

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**Wednesday, 1 May 2024****The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell)** 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***PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 10 April 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:33): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
 Noes.....13
 Majority10

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.	Picton, C.J.
Speirs, D.J.	Stinson, J.M.	Basham, D.K.B.
Szakacs, J.K.	Patterson, S.J.R.	

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WASTE COLLECTION) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 21 February 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:38): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
Noes.....13
Majority10

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.	Basham, D.K.B.	Picton, C.J.
Speirs, D.J.	Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.
Szakacs, J.K.	Patterson, S.J.R.	

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 September 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:43): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
Noes.....12
Majority11

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.	Speirs, D.J.	Picton, C.J.
Basham, D.K.B.	Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.
Szakacs, J.K.	Patterson, S.J.R.	

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) (10:47): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	23
Noes.....	12
Majority	11

AYES

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

NOES

Batty, J.A. (teller)	Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Cregan, D.R.	Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Pisoni, D.G.	Pratt, P.K.	Tarzia, V.A.

Teague, J.B.

Telfer, S.J.

Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.
Basham, D.K.B.
Szakacs, J.K.Speirs, D.J.
Malinauskas, P.B.
Patterson, S.J.R.Picton, C.J.
Hurn, A.M.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I would like to welcome to parliament this morning year 9 students and teachers from Navigator College in Port Lincoln. They are guests today of the member for Flinders. Welcome to parliament.

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:52): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
Noes.....12
Majority11

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.
Basham, D.K.B.
Szakacs, J.K.Speirs, D.J.
Malinauskas, P.B.
Patterson, S.J.R.Picton, C.J.
Hurn, A.M.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

HERITAGE PLACES (ADELAIDE PARK LANDS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:56): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes.....	12
Majority	10

AYES

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

NOES

Batty, J.A. (teller)	Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.
Cregan, D.R.	Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
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.	Picton, C.J.
Basham, D.K.B.	Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.
Szakacs, J.K.	Patterson, S.J.R.	

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) (11:02): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes.....	12
Majority	10

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Boyer, B.I.
Brown, M.E.	Champion, N.D.	Clancy, N.P.
Close, S.E.	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.	Savvas, O.M.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

NOES

Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)
Cregan, D.R.	Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.
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.	Picton, C.J.
Basham, D.K.B.	Cook, N.F.	Hurn, A.M.
Malinauskas, P.B.	Pederick, A.S.	Szakacs, J.K.
Patterson, S.J.R.		

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

ELECTORAL (TELEPHONE VOTING) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 November 2022.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:08): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes.....	11
Majority	11

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Boyer, B.I.
Brown, M.E.	Champion, N.D.	Clancy, N.P.
Close, S.E.	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.	Savvas, O.M.	Thompson, E.L.
Wortley, D.J.		

NOES

Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.	Cowdrey, M.J.
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Cregan, D.R.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

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

Pisoni, D.G.
Teague, J.B. (teller)

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.
Basham, D.K.B.
Malinauskas, P.B.
Pederick, A.S.

Speirs, D.J.
Cook, N.F.
Patterson, S.J.R.

Picton, C.J.
Hurn, A.M.
Szakacs, J.K.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:12): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes22
Noes.....11
Majority11

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Brown, M.E.
Close, S.E.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Piccolo, A.
Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.
Champion, N.D.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Savvas, O.M.

Boyer, B.I.
Clancy, N.P.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Mullighan, S.C.
Pearce, R.K.
Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Batty, J.A.
Cregan, D.R.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

Brock, G.G.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

Cowdrey, M.J.
Pisoni, D.G.
Teague, J.B. (teller)

PAIRS

Cook, N.F.
Pederick, A.S.
Stinson, J.M.
Patterson, S.J.R.

Hurn, A.M.
Picton, C.J.
Speirs, D.J.

Malinauskas, P.B.
Basham, D.K.B.
Szakacs, J.K.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Motions***AMBULANCE RAMPING**

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:19): On behalf of the member for Schubert and on behalf of the opposition, I move:

That this house—

- (a) condemns the Malinauskas government for delivering record ramping in South Australia, despite promising to fix it at the 2022 election;
- (b) notes that state Labor has delivered more ramping in less than two years than the former Liberal government's entire four-year term;
- (c) recognises that patients and paramedics have never spent more time stuck on the ambulance ramp; and
- (d) expresses its significant concern at the impact record ramping has on our hardworking frontline health workers and South Australian patients.

I move this motion on behalf of the member for Schubert, and I know that all members of the parliament wish the member for Schubert and her family very well at this very important time in their lives.

The central promise of the then opposition leader, now Premier, at the March 2022 election was that Labor will fix the ramping crisis. This promise appeared on, by my count, about five million posters: on every Stobie pole, on every lamppost, in every town, suburb, principality and location in South Australia.

Mr Odenwalder: Principality?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes. You could not move in this state anywhere there were people without seeing Peter Malinauskas's face on a poster that said 'Labor will fix the ramping crisis'. More than that, you may well recall that they had shaded the letters differently, so that 'the' and 'crisis' were in a very dull tone, but bold in white 'Labor will fix ramping' was front and centre. You could not move. You could not move near a television that was not featuring an advertisement with Ash the ambo telling people to vote Labor like your life depended on it.

It is a nonsense to suggest that Labor's promise to fix ramping was anything other than their central promise. More than that, it was not an endeavour, as was pointed out to us so incredibly passionately this week by a survivor of a traffic incident who had a long wait for an ambulance and then an even longer wait on a ramp. They did not say they would try: they said that they 'will' fix ramping. The Premier said that he will fix ramping. It was an absolute promise.

It was a suggestion to the people of South Australia that this was an issue of such concern that people should fear for their lives and should cast their vote accordingly, not just that they should punish the former government for not addressing it to a satisfactory conclusion but further that they had the plan to fix it. 'Labor will fix ramping': that was the clear promise, that was the clear message, with 'the' and 'crisis' much less clear, but 'Labor will fix the ramping crisis'—Labor 'will'.

I think the record has spoken for itself and made clear that there was no plan to fix ramping. Labor may have had a plan and made promises about inputs into the health system, investments in certain projects or certain workforce elements. Some of these were also commitments of the former government, but Labor said that they will fix ramping. It was not a promise on what they would invest or who would be working where: it was a promise of what the outcome would be.

What feeds into that is more than just the commitments in relation to beds, doctors or ambulances: it is the whole system. It is the disruption that Labor caused to many people who they let go in the early days. It was the active decisions Labor made in relation to dealing with the COVID pandemic. Indeed, we know a lot less about COVID and its management now than we used to, because Labor brought it all under the control of the cabinet committee. It means that the old days where the Chief Public Health Officer would update people regularly of her own volition are well and truly gone and replaced with a system where everything is kept within cabinet.

At any rate, the promise of the opposition leader was to fix the ramping crisis. South Australians were told to vote Labor like their life depended on it. How prophetic those words turned out to be, most unfortunately, because the truth is that what Labor has delivered since the election are the worst two years of ramping in the state's history. Month on month, there are record figures or terribly bad figures.

In February 2022, the Liberal government's last full month in office, 1,522 hours were lost outside our emergency departments on ramps. Fast forward to November 2023 and that number had nearly tripled to 4,285 hours lost on the ramp. The latest available transfer-of-care data from March 2024 shows 4,095 hours lost on the ramp. They are the most recent figures, and it is worse by a matter of degrees than any month during the Liberal government's four years in office. The March figure—that 4,095 hours lost on the ramp this March—includes 1,476 hours lost at the Royal Adelaide Hospital alone, its worst month of ramping in the state's history.

Under the Malinauskas government, South Australians have endured the 22 worst months of ramping in the state's history. Since Labor came to office in March 2022, 86,317 hours of paramedic and patient time have been lost on ramps outside our emergency departments. It is the equivalent, it was revealed recently, of \$5.2 million in wages that have been spent for paramedics to be in ambulances on ramps outside our hospitals. It took the Malinauskas government less than two years to amass the same number of hours lost on the ramp as were amassed during four years of the former Liberal government. I can only imagine what that figure will be by the time we get to March 2026 and the conclusion of the term of this Labor government.

It is worth noting that when Labor promised through their advertisements, through their press conferences, through their posters on Stobie poles, that they would fix the ramping crisis, it was a very clear promise. It was a very clear expectation. There was no suggestion that such a promise was anything less than the most urgent task confronting any government given the honour of leading South Australia.

Yet, when challenged since the election on their failure to deliver on this promise, the Premier or the health minister will usually say a couple of things. Firstly, they will talk about ambulance response times as the most urgent figure, when that is not what the promise identified as the most urgent commitment. Secondly, they talk about the fact that they have another two years to go, that it is a four-year term and that Labor would fix the ramping crisis. One assumes the asterisk that was not on the poster would have said 'by 2026, no earlier'. The figures continue to get worse and worse—a record number in November last year and the worst March on record just passed. There is no sign that those figures are abating.

The profound policy failure that we are talking about has created enormous stress for ambulance officers and the medical staff of our struggling emergency departments. There have been serious allegations of pressure being placed on ED doctors and nurses to treat patients out of their clinical order in a bid to improve ramping numbers. These are very serious allegations indeed, and they have been made by credible people.

It has also been catastrophic for many patients. We have seen the absolute tragedy of Eddie from Hectorville, the 54-year-old man who died after waiting 10 times longer than he should have for an ambulance as a result of ramping. Eddie lived just six kilometres from the CBD. A year before Eddie's tragic death, Betty Dobson, who had recently been diagnosed with cancer, waited in extreme pain for an ambulance to come to her home. Betty and her family lived just two kilometres away from the Noarlunga ambulance station. No ambulance arrived, so her family had to drive her to hospital in immense pain. She passed away the next day. Lives do depend on fixing the ramping crisis.

Yesterday in question time we put questions to the Premier that were put to him by a constituent of the member for Hartley earlier this week, asking why he had failed on his promise to her, to South Australians around our state, to give them an outcome on ramping. The Premier was satisfied with what I think he described in his words as a 'good result', and that she suffered no serious injury, as he described. It remains to be seen whether she is satisfied with that answer. What all South Australians heard was her anxiety, her fear, her extreme discomfort and her suffering as a result of being forced to wait for an ambulance.

Now all South Australians, having voted for a government that had as its central election promise—its main tenet for its existence as a government—that they would fix ramping, are instead confronted with the knowledge that the government has not fixed ramping. Indeed, if an ambulance comes to pick them up, they are far more likely to spend far more time on a ramp now than when they were picked up in February 2022, or in any other month during the time of the former Marshall Liberal government.

This government has a clear mandate to fix ramping, but more than that a responsibility, so I do think this motion, originally moved by the member for Schubert, is appropriate, that the house should condemn the Malinauskas government for delivering record ramping despite their clear promise to fix it; that we note that the ramping of the last two years is worse than the former four; that we recognise patients and paramedics have never spent more time on the ramp; and that we express our significant concern at the impact record ramping has on our hardworking frontline health workers, for whom we are all very grateful for their constant dedication to our health and wellbeing, and to South Australian patients who deserve better.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:31): I move the following amendments:

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

- (a) welcomes the 1,432 additional doctors, nurses and ambos and allied health workers that have been recruited in the last two years;

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

- (b) recognises that ambulance response times have improved significantly from only 47 per cent of priority 1 cases reached on time in January 2022 to 73.3 per cent in March 2024;

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

- (c) notes the government's significant investment, including adding 550 more beds to the system;

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

- (d) expresses its significant concern at the impact ramping has on our hardworking frontline health workers and South Australian patients.

The state government is committed to doing everything possible to address ramping at our hospitals, ensuring South Australians receive the urgent care they need when they need it. In two years, we have added \$4.4 billion to the health budget over five years. Unlike the opposition, we are focused on solutions, rather than focusing on the problem, and it is interesting, though not entirely surprising, that those opposite only decided there was a problem once they were no longer in government.

We inherited a system from the former government that, following underinvestment and neglect, saw significant increases in ambulance ramping times from 750 hours in March 2018 to 2,712 hours in March 2022, a 262 per cent increase. Instead of addressing the issue, the former government made more than 100 nurses redundant, including during the pandemic, and launched a war on our ambos. Corporate liquidators were also appointed to make hundreds of millions of dollars of cuts to our hospitals.

We are not cutting beds, we are not cutting staff, and we are not bringing in corporate liquidators to run hospitals. We have comprehensive plans to address every aspect of the blockages that lead to patients waiting longer on the ramp, and in the community, for an ambulance, and to invest in new health initiatives to meet demand pressures, ease pressure on hospitals and address ramping.

We, on this side of the house, have been working tirelessly to reverse the cuts and neglect. We are pleased to share the new data that shows the government has bolstered our hospitals and health sites with 1,432 additional nurses, doctors, ambos and allied health workers in the two years since the election. These 1,432 additional staff are supporting the government's commitment to open 550 more beds right across the system, including 280 by the end of next year, to deliver better health care for South Australians.

We are delivering more resources to the SA Ambulance Service to improve wait times by recruiting 350 more ambos, with more than 170 already on the road; building four new ambulance stations in priority areas, including in my community at the Repat; delivering a new SAAS

headquarters, which includes a new city ambulance station; upgrading and expanding 14 ambulance stations; and launching a life-saving smart phone app, GoodSAM, to help people in cardiac arrest access CPR support sooner, potentially sending aid within seconds of a 000 call.

The latest Report on Government Services 2022-23 released earlier this year also shows that South Australia has experienced the most significant improvements of any jurisdiction in ambulance response times in a year. It shows that average ambulance response times in metropolitan Adelaide improved 22 per cent in our first year in government, with SAAS responding to 90 per cent of all incidents within 55.6 minutes compared with 71.3 minutes the year before, more than 15 minutes faster.

The report also highlights the Malinauskas government's increased investment in SAAS, with \$109.9 million in additional government funding in 2022-23—a \$109.9 million increase. This compares with the previous government, which cut funding to SAAS by \$13 million in its first two years.

The combination of all these measures is essential to ensure the longstanding problem of the ramping crisis can be fixed and ambulances can be released to respond to cases in the community. This continues to be our number one priority because it is so important for improving patient care.

I shudder to think what situation we would be in had Labor not won the last election: more cuts, more denial, no leadership, no investment. I am proud that we are getting on with the job and doing everything we can.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:36): I am delighted to rise to the original motion. I thank the member for Schubert in her absence for her tireless work and advocacy—high-profile advocacy, most importantly—on bringing to the state's attention the blight that is the ramping statistics. I completely reject the government's attempt to rewrite this motion and rewrite history.

Mr Teague: It's a whitewash.

Ms PRATT: It is a whitewash. For the benefit of the house and for those listening, I want to repeat the motion that we move from the opposition, and that is:

That this house—

- (a) condemns the Malinauskas government for delivering record ramping in South Australia, despite promising to fix it at the 2022 election;
- (b) notes that state Labor has delivered more ramping in less than two years than the former Liberal government's entire four-year term;
- (c) recognises that patients and paramedics have never spent more time stuck on the ambulance ramp; and
- (d) expresses its significant concern at the impact record ramping has had on our hardworking frontline health workers and South Australian patients.

In supporting the original motion in full, we wholeheartedly condemn this Labor government for its breach of faith with the South Australian public. More often than not, when we are in our own communities talking about the beleaguered health system, South Australians feel betrayed and express that betrayal that in listening to a promise that the Labor party would fix ramping, sadly the South Australian public have discovered that that is not the case.

This Labor government has delivered record ramping after promising to do the complete opposite. I think, as has been remarked in previous years under a Labor government, that it takes a special type of incompetence to spend this amount of money and still get the worst results. This relates solely to the South Australian health system.

In last year's state budget, the Treasurer had to commit an extra \$2 billion to the health system merely to prop up this beleaguered health system. But an additional \$2 billion has not delivered the results that have been promised. So what are the results that the government speaks of? They talk about employing more doctors and nurses, but we do not see decreased pressure on the health system. They talk about more money being spent on paramedics and ambulance vehicles, but ramping has gone up. They pat themselves on the back for response times on a call-out, but the

most shameful and honest statistic remains on the ramp when that transfer of care from patient in the ambulance to the emergency department takes hours and hours.

Mr Teague: Shame!

Ms PRATT: It is a shame, and it delays that precious resource that we highly value, namely the crew, from being back on the road. This is a government that promised to fix ramping, but over two years into that promise, we all know that March was the worst ever month of ramping, where in total we account for the month of March seeing over 4,000 hours lost to ramping.

As it was reported in the media, when we calculate what that means in a fiscal response, a fiscal calculation to the Treasurer and therefore to taxpayers, we know that that calculation is \$5.2 million in ambulance wages lost to ramping. Imagine what we could do with \$5.2 million in regional health, in mental health, in preventative health. This is worse off than the former Liberal government's complete term. To sadly have to remark on the statistic of a total of 86,000 hours being lost so far in this Labor government's two-year term is something they should be ashamed of.

We know that ambulance ramping at our public hospitals has reached the highest peak on record. It is important that this motion comes to the house to allow the opposition to honestly ventilate and hold to account the government's promise in opposition at the time, 'We will fix ramping,' only to find that they were empty and vacuous words.

We too often are reflecting on anecdotes from those who have lived to tell the tale, like Rita, and, sadly, poor, vulnerable men like Eddie, who have not been able to express the devastation and distress that a patient must feel stuck in an ambulance for hours and hours with no certainty about that transfer of care, no full diagnosis. They are in the wonderful care of our paramedics, but the anxiety is an unnecessary addition and symptom of a system that is not working.

When I reflect on the promise that the government made to the people of South Australia, 'We will fix ramping' was on every corflute on every Stobie pole. We had faith in our paramedics, and when people like Ash the ambo came into our social media and mainstream media consumption telling the South Australian public to vote Labor like its life depended on it, people did. But even that was a breach of promise. We have continued to see deaths reported in relation to ramping.

We have a breach of promise and a betrayal of the South Australian voting public. We have record statistics only two years in, at the halfway mark, as the member for Morialta said. Who knows what that statistic is going to be at the end of four years of this current Labor government. We know that calculating those hours lost is \$5.2 million.

When we extrapolate that out to the false economy the government is running on health, then I repeat: what could we do with \$5.2 million in regional health, and what does it mean for this government to be failing in its promise to deliver on improving ramping statistics? What is the ripple effect on the regions? I will tell you, Mr Speaker. We are seeing a retreat from country hospitals. We are seeing a retreat by this government from investment in country hospitals. There are reports of ambulances being ramped at some of our bigger hospitals.

The motion before us rightly asks us to express our concern and the impact on our hardworking frontline health workers. In the city that is a paid workforce but in country regions, throughout the electorate of Frome for example, what is paramount, what is clear to us, is that we are relying on a volunteer workforce. Our emergency responders through the CFS, SES and SAAS are volunteers, so what does it mean for this government to not deliver on its promise to fix ramping? What does it mean in regional South Australia?

This financial year's budget had a top-up of \$2 billion. We are a month away from finding out what this government's next funding commitment is to health, but I predict that we are not going to see that money flowing appropriately into mental health and we are not going to see it flowing into country hospitals. This government talks about where that money has gone and it has been recruiting and training more doctors and nurses but there is no incentive to speak of, particularly in regional SA where clinic after clinic, doctor after doctor, is calling out for attention and support because they are the frontline of the standard of health in regional South Australia. They do not see support coming from this government.

There is the threat of an additional payroll tax, a GP tax, a patient tax, on our hardworking doctors and a ripple effect on nurses. Midwives are like hen's teeth. We do not have a strategy from this government to source them either—and of course the PATS accommodation rebate of \$40 a night is nowhere near enough. So I am grateful to the member for Schubert for bringing the original motion. We condemn the amendment, and I support the original motion in full.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:47): I am moved to rise in support of the original motion having heard the amendment that has just now been moved by the member for Elder on behalf of the government—and pity the poor member for Elder who has been brought in to move these amended words. There is no sign of the Minister for Health who cannot front up to what is a series of statements of straightforward fact—

Mr ODENWALDER: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth on a point of order.

Mr ODENWALDER: I ask you to rule that it is unparliamentary to mention a member who may or may not be in the chamber.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Mr TEAGUE: On the point of order, it is no reflection on the presence or otherwise of the minister in the chamber.

Mr Odenwalder: You said he's not here.

Mr TEAGUE: No, it is not; it is not a reflection on the member's presence in the chamber—it is his participation or not in the debate.

The SPEAKER: Member for Heysen, there is no need to debate this. I have upheld the point of order.

Mr TEAGUE: Alright. Well, we have heard an amendment moved by the member for Elder, and I pity the poor member for Elder in having to come along and move an amendment in the terms that it has been done because it one after the other after the other walks away from the government fronting up to basic statements of fact.

What part of 'delivering record ramping in South Australia' is the government having issue with? What part of 'delivered more ramping in less than two years than the former Liberal Government's entire four-year term' does the government take issue with? What part of 'recognises that patients and paramedics have never spent more time stuck on the ambulance ramp' does the government take issue with? These are basic, straightforward statements of fact that all South Australians are concerned about.

As the member for Morialta—in moving this important motion in the absence of the shadow minister for health, the member for Schubert, who so appropriately has brought this motion to the house—has articulated, these are matters that the Malinauskas Labor government put front and centre before all South Australians on every pole, on every street corner and in every place that any South Australian would go in the lead-up to the election.

What have we seen? Exactly what is set out on the face of the original motion. And so well it is that we are here debating this matter in this place at this time. All members of this place should reflect upon the blatant nature of those election campaign promises, because it is not just us on this side of the house who are calling this out.

We are seeing now over and over and over again those ordinary South Australians who would not otherwise be moved to be remotely politicised in their day-to-day lives finding themselves standing in front of the cameras and explaining the invidious and dangerous and tragic circumstances that they and their families are experiencing, most recently in the course of this week.

What does the government do? It comes into this place and moves amendments that would walk away from those core promises. We will not have it. It is galling in the extreme. For the government to turn around and move amendments that highlight various indications as to engagements of health workers and the provision of funds and those matters that are inherent to the

proper management of the health portfolio, again it should be obvious to all concerned in this place that health is a major priority of government in this state.

It is a major concern for South Australians. There is no monopoly on prioritising the proper funding and allocation of resources for health in the state. What is different is telling South Australians the truth and delivering good management and good outcomes. Those of us who are adult about going about the responsible management of these things will reflect on that, as well we should.

The record of the Marshall Liberal government in health is a record of proud achievement. It is a record of navigation through the worst global pandemic the country, let alone the world, has seen in a century. In the face of all of that to deliver in health in so many ways is a record that we on this side of the house remain proud of. We will not sit silently by while the government quietly looks to walk away from the most basic of its election commitments only two short years ago.

I wholeheartedly endorse the motion in its original form and take this opportunity to condemn those endeavours to amend it by striking out every single one of those basic propositions of fact that are contained in the original motion. I commend the original motion to the house. It should be passed with acclamation.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:52): I have listened to the debate. I have heard the Labor Party move an amendment to the original motion that strikes out, as the member for Heysen said, each of the propositions in (a), (b) and (c), those propositions being largely statements of fact that there has been more ramping in the last two years than there was in the four years that preceded them and that we recognise that patients and paramedics have never spent more time stuck on the ambulance ramp.

The government, by its motion and if people were to vote for this amendment, would seek to strike that from the parliamentary record, although they cannot strike out the fact that it is something that is happening in South Australia, the fact that it is advice provided by the health minister to the public. Why they are so ashamed of this record, I can understand. If they believe that the South Australian people will forget their promise and not judge them on their record, I pity them.

The alternative proposition that the member for Elder has put forward includes a noting effect of inputs into the system. Every government has inputs into the system. The Marshall Liberal government added significant investment in the hundreds of millions of dollars to the health system. We passed \$7 billion in the budget for the first time.

The Marshall Liberal government had inputs into the system. Yet, despite those inputs, despite extra resourcing and despite investment of more than a billion dollars in improved infrastructure, emergency departments, country health and a range of other health services, Labor still went to an election not interested in inputs or effort, but instead focused on one set of figures and one set of outcomes, they being the transfer of care data, the ramping figures.

That was the one thing Labor said was important before the election. That was the one basis upon which Ash the ambo and the ambulance union and the Labor Party argued that South Australians should vote Labor like their lives depended on it—only that. Not inputs: they were not interested in inputs. Not increased effort: they were not interested in that. They were not interested even in the South Australian outcomes through the worst pandemic, as the member for Heysen said, in a hundred years.

I often ask people the question, on the basis that not many people in this world were moving very much from jurisdiction to jurisdiction between February 2020 and February or March 2022—during that two-year period, most people in the world stayed in one place and stayed in one jurisdiction—in terms of quality of life, in terms of health outcomes and in terms of life expectancy, I put to anyone: where in the world would you rather have been than South Australia, and what does that say about the performance of the former Marshall Liberal government when it came to health outcomes, when it came to effective response to the pandemic and when it came to enabling maximum freedom within reasonable health outcomes in our daily lives?

Who produced the economic foundation for figures that the Treasurer and the Premier are still happy to gloat about and brag about every day, as if they had somehow created that foundation themselves? They talk about advanced manufacturing, machine learning, space industries and

defence industries as if somehow that was work that the Labor Party had done between 2018 and 2022, and it was not.

Partly, the fact that we are able to do that was because of the health response created by the former Marshall Liberal government. Instead, they are not interested in that. They are only interested in the inputs that they have put into ambulances, nurses and doctors, and money since the last election. Those inputs, those increased investments in health, we are certainly not critical of, but you are not investing it in a way and making choices that are succeeding in doing the thing that the Labor Party said it was going to do: fix the ramping crisis.

I submit to all members that we should not support this amendment; in fact, in section (d) the only change that is made is to remove the word 'record'. We are still noting the concern of the impact ramping has on our hardworking health workers, but the Labor Party just does not want to acknowledge that it is record ramping—and it is record ramping. It is twice as bad as it was before. It is more ramping in two years than the four years before. Just because the Labor Party might vote for this amendment, that is not going to make any South Australians forget. They would do better, as all members should, to vote against this amendment and support the original motion.

The house divided on the amendment:

Ayes22
 Noes.....9
 Majority13

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)
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.	Picton, C.J.
Cowdrey, M.J.	Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.
Mullighan, S.C.	Pederick, A.S.	Koutsantonis, A.
Patterson, S.J.R.		

Amendment thus carried; motion as amended carried.

INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' DAY

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:04): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes that 4 May is International Firefighters' Day;
- (b) remembers the firefighters who have lost their lives whilst protecting the community;
- (c) shows its support and appreciation for firefighters who put themselves at risk and work hard every day to protect our community;

- (d) acknowledges that firefighters can experience traumatic events in the course of their duties; and
- (e) acknowledges the Malinauskas government's investment in additional mental health and wellbeing support for more than 15,000 volunteer emergency services first responders and their families by increasing the resources of Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM).

Lieutenant J.J. Edmondson in 1999 said:

The role of a firefighter in today's society—be it urban, rural, natural environment, volunteer, career, industrial, defence force, aviation, motor sport, or other is one of dedication, commitment and sacrifice—no matter what country we reside and work in. In the fire service we fight together against one common enemy—fire—no matter what country we come from, what uniform we wear or what language we speak.

He was absolutely correct. We all share a common goal, and that is to fight until it is out. May the 4th is International Firefighters' Day, but it is also Star Wars Day. On Saturday we are celebrating not only the heroes of the saga—the fearless Jedi, who nobly devote their lives to upholding peace in the galaxy—but extending our admiration to some real-life heroes, our firefighters.

May the 4th was chosen as International Firefighters' Day as it is also St Florian's Day. St Florian is the patron saint of the fire service. Born in Cetium, now part of Austria, around 250 AD, Florian was the first known commander of a firefighting squad in the Roman army. Florian was found not carrying out his orders, which were to persecute all Christians in a certain area. Emperor Diocletian did not take this news too kindly and sentenced Florian to death by fire.

Just before Roman soldiers were going to light the fire that would end Florian's life, he said to them, 'If you do, I will climb to heaven on the flames.' This led the soldiers to reverse their decision to burn Florian and instead drowned him. Christians later retrieved his body, and he is now buried near Lorch at an Augustinian monastery. St Florian was named patron saint of Poland after Pope Lucius III agreed to the request of King Casimir to send relics of Florian there. Not long after this, somebody was saved from a fire by invoking St Florian's name.

Since that moment, Florian is known in most countries as patron saint of the fire service. His feast day is celebrated on 4 May. The reason he lost his life is because of the same humane ideas that firefighters have today.

On 4 May we remember all firefighters who have lost their lives whilst protecting our communities. Firefighters do not think twice about heading straight out the door, up to the station, onto the truck and out to the fire front. Their families, however, who are left behind do worry. They do think about what might be happening and, even if they are not religious, pray that their loved one will walk through the door at the end of the shift. Sometimes, sadly that is not the case, and on Saturday and every day we always have them in our hearts.

In order to write my contribution today I wanted to hear from some of our newest recruits, our youngest firefighters: our cadets. Last Wednesday on ANZAC eve I joined some of our Sturt group cadets when they were waiting for their turn to hold ground at the Blackwood ANZAC Youth Vigil. Young Ellie, whose dad is a CFS volunteer and whose mum is an SES employee, helped me with my endeavours. Ellie and her family recently became Australian citizens, and what a fantastic example of how those who come to our country, who choose to make Australia their home, give back to our communities.

We asked the cadets what motivates them to be a CFS cadet. Ellie herself thinks that the opportunity for skill development keeps her committed. Tayla said that learning and developing new skills to one day help out the community and to see her friends is what keeps her motivated. It was clear that the camaraderie was a strong reason the cadets were committed, and Harper gave kudos to their leader, Andy Desteno, for his drive to stay on as a cadet. I can vouch for Andy: he is a wonderful role model and excellent firefighter from our Cherry Gardens brigade.

We also asked the cadets why they choose to be a cadet in the first place. Emma said that it is because her whole family has done it, and she wants to help the community. Emma's family, the Simms, most certainly all have done it. They are incredibly well known throughout our community, especially John, who is the number one fundraiser for the Sturt group.

Tayla's dad is also a CFS member, and my heart melted when she said that he is her role model, and she wants to be like him when she is older. James' dad is also a CFS member, as is

Saxon's, and they look up to their fathers. Matilda wants to learn how she can help the community, Angus said he had always looked up to firefighters and the CFS, and Evie and Harper wanted to give back to community.

I also asked them what they admire most about CFS volunteers. Jaxon said that they care about the future of the CFS, Harper said that they put themselves on the line for the community, and Matilda admired the fact that they give up their free time to help the community. Angus and James admire their bravery and courage, and Emma feels that they protect and care about the environment. It was absolutely lovely to hear all of the thoughts from our future firefighters, and I look forward to standing alongside them in battle should the occasion arise. I would also like to thank them again for their dedication at the ANZAC vigil. It was long and cold night but they stood tall and represented the CFS with courage and strength.

I also popped into the Eden Hills brigade on Friday night, and I would like to share what Phil Wyatt, a brigade member, said when I asked him what firefighting meant to him. He said:

Being part of a very close team that I know I can always rely on for both emotional and physical support whenever it is needed.

Being able to make a difference to people who really need help. Having an integral role in my community.

Using my skills and experience as a paid fire fighter to train, mentor and assist volunteer fire fighters. Being so proud of what volunteer fire fighters are prepared to do and give up for often complete strangers.

Being able to give back to the Community, State and Country that welcomed me so warmly when I arrived from England. And of course being able to drive around in a big white fire truck making lots of noise and squirting water.

Our firefighters have the deepest commitment, the most serious mind, the discipline to train, and the selflessness to leap into the fray, running towards the battle while others are turning away.

It is the case, though, that in their line of duty our firefighters are witness to extreme circumstances, whether that is the very real threat of an advancing bushfire, approaching the scene of a serious car accident, assisting a resident who has had a tree fall on their home and lost everything, or even assisting SAAS and SAPOL in their duties. Some of these events stay with the firefighter long after the threat has passed. They can carry with them the horror for weeks, months, years and even a lifetime, and they need to know that support is available.

SAFECOM, who overarch our emergency services, have a team called SPAM, a stress prevention and management team who are there when our fireys need extra care. Our government understands the need to support our fireys, and we committed \$1.9 million over four years to increase mental health and wellbeing support to more than 15,000 volunteer emergency service first responders, staff and, of course, their families who care so deeply for them. This commitment increased the vital resources to SPAM, facilitating the continuation of current programs and the provision of a substantial strategic approach to respond to the growing number of potentially traumatic and stressful incidents that our volunteer workforce attends.

SPAM is a 24/7 rostered helpline for emergency services volunteers and staff, including SAFECOM, CFS, SES and the VMR. These services include support after incidents, acting as a conduit between the EAP provider and the agencies, and proactive preventative measures. As I mentioned, our firefighters can face a complex range of mental health risk factors due to the nature of the work they do, and it is not just what they remember but it can also lead to things like anxiety, depression and PTSD.

Mental health issues in the emergency services can also have a range of impacts beyond the individual, including reduced productivity, increased conflict and detrimentally impacted interpersonal relationships. With the change in climate our firefighters will be faced with more incidents, larger fires, fires that are difficult to control, if not impossible, and they will need help to process what they experience. Supporting those who protect our community ensures that they have help when they need it and when they ask for it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our firefighters, whether they are in the MFS, our national parks teams—who I had the honour of working beside last week as they conducted a controlled burn in the Belair National Park—or our Country Fire Service volunteers. People often

say that firefighters give selflessly but, if you ask firefighters why they do what they do, many of them will tell you that what they are giving is nothing compared to the reward that they get from helping another human or an animal, or helping to protect our environment. It is that honour that is priceless.

This Saturday, Parliament House will be lit up with yellow and red lights to show our appreciation to our firefighters on International Firefighters' Day. If you know a firey, do not forget to say thank you, and if you are a firey, May the 4th be with you.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:14): I rise to speak on this and, in doing so, I move an amendment. I move:

Remove paragraph (e) of the motion and replace with:

- (e) recognises the importance of the mental health and wellbeing support provided by SAFECOM's Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) program to more than 15,000 volunteer emergency service personnel and their families;

Insert:

- (f) acknowledges the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation in seeking better support for CFS personnel and the facilities they utilise.

I thank the member for Waite for bringing this motion because, especially as a regional member, it is certainly very pertinent on a day when we have just recognised the end of the fire danger season. With the end of April comes the end of the fire danger season across our state, although with the dry conditions, the risk of fire is still there for us. Recognising that 4 May is International Firefighters' Day, we get an opportunity on that day to remember the great sacrifice and effort which firefighters make in our society in particular, and in the Australian environment with its extremes of heat and dry.

Everyone who has lived in South Australia for a period of time has a story of how they have been impacted by bushfire, whether it is personally, their lives, their homes or their families have been put at risk directly, or they know people or they are part of a state which has felt the challenges of the bushfire season and bushfire events throughout the years.

This motion which has been put forward by the member for Waite also acknowledges that we as a society need to show our support and our appreciation for firefighters who put themselves at risk and who work hard every day to protect our community. As I said, it is perfect timing and not just because 4 May is International Firefighters' Day but also as the fire danger season in South Australia has come to an end.

For my community, it is always something which we need to be very aware of. Across our community, everyone has different experiences of having to deal with bushfire and having the impact of bushfire in their life, no more than those who are dealing with it on the frontline. In recent years, there have been a number of different fires, but for me and for the community I represent in Flinders there was none more impactful than on 11 January 2005 when the Wangary bushfire tore its way across Eyre Peninsula, burning out over 77,000 hectares and in its wake taking nine lives including two lives of firefighters who were doing their bit to protect our community.

As has been noted in this place, can I recognise the sacrifice at that time of Trent Murnane and Neil (Pee Wee) Richardson. It was a time for my community which was certainly an eye-opener to the challenges that are faced but also to the way that community can bring themselves together, and those two gentlemen who died trying to protect their community were an example of firefighters all around South Australia, Australia, the world, who give of themselves to look after their community.

The 11 January 2005 Wangary bushfires extended for a long period of time after that. We had an event, nine years ago now, commemorating the 10-year anniversary. To underline point (d), which 'acknowledges that firefighters can experience traumatic events in the course of their duties' but also after their physical duties are finished, there are mental scars in communities and in people as individuals.

At the 10-year anniversary of the Wangary bushfires, my community came together to recognise that event but also to recognise that there were deep scars that were not healed over, and it is coming on nearly 20 years. It is hard to believe that it is nearly 20 years since those bushfires

and there are still people who well and truly carry a mental scar and will continue to do so as their lives progress.

Some of the things that our fireys and our communities witness when responding to incidents and to fires can be quite traumatic and have long-lasting effects, such as PTSD. Sadly, one of those traumatic events involved losing a colleague, which was experienced by my community and has been experienced before and subsequently by communities in South Australia.

According to the CFS Promotions Unit, there have been 16 South Australian firefighters who have died in the line of duty, while another eight people have died in assisting to combat a fire. It is real. The power of fire is one that we can try to control but, ultimately, we do our best to quell rather than control. It is certainly front of mind.

Even at the end of the fire danger season, just in the past week, there has been a fire incident in my community, just a bit west from where I live. The community came together on Sunday to put this fire out: it was CFS units, it was aerial support and it was farm fire units. It was the end of April, so fire danger season is certainly one that can potentially take over half the year, especially for those of us in regional communities.

It was with great pleasure that, in recent weeks, the shadow minister and I had the opportunity to meet with the region 6 CFS headquarters representatives. I would like to give a shout-out to Stephen Boucher and the team there. Stephen started just recently in that role. Because of where we have to live and work, the region 6 team works together very closely: the CFS work closely with the MFS, the SES and the volunteers. They do an outstanding job in my community.

The facility that is there in Port Lincoln, at region 6, and the people who are there, are so important in protecting our community not just in Port Lincoln but all around the whole of Eyre Peninsula. They are so important. To the team at region 6, I would like to say that it was a pleasure to be able visit, to see the facilities and to see the equipment but also to hear the stories of where there are shortcomings within those facilities and the equipment on Eyre Peninsula.

The comparatively small amount that we as decision-makers can invest into those communities is repaid astronomically by the amount of volunteer hours that are put in by our CFS members and our community members. As part of this motion, I would like to recognise the volunteer hours put in by people to protect their community from bushfire over such a long period—the hours put in and the sacrifice that is made. As has already been mentioned, it is so rewarding to be part of a community which works together for positive outcomes for our community safety. There are none in the state who do it better than those at region 6.

The amendment that I have put also recognises the importance of the work that the parliamentary committee is doing in seeking better support for CFS personnel and the facilities they utilise. As I said, the discussions that I as a local member have—and I know other local members have, especially regional members—with constituents and CFS volunteers all around the state continue to underline the fact that we need to be investing in new trucks, new facilities and new capabilities to make sure that, in an ever-changing world, we are equipping our volunteers and our paid staff as best we can to enable them to protect our community the best they can.

It is so important that we properly support our CFS and MFS personnel and ensure that they have adequate facilities and assets. The work that the Parliamentary Committee on Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation is doing is really important in being able to hear from those volunteers and members of the CFS on the ground about what the true state of affairs is. We as decision-makers need to listen and to learn. In closing, I commend the amendment to the motion and once again thank the member for bringing the motion to this place.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:24): I would like to speak in support of this motion and thank the member for bringing it before the house. As mentioned, 4 May marks St Florian's Day, also known as International Firefighters' Day. St Florian is the patron saint of firefighters. He lived between 250 and 304AD. St Florian was a high-ranking Roman army officer in the Roman province of Noricum. His superiors said that he was good with people, a real problem solver and a dedicated hard worker, which sounds like our firefighters and other emergency services personnel.

Interestingly, St Florian died for his Christian faith, making him a martyr and elevating him to the patron of all things in the prevention of danger from fire.

This day is an important day to recognise the contribution made predominantly by firefighters but also, as the member for Flinders said, by other people who work together in our communities to protect us. I also acknowledge not only the Metropolitan Fire Service members but also the Country Fire Service, people who work for the South Australian Ambulance Service, the SES, which is really important, and also SAPOL. The reality is that, when something happens, all these people, no matter which uniform they wear, work together for the protection and safety of our community. I acknowledge them as part of this day.

It is important that, if we celebrate the work of firefighters, we also celebrate and acknowledge the work undertaken by these other service personnel. The reality is that none of them could do the whole job by themselves. When there is an incident, you will find at least two, three or four of the services working together very closely to make sure that the necessary resources and skills are available to protect our community.

That is because a whole range of disasters occur in our community. We have house fires, bushfires, wind, rain and damage, which the SES attend, but again in conjunction with the police and the Metropolitan Fire Service, and the ambulance may be required. Motor vehicle accidents: police go to accidents, as do ambulance people, but often firefighters do too, whether the MFS in the metro area or the Country Fire Service people in the country and regional areas. All these services work together. They all work together to protect our community.

An important part of this day is acknowledging the importance of prevention. I understand, in terms of St Florian, that many miracles of healing are attributed to his intercession, and he is invoked as a powerful protector in danger from fire, floods and against drowning. Even St Florian's Day itself acknowledges the contribution of different people because of the various disasters that can occur in our community.

With the increasing influence of climate change—increasing floods, for example, to famine and a whole range of things in our communities—all our emergency services, both paid and volunteer, work together. In honouring this day, I also pay tribute to all those services I have mentioned and thank them for their service in my community. I also thank those located in my electorate. We have the Dalkeith CFS, the Gawler Metropolitan Fire Service, the Gawler ambulance service and the Gawler police station and very soon we will have our very own SES unit.

I was pleased to hear that the Public Works Committee approved just this week the expenditure of a smidgen under \$5 million for an SES unit in Gawler. It was an election commitment made by the then Labor Party in opposition and delivered in government. The idea was mooted some years ago, going back to 2015-16, by John Lawrence, who was then involved with the Salisbury SES, and John has been a strong supporter of this unit for Gawler. It was originally mooted to be a satellite station to be run from Salisbury, but since then we have upgraded the facility to be a full SES unit for the region.

That is also reflecting the reality of growth in our area. Gawler, Roseworthy and Angle Vale are growing, and Concordia will be off the ground shortly. All of those communities mean that we need more resources to protect and save our community.

One of the important things about the new SES unit, apart from the fact it is going to be in Gawler, it is going to be built in a way that it can act as an incident unit. In other words, if there is a major incident in the region, whether it is fire or flooding, this unit will be able to house a whole incident team so that the event can be managed from that site.

It is good to see the SES and other emergency services units looking ahead at what may come up and working to make sure we have the resources and that those resources are available and can be managed in the region. With those comments, I would like to again pay tribute to the emergency services workers in my region, particularly on this this day to mark St Florian's Day, and thank them for their service.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (12:30): I also rise in support of the motion and want to thank the member for Waite for bringing it to this place. I think it is very important that we stop at times like

this and acknowledge and thank the brave men and women who risk their lives to protect us and our communities.

Their impact obviously goes much beyond just fighting fires. They are first responders in emergencies, which comes with its own heavy toll, particularly the need for ongoing support. Once people have seen trauma and experienced it, it is very important that we have those support mechanisms behind them. Not only do they rescue people from accidents but natural disasters and other hazardous situations that people forget about. In terms of exposure to different chemicals or unknown situations, it becomes quite a dangerous occupation.

I also want to thank our local members who provide education and support. There are a lot of programs that I have been involved in around road safety and educating young people about the dangers and responsibilities of driving and what can go wrong.

My association with our local MFS dates back to when I first became a member, in fact even before that, in 2014. Our local MFS station, which was established in 1922 and began providing MFS protection for our city, was only staffed during business hours. A retained crew that operated out of hours supported the day crew.

What we were able to do was find the data that backed up a push to have our operations extended to seven days a week. What we found was that in Mount Gambier there were 20 facilities classified as major risk, including major timber mills and milling operations, which operated around the clock and housed significant amounts of flammable material, as you can imagine, being in the South-East, where there are a lot of forests and milling going on there. Together with the MFS staff, we lobbied the emergency services minister over a period of three years before successfully achieving a seven-day staffing roster, which was implemented in our station in 2019.

Since that time, our city has been diligently serviced by full-time firefighters, again backed up by retained firefighters after hours, who also work in conjunction with our voluntary Country Fire Service (CFS). This collaborative approach is essential for our regional location because we are a fair way away from any other major support network, and it is certainly a very long way from Adelaide.

It was put to the test just last month, which saw the unfortunate situation of two large house fires occurring in separate locations in Mount Gambier. On both occasions, a combination of our metropolitan and country fire services were on site within five minutes of the initial call for both fires, and they were brought under control without any damage to surrounding buildings, which is an excellent outcome. We are in a fortunate position that our MFS is supported; however, we cannot let that lead to complacency in ensuring the service is fully equipped and staffed. This is the issue that we are working on at the moment.

The Mount Gambier fire station, MFS, should be staffed by 12 full-time firefighters; however, we are currently only serviced by eight. I have had recent discussions with Minister Szakacs, as well as the new minister, Minister Cregan, and I am pleased to report that meetings are in place for next Thursday with the MFS chief. We need to get those full-time positions implemented and be proactive in our pursuits.

The other issue that does get brought to my attention from time to time is second-hand equipment. The MFS in Mount Gambier services a large region, yet seems to get the second-hand equipment from other stations around South Australia, so that is also an issue that we want to be looking at.

We must not forget that, as has been highlighted already, our firefighters are constantly placed in high-pressure and traumatic situations. It is vital that we provide them with the necessary resources, training and support to cope with the physical and emotional toll of their work. This includes access to mental health services, adequate staffing levels, up-to-date equipment, and ongoing professional development. I would like to thank the Malinauskas government for their investment in mental health support for our volunteer emergency services personnel by increasing the resources of Stress Prevention and Management.

In my electorate alone we have 15 Country Fire Service units, all staffed by volunteers. They perform a crucial role in protecting rural areas in times of emergency, particularly during the bushfire season, as well as providing assistance to the MFS when required. Again, we have seen a \$2 million

investment from the Malinauskas government into fire technology that supports our CFS, and I want to acknowledge that. These technologies include satellite detection, remotely operated cameras, as well as fire tower upgrades, which provide comfort and early detection, I suppose, for fires. I have seen them in operation where the camera will automatically pick up smoke in its very early phase and send an alert. Somebody who is monitoring that camera can then zoom in and, of course, then take appropriate action.

On top of that, the increased funding that the government has provided for aerial appliances—i.e. planes and the Elvis helicopter to be based in Mount Gambier during high fire danger periods—is certainly greatly appreciated, as is also the upgrade to our CFS facilities. Our Yahl CFS facility was a little tin shed that barely fit the fire truck. Due to initial work by the Marshall Liberal government, after years of lobbying by Graham Lamond and the team at Yahl CFS, it was a pleasure last year to be at the opening of the new facility, which is about four times bigger, has a smoko area or a kitchen area in there, as well as proper layouts for their equipment. That investment has been greatly appreciated.

I really want to thank Adrian Puust, who is the MFS manager, and Darren McPhail and Phil Wood, who do a great job of coordinating our local MFS facility. That was really on display in January 2022 when the Crater Lakes area of the Valley Lakes caught on fire and it took five days to bring it under control. That was where we really saw SAPOL, CFS, MFS and council all coordinating the response effort that included, obviously, road closures but also helicopters dropping water, fire bombers dropping water, CFS protecting part of the Valley Lakes area where there are homes and the MFS fighting the fire on another front.

It was a real credit to all of those involved in that incident. We saw this fantastic collaboration of all our services coming together. I want to really thank all our firefighters, who do put their lives on the line to keep our community safe. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (12:40): I would also like to say a few words about our firefighters across not only metropolitan areas but also regional areas in particular. Most people here have already spoken in this regard, and I think everybody is supportive of the volunteers that we do have across all of our communities across all of South Australia.

One of the things that I want to highlight is that we can have all the best equipment out there. I had the opportunity last Sunday, I think it was, to represent the new minister at the new shed for firefighting at Terowie. I took the opportunity to see not only the new shed but also the latest equipment there. As the member for Mount Gambier has indicated, there is new technology. A lot of the equipment is first class these days, and we need to have that because these people risk their lives going out into the community to fight fires and the outbreak of fires.

We have also seen quite a bit in the media in the last couple of years about firebugs starting fires. I think that those people really need to take heed of what they are doing, because they are not only creating an opportunity for damage to equipment and houses but also to the lives of those volunteers.

In Port Pirie we have the MFS. We are very, very grateful for the MFS, and that is fully staffed at the moment. I would like to see a lot more locals retained there, but when they apply for it they do not seem to get the nomination. But certainly, we have the MFS there and it is fully staffed, and I thank the governments over all the years for maintaining that service in Port Pirie.

But across the other regional areas of Stuart, there are a lot of areas out there that are all volunteers. I had the opportunity, as I said, last Sunday to represent the new minister, Minister Cregan, at Terowie. While Terowie is a very small community, there must have been 70 people who turned up for the opening of that shed. One of the things that was brought to my attention was how close and how passionate these communities are about those volunteers. I will relay an incident going back many years ago. CFS, MFS, SES and others all have to go out not only to fight fires—CFS and MFS in particular—but they also take the opportunity to combine some of their services with SES and other organisations.

From a community point of view in regional areas, we very much understand and know a lot of the people who have to go out. Fires are one issue. When those volunteers go out to fight a fire,

they have to also leave their employment opportunities, especially in regional areas. Some of the businesses there are really struggling. They let those people go, and whether they get paid is up to the discretion of the employer.

When these people go out, we have seen over some years that there have been some fatalities. Some volunteers have been severely hurt and there have been a couple of incidents where a person may have been fatally injured in fighting a fire for somebody else. The trauma of those families when those volunteers and their loved ones go out—it is always going through their mind, 'Are they going to actually come home in one piece? Are they going to come home in a fit state, with their mind?'

I relay the situation of when my late wife was killed many years ago, just before Christmas. CFS, MFS, and other emergency services went out there and that was an impact on their health and wellbeing for many, many years to come. Even though that was many years ago, people still remember that tragedy many years afterwards. I do not think that is something that communities, especially in non-regional or non-rural areas, really understand. They see somebody go out to a fire, or an accident or whatever it may be, and they are doing a lot of jobs out there and we may take that for granted and not understand the trauma that may be in their minds forever and ever later on.

The latest technology and a lot of the equipment out there is first-class. The truck at Terowie was four years old but the latest technology in there is protecting those people who are inside the vehicle also from the fire itself by the way that the covers come down in the front. Also, the fact is they are able to fight a fire from inside the vehicle itself, so they can actually direct the water gun to those particular locations.

The other thing that we also have to understand is that governments of the day, whoever they may be, have to actually continue to provide those services out there. I know there is a cost factor but if we had to pay those people out there in the regional areas to do this, no matter who it is, they would never be able to afford to have those people in those smaller communities. These people there are unpaid, they are very gratefully acknowledged in our communities, but, certainly, they have become heroes of the areas out there. The other thing, which is not in my electorate, but at Koolunga there was a—

Mr Ellis interjecting:

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: It is in yours? It is in mine? I do not think so.

Mr Ellis interjecting:

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: No, it is not mine. It is in the seat of the member for Narungga. I had a call and he would have had a call about this. I think the shed is too small for the new equipment there. We do have new equipment going out there, the latest equipment. At the end of the day, we need to make certain that the sheds themselves are there to protect and house that equipment. I know the member for Narungga is looking at that opportunity there.

I want to thank the member for bringing this notice of motion to the parliament today. I am very sure that everybody on this side and across both sides of the chamber today will be fully supportive of this and the acknowledgement of it. I congratulate the government for getting more money out there and providing services there for more stress-related issues.

When you are going out there, you are full of adrenaline and you understand you are out there doing a job, but it is what happens afterwards, and it is not only the firefighters or the volunteers themselves but also the families and the wives and partners and also, very importantly, the children of those volunteers. We need to make certain we look after them because that may not have an impact straightaway but it has an impact later on in life, so we must ensure that. Certainly, I thank the member for bringing this notice of motion to the chamber and hopefully everybody supports it.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (12:47): I rise in quick endorsement for this motion and congratulate the house on its seemingly unanimous support for it. There is no doubt that we very much need to show our support and appreciation for those firefighters who do such a wonderful job in keeping us safe. It can be a thankless task, so for us to take the time here to thank them I think is time well

spent. Well done to the parliament and well done to the member for Waite for bringing the motion to the house.

As the motion does note, it is an incredibly dangerous thing that these people do. I cast my mind back immediately to the fires in 2020 at Edithburgh and Yorketown that managed to knock over 11 homes and hurt 33 people and burn some 5,000 hectares of farmland. I remember how close that came to the township of Edithburgh. We visited with the then premier not that long after that fire occurred and there were genuinely single marks on the fences of the homes on the edge of the township of Edithburgh.

It was a really scary thing to see and I can only imagine what the people who lived in those homes must have felt as that fire approached, but it makes all the more remarkable the efforts those volunteers went to to keep those homes from burning down. The fact that it was only single marks and not a knocked-over fence or a lost home is a truly remarkable thing. It was wonderful to see the work that those people had done and to show them some appreciation on that occasion for that work. It was a massive fire, and a scary thing for the lower southern Yorke Peninsula community to have to go through, but one that they have come out the other side of.

Only in March this year, so a month or two ago, the Red Cross bushfire recovery program was shut down at Yorketown. It has been operating for the past four years to try to help that community bounce back from that fire, and only in March this year it finally reached the end of its useful life. So, a quick thank you to Deb Richardson who led that program from the start, and was there for the initial days of it, and then I think thereafter it moved on to Kate Martin. They have done a wonderful job building that community back. It is good to see. The community itself has been the beneficiary of some bushfire grants that have now been expended and things built. The local sporting club now has new lights, making it safer for a helicopter to land or evacuate people if needed.

The clubrooms at the sporting club have now been fitted out to a point where they can become a refuge centre for people who need it. If they ever have another situation where there is a fire burning down at Edithburgh, they will have that facility to go to where they can be safe and it is well lit. It has a kitchen, bathroom, shower and all those sorts of things. So those bushfire grants has been money well spent. I have talked to the community group recently and they have an opening planned in the coming months. It will be wonderful to get down there and see how it is all going and how that facility has been upgraded.

They do have one problem before them, and that is that there was a slight cost overrun with the passage of time that has eventuated and left them a little short of money. We have written to the Minister for Energy and Mining to see if he is willing to make a discretionary allocation towards covering the costs of the upgraded power that is required to now make these lights work and to ensure that this new refuge centre is operational, workable and those sorts of things. They have been slugged with a significant bill to upgrade that power substation, one that they did not foresee coming, and we hope that we can find the money from somewhere to finish that so that it is all compliant and they can use that facility as intended.

Those works are wonderful and those grants have done a wonderful job in making sure the community bounces back. It is good to see how they have rebounded. Hopefully, it starts raining soon and they can get a crop in the ground and something will start growing down there. That would be even better—it would be markedly different. I just cast my mind back to when we went down there and helped BlazeAid out to build the fences. The desolation and the kilometres and kilometres with nothing growing on it, no fences and dust blowing around everywhere, was truly a sight to see.

I still get people stopping me; in fact, I had someone stop me in the street the other day and say, 'I remember you from BlazeAid.' I said, 'Don't tell anyone you saw me doing manual labour otherwise I might get dragged into doing it again.' I had blisters on my hands almost immediately, such is the preciousness of the pads that I am working with. Anyhow, leave that by the by.

I want to take a quick opportunity to outline to the house some of the priorities in our electorate coming up for firefighters. I know that there is an imminent CFS-SES combined shed coming up at Maitland and that will be a tremendous opportunity for that brigade. It is a really substandard set-up that the Maitland CFS and SES are operating out of currently, and to combine

those two sheds makes sense as a cost-efficiency method. It will be wonderful to see that start to rise up out of the ground.

In the same vein, I would love to see the same thing happen at Port Broughton. Port Broughton CFS currently shares its shed with the council. On one side of a temporary wall you have the mower the council uses to mow the footy oval, and on the other side of the shed you have a CFS truck that is used to save lives. I do not think that is a situation that can continue. I have been writing about it for six years, but here is hoping we can finally get some traction on that and they can move out of the council shed ideally to a combined facility like the one that is happening at Maitland with the SES and a bit more fit for purpose. It will make it a little bit easier on those volunteers who do such a wonderful job at Port Broughton and in the surrounding communities.

The more help that we can give these volunteers the better. There are a number of other CFS stations that could do with upgrades—Yorketown for one. I have been out there with Angus McEvoy and had a chat to him about the ways that we can improve that station. At the least, we are looking forward to seeing the Maitland CFS shed start and hopefully we can get some work done on the Port Broughton one. I look forward to working with this new minister to make that happen.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (12:53): I acknowledge the member for Waite and thank her for bringing this motion before the house. She is, as is known in this place, a volunteer firefighter herself, as are other members, and I appreciate her service as does her community of the Upper Sturt brigade.

International Firefighters' Day, as has earlier been remarked, is observed each year on 4 May. This day is also known as St Florian's Day, named after the patron saint of firefighters. The day does provide us with an opportunity to recognise and reflect on the selfless dedication, bravery and contribution that firefighters from the Metropolitan Fire Service and the Country Fire Service have made and continue to make to all of our communities throughout the state.

Speaking personally, I am deeply grateful to all the brigades throughout Kavel and the Hills. In the course of the Cudlee Creek bushfire, the worst natural disaster in my community since Ash Wednesday, the lives of many firefighters were at risk and they were actively working for many, many days to defend the lives of others in our community and, of course, many dwellings.

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Port Adelaide with the member for Cheltenham, the former minister, to recognise the 100th anniversary of the fire on board the SS *City of Singapore*. It was the worst ship fire in Australia's history and a very significant—in fact the worst—disaster for metropolitan firefighters in South Australia. Three firefighters lost their lives responding to this emergency.

When they arrived at the site of the burning ship, they entered the ship immediately. Efforts were made to extinguish an early blaze that had been detected by ship's officers. They later remained on deck, cooling the deck with hand lines, and in the course of the evening there was the ignition of other flammable materials and gases in the hold of the ship, causing the death of three firefighters and injuring 11 others.

It would, I am quite sure, have been a horrific scene, but what must also be remembered is that the firefighters attending that scene entered the ship knowing the risks that they were facing and would have been quite aware throughout the time they were aboard that every moment they remained with that ship their lives were at risk. Nevertheless, showing extraordinary bravery they continued to serve the people of South Australia by using every effort, and the technology that was then available, to try to extinguish that blaze.

In closing, acknowledging the time, can I say that this is a remarkable year in the history of the Country Fire Service. Not a single dwelling has been lost to bushfire in the course of this season. That is a testament to the great skill and ongoing dedication of every CFS volunteer. Each week, these volunteers parade and improve their skills for our benefit quietly in our communities, so that when we need them they will be ready. I have seen myself, as I earlier remarked, the benefit of that skill, experience, dedication and true courage when it was, in fact, in my community very badly needed.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:57): I also rise to support the amended motion. It is so important that we have people in the community out there defending the assets and the people of our community. Firefighters, whether they be paid staff through the MFS or volunteers at the CFS, all do a wonderful job in supporting our communities.

Over my life, living on a farm and being a farmer, we have had many incidents where we have had fires affect our properties. There are half a dozen or so that I can remember quite clearly where we have lost some of our pasture and fencing. A large fire went through Mount Compass in the 1990s, which came through our place. We lost a reasonable amount of silage that was burnt, as well as a fair amount of fencing.

Interestingly, we also had the local council graders come in and assist. They graded firebreaks through the property. Some of them just kept grading through the smoke. In the deep smoke, they could not see where they were going. One of the trenches that they dug was about six feet deep, and we had to request that they come back and fill it back in afterwards. Certainly, people do some wonderful work in defending the fires out there when they do start.

It is amazing in my electorate to see the volunteers across the place as well. We have CFS stations at Currency Creek, Goolwa, Middleton, Port Elliot, Hindmarsh Valley, Back Valley, Waitpinga and Mount Compass. I think I have covered them all in the electorate; I do not think I have forgotten any. They are a wonderful group of people.

We also have the MFS in Victor Harbor itself. The relationship between the CFS and the MFS in the region is fantastic as well. They work well together. They make sure that they use their skills when needed, whether it be a building fire or other. Sometimes the MFS will leave the town boundaries and sometimes the CFS will come in and fight fires around the Bluff, for example, which is within the town boundaries. It is a great working relationship.

Debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Petitions

REGIONAL ROADS

Mr TELFER (Flinders): Presented a petition signed by 304 residents of the West Coast of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate action to complete sealing the remaining 13 kilometres of Fowlers Bay Road and improve the condition and maintenance of the Coorabie Road.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of year 11 legal studies students from Saint Aloysius College, who are here as the guests of the member for Adelaide. Welcome to parliament. We hope you have a great time and that everyone here behaves as you would at school. I think that is our big aim for the day.

Members

MEMBER'S LEAVE

The SPEAKER (14:06): This is a first for the South Australian parliament. I inform members that, pursuant to standing order 62, 20 weeks maternity leave has been granted to Ms Stinson commencing on 1 May 2024. I present the following paper: Ms Stinson's leave of absence letter to the Speaker from Ms Stinson notifying me of the period of maternity leave, dated 1 May 2024.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

*Ministerial Statement***GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, NATIONAL CABINET**

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:06): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The prevalence of gender-based violence in our community is unacceptable. For many people, it is difficult to fathom, but the hard truth is one woman a week in Australia is murdered by her current or former partner. Tragically, there have been 28 women murdered so far this year across Australia, which is clearly unacceptable, and it does represent a national crisis. While there are already national efforts underway for implementation of a National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children, it is clear the commonwealth, states and territories need to collectively build on the considerable work already underway to end gender-based violence.

This morning, national cabinet met virtually to discuss the national crisis. National cabinet agreed to a number of priorities for all our governments, building on efforts underway under the national plan, including:

- strengthening accountability and consequences for perpetrators, including early intervention with high risk perpetrators and serial offenders and best practice justice responses that support people who have experienced violence;
- strengthening and building on prevention work through targeted, evidence-based approaches; and
- maintaining a focus on missing and murdered First Nations women and children and the impact of domestic and family violence in First Nations communities.

National cabinet noted the importance of housing reforms in supporting women and children escaping violence and agreed to strengthen prevention efforts through targeted, evidence-based approaches, to be informed by an expert-led rapid view of those best practice approaches.

The Prime Minister advised first ministers today that the commonwealth will invest \$925 million over five years to deliver a 'leaving violence payment' to help people experiencing intimate partner violence with the cost of leaving that relationship. This acknowledges that financial insecurity is closely linked to violence and can prevent women leaving a violent relationship.

The commonwealth will also deliver a range of new measures to tackle factors that exacerbate violence against women, such as violent online pornography and misogynistic content targeting children and young people. Such measures will include additional funding for the eSafety Commission to pilot age assurance technologies.

First ministers agreed that system responses need to be strengthened with a focus on high-risk perpetrators and serial offenders to prevent homicides. To progress this, a range of cross-jurisdictional work will be undertaken to report back to national cabinet later this year including:

- tasking police ministers and attorneys-general with the development of options for improving police responses to high risk and serial perpetrators;
- improving information sharing about perpetrators across systems and jurisdictions; and
- exploring opportunities to strengthen national consistency and drive best practice approaches across jurisdictions including relating to risk assessment and responses to sexual assault, with this work to be led by Victoria and South Australia.

South Australia is already taking a significant step to ensure we have the full evidence base to drive the most effective change through our Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. We have appointed respected South Australian advocate, author, former diplomat and senator, Natasha Stott Despoja AO to lead the royal commission.

The royal commission adds to the considerable suite of legislative matters, policies and reforms already implemented by my government to tackle domestic, family and sexual violence. This includes landmark laws aimed at better protecting domestic and family violence survivors, which passed parliament only this week.

These laws ensure defendants granted bail on a charge of breaching a domestic violence related intervention order by either threatening or committing a violent act would be subject to mandatory strict conditions of home detention and electronic monitoring. These laws are a significant step forward in addressing domestic and family violence and helping victims feel safe. We will continue to implement such measures including through the introduction of legislation to criminalise coercive control, an insidious and far too often invisible form of domestic and family violence.

Through our national efforts, strengthened by agreement at national cabinet today, as well as the numerous measures being implemented at a state level, my government is committed to do all we can to end gender-based violence and to act with urgency. Outside of efforts in national cabinet, every male in the community should consider their opportunity to be a role model to what respectful relationships look like to end the scourge of gender-based violence.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Schedule of approval to remove track infrastructure—Report by the Minister—Report

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:12): I bring up the report of the committee, entitled House of Assembly Petition No. 50 of 55-1—Western Hospital at Henley Beach.

Report received.

Mr ODENWALDER: I bring up the 44th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Question Time

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the developments at the Whyalla Steelworks? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: It has been reported that, and I quote:

The problem occurred when a two-day scheduled stoppage of the blast furnace for regular maintenance work in March resulted in the furnace cooling down much more than anticipated. It has been further reported by a number of media outlets that the impact of the shutdown may prevent the steelworks from making steel for the next seven months.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:14): I have been meeting with GFG and I met with their operations manager today, and at 3 o'clock today the Steel Task Force executive will be meeting with the plant managers, as we do weekly. We are confident that steelmaking will resume soon, not in the time frame outlined by the leader. There is a blast furnace community in Australia working together like good comrades to make sure that the blast furnace in Whyalla does not go cold. That is the government's worst fear and we will work tirelessly with GFG to make sure it does not go cold.

During the administration, when Arrium went into administration, the then government with me as mining and energy minister and the local member, the member for Giles, worked tirelessly to keep that steelworks open and operating, and nothing has changed since that date. Our resolve is resolute. The technical aspects of this are that the smelter is being brought back up to temperature slowly but surely. The government has offered its assistance. We are confident that things are working well. Shifts obviously have been set aside in agreement with the union until steelmaking returns. I am confident that steel will be being poured relatively soon as our discussions with GFG continue. It is something we are monitoring daily.

I am confident that they will overcome this. I am advised that this is a common occurrence that can happen with regular maintenance. The government has been aware of this for a while. We are not concerned to the point of the blast furnace going completely cold. We are obviously monitoring it, hence my regular meetings with GFG personally and the Steel Task Force meeting with the operations manager. As I said earlier, the government offered its full support to GFG if there was anything we needed to do, any resources we needed to bring in, any experts we needed to bring in. We have done all that work. We have assured ourselves that the work is going to plan and I expect steelmaking to resume relatively soon.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. What impact, if any, will the issues described by the minister relating to the Whyalla Steelworks have on the planned purchase and installation of the \$500 million electric arc furnace and associated infrastructure? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: In a media release on 25 February 2024, the GFG Alliance stated that they had secured a \$50 million grant committed by the South Australian government pending approval for use towards the electric arc furnace.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:17): I don't think it will have any impact on the electric arc furnace. They are two separate issues. Obviously the electric arc furnace is something that GFG and Danieli are working very closely with to try to secure its engineering and construction. That work is being done in Europe. GFG have, I understand, some other electric arc furnaces in operation around in its portfolio. I am very keen to see those operations.

Obviously, I know from speaking with GFG that they have done their forward orders of coke and they are planning for resumption of steel manufacturing. They are two separate processes, so obviously with the closure of the coke ovens at Whyalla, their trajectory is towards an electric arc furnace ultimately with direct reduction iron facilities there later. I am very keen to meet with Danieli and get a better understanding of exactly how far away the electric arc furnace is, but I don't think the two are linked.

The blast furnace technology is something that is well established and well known. We are keen to get that blast furnace back up to temperature to get steelmaking, steel pouring, done again and steelmaking resumed so that we can get the steelworks back up to speed. The biggest implication here so far has been a reduction in shifts at Whyalla, which means that working families in Whyalla are not getting the income they would normally have gotten. That has been the biggest consequence of this shutdown and maintenance. In terms of its impact on any future upgrades, they are two separate issues, I am informed, and they should not impact on each other.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): My question is again to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Notwithstanding his earlier comments, can he provide any more specific information on time lines regarding the blast furnace resuming operation?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:19): I will get a detailed answer back to the house on the exact timing.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:19): My question is to the Minister for Police. Are there communication failures between SAPOL and other government agencies that are putting South Australians at risk? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: On the radio this morning, the police commissioner indicated that there is no mechanism for police officers to be advised of a person released from mental health detention.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:20): I thank the member for Flinders for his important question. All agencies in South Australia are of course apprised of their obligations to ensure that the law is observed. However, as the commissioner indicated this morning, in complex circumstances there can be information that is held by different agencies that may not reach other agencies at different times. As I understand it, this question might arise in relation to circumstances that have been well-ventilated in the press and also in other forums.

Can I say this: the police involved in the incident to which I think the member for Flinders is referring have done absolutely everything in their power to ensure that South Australians are safe. The other matters that I think it is essential to emphasise are these: SA Health are conducting an independent review into this matter which, it is understood, will investigate the communication between agencies involved in the incident. The matter is presently before the court and therefore additional comment—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: Very well, it may be that there are other incidents. However, the comments that I now make to the house are important overall. May I emphasise, though, these matters in respect of the Bowes incident and in respect of other matters generally. As I have indicated, that matter is presently before the court and therefore additional comment would not be appropriate at this time, so far as it is specific to those matters before the court. But can I—

Mr Telfer: In general, though.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: Yes, in general. Can I say this: Ms Bowes, aged 47, was tasered and arrested after she allegedly used a knife to threaten staff at a business in Glenelg on Monday. It is alleged that Ms Bowes should not have been discharged at the time she was. As I emphasised earlier, the commissioner has made plain on the radio this morning that the officers involved did everything in their power to ensure that South Australians were kept safe. As I have also indicated to the house, there are matters that are being examined by an independent review led by SA Health, and that will investigate the communication between agencies involved in this incident. I am sure that any learnings or findings from that matter will inform other steps as may be necessary to be taken.

SCHOOLS, SPECIALIST SUPPORT

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:22): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister please advise what the government is doing to ensure every school in South Australia has sufficient resources and specialist support appropriately meeting the needs of the students and learning issues? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: I have had a number of constituents come to my office and question whether the government is providing enough in-class support for children with special needs.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:23): I thank the member for MacKillop for this very important question. He has touched upon what is not just a topical issue at the moment. There have been a couple of notable issues of the kind that the member for MacKillop refers to, which have been in the press in the last week or so—very difficult circumstances for the students involved. I think, in the two cases I am thinking of, it is primary-age children who have some additional learning needs.

In many respects, it is a reflection of the make-up and complexity of classrooms and schools in the 21st century. It has been a very big shift and it is only accelerating in terms of the complexity of the classroom. When we talk about that, we mean a range of things. We mean the number of students who might have a disability and the number of students who might be neurodivergent and might have a diagnosis or otherwise of autism or ADHD, or something else like that that presents some challenges in terms of them being able to learn in the same way that other students might.

Last year we went through a very protracted enterprise bargaining negotiation, which I know people in this place will remember, and we spoke about issues around workload and how the role of an educator and a teacher has become harder. Without wanting to diminish from the obvious anguish that parents like those ones feel—and the one in particular that the member for MacKillop is referring to—we all feel the same way about our own kids when they are struggling in any way at school. I don't in any way seek to criticise parents who are just fighting for their kids when their kids are doing it hard. I would expect all parents to do exactly the same thing, but we also need to understand that schools are trying to do their best in changed and increasingly difficult and complex situations.

We are trying to lead the way here in South Australia in many different ways in terms of how we meet those challenges, how we better support neurodivergent students, how we better support families who have children in the public education system, and also the Catholic and independent education systems, who have some more of those challenges themselves. I would point to a couple of things that we have put in place just in the first two years. They apply equally to the schools in the member for MacKillop's area as well, around autism inclusion teachers.

We have an Assistant Minister for Autism, the Hon. Emily Bourke in the other place, who is doing fantastic work. We have autism inclusion teachers at all our public primary schools, who are there to really be the champions for those young people at those schools who have either diagnosed autism or otherwise, because we know that probably not just nationwide but internationally, schooling systems have been slow to keep up with this change. We have been slow to add in the extra supports and resources that teachers, SSOs, principals and parents need for kids who might be neurodivergent in our classrooms.

I can tell you that as someone who has been around the education system and department for a number of years, and I know that the member for Morialta would agree, there has been a real shift in terms of the notifications that ministers get now around incidents at schools. The number of notifications that we get now around cases of dysregulation from young people has vastly increased from what it might have even been in 10 years, and that is presenting challenges for an overworked, tired workforce that is trying to deal with those more complex classrooms, and coming off the back of a very difficult couple of years with COVID as well.

We are seeking to put more of those supports in, whether it is more access in the public system to speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and mental health support. We are trying to do all of those things, but it is going to be difficult. I can say to the member for MacKillop and to his constituents that we are trying everything we can in South Australia, and trying to lead the nation in the way that we offer better education care for all students in the public education system.

CHIEF SCIENTIST

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (14:27): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier please update the house on the appointment of South Australia's sixth Chief Scientist?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (14:27): I am very pleased to share with the chamber some details of Professor Craig Simmons who was appointed as the Chief Scientist for South Australia several weeks ago. South Australian-born, bred and educated, he has made a remarkable contribution to science over his career, which is of course still continuing. He is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Newcastle, but is prepared to spend time in a part-time role here in South Australia as our Chief Scientist, returning home, bringing back the intellectual gifts that he has.

Although he is now the Pro Vice-Chancellor, as I said, at the University of Newcastle, he was an Executive Director at the Australian Research Council, and also the Foundational Director of the

Australian Research Council's National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training. His expertise is largely in the area of groundwater and earth sciences, something that I think will make a significant contribution to many of the policy considerations facing the future of the South Australian economy.

He is seen as a global leader in earth sciences, and he was originally—before leaving South Australia—the Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor and inaugural Schultz Chair in the Environment at Flinders University. He was educated at both Flinders University and the University of Adelaide, marking two of three of the universities as his own, and he has a PhD in hydrology, which has also seen him work overseas as well as interstate and in South Australia.

He is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and a fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, and also of the American Geophysical Union, and he received the President's Award of the International Association of Hydrogeologists in 2022. He was, in 2015, the South Australian Scientist of the Year. He did, at that time, spend some time working with *The Advertiser* also as their scientist opinion writer and therefore contributed to an understanding of scientific issues for the wider public.

He has chaired and been involved in a number of significant reports, advising governments and global organisations, including the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee, which was established by the Australian government, and he was one of the lead authors in the United Nations World Water Development Report—Groundwater: Making the invisible visible, and a co-author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report.

He will be serving for a three-year term in a part-time capacity and he will help lead discussions about the application of science and decision-making, advising on the further development of the research ecosystem and, of course, coordinating specific scientific advice to government both within his field of expertise and drawing on the expertise of other scientists across the board.

As well as representing South Australia in the regular Forum of Australian Chief Scientists meetings, he will begin his term by providing expert advice on the Museum review and I think will make a very significant contribution to that. We are well aware of the importance of an evidence base in policymaking. It is even more crucial in this time of social media and misinformation that evidence, science and truth leads policy, and to have such a distinguished scientist coming home to be the South Australian Chief Scientist is a matter I think of great pride for all of us.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:31): My question is to the Minister for Police. Has the government received a request from South Australia Police for additional resources to increase their capacity to respond to requests for assistance, including domestic violence incidents? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: On radio this morning, the police commissioner indicated that requests have been made to the Premier stating:

The...demand on police resources is growing exponentially...it's resources, it's money, it's legislation, it's enhanced capability from public policy to work more closely with other agencies.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:31): I thank the member for Flinders, the shadow member, for his question. It is right to say that police are in communication with government, as you would expect, in relation to all of their needs, not just the needs arising in relation to the policing activities to respond to domestic violence incidents.

It is also right to say that this state is in the business of recruiting additional police officers. Let me emphasise this point before I turn to other measures that are necessary to ensure that our response collectively, not just the response from South Australia Police to domestic violence, is adequate, is at the level that our community expects and is directed at ensuring that the scourge of domestic violence that we see in our community is actively responded to and that it's a whole-of-

government response, and that it goes beyond a reactive response, which regrettably, of course, has been a criticism of many governments over many years, not just in this state.

I indicated yesterday to the house that there was a particular low point in terms of recruiting police officers—122 officers were recruited in that year. That has put us in a difficult position but this government is making every effort to ensure that police resources are appropriate. I want to add this: yesterday we discussed, of course, the establishment figure for SA Police. We discussed as well the figure that represents the number of police officers available in this state to ensure that we are policing not just domestic violence incidents but also every other incident that it's required that we expect our police officers to respond to.

Good progress is being made in relation to that recruitment task. Presently, the objective is to recruit about 312 officers, and we have 207 that have been recruited so far. Some \$12 million is being invested in that program, and \$81 million to ensure that additional police security officers are recruited. This is relevant because the base expectation in our community is that we have sufficient police officers to ensure that we can respond to domestic violence incidents and to every other policing priority that must be responded to.

Mr Telfer: It's resources, it's legislation, it's enhanced capabilities.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: Indeed, it is, and, in relation to those matters, this government has of course taken a leading role. The Premier has indicated that the domestic, family and sexual violence royal commission will be led by, of course, a former Senator with great experience and ongoing passion and commitment to these issues. That is important. What is also important is the steps that were taken in this house this week to ensure that police have additional legislative tools to respond to domestic violence, and I want to emphasise two matters. The first are changes directed at intervention orders. This matters a great deal practically.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: It matters a great deal practically, and this change is a useful tool. As matters stood, the law that was left to this government meant that there were eight days that could operate after police issued an intervention order. Once this law is proclaimed, it will be 12 months. Now, you can well imagine all of the work of additional agencies that can now be directed to ensuring that victims of domestic violence have that additional support, protected by an intervention order. As well, as the Premier has indicated, additional monitoring and other additional steps will be taken.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: You're really going to interject on this one, are you? This is so serious that you are going to treat this as some kind of a spectacle.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. The time is up. Member for Flinders.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Police. Will additional training be provided to SAPOL officers to assist them to triage requests for assistance that are received during the trialed changes to the SAPOL incident triage system?

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:36): I thank the shadow minister for his question, the member for Flinders. The trial period for the triage approach that South Australia Police are introducing on an operational basis of course will extend until August but, as I am sure the shadow minister is aware, the assistant commissioner—who addressed this issue again on the forum of ABC radio—made plain that this is quite a separate matter to the need to continue to respond appropriately to domestic violence incidents.

There have been, as we discussed in the house yesterday, 53,000 incidents which required a police welfare check. Police have formed the view that those resources are being directed to incidents that might not reflect community policing need. As we also indicated yesterday, about

33,000 of those incidents were responded to, and two hours and seven minutes were consumed police time dealing with these matters.

But as the assistant commissioner made absolutely crystal clear, and which I make plain to you, notwithstanding the fact that this is an operational decision, the commissioner and the deputy commissioner of course have now made clear, and it's also the advice I have received, that this will not influence policing in relation to domestic violence matters.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Police. Has the SAPOL officer contingent that was deployed to Alice Springs returned? If so, how long were they deployed for, and what was the cost to the South Australian taxpayers?

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:38): I thank the member for Flinders for this important question. Australian states are of course required to assist communities in other territories or states where that is appropriate, and it will be the ongoing policy of this government that we will support South Australia Police where there is a request from the Northern Territory or any other state to provide policing assistance.

It has been a longstanding practice that this state has assisted the Northern Territory, wherever that might be required. It also has been a longstanding practice that other Australian states would respond immediately to any request for support—and that request might come informally, it might be a conversation between police commissioners, it might be at a government level, and it might be that additional resources are required in order to fulfil those interstate commitments.

Can I say this: we are not going to quibble around dollars and cents when other Australian states and territories want to ensure that they are meeting their policing needs; and it has been a matter that has been well ventilated in the public square that additional assistance was required. I have been assured that there were two deployments, that volunteers were called for, that there was no impact on South Australian policing needs and, more importantly, I am absolutely sure that if an additional request was made it would be honoured tomorrow.

ROCK LOBSTER FISHING INDUSTRY

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Investment and Trade. Given the lifting of barley and wine tariffs with China, can the minister update my community regarding any trade progressions regarding rock lobsters?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Veterans Affairs, Minister for Local Government) (14:40): I thank the member for his question and particularly for his advocacy on behalf of his local community for the particularly strong workforce which primary production, particularly within aquaculture, supports. The member has already taken the opportunity to speak with me and to advocate directly to me on behalf of his community, particularly in respect to what our state and I trust the entire nation are most keen and eager to see which is the continuing progression of the relaxation and return to normal relations when it comes to our mutual relationship with China when it comes to trade and export.

It is important to note that the very important rock lobster industry in South Australia has been subject not to tariffs but to bans that have precluded them from their major export market in China. On behalf of all those on this side and I trust all South Australians I can say that we are most fortunate to be seeing the fruits of the efforts of the federal government, particularly led by the federal Minister for Trade, Senator the Hon. Don Farrell, and his efforts to not only lead with the effort required but also to lead with the nuance required.

This is all about jobs. It is all about good jobs. It is all about the economic impact that this has had in a large part in regional communities just like the member for Mount Gambier's. Members would have hopefully seen the positive reports being published today by the paper that have been much discussed over the last two days and some very positive comments from Senator Farrell.

I think it is fair to say that we would like to see an improvement on these exports as soon as possible. We have seen significant improvements, particularly in other areas like wine, and all

members of this place would be well aware of the efforts of both the commonwealth and state governments in supporting our wine industry to bounce back and get back to where they were prior to these impacts on their industry.

The reality is that the rock lobster industry has been lagging. There remains work to be done, but I can advise the member for Mount Gambier that I am most optimistic with the leadership being provided from the commonwealth as well as from important state actors that we will be seeing a bounce back in that important industry that he advocates for in the near future.

FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:43): My question is for the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister please update the house on the government's recruitment of frontline health workers?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:43): Thank you very much to the member for Davenport. I firstly thank her for her support for our frontline healthcare workers. It was great to join the member for Davenport, as well as the member for Waite and the Premier, at Flinders Medical Centre on Monday when we were able to update people in terms of our latest workforce statistics across SA Health.

People recall that we committed at the election to recruit an additional 300 nurses, a hundred extra doctors and 350 ambos. Within our first year in office, we had updated the house and the public that we had recruited 550 extra clinicians across the board and that was 89 doctors, 278 nurses, 141 extra ambos and 42 extra allied health professionals. Importantly, these are full-time equivalent and these are above attrition, so these are genuine extra healthcare workers in our system.

How are we going 12 months on from that? We have substantially increased our recruitment of healthcare workers over that time—in fact, double the number of healthcare workers who we have recruited. Now, there are 1,432 more healthcare workers across SA Health than there were when we took office in March 2022. If you break that down, that is 691 extra nurses, compared to our original target of 300 extra nurses; 329 extra doctors, compared to our target of 100 extra doctors; 219 ambos, which is well on the way to our target of 350 extra ambos; and 193 extra allied health professionals, who play an important role across our healthcare system as well.

Of course, it is important that we make sure we are not just recruiting in our metro hospitals—where we were the other day with the member for Davenport where we are expanding beds at Flinders Medical Centre, and the metro local health networks (LHNs) are doing a great job in terms of recruiting extra—but also recruiting in regional areas across the state as well. I am delighted to inform the house that when it comes to regional hospitals, for which there have been fears from some opposite that there would be a reduction in healthcare workers, there has actually been a net increase in our regional healthcare workforce as well. In fact, across our—

Ms Pratt: Truth-telling: Gawler, Kapunda, Whyalla, Victor Harbor, Kangaroo Island, Waikerie. How many midwives from Whyalla? How many midwives in Whyalla right now?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: They don't want to hear it, sir. They continue their dislike of our healthcare workers, just like when they were making nurses redundant during the pandemic.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Why would they do that?

The SPEAKER: Minister, I don't think we need to be provoking the opposition. We have the St Aloysius students up there, about to hand out gold stars and elephant stamps to everyone in this place for the great behaviour over the first half of question time. Let's just keep it nice and calm.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you, sir. I would have hoped that everyone would be delighted to hear that over the course of the past two years, we have increased by 209 FTE our regional workforce across SA Health. That is broken down to 162 extra nurses, 36 extra doctors and 10 extra allied health professionals. Importantly, that is above attrition.

A key part of that has been our graduate program for nurses, where we have been hiring significant numbers of additional nurses through the graduate program in regional areas. This year,

there are 206 graduate nurses who are starting based in regional areas, including the largest group being at the Limestone Coast Local Health Network in the South-East, with 49 nurses and eight midwives starting in the local health network on the Limestone Coast. We continue to recruit more and we believe that these numbers are set to increase as well.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:47): My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier's department provide the South Australian Museum with a dedicated change manager to manage the restructure at the Museum and, if so, at what cost?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:47): I am happy to take the question. Yes, there was DPC support provided for a change manager. I will take on notice the question of cost.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:48): My question is to the Premier. When was the Premier—and, indeed, the Minister for Arts—first provided a briefing in relation to the restructure of the South Australian Museum? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The Museum Board's September minutes, released under FOI, describe proposed meetings being planned with the minister, DPC and DTF to gain approval for the proposed restructure. The November and December minutes then refer to such meetings taking place with senior executives within the Premier's department.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:48): I thank the shadow minister for education and leader of opposition business for his question. Let me say from the outset that this government is committed to ensuring that the Museum is able to maintain a position of leadership around the nation as being a great institution that serves our state's scientific community well and does justice to the extraordinary collection that we have under our stewardship through the Museum. We are committed to making sure that the Museum's strategic approach into the future is fit for purpose to honour both pursuits but that it's also evolving in such a way that it appeals to as many demographics as possible.

As the shadow minister is well aware, the stewardship of the Museum on a day-to-day basis is bestowed within the SA Museum Board, and they have the responsibility to set that direction, employ people, and other day-to-day functions. Notwithstanding that, the state government sees its role as being an important one as, I guess, the ultimate shareholder in that endeavour, which is why the minister and I have made a decision to intervene. Intervening in the proposed restructure the Museum was pursuing was generating a degree of concern amongst many of those within our community who share this government's passion for the Museum itself. We make no apologies for that intervention.

That intervention is characterised as putting on hold the restructure that the Museum Board have put in train and then in turn putting in its place a very quick review to be led by three people: chaired by the CEO of DPC, Mr Damien Walker; the Chief Scientist, who the Premier has recently appointed and who has a great history and a CV that reflects their commitment to science; and also the director of the Queensland Museum who is also a former chief scientist in their state. We think between those three individuals we can formulate a path forward. There will be active engagement with representatives of those—we can call them the concerned group—who have been campaigning against the proposed Museum restructure. They will be actively engaged with, which I think is appropriate, given the level of organisation and concern that the proposed Museum restructure had raised.

Can I also take this opportunity, though, to illuminate the house and the broader public with some of the misinformation that those opposite have been peddling: the idea that somehow the Museum needed to be saved or that somehow there was a plan to close certain galleries when there was not. They will do their political misinformation and they should be held to account in various

forms, but this government will get on with the job of making sure that our Museum is fit for purpose and serves the community well into the future.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:52): Did the Premier, his department or his minister approve the restructure and provide support for its delivery to the Museum? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain, sir.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The Museum Board's September minutes released under FOI identify that the Museum's briefings to the minister and DPC would in fact not only seek the provision of a dedicated and experienced change management resource but would also seek approval for the proposed restructure. It is to be noted also that under the South Australian Museum Act clause 14 identifies:

- (1) The Board's staff consists of Public Service employees assigned to assist the Board.
- (2) The Board may, under an arrangement...[with] the Minister administering an administrative unit of the Public Service, make use of the services or staff of that administrative unit.

In this case it is under the employ of DPC.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:53): I think the government's position is clear. We have intervened to pause the restructure. I think it's pretty clear that we have intervened to stop the restructure. I don't know how you could characterise that as any form of approval. I will tell you, Mr Speaker—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I will tell you what this government didn't approve: the savage cuts bestowed by the former government on the Museum.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, you were heard in silence.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We know the former government's record and now they're feigning an interest in the future of the Museum when they took a flamethrower to its budget.

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The record is clear: they have been called out—

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta! You're on a warning, member for Morialta.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Now, of course, we are fortunate that a government is showing greater interest—

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

The SPEAKER: It's your second warning, member for Morialta.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The government is now showing a greater interest in the pursuit and the future of the Museum than those opposite ever pursued during their time in government. We won't be taking any lessons from those opposite. Their feigned petition, standing out the front—'Save the Museum that we took a flamethrower to', that's what their petition should read like.

We will engage as a government with those people in the community who have a legitimate interest in the Museum, those people who have donated their funds, dedicated their labour,

volunteered so assiduously. We will engage with those people who are truly interested in the Museum's future and then make sure we get on with the task with a thoughtful pursuit into the future.

I am grateful for the minister's advocacy and her engagement in this process. We will make sure that we get a good outcome for the people of our state when it comes to the future of the Museum.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): Supplementary: noting the Premier's answer in which he described the relative contribution of funding by his government to the former government, can the Premier update the house as to whether the square metre of provided storage space in the \$80 million storage facility provided by the former Liberal government to the Museum and other collecting institutions has been maintained or has it, rather, been dramatically cut since this government came to office?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:56): The shadow minister will be well aware that the government is in the process of doing its budget deliberations. We are serious as a government about investing in a range of different pursuits and through all the activities of this government we have a bit of a different approach. We are running a budget that is back in surplus, which again stands in stark contrast to those opposite. We are running a budget that is underpinning economic growth, which is in stark contrast to those opposite and we are also running a budget that is investing in arts and culture.

Again, if we were to do the compare and contrast piece we would know that the former government used to go to arts events but then cut the arts institutions that run those events.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: That's right. There were all the activities to send signals, but when it came to the meat on the bones, it was sorely lacking. We are adopting a different approach. When people want to know the dollars allocated to various pursuits in the budget then, of course, they can look forward to seeing that in only a few short weeks' time.

MAITLAND NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Sport. Will the government commit to financial assistance for the Maitland netball club to rebuild their courts? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: The Maitland community have done a significant local fundraising effort to repair their courts but unfortunately they have been unsuccessful in the past three grant programs they have applied for. In early March, the YP Netball Association declared the courts unplayable.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Sport.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:58): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and congratulations on your appointment. Thank you very much to the member for his question. I know that he is an incredible advocate for sporting clubs in his community and also, as I understand it, an avid sportsman himself over many years.

First of all, I want to say to Sam Holmes, the President of the Central Yorke Cougars Netball Club, and committee members, that I, as you do, really appreciate all that they do to bring the community on Yorke Peninsula together through netball. They have done that for many years. Their voluntary work to include people and to improve their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing through netball participation is absolutely to be applauded.

It is frustrating when clubs apply for grants and they are not successful. Those grants are of course assessed by the excellent team at the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. I do encourage the club to continue to apply for particular grant programs, and there are several from what I

understand about the club, that they would be able and eligible to apply for early in the financial year and I do encourage them to do that.

I also wanted to let the member know that I do have both a letter to him as local member and also to Mr Sam Holmes, the president of the club, sitting on my desk actually, so I will make sure we get those to you really quickly. Again, I do appreciate what they do and I encourage them despite that frustration to keep applying and we will certainly provide more information about those opportunities that are available.

I also wanted to mention, really importantly, the growing participation in netball and the supporting of netballers in our state, including the many players, including from Yorke Peninsula, who come from our regions to participate in the country championship. I was really pleased to stand with the Premier just a few weeks ago to announce a really exciting \$80 million investment into the development of the Netball SA stadium at Mile End. That will be a stadium that will grow on the already strong number, 35,000, of players who participate there at the stadium, including through country championships.

It will be a place where the outdoor facilities will be upgraded, significantly redeveloped and the stadium itself fundamentally redeveloped so that we can provide those facilities for the largely female participants, girls and women, to keep participating in the sport that they love there at Mile End. Having said that, I do reassure the member that we will make the club aware of those upcoming opportunities to apply for funds in their local community, and can I also say, as I think the member knows, I am very happy to talk further with him about those opportunities and to talk further with the club as well and to see how we can make sure that they have all of the information that they need as they continue through that process.

HIA HOUSING SCORECARD

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Can the minister provide the house with an update on South Australia's housing performance?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:02): I thank the member for Playford for his interest in the government's initiatives in tackling what is a national housing crisis. This has been a government that has always put housing at the forefront of our agenda and so it is really pleasing to see that our policies are working.

Last week, the Housing Industry Association released its annual Housing Scorecard and this scorecard ranks each of the states and territories jurisdictions based on their performance on 13 key residential building indicators. I am pleased to report that, for the second consecutive year, South Australia once again tops this list. It tops this list. And what did the HIA South Australian executive director, Mr Stephen Knight proclaim? What did he proclaim when he announced South Australia as a clear winner of this scorecard? He said, the HIA said:

...a government who have shown a clear understanding of the housing crisis...and a determination to do something about it.

That just proves that this government and South Australia has topped the scorecard because unlike those opposite we actually have a housing policy and it is this: we believe in expanding supply. We believe in expanding supply. We are committed to providing the infrastructure, land and policy leadership to tackle the crisis head on. We've got an ambitious agenda based around, in part, meeting the workforce needs of our very ambitious economic agenda. We know that we are a leader in renewable energy and hydrogen, and we know that we have a broader State Prosperity Project. We know that we are the nation's defence state. All of the delivery of those projects won't be realised without the required workforce, and a workforce needs to be housed.

That means that housing has to be provided across the market to every segment and level of that market, because the housing market is crucial for the future prosperity of this state. That is one of the reasons that the government has established the new portfolio supported by a new department reporting to one minister, tasked with tackling the housing crisis head-on towards one goal: more homes, building more homes for South Australians. Since this election—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: Well, you might find out if you just listen.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: You might just find out. Since the election of this government, we have proudly delivered a substantial pipeline of projects that are all aimed at delivering on housing supply: greenfield land rezoning, city-defining projects like the West End Brewery and Franklin Street sites, investments in regional housing—investment in regional housing, which did not occur under the previous government—projects on our urban fringes, infill projects like Prospect and Bowden and, of course, the government's commitment to deliver the first substantial increase in public housing in a generation. So we've got a very positive story to tell.

We have a very positive story to tell because what we are doing is driving the delivery of homes that this state needs. Again, what does the HIA say? They say that recent efforts to increase higher-density developments in areas that are well serviced by transport will change the direction of the housing crisis and deliver more houses for South Australians. We have projects like Keswick, Smithfield and Noarlunga all primed for strategic infill in transport-oriented developments.

We all know that houses aren't built overnight. The opposition knows that because they didn't rezone much land and they didn't put much in the pipeline; in fact, they clogged the pipeline up. That is why we've got this problem. We are committed to action.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:06): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier offer a guarantee that popular galleries at the Museum, including Egypt, minerals, foreign mammals, the biodiversity gallery and the polar collection, will continue? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: When I asked this question in the parliament's Budget and Finance Committee, the director said, amongst other things, and I quote:

At the moment we have a sequence and a range of very compartmentalised single disciplinary exhibits—you could term some of them as cabinets of curiosity—but it is not a modern museum.

He further said:

I can't guarantee they are going to stay as they are, no. It would be wrong of me to do that.

The Premier has announced a review to look at the Museum but, to my knowledge, he is yet to or has not made a commitment to maintain those galleries.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:07): I thank the member for Morialta for the question. I think, as the Premier said, we have an expert panel that has been appointed to review some options for the Museum. Amongst those considerations is: what does a modern museum look like, and what do modern collections and exhibitions look like? We will take that expert advice and we will move forward with the Museum. At the moment we have those collections, and neither the government nor the Museum has ever said that we are getting rid of the Egyptian room or that we are getting rid of the mammal room, despite the lies of those in the opposition.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: There has been no decision on removing exhibitions. The panel will give us advice and we will work with the Museum on a way forward.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:08): Will the Premier give consideration to moving the South Australian Museum out of his department and into the environment or education departments, as has been requested by many advocates?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:08): The Museum has been with the arts minister for as long as I can remember. It is a cultural institution.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Arts SA is within DPC, as the member is aware, and Arts SA is responsible for the Museum. It sits with the Minister for Arts and it has for as long as I can remember. Unless we get advice otherwise, it will remain in that position.

MAJOR EVENTS ATTRACTION COMMITTEE

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Can the minister update the house on the Major Events Attraction Committee: whether there will be a new chair of the committee and whether the new chair will now report to the minister as the tourism minister?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:09): I will take that because the Major Events Attraction Committee sat within DPC, and it was newly established after the state election. Let's just be clear about a couple of things. There have been some recent developments following remarks that I have made publicly post the ministerial reshuffle, and the elevation of the member for Mawson to the Speakership.

The member for Mawson was appointed to the Chair, to the role of Chairperson of MEAC post the election simply because the Minister for Tourism, along with her other portfolios, has a pretty substantial policy agenda, which she is actively implementing, and the member for Mawson volunteered his services, which I was very grateful for, to Chair the MEAC exercise and get the ball rolling in that regard.

One of the elements of the member for Mawson being elevated to the Speakership is the government, as we said we would do publicly, would seek advice through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on how, if it was possible, to maintain the member for Mawson in that position despite being elevated to Speaker and, as people would be aware, in the dying days of the former government the Constitution Act—I think it was the Constitution Act—was amended that necessitated the Speaker to be independent in nature.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Remember that day?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Yes, we remember that night when the opposition, with 19 votes, was able to lead substantial legislative reform in this place, and able to amend the Constitution Act. As a consequence of that, those changes we now have as a—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: That necessitated the member for Mawson having to resign the position as the Chair of MEAC, which is regrettable in many respects I would say to those opposite but, nonetheless, that is the situation on the basis of the advice that we have received, and now we will pursue the way we will address the role of MEAC into the future having received that advice.

STATE SPORTING ORGANISATION BOARDS

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:12): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister update the house about state sporting organisations' representation on their boards?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:12): Thank you so much to the member, an outstanding sportswoman, for her question. I acknowledge her fierce support for clubs in her community, and her advocacy for sport's power to drive change on many issues that our community confronts.

The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to assisting organisations to provide environments where the contribution of women is valued, respected and encouraged by addressing inequalities experienced by women involved in sport. There is strong evidence that highlights that gender balance in key decision-making roles increases the performance of those decision-making bodies, that diversity in decision-making makes a difference.

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing has been working with the sport and recreation sector since 2016 to advance gender equality on state sporting organisation boards across South Australia because we are determined to empower women to equally and actively participate in the sport that they love in the way that they choose, whether that is as an athlete, a coach, an official or, indeed, as an administrator. Rec and Sport have delivered programs, events, training sessions, resources and funding to assist organisations to advance the quality.

In 2016, only 34 per cent of state sport and recreation organisations funded by the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing reported a minimum of 40 per cent women on their governing boards. In 2022, through the State Sport and Recreation Development Program, this government provided financial support to South Australian state sport and active recreation organisations, industry support organisations and national sporting organisations operating under a one management or unitary structure to develop their business priorities and assist with building capacity.

At this point in time in 2022, 14 organisations still did not meet the minimum 40 per cent requirement. Those organisations were required to provide the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing with a plan to address the board composition. I am delighted to inform the house that as of April 2024, 100 per cent of state sporting organisations funded by the state government now have at least 40 per cent women on their boards.

This hasn't been a straightforward journey. Our work started in 2016 when the newly established Women in Sport Taskforce made this a priority. From the moment that policy was introduced, we were very clear with state sporting organisations that we would work with them to ensure they had all the tools needed to make sure that they could achieve this target. Now, all sports in our magnificent state have female leaders at state sporting organisation board level.

At Football SA, we have a female chair. At SANFL, for the first time ever, we have a female deputy chair; Athletics SA has a female chair; Surf Life Saving SA has a female president, and the list goes on. I am proud also that for the first time ever in our state's history, we have a woman sports minister, a woman CEO of ORSR, and a woman director of the South Australian Sports Institute. The now re-established Women in Sport Taskforce will keep working with South Australian clubs and associations through the development of resources and information to help them diversify their boards and attract new people to their clubs.

Grievance Debate

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:17): Arts institutions across South Australia have become very familiar with the nature of this government over the last two years, that it is a government that is uninterested in arts and culture as a general rule, and one in which many of its members and ministers in particular seem to take almost as a competitive sport the opportunity to deride or actively show a lack of interest in arts and culture.

So it should come as no surprise that following significant cuts to the institutions' budgets, including the South Australian Museum, in the 2022 state budget, the first state budget handed down under the Malinauskas Labor government, the response of the Museum through dealing with the budget cuts and, indeed, through the appointment of a new director under the board and new direction and new strategic plan for the Museum, came as something of a surprise for the Premier.

But it should not have because, of course, the board has been working on its response to these cuts since 2022. A minister and a government and a cabinet that are awake to their duties and their responsibilities should have been alive to it then. We asked questions in this chamber about the impact of budget on the Museum over the last two years. Last year, there was a series of meetings of the board dealing with how to progress their review of research and collections.

At one point, they waited until the new director was on the ground so that he could have a say in how that went forward. It culminated in September, when the Museum director came up with the restructure plan. This is all available in the board minutes and the transcript of the Budget and Finance Committee a couple of weeks ago.

In that September meeting, the board decided, at the direction of the leadership of the board, that they would seek to brief the minister, DPC and DTF. The briefing would also outline the support required by the Museum, including dedicated and experienced change management resources from DPC to run the project—this being the restructure—funding to cover direct costs of the restructure, and interim funding to cover the operating deficit of the Museum until such time as the new structure was in operation. This was in September.

Board minutes demonstrate that in November and December there were meetings with DPC, and evidence provided to the Budget and Finance Committee of the parliament earlier in April (on 3 April from memory) showed that DPC, the Premier's department, provided a dedicated change management resource to the Museum to operate through this change management. Then, in February the Museum announced the restructure which saw 27 positions—research scientists, critical to the world-class reputation and scientific research capability within the Museum—removed from that structure going forward, to be replaced with 23 more junior curatorial positions. The benefit financially to the Museum and the government was half a million dollars a year.

The idea that this government's budget cuts in 2022 in the hundreds of thousands of dollars at a time of cost escalation is remarkable. The fact that the Premier today seemed to think that the only budget cuts ever applied to the Museum were those in 2018 or 2019 is beyond remarkable given that it is his department managing this process. It was his government that cut those funds at a time of cost escalation, and we have been asking the minister for answers about this—not just in February and March this year but last year as well. The Premier's lack of interest is at peace, is at one, with his lack of interest in arts and cultural institutions in South Australia. That is understood, but it is now having real-world impacts.

The Premier seems to think that it is an invention of the opposition that the Egypt room, that the mammals' gallery, that the Polar expedition galleries, that the minerals resources at the Museum are under threat. That is not my invention. We asked the Museum director directly about it in the Budget and Finance Committee just a month ago. He said:

The answer is that we are undertaking a reimagining of the Museum of the future, of a contemporary, compelling museum experience for the 21st century.

He described these galleries as cabinets of curiosity. This is the understanding that has been broadly put through the Museum, and it is very clear that the board's strategic direction is to have these galleries removed, as it is to remove these scientific research positions.

Now, the Premier has announced a review. That review is being conducted by the head of DPC, the Chief Scientist and the head of museums in Queensland, who is obviously very familiar to the head of DPC. We look forward to that review, but we hope that the Legislative Council will also refer this to the Statutory Authorities Review Committee because if that committee is not there to review statutory authorities, then I wonder what it is there for at all.

This clearly needs to go further, because the government has put a pause on these plans but not a cancellation, and it is clear from the board minutes that without substantial new funding—at the very least a re-provision of the funding cut in 2022—the board is caught between a rock and a hard place, and we need to keep this pressure on this government to ensure that the Museum and the things that are valued about it are not cast away like so much driftwood.

UNI HUB SPENCER GULF

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:22): Today, I want to talk about the recent Uni Hub Spencer Gulf graduation event. On 15 February 2024, the Uni Hub Upper Spencer Gulf celebrated 17 graduates from Port Pirie, Port Augusta and the Copper Coast who recently completed their university studies across the fields of nursing, teaching, social work, accounting and physiological science. All graduates—100 per cent of them—have gained employment in their new profession in

their local communities, with the majority taking up roles in the South Australian Public Service, particularly in our regional hospitals and schools.

Uni Hub Spencer Gulf partners with universities that are willing to work with the region and local employers to help grow their own skilled and professional workforce. Current university partners include Central Queensland University, Flinders University, University of Adelaide, University of Southern Queensland and University of New England. Each of Uni Hub's university partners brings a different set of strengths, and that is where the opportunities are focused in the context of developing the region's professional and skilled workforce.

Undergraduate and postgraduate courses currently on offer through Uni Hub, particularly their partners, include nursing, teaching, allied health, paramedics, science, social work, engineering, project management, law, IT, early childhood education, urban planning and surveying. Uni Hub Spencer Gulf is a local not-for-profit organisation managed by a board comprising industry and community leaders from right across the region who are passionate about providing country communities with the opportunity to study at university and pursue a professional career in their own hometown without leaving to go to Adelaide.

It was the foresight of the Upper Spencer Gulf community leaders who, more than a decade ago, recognised that access to locally delivered industry-related tertiary education was going to be crucial to the future workforce and economic sustainability of the Spencer Gulf region. Financial contributions from university partners enable Uni Hub to provide local face-to-face academic tutoring, industry connection and pastoral care that supplements the online university study and supports students every step of the way—from enrolment, to graduation and into a professional career. Uni Hub Spencer Gulf relies heavily on partnerships, collaboration and local support for its success. Each study centre is supported by the local council and local businesses. Employers and community groups provide a range of financial and in-kind support.

Uni Hub opened its doors in 2019 with one study centre and 14 students. Five years later, Uni Hub is now supporting over 300 students with their university studies across five locations. The majority of students are first in the family to attend a university and the majority of students report they would not otherwise have considered university as an option had it not been for the local support provided by the organisation.

Uni Hub is also working very closely with 40 secondary schools across the Mid North, the Far North, Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula to raise aspiration to higher education and to showcase the huge range of professional and technical careers available right here in our own backyard and through Uni Hub the local study pathways into these careers.

The Regional Australia Institute reports that job vacancies in regions are growing at three times the rate of that in metropolitan areas. This means that the workforce challenge for our communities is only going to increase in every sector. As the competition for skilled workers intensifies right across the nation, more and more employers are investing in growing their own local workforce.

Uni Hub is currently supporting over 120 nursing and allied health students in the region through partner universities, with numbers continuing to grow, with students living right across the region including Port Pirie, Orroroo, Clare, Yorke Peninsula, Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Quorn, Coober Pedy and Ceduna. A breakdown of the current students by discipline is as follows: 102 Bachelor of Nursing, nine Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing and 11 Bachelor of Allied Health. In addition, they also support 15 University of Adelaide Bachelor of Medicine students every year when they come out into the regions.

Since Uni Hub commenced in 2019, 100 per cent of the graduate registered nurses have taken up roles in our regional health services. The above success stories are why I have lobbied the Premier, the Treasurer and also the Minister for Health to have the clinical simulation lab in Port Pirie. This lab would be used by universities, residential schools and training centres across various universities, particularly focusing on nursing, allied health and medicine. The facility would also be utilised for in-house professional development and upskilling of existing hospital, health and medical staff, including access by neighbouring Far North facilities.

I would hope that in the budget this year the Premier, the Treasurer and also the Minister for Health take heed of my requests.

HENLEY AND GRANGE ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:27): I rise today to speak about and thank those involved in preparing the Henley and Grange dawn service at the Soldiers' Memorial on Seaview Road this year. The Henley & Grange RSL have been responsible for organising that event for a significant period of time. Each and every year our community comes together at dawn to remember and recognise the service and sacrifice of those who defend our country and our freedoms and our liberties.

This year, like every other year, it was a solemn occasion. It is a special place to have our ANZAC Day service, so close to the beach where you can hear waves crashing and where you can understand and reflect on to a greater degree the sacrifice and some of the thoughts and feelings of some of those young men who went off to defend our country.

Each and every year, in particular in regard to the Henley and Grange service, it has been important to reflect on and note the increased participation of our local schools and community groups. I think just about every school in the local area, both primary and secondary, this year was represented at that dawn service, as well as so many of our other community groups that play their roles in supporting our local community, whether that be the Western Hospital through to the Henley and Grange surf lifesaving clubs. The Airport Over 50's Club and a range of other community groups were all there laying wreaths on behalf of the people in the community that they represent.

As I do every year, I would like to thank Indy Rose Flowers, a local florist and small business in Lockleys, for preparing the wreath that I presented on behalf of our community. I thank them for their kind work in that regard. I also thank the other small businesses and community groups that support the day's activities, whether it be Crestcut Meats, who supply the meat for the barbecue and gunfire breakfast afterwards; the Rotary Club of Henley Beach and members from the local community bank who give their time to prepare and cook the barbecue; and the local hotels who donate alcohol and beverages for that morning.

The rain certainly did not dampen the spirit and the generosity of people on that morning. Again, I thank Malcolm Whitford as the President of the Henley and Grange RSL, Margaret Snowdon as the Secretary and all of the board for the work that they do each and every year in preparing the Henley and Grange dawn service.

I would also like to take the opportunity today to invite the whole of our community, on behalf of the Henley and Grange RSL, to the 100-year anniversary of the RSL in Henley. They have been operating since 1924 and this year they welcome everybody to their current facility on North Street, which has recently been upgraded, to celebrate with their members the 100-year anniversary of the club. That celebration will take place on 11 May at 2pm and will involve a whole range of festivities, not least of which will be performances by the Army Rock Band and the Royal Australian Navy Band of South Australia on the day.

I look forward to that celebration taking place, and I do hope that we get to potentially see the return of Ben Ford-Davies who gave, I must say, one of the best renditions of *And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda* at the dawn service the other day. It was an acoustic version of a song that certainly pulls at the heartstrings of many, and the lyrics have, over time, drawn a degree of attention. The presentation at the dawn service was something that I think he should be very proud of, and I hope that he has the opportunity to provide some music during that celebration at the RSL for their 100th anniversary as well.

Further to that, I also thank all of the local sporting clubs who have made me welcome over the last couple of weeks for their end of season awards. To the West Torrens District Cricket Club: congratulations on your two-time premierships season, both across the one-day and T20 tournaments. They were well-deserved victories. Thanks also to the Grange, West Beach and Henley lifesaving clubs and all the local sporting clubs I will be visiting over the coming weeks.

ST KILDA TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:32): I rise to say a few enthusiastic words about the Tramway Museum in St Kilda, which over the weekend celebrated the 50th anniversary of its operating tramway. I must own up to being a bit of a fan of pretty much everything that runs on rail, so the opportunity to be there was one to savour. I was joined by Salisbury Mayor, Gillian Aldridge, and local councillor, Sharon McKell, and we had a great time meeting with volunteers, enthusiasts and even railway safety inspectors for the occasion.

I want to be clear that the weekend's event signified half a century of tram rides at St Kilda. The invaluable work of volunteers predates this, with the Australian Electric Transport Museum being established in 1957. During the 1950s, enthusiasts across Australia were beginning to set up tram collections following the establishment of the Australian Electric Traction Association, an advocacy group with the noble interest in retaining and expanding electric transport systems. We initially saw the Sydney Tramway Museum separate from this group and establish itself as a separate entity to avoid confusion between advocacy and preservation, leading to it becoming the Australian Electric Transport Museum.

By 1957, Adelaide's preservation group became the SA branch of the Australian Electric Transport Museum, later incorporating in its own right. It was in 1967 that the museum in St Kilda opened to the public with static displays, before council secured funding from a 1972 Whitlam government employment scheme to lay the 1.6 kilometre tramway from the museum to St Kilda, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy trams as they had been intended. I understand the museum houses 26 trams, one tram-hauled horsebox, five trolleybuses, two horse trams and one diesel bus.

Events on the weekend served a dual purpose, with the relaunch of Bib and Bub, also known as A-type trams 14 and 15. For over two decades, these units have been faithfully restored and officially came out of the workshop and into the open for their first public run in decades. Bib and Bub trams are significant pieces of our state's history and were amongst the first type of electric tram introduced to the system when it first opened in 1909.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, labour was in short supply, but trams still needed to be driven. To address this, A-type trams were pushed out of retirement in 1940 and coupled in pairs, allowing greater passenger capacity without a second driver. Coupled together, they were affectionately known as Bib and Bub trams, named after the popular comic strip *Gumnut Twins*, characters from popular children's author May Gibbs.

It was a joy to ride them on their first official run into St Kilda, and I really want to thank and congratulate everyone who helped make that happen. This includes museum president Nic Ben, secretary Bailey Underwood and the museum's historian Colin Seymour. All three were perfect hosts on the day to my son and I as well as the hundreds of people, some from interstate, who gathered for the occasion. In saying thanks, it is not going to be possible to name members past and present, but I do feel that Ron Jenkins should be made the exception. Fifty years ago, when the track opened for the first time, Ron was there on the first day driving trams. Fast forward to 2024, and he was there to drive the first official run of trams 14 and 15 into St Kilda and back again.

Like so many South Australian assets, the Tramway Museum would not survive without volunteers. I want to thank those past and present who have played their role in building a bridge to our proud past. It is often said that history is studied to learn from yesterday's mistakes. With the resurgence of Adelaide's tram network, arguably the efforts of these volunteers helps to shine a light into the future. While there is a lot to be proud of, we cannot go past the fact that this is a museum, with volunteers and donations being its lifeblood. If you are able to contribute, I am sure that Nic and his great team will be most appreciative.

I hope I have given a few people interest in making the worthwhile trip into St Kilda, maybe taking the opportunity and teeing it up with some fish and chips and a trip to the nearby Adventure Playground. Noting that opening times normally fall between 12 to 5pm on Sundays, thanks to the contribution of volunteers over the past eight decades, there remains a lot to enjoy in this exciting part of Adelaide, and I would encourage everyone here to pay it a visit.

ANZAC DAY

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:37): I rise to speak about ANZAC Day. Obviously, 25 April this year was a very important day of remembrance for all Australians of the many tens of thousands of people, service men and women, that left their loved ones to fight for the freedom that we enjoy today. In Chaffey, thousands of people across the Riverland and the Mallee attended some very moving ceremonies. There were some 15 services across the electorate, three of which I attended. We were there to honour and respect some of those servicemen that never came home to see their loved ones. They showed incredible strength, courage, determination, endurance, mateship and bravery, and they fought for the freedoms we have today.

People from all over the regions attended the services; they were very well attended. Some of those services were at Barmera, Blanchetown, Bowhill, Cadell, Loxton, Mantung, Morgan, Moorook, Karoonda, Renmark, Sanderston, Sedan, Swan Reach, Waikerie, Walker Flat and Kingston on Murray. They were extremely well attended. Many of the services had record numbers. I noted that over a thousand people attended the Barmera service, as they did at Renmark. I attended the dawn service at Loxton.

I want to pay tribute to those people that did come along to pay their respects. Loxton had over 800 people, Waikerie had over 500. Moorook, a beautiful little river community, had over 220 for their service that morning. I was proud to attend the services, as I said: the dawn service at Loxton with President Jim, at Waikerie for the morning service with President Paul, and then the late morning service at Renmark with President Jason. It was a proud moment, as it is every year, to attend the services as *The Last Post* rang out.

I lay wreaths at all those services that I attend. I also attend the Cross of Sacrifice for a silent service to pay my respects to those who served—some came home and some never did. That is why the Riverland is a great serviceman community. We are reminded of that every day with the returned servicemen horticultural blocks.

It was great to meet and talk with community members, so many of them still active in their local communities. It is great to see the young people coming out. Schools are very well represented at all the services. It is gratifying to see the regional Returned and Services Leagues do a great job and they are supported by a great band of dedicated volunteers.

I want to thank Tom Copley, a volunteer who laid a wreath at the Barmera Garden of Memory. Before that I attended the Loxton RSL sub-branch ANZAC dinner. It was great to have some very entertaining speakers, but no more so than Howard Hendrick OAM. Howard has attended 70 ANZAC Day services. He is an absolute legend. He is 100 years old. He was a fighter pilot in a Lancaster and he was given the opportunity to propose the toast to the evening. I also want to thank Troy Bolton for his insight as a peacekeeper. He is currently on a mission, his last mission, and he told a great story of his role as a peacekeeper.

The Headstone Project is never more important. The Headstone Project is a great program that recognises grave sites in cemeteries of fallen soldiers. The Headstone Project is organised by Headstone Project SA. I attended the Berri cemetery in recent times. Private Stodart, a World War I veteran, was given a dignified burial and a burial site. It was great to see.

It must be noted that, of the 680 unmarked graves across South Australia that the band of volunteers are now identifying, more than 60 of them are in Chaffey. In late June this year, 17 headstones will be remembered and recognised. It is great to have those decorated servicemen and women, who have lain there silent for many years, recognised. As an important part of our returned servicemen program, the Headstone Program is a great initiative.

ROTARY CLUBS

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:43): Over 46,000 Rotary Clubs and 1.4 million members stems from one man's vision in Chicago, America. Paul Harris and three other professionals formed the first club on 23 February 1905. What started as a networking opportunity for professionals quickly evolved into a global force for community service, with international clubs forming by 1912.

The Rotary wave hit our shores in 1921, with two Canadian commissioners sent to establish clubs and Melbourne became our first. Eventually, Melbourne members came to Adelaide and involved our leading citizens in an inaugural meeting in 1923, which led to the Adelaide club's official creation the following year, an occasion that was celebrated by members this year as part of its centenary celebrations.

I recently attended one of my local Gawler Rotary Club's 70th anniversary celebrations on Saturday night. Born from the vision of 24 dedicated individuals in 1954, the club has raised well over \$1 million to initiate and support a wide range of projects to benefit not only our community but also those abroad.

The first decade of their existence was tough, with Gawler slow to recover from the effects of the Depression and World War II, especially with the closure of James Martin and May Brothers engineering works. The impact the Gawler Rotary Club had on the community was still massive, including playing a pivotal role in establishing our public swimming pool, raising funds for the Gawler hospital's anaesthetic machine and upgrades to the Gawler Institute, one of many donations to public facilities and appeals over the years. There was also the purchase of an old coach house to help establish a boy scout troop, the purchase of an F class locomotive which was made in Gawler and now resides at the Gawler Railway Station to this day, and providing Christmas gifts for residents of nursing homes.

This was just a sample of the many contributions Rotary would make to our community. Membership growth enabled their involvement in a range of local causes and organisations over the years, forming senior citizen groups and raising funds and also supporting other local community groups, Meals on Wheels, a kindergarten, schools, ambulances, medical centres and events, both physically and financially. What they achieved stands the test of time as some of Gawler's biggest events and landmarks are still in existence, including Clonlea Park driven by then president, Mike Johnson. At the time, the club raised \$10,000 alongside a \$96,000 government grant to make it happen.

They continued to add to the amenities with a barbecue shelter, a playground and other facilities to benefit the many families that use this park. In addition, \$80,000 was donated by Rotary to build the Gawler Recreation Centre, which is one of our community's biggest sporting and event hubs to this day. The club erected our famous Pioneer Park archway that stands alongside our main street, which commemorates 100 years of Rotary International, and is also where many services are held. They also continue to run the successful Village Fair event that has been in our community since 1976, raising valuable funds for various community organisations.

One particular member who was celebrated during the 70th anniversary event was charter member Dr Bruce Eastick. Sadly, he is the only surviving charter member having clocked up 70 years of continued membership of the Gawler Rotary Club. However, he has served his community in more ways than on working bees and fundraisers since the club's inception all those years ago. Already serving the community as a young veterinarian, he also served as Gawler mayor twice. He sat in this very chamber where we sit today as a member of parliament for the local district which I now hold, was Speaker of the House of Assembly and was also the leader of the opposition for a time.

But outside all his political work, he was also on the ground serving on the Gawler Community Retirement Homes board, including as chairman, for about 50 years. He helped start a village of 11 homes for retired people in 1971-72, which has since grown to six villages and 159 homes by 2025. He was also involved in the finalising of our local swimming pool and served for many other community groups. But he is just one of the many Rotary members who have made outstanding contributions to our community, including the current team headed by President John Lyons.

I do wonder where would we be as a community without the many service clubs that have the drive and passion to make a difference in our regions. I am glad we do not have to worry about that, though, because especially in the Light electorate, we band together to achieve great things. Happy 70th birthday, Gawler Rotary Club.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Light. I must say in the past couple of weeks I have been reading a few of Speaker Eastick's judgements and rulings—very interesting too. He did a very good job as Speaker of this house.

*Private Members' Statements***PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:48): I want to highlight the concerns of the communities in my electorate about increasing crime and antisocial behaviour, and I want to speak especially about the situation in Ceduna at the moment. Last week, I was very happy to be accompanied in both Ceduna and Port Lincoln by the federal shadow Indigenous affairs minister, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, and the federal shadow minister for child protection and the prevention of family violence, Kerryne Liddle, to hear directly from service providers, community leaders, business owners, Indigenous leaders and the wider community about the situation being faced in these towns.

I spoke recently in this place about the concerns of businesses and individuals in Ceduna dealing with unacceptable situations: daily theft from their shops; individuals who are living in fear for their personal safety; businesses that are experiencing levels of constant vandalism; and people who are witnessing violence, public drunkenness and experiencing personal threats. We heard more of these stories on the latest visit with the Senators, especially since the removal of the cashless debit card.

But what is the response of the Attorney-General in the other place when he is asked about this? He dismissed it as Liberal Party misrepresentation. Let me tell you, minister, it is really happening and it is not acceptable. Even your own department is saying, after CBS implemented new liquor restrictions, that an increase in antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related harm in Ceduna has prompted this three-week trial.

Minister, you need to listen to the people of Ceduna on this incredibly important issue. You need to listen and you need to act.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:50): I have spoken in this place before about the unfortunate situation that has unfolded in Ardrossan with the closure of the Ardrossan Community Hospital. That has reached an unfortunate conclusion recently with the formal relinquishment of their private hospital licence, which has unfortunately brought an end to that community hospital.

In starting, we should pay immense gratitude to the volunteer board and the local administration that managed to keep that community hospital going for as long as it did. It has outlasted a great many other community hospitals around this state, and it is only thanks to the perseverance of the wonderful local employees and the wonderful volunteer board that it managed to do that.

There is concern in the community about the gap it will leave. The community—wonderful community that it is—has launched into action and established a working group to try to replace those services. Don Hosking has done a tremendous job in bringing together former DONs, members of the op shop committee, members of the Progress Association, a councillor and myself. We have all got together and now are working assiduously to try to replace those services at Ardrossan. It is the biggest town in the Yorke Peninsula Council, which is a significant council that is deserving of its own health services.

We have seen elsewhere in this state, at Keith when the community hospital was forced into closure, that the government was willing to step in and provide a triage service to make sure that those patients that report are directed to the right place. I would like to see a similar service provided at Ardrossan. I have written to the minister asking that that happen, but in the meantime we need to reassure the community that the local community group will continue to operate the aged-care facility and that we are working as hard as we can to replace those health services.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:51): On the weekend I had the delight of attending the official opening of the Terowie CFS station. For outsiders who are unfamiliar with Terowie, it may be better recognised as the town where US General Douglas MacArthur came through with his famed 'I shall return' speech. But, for the townsfolk of Terowie, what we were marking was a significant piece of infrastructure, namely, the new CFS station.

We were blessed to have in our presence the chief executive, Brett Loughlin, and region 4 Commander Cindy McCourt, and a scintillating speech was given to us by Brigade Captain Ross

Haustorfer. Today I want to take an opportunity to recognise, as was done on the day, the very important awards that were declared at the time. Both Jan and Ross Haustorfer received national medals—Ross was awarded first class. Trevor Huddleston was awarded the national medal, second class, and Des Sleep was awarded the national medal, third class. Barry Clapp was awarded CFS life membership, which is not often awarded. Special mention goes to Bill Sleep, 90 years of age, who was also awarded CFS life membership.

There was not a dry eye in the house, and I was delighted to have the company of the member for Stuart on this very special occasion.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:53): I am thrilled to inform the house of a really special award that has been given to one of the local sporting clubs in my community. Last Saturday night Tennis SA held their awards night, and I am thrilled to say that Prospect Tennis Club won the Most Outstanding Tennis Club award, in the City/Hills category. It is the first time that the club has won this award, and it is a real testament to the efforts of president Priscilla Vokolos and secretary Caitlin Davies. Under their leadership the club is going from strength to strength. They are so community minded, and you will see them at community events, encouraging kids to give tennis a go. It is really thanks to their efforts that they have recently won a \$500,000 grant from the state government to upgrade the Prospect Tennis Club.

Two weekends ago, I was able to visit the club with our Minister for Sport, Katrine Hildyard, and also the City of Prospect councillors, mayor and chief executive to celebrate the great news that, in partnership with the City of Prospect, we will be upgrading the Prospect Tennis Club. I just want to give a huge shout-out and congratulations to Priscilla and Caitlin on the award. They were able to receive their award on behalf of the club on Saturday night, and it really is a testament to their amazing efforts that they put into the club, and also our community, so congratulations.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (NATIONAL ENERGY LAWS) (DATA ACCESS) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:55): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996 and the National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:55): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

In June 2017 the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market (the Finkel Review) recommended that the Energy Security Board (ESB), in collaboration with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), should develop a data strategy for the National Electricity Market. It regarded a data strategy as a critical governance requirement in the context of rapid change and digitalisation in the market.

The ESB commenced work on the data strategy in 2019. It used a range of key inputs, including an in-depth legal review of data regulation within Australian energy frameworks and a review of case studies in international data reforms.

In July 2021 the ESB released its Final Recommendations on the Data Strategy with a proposed reform pathway comprising two stages.

The first stage includes initial incremental legislative improvements (Initial Reforms), implemented immediately, to remove key barriers in accessing existing Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) data.

The second stage involves a more significant overhaul of the energy data framework, supporting agreed new Energy Data Policy Principles, aligned with wider national data reforms and fit-for-purpose in a digitalised future.

On 10 January 2024 the Commonwealth Government advised that Energy Ministers agreed to an Initial Reforms legislative package and progressing it to the South Australian Parliament. This package includes amendments to the National Electricity Law (NEL) and National Gas Law (NGL) and associated amendments to the regulations under these pieces of legislation.

The Statutes Amendment (National Energy Laws) (Data Access) Bill 2024 proposes to amend the NEL and NGL to allow AEMO to share protected data safely with trusted 'prescribed' bodies.

The NEL and the NGL currently provides that the disclosure of protected information by AEMO to certain bodies, including market bodies and jurisdictional regulators is authorised. These bodies have prescribed statutory functions either specific to the energy industry or work with energy data for public purposes. There is a high level of confidence in the recipient as to the security and protection of the data.

In line with that criterion, the Bill amends the NEL and NGL, to expands this list of prescribed bodies to each department responsible for the administration of the application Act of a participating jurisdiction; the Ministers of the participating jurisdiction; the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and the Clean Energy Regulator.

The Bill also adds new provisions to the NEL and the NGL, allowing AEMO to disclose protected information to relevant entities for a data sharing purpose—including the delivery of government services; informing government planning, policy, or programs; and research in relation to energy. The Bill defines various relevant entities, including Australian university researchers who are conducting research in relation to energy, and Energy Consumers Australia. Bodies that have been defined as relevant entities have been included as they are public bodies and researchers who can create clear benefits for energy consumers through greater access to data but require clear data protection obligations to ensure security.

The Bill will ensure that policy makers, planners, and researchers have better access to protected data that AEMO already holds. It will facilitate their effective decision making in a timely manner.

This protected data has significant value, particularly as it includes data from consumer meters and distributed energy resources (DER). DER are renewable energy units or systems that are located at houses or businesses to provide them with power. An example of DER is rooftop solar PV units. The data is critical to better understanding how different consumer behaviours and needs are changing and being impacted by the energy transition. This informs forecasting, investments, new services, and consumer protections.

AEMO has indicated to jurisdictional energy departments that this data could support jurisdictional bodies and their programs. For example, AEMO's metering and DER data sets could be linked to jurisdiction-specific program data for quantitative evaluation of program and policy impacts. This is a frequent request from jurisdictions which is usually delayed or not achieved due to competing priorities and lack of standard arrangements within AEMO.

AEMO has also indicated that this data could support research or public benefit. For example, energy accounting, de-identified key datasets, net zero aspirations, energy reporting.

Data security is a clear risk that the Bill needs to manage, to support confidence in data sharing for AEMO and wider stakeholders.

Those bodies that the Bill allows AEMO to disclose protected information to for a data sharing purpose have only limited existing data protection requirements. Thus, the Bill sets out explicit and transparent data protection conditions for them. These protections include restricted data sharing purposes and AEMO imposed conditions, with proposed civil penalties for breaches. The AER will be the enforcement body for these protections.

Existing protection obligations will constrain those bodies that the Bill adds to the list of those that AEMO can already disclose protected information to.

These obligations align with AEMO's protection capabilities. Bodies on this list have strong incentives to manage data conservatively and effectively. The existing list of bodies already access protected data from AEMO.

Additionally, there are a range of complementary non-legislative controls which AEMO will need to implement. These are aimed at reducing uncertainty for users, improving transparency and trust in data sharing, and increasing efficient in implementation. They include publishing common data sharing terms and guidelines; a public register of data sharing agreements; and potentially accreditation requirements.

Finally, the Bill will also create a power for the South Australian Minister to make rules for or with respect to the data access amendments; and that revoke or amend a Rule because of the enactment of the data access amendments. The South Australian Minister will have the power to make those rules once only. The Australian Energy Market Commission may make later amendments.

I commend the Bill to members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *National Electricity Law*

4—Amendment of section 49—AEMO's statutory functions

Certain functions are conferred on AEMO.

5—Amendment of section 53D—Use of information

Provision is made in relation to the use of information by AEMO.

6—Amendment of section 54—Protected information

Certain matters relating to protected information are provided for.

7—Amendment of section 54C—Disclosure required or permitted by law etc

Provision is made in relation to the disclosure of information in accordance with the *National Electricity Law*.

8—Insertion of sections 54CA and 54CB

New sections 54CA and 54CB are inserted:

54CA—Authorised disclosure to particular entities for data sharing purposes

This section authorises AEMO to disclose protected information to certain entities if the disclosure is for a data sharing purpose.

54CB—Disclosure of protected information by officer or employee of, or consultant to, AEMO

This section authorises the disclosure of protected information by a person in the ordinary course of carrying out functions as an officer or employee of, or consultant to, AEMO.

9—Insertion of section 90EE

New section 90EE is inserted

90EE—South Australian Minister to make initial Rules relating to data access

The South Australian Minister is authorised to make initial Rules relating to data access.

Part 3—Amendment of *National Gas Law*

10—Amendment of section 91A—AEMO's statutory functions

Amendments that are substantially similar to the amendments made by the measure to the *National Electricity Law* are made to the *National Gas Law*.

11—Amendment of section 91FD—Use of information

12—Amendment of section 91G—Protected information

13—Amendment of section 91GC—Disclosure required or permitted by law etc

14—Insertion of sections 91GCA and 91GCB

91GCA—Authorised disclosure to particular entities for data sharing purposes

91GCB—Disclosure of protected information by officer or employee of, or consultant to, AEMO

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G. Pisoni.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:56):

Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:56): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I rise to introduce the Construction Industry Training Fund (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill implements recommendations from a comprehensive independent review of the Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993 conducted on the third anniversary of amendments to the act in 2019. As the act had not been comprehensively reviewed in nearly two decades, the government considered it appropriate to expand the scope of the review to matters beyond those introduced by the 2019 amendments.

The review considered the view of the board and received 45 submissions from stakeholders in response to an issues paper released for public comment in December 2022. We accepted 30 of the review's 31 recommendations for immediate implementation. The remaining recommendation, to investigate an alternative, more robust collection mechanism, will be delayed three years, pending evaluation of the other reforms that this bill introduces.

A further round of consultation was undertaken on an early draft bill with key government and non-government stakeholders to identify possible financial impacts and implementation issues. The bill introduces an objects section to the act that provides focus to the board's purposes and functions, including to promote high-quality training, innovative training options and access to training for underrepresented groups. Objects of the bill also include that the board must ensure the fund is appropriately administered and compliance with levy payment is maintained. The bill reinforces the board's responsibility in this regard by adding to the board's functions oversight of revenue collection.

The review supported improving accountability for levy payment by project owners, and the bill amends the definition of 'project owner' to provide greater clarity that when government delivers a project, the government authority responsible for a project's delivery is liable to pay the levy. Outside of government projects, the bill retains the current definition of a project owner to include the person engaged to deliver all, or substantially all of the project, or in any other case, the person who directly benefits from the building and construction work.

The bill will support, through regulations, an increase of the project value threshold at which the levy is payable, from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The review found that this increase had a small impact on the board's income and would result in a substantial reduction in the number of low-value projects subject to the levy—around 3,500. The board must review this threshold at least once every three years and may recommend its adjustment. The bill does not change the current 0.25 per cent levy rate, consistent with the review's recommendation. Stakeholders viewed the application of the GST to the calculation of a project's value as a tax on a tax. Accordingly, the bill removes GST from the calculation of a project's cost, resulting in a reduction in the amount of levy payable for all project owners.

Consistent with the findings of the review and a previous independent review of the act, the requirement that the board allocate moneys from the fund in proportion to each sector's contribution is removed. This will not alter the board's overriding duty to consult with the sectors in the allocation of a fund and, importantly, will enable the board to allocate moneys from the fund based on the best evidence and industry intelligence. This reform also brings the act in line with similar legislation in other jurisdictions.

The bill responds to feedback that changes to the board's appointment process and composition, introduced in 2019, resulted in a lack of balance of representation by members at board level. This is not a criticism of the work of the board or of board members. It simply states that a board that has the benefit of representative members to voice the interests, needs and concerns of employers and employees is better informed and makes better decisions about how to allocate funding for training across the industry.

The board will comprise four members to represent the interests of employers and four members to represent the interests of employees. The bill requires the minister consult with prescribed employer and employee associations to identify nominees in this category. An additional four members will be independent of the industry and selected through an expression of interest process. Deputy members can continue to be appointed to the board as required.

The bill will authorise the minister to appoint a person to attend a meeting of the board. This will replace the current provision permitting attendance by a commonwealth ministerial appointee. The bill confirms that the minister's appointed person cannot vote or compromise the independence

of the board. The current three-committee structure comprising housing, commercial and civil is preserved and their functions expanded to include oversight of revenue collection.

The bill also requires the establishment of a cross-sector planning committee to advise the board on issues that impact the industry as a whole. The review heard from stakeholders that professional and small businesses' views were an important input into planning by the board and the cross-sector planning committee can be a conduit for these views.

Attracting committee members with requisite expertise in an area essential for administration of the fund can be difficult. Accordingly, the bill permits ministerial approval of allowances and expenses incurred by committee members and requires their publication in the board annual report and on its website.

The bill responds to the board's request to change its financial and operational reporting from a financial to a calendar year. This facilitates planning by stakeholders who deliver training subsidised by the fund. The bill streamlines reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred by board members and formalises the ability of the board to engage staff or services of the Public Service under an arrangement agreed with the relevant minister.

A new section allows the minister to present the board with an annual statement of the government's priorities for the application of the fund to inform the board and assist with its planning. The board is not compelled to adopt the government's priorities and the bill will ensure the board's independence in this regard.

The review concluded that the current annual training plan development cycle constrains the board's outlook and planning. Accordingly, the bill introduces a three-year training plan cycle with annual reviews. This encourages medium and long-term planning without loss of the flexibility of annual adjustments and ad hoc variations. Based on feedback to the review, the bill permits allocation of moneys from the fund for the purposes of workforce attraction and retention activities.

The review considered the exemptions in the act and whether they remained relevant and appropriate. Applying this test, it concluded that the exemptions for power generation and works performed by self-employed people in industries outside of building and construction did not meet the test of relevance or appropriateness and should be removed. The government accepts this approach and will proceed with these reforms.

The review also recommended the exemption for mining and petroleum works be reviewed. Having considered the efficacy of the removing of this exemption, the government has decided not to proceed with this course of action at this stage. The bill will mandate the review of the operation of the act following its fifth anniversary.

Finally, the bill introduces a number of housekeeping amendments that update provisions or remove obsolete provisions as required. For example, the bill will replace the reference to a 'local council' with a 'relevant authority', to reflect the various approval pathways through which building and construction projects progress.

I acknowledge the collaborative and consultative approach of the board, the department and the reviewers, resulting in the sensible and contemporary reforms introduced by this bill. I commend the Construction Industry Training Fund (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 to members and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my further reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993*

3—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

Amendments are made to various definitions for the purposes of the measure.

4—Insertion of section 3A

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

3A—Objects

Proposed section 3A sets out the objects of the principal Act.

5—Amendment of section 4—Constitution of the Board

This clause notes that the Board continues in existence, and directs attention to the new section 32A which provides for the Board to potentially operate under a different name.

6—Amendment of section 5—Composition of the Board

This clause makes several amendments around the composition of the Board, and makes provision for how the Board members are to be elected. It provides that the Board will consist of 12 members appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister and that, of those 12, 4 are appointed to represent the interests of employers and 4 are appointed to represent the interests of employees. It provides for the appointment of a presiding member and for the appointment of deputy members.

7—Amendment of section 7—Procedures of the Board

This clause provides for the Minister to nominate a person to attend at a meeting of the Board but notes that such a person is not a member of the Board and can't vote or compromise the independence of the Board.

8—Amendment of section 8—Disclosure of interest

This clause replaces a reference to a private interest with a reference to a personal or pecuniary interest, and makes amendments modernising language.

9—Amendment of section 9—Member's duties of honesty, care and diligence etc

This clause makes amendments modernising language.

10—Amendment of section 10—Allowances and expenses

This clause makes amendments allowing for Board members to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their functions under the Act and allows for other remuneration and allowances as approved by the Minister.

11—Amendment of section 11—Functions and powers

This clause adds a new function of the Board, being the overseeing of revenue collection for the fund, and makes a consequential amendment stemming from the amendments relating to the Training Plan.

12—Amendment of section 13—Committees

This clause adds a new function to the committees of the Board in addition to requiring the Board to establish a new committee and providing for the remuneration and reimbursement of committee members in circumstances approved by the Minister.

13—Amendment of section 14—Delegations

This amendment is consequential.

14—Amendment of section 17—Annual report

This clause changes the annual report of the Board from being on a financial year basis to being on a calendar year basis.

15—Substitution of section 18

Section 18 is substituted:

18—Staff and resources

Proposed section 18 establishes that the staff of the Board are not public service employees, and that the Board may enter into agreements to make use of the staff or services of an administrative unit of the Public Service.

16—Amendment of section 20—Imposition of levy

This clause removes an obsolete reference.

17—Amendment of section 23—Exemptions

This clause makes it clear that the threshold amount for the exemption can be found in the regulations and requires the Board to conduct a review of the threshold amount once every 3 years and, if necessary, recommend to the Minister an adjustment.

18—Amendment of section 24—Liability of project owner to pay levy

This clause establishes that where building or construction work requires approval from a relevant authority (within the meaning of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*), those authorities are not to issue that approval unless the levy has been paid or the authority is satisfied that no levy is payable.

19—Amendment of section 26—Notice of variation

This clause makes clear that the amount which triggers the requirement of a project owner to notify the Board is set by the regulations.

20—Amendment of section 31—Construction Industry Training Fund

This clause amends section 31(4) by allowing to be paid from the fund any amount the Board considers appropriate for workforce attraction and retention purposes, and makes a minor amendment to a reference to training plans consequent on changes to section 32.

21—Insertion of section 31A

This clause inserts a new section 31A:

31A—Minister may present Board with statement of priorities

Proposed section 31A gives the Minister the power to give the Board a statement of the government's priorities each year, however it is made clear that nothing requires the Board to do anything to give effect to such a statement.

22—Substitution of heading to Part 6

This clause amends the heading to Part 6, consequent to changes to section 32.

23—Substitution of section 32

Section 32 is substituted:

32—Training Plan

Proposed section 32 provides for the development and implementation of training plans, on a 3 yearly cycle, for the purposes of improving training quality and skill levels across the Building and Construction industry. Provision is also made for variation of a training plan within the life cycle of the plan, and for yearly reviews of the plan.

24—Insertion of section 32A

This clause inserts a new section 32A:

32A—Board may conduct activities under other name

Proposed section 32A allows the Board to conduct its activities under a name prescribed by regulation.

25—Amendment of section 37—Regulations

This clause makes a minor amendment modernising language.

26—Substitution of section 38

Section 38 is substituted:

38—Review of Act

Proposed section 38 requires the Minister to cause a review of the Act to be completed as soon as is practicable after the fifth anniversary of the commencement of the section.

27—Amendment of Schedule 1—Building or construction work under the Act

This clause amends clause 2 of Schedule 1 by removing certain maintenance or repair work from the list of things which do not constitute building or construction work for the purposes of the principal Act.

28—Amendment of Schedule 1A—Value of building or construction work

This clause makes various changes to the manner in which the value of building or construction work is to be determined for the purposes of the principal Act.

29—Amendment of Schedule 4—Public accountability of Board

This clause makes minor amendments consequential on the change to section 32, as well as for the purposes of modernising language.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

1—Composition of Board

This clause provides that, on the commencement of section 6 of the measure, all the offices of the Board will be vacated.

2—Annual report during transitional period

This clause provides for the transition from financial year reporting to calendar year reporting.

3—Training plan

This clause provides that the training plan in force immediately prior to the commencement of the measure will be taken to be the Training Plan.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. D.G. Pisoni.

CASINO (PENALTIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (16:05): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Casino Act 1997 and to make related amendments to the Gambling Administration Act 2019. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (16:06): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Casino (Penalties) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill proposes to amend the Casino Act 1997 and make related amendments to the Gambling Administration Act 2019 following unprecedented national security into casino governance and integrity.

To this end, the bill includes a range of new and significantly increased penalties for contraventions of the Casino Act 1997 and Gambling Administration Act 2019, whether imposed for criminal offending, as expiation fees or as a fine imposed by taking disciplinary action. The changes apply solely to casino operations and not to other gambling providers.

The bill also establishes new clauses for the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner to take disciplinary action against the holder of the casino licence if circumstances come to light that show that the casino licensee, a close associate of the licensee or a designated person is found to have engaged in conduct that constitutes serious misconduct or if a court or tribunal in this state, the commonwealth or a state or territory of the commonwealth has imposed a penalty (whether civil or criminal) on the casino licensee, a close associate or a designated person.

Furthermore, the transitional provisions contained within the bill clarify that the changes being made to the maximum fine that can be imposed by taking disciplinary action, as well as the new causes for taking disciplinary action, will apply to conduct which has occurred prior to commencement of the provisions (should such circumstances come to light), as well as to disciplinary action which has commenced but has not yet reached the stage of determining the penalty.

While the increased penalties set out in the bill are certainly significant, being the first substantial increase to many of the provisions since the Casino Act was enacted in 1997, they are being sought to ensure that a penalty, if imposed on the casino licensee, is not simply treated as an acceptable cost of doing business in South Australia. The ability for the commissioner and the courts to impose a significant monetary penalty is not unreasonable or inconsistent with the way that casinos across Australia are now regulated.

The measures contained in this bill are intended to be proactive and not only designed to reflect the nature of the risks identified in the national casino environment, but also to address concerns about the efficacy of our state laws to regulate the Adelaide Casino now and into the future.

With that, I seek leave to insert the balance of my second reading speech and the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

Over the last three years, we have witnessed a series of independent inquiries across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia exposing widespread and serious integrity, compliance, governance and risk management issues at casinos operated by subsidiaries of Australia's two largest casino operators, Crown Resorts Limited and The Star Entertainment Group Limited, leading to community calls for the wider casino sector to be subject to stronger regulatory scrutiny.

Findings of unsuitability, threat of licence suspension and other forms of disciplinary action taken by regulators in each of these States subsequently prompted extensive and willing remediation action by these casino operators accompanied by significant legislative reform to strengthen and enhance casino regulation, with fines of up to \$100 million now being able to be imposed by regulators in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.

In comparison, the maximum fine currently able to be imposed on the casino licensee as a result of disciplinary action in South Australia is currently \$100,000. Furthermore, in most cases, the maximum penalty for an offence if prosecuted before the courts is less than \$50,000.

SkyCity Adelaide Pty Ltd (SkyCity) which holds the licence for the Adelaide Casino was not the focus of any of the interstate inquiries. However it is currently the subject of multiple regulatory interventions, including—

- action taken by AUSTRAC in the Federal Court of Australia for alleged serious and systemic non-compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) laws (which SkyCity has since indicated it will make admissions),
- an investigation by the Hon Brian Martin AO KC (which the Commissioner has currently placed on hold) inquiring into the suitability of SkyCity to hold the casino licence and for its parent company SkyCity Entertainment Group Ltd (NZ) to be a close associate, and
- monitoring by Kroll Australia Pty Ltd (Kroll) which has been appointed in response to a direction issued by the Commissioner. Kroll is to review SkyCity's program of work focusing on its AML/CTF obligations and gambling related harm minimisation, to monitor implementation of that program of work and to monitor the operations of the Adelaide Casino for SkyCity's compliance with its regulatory obligations relating to AML/CTF and addressing gambling related harm.

Furthermore, SkyCity's counterpart in New Zealand, SkyCity Management Ltd which operates casinos in Auckland, Queenstown and Hamilton, is also the subject of proceedings before—

- the New Zealand High Court for non-compliance with the *Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing Terrorism Act 2009* (NZ), the equivalent to the Australian *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* (Cth), and
- the New Zealand Gambling Commission, in relation to allegations that it had failed to comply with host responsibility requirements relating to the detection of incidences of continuous play.

This Bill reflects that the ability to conduct casino gaming in South Australia is a lucrative privilege bestowed only through the grant of a single licence issued by the state. Further, considering the scale of casino operations at the Adelaide Casino and the systemic risks identified in the national casino environment, the Bill provides a proactive response to calls particularly from within the South Australian community, for the Adelaide Casino to be subject to stronger regulatory scrutiny and accountability. It does this through a number of reforms.

First, the Bill addresses the currently limited options available to the Commissioner if cause for disciplinary action to be taken against the casino licensee arises. The current forms of disciplinary action available to the Commissioner (or the Licensing Court on review) include reprimanding the casino licensee, varying conditions of the casino licence, issuing directions as to the winding up of operations under the casino licence, imposing a maximum fine of \$100,000, suspending the licence or cancelling the licence. The law also currently permits the issuing of a default notice requiring payment of up to \$10,000. Short of suspending or cancelling the casino licence, there are currently limited repercussions for the casino licensee if found to have committed an act that is serious and fundamental in terms of the integrity of operating the Adelaide Casino.

To ensure there are meaningful consequences, the Bill provides that the Commissioner can impose a financial penalty on the casino licensee, either in the form of a default notice requiring payment of up to \$1 million or by taking disciplinary action and issuing a fine not exceeding \$75 million.

If the casino licensee is subsequently found guilty by a court of not complying with a requirement, order or direction of the Commissioner imposed as disciplinary action, the maximum penalty will also increase from \$100,000 to \$2.5 million.

Despite the Bill increasing the maximum fine for disciplinary action, the Bill does not change the power of the Commissioner to issue a reprimand, vary the licence conditions, give directions as to the winding up of operations, or suspend or cancel the licence.

The Bill also increases the maximum penalties which may be imposed by the courts if the casino licensee is found guilty of a range of critical offences to ensure they are an appropriate deterrent for the operator of a casino the size of the Adelaide Casino.

The Bill includes an increase to the maximum penalty arising from a contravention of the *Casino Act 1997*—

- for failing to inform the Commissioner of certain transactions entered into by the casino licensee which as a result allow an outsider to acquire control or influence over the casino business from \$60,000 to \$500,000
- for failing to get the Commissioner's approval for a person to be a designated person under the casino licence (including a director of the licensee or a person who is employed or working in an executive capacity who exercises discretion, influence, or control in respect of business operations under the casino licence) from \$20,000 to \$250,000
- for failing to notify the Commissioner of a person employed as a casino special employee or arising from the employment of a minor, from \$20,000 to \$250,000
- if a designated person accepts a gift or gratuity from a person, from \$20,000 to \$250,000
- if a person is found to have interfered with the proper operation of an approved system, equipment, machine or game to gain a benefit, from \$50,000 or 4 years imprisonment to \$500,000 or 4 years imprisonment
- if a person manufactures, sells, supplies or has in their possession a device adapted to interfere with the proper operation of an approved system, equipment, machine or game to gain a benefit, from \$50,000 or 4 years imprisonment to \$500,000 or 4 years imprisonment
- if a person is found using a computer, calculator or other device for the purpose of projecting the outcome of an authorised game to gain a benefit, from \$50,000 or 4 years imprisonment to \$500,000 or 4 years imprisonment
- if a person, other than a special employee, removes cash or gambling chips from gaming equipment, from \$5,000 to \$50,000
- if a child is permitted to enter or remain on the casino premises, from \$10,000 to \$500,000
- if the casino licensee knowingly assists a child to enter or remain on the casino premises, from \$10,000 to \$500,000
- if a person fails without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement to produce evidence of age when requested by an authorised person, from \$2,500 to \$7,500
- if a person subject to a barring order is permitted to enter the gaming area of the casino premises—
 - in the case of the barred person, from \$2,500 to \$7,500
 - in respect to the casino licensee, from \$10,000 to \$500,000
- if the casino licensee is found guilty of the evasion and underpayment of casino duty required to be remitted to the Treasurer, from \$100,000 to \$50 million
- if a person is found guilty of hindering or obstructing an authorised officer exercising powers under the *Taxation Administration Act 1996* in relation to the calculation and reconciliation of casino duty, from \$10,000 to \$1 million.

The Bill also includes related amendments which will increase the maximum penalty arising from a contravention of the *Gambling Administration Act 2019*—

- if the casino licensee fails to provide information at the request of the Commissioner, from \$10,000 to \$250,000
- if the casino licensee fails to comply with a direction given by the Commissioner, from \$100,000 to \$500,000
- if the casino licensee fails to comply with a mandatory provision of a responsible gambling or advertising code of practice—
 - for a category A offence from \$20,000 to \$75,000
 - for a category B offence from \$10,000 to \$50,000

- for a category C offence from \$5,000 to \$35,000
- for a category D offence from \$2,500 to \$20,000
- if the casino licensee makes a false or misleading statement to the Commissioner, from \$10,000 or imprisonment for 2 years, to \$500,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

Furthermore, the transitional provisions in the Bill make it clear that it is Parliament's intention that disciplinary action may be pursued against the casino licensee not only in respect of future conduct, but also in respect of past conduct (including the conduct currently before the Federal Court irrespective of if the proceedings are finalised and a penalty imposed before or after the Amendment Act is enacted).

However, the Bill expressly requires that the Commissioner, in imposing a penalty, must take into account any penalty already imposed in proceedings taken in relation to matters the subject of the disciplinary action, and preserves the Commissioner's discretion not to take any disciplinary action whatsoever.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Casino Act 1997*

3—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause provides for definitions of *designated person* and *staff member* for the purposes of the Act. These definitions were previously located in other sections of the Act.

4—Amendment of section 14—Other transactions under which outsiders may acquire control or influence

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying for an offence against section 14(2) of the Act from \$60,000 to \$500,000.

5—Amendment of section 14B—Approval of designated persons

Subclause (1) increases the maximum penalty applying for an offence against section 14B(1) of the Act from \$20,000 to \$250,000.

Subclause (2) increases the maximum penalty applying for an offence against section 14B(2) of the Act from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Subclause (3) increases the maximum penalty applying for an offence against section 14B(6) of the Act from \$10,000 to \$75,000.

Subclause (4) deletes the definition of *designated person*, now proposed to be located in section 3.

6—Amendment of section 20—Applications

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying for an offence against section 20(3) of the Act from \$10,000 to \$75,000.

7—Amendment of section 23—Investigative powers

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying for an offence against section 23(3) of the Act from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

8—Amendment of section 28—Interpretation

This clause deletes the definitions of *designated person* and *staff member*, now proposed to be located in section 3.

9—Amendment of section 32—Offences in relation to special employees

This clause increases the maximum penalties applying for an offence against section 32(1) and (2) of the Act from \$20,000 to \$250,000.

10—Amendment of section 35—Special employees and designated persons not to accept gratuities

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 35(1) of the Act as it applies to a designated person from \$20,000 to \$250,000.

11—Amendment of section 41—Interference with approved systems, equipment etc

Subclauses (1), (2) and (3) increase the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 41(1), (2) and (3) from \$50,000 to \$500,000 respectively. Subclause (4) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 41(4) from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

12—Amendment of section 43—Exclusion of children

Subclauses (1) and (3) increase the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 43(3) and (4a) from \$10,000 to \$500,000.

Subclauses (2) and (4) increases the maximum expiation fee applying in relation to an alleged offence against section 43(3) and (4a) from \$1,200 to \$5,000.

Subclause (5) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 43(6) of the Act from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Subclause (6) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 43(6) of the Act from \$210 to \$425.

13—Amendment of section 44—Licensee's power to bar

Subclause (1) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 44(6) of the Act from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Subclause (2) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 44(6) of the Act from \$210 to \$425.

Subclause (3) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 44(7) from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Subclause (4) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 44(7) of the Act from \$1,200 to \$5,000.

14—Amendment of section 45—Commissioner's power to bar

Subclause (1) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 45(5) of the Act from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Subclause (2) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 45(5) of the Act from \$210 to \$425.

Subclause (3) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 45(6) from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Subclause (4) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 45(6) of the Act from \$1,200 to \$5,000.

15—Amendment of section 45A—Commissioner of Police's power to bar

Subclause (1) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 45A(5) of the Act from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Subclause (2) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 45A(5) of the Act from \$210 to \$425.

Subclause (3) increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 45A(6) from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Subclause (4) increases the expiation fee applying for an alleged offence against section 45A(6) of the Act from \$1,200 to \$5,000.

16—Amendment of section 48—Accounts and audit

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 48(1) of the Act from \$50,000 to \$500,000.

17—Amendment of section 50—Duty of auditor

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 50(1) of the Act from \$10,000 to \$250,000.

18—Amendment of section 52—Evasion and underpayment of casino duty

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 52(1) of the Act from \$100,000 to \$50 million.

19—Amendment of section 52AA—Investigatory powers relating to casino duty

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying in relation to an offence against section 52AA(5) of the Act from \$10,000 to \$1 million.

20—Amendment of section 72—Regulations

This clause increases the maximum penalty able to be imposed for a contravention of a regulation from \$2,000 to \$15,000.

Schedule 1—Related amendments and transitional provisions

Part 1—Related amendment of Gambling Administration Act 2019

1—Amendment of section 8—General power to obtain information

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying to the holder of the casino licence for an offence against section 8(2) of the Act from \$10,000 to \$250,000.

2—Amendment of section 10—Commissioner may give directions

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying to the holder of the casino licence for an offence against section 10(3) of the Act from \$100,000 to \$500,000.

3—Amendment of section 16—Offence of breach of mandatory provisions of codes

Subclause (1) increases the maximum penalties applying to the holder of the casino licence or a person involved in an activity to which the *Casino Act 1997* applies from those applying to other gambling providers as follows:

- for a category A offence—\$75,000;
- for a category B offence—\$50,000;
- for a category C offence—\$35,000;
- for a category D offence—\$20,000.

Subclause (2) increases the maximum expiation fees applying to the holder of the casino licence or a person involved in an activity to which the *Casino Act 1997* applies from those applying to other gambling providers as follows:

- for a category A expiable offence—\$5,000;
- for a category B expiable offence—\$2,500;
- for a category C expiable offence—\$1,200;
- for a category D expiable offence—\$425.

4—Amendment of section 36—Cause for disciplinary action

The amendments in subclause (1) extend the circumstances in which the Commissioner may determine there are proper grounds for disciplinary action against the holder of the casino licence to include the following:

- an event occurs, or circumstances come to light, that show the licensee, a close associate of the licensee or a designated person has engaged in serious misconduct;
- a court or tribunal in this State, the Commonwealth or a State or Territory of the Commonwealth has imposed a penalty (whether civil or criminal) on the licensee, a close associate of the licensee or a designated person.

The amendments in subclause (2) defines the terms *close associate*, *designated person* and *serious misconduct* for the purposes of the amendments in subclause (1).

5—Amendment of section 37—Compliance notice

This clause increases the maximum penalty applying to the holder of the casino licence in relation to an offence against section 37(2) of the Act from \$100,000 to \$1 million.

6—Amendment of section 38—Default notice

This clause increases the maximum sum able to be set out in a default notice given to the holder of the casino licence under section 38 of the Act from \$10,000 to \$1 million.

7—Amendment of section 39—Disciplinary action

Subclause (1) increases the maximum penalty able to be imposed by the Commissioner if the Commissioner takes disciplinary action against the holder of the casino licence from \$100,000 to \$75 million.

Subclause (2) increases the maximum penalty applying to the holder of the casino licence for an offence of failing to comply with a requirement, order or direction of the Commissioner under section 39 from \$100,000 to \$2.5 million.

8—Substitution of section 42

This clause substitutes the section as follows:

42—Other proceedings to be taken into account

The proposed section reenacts the current provisions of section 42, with the addition of a provision in paragraph (a) which provides that the Commissioner may take disciplinary action against the holder of the casino licence—

- whether or not civil or criminal proceedings have been, or are to be, taken in a court or tribunal in this State, the Commonwealth or a State or Territory of the Commonwealth in relation to the matters the subject of the disciplinary action; and
- whether or not a penalty (whether civil or criminal) has already been imposed as a result of those proceedings in relation to those matters,

however, the Commissioner must, in imposing a penalty under Part 5 of the Act, take into account any penalty (whether civil or criminal) that has already been imposed in such proceedings.

9—Amendment of section 63—False or misleading statements

This clause increases the penalty applying to the holder of the casino licence for an offence against section 63 of the Act from \$10,000 or imprisonment for 2 years to \$500,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

Part 2—Transitional provisions

10—Transitional provisions

This clause contains transitional provisions consequential on amendments in Part 1 of the Schedule.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

SUPPLY BILL 2024

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 30 April 2024.)

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:09): For those who were listening, watching and engaging yesterday, we started our little—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The whole state was watching.

Ms CLANCY: I am sure the whole state was watching. I am going to continue our journey through the electorate of Elder. We started off with Clarence Park and did a bit of Westbourne Park. We are going to do a bit of a zigzag across the electorate, just for those looking in their *Gregory's* or for the newer generations on Google Maps, and we are going to head over now to Clarence Gardens.

I committed funding before the election to jointly support with the City of Mitcham some work on AA Bailey Reserve, particularly around the Cumberland United soccer pitch. What that work now means is that it is a lot safer when it has been raining because we have done a lot of work around the drainage, so now more cars are able to park around the oval safely and people are able to get to and from the clubrooms, etc., much more easily. It is much more accessible now. What that also means are fewer cars on the surrounding suburban streets, so it is a real little win-win.

Just over in Melrose Park, we have started work on some new classrooms at Edwardstown Primary School. I know the community is really excited about that. It will include an additional classroom within that new build, and I am really looking forward to seeing that work progress.

In Melrose Park, we also committed funding to Rozelle Reserve and that work I believe is underway. I need to have a quick chat with the council. The work was all tendered out and ready to roll, so there will be a new playground there and a new barbecue, etc., which will make it a much nicer park to use for the local community and for people to come together.

Across in Colonel Light Gardens—we are going on the other side of Goodwood Road now—I was really happy last year to deliver on an election commitment for a heritage-style archway at Ludgate Circus that matches the archway at Oxford Circus. It is just a beautiful in and out to a section of Colonel Light Gardens. I was really pleased to see so many people come out to celebrate the opening, including members of the incredibly active and engaged Colonel Light Gardens Residents' Association.

There is also work well underway now in terms of the planning for the upgrades of Mortlock Park, particularly the Gil Langley Building there. That building really needed a little bit of work, so it is going to have work done on the existing building and will also have the addition of women's changerooms. I think it is so important to increase women's and girls' participation in sport more generally and particularly in that location football and baseball. Currently, the women and girls playing

baseball are getting changed in the car park because it is really the only option for them, so I am really looking forward to that being built and us making it a much more welcoming place for our women and girls in sport.

Now we are going to jump over Springbank, but before we get all the way over, we did do a traffic study as promised on Springbank Road. There was a lot of community consultation and I do want to thank particularly Andrea and the community and others who did really fight for that traffic study to be committed to because we want to make Springbank Road safer, particularly for people coming across and going to and from Colonel Light Gardens and Lower Mitcham and between Clapham and Panorama, which heads over into the member for Waite's electorate.

We want to make it easy for people to come across to go to CC Hood Reserve, which I will speak about in a moment, to use their dog park and their playground and also for people coming from the south to the north to access local schools, such as Colonel Light Gardens Primary School and St Therese. That traffic study was done, and a recommendation has been put forward for a pedestrian actuated crossing just west of Eliza Place near Daniels Road. There are conversations now happening and I am advocating for the funding for that. The state government has been in conversation with the federal government to try to get funding for a joint project, which will be really excellent.

I did just mention CC Hood Reserve. That was another one of our commitments. One of the first things I committed to as a candidate was a \$1 million upgrade to a very well loved reserve in Panorama. What we have going in there is, firstly, some soccer goals, and the next thing will be a mini basketball court with a basketball ring. We will also be having a pump track and an additional dog park for small dogs, which was something the community asked for.

Another part of that upgrade will be moving the playground closer to the toilet. As I am sure you all remember from my speech yesterday, you do not know how important a toilet is until you need it, especially with young children. I am not sure about other people's experiences, but I find that my daughter only realises she needs to go to the toilet when we have left home, despite me always encouraging a good-quality preventive wee as they all recommend in the TV show *Bluey*. Unfortunately, it does not always work, but I am glad that we have a toilet there and that the playground will be much closer to the toilet, which will be really great for the community.

As we head a little bit west, there is such great work happening at the Repat. There is so much excellent stuff going on, including a new six-bed facility called CARE which helps to divert some people, where appropriate, away from Flinders emergency and they are able to get the support they need at the Repat.

For anyone who drives down Daws Road or Goodwood Road, you have probably seen the ambulance station that is being built there. That ambulance station is going up pretty quickly, as far as builds go—I am quite impressed—and it is looking excellent. I cannot wait for it to open, hopefully by the end of the year, in our community. There are actually paramedics ready to go straight in there. At the moment, those additional paramedics are working from the Marion Ambulance Station in Mitchell Park, but as soon as our new ambulance station is completed they will be moving over there, which will be really great for our community and also really great for those workers, because at the moment they are probably feeling a little bit squishy with the Marion crew, so it will be really great for them to have their own space again.

Also, just across the road behind Springbank Secondary, we have the Pasadena Community Centre. I have spoken about this centre before, and I think it is so important to do this work that is all about connecting community. What happened before the election was the City of Mitcham purchased the old Sea Scouts hall in Pasadena because the community had fought really hard, asking for it to be purchased so that it could become a community centre. I committed, before the election, that our government—if we were successful—would give \$500,000 towards that building becoming a community centre.

It has been incredibly special watching that community centre thrive and flourish. It is a little epicentre of the community and they do so many different things there. You can constantly see people on the Facebook page reaching out for help. The other day, they did not have someone to teach chess for the chess afternoon, and someone put up their hand and immediately went there. It

is about creating these new connections and new conversations with the community, and making sure people have a sense of belonging that is really special. It not only feels good and makes your day better, it is also really great for our mental health.

What else have I got across Pasadena? We will head over to Clovelly Park now. This was not one of my election commitments, but this is something that our government has delivered, and that is a 24/7 pharmacy in Clovelly Park. It has already been really well utilised in the times that it previously was not open, those late night hours. I spent one very stressful night just after the state election—if only we could have opened it that quickly—when my daughter had a fever of over 40° and she was so miserable.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms CLANCY: I know! Little baby, she was so miserable. What I did not realise at the time, but I discovered the next day, was that she actually had COVID. Clearly, COVID had affected her tastebuds and she was refusing Nurofen—which normally she loves the taste of, weirdly, but she hated it. She was refusing Nurofen and that temperature was not going down on its own. I was putting messages in all the community groups that I am in, seeing if anyone happened to be awake at two or three in the morning and happened to have children's Panadol or children's Benadryl or something else that maybe she would take instead. It was incredibly stressful. I was also messaging a friend who is a nurse and a friend who is an ambo. They both instructed me to stay calm, not head to the hospital, not call an ambulance, that she was going to be okay, and I could try to bring down her temperature as best as I could until the shops opened in a couple of hours.

I found that support really helpful, but not everyone has those excellent healthcare professionals to talk to when you are worried about something like this. I can completely understand that some people would call an ambulance, which is obviously not something that we want to encourage unless it is absolutely necessary; but when you are a panicked parent, you can understand why people want to do it. By having these pharmacists open 24/7, it enables people of any age, no matter what their experience, to actually go talk to a healthcare professional, a pharmacist, and receive some support without having to go into our hospitals.

Just quickly, while we are talking about pharmacists, I want to mention again the changes that our government has made around UTI antibiotics. It is another great initiative that will mean fewer presentations to the ED. It can be really tricky to get into a GP. When you have a UTI, and you have had UTIs before, you know what is going on for you and you know what you need. If you are not able to get to a GP, it can get to a point where you need to go to hospital because it is spreading to your kidneys.

From personal experience, I can say that that is incredibly painful, and the last thing you want to do is walk into an ED doubled over in pain saying, 'I'm sorry, I should have gone to see a GP. I just couldn't get in,' or 'I couldn't afford it,' or 'I didn't have time.' Having the opportunity to go to a pharmacist and get the medical support you need is great. I am really excited—I think it may have started today or sometime this month—about similar changes for the contraceptive pill.

I got sidetracked by our exciting 24/7 pharmacy in Clovelly Park, but now I will take you to Mitchell Park, where—you will not believe it—I am going to talk about toilets again. I was doorknocking as a candidate, and a number of people in the community around Maldon Avenue and the reserve there raised with me the fact that there were no local public toilets. I made an election commitment. We delivered on that election commitment. We had an opening of the toilet; it was very exciting. It had been christened by someone else, I am sure. We had a barbecue, the City of Marion provided a coffee van, and it was just a really lovely morning of, again, community connection.

The other day, I was back doorknocking in Mitchell Park because my job is talking to our community all the time, not just election time. One person said, 'My wife reckons she's the reason we have this toilet.' I said, 'Well, she is one of the reasons because she is one of the people who raised it with me before the election.' Then, another man stopped me as he was on the way to the park with his little girl and said, 'Local member, thank you so much for the toilet at Maldon Avenue Reserve. It means that we can have our daughter's three-year-old birthday party there in a couple of weeks' time.' It just shows that what seems to be a little thing can actually be quite a big thing for our community.

We are now going to go a little bit over and head to Tonsley. One thing that people raised with me, when I was doorknocking in Mitchell Park, was the fact that there were no toilets or drinking fountains available on the weekends in Tonsley. The Tonsley Innovation District and the precinct is really great. There is a big shaded, sheltered area where a lot of people go to teach their children how to ride their bikes or their scooters. I have taken my daughter there when I know it is going to be a 42° day. I have taken her there in the morning to ride without the sun beating down on her and to help her get a bit worn out before we go and hide inside with the fan on and all the curtains closed. I know it is a really great place where people come together. I have been to a number of kids' birthday parties at the Tonsley, but obviously all of that is only possible now because we have ensured that toilets are available on the weekends and that there are drinking fountains. It is something I am really proud of.

Another thing that I am really excited about with Tonsley is the technical college that will be built there in the very near future. I am really excited about the skills that will be provided to our young people as a great alternative to university. There are more things to come in the electorate of Elder. One thing I know a lot of people are excited about is that, as part of the Torrens to Darlington project, we will be redoing the Raglan/South Road/Ackland/Edward Street area. It is not just one intersection; it is a bit of a dogleg. We will be making significant improvements to that space. Part of that will be a dedicated right-hand turn arrow for traffic heading west down Edward Street who want to turn right onto South Road. I am really excited about that. It is going to make a huge difference to traffic in the area. I believe it will significantly reduce rat-running because it will make it a lot easier for people to use that intersection.

More broadly, I am incredibly proud of other things we are doing across the state. In our healthcare system we have already recruited 691 extra nurses, 329 extra doctors, 219 extra ambos and 193 extra allied health workers. That is not to be sneezed at. That is an incredible effort that has been done by our government. I want to thank Minister Chris Picton for all his incredible hard work. We have opened the three 24/7 pharmacies and we are building and opening 150 more hospital beds this year and another 130 next year.

There has also been great work done in the education space. We have responded to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care. That response has been delivered. We have already built and opened the Findon Technical College with more to come, including Tonsley. We have passed the legislation to establish the new Adelaide University and funded an autism inclusion teacher for every public primary school.

In housing, we got rid of stamp duty for eligible first-home buyers, passed landmark reforms to residential tenancy laws, announced the largest land release in our state's history and announced the first substantial increase to public housing in a generation.

I am really proud of all that our government has achieved in our first two years and I am really looking forward to everything else we will deliver over the next two years.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (16:26): I rise to speak on the Supply Bill 2024, which is an opportunity for me about a month out from the state budget to talk about some of my local priorities in the eastern suburbs and in the Hills, some of the things I will be looking out for, hopefully, in a state budget to be delivered in a few weeks' time.

There are three things in particular that I have been campaigning on over the past couple of years. The first is around road infrastructure and heavy vehicles on our local roads, including Portrush Road and Glen Osmond Road, in my electorate. The second is a number of other road-safety improvements that I think are needed around our local schools in the eastern suburbs. The third is the need for more schooling capacity in the eastern suburbs and the need for a new school in the eastern suburbs to cater for ever-growing demand as well as population growth. I want to talk to each of those things initially.

First is the issue of trucks on our local roads. I make no apology for raising this issue in the house at every available opportunity because we have a very big problem, which is a huge number of heavy vehicles coming down the South Eastern Freeway every year. There are about 650,000 heavy vehicles coming down the freeway and then spewing out onto one of three residential roads, whether it is Cross Road, Glen Osmond Road or Portrush Road in my electorate.

We know that most of those heavy vehicles, or at least most of the B-doubles, choose to come out onto Portrush Road in my electorate. I think about 80 per cent of the B-doubles that come down the South Eastern Freeway are coming out onto Portrush Road. There are about 1,000 heavy vehicles per day coming down Portrush Road past schools in my electorate such as Loreto College, Seymour College and Linden Park Primary School. These heavy vehicles are passing nursing homes and shops in my electorate, past all things that really do not mix well with B-doubles.

We know it is a road congestion issue, an environmental issue, and a health issue but perhaps most importantly it is a road-safety issue. It feels like we only ever want to talk about this problem when there is a terrible tragedy on Portrush Road or at the bottom of the freeway. The most recent of them was very soon after I was elected. There was a giant crash involving a number of vehicles, a bus and, of course, a truck. Thankfully at that time there were no fatalities, but that was the fifth major crash at that intersection since 2010, including on a number of occasions, very sadly, fatalities.

We do not want to wait for another tragedy before we take some action on this issue because, quite frankly, this is an issue that has been deliberately set up this way in the sense that I think Adelaide is the only capital city in all of Australia where our major freight route runs straight through our metropolitan area, straight through residential suburbs in my electorate. I think, frankly, it is ludicrous that a truck that wants to travel from Melbourne to Perth has to do so by coming down Portrush Road, in my electorate, thundering past school children and residents.

I have spent basically the entirety of my time since being elected in parliament identifying this problem but not only, I think importantly, identifying the problem but also talking about a potential solution, which is in the form of the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, which is a plan that will ensure that these sort of heavy vehicles, the truck that needs to drive from Melbourne to Perth never gets to the bottom of the freeway and never has to travel down Portrush Road in my electorate.

We know that this is a good idea. We have had officials from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport tell a public meeting that I attended last year that it is a good idea. They used words such as 'economically positive'. They said there was actual demand in industry to use that road and it would be a benefit to their businesses, being the truck drivers. So not only a good thing for my local community but a good thing for the industry, and I think the state more generally. The other thing they unfortunately told us at that time was that this was not a project that was funded and, indeed, there was not a lot of action in terms of on-the-ground work to make it happen.

I think it is an incredibly frustrating thing when, on the one hand, my local community is being told there is a solution to a problem that we have identified and that it is economically positive and viable, but then on the other hand being told that it is not funded and it is not seeing a lot of action on the ground. They were doubly disappointed this year when we saw the only part of the project that was funded, the Truro freight route, having money ripped out of it by Labor governments. I think the Truro freight route is an important project in and of itself to the community there, and, importantly, it is also a very important first step in a much wider project which is the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass.

That was funded, and I think that project represented for the first time a departure from parliamentarians and communities talking about these sort of ideas for freight bypasses and actually putting some money on the table, which is why it was incredibly disappointing to see it ripped away by Labor earlier this year. Unfortunately, I think if there is no Truro freight route, there will be no Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass, which means there is no plan to get trucks off local roads in the eastern suburbs such as those on Portrush Road and Glen Osmond Road.

So you can understand why I will continue to very vigorously advocate for funding for this project to be restored, and also for a Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass to be realised so that trucks can stop thundering down our local roads. What I do not understand is why every member who has Portrush Road running through their electorate would not be advocating in the same vigorous fashion. I note the new member for Dunstan's comments in March of this year when she said, and I quote:

South Australia's a small State and having a bypass is a hugely expensive piece of infrastructure...trucks will always be to some degree on Portrush Road.

I think that just represents the new member for Dunstan throwing her hands in the air, giving up on getting trucks off Portrush Road and settling for what is really a very unsatisfactory situation where we have a major freight route running through our local streets.

What I also do not understand is why every member who has Cross Road running through their electorate would not be similarly and vigorously advocating for a freight bypass, because we know, when the north-south corridor is complete, the majority of these trucks will be going down Cross Road to try to reach that corridor.

We know that from the now Treasurer's comments, back in 2017 when he was shadow treasurer and he was on ABC Adelaide and it was put to him by Matthew Abraham: 'So they'll then go down Cross Road.' The now Treasurer said, 'Yes, that's right. That's the long-term plan which has been agreed to by the federal and state governments, which is currently being funded by the federal and state governments, and that's why it's a project priority.' Matthew Abraham replied, 'So you're going to have B-doubles rumbling down Portrush Road and, just for a bit of novelty, rumbling down Cross Road. So really running down heavily populated areas with lots of schools hanging off them.' Then the now Treasurer said, 'It's not a novelty...this is what's in the state's best economic interests.'

Our problem in the eastern suburbs, for my community living on and around Portrush Road, is very fast going to become the problem of all those living on and around Cross Road. That might be good news for my local community, who I think will see fewer trucks on Portrush Road, but all it is doing is shifting the problem elsewhere. The Treasurer might think that is okay but I do not, and I think the only long-term and sustainable solution to this problem is a proper freight route in the form of the Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass. I will keep advocating for that, even if others in this place bizarrely and sadly will not.

I mentioned that it is a road congestion issue, but of course it is also a road safety issue. That is the second thing I want to talk about today: another road safety issue, particularly around schools in the eastern suburbs and in my local electorate. I think this is a problem right across the state, but it was something that really had a light shone on it in my local area in fairly tragic circumstances, when two children, who were trying to do nothing more than get to school at Marryatville High School, were tragically hit when a truck failed to stop at that school crossing.

Since that time, I have been advocating for a lot of improvements at that particular school crossing. I do want to thank the former minister for road safety for his assistance in getting some really good improvements at that crossing, including a new red-light camera, which is something that that school community had been advocating for. I think the incident showed that this was not a problem that was just confined to Marryatville High School. Indeed, I think there is a lot of work that can be done right across the state and particularly right across my electorate to improve road safety at a number of school crossings.

I have undertaken a body of consultation work with every school in my electorate to get their specific feedback on what we should and could be doing. I have passed that on to the former minister for road safety, and just today I have written to the new Minister for Road Safety. I hope that he considers funding some of these projects, whether it be at Seymour College and issues around Gilles Road; whether it be at Loreto College, where there are lot of issues on Portrush Road and drivers running red lights, and there is also suggestion for a footbridge there; or whether it be at Pembroke School, in the electorate of Dunstan, where I know there are a lot issues at the dogleg intersection of Shipsters Road, The Parade and Gurrs Road.

At Glenunga International High School there are issues as well, particularly at the T-junction right at the front of that school, and Burnside Primary School has issues at a school crossing, or semi-school crossing, on Glynburn Road. St Peter's Girls' School have made some suggestions about Hallett Road, and Linden Park Primary School and the school crossing on Portrush Road was identified as one of the most dangerous in the state, so I have summarised a lot of that feedback and sent it through to the minister. I hope that some of those projects at least can be considered being funded. I have omitted, of course, Rose Park Primary School as well, which is my most recent letter to the new minister, with a number of suggestions that could take place there, particularly in light of yet another accident at that school.

I note that the government did announce on 20 December last year a new investment program in road safety around the state. They did not at that time outline what projects or locations would be funded, so I do hope that as part of that process perhaps some of these ideas for schools in the eastern suburbs might be considered.

Finally, I wanted to talk about schools more generally. We have some of the very best schools in the state, I think, in the eastern suburbs, and in my electorate. I am very proud to have a great number of our best schools, but we do have a problem, and it is a good problem to have, but it is a problem nevertheless; they are so good that they are bursting at the seams.

I think, at least until recently, all three primary schools in my electorate—Burnside, Rose Park and Linden Park—were subject to capacity management plans, and the two high schools in my electorate—Glenunga and Marryatville High School—are over capacity. Indeed, Glenunga International High School was projected to be 153 students over capacity at the beginning of this year, and Marryatville High School 136 students over capacity at the beginning of this year, and I note that Glenunga is also subject to a capacity management plan. What that means is that local kids cannot go to local schools.

As recently as last week, I met with two new constituents of mine who have just moved into Frewville. One of the reasons they have moved into Frewville is because it is about 300 metres from Glenunga International High School where they wanted to send their children, but because of the capacity management plan, because the school is full, they are being told that Glenunga cannot accept them. They are being told Marryatville cannot accept them, and they are being sent as their nearest available option to Springbank Secondary College, which is a bit of a distance from their house, which is just a matter of metres from Glenunga high school. It has a really real impact on our local community when local kids cannot get into local schools, and when these capacity management plans are in place.

I think local kids deserve to be able to go to local schools, and to be able to do that it is obvious we need to dramatically increase schooling capacity in the eastern suburbs. I have been calling for a new school in the eastern suburbs but, at the very least, we need to be able to invest in and increase the capacity of the schools that we have. We are in this problem now, and we are in this problem now well before we even talk about the Labor government's plan to dramatically increase density and population in the eastern suburbs.

I note in particular the Labor minister announcing the initiation of a new code amendment at Glenside that would see housing—apartment towers—built up to 20 storeys tall, which will dwarf the eight-storey buildings that were already planned for that site, and add a number of new dwellings to that site. The problem is the planning has all been done based on eight storeys. The planning for public infrastructure, whether it be car parking, whether it be open space, whether it indeed be the sewerage, is all on the basis of eight storeys, and a thousand new dwellings at that strategic infill site.

What we see now is the plan being changed at the last minute, and I say that that is bad planning from the Labor super minister. It is bad planning because it is not the plan. The plan was a thousand new dwellings and eight-storey towers. But what no-one has considered in this whole discussion—at least yet—is where the kids are going to go to school because Glenside is zoned to Glenunga International High School. Glenunga International High School is full, yet these towers have not even been built.

My constituents in Frewville, even without these new towers, are being turned away from Glenunga International High School. So it is all good and well to think, 'Here is a great strategic infill site with a thousand dwellings; let's just double it,' but you cannot do that in isolation without thinking about the public infrastructure around it. One of the biggest issues for us in the eastern suburbs—and there are many—will be our schooling capacity. There needs to be a really serious conversation about increasing that even before we talk about increasing the population for these school zones.

These are just some of the things that I will be looking out for in the budget that is upcoming in a month or so. I think we really need to make a concerted effort to invest in road infrastructure to see trucks off our local roads. I think we need to improve road safety at schools in the eastern suburbs, and I think we need to seriously increase the schooling capacity in the eastern suburbs,

including through a new school. We need to do that now and we especially need to do it if there is going to be a dramatic increase in population and density in the eastern suburbs.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (16:46): I rise today in support of the Supply Bill and would like to talk about some of the wonderful things that happen in my community and things we have been able to work on and deliver. I want to reflect a little bit on something the member for Elder spoke about and that is the Tonsley Technical College that will soon be built at Tonsley. I know firsthand the benefit of something like this and how it could really help our kids. Especially in my community, I know that we will have lots of students that will be going to the science and maths school and then going on to the technical college.

There are students who learn in different ways and that is something that we need to embrace and understand. Personally, I know that there are some students who are very good with their hands and they are very good at doing a lot of manual labour, but they are also thirsty to learn. Sometimes, the way that schools teach them is not exactly conducive to their learning type and that sometimes results in students not completing their schooling and falling through the system.

A technical college that provides them with the opportunity to start a trade whilst they are learning and use that learning to progress their skills is something that cannot be underestimated. I think the Tonsley Technical College will be doing exactly that: providing opportunity for students to start their training and become a carpenter or a builder or anything that they desire that is available at that college and at all our technical colleges across the state. It is just another way of contributing to their education and setting them on their way. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for lots of students and I think there will be some really great outcomes for trades in our state.

In my local area, I have been really pleased to work with the Friends of Belair Station. This is a group that worked tirelessly to keep the Belair train station looking as good as it does. Over the last two years that I have been their member, I have watched them do so much work in the garden, in painting the station, in keeping it clean, and in keeping the beautiful garden right next to the national park looking so great.

They constantly came and saw me about the need to restore the Belair train station shelter. It is a heritage item that has been there since the late 1800s. It is one that we have wanted to restore for a really long time, and I was really glad to be able to help them to do that. In conjunction with Keolis Downer, the shelter is currently being restored. It took a little while, but we got there in the end. Just to provide an update to my community, the shelter is going to have new columns, hardwood plinths and strip footings, new roof beams, and the replacement of life-expired cladding. Some of the cladding was eaten by termites and was starting to rot away and so it is great that that will be replaced.

There will also be new stormwater infrastructure to keep it solid in the future, the rebuilding of the paving and the edging, the rebuilding of the bench seats so it is useable, and the resurfacing of the life-expired pavement under the shelter, and then it will all be repainted. We are anticipating that these works will be completed, pending the weather, by the end of June and I cannot thank the volunteers enough for all of the advocacy that they have put in. I also thank the department and Keolis Downer for their contributions to enable the restoration of this shelter.

The Belair train station is such an important part of the historical story of my area. In fact, with May Day today—not quite related but almost—there was a Labour Day picnic there at the Belair National Park, when over a thousand people used the train to come up a long, long time ago and had a picnic in the park to celebrate that eight-hour day, and I wish everybody a happy May Day.

Further on from that is an update I would like to provide on the Belair National Park around the Playford Lake. The Playford Lake is a beautiful asset we have in the Belair National Park. It is full of ducks and it is a beautiful natural setting. I know I have been going there for a long time; in fact, I used to run away there when I was having a fight with my parents. I would go and sit there and watch and feed the ducks. For a long time, it has been getting a little bit tired and it is also not an inclusive track. Due to the undulating path, it is very difficult for people who are in a wheelchair or even parents with pushers to be able to use them properly, and it is really great now that that is being redeveloped. It is going to look fabulous. Stage 1 has already started and that includes:

- demolition of the existing redundant staircase which, if you have been there, it is just some sleepers dug into the hillside—very good if you are trying to keep fit to run up and down there, but it needs to be brought into today's compliance standards;
- demolition of the existing bridge structure, which again was just some pieces of wood all tied together. That will be reconstructed with new boardwalks, which will look great; and
- demolition of the existing trail, as I said. It is completely undulating and not able to be used by lots of people, so it will be realigned and the walking surface will be re-laid with the construction of approximately 800 metres of a new trail that is DEA compliant.

Moving on from there into 2024, that should be finished by June as well. Stage 2 will start between 2024 and 2025, which will include new car parks, a new existing barbecue area and toilet facilities, which will be just great. The toilets there are a little sad as well, so it will be really good to see that whole area get an uplift. I know how much my community loves the Belair National Park and every time we can do something to make that even more usable for everybody, then that is a really great outcome.

I am a big fan of public transport and getting people on the train and on the bus, and so I am doing all I can to make sure our stations are looking as great as possible. We recently had our shelter at the Glenalta train station repainted by the wonderful artist, Nicky Create. She came in and she has completely covered it in beautiful native flowers and birdlife, and it just looks incredible. You can see it when you drive straight down the main road of Blackwood when you are heading out of town. It is something to be proud of. The beautiful thing about painting murals on things is that other artists tend to leave it alone, and so far we have seen that that is the outcome for that. So I want to thank Nicky for all her work throughout my community and everyone's community. She has done a lot of work all the way through our rail corridor on various buildings, shelters and even signal boxes—so thank you Nicky.

There is more work to do at Glenalta station, and I am working with local community groups on the garden and working with the local hotel as well that wants to be involved. We are working towards making that whole area look good and next week I will be there with the Blackwood Action Group, continuing to work on a little garden that we started last year. It is an area that had been left for a really long time—years and years of just dirt—and it looked like a bit of a barren wasteland as you drove into Blackwood. We planted a whole lot of plants there last year and we are about to plant some more, and it is going to be looking wonderful.

Continuing with public transport and shelters, my year 5/6 class at Hawthorndene Primary School last year—I spoke about it before—came to me with the idea of wanting a bus shelter out the front of their school and also one around the corner on the bottom of Rankeys Hill Road. Those have now been installed and the artwork was provided by the students. We got one of our local artists, Adam Poole-Mottishaw, to take the art that the students had created and transpose it onto the shelters. Those have all been finished and when you drive through there they look wonderful and I think they really make you want to catch the bus, which is great.

Last week, another bus shelter was installed at Blackwood High School and Blackwood Primary School. Quite often after school the students will cross the road and sit and wait for the bus and they have been seen to sit just on the side of the road. We needed to provide them somewhere to sit and somewhere to be sheltered and that shelter was installed this week, so the students would have gone back on Monday and they would have been able to utilise that bus shelter. I want to thank the local community for coming to see me and asking me to help them with that project.

If we turn to train stations, it is the case that we were able to acquire the land at the Torrens Park train station. It has been a piece of land that has been sitting there for a long time and it was destined to be a 24/7 petrol station. The community was not keen on that at all not only because of all the lighting but also the coming and going. It was at an intersection that is very dangerous just as it is and without needing to have more people trying to turn in and out of a service station.

We were able to acquire that land and now I will continue to work with the community as to what they want to see there. A lot of the feedback has been around a park-and-ride because the more places we can provide for people to park their cars so they can hop on the train and stay out

of traffic and reduce pollution can only be a good thing. There is more work to do there, but I am hoping that we will be able to make that happen for our community.

Further on from there, I would like to talk a little bit around our investment in firefighting because it is something that is very close to my heart obviously but also important to my community because we are in an area that is of high bushfire risk. I spoke earlier today around helping firefighters directly through SPAM and our increase in investment in SPAM, but another big investment that we have made into firefighting is our aerial firefighting fleet.

You cannot underestimate the benefit of having more planes and more helicopters ready to go when a fire breaks out. You have a really small amount of time to get onto a fire before it takes off, especially on a hot and dry day and especially in grassland, so to be able to send out planes and helicopters that can get there within a really short amount of time, even probably before trucks are out of the station, to dump water on these fires really helps our on-ground firefighters and allows them to get on top of these fires quicker.

I know firsthand there was a fire down at Hallett Cove earlier this year that took off and the planes were able to get on top of it really quickly. I went down later to do some mopping up. Sometimes the job of our brigades is to just go and continue to put water on an already controlled fire to make sure it is out, but without those planes and those helicopters it could have been a different story for residents in Hallett Cove.

Further on from that, I also would like to talk a little bit around our commitment to health. This week, we went to the Flinders Medical Centre where the Marjorie Tripp Ward was opened. It is a beautiful ward. It has been refurbished. It was actually an administration area where a lot of the management sat. We have kicked them out and turned it into a 20-bed ward named after Marjorie Tripp, who was a wonderful advocate for equal rights and a distinguished servicewoman. It is really lovely that it has been named after her. Her family was there to open the little blinds on the plaque at the naming of that ward.

It was really lovely to walk around and see how peaceful the ward was, having lost my dad last year at Flinders Medical Centre. In the end we were in a room on our own, but my mum was having to hop into bed with my dad to keep him warm. There also was not really anywhere else for her to stay. We were trying to sleep on chairs, and it was not a really lovely way to say goodbye to a loved one.

This ward has eight rooms that are single-bed rooms. They have a pull-out day bed and the rooms are very peaceful. They have a beautiful view into the courtyard with lots of native vegetation and it will I know, for what is an incredibly difficult time, give a little bit of peace to family who are having to say goodbye.

When we were there we also talked a little bit around our investment in terms of all the extra nurses, doctors, allied health and ambos. We have 691 extra nurses, 329 extra doctors, 219 extra ambos and 193 extra allied health workers above attrition. That is a huge investment, and they are all pieces of a puzzle that we put together in order to try to fix our health system. There is a lot to do and we are continuing to do it, including at the Flinders Medical Centre which will have a big expansion going forward. This will only benefit my community, who not only work there—a lot of my community work there—but also need to go there in an emergency.

There are lots of things that we are doing as a state government to really push our state forward. I cannot be more proud of the things that we are able to do. There are lots of things to do within my electorate and I will continue to fight hard for all of them. I know that we would love to see every road, every intersection, every footpath, every bus shelter and every train station upgraded, and we will continue to do the work that we need to do to be able to make my area even more wonderful than it is. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (17:00): I rise today to provide my contribution to the Supply Bill debate for this year and I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition in regard to this debate. What I would like to begin by doing today is, obviously, indicating the support of the opposition for the Supply Bill to pass this house and the other. It is one of the quirks, in some ways, of our institution and the parliament—but a good one, I may add. You only need to look abroad to

other parliaments and other government institutions overseas to see the impact of shutdowns of federal and state governments off the back of supply or appropriation bills not being passed.

It is convention in this place that the Supply Bill is passed. I did some quick googling to see just how broad the impact of some of these shutdowns has been, particularly in the US where most of these are somewhat more well covered than other jurisdictions. One of the longest and more recent ones was in 2018 when the federal government in the US was shut down for 35 days, with significant impact to federal GDP in that country over that period of time. It is not just isolated to the federal government in the US; from time to time, there have been state governments shut down on the back of similar debates, the longest of which was in the state of California, as it turns out, where their government was shut down for 63 days. That is, obviously, something that we seek to avoid in this place, and the continuation of that convention is a good thing.

My remarks will be wide-ranging across a number of issues, particularly across the state economy and the small business sector in South Australia, in particular touching on the hospitality industry and the issues that are ongoing there; more broadly, across the state of South Australian households and the current cost-of-living issues that are being experienced across the board; and in regard to a couple of more recent pieces of thought leadership and surveys that have been conducted around the state, not just on the business community in South Australia but also on the state of the South Australian government sector and private sector, more generally, around productivity and where we can try our very best as a state to improve, to drive wealth and improve the lives of South Australians by ensuring that we are able to have new age, new sector jobs that produce for the next generation of South Australians.

That is what all of us across both sides of the aisle in this chamber are seeking to achieve: an outcome where we see the lives of South Australians improved as we move forward. I hope there is someone from the Treasurer's office listening to the debate. As an opposition, we did give the Treasurer's office and his staff a good near-month since the second reading speech to this place, which was undertaken on 10 April. There is a stark difference between what was inserted by leave into the *Hansard* on the day of the second reading and the details that are included on the copy of the bill that is before us and that was laid on the table. I am not sure if that is an issue with regard to the Treasurer at the time, who sought leave to insert his second reading and the explanation of clauses. I am not sure if that is an issue between what was provided to chamber staff here and henceforth into the *Hansard*.

I do not know if the Treasurer inadvertently provided erroneous details and numbers to this house, but I would say that it is probably time for the Treasurer to come into the house and hopefully provide some sort of explanation as to why, in his second reading speech, it has been indicated that he was seeking \$6.5 billion, whereas the bill we have before us today is seeking \$7.7 billion, a \$1.2 billion difference. It is clear in other details in the explanation of clauses, the most important being that the end of the financial year date is for the financial year before what this bill is dealing with.

When I seek leave at the end of today's sitting to continue my remarks tomorrow, hopefully we will have an explanation from the Treasurer's office which is able to seek out in the *Hansard* those details as to why there seems to be such a significant difference in what is being sought for the state. Through this process, we essentially are providing a blank cheque to Treasury to continue the funding of government operations over a period of time until the Appropriation Bill is passed. Why it is so important that these details are correct, that the record is correct, is that obviously we are providing a significant amount of money for those purposes, and there is a significant difference between \$6.5 billion and \$7.7 billion. I do hope that that matter is rectified and that the record is corrected or that the issue, whether that is with *Hansard* or the Treasurer himself, is dealt with in a sensible time period.

With regard to the broader question around the state about the South Australian economy and the business sector in South Australia, I think we have to reflect on the rhetoric that has come from this government. We have a situation where essentially the Treasurer and the Premier, on the other side of the chamber, are saying that business has never had it better in South Australia, that people have never had it better in South Australia, that the economy is in such a good place that people should be excited about where we are.

What the opposition has seen, what I see when I have correspondence coming through to my office, what I have seen when I have spoken to small businesses around the state over the last 12 to 18 months, is that a lot of people are hurting. That is not just households in South Australia; that is small businesses in South Australia as well. Those in this place would well remember the work that was undertaken by the opposition to cost the extent to which the average South Australian family is worse off since this government was elected. We now have ticked well over \$20,000 worse off. That goes across a range of categories, and whether that is with regard to home loan repayments on the back of interest rates increasing so drastically, whether that is electricity prices, or whether that is inflation on everyday goods and services that are purchased by that household, we have effectively seen the buying power of South Australian households completely diminished since this government came to power.

In the same way, small businesses across our state are dealing with essentially the same issues, that costs have escalated, whether that be rent, whether that be electricity, whether that be the cost of the goods that they are taking in to manufacture, to make, to produce whatever product or service that they are delivering. Small businesses are being bitten on both ends in that not just are we an environment where their costs have escalated to such a degree but also, conversely, when we have families out there whose buying power has been significantly impacted and are suffering through a cost-of-living crisis, those households, and rightfully so, have decided to tighten their belt, to spend less and to cut back where they can.

What that has led to is what can only be described, and has been described in public commentary to this point, as an apocalyptic state for the hospitality industry in South Australia. It is not something that we reflect on lightly. We know that those businesses in the hospitality industry obviously faced significant challenges through the COVID period, but that was a period when they were provided significant assistance through the JobKeeper program and through small business grants and supports. It was a period of time that was difficult for everybody to manage. But rightfully so, the government did everything within its power to support those small businesses and those larger businesses that were dealing with such significant issues across that period of time.

If we look back now, in particular one of the key goals of the JobKeeper program was to keep employers and employees linked during that period of time so that that tenure, that relationship between employee and employer could continue post-pandemic. When we have gotten to a situation where we have such a tight jobs market in South Australia, it can only be said that those existing relationships and the continuation of those can only have been a good thing for those businesses and those employees.

What is galling at the moment is the complete contrast in approach from those opposite who were so happy to go out and criticise the government at that period of time about the handling of those issues. They were so quick to stand up and stand next to businesses at that period of time who were struggling. As we shift forward two years into the life of the Malinauskas government, we have now entered a point in time when we have hospitality businesses everywhere, across a range of different subsectors, going broke or really struggling.

In *The Advertiser* today, we essentially had a list of the businesses that are either struggling or have gone belly up just since January of this year. It is not just isolated to a single pocket of metropolitan Adelaide. It is not just isolated to Adelaide itself but more broadly across our regions as well. The escalation of costs and the cost-of-living crisis has quite literally provided an environment where businesses are struggling.

I list those businesses that were outlined this morning by *The Advertiser*: the Tuck Shop by Soul Projects in Mount Gambier; the Cheffy Chelbys breakfast bar chain from Morphett Vale and Hallett Cove; Martini on the Parade in Norwood; Terroir Auburn in Auburn in the Clare Valley; Kim Wang supermarket in the Central Market; Hog's Breath Cafe at Glenelg, that has been there certainly for as long as I can remember, gone; Whole+Some, a bulk food store in the Adelaide Central Market gone; a Chatime outlet; and Cardone's seafood and grill, an iconic restaurant in Glenelg that had been operating through thick and thin, through COVID, out the other side, but saw that this current environment that we are in now as being the toughest that they had faced, to the point where they just could not do it anymore.

Also, Hammer 'N' Tongs restaurant out at Strathalbyn, My Lover Cindi in Adelaide, the Little Banksia Tree cafe in Bowden, Enzo's—something of an institution in South Australia—gone from the top of Port Road at Hindmarsh. There is also the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, the Folklore Cafe, Morris Bakery down at Naracoorte, Fancy That—not quite in the hospitality industry per se, but a costume shop down at Christies Beach—and nightclubs. Even in my local patch, we have lost two coffee shops just in the last couple of weeks: CIBO down at Henley Square and Coco Cacao in the Henley strip shops just across the other side of the square have closed in just the last couple of weeks.

These are businesses that are employers of South Australians. They are businesses that give young people their first jobs. These are businesses that are there because, in most circumstances, families have put their capital on the line to try to make a living doing something particularly around the hospitality industry, it can be said, that they love, that they enjoy, and that brings them pleasure by providing food, coffee or other services to their clientele.

If there was one consistent theme through the stories that we saw or even through visiting not too long ago the proprietor at Rusco & Brusco out in the electorate of Norwood, the common theme without a shadow of a doubt was increasing costs. It was increasing costs of electricity and it was the cost-of-living crisis that saw people spending less. We have heard a lot of talk from those opposite about the state of South Australia's economy but, again, there is a clear contrast between what households are feeling, what small businesses are feeling, and what is coming out of the mouths of those opposite.

What is stark to this point is the assistance, or should I say lack of assistance, that this government has given to try to assist these businesses. This is not something that came on overnight. It is something that we have seen, that we knew was coming, the extent of which we are really just starting to learn. If we reflect more broadly on the last budget, there was obviously at that point in time an electricity rebate scheme that was put in place by the government to assist not just households on concession payments but also small businesses, something that we obviously supported and would have liked to have seen go further.

In most circumstances, I think the telling reflection does not come from me in terms of that program but from the head of the South Australian Business Chamber. To paraphrase his reaction now nine months past the implementation of that scheme, the South Australian Business Chamber has effectively called for that concession to be doubled, citing that it did not even touch the sides in regard to the increases that came over the financial year. What we have is a stark contrast without any shadow of a doubt.

Given I have ten minutes to go, perhaps I will shift where I was going to journey and reflect slightly on the current situation of the state budget, particularly in the last couple of years, because I think it is helpful to provide a level of context as to what could have been done.

There were some remarks provided by the Premier today, in fact, that I think underline the situation very well. Again, to quote the media precis from today, the Premier's short quote was that state revenues remain strong. Never have truer words been spoken by the Premier, because the state's revenue has remained very strong. Why is that? There are a couple of pretty easy explanations for that. This is a government that has been one of the luckiest in the history of South Australia. They have effectively come to government at a point in time where they have benefited from significant inflation and significant house price increases.

So all the pain that South Australian households and small businesses have been feeling has been nothing but gain for Premier Peter Malinauskas, the member for Croydon. What he has seen is an uplift in revenue that is stratospheric, to be completely honest. It is not just in one isolated area—it is not just in payroll tax, it is not just in stamp duties and it is not just in GST—it is across the board. There is no easier explanation or way to communicate this to people but to turn it back to the household level. What has everybody been dealing with? The cost of going to pick up simple things like a loaf of bread and a carton of milk has increased by two or three dollars, or maybe more across that period of time if you look at services.

We have just got the inflation rate in South Australia to a point where it is below 4½ per cent for the first time in a 12-month period, just in the March quarter. Prior to that it was at levels that we had not seen for a significant period of time. Payroll tax, for instance, when you compare what the

government expects to take in this financial year versus their first budget, it is \$142 million more. For the next financial year it is \$158 million more. Stamp duties are \$180 million more than what was expected in their first budget for this current financial year and \$162 million more than expected in the next financial year.

If you turn to GST revenue, for a period of time we had the Treasurer on the radio saying, quite literally, 'We've got that much GST coming in to the state that I want you to give me some ideas on how I should spend it.' It is in the order of \$555 million more this financial year than was originally expected in the 2022-23 budget, and it is \$608 million next financial year, with those numbers obviously to be updated in the budget in four to six weeks' time.

But that does tell not the whole story. It was such a wasted opportunity to have revenue increases to the extent that we have had over the past two years: in the order of \$1.6 billion in total revenue more than what was expected in their first budget, and \$2 billion more than what was expected in their first budget for the coming financial year. Instead of finding a way, during this tough time, to provide relief to South Australians and small businesses, what did this government do? It blew its budget across basically every government department last year.

It wasn't just that revenue went up—and mind you let's keep in mind the fact that the government does not get hit in the same way as a small business or a family budget does. The vast majority of government expenses are related to employee expenses, most of which are locked into longer term EB agreements, so we do not have the same up-front hit when inflation rises as the average business or the average household. But what did we see? Significant increases in government expenses, to the point where the overspend was in the order of \$1.3 billion last year.

Instead of preaching restraint, instead of finding a way to release some of those funds to go back into the pockets of South Australian households, to go back into the pockets of South Australian small businesses doing it tough, instead of finding ways to perhaps further incentivise young people buying their first homes or to find ways to incentivise the change of supply around the housing sector in South Australia, instead of doing that, the estimation is that operating expenses across government will be up this year by \$2.3 billion compared with this government's first budget. That is galling and it tells a tale.

It tells the tale of a number of things: a government that have so frequently said one thing but done another; a government that say they are here to be fiscally disciplined, to be sensible in their approach, but the reality is that they have not been able to control spending to this point. That is one of the things that we will be looking at very closely as the budget is handed down in just over a month's time.

The most galling part, as I said, was instead of finding a way to constrain that spend, it was locked into this financial year as the baseline. That overspend is now normal moving forward. We have just hit the state budget with just over \$1½ billion dollars year on year based on the decisions taken by this government in their second budget.

I will move to some work that has been undertaken by the South Australian Business Chamber that was released yesterday, outlining the situation in South Australia around small business. I think a number of the takeaways from this piece of work are quite telling. In a similar vein to what we are hearing from the business community, and what we are hearing from households, the work that has been done by the SA Business Chamber in this latest report really exemplifies the underlying issues that have been identified, the first of which comes to the state's economy.

I do not think that it would surprise anybody to learn that business confidence is in negative territory. I do not think it would surprise anybody to learn that nearly 40 per cent of the respondents to this survey felt that the state's economy was going to get weaker over the upcoming year. That says a lot. Again, nobody is knocking events. We can have LIV Golf and we can have Gather Round. The economic uplift that comes from those events, while largely centred on the CBD, is about two weekends a year, and two weekends a year do not ultimately change the direction or the course of the state's economy.

It also does not change the underlying issues in regard to business conditions in South Australia. That is why the previous government spent so much time focusing our efforts on reducing

the cost environment for South Australian businesses. That is why we highlighted the issues that had been discovered at SA Water where we found that the previous Labor government had essentially been inflating the value of the company's assets to drive water bills in South Australia. That was corrected. There were savings that were handed back to South Australian businesses and households to assist with costs of living.

That is why the government restored the emergency services rebate that gradually, under the former Labor government, increased, increased, increased. That is why the former Marshall government increased the payroll tax threshold to ensure that small businesses were not going to be paying a tax on employing more South Australians. It was lifted from \$600,000 where small businesses, particularly those in the hospitality industry that we have just talked about, were being hit. There was a firm and concerted effort from the former government to improve business conditions and the business environment in South Australia. That is something that we have not seen from those opposite. I will get into that in more detail as I continue my remarks, but for now I seek leave to continue.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

At 17:31 the house adjourned until Thursday 2 May 2024 at 11:00.