembering 2 Remember. It was excellent. All who attended thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the opportunity to take part in a few games that helped them remember.

As I mentioned, we have heard from many health professionals over the past year, and we have many more to come. I encourage members of our community to book ahead. Last night we were at capacity, and we are already halfway there for next month's, even though it is a whole month away.

I extend a huge thank you to everyone who is involved in bringing these sessions to our community: to Tracey for all the work that she has done in organising not only the speakers but also sponsorship for the events. We are very fortunate that Simon Doyle from Green Dispensary and Peter Alexandrou from Harris Real Estate both came on board. Both are excellent businesses, and through their support for these sessions we can continue to provide them.

I also thank the Blackwood Uniting Church, especially Peter and Peter, who are always there to help us get set up; Miles from *The Blackwood Times*, who promotes our sessions; as well as our retirement villages and helpers who distribute the invitations; my staff and volunteers who give so much and make the night run smoothly; and our community who show up to support it. It has been wonderful, and I look forward to next session, when SAAS and the 000 call operators are coming to talk to us about what happens when you call an ambulance.

The History Festival is fast approaching. The Blackwood Action Group has a history group led by Pauline Dodd and they have a wonderful list of events coming up for our community. There is a 'Travel back in time...by train' event, which sees attendees boarding the train at Belair and heading to some of our stations to learn about the history of the Belair line. That includes a Devonshire tea, which is very exciting.

The Belair heritage walk along Sheoak Road is also part of their offerings. Sheoak Road is home to some very impressive historical properties, and there will be refreshments at the Belair train station. And of course there is the Belair National Park tour called 'Off the beaten track', where attendees hop on a minibus and tour around Belair National Park, hearing about not only the current history but also the significance of the area to the Kurna and Peramangk people. This one includes refreshments as well.

Still with history week, and the Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust will host 'A living memorial to our brave nurses', which is a presentation at the playing fields about the annual Bangka Day memorial service, reminding ourselves about the peril of war and those sacrifices made by the nurses on that fateful day in Bangka Strait.

The ever beautiful Carrick Hill is hosting 'A home not a museum: pictures in English country house', where Susan McCormack, Director of Carrick Hill, will explore the collection and display of paintings in the English country house and its influence on the Carrick Hill collections.

If you can come and try Scottish dancing at the Mitcham Cultural Village, you will be in for a treat, with the 'Auld Lang Syne' come and dance Scottish. It is not the Highland Fling; it is something completely different that has developed and evolved over years, and everyone is invited to come along. Just wear comfortable shoes. The City of Onkaparinga has also organised a Coromandel Valley history walk, taking attendees through Watchman House and some of the other historical properties within Coromandel Valley.

Finally, do not forget every Saturday morning Park Run is on at Belair National Park, where over 250-plus locals come with their dogs and their kids. They run—and you can definitely walk—around the old golf course. There are so many exciting things happening in the seat of Waite within our community, and I encourage my community to get out and get into it.

#### **ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LAND RIGHTS ACT**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:23):** The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act of 1981, originally named the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act of 1981 (act number 20 of 1981), was assented to on 19 March 1981 and commenced on 2 October 1981. The act provided for the vesting of titled certain lands and the people known as Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. Initially named, as I say, the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act, it gave traditional owners inalienable freehold title to their

land in the far north-west of South Australia. It was a milestone for Indigenous self-determination in Australia.

On 30 October 1981, approximately 102,630 square kilometres of arid land in the state's north-west—about 10.4 per cent of the land area of the state of South Australia—was granted in freehold title to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara under the act. As is well known to members, the lands are located in the north-west of South Australia, and they include land in the north-west reserve and a number of pastoral leases. The most prominent features of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands are the Tomkinson, Mann, Musgrave and Everard Ranges. Most of the communities are located in and around these ranges.

It is in those circumstances that I was fortunate to be present just a couple of weeks ago at the major event to recognise and celebrate 40 years since the enactment of that most significant landmark legislation. It might be asked: hang on, is that not now heading on towards 43 years ago? It is. For reasons partly to do with COVID and other hurdles, and I think emblematic of just how complex and difficult to get to and to undertake a significant occasion on the lands it still is, we saw coming together this major event in recognition of 40 years only in the last few weeks.

I was fortunate to be present along with the member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, the member representing around 90 per cent of the state's land area, including the APY lands. Over a two-day period including the time at which the major commemorative event occurred, we took the opportunity to sit down and spend time with a whole range of people who had come to Umuwa from all parts of the APY lands, including Richard King and his wife, Tania King, who have led the way in terms of management of the APY lands now for several years.

Among the many who were there to contribute to the festive occasions, I want to single out the leadership and work of Colin Koch, who was leading preparations for what was termed the Kulilaya Festival. Colin is well known to those in connection with the lands; indeed, over a lifetime of contribution to the arts as well. He was there bringing together the festival events.

There were a whole range of contributors to the festivities on the day, including, I might say, Dem Mob. Elisha Umuhuri from Dem Mob, who is known by the stage name Payday, was there. He said the group was excited for the upcoming festival, which would see all the local talent in the region. He made the observation that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was happening just 20 minutes down the road from where it happened in 1981 in the creek at Ernabella to recognise the enactment.

I stood fortunately alongside Melissa Thompson on the 40-year anniversary, and together we held a photograph of my father together with her father, Punch Thompson, standing in the creek 40 years ago at Ernabella. Some things continue on through, and there are connections to be made as we go forward. There is much to celebrate, and much more work to do.

#### **MELALEUCA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:28):** Earlier today, I proposed a motion regarding school maintenance. To prepare for this, I toured local public schools and engaged in discussions with principals and student leaders to understand the unique challenges each school faces. Throughout this process, one school particularly impressed me with its presentation: Melaleuca Park Primary School. When I arrived at Melaleuca, I was greeted by the year 6 student leaders: Evelyn, Lacey, Taylor and Jackson, with Brax doing the photography. We sat down to discuss what the students had been working on before completing a tour of the school. They explained to me that during a recent school camp to Adelaide they had the opportunity to visit Westbourne Park Primary School and tour their facilities and hear about the learner agency program that Westbourne Park students were undertaking.

The learner agency is a topic where students are empowered to develop a sense of identity and responsibility as they participate in their school community and are supported to play a role in shaping their learning experiences. What stood out to the students were the school's toilets, believe it or not. As one of the students said, and I quote: 'Their toilets were outstanding, they had nice, private and clean toilets that look nothing like ours.'

Upon their return to school, the student leaders were inspired to make a difference by advocating for improved toilet facilities. During their lunch breaks they diligently surveyed fellow

students to gather input. The feedback highlighted the necessity for amenities such as hot water, new hand driers, better taps, private cubicles, locks on doors and improved cleanliness. Things that I think everybody would take for granted.

Using this information, the student leaders included all of the year 5/6 class to collate the information and write letters to those who might be able to help. They included the school principal, Erica Hurley, the school governing council, the education director, Mr Adam Box, the Minister for Education and, of course, myself. I was presented with letters during my visit after the students took me for a tour highlighting their facilities. Lacey spoke about the size of the toilets and how that affected the students, and I quote:

Firstly, they are not at all convenient for students that are smaller...like reception [students]. They can't reach the toilet flush button and can't wash their hands because they are too small to reach. The sinks are too high and the same with the toilets, they are too big.

Also, there is no room for two teachers to come and help if a student needed it and the department of education says that there should be room for two adults so they can help if needed.

Brax stated that there was no hot water or soap available in the toilets so the students were unable to wash their hands properly, which could lead them to become sick from the germs. Lacey highlighted the condition of the toilets and the lack of privacy, and I quote:

The toilets are really gross and mouldy. All of the toilets have lots of mould on the walls, on the floor, roof and doors.

There is nearly no privacy in the toilets. Some of the doors don't lock and some don't even have a lock! Other students can just open the door when people are doing their business. Also, students climb on the ledges and sit behind the toilet. It does not allow students to have privacy while using the toilets. The toilets need fixing now, they are revolting, not private and unsafe and the children deserve better!

Yesterday, I met with Ben Temperly, the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department for Education and presented him with the students' letters and photos. He has assured me the department will be looking into the issues the students have raised. I also met with the minister, Blair Boyer, and discussed this issue with him.

I would like to thank Evelyn, Lacey, Taylor, Jackson and Brax and all of the Melaleuca Park Primary School students for bringing these issues to my attention. I congratulate them on the work they are doing to advocate for better school services for their school.

### **BURNSIDE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:33):** I rise to acknowledge the Burnside Citizen of the Year award winners in my local electorate. It was a couple of months ago now that my local community gathered at Hazelwood Park to not only mark Australia Day, to not only welcome 89 new citizens to our local community but also, importantly, to acknowledge and celebrate some of the great work happening in our local community and award the Citizen of the Year award. That was awarded this year to Mr Andrew Bills.

A staple of the Burnside community, Andrew Bills has been the area coordinator for Linden Park Neighbourhood Watch for over 13 years now. That is an incredibly important association; it is instrumental in educating the community on safety and security strategies, raising awareness and inspiring local action to prevent crime by working together between the police and the community. I have had the privilege of being able to attend a couple of Linden Park Neighbourhood Watch community meetings. I know it is a really valued service in our local community and you can pick up a lot of very handy safety tips.

I think the other thing that Linden Park Neighbourhood Watch does so well is bring our community together. As recently as this weekend just gone, Linden Park Neighbourhood Watch organised a Neighbour Day barbecue in Linden Park, which brought together lots of neighbours from around the local area to share a barbecue that was cooked by the Rotary Club of Burnside. I want to thank them for their support of that event and also thank others who supported that event, including Bakers Delight at Marryatville and Churchills Butchery at Marryatville. This event was a really important way of bringing our local community together to share concerns and foster a sense of community in our local area.

I commend Andrew Bills for his work in organising that event and for all of his work over the last 13 years. I also acknowledge and commend Arth, who is going to take over from Andrew this year, for his eagerness and willingness to take on that role and step into those very big shoes. I think there are only about three Neighbourhood Watch groups left in the entirety of the City of Burnside, and I think the fact that the Linden Park group has been kept running this long, with quite good attendances at their meetings as well, is all thanks to the work and commitment of Andrew Bills and those who have assisted him: a very worthy winner of the Burnside Citizen of the Year.

I also acknowledge the Burnside Young Citizen of the Year, Brandon Marlow, who is an inspiring community leader. He demonstrates remarkable mentorship abilities at a very young age. He was selected to be a South Australian Youth Forum member in 2022 and progressed to be an executive member and mentor for the forum in 2023.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Brandon and with the South Australian Youth Forum, which is a great little group that has been put together by many local young people to advocate to this parliament on behalf of youth, and to present an annual report each year tackling many different youth issues. I had the opportunity to meet with them and see their 2022 annual report, as well as recently meeting with them to see their 2023 annual report raising some really important issues that affect youth in our local community. I commend and congratulate Brandon on all of his work in the South Australian Youth Forum and on winning this award. I also congratulate and commend Amber, Abbey, Lucy and everyone else involved in the South Australian Youth Forum and urge them to continue their very good work.

Finally, an award called the Active Citizen of the Year was awarded to the Burnside Military History Research Group, including Ian Fitzgerald, Colonel Peter Scott and Ian Sando (deceased). They have spent a lot of time researching soldiers who are honoured at the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial in Rose Park, also known as the Avenues of Honour. This is very important work, for which I commend them. I acknowledge and congratulate all of the Burnside Citizens of the Year.

### TRINITY COLLEGE

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:38):** Today I would like to share with the chamber a story of remarkable achievement in our region, a story that embodies the spirit of community and the power of education. This year, Trinity College celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a milestone that marks four decades of unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering inclusive excellence.

Last week I had the honour of celebrating this milestone, and earlier in the week I also witnessed the official opening of Trinity College Roseworthy, the sixth school under the Trinity banner. It was interesting to hear college head, Mr Nick Hately, in his speeches explain why they have built a sixth school. In the *Book of Matthew*, chapter 5, he summarised it as saying: a collective responsibility to do good things, about taking opportunities to put some genuine light into the world. What could put more light into the world than a new school? The new addition is not just a building; it is a beacon of hope, a place where education shines bright, illuminating the path through our electorate's future leaders.

The Trinity journey began modestly in 1984, with just 27 students in a small church hall in Gawler and, today, 17,555 students have called Trinity 'home', with 4,265 current enrolments. I had the good fortune to be a councillor on the Munno Para district council when planning approval was granted for the college to build on the current Evanston South site. My two sons Raffaele and Stefan completed their education at Trinity College. This growth is a testament to their mantra of maximising quality opportunities, so kids can find their passion and combine this with personal attention in a safe, caring and Christian environment.

It is the pioneering parents and students who have put their trust into Trinity that have made the college what it is today. I think Mr Hately summed it up perfectly when he said: 'Students will remember how schools made them feel long after the lessons are forgotten.' Like myself, board Chair Dr Ken Heath spoke about how he was blown away by the state of art facilities on display across the new Roseworthy campus.

While those facilities can sway prospective families to join, it is the bravery of the first families who entrusted their children to a school that emerged from a dusty paddock, housed in parent-made

log cabin classrooms, furnished with hand-me-down desks, and rocks for play. The leap of faith paved the way for the flourishing institution Trinity College has become today. The school's success is also due to the collective efforts of many, from the dedicated board and staff, the support across all levels of government, the visionary designers and builders and the First Nations community, whose culture of equity and respect the college strives to uphold.

I heard stories of remarkable things in the community, but almost everyone, especially if you are a cricket fan, has heard the names of two particular individuals: Travis Head and Ryan Harris. Only 466 cricketers have been fortunate to wear the baggy green in Australian test cricket, and Trinity has produced two talents to do so. Despite their commitments, they periodically return to Trinity to feature in the headmaster's first XI match.

The stories of the people and families that have built Trinity College are a testament to the community it has grown. The Thorne family not only had four children attend the college, but Helen and Rupert Thorne served on the college board for 15 years between them, Rupert as Chair for 11 years. Rupert also served on the Trinity College Foundation for many years, and the pair established the Spirit of Trinity Fund. Scores of students have had their education and personal needs met through the fund to help them on their schooling journey and deliver the experiences they have lived. It is in honour of this commitment that the Roseworthy library is now known as the Thorne Library.

Rick Jarman commenced at Trinity College in 1993 at Trinity Blakeview before becoming the foundation principal at Trinity Gawler River School in 2000, a role he continues to relish as Trinity's longest serving principal. His passion for the college's co-curricular offerings, service on numerous communities and helping design the Roseworthy School will forever be remembered, as children grow up playing on the newly named Jarman Oval at the Gawler River school's main oval.

I commend Trinity College and its staff, students and parents both past and present for their contributions in helping develop this school which thrives to give children in our electorate a great education. I will take a moment to say that I know Trinity College is not the only school in our electorate and that we are fortunate to have multiple public and non-government schools available to residents in our region.

I had the pleasure to work for Trinity College from 2000 to 2006 as college business manager. Since 2006, I have had the pleasure to serve this electorate and undertake multiple school visits, sit in on classes and conduct parliamentary tours. I am pleased to say that, with the knowledge and passion our youth have shown over the years, both during their schooling and in their spare time, the future is certainly bright in Light.

#### *Private Members' Statements*

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:44):** I rise to draw to the attention of the house a petition electronically that has been signed by several hundred Morialta residents, and I anticipate will be signed by more in relation to the renewal of the Hope Valley Reservoir. Prior to the last election, during the term of the Marshall Liberal government, the Leader of the Opposition, David Speirs, as environment minister did a good body of work on investing in opening up our reservoirs, and Hope Valley was one of them.

There is more work to do and I know that David Speirs and the Liberal team would have, if we were in government, been doing that work by now on further activating that reservoir, but giant pine scale having destroyed so many of the trees has made this issue urgent. Hundreds of local residents have signed a petition, and will I read it for the house's benefit:

The undersigned urge the Government to invest in further improvements for recreational activities at the Hope Valley Reservoir. In particular, noting the recent removal of hundreds of trees due to Giant Pine Scale, we urge the Government to act swiftly so that walking paths around the whole of the reservoir, within the reserve, can be planned and created in conjunction with the restoration of the trees. We urge the Government to commence the necessary community consultation as soon as possible to inform the plan for future work, so that the work may commence as soon as the relevant expert advice is received that the biohazard has been dealt with and that it is safe to do so.



I add my voice to those of my residents in urging the government to do this work, and to do it quickly so that the planning work can be undertaken as they are indeed considering the replanting of the trees. I commend this idea to the house and to the government.

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:46):** It was a very exciting weekend for football across our state and I was particularly pleased to see my beloved Port Power thump Essendon on Friday night at the Gather Round, a particularly convincing win which was very exciting. But also what was exciting was the impact of Gather Round out in the suburbs. I attended the Golden Grove Little Athletics presentation on Saturday morning and then the Tea Tree Gully Little Athletics presentation on Saturday night, competing clubs but both wonderful clubs in terms of what they provide for young athletes in our community.

I was a young Little Athletics girl myself back in the day. I think what was really exciting was seeing so many of the kids in their football guernseys and with scarves that said 'Gather Round' and those sorts of things and seeing the impact of Gather Round on little athletes out in the suburbs, whether or not they were attending the games or perhaps coming back to their sports clubs after the high of attending games in days previous.

Something that was also particularly exciting on Sunday was the announcement made in relation to the Football Facilities Fund, and I was particularly pleased to see that all three football clubs in my electorate were successful in their grant applications with respect to the Football Facilities Fund, that being the mighty Modbury Hawks Football Club, the Tea Tree Gully District Football Club and the Hope Valley Football Club—Hope Valley for interchange benches and the other two for new scoreboards, which will go a long way to supporting community football and sport out in my electorate in the north-eastern suburbs.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:47):** It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to rise today to pay tribute to something that happened in my electorate yesterday. The Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club held a very special memorial event. They put on a paddle-out to pay tribute to the memory of former club member, Peter Alan Crosby DFC. It is 80 years ago today that Peter Alan Crosby lost his life during a battle in World War II over Denmark. His plane was intercepted and he was shot down. He was only 20 years old. He had left his home in Waratah Street two years before to train as a pilot and headed out to Europe.

He received a Distinguished Flying Cross and during his time as a pilot was described as having exceptional coolness and fearlessness and an inspiration to his crew on all occasions. Eighty years ago today, Peter at the age of 20 lost his life. It was such a special thing to be able to join members of the club on the rescue boards to paddle out with a sprig of rosemary in my hand as club member, Bly Bayliss, dropped a wreath into the ocean. The club is a great club, and paying attention to its past, its fallen members no matter how they have fallen, is an important part of what many of our great community clubs are all about. I want to thank Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club for keeping Peter Alan Crosby's memory alive 80 years to the day from when he died.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:49):** Today, I would like to honour the Coordinating Italian Committee, affectionately known as CIC, for their enduring impact on South Australians of Italian heritage. Coming to South Australia in those early postwar days would have been a very difficult decision for many Italians to make, including my parents. Back then, the pathway to acceptance, let alone success, was often long and difficult, and organisations like CIC have been there to support this community and make the journey a little easier.

CIC dates back to the early 1970s, when in a small room on Torrens Road, a small group of people came together to find solutions to the needs and aspirations of the local Italian community. Since then, CIC has grown in its personnel and expertise and has developed its capacity to respond to community needs.

Incorporated in 1976, CIC has addressed many different needs and is now an organisation mainly focused within the aged-care landscape on providing aged-care services and advocating for older Italian people. The services include providing information and assistance in accessing services, day-care programs, a volunteer-based home visiting program, a shopping program, an exercise and wellbeing program for women, and a centre-based respite program. A meal and transport are also generally provided as part of the day programs.

I would like to thank the current CIC president, Silvio, his board members, staff and volunteers for their service to this community in ensuring the wellbeing and care of older members of the Italian community, providing great comfort to their families and carers. I would like to thank CIC for building a community that stands as a pillar of support and care and just also acknowledge the contribution made by the former member of Norwood, Vini Ciccarello, as a former president of CIC.

### *Bills*

## **STATUTES AMENDMENT (TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO) BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:51):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law South Australia Act 2013, the Highways Act 1926, the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 and the Road Traffic Act 1961. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:52):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading speech and explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

I rise to introduce the Statutes Amendment (Transport Portfolio) Bill 2024. The Bill contains two significant transport reforms and several minor technical amendments, namely:

- Transport reform one – amendment to the *Highways Act 1926* (Highways Act) to permit the Commissioner of Highways (Commissioner) to consent to a Roadside Service Centre accessing a controlled-access road and enter into a written agreement with the relevant party that includes payments and arrangements in relation to the access; and
- Transport reform two – amendment to the *Road Traffic Act 1961* to provide for a reduced speed limit of 25 kilometres per hour (km/h) limit when passing a breakdown services vehicle that is stopped on the road and is displaying amber flashing lights.

#### Roadside Service Centre Access Fees

Roadside Service Centres are situated alongside freeways or a motorways and provide useful services to motorists that can improve road safety outcomes by providing fuel, food, sanitary amenities, and, importantly, rest opportunities.

A Roadside Service Centre is different to an ordinary petrol station, in that it provides additional facilities including designated heavy vehicle parking areas, trailer marshalling or break-up facilities, public amenities such as showers, change rooms or play areas, and restaurant or fast food options.

A controlled access road is a road that is under the care, control, and management of the Commissioner (but does not necessarily have to be vested in the Commissioner) and operates to limit general access to the road corridor. Under the Highways Act, a person must not, without the consent of the Commissioner, construct, form or pave a means of access to a controlled-access road.

The Highways Act currently allows the Commissioner to issue a permit for access to a controlled-access road. However, there is no power under the Highways Act for the Commissioner to enter into a commercial agreement with a Roadside Service Centre Operator where the Roadside Service Centre Operator pays money in exchange for access to the controlled access road network. These amendments are contained in this Bill.

There is significant commercial value in granting access to a controlled access road because it enables a roadside service centre operator to become the sole and exclusive operator on that portion of road—although not necessarily along the complete section of that road.

This proposal will allow the Government to maximise the economic and community benefits from the Government's investment in roads and infrastructure. The revenue generated will assist in offsetting the State's costs of maintaining and operating its freeways and motorways.

Roadside Service Centres will deliver vital road safety benefits through the provision of attractive rest and refreshment opportunities for road users, which can contribute to road safety targets by reducing the number of crashes attributable to fatigue.

The Bill defines a Roadside Service Centre as a building, place or premises where fuel is offered or supplied for retail sale or charging facilities for vehicles powered by electricity are available.

This is a broad definition that will capture petrol stations, and other facilities that offer electric vehicle charging services. However, buildings, places or premises can be excluded from the definition with the Regulations. This will enable for any buildings, places or premises not intended on being included to be excluded.

Following the Bill's successful passage through Parliament, it is intended that regulations be drafted that will include additional criteria defining a Roadside Service Centre under the Highways Act. For example, it may state that the premises must contain a truck marshalling area, a minimum of five truck rest bays, a trailer marshalling/break up facility in addition to selling fuel. It is intended that the small and medium sized centres that are more accurately described as petrol stations will be excluded from the legislative definition of a Roadside Service Centre under the Regulations.

Additional powers are inserted to allow the Commissioner to require a roadside service centre operator to carry out specified works or actions in connection with the means of access and impose monetary penalties on the person for the failure to do so. In the event of such a failure, the Commissioner can carry out the actions or work specified themselves, and recover the costs of doing so, as a debt, from the Roadside Service Centre operator.

There are a number of existing petrol station sites on controlled-access roads that will be captured by the new definition of a Roadside Service Centre. However, the new provision will not apply to existing sites, and they will remain under the existing permit regime.

The existing power for the Commissioner to issue an access permit to a non-Roadside Service Centre applicant will remain in the Highways Act and continue to facilitate the process by which non-Roadside Service Centre Operator applicants apply for access to a controlled-access road. No written agreement with the Commissioner containing payments and other arrangements will apply in these circumstances.

#### Reduced speed past Breakdown Services Vehicles

The Bill contains an amendment to the Road Traffic Act to provide a new offence that requires motorists to drive at a reduced speed limit of 25 km/h when passing breakdown services vehicles that have stopped on a road and are displaying a flashing amber light.

Breakdown services vehicles within the Bill will include vehicles used for the purposes of providing breakdown services and includes tow trucks, RAA vehicles, and any other vehicle, or vehicles, of a class prescribed by the regulations.

The Bill provides an offence, with a maximum monetary penalty of \$2,500. It is intended that the offence will also have an expiation fee which will be inserted within a regulations package which will be prepared after the successful passage of the Bill to support the operation of the Bill's amendments.

This amendment will expand the current protection offered to emergency workers via the reduced speed limit of 25km/h within the emergency service speed zones in section 83 of the Road Traffic Act. South Australian Police officers with vehicles that are stopped on the road and displaying flashing blue or red lights are included within this category of currently protected emergency workers.

The Bill also contains various minor technical amendments to the *Road Traffic Act 1961*, the *Motor Vehicles Act 1959* and the *Heavy Vehicle National Law (South Australia) Act 2013* to improve the operation of transport legislation and ensure intended policy outcomes are achieved, in particular with respect to the operation of police issued notices of immediate loss of licence.

#### Standards for Camera Testing

The Bill amends the Road Traffic Act to align the testing requirements for mobile speed cameras to radar speed cameras. This will ensure both processes are consistent with advancements in modern technology. This will provide efficiencies as it removes the need for testing of cameras by physically driving through the mobile speed camera site and will allow for a more scientific testing regime. It will eliminate human error and is consistent with the approach taken in other jurisdictions. The Bill also contains an amendment to the requirement for the current 27-day testing period for fixed housing cameras to instead be undertaken annually.

#### Offensive Advertising

Additionally, the Transport Portfolio Act 2021 introduced a power for the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to refuse to transact with the owner or to cancel the registration of a vehicle displaying offensive advertising. The Motor Vehicles Act has been amended to update the definition of the relevant body which determines whether certain advertising is considered offensive. This was necessary because the body referred to in the Transport Portfolio Act 2021 was de-registered shortly after the Transport Portfolio Act 2021 passage through Parliament.

#### Fitness to Drive

The MVA allows the Registrar to direct an applicant for a driver's licence to undergo an assessment of their fitness to drive. Minor amendments were made to the relevant provision of the MVA to clarify minor anomalies that have been identified by the Crown Solicitor's Office.

#### Heavy Vehicle National Law

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (South Australia) Act 2013 (the HVNL SA Act) contains provisions which apply and assist the operation of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) in South Australia. The Bill amends the HVNL SA Act due to subsequent changes made to the HVNL over the past few years. These amendments include deleting redundant provisions, clarifying definitions and consequential amendments regarding heavy vehicle registration arrangements.

#### Immediate Loss of Licence

The Bill makes several technical amendments to the provisions which allow SA Police to issue a notice of an Immediate Loss of Licence (ILOL) at the roadside for the offences of drug driving and reckless and dangerous driving including:

- Providing excessive speed offending drivers, who receive an immediate loss of licence notice, a right of appeal to the court to lift their licence disqualification or suspension. This is to ensure consistency with a vehicle owner's right of appeal to do so that currently exists in the RTA.
- Inserting a specific power for SA Police to withdraw an ILOL when a determination is made that a driver should not be charged with the excessive speed offence. This is to ensure consistency with equivalent traffic offences under the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.
- Allowing allow SA Police to take into account time already served on the reissue of an ILOL. On occasion ILOLs must be withdrawn by SA Police and reissued to the same person to correct minor errors (such as incorrect date of birth recorded).
- However, there is no ability for SA Police to take into account time already served on that person's previously issued ILOL.
- Ensures that a police officer is able to issue an ILOL to a vehicle owner who they reasonably believe has committed a camera detected excessive speed offence against the RTA, in circumstances where the vehicle owner has not been given an expiation notice for that offence (but will likely be prosecuted in court for the offence instead).
- Additional technical amendments to clarify matters associated with the issuing of an ILOL for an excessive speed offence.

I seek the support of Members to progress the Bill through the House as expeditiously as possible in order to realise the benefits of the transport reforms and technical amendments. I also seek leave to have the Explanation of Clauses inserted into Hansard without my reading it.

I commend the Bill to the House.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

###### 3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Heavy Vehicle National Law (South Australia) Act 2013*

###### 4—Amendment of section 8—Definition of generic terms and terms having meaning provided by this Act

This clause inserts two definitions into section 8 of the principal Act.

###### 5—Repeal of section 11

Section 11 of the principal Act is repealed.

###### 6—Amendment of section 16—Modification of Law for certain purposes

Section 16(a) of the principal Act is deleted. Paragraph (ea) is inserted into section 16 of the principal Act, which modifies section 711 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law for the purposes of the South Australian jurisdiction.

###### 7—Amendment of section 24—Proof of lawful authority or lawful or reasonable excuse

Section 24 of the principal Act sets out on whom the onus of proof lies in regards to certain matters, as well as an evidentiary presumption. This clause amends section 24 of the principal Act to provide that the section applies unless the Heavy Vehicle National Law (South Australia) provides otherwise.

8—Repeal of Part 4 Division 1

Part 4 Division 1 is repealed.

Part 3—Amendment of *Highways Act 1926*

9—Amendment of section 7—Interpretation

The definition of *roadside service centre*, and other definitions required for the purposes of that definition, is inserted into section 7 of the principal Act for the purposes of amendments made to the principal Act by the measure.

10—Amendment of section 30DA—Access to property

Section 30DA(4) of the principal Act is amended because permission for the construction and use of a means of access to a controlled-access road from land abutting the road if a roadside service centre is, or is to be, located on that land will be governed by proposed section 30DB inserted by clause 11 of the measure. The other amendment in this clause is technical.

11—Insertion of sections 30DB and 30DC

New sections 30DB and 30DC are proposed:

30DB—Roadside service centre means of access

The Commissioner of Highways may give consent to the construction and use of a means of access to a controlled-access road from land on which a roadside service centre is, or is to be, located on the basis that an agreement between the Commissioner and the person benefitting from the means of access is entered into.

30DC—Required works for roadside service centre means of access

The Commissioner of Highways may require by notice that certain works or actions occur within a certain period in respect of a means of access to a controlled-access road from land on which a roadside service centre is, or is to be, located. A failure by a person to comply with such a notice may result in certain penalties or outcomes.

Part 4—Amendment of *Motor Vehicles Act 1959*

12—Amendment of section 28—Payments into National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Fund

The definition of *road use component* is substituted by this clause, and a definition of *regulatory component* is inserted for the purposes of section 28 of the principal Act.

13—Amendment of section 71C—Powers of Registrar in relation to offensive material displayed on motor vehicles

The definition of *advertising code breach determination* in section 71C(6) of the principal Act is amended such that the determination is of Ad Standards, rather than the Board that is appointed by Ad Standards. The definition of *Ad Standards* is substituted. The other amendment is consequential.

14—Amendment of section 80—Ability or fitness to be granted or hold licence or permit

Subsection (1b) is proposed to be inserted into section 80 of the principal Act and requires that an assessment required by the Registrar under that section be undertaken by a person or at a location determined by the Registrar. The other amendments are technical.

Part 5—Amendment of *Road Traffic Act 1961*

15—Amendment of section 45B—Power of police to impose licence disqualification or suspension

Section 45B of the principal Act is amended such that a person may be given a notice of licence disqualification or suspension if the person has been given an expiation notice for, or a police officer reasonably believes the person has committed, an offence to which the section applies. The other amendments made by this clause are either technical or are made such that section 45B is consistent with section 45D of the principal Act.

16—Amendment of section 47IAA—Power of police to impose immediate licence disqualification or suspension

Section 47IAA of the principal Act is amended to be consistent with section 45D of the principal Act.

17—Amendment of section 47IAB—Application to Court to have disqualification or suspension lifted

The amendments made by this clause are technical.

18—Amendment of section 79B—Provisions applying where certain offences are detected by photographic detection devices

The amendment made by this clause is technical.

19—Insertion of section 82A

New section 82A is proposed:

82A—Speed limit while passing breakdown services vehicle

Speed limits are imposed on persons driving a vehicle past a breakdown services vehicle in certain circumstances.

20—Amendment of section 175—Evidence

Section 175(3)(ba) of the principal Act is replaced by paragraphs (ba) and (baaa). Proposed paragraph (ba) sets out an evidentiary provision relating to the accuracy of a photographic detection device that is mounted in a fixed housing and stipulates that such a device will be taken to be accurate for a period of 1 year following a test (as opposed to a period of 27 days as provided by current section 175(3)(ba) of the principal Act). Proposed paragraph (baaa) sets out an evidentiary provision relating to the accuracy of a photographic detection device that is not mounted in a fixed housing and, unlike the current section 175(3)(ba), requires that testing of such a device occurs in accordance with certain standards. The period of deemed accuracy of such a device remains the same as the current provision.

Schedule 1—Transition provision

1—Transitional provision—continuation of permits under *Highways Act 1926*

This clause sets out a transitional provision for the purpose of the measure relating to permits granted under section 30DA of the *Highways Act 1926* in operation before the amendments made by the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Patterson.

## **PASSENGER TRANSPORT (PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:53):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Passenger Transport Act 1994. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:53):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading speech and explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

I am pleased to introduce the Passenger Transport (Public Transport Infrastructure) Amendment Bill 2024 which amends the *Passenger Transport Act 1994*. The introduction of this Bill supports our election commitments to safeguard and improve public transport operations in South Australia.

The Government is committed to providing high quality, reliable public transport for South Australians. As such, it is crucial that public transport infrastructure, such as bus interchanges can continue to function without hindrance. This must happen regardless of whether such infrastructure is on land owned by the Government.

The Bill creates a special infrastructure power which allows the Minister to maintain, remove, extend, alter or replace the infrastructure for regular passenger services, if that infrastructure has already been constructed at or near a hospital, tertiary education facility, shopping centre or prescribed place.

I should note that exercise of the special infrastructure power will be subject to any agreement to the contrary which comes into existence after the Act commences. Landowners or occupiers that currently permit the public transport infrastructure to operate on their land can negotiate to grant access to the Minister on different terms.

Under the amended *Passenger Transport Act*, it will be an offence for a person to interfere with the operation of public transport services or with the exercise of the Minister's power.

South Australians expect continued delivery of the public transport system that provides easy access to essential public and community services including work, education, medical services and supermarkets. That is what this Bill seeks to safeguard.

I seek the support of Members to progress the Bill through the House as expeditiously as possible.

I commend the Bill to the House and seek leave to have the Explanation of Clauses inserted into Hansard without my reading it.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of Passenger Transport Act 1994

###### 3—Insertion of section 24AA

This clause inserts new section 24AA as follows:

###### 24AA—Special powers in relation to major public facilities

This proposed section provides the Minister with powers to maintain, remove, extend, alter or replace infrastructure for regular passenger services where such infrastructure has been constructed or installed at a major public facility or at a related public place for a major public facility.

If damage to property occurs (not being damage that is, in the Minister's opinion, trivial, and not being property that forms part of infrastructure for regular passenger services) and the Minister is satisfied that the damage was caused by works carried out under this section, the Minister must make reasonable efforts to make good the damage.

It is an offence for a person to, without lawful authority, hinder or obstruct a person exercising functions under this section, or the operation of, or the public's access to, public transport services at infrastructure for regular passenger services within the ambit of this section. The maximum penalty for this offence is \$100,000 if the offender is a body corporate or a Division 4 fine if the offender is an individual. A person who commits this offence, or who continues to commit this offence after being convicted, by reason of a continuing act or omission, is liable to be further penalised.

At the written request of the Minister, the Registrar-General must make a notation of the existence of infrastructure for regular passenger services within the ambit of this section.

Subsection (12) defines infrastructure for regular passenger services, major public facility and related public place for a major public facility as well as other terms and phrases used in the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Patterson.

## SUPPLY BILL 2024

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:54):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the financial year ending on 30 June 2025. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (15:54):** I move:

I move that this Bill be read a second time.

A Supply Bill is necessary until the Budget has passed through the parliamentary stages and the Appropriation Bill 2024 receives assent.

In the absence of special arrangements in the form of the Supply Acts, there would be no parliamentary authority for expenditure between the commencement of the new financial year and the date on which assent is given to the Appropriation Bill.

The amount being sought under this Bill is \$7,706 million.

I seek leave to have the second reading speech and explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### 1—Short title

This clause is formal.

## 2—Interpretation

This clause provides a definition of *agency*. An agency is a Minister, an administrative unit, or part of an administrative unit, of the Public Service of the State or any other instrumentality or agency of the Crown.

## 3—Appropriation

This clause provides for the appropriation of up to \$7,706 million from the Consolidated Account for the Public Service of the State for the financial year ending on 30 June 2025.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Patterson.

## **AUKUS (LAND ACQUISITION) BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:55):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to facilitate the AUKUS submarine project by providing for the acquisition of certain land. Read a first time.

### *Standing Orders Suspension*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:55):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable the bill to be taken through all stages without delay.

**The SPEAKER:** An absolute majority is required. We will make careful count of the house. An absolute majority not being present, ring the bells.

*An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** As an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house is present, I accept the motion.

Motion carried.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (15:57):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I would like to begin by recognising the assistance of the opposition, including the member for Morphett, the member for Colton and the Hon. Michelle Lensink in the other place, for their assistance in bringing this legislation to the house today and I acknowledge the somewhat difficult logistics that that has all required. It is a powerful reminder that, when it comes to national security, both the government and the opposition have a very cooperative relationship that supports the national security goals of the Australian government.

On 15 March 2023, the Commonwealth of Australia and the state entered into a corporation agreement to support the delivery of the SSN-AUKUS, Australia's next-generation conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarine, which will be constructed in Osborne, South Australia. This is of and in the national interest, with Osborne becoming the home of Australia's submarine construction industry, making it a vital part of Australia's future defence and national security.

This legislation is being introduced to facilitate the delivery of the new submarine construction yard at Osborne by securing an important area of land currently owned by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield for inclusion in the package of land transfers between the state and commonwealth government. This land transfer, including the land owned by the council, is an important step towards ensuring that our state is ready to start building submarines. The exchange of land will also unlock thousands of high-quality, high-paying jobs in industries such as shipbuilding and inject billions of dollars into infrastructure.



As well as playing our part in this really critical national undertaking, AUKUS will transform South Australia's economy for generations. As a result of AUKUS, it is estimated that over the forward estimates \$6 billion will be invested in the Australian industry and workforce and at least \$2 billion invested in South Australian infrastructure alone. Development of the submarine construction yard, which is almost three times larger than the yard forecast for the previous Attack class program, will generate employment of up to 4,000 workers at its peak. This is in addition to the 4,000 to 5,500 direct jobs that are expected to be required to support the building of AUKUS submarines when the program reaches its peak.

The submarine program will also have a range of flow-on benefits beyond defence and construction work. This includes the opportunity to build and enhance our reputation both nationally and globally. Delivery of the SSN-AUKUS is the biggest project our state has ever seen, and South Australia must play its role in ensuring its success. Given the complexity and scale of this project, we must move quickly to ensure the submarine construction yard is ready to begin construction of our new submarines on schedule.

This bill facilitates the transfer of four allotments currently owned by the council to Renewal SA and ensures that the council is compensated for the current market value of the land to be vested with Renewal SA. Inclusion of this council land in the land transfers to the commonwealth will enable Australian Naval Infrastructure Pty Ltd (ANI) to better secure the perimeter of the new submarine construction yard and provide the opportunity for the development of a new access point to their facilities. The need for this bill arises from the cooperation agreement between the state and commonwealth government and the commonwealth time frame for establishing a new submarine construction yard at Osborne.

This legislation is being introduced to ensure that the development of the new submarine construction yard can go ahead as expeditiously as possible. Alternative pathways for securing the land will not meet the commonwealth's construction time frames due to the statutory processes and time frames associated with the revocation of community land under the Local Government Act 1999 and the compulsory acquisition processes under the Land Acquisition Act 1969.

In order to meet the critical program dates targeted by ANI, the land must be available by no later than July 2024. This will ensure site preparation and an early works package for a grade separated road and infrastructure services relocation so that they can commence, subject to any approvals, as soon as practicable. These early works are required to support the sustainment of the existing Osborne naval shipyard and as the enabler to future construction.

The bill will not affect the impact assessed development declaration that I recently made pursuant to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, which requires ANI to prepare and publicly consult on an environmental impact statement as part of the planning processes for the submarine construction yard. State and federal environmental, social and economic impact assessments will be undertaken with federal approval under the commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which are required before the facility can be constructed.

The existing rights of infrastructure authorities within registered easements on the land are unaffected by the bill. However, other dedications and restrictions on the land, such as a community land classification under the Local Government Act, will be lifted to facilitate the transfer and future development of the land as a submarine construction yard. I commend the bill to parliament and I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines terms used in the measure.

#### 4—Application of Act

This clause sets out the relationship between this new Act and other Acts and laws of the State.

#### 5—Certain requirements not to apply in relation to Act

This clause provides that certain requirements under other laws of the State—for example authorisations—that might otherwise apply in relation to this measure are not required to be satisfied.

#### Part 2—Acquisition of project land

#### 6—Acquisition of project land

This clause acquires the project land, as defined, from the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and vests it in the Urban Renewal Authority.

#### 7—Revocation of status of project land as community land

This clause revokes the existing classification of the project land as community land under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

#### 8—Closure of roads

This clause closes any roads that form part of the project land.

#### Part 3—Compensation

#### 9—Compensation

This clause provides that the City of Port Adelaide Enfield is entitled to compensation in respect of the acquisition of the project land. The amount of compensation is to be equal to the market value of the project land, and the clause sets out the process for determining that market value.

#### Part 4—Miscellaneous

#### 10—Duties of Registrar-General

This clause allows the Minister to direct the Registrar—General to take certain action related to the acquisition and vesting of the project land under this measure.

#### 11—Stamp duty not payable

This clause provides that stamp duty is not payable in respect of the acquisition and vesting of the project land under this measure.

#### 12—Regulations

This clause is a regulation making power.

#### Schedule 1—Project land

#### 1—Project land

This clause defines the project land.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:04):** I take the opportunity in parliament today to speak about the AUKUS (Land Acquisition) Bill. I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. It is not going to be an expansive discussion and debate. As the minister has said when he introduced this bill, it is done so on the basis of moving through in all stages today, and the opposition certainly does not seek to hold anything up. In fact, we look to work with the government on this.

The bill itself says it is an act to facilitate the AUKUS submarine project by providing for the acquisition of certain land. Of course, that land that we speak of is on the Lefevre Peninsula, up at Osborne, where already we have submarine and shipbuilding occurring. We have the Collins class submarine built there at Osborne and also, currently, the construction of the Hunter class frigates.

That site was envisaged to also take on the construction of the conventionally powered Attack class submarines until, back in September 2021, the former federal Liberal government announced the establishment of AUKUS, which really is a landmark trilateral security pact between three great allies that have supported each other way back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A lot of it is driven by the uncertainty now in security challenges that are happening in and around the Indo-Pacific. The Indian Ocean used to be quite a benign maritime environment and, equally, since World War II the Pacific has been quite safe and secure. Of course, a massive amount of world trade goes through both those oceans and our country, being an exporting nation, is dependent on maritime security and safety in those two oceans.

This initiative looked at those security challenges, and of course the primary announcement around that AUKUS agreement was that Australia would look to acquire nuclear-powered submarines and that they would be built in South Australia. The first undertaking as part of that was to look at what would be the optimal path to achieving this.

I talked about the Attack class submarines. They were conventionally armed and had an estimated cost of around \$90 billion. These nuclear-powered submarines are a big step up in terms of projected costs, anywhere up to about \$350 billion. It is a massive undertaking for our country in terms of its budget, but the reason for looking at that is the utility and the capability that these nuclear-powered submarines would provide the Australian Navy. The range, the ability to stay secretive and hidden, and the asymmetric aspect that nuclear-powered submarines have justify and warrant that, in terms of looking after the security and defence of our nation.

It should really be emphasised that it was a key decision for the nation's security, but it will have massive impacts in South Australia, because, of course, as I said, Osborne is the site that was earmarked for where those submarines would be built. They are massive platforms. They are many times bigger than the Collins class. I think the Collins class is about 3,000 to 3,500 tonnes, compared with these submarines, which are upwards of 11,000 tonnes. You can see it is a massive difference between the two. That just gives a bit of a sense of how big an undertaking it would be.

Moving on, in March 2023, the current Prime Minister reinforced what the optimal pathway for Australia to acquire nuclear submarines would be and also confirmed that the construction of those submarines would be at Osborne. That pathway, how to do it, is such a big undertaking. It is going to take a lot of time. In the interim, it is envisaged that this AUKUS pact will deliver Australia a conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarine capability by the 2030s by purchasing between three and five of the US's Virginia class submarines. Of course, the US military complex have to make sure that the ability to do that is there, that they have themselves been able to continue to manufacture enough submarines for their purposes. I will touch on that a bit later.

Those submarines will get us through a capability gap. After that, we would look to continue on with the introduction of nuclear-powered submarines via our own submarines built here at Osborne. The design for that SSN-AUKUS would be based on a UK design, which is their next-generation design. They have the Astute class. It is their next-generation design. Importantly, it would incorporate technology from both the US and the UK. While it is UK-designed, it would include combat systems and a propulsion system from the US.

This is significant in terms of the US as well, providing their technology to an ally. They have only ever done that for the UK, which of course is party to this AUKUS agreement, and now Australia. It speaks volumes to the respect that our nation, a middle power, has been able to impress upon what is a superpower through decades, over a century, of working alongside each other and showing capability as well.

Of course, the opposition, the South Australian Liberal Party, is very supportive of the announcement back in September 2021, and as I said in this house last year as well, it continues to be very supportive of the direction that AUKUS is going and where it could go. It will take many years to reach fruition and then ongoing decades and decades of effort by the state, so it requires bipartisan support both at the federal level and also at the state level as well.

The opposition was made aware of this bill here before us yesterday and was expeditiously provided a briefing this morning on the bill, noting that the government's intention is to move this through the House of Assembly today. We appreciate the fact that the briefing was fulsome and was able to really let us understand the reasons and motivations for it.

Principally, as has been explained by the minister, it is to help facilitate the commonwealth to continue on their critical pathway to ensure the construction time line. Where I talked about the

purchase of initially Virginia class submarines, where the US stands to benefit, moving over to the design and the first of type SSN-AUKUS being built in the UK, so in the middle term the UK benefiting, and then afterwards the construction of the submarine at Osborne, so in the longer term South Australia benefiting and looking to have a submarine constructed and in the water by 2042.

That seems a long way off, but, as has been said many times, it is such a massive undertaking and requires effort from day one. It cannot be allowed to drift and just meander along. It is pleasing to see that the commonwealth is really working hard to ensure that that deadline, that time line, remains intact. The first part of that, of course, is to build the actual submarine shipyard itself.

Previously, I talked about Osborne and the Collins class and the Hunter class. I will maybe talk about the Hunter frigates and the construction to that shipyard that was required to produce, manufacture and construct a world's best surface fleet ship in the Hunter class. There was \$500 million of funding put towards the construction of a number of various very large sheds to enable the Hunter class ship to be built at that shipyard.

As I have had the opportunity to do, when standing on the hill at Seacliff or Seaview, looking north towards Port Adelaide, you can now quite prominently see on the horizon those big sheds. Those big sheds, being in a greenfield site, have allowed for that shipbuilding to be done in a contemporary and modern environment. To have it set up as a digital shipyard takes effort upfront but, of course, where that will pay off is down the track with the digitisation and the advantages that that brings, such as with welding processes, will speed the process up.

The commentary around that, when you talk to BAE, which is building those Hunter class frigates, is that where similar frigates are being built in the Glasgow shipyards, that is based on a shipyard that is over 100 years old. So, effectively, a shipyard that was building ships to be delivered for World War I is now trying to deliver ships through to the 2030s, whereas in Australia at Osborne we have been able to build a modern and contemporary shipyard on a greenfield site.

That opportunity again presents itself in terms of building the shipyard for the nuclear-powered submarines. The actual size and scale of it is significantly expanded compared with what it was going to be for the Attack class submarines—I think about three times the size of the Attack class. That is built up over a number of parcels of land, originally where the Attack class was going to be built, but some of that land takes in land that is not owned by the state but owned by Port Adelaide Enfield council, which is the subject of this bill.

Of course, the state has entered into a land transfer agreement with the commonwealth to allow land to be transferred to the commonwealth which would then, through the ANI, go about building these shipyards. One of the important pieces of land which was pointed out at the briefing and which is contained within this bill is not owned by the state government but in fact by the Port Adelaide Enfield council. To be able to transfer that land across to the commonwealth and allow them to continue the building of the shipyard requires consideration of how that land can be transferred across from the council. It is my understanding that the council is a willing participant; I have not heard that directly, but from the briefing.

The way that a traditional transfer of land from a council to a state government would go would be through the Local Government Act. The land itself, I think, is deemed community land, so there is a process where consultation would have to be undertaken to revoke that community land status, and then to transfer it to the state government. My experience with councils in these matters is that that can take a significantly long time. We have heard that the commonwealth seeks to have this land transfer completed and finalised by July 2024—so in only a few short months. It would be simply unrealistic to expect that to happen.

Equally, if the state government was to compulsorily acquire it via existing acts such as the Land Acquisition Act—which is discussed in part 4 of the act—again, there are time frames there that would span well past the July 2024 time frame. The introduction of this bill seeks to overcome that in a way that does not prejudice the Port Adelaide Enfield council. By all accounts, they will be compensated for that at market value. The bill seeks to allow that land to be transferred across and for the shipyard to have continuous ownership from the commonwealth in the areas that it requires.

As I said before, it is about 70 hectares of land, which would allow for what is a massive undertaking. Certainly, it will be the biggest undertaking in the state's history, but it is vital for the nation's security, as I have outlined previously. South Australia will be pivotal to that, so it is really important for our nation's security and also for our relationship with our allies, the UK and the US, that this is a success and that it sticks to the time lines. South Australia really has the privilege, but also the responsibility, of stepping up and making sure that we do everything we can to ensure that this undertaking is a success. This bill forms part of that.

We know that the outcome of building these submarines is going to be huge for the state in terms of the ability to provide economic activity and to provide support for our defence industries. It has been said that around 5,000 direct jobs will be created from the submarine building, but the actual construction of the shipyards is going to be a massive undertaking as well. It will be demonstrably bigger than the Hunter class shipyard build, ergo there will be many more thousands of jobs there. Billions of dollars are being spent on setting up this shipyard, compared to the \$500 million for the Hunter class.

It will take many years—12 years in all—to go through the entire shipbuilding in stages. The question might be, 'This is going to take so long; why is this being rushed through parliament?' but, realistically, there is a critical pathway that the project is on, and this bill forms part of it. The opposition, as I have said previously, have provided bipartisan support for the AUKUS shipbuilding. We see it as really important for Australia and South Australia, and so we would make sure that we are in lockstep supporting the government in making sure that the commonwealth can play their part.

There is another aspect of that shipyard and where it sits at the moment. The UK has their submarine shipbuilding, where the SSN-AUKUS will be, at Barrow-in-Furness. Principally, the reason for the existence of Barrow-in-Furness is to build submarines. The whole town is geared towards that. There are skills academies there as well.

Similarly, the UK has two yards where they build submarines. We have heard commentary only very recently about the pressures that those shipyards are under. They are meant to basically have a production line of these submarines for the US Navy, putting out two a year. They are behind in their schedules to the point where the commentary was that the 2025 order has been reduced to one because, realistically, the throughput is not there, and they need to get that going.

By having a very modern dual-purpose shipyard and submarine-building yard at Osborne, it will be the world's best, you would have to say. There would be no other shipyard that is dual purpose, such as Osborne. It will play a vital role in submarine building for the UK, the US and Australia because it will allow our shipyard to be integrated into that supply chain. Certainly, as I discussed before, in the medium-term the UK stands to benefit because they are building the first of type for this SSN-AUKUS. They already have their defence industrial complex geared towards feeding in for the Astute, which you would expect to translate across to the SSN-AUKUS. BAE, which has been awarded the contract here for Australia, is the builder over there.

The defence companies in the UK are integrated in the supply chain. What we need to be very cognisant of is giving as much opportunity for South Australian defence companies, and the Australian defence companies more broadly, to participate in the supply chain. The way to do that is to be ready and for the building capability to be feeding into the supply chain as soon as possible, so that if there are delays, we would not want the case where the UK's supply chain is so advanced that our South Australian defence industry would be precluded.

Hence why this land acquisition bill, enabling the commonwealth to start on its critical pathway, should be supported: to make sure there are no delays, so that the submarine that is first built here in South Australia is in the water by 2042, such that the ambition to have manufacturing construction in this decade at Osborne is able to continue. For that reason as well, it is another imperative that the opposition is supporting in this bill because it will give vast opportunities to South Australian companies.

It will also create confidence. I talked about the 5,000 direct jobs. There are also many other high-quality jobs, and these are long-term jobs because the undertaking is for many decades. The opportunity for training is also vitally important. People will see a horizon and actually see a near-term opportunity to work in this undertaking. They are not training and then having to wait through some

sort of valley so that they have to go off and look for work in other sectors. Again, I am trying to emphasise the importance of that.

In the briefing, one of the natural questions over and above was whether the Port Adelaide Enfield council is a willing partner to this. There were other questions about the impact on the land itself that is being compulsorily acquired. By all accounts, when you look at it, it is land that is similar to the surrounding land insofar as it is not heavily activated and has a biodiversity utility, but, from that perspective, you could say there is not a lot of human use.

One aspect and a consequence of this is that access to some of the other land in proximity could be well affected by this. One of those areas is Mutton Cove. It is a conservation area, pretty much salt marsh and has a fair bit of birdlife there. The public can get access to that, not that it is done for recreation so much as for people looking to continue conservation. One consideration could be that, while the Friends of Mutton Cove provide some assistance in the conservation of that area, maybe some funds could be provided—I think DEW has responsibility at the moment—for that area, such that it does not require as much active stewardship from community groups to keep it maintained because, regarding access, it will be effectively landlocked for everyday use. There will be the allowance of some access but on a more managed basis. They are certainly some considerations that would jump to mind in the short time that this bill has been before the house and in the time prior to that. I am certain that those aspects will be looked at in due course.

In summary, the opposition, as I have said before, are very supportive of AUKUS from when it was first announced and continuing to where we are here. We know that it will strengthen the country's military capacity, it will strengthen South Australian defence industry capacity, and it will certainly provide you would say a step change in the skills base and the quality of jobs that are available here in South Australia. So we maintain our support for that and I think the fact that we are happy to work in an expeditious manner with the government to see this pass through the lower house also emphasises the support that the Liberal opposition has here in South Australia for the AUKUS agreement.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:32):** I rise to speak to the AUKUS (Land Acquisition) Bill 2024 and note the speed at which this legislation is hoped to be expedited through the house. It is an unusual speed and barely used. I know we had similar speed with the anti-protester legislation in the not too distant past. and I guess on the same scale as this, to a degree, was the Olympic Dam legislation several years ago where BHP was proposing to open the top up of their mine at Roxby Downs. It would have taken years of scraper operations. I think, from memory, it was a \$30 billion project and it would have really opened up and realised great access to that copper resource which has—my son did tell me because he has worked up there—somewhere over 1,200 kilometres of underground roads; it might be closer to 1,600, and it is a great boon for the state.

We did work together in a bipartisan way in the parliament to do what we could to get that done. In the end, BHP pulled the trigger and did not do that, and I can understand why. I think it was going to be four years of scraper operations. As I said, I think it was a \$30 billion project just to get down to the ore body. I know that the mine is at least 500 metres deep, so that is a lot of earth to move at a great cost. What we are seeing here with the land acquisition bill is compulsory acquisition on a grand scale. One of the clauses in relation to the bill is where certain requirements are not to apply in relation to the act. It states:

Except as may be prescribed by the regulations, no—

- (a) assessment, decision, consent, approval, authorisation, certificate, licence, permit or permission; or
- (b) consultation, notification or other procedural step,

I tell you what, if we applied that to every proposed development in South Australia we would get some stuff done but we would probably upset a lot of people. This is a bit of a tangent but, certainly, when it comes to planning decisions at a local government level—and I have talked to people seeking home approvals—it can take two years to get development approval, especially in this time where we are in a housing shortage. As I said, this is compulsory acquisition at a grand level.

I am interested that we were only presented with a briefing earlier today at lunchtime. I appreciate that we did get a briefing with people involved with the project, such as Renewal SA and people directly involved in setting this land up, because the AUKUS project is vital for the security of this country and it exemplifies the cohesion we have with Great Britain and America, and there are clues that Japan may come on board as well.

It is a huge project, notwithstanding any issues with production of Virginia-class submarines in America where there is talk about cutting back production per year. We will be purchasing I think three Virginia-class submarines. Obviously, these are nuclear-powered submarines but conventionally armed.

After all the decades and years of essentially not going anywhere with nuclear, I think it shows how not just the state but the country has matured in its broadening of its thoughts towards having nuclear reactors in submarines that can literally last for the full lifecycle of the submarines. They are saying these submarines will last about 32 years. The sealed unit will be transported to Australia as a sealed unit with other apparatus, with whatever operating features have to go in the submarine. Essentially, you are building a nuclear-powered steam turbine, so obviously there would be a lot of apparatus tied in with that.

Certainly, when I went on the trip to Finland, France and England about 10 years ago when there was a royal commission into storing nuclear spent rods or waste, whichever you want to call it, we certainly saw and heard about how that material is transported. It is all under international regulation. That involves waste and I am sure that a nuclear reactor would be under the same or very similar protocols where you would have at least double-skin boats and there are other protective measures that are in place that they are not going to let out, and I understand that. It is under very strict protocols.

You just have to think about Lucas Heights, the small reactor we have in Sydney, which had to do something with storing its own spent material. What happens is that, instead of double-shipping, a ship comes from somewhere overseas where there is obviously other spent material generated, bringing the amount of spent fuel that has been reconstituted to whichever level it might be, which might be just in spent rods that have sat underwater for many years to take the heat out of them.

It is interesting that I was told when I was overseas that a metre of water neutralises the radiation from rods that are just fresh, hot out of a reactor, but obviously they use far more safety balance when doing that. I saw pictures of spent rods essentially in swimming pool-like conditions, with people walking around with shirts and shorts and no worries.

We also visited some low and medium-level spent rod waste facilities in Finland, which were basically a couple of silos in the ground. About 20 metres was atop of them and 20 metres underneath—no big deal. It was just like a shed door where you went through, walked down and they have these two silos. There are yellow marks and they do give you a little radiation reader just in case there is something, and I understand that, but they take school groups down there to see what is going on.

Finland has a very mature nuclear industry with some big reactors. I may be wrong, but I think there were a couple of around 800 megawatt reactors, and they were building a 1,600 megawatt reactor. There was a contest for people to have the right to get the jobs to work on these facilities near their town. Back then, and it is probably getting close to 50 years now, they were saying that for 38 years they had been developing their protocols on burying their own waste.

We went underground 500 metres looking at how spent rods would be sealed in steel tubes which were wrapped in copper and placed in a slot 500 metres down with bentonite poured around that, cement poured around that, and there is probably another layer of cement. By this time the engineers are rolling their eyes knowing that the risk level is that low it is hardly worth talking about, and then you have 500 metres of rock to the surface.

I know I have spoken about it in this place before, but in the bigger picture I think that would be a far better option than all the spent fuel that is on the surface of the earth as we speak right around the world. Even in England, there are at least 120 tonnes of plutonium in the Lake District, one of the most beautiful places in England. This spent plutonium was generated in World War II in

developing the first atom bombs and I certainly think that would be a far better thing buried deep underground.

Getting back to the material sent to Sydney, it will be processed material that was identical to unprocessed material that was spent fuel from the reactor which would be swapped over at Sydney. My understanding is that that is in a barrel-type structure and completely safe. You can walk right up to it evidently as spent fuel, and the other material would be sent back overseas to be processed because you can turn the spent rods into MOX fuel where it goes down to about 20 per cent of its size. It is completely unusable then, whereas spent fuel rods that are buried can be dug up and reprocessed and used in one way, shape or form. Finland used to export their spent rods to Russia, but for fairly obvious reasons they legislated not to do that anymore because they did not want them coming back in any way, shape or form.

In relation to this, I understand the acquisition that is going here. As I have said before in this house, my grandfather and father were involved in 1939 with land acquisition at Angle Vale for the weapons dumps near the Northern Expressway; that was Pederick land. Eleven years later, in 1950, some of the Edinburgh air base was one of our farms as well. My cousin said to me the other day that he thinks it is in the middle of the runway there somewhere. It is near Heaslip Road anyway, and I will have a look one day when I have a bit more time to see if I can find the old land titles.

So I certainly understand the bit about land acquisition, but that would have been a process I am sure even then to go through. Mind you, obviously in 1939 there was a war on and that may have been quickened as well.

As part of the whole process of the land swap and acquisition, one thing that disturbs me is what has happened at Keswick. Certainly, in talking to people serving in the Army and veterans from the Army, one thing that is notable is the ties that individuals from this state have to Keswick Barracks and the history and camaraderie of the units and the people who have served there over time. I have been to several functions and memorabilia days, and they do a great job there.

But evidently Keswick has been done and dusted. It has been transferred, and it is already on a leaseback process. That has certainly caused some angst. Running into a couple of senior Army people and meeting with them one day, I was quite disturbed by one comment, when they had a meeting with the government. I do not know who they met with, but they told me the comment they got back when they talked about the military history in relation to Keswick. They were told the answer was 'white man's history'.

I find that a bit offensive, saying Keswick is just about white man's history. I think it is a slap in the face for our Aboriginal service men and women who have served over the years, going back to World War I before they could even vote. I have talked about Peter Craigie in this place, whose grandfather and my great-grandfather are one and the same person on different lines. He was a World War I serviceman and Aboriginal. His mother was Bunny Roxborough from South West Queensland. Obviously with a name like Craigie, his father was a Scotsman, from the Scottish side of my family.

I found that disturbing, if nothing else, because that answer demeans the service of people who could not even vote. I am glad that that has changed, many years ago. Aboriginal people, especially in earlier times, were prepared to lay down their lives for their country when they could not even vote. All service men and women who serve are prepared to lay down their life, but when you are not allowed to vote, I think that is next level. I remember, years ago now, when we repatriated Miller Mack's body from West Terrace Cemetery. He was a World War I soldier, who died after he got home from—I might have it wrong—tuberculosis. That was quite a moving ceremony, transferring Miller Mack to the Raukkan cemetery at Narrung.

Keswick has happened. There is that leaseback. I know that there is much concern amongst the Army. We had that conversation in the briefing. With the change in world dynamics, we see those many service men and women who have been transferred to Edinburgh in recent years getting told to up stumps to Darwin and Townsville. Quite frankly, I think—well, I know; I do not just think—there is a lot of difficulty for many of those families who have found it very handy living here, either in or around Adelaide near the base. It is a fact that military life is tough. People get shifted to many, many



different locations, obviously depending on the length of their career. It does certainly have a huge effect on families.

Certainly, it would have been much better to have had this bill introduced a couple of weeks earlier. I am a bit stunned that we did not have that opportunity. Everyone has been talking about AUKUS for what almost seems like years, but probably many months is a better description. Before that, we talked about submarine building. Obviously, the option was to go with the French diesel subs and now it is the nuclear-powered ones heading into the future.

I certainly take my hat off to people who serve in the submarine fleet. I had a chance to go on a Collins class submarine recently, and you will not get me going underwater in a tin can, I can assure you. I am probably a bit taller than most submariners anyway, but when you see that sailors still sleep amongst the torpedoes on very narrow bunks it is interesting. I take my hat off to everyone who serves, but especially those people who are prepared to go away in submarines.

I note that as long as nuclear submarines have food on board they do not need to go home. I have heard of deployments of six months. I said, 'How do you get on with that?' They said, 'You just stack food down the walkways. You put a layer of something, whether it is light wood or something over that, and you put another row of tins.' They did make a bit of joke; they said, 'Fresh food doesn't last long.' I guess that is gone in the first week. I really take my hat off to people who are prepared to do that service.

This is extraordinary, as I said before, in the fact that this acquisition is being done with the local council involved and no consultation whatsoever. The most interesting thing is that the transfer will take place without an agreed value on the land. I note the various clauses in the bill that state how that will be operated. Essentially, it will be on agreed market value. That has to come through the negotiations after things move, but the idea is to get the ink on the paper.

It is the reverse of any other deal I have heard of. I do understand to a degree why it is happening, but I think we could have had more notice, especially in opposition. I know that we are going through the process here so it can be laid on the table once it goes to the upper house, so there may be some more questions raised in the other place.

Notwithstanding that, with the very brief knowledge that we have—and I do acknowledge the briefing that we had—I note our support for this, because the defence of our country is something we must do. I just hope that as the negotiations get underway for working out the agreed market value they are completed in the proper spirit. I know there is going to be a bit of to-and-fro. I am sure the right outcome will come, but it is certainly the reverse of most deals that get done. In saying that, we do support the bill.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**Mr PATTERSON:** The bill is the AUKUS (Land Acquisition) Bill. We are having to deal with this expeditiously. Maybe the minister could provide a bit of a description to the committee around confirming time lines and why this had to be put through so quickly, noting that it is not until July that the commonwealth needs to have this signed off.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I thank the opposition member for his question. There is a complex interaction between the deeds that the state government and the commonwealth have signed around facilitating this very important project. As we have discussed in our second reading contributions, there are the complexities of the Local Government Act in terms of community land revocation and the Urban Renewal Act in regard to land acquisition for urban renewal purposes—and that includes matters of industrial land as well, which effectively is what this submarine construction yard is—and the desire to get development approval and begin early works. There is a very complex interaction between those three things and the timing of those three things.

We took some time examining other acts, particularly our own act and the Urban Renewal Act. There are compulsory acquisition powers under the Urban Renewal Act, but they are, I think for reasons the member for Hammond talked about, suitably procedurally methodical, shall we say, in order to make sure that compulsory land acquisition is done properly. It is not something we do lightly. In this case, I would say that this is a very unique situation. It is unique because it involves local government as well.

We have thought carefully about it. We think this legislation is critically important and the passage of it is critically important to allow those early works. We want to facilitate it through the Office for AUKUS. Of course, Renewal SA is the implementation agency of these things, but we want to facilitate the commonwealth beginning those early works because, I think as the member referred to in his own second reading contribution, every day of delay can be catastrophic for submarine construction.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Further to that, at what stage did the commonwealth notify the South Australian government that this needed to be all concluded in 2024? Do you believe that gave you sufficient time? It has been in the pipeline a while, from what I understand, around potentially looking at this piece of land. The government went away, you are saying, and did some investigations around going through the existing legislation and how that would work. The pertinent point would be: have you just found out about this July 2024 time line very recently, or has that been known for quite a while?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** As I said before, there is a complex land transfer. We got some preliminary ideas in November last year, when the land deed process was begun. There has been quite a series of interactions over time, which we are implementing essentially on behalf of the Office for AUKUS, which is in the Premier's portfolio. As ANI have constructed their plans for construction, ours have crystallised. You could say that our, if you like, time lines crystallised about six weeks ago. One of the things is the complex interaction of the commonwealth time line, the land transfers and, if you like, the normal state of development approvals.

Obviously, if we had more time, if the commonwealth had more time, we would use the Urban Renewal Act to do this. It would not be straightforward, it is a process under the act, but that is what we would do if we had time. The question here is that the commonwealth has indicated they want to get going by July and we want to facilitate that and I guess we are reliant on a loyal opposition as well to facilitate that.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Just on that, minister, certainly I understand that yes, it has to be done, but it is not as if this has jumped in our face from left field. We have all talked about the land swap provisions for a long, long time now. I know the federal government had to go through a process, but we all knew that was coming so my belief is that we could have completed this legislation earlier, whether it was used or not. It could have been set in place to be used notwithstanding the fact that obviously it does have extraordinary powers and probably the thought was that we can just go the compulsory acquisition process either way.

This is not news today. This has been news for a long, long time, years now, that we were going to have this submarine project coming on, so I guess my point, and the member for Morphet has been making it as well, is that this legislation could have been moved a long time ago, I believe. You might tell me differently, but it could have been set in place and I guess what I am saying is whether it was utilised or not.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** First of all, I acknowledge the short briefing time. Once we realised we were on quite a tight time line we endeavoured to get a pretty comprehensive briefing from both Renewal SA and from ANI to the opposition. We have endeavoured to answer the questions.

Even if we had begun in November, we still could not have met the provisions of the Local Government Act, which do not have an end point. We all have had that experience with local councils. I fought community land revocations in Elizabeth, for instance, where I did not see that they were in the public interest, with public land adjacent to Main North Road. The Local Government Act is probably deliberately cumbersome.

Even if we use the powers of the Urban Renewal Act, even if we had immediate foresight or the commonwealth had informed us that that was necessary, we still could not have met the time lines because the advice to me is that that would take at least nine months to put in place. I think we always would have ended up with legislation like this, given the circumstances.

It is not possible for the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to relinquish that land. It is not possible for us to compulsorily acquire the land under the Urban Renewal Act. It would be fair to say that the commonwealth had not perhaps communicated to the state government with the forcefulness that was required. I think they probably did not have a good understanding of South Australian legislation and the requirements. When it became clear to us that we had to act with some speed, we have now had to do all the things we have done over the course of the last parliamentary week. With the benefit of hindsight, I would have preferred to do it differently, but we are dealing with the situation as we find it.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Once the bill has passed through both houses it comes in on a day fixed by proclamation. Once it goes through the houses, what are your time frames, just to give clarity around what you are expecting? I would expect it to be quite quick.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We have said proclamation because we want to begin compulsory acquisition by the beginning of May, so that is why we are doing it that way.

Clause passed.

Clause 3.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Maybe just to help the committee, if you could provide—I know we have the map here of the project land as outlined on paper—a description around that land, what its use is, and maybe what community groups and organisations might currently be using it.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** There is a map in the bill. Essentially, the bottom of it is a small park with a large drainage swale in it. It has a small shelter. As I understand it, it is not a park that is used very much. The other piece of land is a dirt road and a high-powered voltage line easement as well. We have all been to Osborne; essentially this is land that is within that precinct.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In terms of these parcels of land, are there any environmental considerations that need to be taken into account or given carriage to the commonwealth?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** None that we are advised of.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Further to that, are there any community organisations that use this land and, if so, are there other alternatives they could have to use in its place?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I do not think these particular parts of land have high community use. There is an access question for Mutton Cove, but the advice that we have had from ANI is that they will manage that process once the submarine construction yard is constructed. Obviously, there will be security issues around that. These are matters that lie outside this bill, but our advice is that they will manage that for the community.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I raise these questions hoping they are appropriate under the title of project land under this clause. We were briefed that there are two gas lines that probably need relocation, and a powerline, noting that I think there are only two or maybe three people in the world who can put hot taps into gas lines. I wonder where the government is at already in their negotiations with the relevant bodies in regard to the relocation of both major gas lines and the major powerlines.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** My advice is that ANI are dealing with all of that, as the relevant commonwealth agency. If the member looks at part 2 of the bill—and we might cover this when we get to it—clause 6(2) lists a number of electricity easements that are relevant to this particular schedule of lands, but there is no gas easement over it.

Clause passed.

Clause 4.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In the application of this act it says:

This Act has effect despite any other Act or law of the State.

It then also provides in subclause (3):

- (3) The Land Acquisition Act 1969 and the Local Government Act 1999 do not apply to the acquisition or vesting of the project land under this Act.

The question, as it has been explained in the briefing, is around those two acts. Are there any other acts that are expected to be impacted or overridden by this, or is it something that may come up so it is providing protection? At this point in time, you are not aware of any other act?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I talked a bit before about the various options available to the government. The references in this particular section refer to those options: land acquisition, local government—that is what it is referring to. Obviously, we are confident this enables us to get a specific job or a specific task done in order to facilitate AUKUS. These are relatively small parcels of land in the context of the entire submarine yard, but they are crucial because of their placement. There is a specific act for a specific task.

**Mr PATTERSON:** To reconfirm, there are no other acts other than those mentioned in subclause (3) that you are expecting to be affected by this at this point in time? If you could provide some reasoning as to why subclause (1) is in place and would not be covered by subclause (3).

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I think it is a belt and braces approach, is the way I would answer. We want to make sure that we can acquire this land so that we can facilitate, given the commonwealth's very tight time frames. We want to make sure that we can acquire this land, get the task done, so that work can begin.

Clause passed.

Clause 5.

**Mr PATTERSON:** As was pointed out by the member for Hammond in his second reading contribution, it talks about 'Except as may be prescribed by the regulations', so unless the regulations say that, there will be no assessment decision, consent, approval, authorisation, certificate, licence, permit or permission required under this law. Going forward, once this has been enacted, this law that sees Renewal SA take ownership and then, via the transfer agreement, pass on to the commonwealth—just to confirm—this does not extinguish any applications being required by the commonwealth for any development? This is just pertaining to the time that this act is effectively in operation because it is a short-lived act, realistically.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Of course, commonwealth law would always overcome the state law in this instance, particularly because of defence power and other things, but it just relates to the state laws and ensures we can get the task done.

**Mr PATTERSON:** My question was not totally clear. The task is done, the land is acquired and then transferred across to the commonwealth. Effectively, this provision ceases to exist and any development applications or consultation that the commonwealth may so wish to do or will be required by state law to do would have to occur? I take the point that the commonwealth can override things—defence imperative—but I think it is their intention to try to, where they can, comply with development applications.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Essentially that is correct. If you look at my second reading speech, I referred to the EIS that we are doing under the state planning law on this project to facilitate it again and it will not affect those processes. So effectively it just relates to the land in this bill. After that, the normal laws of the state apply to the overall project.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I just note that you said that an environmental impact study is being undertaken. I am a bit intrigued that that is one thing that has not been overridden like everything else has. Look, it is a good thing obviously to have an impact statement but every other act, notwithstanding, has been overridden, so I guess I am intrigued more for interest sake than anything as to why the environmental concerns were not overridden. I am not saying that they should have

been but it is interesting that that is one area that is being looked at when all of these other areas are not.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We are operating on advice from ANI about what needs to occur to facilitate these early works, and so the bill is deliberately contained to enabling that, just the acquisition of the land in question. In terms of the impact assessed development declaration that I recently made under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, that still requires ANI to prepare and publicly consult on an environmental impact statement as part of the planning processes for the submarine construction yard and, of course, the commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 will also apply in this case. So we are not trying to do anything outside of the task of compulsorily acquiring these particular allotments of land.

**Mr PEDERICK:** The reason I ask that, and I am not a lawyer, is that in 4(1)—Application of Act it states, 'This Act has effect despite any other Act or law of the State.' I do not know if you want to expand any more but I am assuming that just puts any other act away. I am not saying we should not have an environmental impact statement but everything else has been overridden.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** That clause is read in relation to this act and it only applies to the compulsory acquisition of the land.

**Mr TEAGUE:** I am catching up. We are moving through this fairly rapidly so it is a question that might apply to the subject matter of clause 5. I note that in clause 4(3) there is express exclusion of the Land Acquisition Act 1969. I wonder, perhaps for the record, for the benefit of the committee, what are the particular crunch points that mean that the Land Acquisition Act cannot be used as the mode of acquisition in this case?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** We are talking about the interaction between the Land Acquisition Act and the Urban Renewal Act. The Urban Renewal Act gives the Urban Renewal Authority and the minister certain powers to compulsorily acquire land for the purposes of urban renewal or industrial projects, but to the best of my advice the Urban Renewal Authority has never done that. It is a power that has sat in the act for some time but never been utilised by governments of either persuasion.

As I understand it, though, the Land Acquisition Act, where it is used—and we can all name the projects in here—has a set of procedures and methods in it, for good reason I think. The quickest that that process can move is around nine months, but that can, obviously, if it is subject to challenges around valuation and the like, move out much higher.

We are endeavouring here to deal with four allotments of land that are held by the Port Adelaide Enfield council. We do not think that there will be that much debate about market valuation, but we feel confident that we can work with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to do that and this allows us to expedite that process.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Just to particularise that in a small way, the section 10 process in the Land Acquisition Act starts out by providing that notice of intention to acquire land occur and then, as the minister has adverted just now, there is a process there, provided it is not native title land, for there to be response and a form of back and forth and all the rest of it.

I understand the minister's answer to be that, inevitably, that takes nine months or so. I do not know if it is on the record expressly but my understanding is that the owner is not unwilling in the present circumstances. So the question is only, perhaps by reference to that particular set of requirements in section 10 and maybe anything else, in circumstances where there is actually a willing owner, whether it is in fact possible to achieve any better expedited process.

If not, I would just note that in passing it might be a cause for reflection on the efficacy of the Land Acquisition Act 1969 and whether or not there might be cause for amendment of that act in circumstances where all relevant participants happen to want the transfer to occur knowing that it is inevitably going to happen. I will just put that to one side. The question I think is: where you have a willing owner, are there particular reasons why, notwithstanding everybody's willingness, it has to take that period of time?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** As I think we discussed earlier, it is the interaction between the Land Acquisition Act on one hand but also the Local Government Act on the other. The member talked about willing sellers. If we had a private seller, frankly, this might be a lot easier. In this case, because it is a local government entity, because it is land that is under a community land title, it means that the revocation process would have to be followed and there is no time limit on that, and they can often take quite a bit of time. I think I referred to the fact that we have all had experiences of that in our local communities.

Clause passed.

Clause 6.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In terms of the acquisition of this project land, just so I can be clear and the committee can be clear in its understanding, subclause (1) states, 'The project land is, by force of this section, vested in the Urban Renewal Authority in fee simple.' In terms of the time frames, this bill passes the houses and then, as we talked about, part 2 talks about the act coming in by proclamation. Is the land vested to the Urban Renewal Authority the day that it is proclaimed? We will talk later about the compensation side of things. Is there a process between proclamation and it landing in the Urban Renewal Authority's charge?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** My advice is that it is an immediate vestment to the Urban Renewal Authority.

**Mr PATTERSON:** In that clause, it says that the land continues to maintain the easements and details those via subclause (2), but then subclause (1) states that the Urban Renewal Authority has this land vested in fee simple, free from dedications, encumbrances, estates and interests. So, are there any known dedications, encumbrances, estates or interests to make the committee aware of at this stage?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Apart from its status as community land and the road, which are in part 2, all the rest are listed in part 6.

Clause passed.

Clause 7 passed.

Clause 8.

**Mr PATTERSON:** I feel this is probably the best place in the committee stage to ask these questions. You have closure of roads. You did helpfully describe the parcels of land, so they are not just blocks of green on the map, and identified that the thinner sections that make their way out to the Port River have roads on them. This act effectively goes about the process of closing those roads in lieu of the normal local government process, whatever we have to consult, so it effectively allows that to happen immediately.

The effect of that seems to me to be then that, once these parcels of land are vested in the Urban Renewal Authority and then sent over to the commonwealth, it would mean that the public would no longer have access in any meaningful way to Mutton Cove, effectively making it landlocked; if you could you confirm that that is the case. Should it be the case, if you could then talk through in a bit more detail than what we have discussed in our second reading contributions what is the expectation for access to Mutton Cove for people who generally want to help with its conservation, because it is quite a biodiverse area; it is important for birdlife.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** This will be a secure commonwealth facility, and I think we are all mindful of the heightened geopolitical environment we are in. As you point out, Mutton Cove will become landlocked as a function of the construction of the shipyards. Our advice has been that ANI will manage controlled access to that site and it will be essentially a function for ANI to do that. They are willing to consult with the state government about that.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Correct me if I am wrong, but I think the state government department that has the care and control of Mutton Cove is DEW. Have you had discussions with them around the department potentially putting more effort, resources, funding into the conservation of Mutton Cove to help alleviate access so it is in a good state so that people do not feel the need to

visit there often to volunteer to conserve that area, and to give them comfort that it will in fact not be that the door will be closed and the key thrown away and it degrades away from anyone's sight, but that in fact the government intends on putting effort into this area?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Land is under the care and control of DEW. It is not a matter that I personally, as minister, have been consulted on. I am unaware if ANI and DEW have had any discussions about it. But the state government, where we have care and control of conservation parks, obviously spend money on them and invest in them. I would expect there will be some thought put into that.

**Mr PATTERSON:** That is comforting. The point of the question was to try to communicate to concerned people that there is effort there. Equally, ANI and the commonwealth could form a role there as well. I think some commonwealth funding goes into that area already. Have you had any discussions with the commonwealth around their appetite for conserving and putting effort into conserving Mutton Cove?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** It lies outside this act, but we are obviously going to be having, I think, an ongoing conversation both with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the broader community about this being a huge opportunity. Obviously there is a lot for the community to contemplate in terms of the changes down there. I think there will be an ongoing consultation about how we make this project of benefit to the state and also of benefit to Port Adelaide Enfield.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Noting that this clause is about the closure of roads, has the council indicated or has the state identified that there may be some new carriageways that have to be put in? I am asking out of interest, because obviously there will be roads closed. Will there need to be some other access points for other industry and the general population in the area?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** At the moment, this road, as I understand it, is a dirt road. What will happen is that there will be a road there, but it will be under the control of ANI in a secure environment.

Clause passed.

Clause 9.

**Mr PATTERSON:** These parts of the land are owned by Port Adelaide Enfield council. It notes here in the bill that the City of Port Adelaide Enfield is entitled to compensation. An obvious question which would give comfort to the committee is that Port Adelaide Enfield council is a willing participant in this process and that they are not going to wake up tomorrow and find out that this is happening unbeknownst to them.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Renewal SA has had discussions with them over the past few months, with the council staff. I rang the mayor today before the debate began. Obviously, this is part of the process of constructing a submarine construction yard. It is a very big project for the local community. We obviously, in terms of compensation, are always fair with whomever we deal with. We will endeavour to be fair here, because obviously this is a project of some significance.

**Mr PATTERSON:** Maybe for the assistance of the committee, could you just detail how you see that compensation process working? I understand that Port Adelaide Enfield council also is mindful of the strategic importance of this. We talk about looking for fair value and the hope that that can be done in a friendly and expeditious manner, as opposed to a combative one, to help move this process along.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Yes, we intend to jointly appoint a valuer to engage in constructive conversations as part of this process.

**Mr PEDERICK:** There has been some discussion on the time lines and that sort of thing, but I am a bit intrigued, minister, that you have had discussions over the last few months with Port Adelaide Enfield council. I am certainly pleased that they have been consulted, because I woke up in my first term of parliament on budget day and on the front page of *The Advertiser* I found I was going to get two new prisons, and you know where that landed. It may or may not have been a good thing. That discussion has been had many years ago, but it does show the value of that consultation.

I know what you have said about time lines, but it gets back to my previous question. Noting that you did not have nine months, unless you did not know you needed a shorter time line—and that may be the case—if Claire Boan and the crew at Port Adelaide Enfield council have had discussions with you for several months, surely this legislation could have been introduced at the latest a month ago for us to go through it a bit more methodically. We are supporting it, but it is unusual how quickly we are moving on this.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** The discussions were about (a) the Local Government Act and (b) compulsory acquisition under the Urban Renewal Act, but what was unclear at that point were the time lines of ANI and the impact of the three things together. It would be fair to say, as I said before, that I would have preferred to give everybody more notice. I think there was at the beginning of the various levels of consultation a view that this land could be in effect transferred to the state and it would all be a very easy process. As it turns out, because of the time lines, the compressed time lines of the commonwealth, and our legislation, which quite sensibly, as you point out, because of land acquisition being normally the most serious matter that a state government can do, the time lines under the Local Government Act and the Urban Renewal Act and the Land Acquisition Act, it is the combination of those three things.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I understand that answer, but in regard to this bill, when was the Port Adelaide council briefed on this and made aware that this was the way you were going to acquire the land?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** In regard to the urban renewal agency, they have been discussing it with the council over the last week and I rang the mayor of Port Adelaide Enfield today.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Perhaps just to highlight—and maybe this is speaking up for the obvious party that is not able to speak directly to the committee, that being the City of Port Adelaide Enfield—this is the one clause in the bill that might conceivably be the subject of litigation. It is obviously not going to hold up the transfer of the land, so you can park this process in a way. I am not foreshadowing that anything like that occurs.

It is a pretty unusual piece of land and we have the usual subsection in subsection (5) about willing buyers and sellers and all the rest of it. Is it possible to indicate to the committee just how reliably, by reference to expertise and assessment and all the rest of it with a view to establishing market value, that is really going to be able to occur? Are we really looking for a value outcome that needs to be negotiated? Is there any light that the minister might take the opportunity to shed on that in the interests, perhaps, of the relevant council?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Renewal SA, the urban renewal authority, owns a vast amount of land in Port Adelaide Enfield. We have a long history of negotiating with the council and having productive discussions with them. In the bill, we had set out certain things in order to make sure to give the committee, I think, the confidence that there was a process around valuation, but of course we will work constructively with the council regarding this land. It is true that the valuation will depend, as it does for all land, on what its uses are, what it could possibly be zoned as and the like. That is why it will require both a process and some maturity in dealing with the matter.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Again, it is just a matter of airing this in the committee: on the one view you might say that you have a piece of land that all of a sudden is sort of infinitely valuable, but that is not the principle upon which the market valuation is to be determined in the ordinary course. Again, I may be playing catch-up, but I do not think I see that explicitly described in clause 9 in terms of it saying, 'For the extraordinary circumstances in which this land is necessary for the most significant investment in defence infrastructure that the nation has ever seen, here we are and we will pay the earth if necessary.' The market value reference is one that is setting terms upon which the negotiation can happen, putting to one side those particular circumstances from a market value point of view.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** That is why we are appointing an expert valuer. This is, in some senses, not unusual. There is often land acquired where there is debate about the worth. That is why you use expert valuations; that is what we will do. On top of that, of course, we will be mindful of the fact that we are dealing with another government entity, a local government entity. The state more generally wants this project to go ahead, so that requires a degree of maturity and fairness, obviously, with that local government entity.



**Mr TEAGUE:** I appreciate the answer. I just flag, perhaps for the benefit of the committee and the house, should there be any reflection on the contents of clause 9, including the addition of, for avoidance of doubt, a subclause (6) or something like that between the houses—I am not professing any particular insight on that front.

I may be barking up an unnecessary tree, but again I just posit the scenario in which you have the subclause (5) seller who nonetheless is aware of the particular circumstances. You can see an obvious dramatic effect on how the objective market value would be affected by virtue of the circumstances in which the acquisition is occurring. If that is a comment, then so be it. I think the minister has already given an answer. If there is anything further to add in light of that, then I would invite it, and I otherwise flag it for the committee.

**Mr PEDERICK:** This is possibly where the member for Heysen was going. I have a concern about litigation as well. Hopefully, it does not get to a legal fight. I notice in the clause it provides that if the negotiations are still ongoing after 30 days, the valuer becomes the arbiter. Everyone is aware of what this is for and we need to have a good outcome, but I just hope it does not come to a stage where we have KCs at 20 paces.

Noting that there is a point where you may have to get an arbiter, can you compare this situation here to any other legislation that has been enacted in Australia? I am worried about the end point. Obviously, there is no negotiated end point, but what I am asking is: is there a limit, if this blows out to 90 days or 120 days, notwithstanding the fact that you already have access to the land for ANI, etc.?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I think the member for Hammond read the clause slightly incorrectly. Subclause (4)(b) says that the valuer is to act as an expert but not an arbiter. This is unique legislation designed to facilitate the most important industrial project in the state. As I indicated, we will be fair and reasonable with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. We will operate on the basis of an expert valuation, but at the end of the day the purpose of this bill is to acquire the land. The valuation of it is an important consideration but is not the consideration.

**The CHAIR:** Maybe one more question, member for Hammond. Go ahead.

**Mr PEDERICK:** It is just in relation to what I initially asked. Are you aware of where similar legislation has been utilised across the country?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I am not aware. I think this is probably a unique situation.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (10 to 12), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Message from Governor*

Her Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (17:46):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

I thank the house for all the contributions and happily commend the bill.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (17:47):** I reiterate the opposition's support for AUKUS in general. I think this speedy passage also leans into that and shows that support. We are pleased that the government is acting swiftly to ensure that the AUKUS bill can continue at haste. We look forward to that continuation as we go forward.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**RETURN TO WORK (POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:49 the house adjourned until Thursday 11 April 2024 at 11:00.