

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 29 August 2024

**The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell)** took the chair at 11:00.

**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.

### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: MOUNT GAMBIER AND DISTRICTS HEALTH SERVICE REDEVELOPMENT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:02):** I move:

That the 81<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service Redevelopment, be noted.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing (or SA Health) proposes to significantly expand the service capabilities and capacity of the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service, commonly known as the Mount Gambier hospital, to provide effective care for consumers in the Limestone Coast Local Health Network.

Mount Gambier is South Australia's second largest city. The Mount Gambier hospital delivers health services for the South-East and Limestone Coast region of our state as well as customers living in western Victoria. The hospital currently has 113 multiday beds and provides care to a catchment of over 36,000 people. In 2021-22, the emergency department received over 22,000 presentations. Of these presentations, 20 per cent were admitted, with over 2,300 admitted patients having a length of stay exceeding 24 hours. Furthermore, 650 patients had an average emergency department stay of between four to eight hours.

Endorsed SA Health modelling anticipates that by 2032, presentations will increase to nearly 29,000. Additionally during this time, there were over 1,000 mental health presentations assessed at the hospital, with 278 admitted to the inpatient mental health unit and 103 patients admitted to beds elsewhere within the hospital. This redevelopment project will deliver a new six-bed emergency department short stay unit with potential for future expansion, a six-bed mental health subacute unit and a two-bed drug and alcohol unit.

The new emergency department short stay unit, located adjacent to the existing emergency department, will have six treatment bays—inclusive of one bay that will be able to accommodate mobile bariatric patient lifters—as well as a staff station, amenities and consult room. This will provide short-term care for emergency patients who require observation, specialist assessments and diagnostics and whose length of stay is deemed to be limited—for example, less than 24 hours. This will be supported by two new workstations in the emergency department office.

The new mental health subacute unit will have six beds in a homelike, non-institutional setting, each having its own ensuite. Two bedrooms will focus on more independent facilities, including a kitchenette in the rooms. The new unit will support the therapy program's needs, with a lounge room, kitchen, dining area, activity area, smaller meeting areas and an outdoor courtyard. It will be located next to the existing inpatient mental health unit as a standalone new build with a separate dedicated entrance as well as maintaining direct links to the wider Mount Gambier hospital. Consumers will be free to move through the new unit and wider hospital campus but with no direct linkage or connection to the existing inpatient mental health unit.

The new drug and alcohol unit repurposes two medical ward rooms so that this unit can be accessed directly from the medical ward while still being a separate unit. Both bedrooms will operate

under a closed quarantine model and will provide a medically managed drug and alcohol withdrawal service. This will be targeted at consumers wishing to plan for drug and alcohol withdrawal who require medically managed inpatient services. Like the mental health subacute unit, the drug and alcohol unit will resemble a homelike, non-institutional setting, with each room having its own ensuite as well as a lounge, kitchen and dining area, multipurpose activity room and enclosed courtyard.

The project has a proposed \$20 million budget and forms part of a state government election commitment to expand the Mount Gambier hospital's emergency department. Construction is expected to begin in September of this year, with an expected completion date of November 2025. This redevelopment will provide modern, fit-for-purpose facilities to meet operational needs with modern clinical standards as well as enabling the provision of appropriate levels of care to the surrounding communities.

The entire program of works will deliver 14 additional beds at the hospital and will support improved patient flow and deliver improved patient outcomes. It will allow patients to be reviewed in dedicated areas, freeing up space in the emergency department and improving triage flow whilst also providing safe care of emergency presentations and mental health consumers. It will increase the capacity to provide urgent mental health care in the emergency department and more generally support the projected presentation increases.

The safety of staff, consumers and visitors has been considered across the proposed works, with the design form generally open plan to maximise sightlines throughout. Within the mental health subacute unit, controlled access will be applied to bedroom doors for personal operation, with staff override. Furthermore, staff assist call duress buttons will be provided in both fixed wall and mobile pendants, in review with the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist.

The project will follow the best practice principles for project procurement and management, as advocated by the state government and construction industry authorities. Risk management will form an integral part of this process to identify and assess risk and ensure appropriate management or mitigation measures are incorporated into the project delivery. A key risk is ongoing capital pressures and supply chain delays, alongside continued inflation of prices and general wage increases within the construction sector. Another risk is that the site has possible hazardous materials.

The project team have reviewed site and geotechnical information and will conduct destructive tests and ground boreholes to identify any potential risks. To manage these risks, an integrated management team has been established with executive-level membership from across SA Health, the Limestone Coast Local Health Network, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and the lead professional services contractor. This integrated management team will be supported by a project management group who are responsible for overall day-to-day operational management.

SA Health has incorporated sustainable development principles into the scope of the project. The department notes that facilities with good environmental qualities are essential to achieving a good value-for-money solution that will assist in creating a positive workplace, reducing energy and water consumption, reducing the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources, and minimising recurrent project costs. To help achieve these aspirations, integrated sustainable development measures include:

- the use of energy-efficient heating, cooling and lighting, with increased outdoor air provision and a design that encourages a high level of daylight while mitigating for solar glare;
- a mechanical system designed to deal with increases in adverse weather conditions;
- provisions for full electricity use, including an electric heat pump for water and preparations for future electric vehicle charging;
- a rainwater tank to provide a source of sustainable water for toilet flushing and landscape irrigation; and

- an environmental management plan to effectively manage construction waste, air, water and noise pollution.

Furthermore, incorporated design measures will increase adaptability and allow for changes of use with minimized impacts to ensure the spaces are adaptable and futureproofed.

SA Health states that engagement and consultation has occurred with clinical and non-clinical staff, consumer reference groups and industrial bodies, as well as various units and agencies within SA Health and the Limestone Coast Local Health Network. Throughout the project, the Limestone Coast Local Health Network and the SA Health Media and Communications Unit will manage external communications, media inquiries and press releases. The local community has been consulted through an ongoing two-way process of engagement at various levels, with public notices and key stakeholder group consultation.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service redevelopment project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were: Melissa Nozza, Director, Capital Projects and Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Tjaart Van Der Westhuizen, Principal Project Manager, Limestone Coast Local Health Network; John Harrison, Director, Building Projects, Department for Infrastructure and Transport; and Rachela Snewin, Senior Architect, GHD Design. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: LYNDOCH RECREATION PARK REDEVELOPMENT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:11):** I move:

That the 82<sup>nd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Lyndoch Recreation Park Redevelopment, be noted.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in conjunction with The Barossa Council, proposes to redevelop the Lyndoch Recreation Park to create an iconic regional destination for the AFL Gather Round, as well as for future community and national-level sports and events. This is a \$40.4 million project, with a contribution of \$20 million from the state government.

Following from the success of the 2023 AFL Gather Round, the AFL and the South Australian government came together to plan the future delivery of Gather Round infrastructure in consultation with the SANFL. A review identified an opportunity to establish a venue in the Barossa Valley that would meet the specific requirements of venues hosting AFL competition matches, whilst also maximising tourism and economic benefits in the region.

This coincided with a project by The Barossa Council to develop key infrastructure assets that could support economic, social, community and environmentally sustainable growth in the district. The Lyndoch Recreation Park was selected as a suitable site for this development.

As well as hosting AFL Gather Round fixtures, the Lyndoch Recreation Park will be the preferred location for the long-term future of sporting clubs in the Barossa region and the main hub of the southern Barossa sporting and recreation investment. The redevelopment of the park will include:

- a new multipurpose two-storey building to house sports clubs, with an event space and change rooms;
- redevelopment of the existing main oval to AFL standards;
- a new sporting and recreation green to support growth sports, such as Little Athletics, recreation activities and events;
- a new event pavilion to service and support clubs and events using the main oval;
- new netball courts;

- upgraded and resurfaced tennis courts;
- a new playground and family garden; and
- upgraded lighting, new carparking, landscaping, tree planning and civil works.

The change rooms and clubrooms are intended to be the home of local tennis, football and netball clubs and Little Athletics. These change rooms will conform to regional requirements for sports in carnival mode, that is, allowing multiple ovals and courts to be in full use and provide the required number of change rooms, umpires and other peripheral facilities. These facilities will also meet AFL guidelines.

The upstairs area will be a flexible space for clubrooms, functions, meetings, committee business and potential exercise areas, as well as support spaces, including kitchen, canteen, toilets and storage. This flexible space will have the capacity to allow two or more clubs to use the space independently at the same time.

The facilities will enhance a strong and growing community in the southern Barossa Valley and Barossa districts region. They will cater for cricket, tennis, football and netball clubs in the area, which all have a strong tradition of sporting competition. The facilities can also act as a function space for large-scale events. The venue will be used to bring new events and festivals to a high-profile regional location that is within close proximity to metropolitan Adelaide and will increase awareness of this iconic part of South Australia, bringing visitors to the state.

The precinct will also link with the Lyndoch Village Green to support events and the community in the southern Barossa. Upgrades to the Village Green, such as the development of necessary power, lighting and other minor infrastructure, are earmarked for further investment in order to support future events in the space. Project works have commenced and the project is expected to be completed in March 2025 in time for the AFL Gather Round.

This project will bring a range of economic, social and environmental benefits. A venue of this scale at Lyndoch has the potential to further contribute to the Barossa as a tourist destination, offering the means for both large-scale signature and smaller-scale community events. The South Australian Tourism Commission will work with operators to develop exceptional products and experiences to drive visitors to the venue and the region.

The venue will bring social benefits to the community, such as an increased sense of civic pride and social capital through hosting premium events like the AFL Gather Round. Greater diversity and inclusion will be fostered through improved access to sporting opportunities, services and activities. Community programs will be established for all age groups and skill levels, such as youth leagues, senior fitness classes and family-oriented activities, which will help to promote widespread participation. The facilities will also be designed to accommodate people with disabilities, making the centre welcoming to all members of the community. Furthermore, the redevelopment will encourage people to be more active, resulting in better community health outcomes.

The park and green spaces at the venue will contribute to environmental sustainability by providing natural habitats to promote biodiversity and help with carbon sequestration. The department notes that well-maintained recreational areas can contribute to a healthier and more sustainable environment for the entire community. The project will involve several sustainable features as assessed by the Department for Environment and Water, including:

- the orientation of the building mass and glass, as well as openings of windows and doors, to reduce heat loads during peak sun periods, which will enable thermal stability and reduce dependence on artificial heating and cooling;
- the orientation and positioning of glass to reduce dependence on artificial lighting;
- the reduction of the energy footprint of the site through no offsite cartage of soil and the use of recycled content and materials with low embodied energy and high insulating qualities;

- the use of reclaimed water for oval irrigation which is reharvested through an onsite wetland claims area that can also act as both a green recycle facility and wetland area for birdlife; and
- the use of high-efficiency heat pumps with no provision for gas on site.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has engaged with the AFL in terms of confirming the suitability of the redeveloped venue for AFL matches. Initial consultation and engagement by The Barossa Council began in 2016, and the council has recently re-engaged with existing park stakeholders such as sporting clubs, Little Athletics and the Southern Barossa Alliance to further refine the planning process. Consultation has indicated universal support for the redevelopment.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Lyndoch Recreation Park redevelopment project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Wayne Hunter, Chief Operating Officer and Steering Committee Chair, Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and Robert Lustri, Director, Major Projects, Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: VICTOR HARBOR ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS— HINDMARSH TIERS ROAD AND VIRGIN ROAD INTERSECTION UPGRADE**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:18):** I move:

That the 83<sup>rd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Victor Harbor Road Safety Improvements—Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Virgin Road Intersection Upgrade, be noted.

This project is part of a broader strategy to increase road safety along Victor Harbor Road between Willunga Hill and Victor Harbor and will result in improved road safety at the intersection of Victor Harbor Road with Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Virgin Road.

In pursuit of the National Road Safety Strategy's target for an over 30 per cent reduction in serious injuries and a 50 per cent reduction in fatalities on South Australian roads, the Australian and South Australian governments have partnered to commit \$15 million to this particular section of road on an 80:20 basis through the Fleurieu Connections project.

I do not need to tell you, Mr Speaker, but the Victor Harbor Road is a main road that runs from Main South Road in Old Noarlunga through the McLaren Vale region and Mount Compass, ending in Victor Harbor on the Fleurieu Peninsula. In recent decades, traffic on the road has grown steadily, due to a rising population and increased tourism in the region, and the road has earned notoriety for being particularly dangerous.

The intersection in question interrupts a 29-kilometre high-speed section between Willunga Hill and Victor Harbor, requiring traffic turning off the road to slow or stop in the path of high-speed traffic following behind. This can leave motorists, often local residents, essentially parked in the road hoping that the drivers approaching from behind are paying attention. It is a risk that is only exacerbated by the high volume of commercial and tourism traffic not intimately familiar with this stretch of road. The public works submission to upgrade the intersection with Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Virgin Road will ensure safer travel for both local and visiting motorists, as well as provide unobstructed journeys between Willunga Hill and Victor Harbor.

The intersection has an annual average daily traffic count of over 8,000 vehicles, of which 9 per cent are classed as heavy commercial vehicles. Between 2018 and 2022, there were 14 reported accidents at the intersection, sadly, including one fatality and two serious injuries. By introducing dedicated right-turning lanes, adjusting road levels, and installing new lighting, the proposed works will help prevent future rear-end and right-angle collisions.

The intersection upgrades will widen the road to accommodate two separate dedicated right-turn lanes off Victor Harbor Road onto Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Virgin Road respectively;

adjust road levels to improve sightlines for drivers entering Victor Harbor Road from Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Virgin Road; include new and upgraded lighting to increase visibility at night; and provide new and upgraded road pavement, road surfacing and line marking. The works will also include drainage upgrades, vegetation removal, and the relocation of Telstra, SA Water and SA Power Networks services.

As it stands, the sightlines at the intersection are obscured by a significant crest, and the works will re-profile approximately 350 metres of road to improve visibility for all drivers approaching or entering the intersection. The design of the new road surface has considered the unique needs of heavy vehicles when stopping and turning, and new drainage infrastructure, including side entry pits and stormwater culverts, will help manage stormwater flow.

The road upgrade will cost \$10.5 million drawn from the jointly-funded Fleurieu Connections project and will require the Commissioner of Highways to assume management of a portion of Virgin Road from the City of Victor Harbor. Construction is expected to begin in the last quarter of this year, with the intersection open to regular traffic in July 2025. The works are expected to create approximately 40 full-time equivalent jobs over the life of the project.

Inevitably, the works will cause some inconvenience and interruption to neighbouring properties, as well as to regular users of the road. A community and stakeholder plan has been developed to identify issues of concern and to develop appropriate communication strategies, including media releases, phone, website, newsletters and meetings. The department will also work with the local council to implement measures to reduce impacts on motorists and local traffic to minimise traffic delays.

Service authorities have been engaged early, as commencement of the works is dependent upon the completion of SA Water relocations. The department states that these relocation works should not cause any major outages, and they will work with local residents to ensure as little inconvenience as possible.

A sustainable development report has been prepared that provides a summary of these key aspects relating to the project, including the minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions and resource use over the duration of the works. The report also includes climate change considerations such as the risks of increased temperatures and flooding.

An impact assessment has investigated key environmental and heritage aspects of the project such as vegetation, fauna, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage, water quality, noise and vibration, air quality, and contamination. The project will require the clearance of some amenity and native vegetation, which will be minimalised through design. Where removal is unavoidable, approvals will be sought through the Native Vegetation Act.

The project area is within a native title claim, but it has been determined that native title does not exist over the project area. The Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects determined the nearest registered site to be located approximately one kilometre from the project area and consists of culturally modified trees. The detailed design development will endeavour to avoid damage, disturbance and interference to the known Aboriginal sites, objects and remains. Where this is not possible, appropriate legislation approval will be obtained. There will be no direct impact on commonwealth, state or local heritage-listed places.

A communication and stakeholder management plan has provided an overview of necessary stakeholder consultation, including the City of Victor Harbor, local members of parliament, government departments and agencies, the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and surrounding residents and businesses. The project will continue to communicate with stakeholders, identifying potential issues and manage them appropriately. Ongoing consultation with adjacent landowners will minimise and mitigate construction impacts where possible.

The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Victor Harbor Road Safety Improvements—Hindmarsh Tiers Road and Virgin Road Intersection Upgrade Project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Andrew Excell, the Executive Director, Transport, Strategy and Planning, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and Michael Rander, Delivery Manager, Department for Infrastructure and Transport. I thank the witnesses for their time.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the member for Finniss for his statement to the committee in support of the project in his electorate.

Based upon the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (11:26):** It is certainly a very important project. The fixing of this intersection is really an important safety issue on the Victor Harbor Road. As has been pointed out, there have been many injuries, accidents and fatalities occur, sadly, at this intersection over time. I am very appreciative of the previous minister, Corey Wingard, for actually getting this on the agenda of works that needed to be done. It certainly was a community-led process. The Jolley family, in particular, who adjoin that intersection with their dairy farm and use that intersection many times a day, have feared for their safety every time they make a turn going into Virgin Road off Victor Harbor Road, fearing they will be hit from behind or cars coming over the hill from the Adelaide direction causing significant injuries. It is so important that this intersection is upgraded.

Pleasingly, I can report that some works have actually already started. We have seen SA Power Networks move a Stobie pole as the first stage of those works. So there is definitely work underway at the location—not significant works yet, but it is going to be a fairly disruptive piece of work going into Victor Harbor, particularly in the lead-up to the summer period. It is going to make it a bit more complicated for people getting into town, but the good thing around that is some of the other works that are currently going on.

I have been informed that works on Waterport Road, which is currently under closures during weekdays for works by SA Water, will hopefully conclude next Friday. So that will allow traffic movements to move elsewhere and hopefully give this area better access for the work that needs to go on. It is a really important piece of work. It is important that it gets done.

Victor Harbor Road is one of those challenging roads. It has large traffic volumes at normal times and very large traffic volumes over the summer period. People get frustrated and make mistakes in their choices and sometimes it leads to really bad outcomes. Hopefully, the work that is being proposed will actually lead to a much safer outcome for the people of South Australia and particularly the community of Victor Harbor and the seat of Finniss.

**The SPEAKER:** Before we go to the member for Florey, I would quickly like to just add the support of the community that I represent. It is a very important upgrade. There is a lot of flow between the people of Willunga, McLaren Vale and other parts of the electorate of Mawson, particularly in football season, with people going backwards and forwards between the two localities. It is very much welcomed by the people of Mawson.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:29):** I take this opportunity to thank the member for Finniss not only for his contribution to the debate today but also for expressing his support for the project when the committee was considering it. I also thank you for your kind words, Mr Speaker, and I make the point that I know you have always been a passionate advocate for road safety on this particular road.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: MOUNT GAMBIER TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:30):** I move:

That the 84<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Mount Gambier Technical College, be noted.

Forming part of the state government's election commitment to establish five new technical colleges by 2026, the Department for Education proposes to build a \$38.5 million technical college on the site of an existing TAFE SA campus in Mount Gambier. Technical colleges provide a pipeline of skilled workers for entry-level jobs in key high-demand industries. They will transform and modernise senior secondary education, delivering practical-based learning programs in literacy, numeracy and technical skills.

Catering for year 10 to 12 students, the colleges will run in conjunction with nearby high schools, allowing students to complete their SACE while obtaining trade qualifications. The colleges

will develop each student a transition plan, guiding them into entry-level employment, apprenticeships and traineeships or other pathways through further or higher education. As a regional institution, the Mount Gambier Technical College will offer industry-focused training that complements existing learning programs and pathways across the Limestone Coast region.

The new facility will offer vocational programs for 100 full-time students at any one time, with 200 equivalent enrolments over the whole year. Following the regional model, exactly the same as the Port Augusta Technical College location, students will come in for week-long blocks, cycling between the three year levels and then repeating.

The college will be built on Wireless Road along the edge of the existing TAFE campus, its aspect overlooking the Mount Gambier community, and provides exciting opportunities through its proximity to the existing education precinct. Working with TAFE administration, the department has ensured that the college students will have access to existing facilities on the campus and that the new construction does not replicate unnecessarily, instead deploying those resources elsewhere.

With this factor in mind, the new facilities in the technical college will include a careers hub, dynamic learning areas for larger groups, small think tank spaces for small group learning, a virtual reality igloo, a computer lab, interconnected workshops, a virtual welding area, an outdoor service yard, and breakout and pop-up spaces. Offering specialist training in agritech, building and construction, early childhood and education, and health and social support, the college will provide a modern educational environment that meets legislative compliance requirements for students undertaking vocational education and project-based curriculum activities.

Similar to the Port Augusta Technical College, the Mount Gambier location will also include short-term accommodation to cater for students who are not able to commute daily. The site is currently occupied by a car park that will require demolition before construction proceeds. A new car park will be built at the rear of the campus to replace the lost car spaces but also to accommodate the needs of the new campus.

The project will deliver a state-of-the-art building, serving as a new hub within the existing education precinct. The raked two-storey design of the structure is in harmony with the existing campus and maintains views of TAFE SA, while maximising natural light in the different learning, administrative and relaxation spaces, without compromising privacy in the accommodation wing. The design is inspired by the Limestone Coast region itself, with its colours drawn from the red ochre mined in the region and the azure shades of the Blue Lake. The choice of locally sourced limestone and cross-laminated timber also has the secondary benefit of producing a smaller carbon footprint.

Construction of the project proposes a single stage for the earthworks, construction and associated works commencing in September this year, with expected completion by the end of January 2026, in time for commencement of first-term classes. Early works will include construction of the new car park in time for the demolition of the existing car park upon which the technical college will be built. With the new car park open and the ring route for the campus operational, there will be little inconvenience for TAFE SA staff and students during the construction process.

There will be some inevitable noise disturbance on campus during construction, and project management will work with TAFE administration to minimise this where possible. Additionally, there may be some minor inconvenience for residents to the west and south of the site, and project management will continue to consult as necessary. The project will follow best practice principles for project procurement and management, with the lead professional services contractor and cost manager ensuring high-quality outcomes in design and function within time and budget.

An assessment has indicated the project is within a medium range of risk, notably including its regional nature, as well as the pressure of a fast-tracked design and construction. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport is providing full project risk management services in design, project management, cost, procurement and construction to prevent or mitigate any potential complications.

One of the key aims outlined for the project is to follow government sustainability initiatives that drive improved environmental outcomes, with a focus on water and energy conservation. To this end a consultant has been engaged to advise on sustainability requirements and to create ecological specifications as part of the tender document. The consultant will develop a sustainability checklist



to ensure strong outcomes are considered during both long-term design, as well as throughout the construction process. Energy initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas consumption include:

- an all electric building functionality, including energy efficient lighting and solar power maximisation;
- that any gas requirements are from bottled only; and
- the architectural leveraging of shade, natural heat production and natural ventilation.

Water use will be minimised through high efficiency rated water fixtures and the use of drought-tolerant plants when landscaping.

Rainwater tanks and the re-use of stormwater will be considered during the detailed phase of design. Sustainable development initiatives will develop throughout the life of the project, with continuing consultation with relevant stakeholders. The SA Heritage Places database confirms there are no state or local heritage places or contributory heritage items on the site, and the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects indicates no entries for Aboriginal sites within the area. The commonwealth Native Title Act confirms that native title has been extinguished on this site.

The department confirms that local education directors have been kept informed of the development plans and scope of the works. Careful consultation and communication with relevant stakeholders has ensured that their needs are met throughout the life of the project. This includes TAFE SA and the University of South Australia, which share the existing campus.

Broader consultation with schools around the region will determine access, operating arrangements and other considerations. The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to construction at the Mount Gambier Technical College. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were: Wayne Dixon, the Assistant Director, Technical Services, Department for Education; and John Held, the Director, Russell and Yelland Architects. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: LAKE HAWDON NORTH REGULATOR ON-GROUND WORKS PROJECT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:38):** I move:

That the 85<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, titled Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program—Lake Hawdon North Regulator On-Ground Works Project, be noted.

The submission from the Department for Environment and Water, hereon referred to as 'the department', will make improvements to the wetlands at Lake Hawdon North to increase the habitat for key species of migratory and resident Australian non-migratory shorebirds. This project is part of the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program and aims to benefit Coorong water birds by increasing their preferred foraging habitat and supporting natural dispersal and rain shifts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Coorong is a wetland of international importance, recognised by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as well as by a number of international migratory bird agreements. Its complex mix of diverse freshwater and hypersaline wetlands is perfect for supporting a diverse and abundant waterbird community. The wetlands have seen a prolonged period of ecological decline, causing a noticeably diminished number of waterbirds, migratory shorebirds and fairy terns. Feasibility studies by the department are optimistic that the proposed regulator can help maintain the ecological health of the wetland and extend habitat availability while long-term management solutions for the Coorong are investigated. The improvements at Lake Hawdon North aim to improve issues of ecological decline by:

- increasing the water management capability of the wetland through the construction of the wetland regulator, a fish ladder channel and a secondary regulator and bund;
- increasing duration of watering at the site to maximise opportunities for shorebird foraging; and
- improving access to the site by upgrading necessary segments where service vehicle access is impeded. This will also aid and facilitate monitoring, improving maintenance and increasing site visitation.

These improvements will increase the department's capabilities to prepare and react to different environmental scenarios as well as increase the greater management area. The at-risk bird species prefer waters less than 10 centimetres deep, and these improvements will allow management of water heights and volumes to accommodate these needs. The improvements will also create and manage refuge areas to improve foraging conditions, increasing the wetland's potential to support over 25,000 waterbirds.

The project will build a regulator, a small dam-like structure, that will control the flow of man-made Drain L, which bisects the western edge of Lake Hawdon North. The construction will include a fishway that will bypass the structure and allow fish to circumvent the regulator. These works will include:

- earthworks within Drain L to create the necessary base width and invert level to accommodate the regulator;
- trimming of batters for more stable earth elevation changes;
- rock armouring of the drain base and batters, both upstream and downstream of the regulator;
- earthworks to either side of the construction area to allow access to the top of the regulator;
- the construction of a five-metre wide crushed rock track to facilitate construction, operation and maintenance of the regulator;
- a solar power supply and control system for the automated operation of the flow gates;
- a raised access track along the edge of the fishway to enable operations, maintenance and the movement of nearby stock;
- new fencing and gates around a stock access track as well as along the drainage reserve boundary; and
- relocation of an existing permanent survey marker.

The estimated construction cost of the project is \$8.8 million and is funded on a 90 per cent Australian government and 10 per cent state government breakdown. To minimise risks presented by weather delays and high water levels, construction is planned over the summer months, commencing in November this year, and is expected to take place over a six-month period. There is the option for additional works the following summer, if necessary. If these additional works are required, completion is expected by March 2026.

The department will seek approval from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to self-manage construction under its oversight. Tonkin Engineering has been appointed as the lead professional services contractor and will be responsible for managing site investigation works, progressing the concept and finalising detailed designs. The delivery of the project will be through a construct-only contract to be appointed by tender, and Tonkin will continue in an advisory role to review designs, give technical advice and provide input during the construction phase.

All procurement will be managed in accordance with the state government's procurement management framework, governed under the existing Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin governance framework, and will comply with associated guidelines. Contract management will be undertaken in accordance with the department's contract management procedures.

The project is expected to benefit the local economy and the community in the South-East. Local business will be boosted in the short to medium term through capital investment during construction, operations, maintenance and labour contracts as well as through the purchase of equipment, materials and construction.

Increased tourism may also benefit the community through an increased demand for goods and services. The project also has the potential to support local First Nations communities via direct and flow-on benefits. A considered focus on environmental, economic and social outcomes associated with wetland improvements could sustain these economic and community benefits for decades to come.

The department has compiled a sustainable development report outlining the project's sustainability principles and objectives. Throughout the planning and design process, several environmental assessments were undertaken to identify and understand potential project issues and impacts, especially in relation to vegetation, fauna, Aboriginal heritage, site contamination, groundwater, water quality, erosion and sedimentation. The Climate Change Unit of the department has been consulted to ensure delivery of the project is in accordance with relevant policies and guidelines.

Lake Hawdon North is subject to the First Nations of the South-East No. 1 title claim area, and the department has engaged with First Nations of the South-East representatives during key steps of the project. This has included through concept development, detailed design development and cultural heritage surveys. The department notes more cultural heritage surveys may be required before construction.

Native title holders have identified that the area has significant cultural and ecological value and have expressed support for interventions which have minimal ground disturbance activities and will improve the health of First Nations of the South-East country. No Australian government or state heritage places are located within or adjacent to Lake Hawdon North.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program Lake Hawdon North regulator on-ground works. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Lisa Stribley, Acting Director, Water Infrastructure and Operations, Department for Environment and Water, and Sarah Murphy, Manager, Program Delivery, Department for Environment and Water. I thank the witnesses for their time. I would also like to thank the member for MacKillop, who presented rather fulsomely to the committee regarding this project in his electorate.

Based upon the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (11:46):** It gives me great pleasure just to make a comment on this project reported on by the Public Works Committee and to thank the Chair and the committee, obviously, for considering and supporting these works. As I indicated in my submission, in regard to this development—and I think it is about a \$13 million or \$14 million proposal—it has some really good environmental outcomes around birdlife, preserving a wetland and keeping it wetter for longer through the drying months of spring; it probably will not reach summer, but it may.

I did raise with the committee that this sort of infrastructure is going in a lake that is part of a main drainage system of the Limestone Coast and particularly, in an area surrounding and east of Robe, that is a very flat, wet land type and country. It does not take much interference in this waterway that not only is a natural lake system but also is part of South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board developments, drains and the like that help take the water out of the countryside so that pursuits of agriculture can take place.

We have already seen the department around 10 years ago put in a temporary weir between Lake Hawdon South and Lake Hawdon North just to hold some water up in Lake Hawdon South in the latter part of winter/early spring. Given the nature of that year, unlike this one, being much drier, it had a major effect on landowners around Lake Hawdon South and flooded them out, and they lost

pastures and crops. No-one knew why, because this temporary weir did not have a lot of community consultation or public notification around it.

It was not until they saw the temporary weir that had been put in place—I think they were cement bags put across a channel between Lake Hawdon south and north. It was only about 300 millimetres high or something like that—it was not that high—but the effect was quite astronomical in a wet year because we are talking about falls that are not much in the landscape. I really did highlight this in my submission to the Public Works Committee—that the rain, the water flow, land levels and its flatness do not take a lot of interference.

I am hoping the fact that I am hearing about solar developments and I think solar on this weir tells me it is going to be probably, hopefully, operated from afar. It means hopefully they can monitor this weir in a way where they do not have to always be there and can potentially monitor any sort of flooding that might take place if we have, as we no doubt will, wet springs. As has been alluded to, it is about keeping more water in Lake Hawdon during the spring for fauna and particularly birdlife.

The other thing to note here is that where this weir is going is in a drain that leaves Lake Hawdon North and goes towards Robe and what they call the Robe Outlet. That Robe Outlet is fairly clear and tidal. One of the freshwater lakes on the southern side of Robe is one of the most pristine freshwater lakes in the South-East. It is well and truly supplied well by the drain that comes out of Lake Hawdon through this first freshwater lake and it is known as a bream lake and it has a name that is not with me at the moment.

Between that freshwater lake and back towards Lake Hawdon, the drain is full of reeds, tea tree and silt. What gets lost here is that the drainage board with its small budget and constraints has not been able to clean the drain and maintain the drainage system all that well over the last 10, 20, 30 or 40 years. It is in dire need of extra funding and it has not been forthcoming yet.

My concern is that when the department rolls out this restrictor/weir it might have the effect of holding back too much water which could inundate land and agricultural pursuits, because when they need to let the water go and do so in wet springs, the water does not move fast enough back out through to Robe because the drain is silted up with trees, reeds and other debris. In my understanding, it has not been cleaned for about 30 or 40 years.

I say this because I like the intent of this development and what it is trying to stand for: birdlife in a lake system. Believe it or not, this lake is a lot like another lake called Lake Robe. Lake Robe is basically a salt pan. It has some birdlife on it during the winter when there is water there, but during summer it dries up and it is basically a white landscape because of the salt on the surface.

Lake Hawdon is not like that anymore and the reason it is not like that is because the number of drains that flow into Lake Hawdon feeding Lake Hawdon have flushed the salts out and now we are seeing vegetation, trees, reeds, cover for birdlife and the like. It is almost as if it has been freshened up by man-made interference of, firstly, water allowed to flow in from a number of drains—and I could say four or five—and, secondly, there is an exit out of Lake Hawdon North into Robe and then into the sea. This has actually had a dramatic effect on Lake Hawdon in that it does not even look like what it looked like 100 years ago.

Sometimes man can interfere with these native wetlands and the like and everyone thinks of damage and disaster and it is worse, but this is not the case. This is actually better; it looks better; it is harbouring more life; it is harbouring more cover; and it is more vegetative. Obviously, now there are bird species coming into Lake Hawdon that can be helped in their journey in life and breeding and Lake Hawdon can play a part and maybe this restrictor and development will also play a part in that.

Really all I am doing, as I did with my submission, is to highlight that we are putting a restrictor/regulator in this drainage system and we need to be cautious, careful and make sure that it works for all the right reasons. I thank the committee and the member for Florey, as the Chair, and all that he does on that committee, and for allowing me to make my submission.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:53):** I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the member for MacKillop not only for his contribution to the debate today but also, as I said earlier, for his most fulsome presentation to the Public Works Committee. We saw photographs of the member for

MacKillop's family using the area, we saw maps that the member for MacKillop had prepared and I must say that the committee was a lot better informed about the operation of drains in the South-East after the member for MacKillop's presentation than we were before. I thank the member for MacKillop for his presentation to the committee and also for his contribution today.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: REBUILT GAWLER AMBULANCE STATION**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:54):** I move:

That the 86<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Rebuilt Gawler Ambulance Station, be noted.

The submission from the Department for Health and Wellbeing, referred to as SA Health, will significantly expand the service capabilities and emergency response efficiency of the South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS). This project will deliver a brand new facility, enabling SAAS to expand and better accommodate the existing emergency response crews that service Gawler and the surrounding areas.

This new station is part of the state government's broader 2022 election commitment to improve ambulance infrastructure. To achieve this goal, SAAS has developed an operational growth plan, which details how the full package of state government investment in infrastructure, vehicles and staffing will be delivered. The plan will improve ambulance cover and response times in both metropolitan and regional areas by delivering four new and four rebuilt ambulance stations, as well as 10 upgraded ambulance stations. Additionally, the purchase of 36 new vehicles, recruitment of 350 additional staff and a new SAAS precinct including an emergency operations centre and state health coordination centre will help achieve this goal.

The proposed \$8 million rebuilt Gawler Ambulance Station project will be funded from the broader \$70 million capital works program. SAAS operates 119 ambulance stations across South Australia, including the MedSTAR emergency retrieval service at Adelaide Airport. The service is staffed by a mixture of career and volunteer ambulance officers, who are deployed using a variety of vehicles, including regular ambulances, troop carrier ambulances, light fleet vehicles, twin carriers, trucks and bicycles. SAAS has identified an increasing demand for its services in the Gawler community and surrounding areas, including the Lower Light and Barossa Valley regions. The new station will provide alignment to its strategic plan by strengthening primary health care and enhancing hospital care, ensuring improved emergency preparedness and response capacity.

Once SA Health identified the growing needs in the region, the department was faced with two potential options: upgrade the existing station or build a new station. An investigation into the benefits of upgrading the existing station revealed limitations: the site is landlocked, the site's ownership could prove complicated and the existing buildings are antiquated and difficult to upgrade. It would also render the station inoperable during its renovation, adding pressure to the existing ambulance network. The construction of a new station, on the other hand, will create a modern, fit-for-purpose facility designed to meet current needs without interrupting present operations.

The current Gawler Ambulance Station is colocated with St John Ambulance in a building co-owned by the Gawler council. St John's currently holds the lease and uses the site for volunteer training, storing equipment and for vehicle garaging. This leaves room for only two SAAS ambulances. The current station has also exceeded its functional life span, fails to meet most basic national safety and quality health standards and is unable to be adequately upgraded for the growing needs of the community.

The new site at Lot 51, 113 Main North Road, Willaston, provides space to build a station that houses five ambulance bays, with two external parks for light fleet vehicles. It will also accommodate an additional 12 paramedics and six regional medical transfer service crew members. These upgrades will provide patient-centred emergency care designed around community needs. The facility will include:

- a main garage for five ambulances, with supporting storerooms, dirty utility, linen storage and drugstore;
- two undercover external car parks for light fleet vehicles;

- office space with supporting equipment;
- a training room, meeting room and study spaces;
- a kitchen and dining space;
- crew rest rooms;
- ancillary accommodations, including communications, toilets, change room facilities and circulation spaces;
- personal staff break rooms;
- 28 staff and visitor parking spaces;
- bicycle parking; and
- an external courtyard and landscaping.

With practical completion anticipated in mid-2025, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) is engaging the construction contractor using established procurement, evaluation and contracting processes and has prepared a tailored Contractor Procurement Plan reflecting the project's complexity, importance and staging.

Following completion of the detailed design, there will be a tender for a general building contractor. The project team are managing project risk, and DIT will undertake its mandated risk management approach for the project. Considerations include ongoing capital pressures and supply chain delays, market capacity issues and continued rates of cost escalation in the construction market. The site is newly procured and geotechnical review is ongoing to ensure any existing problems are removed or mitigated. The project team recognises the importance and benefits of incorporating sustainable development principles into the design, construction and operation of the ambulance station.

SA Health recognises that providing a facility with good environmental qualities will provide a positive environment and workplace for staff and users, support improved wellbeing, and assist in managing behaviours. These principles will be incorporated into the project during all phases of the project lifecycle, and will result in the reduction of energy and water consumption as well as waste materials.

Design measures have been incorporated to support increased adaptability with minimal impact. These include provisions for future electric vehicle charging stations, options for full or partial solar output, and highly accessible and flexible spaces that can incorporate changing technology as well as mechanical system designs for potential adverse weather conditions.

Debate adjourned.

### *Bills*

## **MOTOR VEHICLES (MOTOR DRIVING INSTRUCTORS AND AUTHORISED EXAMINERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:00):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Motor Vehicles Act 1959. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:01):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

### Leave granted.

I rise to introduce the Motor Vehicles (Motor Driving Instructors and Authorised Examiners) Bill 2024. The Bill amends the *Motor Vehicles Act 1959* (the Act) to enable the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to strengthen regulation of the driver training industry to mitigate corruption, misconduct, poor and predatory behaviour and raise the standard of driver training and assessment.

The role played by the driver training industry supports the Graduated Licensing Scheme for drivers and is pivotal to the success and credibility of the driver licensing system in South Australia. Poor overall standards of driver training and examination creates a risk of people who have not been properly trained to drive being issued with a licence, which places the driver and other road users at risk of being seriously injured or losing their life. It also undermines public confidence in the Government's administration of the driver licensing system.

Research shows that young drivers are more likely to crash in their first 12 months of holding a provisional licence, when the driver is least experienced and driving unsupervised. People aged 16 to 24 years made up 11% of the population but accounted for 19% of all lives lost and 19% of all serious injuries in South Australia during the 2019 to 2023 five-year period.

While it takes time for learner drivers to fully develop the necessary cognitive competency, hazard perception skills and maturity to drive safely, driver training, and subsequent testing, ensures that a person has achieved the required level of competence before being allowed to drive unsupervised, and is therefore an important and critical component of the Graduated Licensing Scheme.

Keeping young people safe from harm and to provide them the opportunity to learn and develop skills to prepare them for driving unsupervised safely is a critical objective of the reforms.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles (the Registrar) is responsible for the oversight of Motor Driving Instructors and Authorised Examiners who are authorised to provide driver training and driver assessments in South Australia. Motor Driving Instructors are licensed by the Registrar under the Act to provide driver training for fee or reward. Authorised Examiners are Motor Driving Instructors who have been appointed by the Registrar to conduct practical driving tests and issue certificates of competency that the Registrar accepts for the issue of a driver's licence.

Significant reform of the South Australian driver training and assessment industry is required. This has been confirmed by both a review and public and industry consultation processes undertaken by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the volume of convictions and administrative sanctions imposed on industry members over the past eight years.

The need for reform is further supported by the findings in a report from the Independent Commission Against Corruption's (ICAC) investigation into forty complaints and reports received by the Office for Public Integrity in relation to the conduct of Authorised Examiners.

The ICAC report, tabled in this Parliament on 17 May 2022, found that bribery is a problem within the driver training industry in South Australia, that there has been a pattern of wrongdoing by some Authorised Examiners appointed by the Registrar, and that controls in place, that are legally available to the Department to prevent corruption in the driver licensing industry are less than adequate.

Since 2017, 12 Authorised Examiners and/or Motor Driving Instructors have been charged and convicted by the courts, often on multiple counts of charges such as sexual assault offences, bribery, fraud and corruption offences.

As of 22 August 2024, over the past eight years a total of 137 disciplinary actions have been undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) involving 125 driver training industry members. This equates to over a fifth of the industry (22.4%). The reasons for disciplinary action include serious or multiple occurrences of poor standards, poor business practices, sexual misconduct, inappropriate behaviour and conviction of criminal offences.

113 disciplinary actions have been taken by the Registrar against Authorised Examiners. Such action has included formal warning, imposition of conditions, suspension of appointment or revocation of appointment.

Further, over the same period 6 Authorised Examiners have been charged and convicted by the Courts, often on multiple counts of charges such as sexually-based offences or abuse of public office, corruption and bribery related offences.

Over the past 8 years the Registrar of Motor Vehicles has taken 24 disciplinary actions against Motor Driving Instructors. Such action has included formal warnings, suspension of licence, imposition of conditions, cancellation of licence and refuse to issue licence.

Again, over the same period, 6 MDIs have been charged and convicted by the Courts, often for multiple offences.

34 drivers have also been convicted of offences such as dishonest dealings with documents, deception and bribes.

The Department continues to receive and investigate complaints from members of the public. In the last 12 months, the Department's Investigations Team commenced 32 investigations into the conduct and business

practices of Authorised Examiners and Motor Driving Instructors, which have resulted in three (3) warning notices being issued and three (3) letters of advice relative to business practices and conduct. Two matters were referred to the Office for Public Integrity.

There are 8 ongoing investigations pertaining to 7 Authorised Examiners and 1 Motor Driving Instructor relating to poor business practices, and incidents involving inappropriate behaviour and unprofessional conduct.

The Department has also seen a significant increase in complaints related to unlicensed Motor Driving Instructors. A total of 20 investigations have commenced in the last 12 months, with 9 currently under investigation for suspected offences against the Motor Vehicles Act.

In June of this year a former Authorised Examiner whose appointment was revoked by the Department some years ago was arrested for deception for taking payment for lessons. This matter is before the courts.

Another former Motor Driving Instructor whose licence had been revoked by the Department was prosecuted for acting as an unlicensed Motor Driving Instructor and received a good behaviour bond.

There is often a power imbalance between the driver trainer and the learner driver, who is often a young person or a recent immigrant. This can lead to a reluctance to report inappropriate behaviour and business practices.

In light of these issues the Government has made the decision to resume the delivery of practical driving tests for the issue of all class C (car) licences. Driver training for class C (car) licences and training and assessment for heavy vehicle licensing will remain with the private sector supported by a suite of reforms to strengthen regulation.

The legislative reforms captured in the Bill to increase the transparency, accountability and standards of driver training industry members and reduce misconduct and corruption include:

- Higher standards to enter and remain in the industry including:
  - A requirement for an applicant to be a fit and proper person (which includes reference to the applicant's ability to obtain a working with children check).
  - Medical fitness to act as motor driving instructor.
  - Enhanced driving and theory assessment criteria, requiring demonstration of practical driving skills to learner driver standard and teaching skills.
- Mandatory cameras and GPS installed in all driver training vehicles to record all driver training.
- Creation of an online register of all private industry members to enable the community to make an informed decision as to the best provider for their needs and to verify that they are licensed. This online register will contain details of the member's Motor Driving Instructor Licence conditions and whether any disciplinary action has been taken against that person under the Act.
- Any fees obtained by a person acting as a motor driving instructor or authorised Examiner can be recovered from that person as a debt, if they do not hold a motor driving instructor licence or appointment as an authorised examiner.
- A requirement for a Motor Driving Instructor and a heavy vehicle authorised examiner to provide a written contract to proposed consumers for the provision of driver training services which contains information about fees, services, payment methods, receipts, refund policies and cancellation terms, to enable consumers to compare services and make informed decisions.
- A Code of Conduct that outlines behavioural expectations for Motor Driving Instructors.
- A requirement that Motor Driving Instructors and Authorised Examiners allow an audit of their activities under the Act to be conducted.
- Greater sanctioning authority and options for the Registrar, such as suspension or cancellation and the creation of new offences that will be capable of expiation.
- The ability to implement mandatory driver training and test vehicle requirements such as dual brakes, Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) 5-star rating and age limit for light vehicles.
- A requirement for a Motor Driving Instructor to immediately produce their Motor Driving Instructor Licence when requested to do so by a Police Officer, Authorised Officer or a person to whom motor driving instructor services are being provided.
- A suite of Authorised Officer powers appropriate to the functions and responsibilities of the Registrar, both in respect of the driver training industry and the Registrar's functions under the Act.

The proposed powers for Authorised Officers contained in the Bill are largely consistent with the Authorised Officer powers that currently exist within the *Road Traffic Act 1961*, with one exception. An additional power to require a person to produce information in an understandable form from an electronic device such as a computer, mobile



phone or tablet has been included in the Bill. This is because evidence required to prove an offence may not be able to be obtained if access to a device cannot be achieved due to encryption (passwords).

The Bill contains flexible transitional provisions (including a head of power to make additional transitional provisions via regulation following passage of the Bill) that will facilitate an orderly transition to the proposed new scheme. This includes allowing existing Motor Driving Instructor Licences to be rolled over and deemed as valid Motor Driving Instructor Licences under the new scheme upon commencement. Any existing licence conditions prior to commencement will carry over to the deemed licences and they will be subject to the new improved regulatory framework created by the Bill.

Existing class C (car) Authorised Examiners appointments will be cancelled when the new scheme commences, however, they will be deemed valid Motor Driving Instructors and will have the opportunity to apply to apply to become a Government Examiner.

The reforms seek to improve the standard of industry members and the training and assessment delivered to learner drivers improving learning outcomes for learner drivers. Learner drivers will be provided with an enhanced customer experience with the introduction of an online booking system and certainty of cost through a prescribed fee for the practical driving test.

With the Government delivering practical driving tests the Competency Based Training and Assessment method, commonly referred to as the 'log book' method, will no longer be available. A new test will be developed that incorporates elements of both the Vehicle on Road Test and the Competency Based Training and Assessment methods.

The Department will continue to make the existing log-book materials publicly available online at no cost and will develop further material related to driver training instruction to prepare the learner driver for the practical driving test.

The anticipated outcomes of introducing the Bill include:

- A transition to a more skilled and competent industry, the outcome of which is more skilled and competent learner drivers.
- Learner drivers will pay a set fee for a driving examination, which will be prescribed in Regulations.
- Reduced opportunity for corruption and predatory behaviour as all training and examination activities are available for review via in-vehicle recording.
- Minimising the potential for harm against young and vulnerable people and providing them with the opportunity to learn and develop skills for life in a safe environment.
- Greater incentive to comply with the requirements of the Registrar as oversight, detection and sanctioning of poor behaviour is increased.
- Greater certainty and confidence for the consumer about the service they are purchasing and greater recourse for poor behaviour of Industry members.
- Greater consumer protection through reduced potential for corrupt practices, greater transparency, improved standards of instruction and improved surveillance.
- Improving the operation of the market and redressing the power imbalance between the consumer and the provider by enabling informed consumer choices.
- Increase transparency on the status of a person holding themselves out to be a licensed motor driving instructor with the introduction of an online Register of Motor Driving Instructors and a significant increase in penalty for such an offence.
- The proposed online register will allow consumers to compare providers.

These reforms seek to deliver a driver training industry which delivers high quality driver training that is best practice; road safety focussed; customer focussed; mitigates corruption; and protects children and vulnerable people.

I commend the Bill to the House.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Motor Vehicles Act 1959*

## 3—Amendment of section 5—Interpretation

This clause amends certain definitions in the principal Act for the purposes of the measure.

## 4—Amendment of section 43A—Temporary configuration certificate for heavy vehicle

This clause removes references to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 5—Amendment of section 47C—Return, recovery etc of number plates

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 6—Amendment of section 70—Return of trade plates and refunds

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 7—Amendment of section 81F—Mandatory alcohol interlock scheme conditions

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 8—Amendment of section 96—Duty to produce licence or permit

This clause removes references to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 9—Amendment of section 97A—Visiting motorists

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 10—Amendment of section 98AAA—Duty to carry licence when driving heavy vehicle

This clause removes references to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

## 11—Repeal of section 98AA

Section 98AA of the principal Act is repealed.

## 12—Substitution of Part 3A

Part 3A of the principal Act is substituted:

Part 3A—Motor driving instructors and authorised examiners

Division 1—Preliminary

98AAH—Interpretation

Key terms are defined for the purposes of the Part.

Division 2—Motor driving instructors licences

98AAI—Requirement to hold motor driving instructors licence

A person must not act, or offer to act, for fee or reward, as a motor driving instructor unless the person holds a motor driving instructors licence. Proposed section 98AAH defines what it means for a person to *act as an motor driving instructor*. A person who does not hold an instructors licence is prohibited from holding themselves out to be the holder of such a licence. A person who has acted or offered to act as a motor driving instructor without holding an instructors licence is not entitled to retain any fee paid to them for so acting.

98AAJ—Application for grant or renewal of a motor driving instructors licence

This proposed section sets out the procedure for a person applying for the grant or renewal of an instructors licence.

98AAK—Grant or renewal of instructors licence

This proposed section sets out provisions in respect of the grant or renewal of an instructors licence. The Registrar must not grant or renew such a licence unless satisfied of certain matters.

98AAL—Fit and proper person

This proposed section sets out the matters that may be regarded in determining whether a person is a *fit and proper person* to hold an instructors licence.

**98AAM—Term of instructors licence**

This proposed section sets out the term of an instructors licence.

**98AAN—Instructors licence conditions**

This proposed section provides that the Registrar may specify such conditions of an instructors licence as the Registrar thinks fit, and specifies certain conditions that may be imposed. It is an offence for the holder of an instructors licence to contravene a condition of their licence.

**98AAO—Requirement to produce instructors licence**

A holder of an instructors licence must produce the licence upon request by certain persons.

**98AAP—Standards for motor driving instructors**

This proposed section allows the Registrar to publish standards setting out requirements to be observed by holders of instructors licences in respect of the use of designated devices (defined in the section) and the use of information from such devices. Information or material derived from a designated device and provided to the Registrar is the property of the Crown, and such information or material may be used for specified purposes. It is an offence for a person to contravene a standard published by the Registrar under the proposed section.

**Division 3—Register of instructors licences****98AAQ—Register**

The Registrar must keep a register of instructors licences. Certain information on the register is to be available for inspection by the public.

**Division 4—Code of conduct****98AAR—Code of conduct for instructors licence holders**

The Registrar may publish a code of conduct to be observed by holders of instructors licences. It is a condition of every instructors licence that the holder of the licence not contravene the code of conduct.

**Division 5—Authorised examiners****98AAS—Appointment of authorised examiners**

The Registrar may appoint certain persons to be authorised examiners.

**98AAT—Requirement to hold appointment**

A person must not act, or offer to act, for fee or reward, as an examiner unless the person holds an appointment as an authorised examiner. Proposed section 98AAH defines what it means for a person to *act as an examiner*. A person who does not hold such an appointment is prohibited from holding themselves out to be an authorised examiner.

**Division 6—Requirement for contracts****98AAU—Requirement for contracts in certain circumstances**

A holder of an instructors licence must, before acting as a motor driving instructor for a person for fee or reward, enter into a written contract with that person. The same requirement applies, subject to the regulations, to authorised examiners, or entities that employ or engage authorised examiners in certain circumstances. If such requirements are contravened, the holder of the instructors licence commits an offence.

**Division 7—Cancellation and suspension etc of instructors licences and authorised examiner appointments****98AAV—Cancellation and suspension etc of instructors licences and authorised examiner appointments**

A person may have their instructors licence or their appointment as an authorised examiner cancelled or suspended, or have conditions of their licence or appointment varied or revoked, or have new conditions imposed, in the circumstances set out in the proposed section.

**Division 8—Review by Tribunal under this Part****98AAW—Review by Tribunal under this Part**

A person who is dissatisfied by a reviewable decision of the Registrar, which is defined in the proposed section, may seek a review of the decision by the Tribunal.

**Division 9—Miscellaneous****98AAX—Audits**

It is a condition of every instructors licence and appointment as an authorised examiner that the holder of the licence or appointment allow an auditor appointed by the Registrar to audit the activities of the holder in accordance with the proposed section. The Registrar may, on receiving advice from an auditor, make a recommendation to, give a direction to or take disciplinary action against the holder. It is a condition of every instructors licence and appointment as an authorised examiner that the holder of the licence or appointment not contravene a direction of the Registrar given under the section.

#### 98AAY—Evidentiary provisions

This proposed section sets out evidentiary provisions in respect of certain matters contemplated by the proposed Part.

#### 98A—Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1991* does not apply in respect of specified documents.

#### 13—Amendment of section 98MD—Only persons directed by police to proceed to or be present at scene of accident for purposes related to removal, wrecking or repair

This clause removes references to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

#### 14—Amendment of section 98ME—Towing of vehicle at or from scene of accident

This clause removes references to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

#### 15—Amendment of section 98ML—Towtruck driver to carry and produce certificate

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

#### 16—Insertion of Part 4B

New Part 4B is proposed:

##### Part 4B—Enforcement

##### Division 1—Appointment of authorised officers

##### 134N—Appointment of authorised officers

The Minister may appoint specified persons as authorised officers for the purposes of the principal Act.

##### 134O—Identity cards

Authorised officers must be issued an identity card, which must contain certain information. Authorised officers must, upon request, identify themselves in the manner specified.

##### Division 2—Powers of authorised officers

##### 134P—General powers of authorised officers

This proposed section sets out the powers of authorised officers for the administration or enforcement of the principal Act.

##### 134Q—Provisions relating to warrants

This proposed section provides the circumstances in which a magistrate may issue a warrant on application of an authorised officer.

##### 134R—Provisions relating to seizure

This proposed section sets out provisions in respect of seizure orders.

##### 134S—Offences against authorised officers

It is an offence to engage in the conduct specified in this proposed section against an authorised officer.

##### 134T—Self-incrimination

This proposed section displaces the privilege against self-incrimination when a person is required to answer a question or produce a document or information under the principal Act, however such an answer, document or information will not be admissible in criminal proceedings against the person (other than proceedings in respect of making a false or misleading statement).

##### 134U—Interaction of this Division with Part 2 Division 5 of *Road Traffic Act 1961*

This proposed section provides that this Division is in addition to, and does not derogate from, the provisions of the stated Division of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*.

17—Amendment of section 137—Duty to answer certain questions

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

18—Amendment of section 138A—Commissioner of Police to give certain information to Registrar

This clause is technical.

19—Amendment of section 139—Inspection of motor vehicles

This clause removes references to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

20—Amendment of section 143B—General defences

This clause removes a reference to police officer as a result of the amendment to the definition of authorised officer in clause 5.

21—Amendment of section 145—Regulations and fee notices

A power to make regulations of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the measure is inserted. Regulations made under such a power may take effect from the commencement of the measure or on a later day. No compensation is payable by the Crown in respect of the operation of any such regulations. Proposed section 145(1e) provides that certain fees prescribed for the purposes of that subsection are not refundable. The remaining amendments set out in this clause are technical.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

1—Interpretation

Schedule 1 sets out transitional provisions to support the scheme.

2—Applications for motor driving instructors' licences under *Motor Vehicles Act 1959*

3—Current motor driving instructor's licence holders

4—Current authorised examiners

5—Crown not liable to pay compensation

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

## **CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (COERCIVE CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

**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) (12:02):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 and to make related amendments to the Evidence Act 1929 and the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009. Read a first time.

### *Second Reading*

**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) (12:03):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It is with great honour that I rise today to introduce the Criminal Law Consolidation (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2024. This is legislation that Labor has worked on for five years and that I, along with many others, a number of whom are with us today, know that we have desperately needed for a very, very long time. In 99 per cent of domestic violence-related homicides, coercive control was a factor prior to that horrific final physical act.

Women experiencing coercive, controlling behaviour at the hands of an abusive partner or former partner find themselves isolated, scared, psychologically harmed, stripped of their self-worth, and restricted from making autonomous decisions about every aspect of their life, from day-to-day decisions about what to wear to life-changing decisions about their health, housing or finances.

I honour the precious women who we have lost, and those who mourn them. I hold them in my heart and in my mind as I speak today—women, including Hannah Clarke, and her three beautiful children. Hannah's story, and the integrity and bravery of her inspiring parents, Sue and Lloyd, in the face of horrific brutality are etched in our collective psyche.

What we know about the pattern of vile abuse that Hannah endured prior to her murder demands that we act, as do the voices and the experiences of those courageous survivors who, after experiencing the most disturbing instances of this terrible behaviour—behaviour designed to diminish, belittle, and strip away their agency—have shared their experiences with a clear focus on empowering others who traverse a similar journey. This bill is for them. It is for you. At its heart is our clear commitment to honour their experiences, to respond to their calls for change, to hold perpetrators to account, and to ensure that everyone in our community knows what coercive control is, and that our state utterly refuses to ever accept it.

Deeply embedded in this bill are their stories. Without fully identifying her, I share one of those stories. Five years ago I ran into Colonnades to quickly grab something from a chemist. A lovely woman called Ann recognised me from a connection many years ago, and as her local MP and long-term domestic violence prevention advocate. Ann did merchandising work in retail and, on seeing me, she really quickly grabbed me, approached, and rapidly advised that she had been really wanting to talk with me about what she was going through, but that it was really, really hard to do so because of just how restricted she was. Other than being allowed by her perpetrator to go to work, other conversations, catching up with friends, doing many of the things often taken for granted was just too hard.

The young woman at the counter said that she was so glad that we had connected because she had been so worried about Ann, and just did not know what to do. This remarkable woman and I very carefully organised to talk and to carefully connect her with services. We met after some organisation, and it was devastating to hear of her years and years and years of being put down, completely isolated from her loved ones, having her car tracked, no control of her finances, being relentlessly questioned, and having every move she made controlled.

With excellent support from our outstanding sector, she ended that relationship, and whilst some days, I know, are still very hard, a few years on she is here. She is singing—literally—with our local incredible DV choir, led by Shelley, who is also here. She is safe in her own home with her sons. She is loved. She has such a wide circle of friends and, testament to her huge heart, her spirit and generosity, she volunteers now to support other women walking that path.

I applaud and thank Ann, and I thank the other women and, tragically, the loved ones of those who have been brutally taken, who have shared their stories, including their friends and their relatives who have shared just how much they want to help but how helpless they feel when their loved one is so trapped.

This bill is so important. This bill represents a fundamental shift in how we understand and respond to domestic violence and its impact. For decades, legislation and associated penalties have contemplated single incidents of physical violence. This bill ensures that we understand and that we respond to behaviour that often forms parts of ongoing patterns of abuse that may not be physical but are so utterly damaging and designed to belittle, demean, instil fear, control, manipulate and take away autonomy.

This bill sees our parliament confronting this new frontier in our quest to eradicate domestic, family and sexual violence, and confront it we must. Collectively refuse to accept any woman being abused in any way, we must, and take real action that drives change that empowers women to live their lives freely and safely, that holds perpetrators to account, we must. Because perpetrators of coercive control do not want an equal partnership. They are not interested in resolving conflicts through healthy discussion and negotiation.

Perpetrators of coercive control are only interested in imposing their will and to achieve this they hurt, humiliate, intimidate, exploit, isolate, dominate and terrify over time, and over and over again. Many different kinds of abusive behaviours are threaded together into a destructive web designed to entrap the person subject to it. This terrible web of control featuring in so many abusive relationships is currently invisible to our criminal law. For too long, the criminal justice system has

only been able to address individual incidents or threats of physical violence. A serious assault or homicide might be preceded by a decade of abusive control. However, this control is only considered background to the crime and not a crime in and of itself.

For too long, because of the criminal law's focus on physical abuse, police have been severely limited in how they can help women subject to coercive control if physical violence is not involved. For too long, too many people have sadly asked, 'Why doesn't she just leave?' with the day-to-day dynamics of control and domination within abusive partnerships not commonly identified, understood nor condemned as they absolutely should be. Slowly, and thankfully, together we are changing this so that the relevant question always becomes: 'Why doesn't he just stop?'

For far too long the lack of recognition by the criminal law, and more broadly by our community, has persisted. Through the introduction of this bill and its careful implementation, our government says 'no longer'. We utterly refuse to accept these attitudes and abusive behaviours, and we are utterly determined to do all that we can to help prevent violence before it starts, to shine a light and tackle it wherever it exists through legislation, through policy, through resourcing, through shifting community attitudes, and growing understanding of the gender inequality that drives violence against women and the role that every single one of us can play in ending it.

This legislation is such an important step forward. This bill creates a new offence in our Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 of the coercive control of a person with whom the defendant is or has been in a relationship. The offence will have a maximum penalty of seven years' imprisonment. It recognises that coercive control is a deliberate and abusive effort to control another person and names these behaviours within our criminal justice system as the offence of coercive control.

This bill ensures that the behaviours are understood as what they are—a serious crime involving psychological entrapment—and this bill will allow this utterly heinous behaviour to rightly be punished, as it should be. The elements of the offence of coercive control will be that:

1. The defendant engages in a course of conduct consisting of behaviour that has, or a reasonable person would consider, is likely to have a controlling impact on another person;
2. The defendant intends that course of conduct to have a controlling impact;
3. The defendant is or was in a relationship with the other person, meaning that they are or previously were a married or engaged couple, domestic partners, or in an intimate couple relationship; and
4. That a reasonable person would consider that the course of conduct would be likely to cause the other person harm.

The central element of this new offence is a course of conduct that has, or is likely to have, a controlling impact on the person subject to it. A controlling impact means restricting a person's freedom: their freedom of movement, action, bodily autonomy or their freedom to engage in a social, political, religious, cultural, educational or economic activity that they choose.

Fundamentally, coercive control is an assault on a person's free will which may take a range of insidious forms. The person subject to the behaviour might be forbidden to work or wear certain types of clothing. Their personal hygiene or intake of food might be regulated. They may be prevented from catching up with colleagues, isolated from family, forbidden to speak with anyone of a different gender. They may be denied the choice as to what to do with their own money or their own body.

The awful list of examples continues, sadly informed by real stories detailing their terrible impact on a person's life. In coercive control, restriction is achieved through various means, both physical and psychological. To make this clear, this bill provides that a person may be considered to restrict another person by either physical restriction, verbal or psychological restriction, removing the means by which a person is able to do something, deception or any other behaviour that significantly impairs the other person's ability to do something.

Examples in the bill support this definition by illustrating the diverse ways in which a person might be restricted by their partner's behaviour. The broad definition of 'restrict' and, again, the list of examples reflect sadly what we heard directly from brave survivors during our consultation process about the breadth, the horrific breadth of tactics used in coercive, controlling relationships. I think

that we often think of being restricted as being physically unable to do something. This can be a tactic of coercive control; however, what we heard from the sector and those brave survivors is that the restriction is primarily psychological, achieved and maintained through the perpetrator constantly creating an atmosphere of fear.

Coercive control can be likened to blackmail or torture, but rather than a specific threat, coupled with a specific demand, the person subject to it lives day in, day out, sometimes year after difficult year with a relentless all-encompassing fear that serious consequences will occur if they do not conform to the perpetrator's wishes, consequences that go so very far beyond normal couple conflict. They may not even know what might specifically happen as a consequence each time, but they know from painful experience that nothing good comes from disobeying their perpetrator.

Maybe they will be shaken, maybe they will be humiliated in front of friends or co-workers, maybe aggression will be directed against their children or a pet, and so they conform, they obey, they continue to walk on eggshells because it just feels easier and likely offers a better chance of keeping themselves and their children safe. We heard so many stories of survivors being financially controlled, deceived, gaslighted, stalked, monitored, shamed, emotionally manipulated or having their religion or spirituality used against them.

Physical violence may be a part of the control, but physical violence or a threat of it is not a necessary element of this offence. Verbal abuse alone can have an immensely controlling impact. Perhaps in punishment for some perceived disobedience, a perpetrator will corner the person they subject to this behaviour, tower over and uncontrollably shout and scream at them for hours. It is terrifying, distressing, unacceptable abuse in its own right and carries with it that implied threat of physical violence, with the person subject to it feeling that they could be physically harmed at any moment. Intense fear is created based on this potential alone.

Through this bill we rightly recognise that a person even if never physically harmed can be subject to serious, debilitating abuse and this could undoubtedly have a very controlling impact. The element in this bill of a controlling impact has been designed to cover any and all methods that abusers use to maintain control. No method of control should be considered inherently less serious than another. The ultimate test is simply whether the person was, or reasonably could have been, restricted in the circumstances. In other words, was the person's free will significantly impaired when deciding whether and how to engage in a particular activity? This will not always be an easy question, because freedom is not binary. A person does not either have total or no free will, or all or none of the power.

Judges and juries considering a charge of this offence will need to consider how the alleged perpetrator's behaviours impacted the options open to the person being controlled and ask fundamentally, 'Were the choices really theirs or was their partner pulling the strings?' It should be emphasised that this does not require proof that the person subject to the abuse was totally unable to choose a particular course of action. A person can still be restricted if their choices are unfairly limited. Maybe they can only do something on a particular day or at a particular time. Maybe they are forced to ask permission first or take elaborate steps to sneak behind the perpetrator's back so they are not caught disobeying. This is all restriction; this is all coercive control.

Coercive control is proposed to be a course of conduct offence. Course of conduct is not defined in the bill as it is not the intention to rigidly restrict the offence by requiring a number of incidents or a specific length of time of those incidents. Each case should turn on its own facts. However, I place on record commentary on what the requirement for a course of conduct is intended to mean. In the context of the coercive control offence, the course of conduct primarily envisages conduct occurring on multiple occasions with a sense of continuity and purpose between them, with the purpose being control. It does not require that the relevant conduct occur every day or for the controlling impact to be the same on each occasion, but a course of conduct would require more than a few genuinely isolated incidents.

That being said, a break in time between overt conduct does not necessarily make incidents isolated. It is important to recognise the long-lasting effect of the fear the perpetrator creates. The perpetrator's pattern of behaviour instils that something could happen if the person subject to the



behaviour displeases the perpetrator, even in periods that to an outsider might look relatively peaceful.

A useful analogy, I think, is the phrase 'carrying on a business', which appears in legislation pertaining to all sorts of matters in this place. A person carrying on a business might undertake different tasks on different days, have busier or quieter periods and might take days off, but their business continues to operate. Payments come in and new clients submit inquiries even on days the business operator does not work at all. Similarly, a person carries on their awful business of controlling, even if they go a period of days or weeks without engaging in any specific abusive behaviour, relying on the continued fear that they have created that they might just do so.

It is important to note that this bill is not intended to preclude a charge based on a single occasion of protracted control that is substantial enough that it could reasonably be described as a course of conduct provided it meets all of the other requirements of the offence, including that a reasonable person would consider the behaviour likely to cause harm. The bill provides that whether a course of conduct has or could have a controlling impact must be determined by considering the totality of behaviours. A judge or jury should not consider the likely impact and intent of each individual behaviour in isolation but instead must consider the impact and intention of the behaviours as a whole and in combination with each other.

This acknowledges that the controlling impact of behaviours can be cumulative. Like dripping water slowly carving away rock, repeated small abuses can wear down a person's self-esteem and capacity to resist. Methods of control can compound each other. A perpetrator may use verbal abuse and humiliation to isolate a person from their friends and loved ones, making it even harder to seek alternative points of view and even easier for the perpetrator to manipulate and gaslight the person. Similarly, it need not be proved that the defendant intended to have a directly controlling impact by each behaviour, acknowledging that some behaviours may contribute to the overall controlling effect of the course of conduct. The judge or jury must consider whether the course of conduct overall was motivated by an intent to control.

This draft bill was widely consulted on, but before it was drafted at all we were really blessed to hear the views of a diverse range of community groups and individuals about coercive control, how legislation could impact their community and how they envisaged a potential offence. Their incredibly generous sharing of their experiences, expertise and perspectives was extraordinary, and I am really grateful to each of them who did so. Their voices and their courage have ensured that this legislation reflects what is needed and reflects community expectations.

One theme that was consistently raised throughout that process of discussion was a concern that a coercive control offence could unintentionally contribute to perpetrator misidentification. Misidentification occurs when authorities mistakenly treat the primary person subject to domestic abuse as the primary aggressor, possibly subjecting them to intervention orders or even prosecution. The effects of misidentification are devastating and they are ongoing. Even if criminal charges are dropped and intervention orders removed, trust in the system's capacity to help them when they reach out is absolutely lost. For Aboriginal women, many of whom already distrust government authorities due to the intergenerational trauma of colonisation and dispossession, once let down, this lack of trust can absolutely endure.

We do not ever want this offence to be weaponised by perpetrators to inflict further torment. This bill has absolutely been designed with this in mind. Perpetrator misidentification typically occurs because authorities focus on incidents of defending oneself or retaliatory behaviour without considering the broader context and balance of power in the relationship. This bill's central focus on the controlling impact of the totality of the behaviour will direct authorities' attention to those broader power dynamics in a relationship and the relative freedoms that have been enjoyed by the parties, making it very hard for perpetrators to gain any traction if they engage in system abuse by reporting the person they subject to abuse for coercive control against them.

It must be shown that the behaviour would likely cause physical or psychological harm, including serious distress, anxiety or fear. This provides a threshold of seriousness for the offence, another safeguard against perpetrator misidentification. This bill provides a defence to coercive control which applies if the course of conduct was reasonable in all of the circumstances.

This will account for those exceptional cases in which it would be understood why there was a restriction of a spouse or partner. It may sometimes be necessary for a partner to be barred from the home for either person's protection. It might be necessary to restrict contact with children if they may harm them. It might be necessary to restrict access to household funds if there is a risk that they might excessively spend money on alcohol, drugs or gambling. But the onus of proving reasonableness is on the defendant. Once it has been proved by the prosecution that the defendant controlled their partner in a way that would likely cause physical or psychological harm, it is incumbent on the defendant to justify this.

The proposed offence applies to any persons in intimate couple relationships. This includes married or engaged couples, domestic partners or other intimate relationships, former or current. We acknowledge that coercive control occurs in other kinds of relationships too: between siblings, carers, by children towards parents or by parents towards children, or even in a non-family context. Indeed, coercive control can occur in any context in which one person seeks to have power and control over another.

However, this bill focuses on intimate partner relationships because we acknowledge the abhorrent link between coercive control and intimate partner homicide. This bill will only apply to coercive control in intimate partner relationships because we want to focus resources on this extremely high-risk area. The maximum penalty of imprisonment of up to seven years will mean that this offence is classed as a major indictable offence, reflecting the seriousness of the conduct.

This bill contains provisions to guide a court in sentencing a defendant for this offence. As coercive control is a course of conduct offence, a criminal trial for the offence will likely involve a significant body of evidence about various ways in which the person was allegedly restricted. In a jury trial, the jury will find the defendant guilty or not guilty depending on whether they found beyond reasonable doubt that the person was restricted in at least one way. However, the jury is not required to determine nor enumerate all the various kinds of restrictions that they found proved beyond reasonable doubt.

The bill provides that the sentencing judge may sentence having regard to the general nature of the behaviour that they determine to have been proved. This has been modelled on and intended to operate similarly to the sentencing provisions for the existing offence of sexual abuse of a child in section 50 of our Criminal Law Consolidation Act.

The bill also contains a sentencing principle to recognise children affected by coercive control. As we heard over and over again in our consultation, coercive control against an intimate partner significantly affects the physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing of children, and they should absolutely be considered victims in their own right rather than mere witnesses. To acknowledge this, the bill provides that, when sentencing a person for coercive control, the court must take into account the effect that the behaviour had on a child who witnessed or was affected by it.

This offence has been designed to operate alongside other existing offences that may be charged in relation to abusive intimate partner relationships. The bill contains provisions allowing the same conduct to count as evidence of a standalone offence as well as be part of the course of conduct constituting coercive control. A person may be convicted of both offences in either the same or separate proceedings, despite the overlap of conduct.

This acknowledges that coercive control tactics are used to frighten and intimidate the victim and they may also constitute a range of standalone offences that should absolutely be punished in their own right: animal abuse, reckless driving, threats to harm a child. However, if a course of conduct constituting coercive control includes conduct that is the subject of other convictions, the court must take account in sentencing to ensure the overall penalty for both convictions is proportionate to the totality of the conduct.

This bill is an attempt to capture and criminalise a deeply complex and utterly unacceptable phenomenon. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the bill is as effective as possible, we are traversing a new frontier, and it will be vitally important to monitor and review the operation of this offence to make sure that it meets the needs of those brave survivors. This bill mandates a review of the offence to take place after the third and before the fourth anniversary of commencement.

I offer wholehearted, deep appreciation to all who have invaluable contributed to developing this bill: the Attorney-General, the Attorney-General's Department and particularly Laura Krieg, the Office for Women, the incredible staff in my ministerial office—Hilary Wigg and Ruth Sibley in particular—and in the Attorney's, Elliette Kirkbride. I am also grateful to the Standing Council of Attorneys-General for the National Principles to Address Coercive Control in Family and Domestic Violence, which have also been really important in developing this bill.

I also wholeheartedly thank those who are involved in developing our award-winning See the Signs campaign, which has been engaged in by quite extraordinary numbers of people and particularly young people and has helped build awareness about what coercive control is and why we absolutely must all call it out and use our particular sphere of influence to drive change.

I thank the domestic, family and sexual violence sector. Every one of you is extraordinary. With compassion, care and a steadfast relentless desire to empower women and to advance profound change across our community that helps prevent violence in all its forms, you are there year after year, decade after decade alongside women at the lowest points, holding them as they take steps forward and sometimes a few back, until they find their power and never look back.

Again and finally, this bill is because of and for those survivors who have suffered through coercive control and contributed so incredibly thoughtfully and with such care for others to this bill. It is for those for whom this legislation is tragically too late. It is for those women in homes across our South Australian community whose autonomy has been diminished by their partner or former partner.

It is my absolute wish that in moving this legislation today, and as we take the appropriate time to ensure its successful implementation, those women will know that they are not alone, that there is a way forward and that we all walk together with them. I commend the bill to members and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

###### 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*

###### 3—Amendment of section 5AA—Aggravated offences

This clause adds a further circumstance in which 2 people will be taken to be *in a relationship* for the purposes of the aggravating circumstance set out in section 5AA(1)(g) of the principal Act.

###### 4—Amendment of section 20A—Choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting

This clause adds a further circumstance in which 2 people will be taken to be *in a relationship* for the purposes of section 20A of the principal Act.

###### 5—Insertion of Part 3 Division 7AAB

New Part 3 Division 7AAB is inserted:

###### Division 7AAB—Coercive control

###### 20B—Interpretation

This clause sets out definitions for the purposes of the Division.

###### 20C—Coercive control

This clause makes it a criminal offence to coercively control another person. In order to be found guilty of the offence, a person must engage in a course of conduct that consists of behaviour that has, or that a reasonable person would consider is likely to have, a controlling impact on another person with whom they are, or were, in a relationship. The person also must have intended by the course of conduct to have a controlling impact on the other person, and the course of conduct must be such that a reasonable person would consider it likely to cause the other person physical injury or psychological harm. It is a defence to a charge of coercive control for the defendant to prove that the course of conduct was reasonable in the circumstances.

This clause allows a defendant to be charged with, and convicted and sentenced for, an offence of coercive control and a different offence if behaviour that makes up part of the course of conduct alleged in proceedings for the coercive control offence also constitutes the elements of the different offence. This clause also sets out a number of matters relating to proceedings for an offence of coercive control.

#### 20D—Review of Division

This clause requires a review of the Division to be undertaken after 3 but before 4 years after the commencement of the Division.

#### Schedule 1—Related amendments

##### Part 1—Amendment of *Evidence Act 1929*

##### 1—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause makes the offence of coercive control a *serious offence against the person* for the purposes of the principal Act.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009*

##### 2—Amendment of section 8—Meaning of abuse—domestic and non-domestic

This clause adds a further circumstance in which 2 people will be in a relationship in respect of the definition of *domestic abuse* for the purposes of the principal Act.

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

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **VISITORS**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would like to formally acknowledge in the gallery guests of ministers the Hon. Kyam Maher and the Hon. Katrine Hildyard, who are here today to hear the debate.

#### *Bills*

### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (PERSONAL MOBILITY DEVICES) BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 19 June 2024.)

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:40):** I indicate that I am the lead speaker on this bill. It is a bill that has come to this place after some debate in this chamber, on talkback radio and in the community. It was introduced in June 2024 by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. The bill will amend the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 and the Road Traffic Act 1961 to provide a framework for allowing privately owned personal mobility devices to be used on roads and footpaths.

The bill also removes the definition of bicycle from the Road Traffic Act itself to put it into regulations to allow for changes to the definition over time as new types of bicycles come to the market. It is very rare now that you will see Uber delivered on a bicycle that is not powered by or has some electrical assistance.

In February 2023, the member for Hartley, who at the time was the shadow minister for infrastructure and transport, introduced a bill into the parliament allowing privately owned personal mobility devices to be used on roads and footpaths. The bill was ultimately defeated by the government during private members' time. However, it did spark enthusiasm by the Minister for Transport, so that is why we are here today debating the government's bill, which of course we support.

It was in January this year that the government flagged that they intended to introduce their own bill by the middle of 2024, and here we are going through the process of completing the bill today. The government has noted that its decision followed a community consultation process. The government claims it had 87 per cent positive feedback to allow privately owned personal mobility devices to be used on roads and footpaths.

The RAA raised concerns of the need to address public liability insurance. In the RAA's submission during the period of consultation they recommended that, in the absence of a permanent form of insurance cover, the state government should cover anyone injured in an e-scooter incident using a scheme like the Lifetime Support Authority.

The opposition has had concerns raised through the community, mainly from our older citizens, but also from people who walk and people who operate restaurants and cafes with outdoor dining on streets, or other busy streets such as King William Road at Hyde Park or The Parade in Norwood. Both those roads have very active pedestrian use, with outdoor dining and goods placed on the footpath. It adds to the ambience and the attraction to shopping in strip shopping.

It is not always easy to remember or to notice the vibrancy that strip shopping brings to suburbs. It really hits you when you go to cities like Sydney and Melbourne where there is street after street of strip shopping. There are shops everywhere and lots of people in the streets. Our strip shopping is very limited in comparison: King William Road, Unley Road, The Parade, Jetty Road and O'Connell Street, with smaller pockets of strip shopping.

We have seen the gentrification of some elements in the seat of Elder, for example. I remember when I first started using Winston Avenue from my home in Hyde Park to my furniture factory in St Marys, I would travel down Winston Avenue and notice how many of those shops, that have been there for half a century, were empty or being used for storage or by businesses that did not really have a street customer base. Now it is very vibrant—there are cafes, there are shops that sell home items, there are always people sitting out the front—so having an electric scooter running between two tables at a cafe simply would not be a suitable situation.

The government has covered that in the bill, and councils have the ability to use their by-laws to prevent footpaths in certain areas being ridden on by electric scooters or mobility devices, with signs like 'No skateboarding', if it is unsafe or has an impact on the trade of businesses. I understand that could even be a city-wide ban. The City of Unley, for example, could decide that, rather than have an ad hoc decision, it could have its own decision to not allow them on footpaths in the City of Unley, in which case they would use the roads and the bike lanes that are there. That is common practice in many other parts of the world.

I remember when I was in Los Angeles just a few years ago being amazed at just how many e-scooters were being used there—of course, no helmets and extremely fast speeds. The United States of America is a different place from Australia, but we saw them being used, as the government is intending with this bill, as a form of transport, an environmentally friendly, cheap form that can get you from A to B without exerting very much physical energy yourself, and even contribute to perhaps a reduction in the congestion on roads in the inner suburbs. In particular I could see that that would be a popular alternative.

The member for Hartley has raised questions of insurance in the process, if an incident between a pedestrian and a privately owned mobility device, such as an e-scooter, occurs. This was in the briefing that he raised these questions and the department made it clear during that briefing that, for the purpose of an incident as described, the e-scooter would not be deemed a motor vehicle and the similar process for SAPOL and injury reporting would be as if a cyclist was involved in an incident with a motor vehicle or a pedestrian. We are concerned that the difference with a cyclist is the fact that these devices are much heavier, the impact is larger and the damage could be much more severe.

I think it is probably fair to say that a cyclist—particularly one who might be travelling at some speed, someone who might be cycling for fitness on their way to their executive job in the city, for example—if they did have an accident, would be more likely, statistically, to stop and exchange details and make sure the person was okay.

But we have seen with the hire scooters that that does not necessarily happen at the same rate with a scooter user, and often the scooter user will just continue going, and there is no way that there is any action available for that person who may end up with a hospital bill or may end up with days or weeks off work, for example. We believe there is a solution, and I have tabled amendments on behalf of the shadow minister, the Hon. Ben Hood from the other place, to attempt to deal with that—the introduction of these devices to be used in the nominal defendant case.

The way the nominal defendant works—I know in the minister's second reading speech he made reference to the nominal defendant—is that that is funded by people paying their motor registration and their insurance. It is only used on very rare occasions. My understanding of how it works is that when you register your vehicle there is an insurance component, and you have the choice of which insurance company to use for the third-party personal injury insurance. That extends beyond three months of the registration period, and if you continue to drive an unregistered vehicle after that three-month period the insurance has run out.

However, there is the stop, the safety net, if you like, of the nominal defender, where the person who is suffering personal injury from the result of that driver driving an unregistered vehicle—who is the victim, if you like, of that accident—is not disadvantaged by the fact that that person has been irresponsible and was driving an unregistered and uninsured vehicle. It is a safety net that is there that we believe should be extended to devices such as these.

The minister is right in his speech when he says that we will see it pull bikes into a new category now because they are changing. There may be a time when this may be needed to be extended to bikes. The minister in his second reading speech also said that he believes there will be a market solution for the insurance, which there is not at the moment. Perhaps, if the government does not forever accept the amendment that has been brought forward by the Liberal Party today, they may decide that it could be there and then encourage, if you like, private sector insurance to be able to provide an insurance process. I would be interested to know what happens in other places in the world.

I have not done the research on separate insurance for mobility devices for insurance against causing personal injury to a third person. I am sure, with the technology that is available to us, and I think from examples around the world that we could learn from, that there will be some mechanism that would actually enable that insurance to not only be available but also to be monitored. I will discuss that a little bit further during the committee process when we get to that stage.

In his second reading speech the minister also talks about how it will no longer be necessary for the hire bikes operators to seek those permits to operate, although I think a council could still say that they could not. But it will be a very much easier process.

But I think this is a classic example. This will not be a problem with the personal devices, because people will look after personal devices. When they get off them they will either lock them somewhere out of the way so they cannot be stolen or put them to one side. They will not leave them in the middle of someone's driveway or on a median strip. They will not be left lying down blocking someone with a pram or in a wheelchair from using that part of the footpath.

I do not understand why, with the way we already use geoblocking to restrict distance and where scooters can travel, the scooters cannot have a related mechanism on them or why it is not required by councils that give them the permit, and I know the City of Unley decided not to extend the hire permit in the city of Unley because of the issues I have just raised about the irresponsibility of many of the users who when they finish with the bikes just leave them wherever they like.

There are things the scooter companies could do as an incentive to place the scooter upright and away from an intersection, street corner or driveway simply by using their geotracking and by just keeping on charging the user until they put the scooter in a responsible place. Very soon, I think you will find the acceptance of the hire scooters would be much higher and the opposition to them and the complaints about them would be almost non-existent, because people would be forced through the use of that monitoring mechanism, if you like, and incentive to save money if they do the right thing, to put the scooter where it will not be in the way of the general public, in the way of people using prams and wheelchairs in the middle of an outdoor dining area. You will also see a much higher acceptance among the general public of the use of those hire scooters.

Of course, helmets will be required, and I think a lot more people would feel much more comfortable about putting their own helmet on than using a helmet that has been on another dozen heads that same day. It is not something that is very attractive to me. God knows what it would do to my hair. With having your own helmet I think we will see much more compliance with people wearing helmets. It is also an opportunity, I suppose, for a bit more expression. People could customise their

helmet and, depending on your taste, that might make it less desirable to steal as well, depending on what messages are on it.

I make those remarks in support of the bill, foreshadowing an amendment that will trigger two additional amendments if it is successful. If the opposition's amendment is not successful then the consequential amendments that would be required will not be moved by the opposition when we move into committee.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are there any other speakers? Does the member for Davenport wish to seek leave to continue remarks?

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:59):** I do, thank you.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended 12:59 to 14:15.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**ANSWERS TABLED**

**The SPEAKER:** I direct that the written answers to questions as detailed in the schedule I now table be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Independent Commission Against Corruption—The room where it happens: Lobbying and influence in South Australia—Report—August 2024

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

Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme—Actuarial Report—30 June 2024  
Police Superannuation Board—Actuarial Report—30 June 2024

*Ministerial Statement*

**PETITION NO. 96 OF 2021**

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:01):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER:** I rise to provide the house with the government response to Petition No. 96 of 2021: Funding for Children and Students with Additional Learning Needs in Public Schools and Preschools, and the subsequent report from the Social Development Committee.

The government welcomes the Social Development Committee report. As acknowledged in the report, since the petition was first tabled in November 2021 by me as the then shadow minister for education, we have implemented a range of election commitments designed to increase funding and support for students with disability and additional needs.

From 2023, we have introduced an autism inclusion teacher in every public primary school, including reception to year 12 schools, and \$28.8 million was allocated in the 2022-23 state budget over the forward estimates. In that same budget, we invested \$50 million over four years to enable 100 FTE mental health and learning support specialists to provide more support to students across South Australia. This includes a new school mental health service, employing 55 FTE to support young people with mild to moderate and emerging mental health concerns.

From this year, we have made access to support simpler through inclusive education support program funding reform. This includes additional investment of approximately \$50 million for schools to support students with disability. The department has developed new practice guides for teaching

students with additional needs, introduced a new case management system for student support services to better plan for service provision and is undertaking a pilot with schools about the optimal deployment of school service officers.

The department has improved access to allied health services with a particular focus on country areas by using telepractice for psychology and speech pathology and using external providers where demand cannot be met within the department. I am pleased to note that of the 23 recommendations made, eight are complete, a further five are supported and 10 are supported in principle.

I would like to thank the 10,000-plus signatories and the Australian Education Union who assisted in preparing the petition and getting signatures, and reassure them that the Malinauskas government is committed to supporting all children and students in our education system.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to welcome to parliament today students from St Michael's College—second day in a row—who are guests of the member for Colton. I hope you enjoy your time in here today and I hope everyone is as well behaved as I am sure you are when you are in your classrooms. We also had some St Michael's students in yesterday. I am an old scholar and so is the Minister for Trade. We almost had an unfortunate situation yesterday when the Minister for Trade was getting a bit unruly. The students would have gone back to school and said, 'We went to parliament. We saw one old scholar kick another old scholar out.' Luckily, we did not get to that, and I am sure the member for Cheltenham is going to be on his best behaviour, knowing that students from the school that he went to and that I went to are in the building. Now we have what is called question time and we traditionally begin with the Leader of the Opposition. I call the leader.

#### *Question Time*

### **ENERGY SECURITY**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee that he will keep the lights on this summer? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** *The Australian* reports today that AEMO has warned that, quote:

Households face an ongoing multi-year risk of power shortages in...South Australia from this summer...

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:05):** It's the same warning that AEMO gave last summer and there were no blackouts, and it's the same warning they give almost every summer. What it is, sir, is a statement—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Sorry?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** That's right.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left, including the leader, will listen in silence. It's been less than 45 seconds and the noise levels are already unruly. We had a couple kicked out yesterday in the first six minutes. Let's do better today. The minister.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The reliability standards that we have in this state are being met. They are being met, and AEMO do not say that there is any shortfall to our reliability standard, which is that unserved energy should not exceed a maximum of .002 per cent of total demand in a year; that is, a larger event, as described above, not for more than every five years. The idea that South Australia is going to suffer blackouts because of a policy of this government is just wrong.



*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** And no level of interjection opposite can change that. However, Mr Speaker—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Everyone got the first general warning, so your next one is going to be your second warning. For you, it will be the third.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Privately owned generators like Torrens Island B1 gas-fired generators are 200 megawatts; that's gone for mothballing. Then, there are two other units: 75 megawatts at Port Lincoln and 63 megawatts at Snuggery. That's roughly just over 300 megawatts, and they have been displaced. Do you know what displaced them, sir? They were displaced because the state had 277 megawatts of generation that was not in the market, that was there as backup reserve. And guess who privatised them? The guilty party, sir, the guilty party. With every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You can't privatise generators into the commercial market and expect that there not be a reaction. The generators that we bought for system security were not participating in the market. They were sitting there in case of an emergency. The Liberals sold them. Then the private sector responded.

**Mr BATTY:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bragg, the Leader of Opposition Business.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of Opposition Business will be heard in silence.

**Mr BATTY:** The minister is making it too easy for the new guy. This is a very obvious breach of standing order 98. The minister is debating. He should return to the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Energy, if you could keep things on topic that would be appreciated.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Under the reliability standards the ESOO does not expect any reliability gaps. Under the reliability standards the 2024 ESOO does not expect any reliability gaps in South Australia before 2033-34. AEMO is tendering for off-market reserves in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia this summer to manage potential low-reserve conditions. The ESOO is not a forecast of outages from lack of supply; it is a signal to the market.

These were the same concerns raised by the opposition 12 months ago about last summer. That didn't eventuate. They keep on doing this each and every year. Each and every year, they keep on doing this. The unfortunate aspect for members opposite is that, in the absence of an alternative policy, come up with one.

## ENERGY SECURITY

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:09):** My question is also to the Premier. Does the Premier take responsibility for keeping the lights on in South Australia this summer? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PATTERSON:** It was reported in *The Advertiser* today that the Premier declared, and I quote, 'I don't think premiers should shirk responsibility—I absolutely think we've got a role to play.'

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:10):** I thank the shadow minister for his question. Yes, of course, you can't aspire to be the Premier of the state and then, at the first available opportunity on any matter, seek to shirk responsibility. You should speak about matters with candour and accept responsibility for errors which are reasonably within your control. What is rather frustrating in respect of an energy policy—

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Do you accept responsibility for ramping?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Morialta, you have had two warnings.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** What is frustrating in respect to energy policy—and this is the context I was making my remarks at the Bush Summit yesterday—is that at a federal level what we have seen is energy policy and a political context being principally driven by the climate wars. The implication of the climate wars is probably one of the biggest public policy disasters we have ever seen in the history of our country, namely that we have not had a consistent set of rules or conditions to motivate or stimulate investment, particularly when it comes to energy generation. That lack of consistency and the subsequent underinvestment in generation has now put the country and participants in the National Electricity Market in a precarious position.

South Australia, of course, has adopted a position of leadership when it comes to the energy transition, something that puts us in good stead when it comes to attracting investment globally. We know that capital is on the move around the world, and they are orientating their predisposition to invest in jurisdictions that take climate change seriously. On this side of the house, what I would say is that there is a degree of consistency. Each and every member of this government believes that climate change is real. Each and every member believes that there is an obligation to do something about it, and formulating a coherent policy that facilitates the transition for decarbonisation is something that we all committed to.

I don't know if that is something that the people on the other side of the house can say about their own federal colleagues. We have seen coalition Prime Ministers walking into the federal parliament, calling the big battery 'the big banana'. We have seen federal coalition ministers walking into parliaments, waving around lumps of coal, and that has got us absolutely nowhere. What we rather would like to see is a set of rules in place that do acknowledge that the energy transition to decarbonise is necessary and good and something that this country has the capability to be a global leader in—put the rules in place and allow the market to do its thing and investments to occur accordingly.

But for whatever reason, the coalition on the other side of the house seem to be increasingly more occupied by the conspiracy theorists, those who do not accept the science, the climate change deniers, and their policy manifests itself in creating an environment—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —that undermines investment rather than strengthens it. On this side of the house, we accept the responsibility in a modern economy that the energy transition is required and necessary.

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me, Premier, can you just be seated? The member for Morialta, I have given you warning after warning after warning, and we will see you after question time.

*The honourable member for Morialta having withdrawn from the chamber:*

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:14):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. How many, if any, abuse reports or notifications have been made to the Department for Child Protection by SAPOL in the last 12 months?

**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) (14:14):** I thank the member for the question. As I have spoken about at length before in this house, sadly, for children and young people and their families who are engaged with the child protection and family support system, there are many, many very difficult and very complex issues that they confront. Often, they are issues that span across generations and that speak to intergenerational trauma and also to, sometimes, mental ill health, substance misuse and a number of other stressors that occur in their family life.

Children and young people who are in contact with the child protection and family support system also are often vulnerable to particular sorts of harm and abuse. What we find, as I have spoken about in this place before, is that sometimes those children and young people find themselves in particular situations that do attract particular police attention. I am really proud to say that the

Department for Child Protection works very closely with SAPOL when these matters do occur. We are also undertaking work within the Department for Child Protection, and also right across government, to look at how we can best protect children and young people from those particular influences, those particular harms, and we will continue to do that.

Certainly, amongst our \$450 million investment—since coming into government—into the child protection and family support system, there are a number of strategies that we engage to keep children and young people safe, and I'm really happy to provide a fulsome list of those strategies today in this place and also, as I do so, to basically put a question into this house for the member to think about. That is, we have an enormous comprehensive list of strategies that we have taken forward utilising that \$450 million and what I would really like to start hearing, given the political games that the member for Heysen plays—

**Mr BATTY:** Point of order, sir.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** —I would like to understand which ones of those they don't support.

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down please, there is a point of order. If the minister would resume her seat.

**Mr BATTY:** Standing order 98: the minister is debating. It's a very simple question. If she doesn't know the answer she should just say so.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, if you can continue your remarks.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** What I will say first of all, and it's something else I have tried to explain to the member for Heysen before, is that we don't comment, rightly so, on any matters that involve police in relation to children and young people who are engaged with the child protection and family support system. It would be wrong to do so when there are particular investigations, so that's certainly not something I am going to do, and that is the right thing. But I will talk about, very importantly, the ways that we are supporting and empowering children and young people who do face particular vulnerabilities: those children and young people engaged with the system.

I will provide again the very long list of steps forward that we are taking, utilising that significant \$450 million investment. Again, I will put it to the member: which of those policies, which of those decisions, which of those investments do they not agree with, because I have not heard one policy, I have not heard one particular argument about whether they don't support family group conferencing, whether they don't support intensive family support services, whether they don't support our investment.

**The SPEAKER:** Time has expired, minister.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:18):** My question again is to the Minister for Child Protection. What is the total number of police investigations into children in the care of the Department for Child Protection at the time of their offending since May 2022?

**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) (14:19):** I think I have already really clearly answered this question, that I am not going to elucidate in any way about matters that could compromise any investigations or court matters relating to children and young people who are engaged with the child protection and family support system. Two things I will say in addition to making that very clear, is that I am absolutely notified—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley! That is your first warning.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** What I will make very clear is that unlike when those opposite were in government, I have absolutely transformed the way that I as minister am kept informed about particular matters that arise for particular children and young people in care. With that information,

as well as being notified about particular matters that may arise, I make it my business to drive change that improves our system's responses to those children and young people.

The third thing I would say is that with our \$450 million additional investment into the child protection and family support system, which clearly the member for Heysen does not support, we have improved care for those children and young people who live in residential care. We have put on more staff, we have more carers, and we have utterly slowed the growth of children and young people coming into care, utilising that investment and utilising the programs that we have put in place—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Colton! Member for Unley!

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** —to make a difference. So we have invested in family group conferencing, we have invested in a peak body for Aboriginal children and young people—for children and young people, an Aboriginal peak body called Wakwakurna Kanyini. We have invested into that really important peak body, we have increased carer payments, we have included an additional respite payment, we have invested in interventions through and across government, so \$35 million into intensive family support services that comes through the Department for Human Services.

The list of those investments and strategies go on and they are really good investments and really good strategies because what we are seeing is a slowing in the growth of the numbers of children in care from a high of 9 per cent when those opposite were in government, down to now, today, 0.2 per cent—so from 9 per cent to 0.2 per cent. We have more staff, more carers in the system and we are beginning to see that growth slow.

We are beginning to see extraordinary results from the investments that we have made. From our \$13.4 million, and growing, investment, a new investment in family group conferencing, 90 per cent of families who engage in a family group conference successfully continue to care for children after that family group conferencing. We have invested also in reunification, which is showing extraordinary signs of improvement for those families.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:23):** Supplementary.

**The SPEAKER:** Is it a supplementary?

**Mr TEAGUE:** Yes, it is a supplementary question.

**The SPEAKER:** Give it a go and we will see if it is a supplementary.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Supplementary question to the Minister for Child Protection: in light of those answers, how will identifying the number of abuse reports and investigations prejudice any ongoing investigation?

**The SPEAKER:** Did you want the question again, minister?

**Mr TEAGUE:** The supplementary question: in light of those answers, how will identifying the number of abuse reports and investigations prejudice any police investigation?

**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) (14:24):** I will try to explain this again to the member for Heysen. I am not in any way, through inference or otherwise, going to ever say something that will potentially prejudice a police investigation or a court matter.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** Of course I am aware—

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me, minister. Members on my left, including the member for Colton, there are few subjects more important to South Australia than this and I would ask you to listen to the minister in silence, or the next person who pipes up will be out of here.

**MOBILE PHONE TOWERS, LIMESTONE COAST**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:24):** My question is to the Minister for Planning. Can the minister advise the rollout schedule for the 27 proposed mobile base stations for the Limestone Coast? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** This project is to boost connectivity. It was announced in October last year and now has investment from federal, state and local governments. However, as yet no planning applications have been lodged.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:25):** I think I will have to take that on notice. I haven't received any reports about it, so I will take it on notice and report back to the member about the progress of those particular applications.

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS**

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (14:25):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What is the arrangement for charging of patients attending metropolitan emergency departments, and are there any proposals to change that arrangement?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:25):** I thank the member for Waite for her interest in this topic and her passion about patients in South Australia being able to access health care with their Medicare card and not their credit card. That is something that we pride ourselves on in South Australia, in Australia—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Frome, it is unparliamentary to interject; it is even more unparliamentary to interject from out of your place. If you want to have something to say, it might pay to move back to your seat.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** This is something that we are very passionate about, as a government, that needs to be upheld so we do not go down the path of a US-style healthcare system in this country. I thought that this was something that had bipartisan agreement, up until today. This is something that is part of the National Health Reform Agreement. It says very clearly in the Medicare principles that people have the opportunity to be treated as a public patient without cost, which I thought had bipartisan support.

**Ms Pratt:** No incentives, GP payroll tax.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Frome, you are warned for a second time. One more time and you will be joining the member for Morialta in the tuckshop.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I thought that was bipartisan, until yesterday when we had a very significant intervention in this house by the shadow assistant minister to the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Hammond.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** That's right. We have been waiting for a policy from the Liberal Party.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left! The member for Colton will leave until after question time. The minister will be heard in silence; I don't know how many times I have to ask for that.

*The honourable member for Colton having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** The member for Hammond, the shadow assistant minister to the Leader of the Opposition, said, and I quote:

I think it could be fixed without spending a single dollar on any infrastructure. I do not think the public would stand it, mind you, but if there was a gap fee for people turning up to emergency who did not get admitted, I think you would see a drastic reduction in people attending emergency departments.

So clearly we are finally seeing some policy coming out from those opposite in terms of the healthcare system. This gives a very clear contrast between our investments of building more hospital beds across South Australia, hiring more doctors and nurses and boosting the capacity of our healthcare system versus charging patients more to get into hospital and therefore trying to divert patients away from seeking care when they need it.

Today we have heard some comments from none other than the Australian Medical Association (AMA) in relation to this policy proposition that was put forward in the parliament yesterday. Dr John Williams, who is the President of the South Australian AMA, when asked about whether this was a good idea, said and I quote:

No, I don't think this is the right way to address it. People need to come to ED... As a doctor that works in ED, I often see parents that are concerned about a child that has fever or other symptoms, and I encourage them to come in because they're unsure of where things are at and also there's some really serious things that need to be ruled out...

We also had a comment on Twitter from one of the consultant ED doctors at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He said:

Hey @AdrianPederick I'm allegedly a specialist in Emergency Medicine—

*Ms Pratt interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Frome can leave the chamber until after question time. I don't know how many times I have to give you a warning, but I can't hear the minister over you yelling out.

*The honourable member for Frome having withdrawn from the chamber:*

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Play on minister.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** He said:

Hey @AdrianPederick I'm allegedly a specialist in Emergency Medicine and this is the dumbest [effing] suggestion I've heard to address the issue in a long time.

There is a clear contrast. We reject it. We stand up for Medicare and people's right to access our healthcare system.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:30):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Has the minister put in place and applied any procedures or policies better to monitor children in state care? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TEAGUE:** On 4 July, *The Advertiser* reported that one of the 15-year-old boys arrested as a result of the Westfield Marion lockdown was under the care of the Department for Child Protection at the time.

**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) (14:31):** I will try to explain this again. First of all, I am not going to be drawn on matters that are potentially the subject of police investigations or court proceedings. I will not be, because by inference I do not want to intervene in any way in those proceedings.

There are two other things, though, relevant to that question that I will provide information about to again try to provide elucidation to the member about the experiences of children and young people in care. What is really important for everybody in this place to understand is that children and young people in contact with the child protection and family support system, very sadly, are more likely to be the victims of crime—much more likely to be the victims of crime. Often, throughout their

childhood and throughout their lives they have been in particularly devastating circumstances that mean they are often, sadly, subject to terrible behaviour that is often the reason that they then come into care. That is the first thing to understand.

The second thing I really want to say to the member for Heysen—and when I say this I have in my heart and my mind an incredible group of young people who live in care who I was with just last week. Just last week I spent a couple of hours with them talking about the comprehensive legislation that we are currently providing information to our community about. One of the things they talked with me about is how important it is to their dignity to have confidentiality about what is happening in their lives.

One of the things that struck me on that occasion and that strikes me every time I spend time with young people in care is that, as much as the member for Heysen wants to have these sorts of questions, with no interest whatsoever in the significant policy effort that we have advanced that is beginning to make change—no interest whatsoever—I know from these conversations that these young people are extraordinary. They are extraordinary.

They are the most resilient, strong, clever, wise young people I have ever met. They have gone through some of the most heartbreaking and horrendous circumstances that, until I read some of them, it was hard to even imagine that that would be possible to happen to a young person. So I hope that one day the member for Heysen begins to contemplate that about those children and young people—that strength, that resilience—rather than trying to score political points and pretending there isn't a policy effort. I hope that someday he understands their strength.

**Mr BATTY:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is a point of order, minister.

**Mr BATTY:** Point of order 98: the minister is debating and reflecting on the member for Heysen, who has asked a very genuine question about what policies and procedures are in place.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister has finished the answer. Member for Chaffey.

#### ICE HOCKEY

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Sport. Is the minister concerned about the viability of ice hockey here in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** It has been reported yesterday that a plan for a \$20 million ice arena and rockclimbing facility at Marion has been scrapped by the Pelligra Group due to increased construction costs. The Pelligra Group SA warned that Adelaide's only ice arena at Thebarton was, 'extremely well past its use by date'.

**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) (14:35):** Thank you to the member. I think he is the shadow standalone spokesperson for recreation, if I have that correct.

**An honourable member:** Not quite.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** I think that's right; please tell me if I've got that wrong. What I can advise the shadow spokesperson for recreation is that we do have an ice sports facility here in South Australia, the IceArenA, as those opposite know very, very well—because they also presided over the arrangements at the IceArenA during their term of government. It is a building that is privately owned, and that is the facility used for ice sports here in South Australia.

#### ICE SPORTS SECTOR

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:36):** Minister, will the government provide any assistance to the ice hockey and the ice sports sector in South Australia?

**The SPEAKER:** That's not a supplementary; it is a separate question, so we will mark that down.

**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) (14:36):** Thank you to the shadow spokesperson for recreation. As I said, the IceArenA is a facility for ice sports here in South Australia. I can also advise the house—and I know that you know this very well, Mr Speaker—that our government is really proud of our comprehensive suite of grants programs that support sport and recreation here in South Australia.

I am sorry that the leader does not perhaps support the grants, but I certainly know that everybody on this side of the house is very happy with that comprehensive suite of grants programs. Of course, sporting organisations are, many times across the course of the year, entitled to make applications for funding through those grants programs—and many of those organisations do, of course, make those applications. There are fantastic examples in communities right across our state, in communities represented by members on both sides of the house, where funding has been provided through those grants programs for particular equipment, programs, facilities, upgrades, those endeavours.

If the shadow spokesperson for recreation would like any further information about that comprehensive suite of grants programs, or if any sporting organisation would like information about that suite of grants programs, I am very happy to provide it.

I can absolutely assure the house that during the course of the rest of the financial year there are a couple of grants programs that will be opened again. One of those is the next round of our \$18 million Power of Her infrastructure program to increase participation of women across a range of sports. Our Community Recreation and Sports Facilities grants program will also open in this second part of the financial year. I really encourage members to find out more about those and also encourage their sporting clubs and organisations.

I have just glanced over there and I know there have been some great outcomes in the communities of those on the crossbench. The Cougars Netball Club on the Yorke Peninsula was a very well-deserving recipient of an application, and I think The Power of Her was the grants program to which they applied for funds. I understand that group of women are incredibly happy with their grant, and there are many other great examples of how these programs are supporting sporting organisations in South Australia.

I look forward to hearing more about the outcomes of the future processes of that significant suite of grant programs, for which we open applications this year and we will continue to open applications for next year also.

### **SOUTHERN PORTS HIGHWAY**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:40):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Is the minister going to upgrade the Southern Ports Highway on the Limestone Coast? With your leave, sir, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** In a survey of my electorate, around 300 responses, nearly 20 per cent, said the Southern Ports was one of the roads in the poorest condition. It is one of the most complained-about roads in my electorate, and those who regularly use the road are fed up with the poor maintenance.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:40):** Again, I thank the member for his question and for his vigilance for his local community. The house should note his ongoing advocacy not only for Southern Ports Highway but for all roads in his electorate, unlike other members.

As I outlined in the house yesterday, the South-East regional road network spans a significant area, with several key roads showing signs of deterioration, including potholes and surface wear. In 2023-24, DIT intends to resurface three sections of Southern Ports Highway totalling 8.3 kilometres between Beachport and Millicent at a value of \$2.09 million. These three sections



include 2.4 kilometres at Mullins Swamp, including the Southend Access Road turn-off; 3.1 kilometres between Lake Frome and Rendelsham; and 2.8 kilometres between McCall Road and Bowman Road in Millicent.

Two of the three sections—between Lake Frome and Rendelsham, and between McCall Road and Bowman Road—have been completed, including the final seal. Resurfacing works at Mullins Swamp were unable to be completed due to the need to undertake extensive preparatory work and delays as a result of inclement weather at the final 2.4-kilometre section at Mullins Swamp. A temporary seal has been applied, with final seals scheduled for late 2024. I am advised that the community has raised concerns about the quality of these works; however, these works have been mainly rectified.

I can also inform the house that the two sections of the Southern Ports Highway are now part of a road safety program, which includes \$15 million worth of safety improvements such as lane widening, shoulder sealing, pavement rehabilitation of targeted sections, audio tactile markings, delineation and barrier hazard removals along Southern Ports Highway at Beachport to Southend Access Road, about 14.7 kilometres, and Southern Ports Highway at Robe to Clay Wells Road, 15.4 kilometres. These improvements will include the treatment of pavement issues along this section, including undulating rough pavement in the Mullins Swamp section.

Further, as the member would be aware, in the 2023-24 period, the intersection of Southern Ports Highway and Southend Access Road is funded for safety improvements under the regional road safety infrastructure program. The safety upgrade includes the addition of a left-turn slip lane at the T-junction. The state government will pay Wattle Range Council to deliver these works at a cost of \$400,000. That project is expected to be completed by mid-2025. I want to thank the member for his advocacy and his strong work and commitment to his local community. The South Australian government is committed to making sure we do all we can to undo the damage done by those members opposite when they were in office.

#### **FOSTER CARERS**

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. How is the government working to attract more foster carers?

**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) (14:43):** Thank you so much to the member for her question and her enduring commitment to the wellbeing of children and young people. We are relentlessly working to help improve the lives of children and young people and their families, including carer families. Foster and kinship carers are such a crucial part of our child protection and family support system. Every single day, they open their hearts, homes and lives to children and young people who most need love, support and nurture. They do so at the most rewarding moments and they stay the course through the moments that are really, really hard.

Since coming to government, we have grown the number of foster and kinship carers, but as carers retire or their circumstances change, we need more of these remarkable people to care for children and we need to ensure people know the different ways that they can get involved.

We recently launched a social media-based campaign, Foster the Feeling, to encourage those who have previously considered caring to take the next step and become an approved carer. The campaign concept is built on a feeling people of various ages and backgrounds may experience at some point in their lives that they want to help and also that feeling of pure joy and happiness that a carer and child would relate to as part of their journey together.

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking with wonderful carers Margie and Gary, who retired from their caring roles after providing short-term and respite care for more than 30 years. They spoke about how they felt about being carers, about how fulfilling it was, how much it meant to them, and the positive relationships they still have with the young people they cared for.

The campaign, which features across social media channels and is soon to appear at very prominent venues around South Australia, is showing outstanding results in its first four weeks, with

around 100 prospective carers registering to receive information about how to take the next step. I am really grateful to every person who has demonstrated their interest.

The campaign also focuses on dispelling myths about caring, and advises on the range of ways that community members can become carers, with caring ranging from just a few hours, to a weekend, school holidays or longer-term care. I am really pleased to inform the house that in the last financial year the government approved 125 new foster carers, and with these new approvals we have seen a net increase in carers.

Just last week, I participated in a round table hosted by Life without Barriers and Child and Family Focus SA, where we focused on new models of foster care. The discussion included industry leaders, peak bodies, academics, carers and young people, and will inform next steps and provide clear guidance for further attraction and retention efforts.

There is more to do to recruit and to retain foster carers, and improve their experience. That is why our recently released draft legislation includes many provisions that respond to the ways in which carers, having listened to them around the state, have articulated they would like to be better supported. Our draft legislation contains clear actions that respond to what carers have told us would make a difference to them.

It is also why we provided an unprecedented \$50 and 4.8 per cent increase to carer payments in the 2023-24 budget, and also introduced a new additional respite payment. Thank you again to all our current carers for their remarkable care, love and commitment. We will keep working to help care for you.

For anybody who has ever thought about caring, there is a place for you to help change a child's life, and in doing so you may also change your own.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:48):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. How many, if any, abuse reports or notifications were made to the Department for Child Protection in relation to the three-year-old child who died in Whyalla? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TEAGUE:** On 9 August 2024, *The Advertiser* reported that a three-year-old girl known to government authorities died in Whyalla in May.

**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) (14:48):** First of all, it is devastating whenever a child in our community, and any community around our state, is harmed or dies. I do offer condolences and love to family and extended network of friends and community members impacted by the terrible loss of a child. I feel that I have really tried to get the member for Heysen to understand that I am not going to comment on any matter that may or may not have particular investigations or processes around it. Again, I reiterate my condolences to family members and also to community members and friends.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:50):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. On what date did the Department for Child Protection contractor, charged with child sex offences, cease working for the department and caring for children? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TEAGUE:** On 21 June, *The Advertiser* reported that, and I quote:

...the department had refused to say whether the accused woman is still caring for children or if she has been stood down.

**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 (14:50):** Thank you to the member for the question. As I have said many times in this house, it is absolutely abhorrent in any circumstance when an adult abuses a child. When they predate on that particular child, it is absolutely abhorrent. No child anywhere—a child in care or anywhere else—should ever be subject to such horrific abuse. Our government is really strong on tackling those issues.

One of the things that is contained in our draft legislation is a very important provision. That provision is to increase the penalties for any person who abuses a child in care and who does so knowing that that child is in care or in a circumstance where they should reasonably have known they were in care. That is a really important provision that is included in the draft legislation. As I presume the member is aware, there is also a suite of other legislation that has either been introduced into this house or passed through this house to toughen penalties.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** If you wouldn't mind just being seated.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Standing order 98: the minister has gone so far as to presume that I am already aware. The minister is debating the point. There is a simple question. It invites an answer in respect of a date. The minister should direct her answer to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister, if you would continue your remarks and perhaps bring it back to the substance.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** As I have said before, I am not going to comment on particular circumstances in relation to particular children. I will say again that any sort of predator who targets children in care—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley! You're on your last warning.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** Any person who abuses a child in care or, indeed, any child, should be absolutely held to the—

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** It's Grace Portolesi all over again.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley will leave the chamber.

*The honourable member for Unley having withdrawn from the chamber:*

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** Wow! As I have stated before in this house, this worker—and I think the member now understands—was not directly employed by the Department for Child Protection. Also, I am not able to comment on circumstances relating to matters that may be the subject of investigations or any other court proceedings. I think the member understands that, but I just said it again to be sure.

The other thing I would say is—again, to go back to what I said before—rightly, our government is really focused on tackling the behaviour of vile predators, including those who target children in care. Hence the provisions in the draft legislation, hence the legislation that the Premier and the Attorney-General announced this week would soon be introduced to our parliament, hence the toughening of penalties for those repeat child sex offenders, hence the bill that has been in this house relating to those people who have been identified as abusers and who work in any setting in which children also work.

We will continue that program of reform because on this side of the house we are utterly determined to drive change and to confront those issues that we know our community confronts. There are terrible predators out there, and we are taking legislative and other steps to deal with their abhorrent behaviour.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:55):** Supplementary question: in light of that answer and the way in which the minister proposes to address individual matters, can the minister advise what the

relevant policies and procedures were and are? Is the minister satisfied that department policies and procedures have been followed at all times?

**The SPEAKER:** First of all, I think that's an additional question, particularly the last part of it. I will ask the minister to provide an answer.

**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) (14:55):** I will refer the member to my previous answer—in fact, my previous answers both in this session today and also, I think, in the few days before the midwinter break. I have answered these questions comprehensively, and I would ask him to look at those answers and reflect.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:56):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Could the minister please inform the house about the \$715 million—which I was pleased to see in the state budget this year—that is going to roll out towards early learning? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** Could the minister please explain to the house about this \$715 million? When are the projects going to roll out, and will they help with early learning in regional areas and child care and that whole spectrum of early education?

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:56):** I thank the member for MacKillop for the question and his interest in these issues and particularly his interest in the rollout of three-year-old preschool, which will be starting, as members of this place know, from 2026. My short answer to the member for MacKillop's question around will it benefit regional parts of South Australia is absolutely it will. In fact, I think it is safe to say that there are regional parts of South Australia, hopefully some in the member for MacKillop's area as well, that will benefit quite early.

I will go on to provide a little bit of detail around exactly how that \$715 million that the member for MacKillop referred to in this question is being spent. But at the heart of our ability to make sure that our rollout is quick—it is going to be the fastest rollout of three-year-old preschool in Australia—is the model that was recommended by the Hon. Julia Gillard in her royal commission report, which recommended a mixed model of delivery, which meant we would be using long day care services to provide some of the 'dosage', which is the language we use with three-year-old preschool, as well as doing that in government preschools as well.

That not only means that we get to use the existing workforce right around the state but it also means that we can ramp it up much faster than we would be able to if we didn't have that mixed model, which is a good thing. If we are to compare the rollout that we have signed up to here in South Australia to the rollout of other jurisdictions—and at top of mind is Victoria, particularly, where I think it was in a matter of hundreds of three year olds who were given access to three-year-old preschool in the first year of their rollout—we are much more likely here in South Australia to see that number in the thousands, which is pretty significant given that the number of three year olds, roughly speaking, that we have in our state each year is around, I think, the 19,000 mark.

So it is very pleasing that the model that was recommended and the model that we have adopted will mean that lots of places aren't waiting very long to actually get access to their 15 hours of preschool, which I know is something that will be really welcomed by the member for MacKillop and also something that will be welcomed by members from both sides of parliament across this chamber.

I said just a few moments ago that I would give a more detailed breakdown of where that \$715 million over the next five years, which was committed in the most recent budget, is going to be spent. We are talking about, of course, the provision of additional preschool hours for 2,000 children at the greatest risk of developmental vulnerability, which is really important. The very first

recommendation in Julia Gillard's royal commission report was to get developmental vulnerability down, which is really important.

I know that the Minister for Child Protection would agree with me, that a lot of the work we need to do starts in the early years. Certainly, it's something that I see every single day in the education system: those students who go and start reception are already behind the student who is sitting next to them. That work of getting them to catch up and keep up gets progressively harder as it goes. The recommendation was for the 1,000 most disadvantaged children in our system at three years and then also at four years to get a double dose of preschool, which is something we are going to do, we have signed on for and we have put aside \$127 million for that.

Growing the workforce is a key plank in making sure that we can deliver on our commitment, and we have put aside \$96.6 million over four years to do that. That's going to be particularly important in the case of regional areas, like the one that the member for MacKillop represents here, to make sure that we can retain and attract the workforce we need, to make sure that in our state where there are lots of what we refer to as those thin markets, where there are smaller numbers, we actually have the workforce there to make sure that all South Australian three year olds can benefit from this.

### **MORPHETT ROAD TRAM OVERPASS**

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:00):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister advise the house how the Morphett Road tram overpass will improve transport for local residents?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:00):** Can I first acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Gibson and the incredible work she has done, and the member for Badcoe, in fighting for this Morphett Road grade separation, as well as the member for Boothby. This \$200 million project, funded fifty-fifty between the Albanese government and the Malinauskas government, will improve the travel experience of nearly 25,000 vehicles that pass through that crossing each and every day—25,000 vehicles that experienced the boom gates often being down for up to 16 minutes an hour during the peak. This causes congestion, queueing, and delays for public transport users, and stands to increase the number of potential accidents as drivers take more risks.

Between 2019 and 2023, there were 106 crashes including 40 injuries at the level crossing and the adjacent intersection. The delivery of this project will have a genuinely positive safety impact, and the Morphett tram overpass will be undertaken by the recently appointed Tram Grade Separation Projects alliance of McConnell Dowell, CPB Contractors, Arup, Mott MacDonald and the sub-alliance partner Aurecon, together with the South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

Critically, it will be built simultaneously with the \$400 million Anzac, Marion Road and Cross Road overpasses and the rebuilt South Road tram overpass, as part of the Torrens to Darlington project. Completing the works on all overpasses at the same time will fast track construction time and reduce the impact on local residents, businesses and commuters. Perhaps most importantly, this means that only one single tramline closure will be necessary to get all three projects built completely simultaneously. This closure, in the second half of 2025 to January 2026—in time for the return to school—is now expected to be only six months' long, and we are working to see if we can reduce this even further.

Together, this project will provide an important boost to the South Australian economy, supporting approximately 1,100 full-time equivalent jobs over the construction period. Major construction is expected to start later this year, with the level crossings to be removed by the end of 2025. Imminently, community members will have the chance to meet with the project teams throughout September, and I will be hosting a series of community drop-in sessions. These will be opportunities for the project teams to share the concept designs, provide more information about onsite activities and timings, and also an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts about urban design.

South Australia is building under the Malinauskas Labor government—a vast difference between the stagnation of the previous four years under the Marshall Liberal government, where this

project was completely ignored, especially by those in cabinet who did nothing to ever advocate for a grade separation of Morphett Road. You would think if you went to cabinet you would have some voice. You would think you would try and do something. You would think you would, but unfortunately the member for Morphett did nothing—he did nothing about it. I've got to say it is very, very disappointing for his local community, but he's jumped on the bandwagon, so to speak now, on the coat-tails of Louise Miller Frost, on the coat-tails of the member for Gibson, and the member for Badcoe. If only he could possibly catch up, he might have something done.

### ICE FACTOR PROGRAM

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:04):** My question is to the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing. Is the minister concerned about the future of the Ice Factor program and do you consider it a victory that the sports development is shut down in our state?

**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) (15:05):** I think I have answered that question in an earlier question from the shadow spokesperson for recreation, standalone recreation, not sport but recreation. We have spoken before, including just a few minutes ago, about the IceArenA and that being the facility for ice sports here in South Australia. I know that the Ice Factor program operates from that facility. I also know that the Ice Factor program does remarkable work.

I have seen the joy and the empowerment from young people in my own community, young people from Christies Beach High and Wirreanda High who participate in the Ice Factor program, and I have seen some of the things that those young people have been experiencing before they participate in the program, and how much that engagement in sport absolutely helps those young people to know that they belong, that they are seen, that there are people there to support their development, that they are surrounded by a team of people involved in what happens through the Ice Factor program and the tournaments. It is extraordinary and I am really grateful to Marie Shaw and those who have developed the program for all that it does, and for the difference it makes to young people in our community.

### *Grievance Debate*

### STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:07):** What a terrible, terrible week it has been for this Labor government this week, an absolutely terrible week. Look at them all flocking. Do you think they want to actually sit here and listen to it all? They cannot wait to get out of here, because you know what, they hate bad news. They absolutely hate bad news over there.

What about energy? Today I asked the Premier one of the most basic questions and that was, can he guarantee that the lights would stay on here in South Australia over the summer? You know what? You think it is a basic question and you think you would get a basic answer. But alas no, I could not even get the most basic answers from this Premier. Because do you know why? They do not like what AEMO said today.

Unfortunately what we have come to see here in South Australia is that, as Labor governments come in, we get more and more blackouts. As the Labor Party comes into government, we get cost increases in electricity. Do not just take my word for it. What did AEMO have to say? I will tell you. Today the Electricity Statement of Opportunities came out and it is grim reading for South Australian households and businesses, with AEMO reporting a potential lack of electricity generation in 2024-25. We know that AEMO might seek and procure extra electricity from generators in the market who could then pass on this cost to consumers through their power bills. That is households and businesses as well.

This is another kick in the guts to South Australians in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. This falls at the feet of this Labor government who has sacrificed energy affordability and reliability with their ridiculous rush to renewables. The news that South Australians could be facing blackouts this year is another devastating, cruel blow. It is a cruel blow to households and businesses that are already battling to keep the lights on.

I was at the Bush Summit this week and I heard firsthand from farmers and small business owners and people who are doing it tough out there, and all we have had from this government this week is motherhood statements in relation to energy. It is simply not good enough and they have to stop blaming everybody else and get on with the job, and do what they can to help people who are doing it tough out there with the cost-of-living crisis.

Then there is child protection. You would think, again, that we would have had some basic etiquette and some answers to the most basic of questions about those who are most vulnerable in our community. But again, we had absolutely pathetic answers from an under siege minister. She is not across her brief and it is absolutely outrageous. She is obviously busy in her sport portfolio areas—too busy to actually focus on the priority area, which should be the most vulnerable children in our state care.

Of course, at the start of the week, what about the CFMEU, the gift that keeps on giving? It is pretty obvious to me that the CFMEU are not happy. The CFMEU family are not happy. Labor was very happy at one point in time to take their donations—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Yes, absolutely. Selfie stick Pete was quite happy to have photos with the CFMEU and take their money, and of course now they have had to return it. How embarrassing. But what we saw this week was a CFMEU takeover of the steps of Parliament House, and unfortunately we are going to see more of that under this government because we know we have a union boss Premier who is going to kowtow to the union movement. We saw that this thuggish, rogue union has taken control.

The Labor Party has finally woken up to the news, which everyone else knew, about what they are actually trying to do. This was the week for the government to actually come down hard on the CFMEU; it was their opportunity.

There has been a little bit of time since that *60 Minutes* investigation. We asked for an independent investigation—basic questions like, 'Are bikies and organised crime infiltrating our building sites and affecting procurement on our building sites?' The government has taken it upon itself to conduct two reviews—one in conjunction with SAPOL and one in relation to DIT—and you know what? They have had a good period of time to conduct these reviews, and we have still heard absolute crickets from this government as to why and where these reviews are.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Secret state.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** It does seem to be like we are turning into a secret state under this government. We could not obtain the most basic information from this government on whether we actually have serious and organised crime—bikies—infiltrating our construction sites. What about the impacts that that has on the South Australian taxpayer? Unfortunately, we are going to see more cost blowouts and we are going to see more delays. The government could not provide the most basic of information, let alone whether they had actually continued to receive CFMEU donations. It is just absolutely outrageous stuff. In regard to ramping, this is another broken promise by Labor. These broken promises are adding up. Of course, to top it off, we saw \$1 million given to an organisation without a grant application. This is absolutely ridiculous stuff. I will continue my comments at a further date.

#### ADELAIDE ELECTORATE

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:12):** I rise to give the house an update on some of my key election commitments that have been proceeding at pace during our parliament winter break. First is our brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre. Just last week, I had the pleasure of attending another milestone in this important election commitment for my community, alongside our Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, which was laying the foundations of the three inside pools at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. The three pools include the main 50-metre pool, the rehabilitation pool and the learn-to-swim pool. It is a very exciting milestone in this brand-new project.

It is going to be so significant for our community once the new centre is opened. We have indoor and outdoor pools that are 100 per cent powered by renewable energy, and built wherever

possible with locally sourced low-carbon materials. We have splash zones and we have waterslides, a café, gym, spa and sauna. It is going to be such an incredible community hub for my local area and beyond.

You do not often get community hubs like this where people from literally all walks of life and all ages are coming together to stay fit, active, healthy and connected to community. Everyone from babies through to seniors are undertaking swimming lessons, undertaking laps and deep-water aquarobics, plus all the clubs from water polo to swimming clubs.

Another exciting element of this project is that we are actually returning 1,000 square metres of Parklands to the community as part of this important project. That is a win-win. We are getting brand-new infrastructure—state-of-the-art infrastructure, community infrastructure—and also returning more green space to our community. I do think that is the definition of a win-win.

Another exciting election commitment that is moving forward is returning a community sport and rec hub to the former YMCA site at Smith Street in Walkerville. Only about a week ago there was a very exciting announcement that the Town of Walkerville, who we are in partnership with on delivering this project, has announced the successful builder for the brand-new recreation centre, which is Hutchinson Builders.

It is going to provide a multipurpose community space for Walkerville and our surrounding suburbs. We will be expanding from one court at the old and run-down facility to two courts. It is really exciting for local sporting clubs like our Walkerville Netball Club. Funnily enough, they are called the Walkerville Netball Club but they do not actually play a lot of netball in Walkerville itself. It is really exciting to be delivering a community centre where we are actually going to have our local netballers playing netball, or training at the very least, in our local community. It is going to be multipurpose. We want all different sporting groups undertaking different activities, as well as all ages participating in this new community centre. We are hoping to see construction occurring soon and we hope to open this brand-new facility towards the end of next year. That is another really exciting project in our community.

A short stroll away on the boundary of Collinswood and Nailsworth we have the upgrade underway of R.L. Pash park. I was just down there the other day speaking as the guest speaker for the Prospect Probus, which is at the Nailsworth Community Hall, right next to R.L. Pash park, so I was able to get a really good update on how those works are going. One thing I noticed when doorknocking around that local area is that a lot of us are attracted to my community particularly when we have young children. It is such a beautiful place to raise young kids. However, those kids obviously start getting a little bit older and they look for activities to do that are not inside stuck on a screen. What we wanted to do with the park is to create a few elements in the park that will be exciting for kids as they start to grow older.

As part of this upgrade of the R.L. Pash park, in partnership with the City of Prospect, we are going to have a climbing boulder for those kids, as they get a bit older, to try new activities, as well as a table tennis table. We are doing an upgrade to stormwater management, which will incorporate water play for the younger kids. We are going to upgrade all its exercise equipment. Importantly, what I heard from the consultation is that we want to maintain the open green space in that park as well. We are hoping to have the upgrade of that park complete towards the end of the year. I look forward to inviting my local community to the opening of the upgraded park.

#### **FROME ELECTORATE**

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:17):** I love taking the opportunity when we note grievances to reflect on my community of Frome. Most recently, I had the pleasure of being invited to the Mallala Bowls Club, which is always a good day out, but they did something very special on the weekend. As organised by Ian O'Loan, they used the bowls afternoon as an awareness opportunity for the risk factors associated with stroke.

The Stroke Foundation representatives were a part of the afternoon. I was happy to speak in my role reflecting on regional health, but most poignant of all was the address that we received by Greg Tucker. He was certainly there supported by his wife, Judy, and family members. Greg proved to us again that laughter is the best medicine. While we were crying in our cups, what we were also



understanding was Greg's journey post stroke and the recovery pathway that he was on, as well as the comfort that he gets from the enormous wraparound team—clinicians, neuroscientists and experts in their field from the University of South Australia.

It was an opportunity for us to come together to talk about the symptoms and the early warning signs, and to remind people that time is of the essence. We have to remember to be FAST and focus on face, on arms, on speech slurring and a timely response. As I mentioned, it was good to be a part of the Mallala community. While they enjoyed a good day out on the green, they were also very mindful of what it means to live in a country community where, when something is going wrong and you are experiencing a health emergency, time is of the essence. We all reflected and gave thanks for the volunteer paramedics who serve their communities with distinction, and on the importance of continuing to see investment in regional health services so that even though we might be further away from that service, we know that help is a hand.

The weekend afforded me an opportunity to travel up to the Riverland. While, sadly, my friend and colleague the member for Chaffey was fulfilling his portfolio duties elsewhere, he was right to tell me that when I got to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Distillery in Renmark I was going to have a good time. Why did I have a good time? It was because the Rural Doctors Association of SA had chosen that location for their awards night. A roomful of 150 doctors, graduates, clinicians, medical students, allied health professionals and researchers, really the upper echelons, the distinctive and excelling doctors we have in our regional health system, were all on display.

Dr Bill Geyer is the President of the RDASA, and he kicked off the evening with two very special awards that were being presented that evening. One award was to Dr Tony Lian Lloyd, who experienced a standing ovation. The room broke into applause; men and women, young and old, were on their feet applauding this gentleman for the services he has contributed to Quorn, living in Quorn for the last 30 years, practising as a GP, and with his wife building a life for themselves that involves a love of horses and of hobbies, particularly working with leather. People were on their feet because of his services to regional health, and we cannot thank him enough for his dedicated career.

The other special mention goes to Emeritus Professor Paul Worley, who is known to many and whose contributions to regional health services cannot be summarised in the time I have left. It was a privilege to be there, and I proudly represented the opposition. It was unfortunate that no-one from the government could attend; I know that Renmark is a long way away, but we really want to signal to health professionals that we can come together when we recognise their service.

I look forward to further opportunities to bring attention in this house to the importance of an established and well-funded regional health service in South Australia.

#### **TEA TREE GULLY COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:22):** It has been a little while since I have had the opportunity to speak to the house about my most significant election commitment, and that is, of course, the transition of 4,700 homes in my community (4,000 of those in my electorate) from the Tea Tree Gully CWMS onto SA Water mains.

It was just a few years ago in 2020 when it was the Labor Party who first committed—the only party who fully committed—to fully cost a transition onto SA Water mains for the 4,700 homes in Tea Tree Gully that had been on septic tanks for a very long time, some for upwards of 40 years.

A couple of days after the Labor opposition (at the time) made that commitment, of course the Liberal government of the day made a commitment. That commitment was not a fully costed plan, and they did not commit to scrap the \$745 CWMS levy that residents in my community were paying for the great pleasure of being on a rural-style system in a metropolitan area.

That was a huge commitment for me, and I spent many, many months knocking on the door of every house in Tea Tree Gully that was on the CWMS, not just explaining what our commitment would be but comparing the differences between one election commitment and the other commitment that had started progressing under the former Liberal government.

We were elected, and on 1 July 2022 the Tea Tree Gully Community Wastewater Management System was officially transferred over to SA Water management and ownership, which

meant that everyone in my community was paying SA Water rates for the first time, even if they had not yet been physically transitioned onto SA Water mains.

It has been a huge project. Last week, we held another community forum in my electorate at the wonderful Modbury Bowling Club for residents on the system, those who perhaps are in the process of being transitioned and some who have already been transitioned to come along and ask questions of a number of individuals. We were joined by the new minister responsible for SA Water, Minister Champion. It was a really good opportunity for him to hear directly from residents on the system. We were also joined by the SA Water chief executive, David Ryan.

We were joined by Minister Boyer in his capacity as the member for Wright, and we were also joined by Ellie. Ellie is the senior stakeholder manager at SA Water with a specific focus on CWMS in Tea Tree Gully. She gave a really comprehensive presentation about the transition project and of course was there to answer questions as well. We were also joined by Tanya, Anna and Chas from SA Water, who answered specific questions relating to the property transition. I myself of course answered lots of specific questions about commitments, about road resurfacing, about on-property works and about the staged model and why we have made the decisions that we have to stage it in the way that we have.

As I have discussed in this place before, in Tea Tree Gully there are around 76 different systems of septic all connecting into those 4,700 homes. As a result of that, we have split the transition project into 36 different stages of transition. It is incredibly complex, and a lot of the time it is nonsensical because there are streets where there is a house on SA Water, then a house on septic tank, then a house on SA Water, and so on. There are other streets where there will be one house on septic, then a couple of hundred, for example, on SA Water, and then some more septic at the end. There were anomalies where some individuals were paying the septic levy and SA Water rates because there was a main passing out the front of their home.

It has, surprisingly—and touch wood that it continues to be so—been a really successful project with huge customer satisfaction. The SA Water CE was able to present to us that we are still sitting at a 95 per cent satisfaction rating with respect to the transition of houses, which is incredible for the amount of work that is being done and, of course, the hugely invasive piece in terms of going into people's front and back yards as well as their streets, schools and sports clubs, just being out and about in the community and all the road disruptions that come with that.

At present, we have transitioned over 900 homes, and I am so incredibly proud that we have managed to get to that number in the space of about three years. It has been a really huge project, and we have learned so much from those first 900 homes that we have done. I am looking forward to celebrating the 1,000<sup>th</sup> home and continuing the transition of the next 3,000 or so homes from the Tea Tree Gully CWMS system onto SA Water mains in Tea Tree Gully.

### **MORPHETT ROAD LEVEL CROSSING**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:27):** I take the opportunity in parliament today to thank the thousands of people who signed the 'Fix Morphett Road' petition that has delivered a huge victory for our community after funding was secured for an overpass at the congested Morphett Road tram crossing. It has been a major traffic bottleneck in the electorate of Morphett for decades. Especially at peak times, the red lights flashing, the bells ringing and the boom gates down means only one thing, and that is a delay, a delay that has only got worse with the urban infill at Glengowrie, Morphettville, Camden Park and other suburbs that has increased substantially over the years.

I have been advocating for a solution since before I was elected as the member for Morphett in 2018 to reduce congestion and improve safety at this intersection. In early 2022, the state and federal Liberal teams secured funding to undertake planning and design works for this intersection. Last year, the state government announced that the Glenelg tramline will be closed between Glenelg and the city to allow construction of an overpass at Marion Road and Cross Road.

A significant number of residents contacted me saying that the Morphett Road tram crossing is more congested and should be fixed while the tramline is closed. Prior to the budget in 2023, I raised these concerns with the minister in parliament, but sadly these concerns were dismissed, with the result being no funding was provided in the budget. Not going to take no for an answer, I launched

a petition earlier this year to demonstrate the large amount of community support to fix the Morphett Road tram crossing.

The petition called on the state government to work with the federal government to fully fund and construct a much-needed overpass or underpass at the Morphett Road tram crossing while the Glenelg tramline is closed, fixing a major traffic bottleneck in our community. Importantly, I was joined in my efforts by Nicolle Flint who successfully fixed the Oaklands Crossing when she was the Liberal member for Boothby. Together, we ramped up the campaign to fix the Morphett Road tram crossing, holding listing posts, doorknocking, going to shopping centres, and we had thousands of people sign the petition.

The huge number of responses to the petition showed me that there is massive community frustration at the congestion and delays that are caused at this major traffic bottleneck. Previously, in parliament, I highlighted some of the responses to the petition, which show why people want it fixed. One such response sums up so many people's frustration, 'It's a nightmare. You can be stuck there for way too long.'

Disappointingly, the state and federal Labor governments did not commit the additional funding needed to fix this dangerous tram level crossing in either of this year's state or federal budgets, meaning that there have been six state and federal Labor budgets and not one budget has had a single dollar in it to fix the Morphett Road tram crossing. Only two months later, with a determined community behind this campaign, the federal and state governments jumped on the bandwagon and have agreed to provide funding for an overpass at the Morphett Road tram crossing.

With the threat of an early election, and Labor's inactive member for Boothby under huge pressure, the government rushed out this funding announcement. How do we know it was rushed? Funding was not in any of the past six state and federal budgets. Freedom of information requests I had made revealed that there is no detailed design for the overpass yet. These FOI requests also revealed that there has been no recent correspondence from the Labor member for Boothby to the state Minister for Infrastructure relating to the Morphett Road tram crossing.

Just two weeks before the funding announcement, Labor put out a flyer to get a petition signed. Locals saw through this, with numerous people asking me, 'Why would we sign it? We have already signed Stephen and Nicolle's petition.'

Ultimately, it was the community that came together on this and achieved a great win, a win that has been sought after for decades. An overpass at this bottleneck will massively reduce congestion and improve road safety at this intersection. Thank you again to the thousands of people who signed my Fix the Morphett Road Tram Crossing petition. Your voice has been instrumental in delivering an overpass at the Morphett Road tram crossing.

#### **DAVENPORT ELECTORATE**

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:32):** I would love to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on some of the key projects happening in my electorate of Davenport. Right now, the City of Onkaparinga is working in partnership with the state government to upgrade the Aberfoyle Community Centre, which is an extremely exciting project for my community. Last week, I had the pleasure of having a walk through to see the progress of that build. It is so exciting to see how quickly that building is going up and how many more programs will be able to be delivered to that part of my community by around Christmas time.

One area that is missing at the Aberfoyle Community Centre right now is a space for our young people. Currently, there is no youth centre in my Davenport electorate, so I am very excited that this new space will accommodate the many young people who flow out of Aberfoyle Park High School every afternoon, and provide some fantastic programs for them to get involved in their local community.

There is also a huge, long waitlist for the pottery program which will start once the new kiln is installed at the community centre. I am really looking forward to joining some local residents to get down there and get stuck into some clay and make some beautiful creations. Around about Christmas we will be launching that new facility, and I am looking forward to inviting the whole community to come along and check it out.

Also underway that our locals are seeing go up pretty quickly now is the Hub Gymnastics Centre. That is being built on Candy Road at O'Halloran Hill. It is a \$5 million project that is being built in partnership with state government, federal government and the council. It is a \$3 million election commitment and I am really pleased to be delivering on that, which will accommodate a waitlist of 700 kids waiting to do gymnastics in the south. It will become one of our biggest and best gymnastic centres in the state. I am really proud to have that in the electorate of Davenport. Again, we are working towards delivering that just past Christmas, and we are hoping to get the club in around about Christmas so they can start fitting it out with all the gym mats and getting the younger kids in to trial it out before it is officially open to the public.

That new space will also house an over-50s group, who are very keen to get inside and start using those facilities, and also a very active kindergym. We are really looking forward to delivering on that one in a few months' time. That is right across the road from Serpentine Reserve, where we have completed upgrades already. We have implemented new lighting in the car park, which is fantastic for the evening users of that space. We are putting in practice goalposts for those who like to come in and kick the footy in the afternoons and on weekends. There is a half-size basketball court, which we delivered for the younger kids in our community. It was actually a 12-year-old boy who raised it with me a few years ago, so I have been particularly proud to deliver that and show the young people in our community how local advocacy works and how, when they speak with their local council members or their state and federal members, they can actually see things delivered for them.

Something I really enjoyed seeing is that someone in the community has dragged out a wooden bench to that basketball court, and so now we are seeing, every afternoon, that court flooded with kids. People are really enjoying that space. The BMX Bandits next door are really loving the improved BMX facilities there. We have shade over the playground now, so a lot more parents bring their kids to enjoy that space. We are just seeing that whole space come alive, whereas before it was a pretty quiet little corner of our community.

Also, we have the Majors Road on/off ramp at the Southern Expressway continuing to progress. This is the biggest project in my community. It was a number one priority for myself, so I am really proud to be delivering on that. That whole space up there on Majors Road, O'Halloran Hill, is becoming a huge hive of activity for our community. We have the new RSPCA headquarters now open up there, and it is really, really busy and a fantastic spot. If anyone is looking for a new furry family member I encourage you to head up there and check it out. We have the new BMX facility open up there, supporting the Happy Valley BMX Club, which is fantastic. There is a new pump track that is absolutely pumping. There is so much activity going on in the electorate of Davenport.

I just want to take this opportunity to do a quick shout-out. We have had so many new businesses opening in the area as well. We had Ek OMKAR, a new Indo Asian supermarket open at O'Halloran Hill, which has been very busy, and the community is loving it; 5 Roll House, a new Vietnamese restaurant opened at Flagstaff Hill; Sushi Hiro, a new sushi train opening today at Aberfoyle Hub, which I am particularly excited about, with my office there; and Hey MooMoo's, a new coffee shop that two young, great guys have opened in Aberfoyle Park. So congratulations to all the new businesses in our area.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**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) (15:34):** I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 11am.

Motion carried.

*Bills***CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (MISCELLANEOUS)  
AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

**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) (15:38):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007. Read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**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) (15:38):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to modernise the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act to provide a more contemporary legislative framework to deliver South Australia's climate change policy objectives. The bill will enshrine in legislation South Australia's short-term and long-term emissions reduction targets to help limit the extent of climate change. Importantly, it also strengthens policy and planning provisions in the act to allow the targets to be achieved. The bill also provides for improved climate risk assessment and climate adaptation measures, including sector planning, to support South Australians to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already in train.

When the act came into operation in 2007, it was the first of its kind in Australia. It has guided policy and planning in our state to achieve world-leading outcomes in renewable energy generation and climate mitigation. Over time we have learnt more about the seriousness of climate change and the imperative to drastically reduce emissions and prepare ourselves for climate-related impacts, including more frequent and severe extreme weather events and long-term changes in temperatures, rainfall and sea levels.

The 2023 United Nations Emissions Reduction Gap report calls for all nations to accelerate economy-wide, low-carbon development transformations to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius. If current policies are continued, global warming is estimated to be limited to 3° Celsius. At this level of warming the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts dire consequences for health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth.

South Australians are already experiencing more frequent and severe weather-related events including floods, heatwaves and bushfires as well as warming temperatures, changing seasons and rising sea levels. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, understanding climate-related risks and proactive adaptation planning will be critical to limit the impact of climate change and associated natural disasters on communities, the economy and environment.

In May 2022, the South Australian parliament declared a climate emergency and committed to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to zero net emissions. This bill is an important part of the South Australian government's broader policy agenda to deal with climate change and respond to the declaration of a climate emergency.

The bill replaces the South Australian target of at least 60 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (on 1990 levels) by 2050 with our current state target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. A net zero target was first adopted by the Weatherill government in 2015 and aligns with Australia's national target and commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement. A short-term target for at least 60 per cent reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (from 2005 levels) will also be enshrined in the act.

The bill legislates a state target of 100 per cent net renewable electricity generation by 2027. Outdated targets for at least 20 per cent renewable electricity generation and use by 2014 are removed from the act. These targets were achieved by 2011, well ahead of time.

Latest data shows that nearly 74 per cent of South Australia's electricity is generated from renewable sources, which is among the highest of any major grid in the world. The state's remarkable transition to renewable energy highlights the importance of target setting and effective public policy and planning, for which the act and this amendment bill provide a sound legislative framework. The targets in the bill are a 'floor not a ceiling' and there is nothing to prevent South Australia from achieving greater reductions sooner.

To keep our state on track to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and prevent last-minute and costly interventions, the bill requires interim emissions reduction targets to be set every five years between 2030 and 2050. An indicative ten-year target must also be set to guide longer term planning. Before the end of 2030, the next interim target will be set for 2035 with an indicative target set for 2040. Each target must build upon the last to constitute a greater reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions than any preceding target. This approach to setting interim targets will constrain the cumulative emissions over the whole of the trajectory to 2050.

In setting interim targets, the minister responsible for the act must seek to provide consistency with best national and international practices, seek advice from relevant experts, and undertake consultation. Targets are only as good as the policies, plans and programs that support them.

The bill introduces a requirement to prepare a publicly available statewide emissions reduction plan within two years of commencement that sets out the government's objectives, policies, programs and initiatives for reducing, limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions. The minister must review the statewide emissions reduction plan in line with the setting of the interim target for 2035 and at least every five years aligned with the setting of subsequent interim targets. In both preparing and reviewing the statewide emissions reduction plan, the minister must undertake consultation as the minister thinks fit.

The bill also addresses climate risk and adaptation planning. A new section 14A requires the minister to prepare a statewide climate change risk assessment to help governments, business and communities prioritise planning and actions that support adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The statewide risk assessment can provide a foundation for more in-depth risk assessment and management at a regional, sectoral and organisational level.

The statewide climate change risk assessment must include an assessment of the economic, social and environmental implications of climate change, and associated risks to economic activity, communities and the natural environment in the health and wellbeing of the state. The risk assessment must seek to take into account the most up to date and best available information on the projected impacts of climate change in the state. The risk assessment will be reviewed every five years.

In both preparing and reviewing the statewide climate risk assessment, the minister must undertake consultation as the minister thinks fit. The act already provides the minister with the ability to develop policies that promote or implement measures to facilitate adaptation to climate change. The statewide climate change risk assessment will inform and help target this policy development.

New section 14B allows the Premier to nominate one or more public sector entities to prepare an agency or sector plan that addresses climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation or both. Where considered beneficial, agencies can work with a relevant sector in the state's economy, or another related group or area of activity, to develop plans for reducing emissions and/or adapting to climate change. The bill does not generally mandate agency or sector planning. The intention is for agency or sector planning to be undertaken where there is an identified need and public value in doing so.

The provisions do not exclude government agencies preparing agency or sector plans without nomination. The section for preparation of agency or sector plans complements existing provisions for sector agreements under section 16 of the act. The minister may enter into sector agreements with other parties to facilitate strategies to meet targets. Under the bill, a clarifying amendment makes it clear that sector agreements can include climate change adaptation measures.

Importantly, the bill will guide the South Australian government to lead by example in addressing climate-related risk, and reducing emissions in its own operations and activities. The bill provides the minister with the power to make a policy that outlines how government agencies should consider and manage climate-related risks in relation to their operations and activities. This amendment complements the existing provision in the act to develop policies that demonstrate the government's leadership in dealing with climate change through the management and reduction of its own greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill requires agencies to include in their annual reports, a report on the manner in which they are addressing climate change impacts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This reporting will help support the transparency and accountability needed to drive change. This requirement is complemented by a provision allowing the minister to create guidelines that could contain detail to guide agencies in their reporting. The benefit of including this detail in the guidelines is that it can easily be varied to keep up with rapidly evolving climate change reporting standards. This reporting will complement existing reporting requirements in the act under sections 7 and 21, which review progress against the targets and objects of the act.

Other amendments are included in the bill to clarify the status and effect of policies and plans under the act, and other consequential amendments have been made as a result of the primary amendments. The objects of the act remain essentially unchanged apart from minor consequential amendments. A few key terms are defined in the bill, including 'climate change adaptation' and 'climate change mitigation', which are designed to improve consistency across South Australian legislation, aligning with the terms in the Environment Protection Act 1993. Similarly, the definition of 'public sector agency' is aligned with the term in the Public Sector Act 2009.

The bill defines 'net greenhouse gas emissions'. This is a term used throughout the act, including in relation to the emissions reduction targets. The intention is that, when setting a target or measuring emissions reductions against a target, the term 'net greenhouse gas emissions', which includes references to offsets, will be subject to the procedural requirements in section 5 of the act as amended by clause 4 of the bill. These procedural requirements say that the minister must seek to take into account relevant methodologies and principles that apply within other Australian jurisdictions and seek to provide consistency with best national and international practices insofar as may be reasonably practicable and relevant to the state.

The bill has been informed by extensive community and industry engagement over the last 18 months. An inaugural Industry Climate Change Conference, held in April 2023, brought together 857 industry, business and government representatives from across South Australia to discuss pathways towards a net zero future. Community climate conversations were held between May and December 2023. More than 750 people from across the state were involved in discussions about how South Australia transitions to a clean, green and net zero greenhouse emissions future.

These engagements highlighted that industry and community want policy and regulation to be strengthened to drive the scale of climate change action, including legislated emission reduction targets and short-term targets, before 2050. The feedback highlighted the importance of government leadership, policy and information to lead others to a net zero emissions future. These matters are addressed in the bill.

Public consultation was undertaken through YourSAy from February to April 2024 on the draft amendment bill, supported by two information sessions. This consultation indicated broad support for the amendments, the need to be ambitious in this space, bringing community and business along, and have government lead by example. Four First Nations engagement workshops were also undertaken during this time on climate change projects that are currently planned or underway, including amendments to the act. The feedback received from First Nations people highlighted the need to continue to listen to truth telling, and the bill accordingly includes a new function for the minister responsible for the act to promote consultation with First Nations people in relation to climate change.

A change has also been made to the objects of the act to reflect this. The bill modernises the act and strengthens climate change action and transition to a net zero future, and enables our state to adapt to the changing climate. I will have more to say on the subject of climate change as

we enter the debate more fulsomely and I am able to have the close of the second reading speech, but I do commend earnestly this bill to the house. There is no more important unifying issue for the world to address. I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### Part 1—Preliminary

###### 1—Short title

This clause is formal.

##### Part 2—Amendment of *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*

###### 2—Amendment of section 3—Objects of Act

This clause amends section 3 of the Act to update the reference in the objects to the setting of targets to reflect the new targets proposed under this measure. It also makes consequential amendments to include references to plans and not just policies and programs. It also updates some of the stated objects, including to extend their application to preventing greenhouse gas emissions (and not just reducing or limiting such emissions).

###### 3—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause inserts various definitions which are consequential on other proposed amendments, including definitions of climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation, and net greenhouse gas emissions.

###### 4—Amendment of section 5—Targets

This clause amends section 5 to insert new and updated targets for the purposes of the Act. The principal target, or *SA target*, is to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by the end of 2050.

The amendments also set out a target to be reached by the end of 2030 (the *2030 target*) to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in the State to a level of at least 60% below 2005 levels. In addition, the proposed amendments provide for the setting of 5 yearly interim targets by the Minister for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to be achieved by the end of 2035, 2040 and 2045. In setting the interim targets, the Minister must also include an indicative interim target for the subsequent 5 year period and must also undertake such consultation as the Minister determines to be reasonable and appropriate and have regard to any relevant advice of the Premier's Climate Change Council.

The amendments also include a further target (the *renewable electricity target*), to achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation in South Australia by the end of December 2027.

Subsection (3) is amended to clarify that the Minister may determine the method for calculating the removal of greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere and greenhouse gas emissions offsets (taking into account the requirements of subsection (4)).

Subsection (4) is also amended by this clause to update the matters to which the Minister must have regard in setting targets and interim targets and making other determinations under this section. The references to a baseline year are also amended to refer to 2005, rather than 1990. The amendments make other consequential amendments and also provide for the publication of any determination or target that applies under the section on the Department's website.

###### 5—Amendment of section 6—Functions of Minister

This clause makes consequential amendments to the various functions of the Minister set out in this section to refer to plans in addition to policies and programs. In relation to the function of promoting the commercialisation and use of technologies for reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the amendments extend this to technologies that prevent greenhouse gas emissions. The clause also inserts as a function of the Minister, promoting consultation with First Nations people about issues associated with climate change.

###### 6—Amendment of section 7—Two-yearly reports

Section 7 provides for reporting by the Minister every 2 years on the operation of the Act and sets out the matters that must be included in the report. This clause makes consequential amendments to those matters by referring to the new targets set by or under the proposed amendments to section 5. The amendment to delete subsection (2)(d) is consequential on the amendment to subsection (2)(c) to refer to the targets set by or under section 5. The amendments also update the language in subsection (2)(f) in relation to the requirement to include in the report, a summary of the use of renewable energy, so that it refers to the use of renewable energy sources.

###### 7—Amendment of section 11—Functions of Council



The proposed amendments to section 11 update the language to include a reference in subsection (1) to the generation, and not just the use, of renewable energy. It also updates the language in subsection (3)(a) to refer to the concepts of climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation.

#### 8—Amendment of heading to Part 4

This amendment amends the heading to Part 4 to include a reference to plans (as well as policies). This is consequential on the proposed amendments to section 14 to include a statewide emissions reduction plan and the proposed insertion of section 14B.

#### 9—Amendment of section 14—Policies

Section 14 provides for policies to be developed by the Minister for various purposes in relation to the Act. This clause amends section 14 to update the terminology in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to include reference to the fact that the policies may assist in outlining how public sector entities should (as or to the extent specified in the policy) consider and manage climate related risks in relation to their operations and activities.

The amendments also provide for the development of a statewide emissions reduction plan by the Minister within 2 years of the commencement of the measure. The statewide emissions reduction plan must set out the Government's objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for the State and the Government's policies, programs and other initiatives for reducing, limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions. The statewide emissions reduction plan must be reviewed every 5 years, to coincide, insofar as is reasonably practicable, with the setting of the interim targets under proposed section 5(2a). In preparing and reviewing the statewide emissions reduction plan, the Minister must undertake such consultation as the Minister considers appropriate. The clause also makes other amendments that are consequential on the inclusion of the plan in order to extend any references to policies to include reference to plans.

#### 10—Insertion of sections 14A and 14B

This clause proposes to insert 2 new sections in the Act as follows:

##### 14A—Climate change risk assessment for the State

This clause provides for the requirement of the Minister to prepare a climate change risk assessment for South Australia (the *statewide climate change risk assessment*) to support planning by the Government, local government and various sectors of the economy and the community, and the community more generally, to manage climate related risk. The risk assessment is required to be prepared within 2 years of the commencement of this provision, and must include an assessment of the economic, social and environmental implications of climate change and the associated risks to economic activity, communities, natural environments and ecosystems, and the health and well-being of the people of South Australia. The risk assessment must be reviewed at least once every 5 years. In preparing the risk assessment, and conducting the review, the Minister must seek to take into account the most up-to-date and best available information on the projected impacts of climate change in the State, and undertake such consultation as the Minister considers appropriate. An up-to-date copy of the risk assessment is also required to be made reasonably available to the public.

##### 14B—Plans prepared by public sector agencies

This clause provides for the preparation of plans by public sector agencies nominated by the Premier to address matters regarding climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation (or both) relating to the agency, or a particular sector. If the Premier considers it appropriate, 1 or more public sector agencies may be nominated to prepare a joint plan. The nomination by the Premier may specify the scope and application of the plan, including by identifying the sector or sectors to which the plan will apply. A plan must be prepared in accordance with the nomination and any guidelines developed by the Minister. The plan should, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide for policies, programs and other initiatives relevant to the functions, activities or areas of responsibility, operations or interests of the agency or the sector. The plan must be developed having regard to the climate related risks that are relevant to the agency or sector (including any risks identified in the statewide climate change risk assessment), the targets set under the Act and any other relevant plans or sector agreements or policies under the Act. In preparing or varying a plan, the nominated agency must undertake appropriate consultation after taking into account any guidelines of the Minister, and must ensure that an up-to-date copy of the plan is made reasonably available to the public. The public sector agency must prepare a report each year on the implementation of the plan in accordance with any guidelines developed by the Minister.

The clause also provides that a public sector agency that is not the subject of a nomination, may, after consultation with the Minister, voluntarily prepare a plan (which may be jointly with 1 or more other public sector entities) to address matters relating to climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation relating to the agency or sector. The plans may provide for policies, programs and other initiatives that are relevant to the functions, activities or areas of responsibility, or the operations or interests of the agency or sector. In preparing or varying a plan, the agency must undertake such consultation as the agency considers appropriate after taking into account any relevant guidelines developed by the Minister.

## 11—Amendment of section 16—Sector agreements

This amendment amends section 16 of the Act so that the current provisions regarding voluntary sector agreements (which relate to recognising, promoting or facilitating strategies to meet any targets set under the Act) extend to climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. Subsection (2) sets out the various things a sector agreement may provide for and this clause amends paragraph (a) to include references to climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation as matters to which the objectives of the agreements may relate.

The amendments also remove subsections (4) and (5) which refer to matters that were to be progressed by July 2008 and are no longer required.

## 12—Insertion of section 18A

This amendment inserts proposed section 18A as follows:

## 18A—Status and effect of policies and plans

This clause provides that policies and plans under the Act are an expression of policy and do not affect rights and liabilities. It clarifies that no action can be brought on the basis that an entity has acted in a way that is inconsistent with a policy or plan under the Act, or on the basis that another instrument is inconsistent with such a plan or policy.

## 13—Amendment of heading to section 20

This clause amends the heading to section 20 and is consequential on the insertion of proposed section 20A.

## 14—Insertion of section 20A

This clause inserts proposed section 20A as follows:

## 20A—Reports of public sector agencies

This clause provides that the annual report of a public sector agency must include a report on the manner in which the agency is addressing matters relating to climate related risks and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the extent these are relevant to the operations or activities of the agency. In preparing the report, the agency must have regard to any guidelines developed by the Minister. This clause will have effect in relation to the first full financial year following the commencement of the measure onwards.

## 15—Amendment of section 22—Regulations

This amendment is consequential on the insertion of the definition of public sector entities.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Patterson.

**STATUTES AMENDMENT (PERSONAL MOBILITY DEVICES) BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:52):** I rise to speak to the Statutes Amendment (Personal Mobility Devices) Bill 2024. This bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 and the Road Traffic Act 1961 and it paves the way for legalised use of e-scooters and other personal mobility devices on South Australia's road and footpath network. The need for reform here is apparent. The existing legislation can be confusing and too often South Australians are falling foul of the law without their knowing.

I commend South Australia Police and its officers for their education-centric approach to policing this matter, but it is now time that we made their job easier. It is also time we allow South Australians to adopt what are clean and efficient modes of personal transport in a market that is presenting us with more and more options than ever before.

Electric bikes are commonplace on our roads and they have been for some time. Of course, there are reasonable limits imposed on engine size and maximum speeds and it is the government's intention that similar restrictions apply to e-scooters, e-skateboards and the like. The bill provides that a personal mobility device's dimensions, its maximum mass and speed, network access, the minimum age of its rider and the rules they must follow are specified in the regulations. This will allow the government to quickly and effectively respond to new devices and technologies as they emerge. The relevant regulations will be drafted on passage of this bill and the new legislation could commence as soon as next year.

This is news that I know many in my community of Davenport will welcome, but there are two young men in particular whose patience and advocacy I would like to acknowledge today. I met with Liam and Rowan at my electorate office in 2023: two Happy Valley boys who own motorised unicycles. Liam and Rowan are as responsible as they are enthusiastic and, like so many other young South Australians who have invested in personal mobility devices, they were bitterly disappointed to learn that while you can easily purchase these devices here in our state, the law would not let them hit the streets on their new unicycles.

The boys wrote to me about why our government should allow e-scooters and other mobility devices, and also made a few suggestions for regulations to keep people safe. They said in their letter that it is a good and affordable mode of transport. They said it is environmentally friendly, which is something we absolutely should be focused on right now. They also said it is a fun family activity, and their mother who accompanied them on their visit to my office surely assured me of that.

They also suggested a few regulations to keep people safe. They suggested a 25 km/h speed limit on roads but slower on footpaths, mandatory helmets, and strict rules for giving way to pedestrians. All of these are great points that I am sure will be considered during the drafting of the regulations. So to Liam and Rowan: I am glad you kept up the fight. These new laws will be here before you know it.

I know there are also some parents in my community—and potentially a particular parent in my office as well who is really looking forward to her 16-year-old boy being able to take himself to footy training in the afternoons and get around their local community on his e-device that will soon become legal. What I am told by these parents who have kids on P-plates is that one year between 16 and 17 can be excruciatingly long when you are looking to reach that milestone in parenting where you can cut back on some of that soccer mum-style cruising around your community.

When we classify personal mobility devices as vehicles, it means that e-scooter regulations will largely align with those applied to bicycles. There are a few advantages to this. The first of these advantages is network access and the application of road rules, which should remove any confusion for personal mobility device users as far as their obligations as road users are concerned. This will also help South Australia Police monitor behaviours and keep our community safe, just as they have done since hire scooters first hit the streets in Adelaide in 2019.

On that point, I want to reassure the community that the commencement of this bill does not spell the end of scooter hire services in our city; in fact, it may see them expand to new suburbs and regions. As the former Mayor at the City of Onkaparinga, our coastal regions are crying out for access to these services. We have not seen it yet down as far south as the City of Onkaparinga, but there are a huge number of residents who live down there at Port Noarlunga and areas further south from there who are really keen to get out on those huge, big, beautiful, wide esplanades and check out our coast using a different method. I know that a lot of council areas are really looking forward to the introduction of this bill.

At present, scooter hire businesses require the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport's approval before they can set up shop in South Australia. This will not be the case moving forward, and I look forward to seeing where these services pop up next.

I would like to acknowledge the almost 2,000 South Australians who participated in the YourSAy survey, a significant majority of whom supported the ongoing use of e-scooters—and, by extension, other personal mobility devices—on public roads and paths. For the record, that majority was 87 per cent of respondents. That is a huge amount of support going forward, and that confidence helps us to pursue this bill and these regulations.

This overwhelming support for change is further evidence of the community's appetite for low-cost, low-emission, future-focused transport options not just in the city but right across our state. Under council-driven trials, we have seen more than one million e-scooter trips recorded in South Australia between 2020 and the end of 2023, and it is safe to assume that that figure has grown by some margin in the months since. Both actions and words are telling us that it is time for change and, as a government that listens, we are progressing that change right now. I commend the bill to the house.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:59):** I thank you first and foremost, Mr Acting Speaker, for your generous time as Acting Speaker and I thank the Opposition Whip. I thank members for their contributions, and I also thank my department for their contribution in preparing this legislation. This legislation is a long time coming. I would like to point out a few things that I want to make clear to the house.

Regarding the for hire mobility devices, this legislation does not legislate over the top of the right of a local council to approve or not approve the issuing of the ability for these things to apply for hire in their communities. It is their footpaths. Councils are free to ban or accept these as they see fit. What I and the parliament are attempting to do is to create a regulatory framework to allow the personal ownership and use of these mobility devices. I think that is a very important distinction to make.

One of the concerns I have heard from people is that these things create a hazard on the roads when they are left on the side of the road. I agree. I think they detract from the beauty and amenity of our suburban streets, but I also think that personal ownership of these devices is warranted, they are a good alternative to driving and they are a good way of getting around. What we are attempting to do is to create a safe regulatory framework for these devices to operate. I too have seen the way some of the users use the for hire scooters, especially the way they are being used late at night, but I think the regulatory framework gets the mix right.

But if Adelaide City Council wants to ban these things for hire they can. This legislation does not stop that. What this legislation does do is say, 'If you personally own one and you want to ride it, these are the rules of engagement.' The for hire devices will be done by relevant local councils. They will be the ones that are the approving authorities. I think it is important to know that council by-laws will still apply here.

In terms of the nominal defendant, I want to make this point to the opposition as well in consideration of their amendment. Without anticipating debate, I thought I would answer a few of the things I heard in the second reading contributions. It would be an unfair unfunded liability on the people of South Australia to have people nominated as the nominal defendant here because that money would need to come from somewhere, and it will come out of people's taxes. So I think it is an unfair burden on the taxpayer.

I think there will be offerings that come up here that people can use and take advantage of, but there is also the very important matter of personal responsibility. If you injure someone riding one of these things, if you have acted recklessly, you could be personally liable. I think it is important that we recognise that without putting a burden on the taxpayer.

Regarding the idea of basically a registration for this, we are treating these devices the same way we treat bicycles, and I think that is an appropriate framework. That is not to say that in the future, if we do see the need to do something different about the way these devices interact in our community, we can always come back here. But right now the government's main objective is to make the ownership and use of these devices legal for individuals so people can go out and purchase them and use them, and then lay over a framework where we believe they can be used safely on our roads and our footpaths. That is the framework. I thank members for their contributions. I understand we will be going into committee, and I thank the house for its speedy passage.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** I move:

Amendment No 1 [Pisoni-1]—

Page 3, lines 3 to 8—Delete clause 3 and substitute:

## 3—Amendment of section 5—Interpretation

- (1) Section 5(1)—after the definition of *drug driving offence* insert:

*electric personal transporter* means an electric personal transporter (within the meaning of the *Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014*) that may be driven on or over a road in accordance with an approval of the Minister under section 161A of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*;

- (2) Section 5(1), definition of *motor vehicle*—after 'part of the vehicle' insert:

but does not include an electric personal transporter

Note—

Section 116 however treats electric personal transporters as if they were uninsured motor vehicles for the purposes of claims against the nominal defendant

## 3A—Amendment of section 116—Claim against nominal defendant where vehicle uninsured

- Section 116(1), definition of *uninsured motor vehicle*—after 'is in force' first occurring insert:

or an electric personal transporter

It is very clear that the government and the opposition are at one here, because a version of this bill was first presented by the member for Hartley, now the Leader of the Opposition here in South Australia, and I have no doubt that it was that initiative that has got us to where we are today.

Today it is a government bill, and the point of difference we have is on dealing with a situation where an irresponsible user or owner of a scooter or an electric personal transporter device is, basically, involved in a hit and run. They hit someone on a footpath or they hit someone who might be legally crossing on the green lights at pedestrian lights—or at the new wombat or zebra crossings that are popping up.

These new crossings are not very commonplace in South Australia; we have had zebra crossings in the rest of Australia for many years but they are quite a new thing here. Many South Australians are not yet used to them and do not quite know how they work, so I think it is more risky using a zebra crossing in South Australia compared to using one in Victoria, New South Wales or Canberra, for example—certainly where I have had experience using them.

We are concerned, because people have raised it with me. They are normally more senior members of our community: 'What happens if someone does not stop and exchange details and I end up in hospital for a week and I have expenses I have to meet? Yes, there is a civil approach I can take, however I don't even know who that person was, they didn't even stop. There is no registration number. Where is my recompense? Where is the justice?'

I do not believe anyone would think that is a fair situation. It is not the same as someone bumping into someone, even someone on a bike. These are heavy, powered vehicles and the impact is much bigger. The minister spoke about the difference in impact between 25 km/h and 40 km/h yesterday in another debate. Those who have seen the hire scooters in use would realise which are quite light in comparison to those I have seen for sale in places like JB HiFi for example; they are big vehicles.

This amendment proposes to extend, if you like, the nominal defendant—and I did touch on how that works in my second reading contribution. It deals with them without being called a vehicle, so there is no need for registration. Clause 3(2) is the bit I was referring to that exempts it from motor registration. The note is the key part of the amendment that I am putting forward.

I know the statistics are very low about claims on the nominal defendant. I have confidence that this may only be required as a temporary measure because one of the reasons I sit on this side of the house is that I have a lot of faith in the private enterprise system and the open market. Once that has been established with the introduction of this, I know that there will be insurance products available.

How the government ensures that those insurance options are taken up, whether it is a requirement of purchase that insurance must be purchased as well, I do not know. I think we are a

long way from that yet. But even if the government sees this as an interim measure, certainly my senior—or experienced, I should say; I am at the age where I use the word 'experienced' to describe people over a certain age—members of the community would feel as though they have some reassurance that they will not be left holding their own medical expenses if they are a victim of an irresponsible user.

I am not saying that we are going to see a lot of that, but insurance is all about the unexpected. Thank God that those sorts of things do not happen very often, because insurance premiums would be even more expensive than what they are now if more and more people were claiming on them because there was a higher proportion of people who were causing incidents through irresponsible behaviour that saw insurance claims being needed.

I think this is a small ask on behalf of those who have raised this concern. The minister has certainly not spoken positively in favour of this amendment. I can see him shaking his head; I do not think he is going to be supportive. If that is the case, I can indicate that there is an opportunity for this bill, when it goes to the other chamber, where there may be some other mechanism that we would certainly be very keen to support that would provide a similar option for those who may be victims of hit-and-runs by these electric vehicles.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I will just point out a couple of things to the member. He mentioned earlier that the government and the opposition were on a unity ticket, as it were, because the member for Hartley had a bill that did much of this. That bill did not prescribe people being the nominal defendant in that legislation; in fact, there was no regard for insurance. If we had done as the opposition had asked and passed that bill, there would be no insurance. I do not want to put words into his mouth, but is it an admission that the Leader of the Opposition erred in his private member's bill, or have you changed your mind?

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** Is that a question?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is a rhetorical question. The truth is that the opposition now, I fear, have looked at the Leader of the Opposition's bill and said, 'This is flawed. This bill is flawed.' I would not make that criticism of the Leader of the Opposition. He is young and enthusiastic, he wants to change the world, but now I see—what was the word you used?—more experienced members of the shadow cabinet, in the outer orbit, saying, 'Maybe a moment of pause. Perhaps we need to have someone as the nominal defendant.' Now we are introducing amendments to a government bill that were not contemplated in the Leader of the Opposition's bill that he introduced into this parliament.

Far be it for me to make a lot of noise about this. Far be it for me to try to show the inconsistencies between the two positions, between—what was the term—the more experienced members of the opposition and the enthusiastic members of the opposition, but I would say this: if you hit someone and cause injury on one of these devices, section 43 of the Road Traffic Act applies. It is a criminal offence.

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** If you get caught.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It is no different from a car.

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** No, they have registration numbers.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Hang on a second, if there is no-one there and you hit a pedestrian in your car and you leave, it is an offence. It is no different from this. It is an offence. It is an offence not to stop and render assistance.

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** And I read about people who get caught time and time again for hit and runs because of registration numbers.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I have more faith in South Australians than some members. I think people will stop and render assistance. Let's take this argument to its logical extension: bicycles, electric bicycles. Is the party of low regulation and free enterprise really saying to me now that we need to regulate over the top of people and impose on the taxpayer that everyone who is on our roads, on our footpaths, no matter what device they are using, has a form of insurance?

I understand that there are some people out there, traditionally, you might call left-wing busybodies, but I did not think I would hear it from the party of so-called economic liberty and rights of the individual.

**The Hon. D.G. Pisoni:** We are not proposing them anywhere else. Read the amendment.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I have. To be fair to the member, the amendment has good intentions—very good intentions. I understand exactly who he is attempting to protect. I think it makes a lot of sense. However, the unfunded liability it places on the taxpayer is unfair and the unfunded liability it would place on the general government sector to fund that unfunded liability is unfair and that would be funded through taxation. No-one wants to see higher taxes.

I think we have to trust the good common sense of our people that they will obey the laws, they will obey section 43 of the Road Traffic Act and stop and give assistance, as is required of them under statute, and we can get on with this reform. I do accept what the member is saying. This is something that I contemplated long and hard on through the formulation of this bill because, in forming this bill, one of the key considerations I was saying publicly was, 'These devices are quite large' and as I said yesterday, 'force equals mass times acceleration'. It is a pretty simple formula. And the faster these things go, if they hit people on footpaths, there is damage, as with bicycles, skateboards and rollerblades.

In the end, in our society we have deemed that these vehicles do not need to have registration or insurance, so I accept what the member is saying; however, I do not think we are at that stage yet, but who knows? Maybe later. I also point out it was not in the Leader of the Opposition's original bill that he tabled in this parliament and said was opposition policy.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** I will take that as a question. I have been long enough in this place to know that on many occasions bills are revised and amended after they are presented into this place and it often gets a better outcome. The reason we are here right now, with a government bill that is very similar to a bill that was brought to this place by the member for Hartley, is because it was brought to this place by the member for Hartley.

The fact that the member for Hartley was then able to come back and suggest additional improvements to a bill that allowed access to privately owned scooters and so forth shows that the member for Hartley is a person who is willing and prepared to look for continuous improvement and beneficial outcomes as more information is known and more feedback is received about a bill. That is how it has always worked in this place.

The Labor Party have been experts at sniffing the wind after something has gone out for consultation or even after a bill has been brought into this place, and then there have been amendments, sometimes dozens of amendments, to bills before they are agreed to in this place. Those amendments often happen after the bill has gone through its first and second reading phase; we see that. When I brought the Skills Commission bill to this place, it sat on the table during the winter break, when we expanded the consultation process. When we returned from the winter break, I put my own amendments into that bill based on additional feedback received, which was always the intention.

It was never the intention, I do not believe, of the Liberal Party, when we brought this bill to this place, that we would not be inviting amendments to improve it. As a matter of fact, we would have been delighted if the government brought amendments at that time. I do not accept the premise of the transport minister that there is anything sinister or contradictory about the position that the Liberal Party has in bringing this amendment to the table today. The minister has made it clear that the government will not be supporting it, so I shall not subject him to any more of this pain.

**Mr McBRIDE:** I am very pleased that the member for Unley has withdrawn, by the sound of it, and sat down and is not going to subject the minister to any more pain, as he just said. I really did appreciate the briefing on this, minister, from your staff. As your staff would know, I am a very big supporter of the rollout of this. I find that it is quite regulated in its rollout and the rules are quite tough. What fascinated me about this amendment, which has potentially now been withdrawn, is that there was more regulation by a conservative Liberal opposition in talking about licences, insurance and other types of bureaucratic rollout over an electric scooter.

I would like to see these scooters be an alternative transport and a mode of transport for those who live in densely populated areas. I would like to see scooters used in a way so that they do not look like the hire scooters we have talked about that are laid or strewn on the footpaths in our city of Adelaide at this stage. My intel is that these are expensive scooters. They will not be dumped or left by the owners where they should not be, and they will probably be looked after with security so that no-one will steal them.

All I can say, minister, is that I am glad there are no more restrictions there. The question to you, minister, and probably to the government, is about the rules you talk about in the Road Traffic Act with a mobility device that is allowed to do such a speed on the footpath of 10 or 15 km/h and 25 km/h on a road. As I say, if you walk, on average it is 6 km/h. If you walk fast you can probably walk at 12 km/h. If you got me to jog I am probably going to be doing 15 km/h, and if you get me to run fast I might be able to even beat 25 km/h, which means I am going to beat these scooters. I am hoping I do not have to wear a helmet when I do that. That is one thing that I was obviously worried about.

I do hope that with what is being rolled out here in these amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, the rollout of these electric scooters, there is the opportunity to roll out a mode of transport that might suit people who have lost their licence, who do not own a car, who live in intense housing and do not have the means to park a car. Are you supportive of having this scooter everywhere possible? A little bit on the side of that, minister: do you think the scooter is going to be a means of getting home from those events where alcohol is involved? At what level of consumption would alcohol be allowed to be used with a scooter? Are they walking alongside of that scooter? Are they then standing on that scooter? Is there any terminology that leaves any doubt that innocent people, trying to do the right thing here, are not going to get caught?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Speed limits for footpaths are out to consultation. We are looking at between 10 km/h and 15 km/h, so we will make a decision on that through regulation. The government is pretty settled on 25 km/h for roads. Drinking under the influence applies for these vehicles, as it does for bicycles. You cannot ride a bicycle if you are intoxicated either. It is not an alternative form of transport if you are intoxicated. You can be drug-tested and alcohol-tested if you are on a bicycle and if you are on a mobility device like this.

If you are walking home and you are carrying your scooter, the discretion is on the police obviously to make a commonsense assessment. They will make an assessment about whether or not you are in control and command of a device. Clearly, if you have bought a very expensive e-scooter, you do not want to leave it outside the pub. You want to take it home. If you are walking home and you have it over your shoulder, and you are clearly walking home and police have not seen you use that scooter, why would you be infringed upon? I do not think that is an issue. I hope that answers his questions. It is good to see there is one real Liberal left in the chamber.

**Mr McBRIDE:** Please, I am trying to support you in this; I just love the opportunity that these might bring. The only thing I would come back to is the response you gave about carrying it over your shoulder—I get it—but if you are walking alongside of it, I hope it does not get misinterpreted because you are not standing on that platform. That would be a form of actually riding that scooter compared to walking alongside it, holding the handlebars, as you might not want to put it on your shoulder, especially if you are 80-plus years old. I think these scooters are going to be 20 or 30 kilograms, so I think there would not be too many elderly people throwing them over their shoulders.

The other thing I just wanted to touch base on was the clarity around the 25 km/h speed limit. I know why you are talking about 25 km/h. That is good, but can I just ask the minister to consider what that 25 km/h will look like on the road and how car traffic gets around a 25 km/h moving object, which is considerably slower than 40 km/h or 50 km/h on a suburban road. I think we are trying to avoid having them perhaps on 60 km/h roads or any faster speed limits than those, but I am not sure. I think that is a little bit out in the open, but certainly I do not think you will see them on the open highway.

I suppose I am a little bit disappointed with the opportunity. Maybe one day we might see better, that the 25 km/h might be expanded upon. The reason I ask the minister just to consider that is that slow-moving objects can be easy targets to be hit and we might actually be putting scooter



riders in jeopardy, particularly if you think about what racing bikes do. Even older, let's say, types of bikes that a 50 or 60-year-old rider might ride—it might be a female on an easy, comfortable riding bike—they are going more than 25 km/h, especially downhill, and yet on this new e-scooter, we are not allowing them to go above 25 km/h. I hope they do not become sitting ducks in amongst faster moving traffic.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I would say that 25 km/h on an e-scooter when you are probably a few inches off the ground is pretty fast, and out to consultation now is the metre width around overtaking. It would be no different to the way vehicles miss and avoid bicycles on the road now. We can overthink this, which is often the problem when it comes to legislation and regulation.

We already have personal mobility devices—they are called bicycles—and there is a very good framework in place for how they are used, and they are not overly regulated. People accept that they are a very old form of transport. We have far too many collisions with bicycles: they do interact with pedestrians in adverse ways, especially along the beaches and sometimes when you walk along Linear Park you see a lot of those issues. So I think we can work this out without being too overly prescriptive.

We are consulting and if, after a period of time, 25 km/h is too slow we might have to prescribe again, but this is the problem I am trying to avoid. I do not want to be too prescriptive other than in regard to helmets, about what protections you need to wear. I do not want to start forcing people to wear knee pads and certain types of footwear as a way to protect themselves while they are using e-scooters, because these things are a very good way—a low-carbon way—of getting around places and being able to go in and out of meetings or in and out of work or in and out of whatever your occupation is, so I do not want to be too prescriptive.

I turn to the other question you asked earlier that I did not answer: do I want to see these rolled out everywhere? Yes, I would love to see these in country areas. I think these would be fantastic in country areas. I do not know how well they would be taken up, especially in some regional areas. I am not sure that the for-hire brands will do very well in regional areas, but they might. This gives us the opportunity at the very least for private ownership and private use of e-scooters. So potentially it is a good outcome. I hope that satisfies some of your concerns.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** I just want to take this opportunity to clarify a point made by the member for MacKillop. There is no additional regulation, no additional cost to any user or owner for supporting the nominal defendant. They do not have to fill out a form, they do not have to pay any money. It is just like somebody who is the victim of a collision with an unregistered motor vehicle. This is simply an extra protection. There is no additional bureaucracy, it is simply an extension of something that is already there.

I just wonder whether the member for MacKillop thinks that the existing nominal defendant legislation that is there at the moment should be removed because it is bureaucratic for people who own cars. The nominal defendant is a last chance for those who are innocent victims of an irresponsible driver who was driving a motor vehicle that has been unregistered for three months or longer. That is what it is. So we do not support it being used for bikes, as was suggested by the minister. The minister himself has admitted how much bigger and heavier these particular devices are. Our focus is on those who are using footpaths or legally crossing the road.

Also, I think the difference between bike riders and e-scooter riders is that bike riders are generally much more experienced. Those who are going fast are usually almost fanatics. They use it as a form of transport and fitness to get to and from work, whereas those who are using e-scooters could be using them for the very first time, and an accident happens simply because they are not sure how it works. They mix up the 'up' with 'fast' and the 'down' with 'slow', whereas it could be the opposite. You could end up with a situation where they do not get their foot on the brake in time.

So a lot more can go wrong riding an electric scooter because it is not as responsive as riding a bike. If you stop pedalling and put the brakes on, you stop on a bike. How many times do you see those stories in the news where someone has confused the accelerator with a brake pedal and ended up in the front of somebody's shop. That would not happen in a pedal car just like it does not happen on a bike.

It is just not a fair comparison to suggest that, because the Liberal Party wants to extend the nominal defendant protection for somebody who might be the victim of a hit-and-run from one of these, insurance premiums are going to go up, because it will go on bikes, it will go on all sorts of other things. That is a bit like the scare campaign the Labor Party runs before every federal election: that the Liberal Party is going to sell off Medicare. It is a standard one they pull out of the drawer. It is simply not true. It never has happened.

The facts are that that Liberal Party has been in government postwar longer than the Labor Party. Post Medicare the Liberal Party has been in government longer than the Labor Party at a federal level and, guess what, Medicare is still there, but it does not stop Labor from pulling out that scare campaign when they have got nothing else to offer.

I just want to bring to those who might be listening or to those who might refer to this *Hansard*, an understanding of what the intention of the parliament was for this legislation, and what the opposition's intention was for bringing this amendment to parliament—that it is simply an extension of the existing nominal defendant, specifically for these electrified vehicles that will be allowed to be used under private ownership.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I will just say to the member for MacKillop, the one thing that the Liberal Party have not told you is the impact on the insurance premiums for third party insurance. As we speak, no doubt we are costing the implications of this amendment. I will be making those public as soon as we get them.

The committee divided on the amendment:

Ayes .....	10
Noes.....	23
Majority .....	13

#### AYES

Basham, D.K.B.  
Gardner, J.A.W.  
Pisoni, D.G. (teller)  
Whetstone, T.J.

Batty, J.A.  
Patterson, S.J.R.  
Pratt, P.K.

Cowdrey, M.J.  
Pederick, A.S.  
Teague, J.B.

#### NOES

Andrews, S.E.  
Bignell, L.W.K.  
Champion, N.D.  
Hildyard, K.A.  
Koutsantonis, A.  
Michaels, A.  
Pearce, R.K.  
Szakacs, J.K.

Bell, T.S.  
Boyer, B.I.  
Clancy, N.P.  
Hood, L.P. (teller)  
Malinauskas, P.B.  
Mullighan, S.C.  
Picton, C.J.  
Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.  
Brown, M.E.  
Close, S.E.  
Hutchesson, C.L.  
McBride, P.N.  
O'Hanlon, C.C.  
Savvas, O.M.

#### PAIRS

Tarzia, V.A.  
Cook, N.F.  
Hurn, A.M.

Stinson, J.M.  
Telfer, S.J.  
Thompson, E.L.

Speirs, D.J.  
Fulbrook, J.P.

Amendment negatived; clause passed.

Clauses 4 to 9 passed.

Long title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:42):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (16:42):** I certainly enjoyed the debate today. I think that I still am aspirational for some form of system that will give people reassurance that if they are the victim of a hit-and-run by one of these vehicles there will be either a private sector solution that the markets will supply or, alternatively, there will be some consideration of the access to the nominal defendant in some form or the other. But my greatest wish is that we do not have irresponsible users of this device, because it does bring an opportunity for more choice in transport and more choice for getting people from A to B.

Certainly, in my electorate of Unley, being so close to the city, it is a very easy option for people to get into town and get around to see their friends on streets that really are quite safe. Unley is full of 40 km/h streets. For the main roads themselves, King William Road has a 40 km/h speed limit and a large section of Unley Road is moving to a 50 km/h speed limit.

While I am talking about Unley Road, I might just let the minister know that our clearway signs are very difficult to read. We do not want the hours changed at all, but I am concerned because you cannot even read some of them. If you are able to ask your team to perhaps look at that for me I would be very appreciative. The minister is nodding his head, so thank you very much.

What we have seen in the parliament today is an initiation from the opposition and delivery from the government, because only the government can deliver. There are not two governments. When you hear people talking about the parliament they often say, 'I just wish both governments would be able to do something.' Well, there is only one government at any one time. The two parties may very well be the government, but that will be at different times. However, the parliament is working together to achieve this.

It is almost exclusively a game of compromise and, just because a bill has been dealt with and has been signed off to become an act of parliament, it does not mean it cannot be amended at some later stage. There are options, obviously, as they become available to the government or they become available on the marketplace. There may very well be some form of financial security for innocent victims of irresponsible users of these mobility devices.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:46):** I thank all members for their contributions. I thank the member for Unley. I will get onto those clearway signs for him as quickly as possible. I hope these reforms have a speedy passage in the upper house so we can help decarbonise our personal mobility devices and make sure that people can get around in a much more efficient, quick and safe way.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**RETIREMENT VILLAGES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 21 February 2024.)

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (16:47):** I rise to speak in support of this bill. The Retirement Villages (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to enhance the consumer protections of residents of retirement villages in South Australia whilst also supporting the growth and sustainability of this sector. This bill will help establish a contemporary, balanced and comprehensive framework for the regulation of retirement villages in South Australia, which puts consumer protections at the forefront while also minimising any unnecessary impacts on retirement village operators.

Retirement villages provide an important accommodation option for older South Australians. There are more than 500 retirement villages across South Australia, which are home to more than 26,000 residents. That is the equivalent of one of our constituencies. The Retirement Villages

Act 2016 commenced in 2018. It replaced the Retirement Villages Act 1987 and introduced significant reforms aimed at balancing consumer protections with the interests of operators and establishing a contemporary legislative framework to modernise the regulation of retirement villages across South Australia.

In 2021, an independent review of the act was completed by PEG Consulting, with 187 submissions made by residents, operators, peak bodies and other interested parties. The independent review found that many of the provisions of the act were appropriate, effective and operating as intended. However, it also identified that there was room for improvement and made several recommendations for legislative change.

A draft amendment bill introducing important reforms recommended by the independent review was drafted and provided for public consultation, along with several additional reforms aimed at enhancing consumer protections. A public consultation period of seven weeks was held last year, with the Office for Ageing Well hosting 13 information sessions across metropolitan and regional South Australia, including at Tea Tree Gully, Adelaide CBD (my own community), Aberfoyle Park, Findon, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Berri, Kadina, Barossa, Murray Bridge, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and an online session. In total it was attended by more than 420 residents, operators and interested stakeholders. The consultation resulted in 373 unique submissions.

Following the consideration of feedback provided through the consultation, the bill was finalised and introduced by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing in February this year. The amendments include:

- greater regulation of residence contracts and disclosure statements, including defining and explaining contractual terms, occupancy information, residential rights and responsibilities, the presence of embedded networks, how fees and charges are calculated and how those fees can vary depending on the length of time the resident lives in the village by providing worked calculations based on leaving a village at two, five and seven years (this was quite useful information that I know my parents would have enjoyed, having bought into a retirement village in Mount Barker);
- additional clarity regarding financial reporting and resident consultation;
- strengthened rights of participation for rental tenants;
- a framework for managing residence contract deposits;
- improved dispute resolution processes;
- an obligation for operators to provide safe premises and maintain adequate insurance;
- enhanced standards for operators and staff, including mandatory training and disqualifying offences;
- additional information-gathering powers for the registrar and expanded capacity to publish relevant information on the register;
- additional enforcement actions, including enforceable voluntary undertakings, increased expiable offences and more appropriate timelines for prosecution; and
- some administrative and technical amendments to clarify the operation of the act.

The bill also includes additional measures that were subject to extensive community consultation and aimed at increasing consumer protections for existing residents. These include reducing the statutory buyback period from 18 months to 12 months so that vacated residents and their families can receive their exit entitlement sooner. The 12-month buyback period is based on similar provisions in place or being introduced in other Australian jurisdictions, and will provide certainty for residents while remaining feasible and achievable for operators.

The Malinauskas government is committed to ensuring the Retirement Villages Act provides a contemporary, balanced and comprehensive framework for the regulation of the retirement village sector that puts consumer protection at the forefront while supporting the growth, sustainability and diversity of the sector. With those comments I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (16:52):** I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition on this bill. The Retirement Villages (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 was tabled in the House of Assembly by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton, on 21 February 2024 in response to the PEG Consulting report triggered by the third anniversary of the act.

Consultation with various stakeholders has certainly been thorough, from the opposition's point of view, while mixed views were shared with the opposition and the government through that process. General feedback is still that there is broad support for most of this amendment bill, and that has been welcomed by all parties. Unresolved debate still relates to existing contracts for residents and whether there should be more, less or no retrospectivity—I suspect we will go down that path through the committee stage.

This bill is a big and necessary step towards providing greater consumer protection for prospective residents, the immediate improvement of residents' rights, and better transparency of disclosure documents and contracts. The Retirement Villages Act applies to all retirement village schemes operating in South Australia. All Australian states have a retirement villages act or its equivalent, with accompanying regulations, which set out the legal responsibilities of developers, managers and owners in an attempt to clarify the rights and responsibilities of all parties.

As has been mentioned, there are 26,000 South Australians living in a retirement village—as the member for Adelaide rightly points out to us, as lower house members, the equivalent of an entire constituency. That is no small statistic. Approximately 6,000 of those are paid members of the South Australian Retirement Villages Residents Association, which we also recognise as SARVRA.

There are 520 villages in SA run by a variety of large and small operators, city and regional, which is important to point out. The biggest village has 347 units. It is known as Golden Grove Lifestyle Village, and the residents there, within the electorate of King, in particular because of its size have been very vocal about their concerns through the consultation process in the lead-up to this bill being introduced because their concern relates to whether this bill overlooks their need in regard to their contracts. The feedback has certainly been that they would have enjoyed even more vocal advocacy from their local member.

The member for Adelaide points out to us that we are talking about the equivalent of an electorate in South Australian terms. In the lower house, in this house, every one of us represents the equivalent of a constituency, but in every electorate we are representatives of people who are living in a retirement village; therefore, we all have a duty to advocate for them through the passage of this bill.

I note in my own electorate, from Balaklava to Clare, Riverton, Burra, Jamestown and Hamley Bridge, I share that duty to bring safe passage of this bill through the house, navigating the challenges that we have as legislators to deliver good legislation but really trying to get the balance right. I note that has been the intention in the drafting of this bill, to get the balance right. I would argue that there has been an imbalance for residents over many years. During the statewide consultation period as part of the YourSAy process, 373 unique submissions were made on the draft amendment bill, and I commend those who made those very important contributions that are really guiding us here today.

Of those stakeholder submissions, the opposition actively sought and received briefings from the South Australian Retirement Villages Residents Association (SARVRA). I pay special mention to president Roger Adamson, who I will come back to at some later point in my speech, as I will address the contributions made by Bob Ainsworth, former president of SARVRA. They are two men with an executive who not only as residents live and breathe their own contract but have taken on the very worthy endeavour of advocating for their 6,000 members and by virtue another 26,000 across the state.

Margaret Hawkins is the treasurer, and Margaret Tuffin is a committee member. Then, dotted around the state are a vast number of residents who have been communicating with the opposition and with me as the shadow minister for ageing. I am certain, because of their passion, that they have been writing to every member in parliament, lower and upper house included. I want to pay special mention to a lady called Denys Slee from Fleurieu Peninsula, who put in a concerted effort to make sure that we were listening to the suggestions that she was making.

I want to thank Jodie and Mark Prosser of the Aged and Community Care Providers Association for their professionalism, their input, their contributions in supporting me as I embraced this bill, answering a number of questions that I had and still have. I want to thank Alok Kumar, who is the managing director of Omega Communities, as one of many service providers or operators that I wanted to meet with to better understand what measures service providers need to see in this bill to ensure the stability and the future investment in housing opportunities for our ageing population.

I want to thank residents from Lifestyle SA and the body proper for its contributions. I am remiss in perhaps not starting with the briefing that was made available by the Office for Ageing Well via the minister. I thank him for the role any minister plays in making sure that the opposition gets access to as much information as possible so that we are coming informed with our approach to the passage of the bill.

I want to thank Council on the Ageing and the access that I appreciate having to the state CEO, Miranda Starkey. I take every opportunity I can to talk about COTA to regional ageing communities, beautiful people who are living their best lives in regional communities, because they need to understand that COTA has a great dedication and focus on making sure that people living and ageing well in our regional communities have access to services.

I recognise also the access, support and information that has been made available by the Retirement Living Council and Daniel Gannon and his team, known to many. He does an extraordinary job of reminding legislators, members of the public, the commercial sector, and using the media to reach out to the public to talk about the demographic changes that we are going to see in our ageing population not just in South Australia but nationally.

We have to be alive to what it means to provide services to an ageing population. Every one of us is going to be tied to a mum, a dad, a grandma, an aunty, a family member who is making great decisions about their retirement options, and we want to do that with the best information available.

I also spent quite a bit of time with parliamentary counsel and Mark Herbst and the team, and I am forever grateful for the wise counsel that they provide me when navigating legislation such as this. I really enjoyed my interactions with the Law Society of South Australia as well, who had not at the time made a formal submission, if you like, but were encouraged to have a look at the bill since it was introduced and they have since shared their views with the minister.

Finally, I reference the Aged Rights Advocacy Services (ARAS). They are another group that I do not hesitate to recommend to those people who are grappling with a breached right or a complaint or are trying to navigate a service.

Retirement village contracts have historically been technical and difficult for consumers to understand and, as I have mentioned, this bill aims to correct that imbalance. For current retirement village residents and their pre-existing contracts, there remains a dispute between them as well as operators that has not been addressed satisfactorily for either party. Residents are still calling for attention to existing contracts where they remain significantly out of pocket after exit fees are paid and contributions made to the capital maintenance fund.

At this point, I want to address some elements of the government's approach to their own consultation process, which included the publication of a document which is called *Guide to the Retirement Villages (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2023*, which I will refer to as the guidelines.

Consultation conducted by the government included the provision of these guidelines, which was a supporting document to address common issues of concern and step participants through the process to come. With a glossy introduction by the minister, standard for any document—we are familiar with this format—endorsed I would argue by the minister, the guidelines then certainly set some reasonable expectations that the contents within this document were supported by the minister and the government. It also signalled to anyone reading it that existing contracts would be captured in the amendment bill.

The minister and the Office of Ageing Well would have known that the most contested section of this act that has required reform was going to be about contracts, it was going to be about exit entitlement fees, it was going to be about capital fund contributions and any sections or clauses that impacted the financial security of the resident and their family. Most glaringly, specific to this point, it

is regarding the anticipated changes requested by existing residents, and that can be found in the guidelines book, pages 32 and 33, where guiding comments speak to the fees and charges that a person would be responsible for when leaving a village. Further, this chapter makes mention of the intention to address the inadequacies of previous contracts. Reading directly from it:

4.2.3...

Payment of capital fund contributions deducted from exit entitlement—Clause 21 (amendment of section 28)...

These amendments would apply to residence contracts entered into before and after the commencement of these changes.

These guidelines have been frequently raised with me as the beginning of the misinformation and misleading nature of the government's own guidelines document and the accompanying original draft of the bill which lifted the hopes of many. They saw this as the pathway to being released from contracts with exit fees that for some had the triple threat of cumulative uncapped fees at 1.5 per cent of the current market value. It is not an exaggeration to say that many residents with this type of contract live with the anxiety of being stuck in this arrangement.

The bill before us seeks to incorporate new regulations of prospective—future—residence contracts and more informative disclosure statements, including defining and explaining contractual terms, occupancy information, resident rights and responsibilities. The bill proposes how charges are calculated and how those fees can vary depending upon the length of time the resident lives in the village by providing calculations based on a resident leaving a village at two, five and 10 years.

Introduced amendments to this bill carry an obligation for operators to provide safe premises and maintain adequate insurance-improved standards for operators and staff, including mandatory training and disqualifying offences. It also includes additional information-gathering powers for the Registrar and expands the capacity to publish relevant information on the register. This involves additional enforcement actions comprising enforceable voluntary undertaking and increasing fees of offences with more appropriate timelines for prosecution.

I note, since introducing the bill to the house at the start of the year, the government has filed further amendments. Given the heavy lobbying that has been happening in the background by all parties on the matter of existing contracts and the questions of retrospectivity that are now before the house, it is possible that the government rushed the initial introduction back in February and missed opportunities to keep working with all parties.

During my own consultation process, I have been alive to the opportunities and challenges that this amendment bill has brought with it. Let me say at the outset that this is doubly true for my electorate of Frome. The opposition is firmly committed to small business, to prioritising standard-of-living services for country communities, to creating economic environments that attract investment and allow our state to prosper.

I want to signal to those service providers who continue to invest in housing projects for our ageing population that we truly welcome their very significant commitment to building infrastructure and providing those services that will allow more and more people to age well at home, to 'right-size', as it has been called by the sector. Some operators and representative peak bodies believe a retrospective cap on capital fund contributions was only likely to impact a small number of villages. I have spent a lot of time exploring this issue with operators and residents as well as actively seeking legal interpretation of this amendment bill where it is clear that there are already elements of retrospectivity embedded within.

The majority of operators and peak bodies representing them who specifically responded to this topic during the public consultation strongly opposed a retrospective cap regardless of whether that cap would directly impact them. Many raised concerns around fairness and commented that there would be a risk that introducing a retrospective application would undermine future investment and confidence in the sector. It is my intention to explore this further during the committee stage. In particular, operator and peak respondents raised high-level concerns that:

- village valuation is based on future cash flows, and villages impacted by the proposed cap would be worth less if a cap were to be introduced;

- there would be a risk that, where a village has been bought on the basis of a valuation and legislation changes retrospectively, the new operator may experience a loss upon resale of the village;
- reduction in the value of any village would have implications for the balance sheets of impacted village operators and for the covenants that they are obliged to maintain in relation to their banking facilities; and
- with the average village age in South Australia being 31 years, adequate capital funds are important to maintain amenity standards, and this proposal would undermine that objective.

So it is clear that great detail has been put forward from the sector to ensure that both sides of the house take very seriously reform being considered in this amendment bill.

As the shadow minister for ageing, I have been walking a path between supporting current residents to live their best life in a retirement village by reforming this legislation that dictates many factors out of their control while balancing that with the importance of creating an investment environment that will foster more housing options for our ageing population.

Let us not forget those whom we love and who have aspired to set themselves up for their future and possibly their final twilight years in circumstances that afford them a comfortable and dignified life. There are many who have been captured by antiquated, inflexible and, some would say, unfeeling residential contracts, which have resulted in many families completely devastated by exorbitant exit fees, unreasonable demands to restore a property back to its original condition and heartache for the children of residents, who have discovered how layered and complicated and bureaucratic some contracts are and, sadly, how some will remain.

From this bill it is clear that the government's door is closed when it comes to finding a compassionate resolution for what is likely to be a very small cohort who are being held captive by unforgiving contracts. It has long been the hope of many residents with whom I have spoken that this bill, with the intention of restoring balance to contracts with transparency and better disclosure statements, would now provide some restitution for those who are on less favourable terms.

I must take this opportunity to speak about those residents who were motivated, and still are motivated, to assist others who have navigated this system, lobbied for change, pushed hard to be heard and reassured others who could not and would not perhaps advocate for themselves that finally an opportunity had come for a reprieve.

I was grateful to have unlimited access to the current President of the South Australian Retirement Villages Residents Association, Mr Roger Adamson, who was always available to discuss the circumstances of others, to share his knowledge of the act and to push strongly for changes that were raised from the 6,000-strong membership of this important body. I also enjoyed my conversations with SARVRA vice-president, Mrs Margaret Hawkins, and I thank them both for their time.

In a similar category, I had ready access to the former president of SARVRA, Mr Bob Ainsworth, known to many here in this chamber, whose robust advocacy to all parties meant that none of us were left wondering about what the residents were fighting for. Bob has been relentless in his pursuit of reform in this bill and has been appropriately assertive and productive in his efforts to draft and suggest amendments that would change the lives of hundreds and hundreds of residents across the state.

I have heard it described that his ability as president at the time to drive SARVRA membership numbers up so high represents the largest membership penetration of any state—or maybe that is just what Bob says. His advocacy in the media has reached the attention of us all, including the minister, and I genuinely thank him for his role and his contributions in achieving much success and reform with the amendment bill. I hasten to add that many of the residents who rang or wrote to me directly were also privately disclosing some of the health battles that they were fighting, which they put aside to pursue better outcomes for themselves and future residents.



I began my remarks with my acknowledgements and thanks to those who made contributions to ensure this amendment bill was the best version it could be. I thank the minister for his goodwill and best endeavours to accommodate often opposing views from service providers and residents alike, and I am certain at the heart of his decision-making and his pathway through this legislation he was also reflecting on his beautiful grandmother, who is also a resident, to see the experience of a resident perhaps through her eyes. I hope when the passage of this bill concludes that we see existing and future residents much better off than before this process started.

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (17:15):** I rise to speak on the Retirement Villages (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. I note that retirement villages are a unique form of housing that currently home more than 26,000 residents in South Australia, including many, of course, in my own electorate, including some fairly large villages such as Pineview in Glenside, Victoria Grove in Glenside, On Statenborough in Leabrook, Wattle Grove in Wattle Park and many, many more.

I would like to thank my constituents at all of those retirement villages for engaging with me throughout the consultation process on this bill and for their feedback. I think it is fair to say while many residents told me they were very, very happy residing in their retirement villages, which is very good news, many others expressed disappointment and frustration at the complexity of their contracts, excessive fees and lack of transparency, sometimes, around what are sometimes punitive exit fees.

It is very important our legislation remains robust and up to date and has appropriate consumer protection. The current act commenced in 2018, replacing a 1987 act to establish a contemporary legislative framework for the regulation of retirement villages. A review was to occur three years after commencement. That occurred in September 2021 and found that many of the provisions were appropriate and operating as intended but also noted some room for improvement and made some recommendations for legislative change.

A draft bill was released for fairly extensive consultation last year. I made a submission to that consultation process on behalf of my own constituents, at that time focusing on issues of transparency, exit costs and time frames, maintenance costs, the complexity of contracts and also, importantly, the issue of retrospectivity.

This bill is an attempt at implementing the recommendations of that review and increasing consumer protections. On the whole I think it does a pretty good job of providing prospective and new residents entering a retirement village with greater consumer protections and rights at the time they enter into the contract, while living in a retirement village and when they leave a retirement village, but unfortunately I think many of the reforms in this bill represent an abandonment of the 26,000 South Australians who are currently living in retirement villages.

Current retirement village residents are excluded from many of the improved conditions in these amendments, including, critically, in relation to the capped capital fund contributions. I think this is a great shame and leaves those 26,000 South Australians still facing many of the very same problems that this government bill is seeking to rectify.

I think this is especially disappointing when we see an increasing number of retirement village residents enjoying life in a retirement village for many, many years, much longer than previously. It is not uncommon now for residents to be in a retirement village for 15 to 20 years, I am told, and I think it would have been good if this bill had also sought to help that cohort of people, many of whom are my own constituents.

As I said, I consulted very widely with my own constituents on this bill, and I thank them for engaging with me on it. I think for prospective residents, this bill does go a long way in addressing many concerns that they raised. As I mentioned earlier, those concerns centre around three points in time: first, before you enter a village, then when you are at the village and then when you are exiting the village. I will look at each of them briefly in turn.

First, before entering a village there are several provisions in this bill that seek to install improved consumer protection for prospective residents. This is something that is very important to my constituents, and I want to share with the house some of their feedback and some of their experiences. For example, I quote a resident in Wattle Park who said:

Eight years ago my husband and I moved into a Southern Cross retirement village at Wattle Park. This was a big mistake, financially...If we had bought a small unit, the council rates and water would have been around \$30,000 and the unit would have increased in market value. I would still be better off buying a home unit but can't afford to. My husband passed away four years ago. He was medically retired on a low salary, compared to what people retire on now.

That is echoed by a resident in Leabrook who said to me, and I quote:

My primary concerns are around the clarity of contracts and...exit fees. During the process of purchase at On Statenborough, as required we sought legal advice on the terms and conditions of the contract.

They then went on to explain that even the lawyer missed some of the hidden terms in the contract. Another resident that I represent in Leabrook said, and I quote:

Retirement villages are of course populated by older Australians who perhaps do not have the ability to question these complex contracts.

Several provisions in this bill seek to address some of those concerns, including the amended section 21 with increased disclosure requirements, and also amended section 25, which introduces a new offence of representing that a resident or a prospective resident purchases a title to a property when in fact they do not. These are all good reforms for prospective residents.

Secondly, there were concerns raised while living in a retirement village. Several provisions seek to improve residents' rights while living in a village. My constituents raised a number of concerns on that front. A resident of Wattle Grove Retirement Living said, and I quote:

We didn't expect maintenance costs to increase so substantially from \$576.20 now \$671.13.

Many others have told me about concerns getting improvements done to their property, accessing financial documents or being consulted about what is happening.

Again, there are several provisions in the bill before the house this evening that seek to improve residents' rights during the time that they are living in a retirement village, including in particular section 31A dealing with recurrent charges. A number of clauses about meetings and the consultation on budget and documents that need to be provided to residents regarding additional clarity are all good reforms for prospective residents.

Finally, a number of my constituents raised concerns about how things were operating when someone needs to exit a retirement village. There are several provisions in this bill that address that for prospective residents, including amended section 27, which introduces a 12-month statutory buyback period, which I understand would be quite similar to other Australian jurisdictions.

Importantly, there is an amended section 28 introducing a cap on the repayment of capital fund contributions. The cap is the lesser of either 1 per cent of the current market value of the residents to which the exit entitlement relates multiplied by the number of years or 12.5 per cent. Importantly, the cap is just that—it is a cap. If some lesser amount is provided for in the contract, then this subsection does not apply.

Again, the cap is good reform. What it seeks to do is provide some certainty and to prevent excessive and punitive fees being charged. Some of my constituents have argued that the cap should perhaps be even lower, around the 10 per cent mark some have said strikes the right balance, others have argued it should be calculated on the original value rather than the current market value. But I think it is fair to say that the biggest problem for some of my constituents is the fact that this cap is not retrospective. We have clause 6 of the schedule of this bill, which states, and I quote:

Section 28(3) and (4) of the principal Act, as inserted by this Act, apply only in relation to a residence contract entered into after the commencement of section 21(2)...

That is in stark contrast to other provisions in this bill that are explicitly retrospective, including with respect to exit entitlements such as new section 27, as well as recurrent charges such as new section 31A.

It is also, as the shadow minister has pointed out, in stark contrast to the materials that accompanied the consultation on this bill. Clause 6, which appears in this bill, was not in the schedule of the exposure draft that was circulated. Indeed, the explanatory materials that accompanied the exposure draft explicitly said the exact opposite, and I refer in particular to the *Guide to the*

*Retirement Villages (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2023* on page 33, which deals with the cap on deductions. It states, and I quote:

These amendments would apply to residence contracts entered into before and after the commencement of these changes.

So after many months of consultation, indeed nearly years of consultation, I am quite surprised to see this change now appear in the final bill before the house. On paper, it appears to be a very minor change, but it has very major consequences for the 26,000 South Australians currently in a retirement village. It is effectively, I think, the minister abandoning those South Australians currently in retirement villages. What is good enough for everyone coming in after them should be good enough for those people as well.

One of my constituents, Bob Ainsworth, the immediate past president of SAVRA, has calculated how this small change has had a big impact on him and his fellow residents at his village On Statenborough. He says, and I quote:

At my village On Statenborough (a complex of 132 residences) the CFC is determined at a disproportionate rate of 1.5% per annum, significantly increasing the amount taken at departure by the operator. Moreover, the punitive open-ended or uncapped CFC time period employed by the operators...discriminates significantly against loyal long term residents.

The amendment as drafted means On Statenborough current residents will continue to pay an excessively punitive amount of \$247,500 at 15 years or 22.5% of the next sale price while those residents who sign a contract after commencement of the act will pay \$137,500 being the capped 12.5%.

The amendment as drafted results in current residents being penalised two-fold by continuing to pay punitive and uncapped CFCs, whilst at the same time unfairly contributing towards a cumulative subsidy for the benefit of residents who sign contracts after the commencement of the Act.

This minor amendment to this bill from the minister is costing Bob and potentially over 100 people like him in Leabrook over \$100,000 each. Many other distressed constituents have contacted me urging that this change be retrospective. My submission to the draft bill has reiterated my constituents' view. Many others have submitted the same, and I note recent emails from the residents' committee of The Reserve Lifestyle Village in Woodcroft, who note their great disappointment in this bill, and that it has ignored the plight of current village residents in South Australia.

My constituents On Statenborough argue that the section 28 amendment should be retrospective because:

1. The whole premise of this bill is that consumer protection for those entering into these contracts is insufficient. This bill seeks to remedy that with various safeguards, including more robust disclosure statements and worked examples of exit entitlements at the time the contract is entered into. Those currently living in retirement villages are a vulnerable cohort who did not have the advantage of these safeguards at the time they entered into the contract. If they had, they may not have entered into these contracts. They should now not be penalised—potentially over \$100,000 each—with these fees, which we now not only require increased transparency for but, if uncapped, recognise to be unfair and unlawful.

2. It would have a limited impact on retirement village operators because it would only affect those who have been or will be in retirement villages for a very long time on only the most punitive of contracts. I understand that most contracts already provide for amounts that are well below the cap, and these will continue to apply to current residents.

3. Providing the cap to only new residents will create two classes of resident and potential disharmony in retirement villages. It is unfair for current residents to effectively be subsidising new residents.

4. Retrospectivity is not a new concept for this bill. Various provisions explicitly apply irrespective of whether the contract was entered into before or after commencement. We should not pick and choose retrospectivity based on what might suit a handful of retirement village operators.

5. This was what was promised in the explanatory materials produced by the government. The *Guide to the Retirement Villages (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2023* states:

'These amendments would apply to residence contracts entered into before and after the commencement of these changes.'

So while I support what this bill is attempting to do to improve consumer protections for residents going forward, I note the disappointment of many of my constituents, the people who I represent, who currently live in retirement villages that the minister has abandoned them at the final hurdle.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (17:30):** On the topic of retirement villages, although I think it is perceived as a new challenge, it is a bit like boiling a frog in a pot. The frog is not jumping out because it is nice and comfortable, but it is starting to warm up. The frog does not notice that the water has boiled and, before it knows it, the frog is cooked.

I think we have got to the stage where we must have a large mix of housing and a choice of housing affordability and housing styles. It must be driven by the market, and when needs arise, there should be partnerships with the government and social housing in order to get the best possible outcomes and have that mix.

There is no doubt that people are living longer. Not long before my father passed at the age of 94, just three weeks before his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, I said to him, 'When you were a teenager did you ever meet anybody in their 90s?' Of course, the answer was no; they just did not exist back in the 1930s. He was born in 1927.

It is not unusual for people to be in retirement for 30 years—my father certainly was, and he was very active right up until the last 12 months or so of his life. They made a choice. When my father retired, they moved from Salisbury to the beachside suburb of Semaphore. They were in Salisbury because you could actually see the General Motors Holden factory if you stood on the roof of the house I grew up in. There was no longer the need to be close to work, so consequently they made a retirement shift. My mother is still there and enjoying it.

It is also very important, I think, that we do make it easy for that transition. I do not think the federal government is doing enough. We saw the downsize of the payment program introduced by the previous Liberal government in Canberra for superannuation contributions, which encouraged people to look at the options of downsizing their home and using proceeds left over from the larger home they have sold and the smaller house they have purchased to put into their super fund.

But I do not think \$300,000—or \$600,000 if it is a married couple or a couple partnered up—is enough, because we have seen large increases in house prices. We have also seen a very volatile share market in the last six months, at least. Fortunately, we saw some quite good rises again last week for people who have their money working for them, whether it be in industry super funds or self-funded super funds. But despite Albanese's promise to not interfere with superannuation, we have seen a cap put in at \$3 million where the tax on super is actually doubled.

I was reading a statistic not long ago in the *Financial Review* that identified that despite the fact that in every other like country to Australia, there has been an increase in the proportion of GDP, or taxes, if you like, spent on pensions—and all due credit to the Keating government for the introduction of the compulsory super scheme—we have seen that even though people are living longer and more people through the baby boomers are retiring, the actual GDP percentage of money that is paid for retirement pensions in Australia has reduced. It has gone up in real numbers, obviously, but it has reduced. We are the only OECD country, I understand, where that has happened.

People are in a position where they are able to have additional choices, but I do think that there are more triggers that can be pulled to make it easier for people to move into a retirement village if they wish to. They may then decide that they have more money that they can use for the finer things in life, such as travel and spending time with their adult families and their grandchildren.

We have what I call a sour spot. Everyone has heard of the sweet spot when talking about sums and events and putting things together, but there is a sour spot in superannuation versus the pension scheme. A married couple with \$300,000 in super will have access to the full pension, providing their assets do not exceed—I cannot remember what the amount is off the top of my head, but I think it is about half a million dollars, including their super. Their house is exempt, of course. But they are better off than somebody who does not qualify for the pension, such as a couple who

have a million dollars in superannuation, because they will get the full amount of the pension and around about fifteen-odd thousand dollars on top of that from their investment as their super is turned into the pension phase.

If they then decide to downsize, that benefit is gone because the equity in the house is exempt from the calculation of assets for receiving the pension or any of the pension benefits, but it is then turned into cash, and cash is counted whether it goes into super or not. It is counted as an asset that will reduce your pension. This is contributing to the lack of available homes because couples who are still living in the family home in their 70s and 80s, where they might have three or four bedrooms or a granny flat out the back, are thinking of their children. They are thinking, 'Why should I sell this home and use the money to support myself when the government is going to punish me and take away the money that I am receiving now as part of my pension?'

I think it is time that that is addressed at a federal level. We know that in New Zealand, if you want to work more hours or work after receiving the pension, there is not a complicated algorithm that reduces your pension payments by about four times for every dollar that you are earning. You just pay tax on what you earn. It is very simple.

Whereas the example here in Australia is that you might do some seasonal work, you might be someone who has consulting skills in a particular area, and you take on a contract for a month to write something up about a particular issue or a particular bit of research. You might earn \$20,000 for that and you decide that you want to do that, and that is all you do for the whole year.

You then have to go through a process of filling out forms or telling the department that manages your pension what you have earned. They calculate how much your pension is discounted and it is quite a regressive outcome for the person who has decided to take some more responsibility for their own retirement. Usually what happens is people say, 'Bugger it, I'm not doing it. It's just too hard and it's not worth it. The government is getting more out of this than I am.'

I do believe that with our retirement living we have to have choice. We need to ensure that the proposition is attractive for developers. We have to make sure that those who use those services and want to move into a retirement village have the protections and the comfort that they need. It is a balancing act, but balancing acts are done right across sectors and industries. I can just imagine what it would be like if the Greens were in charge of a bill like this. We would see some bizarre legislation that would simply punish developers. They would demand that there was a magical bucket of money at the bottom of the garden to fund additional services without the consequences or fiscal responsibility that is required to run such an industry.

Getting the balance right is important. That is what I am hoping this bill will do. It does not mean it will not be tweaked later on, but we certainly do not want retrospectivity. That is the worst thing you can possibly do for senior members of our community. People have made a plan for their retirement, made a plan for their downsizing and made a plan for their future living and then all of a sudden the rug is pulled out from underneath them.

Remember that was the plan that Bill Shorten had for the 2019 election. People had set their retirements up based on income from franking credits. I know a long-term member of the Labor Party in Unley who campaigned for the Liberal candidate at that 2019 election because that Bill Shorten policy was going to cost him \$20,000 a year. He was a retired school principal. He has never gone back.

It is disappointing, despite Albanese's promises before the last election that he would not be touching superannuation, that we have seen a significant change—unindexed, mind you. There are many people in their 30s and 40s now who might think, 'Three million dollars, I wouldn't mind having that much in superannuation,' but by the time they are likely to have that much in superannuation, if they are in a profession and they have spoken to an investment adviser about how they could achieve that, they will find that the spending power of \$3 million in 20 years' time will be more like about \$1.5 million today because it has not been indexed. They will be paying 30 per cent tax on the earnings of that superannuation fund over that \$3 million, which in today's dollars would be about \$1.5 million.

It is a shocking pea and thimble trick. They are pointing to the rich and arguing, 'Someone with \$3 million in superannuation is rich, and so we will make them pay more,' not indexing it, not speaking very loudly about the fact that it is not indexed and, consequently, leaving all future retirees, or those planning retirement, less reliant on the old age pension. They certainly will not have access to it, unless we have a massive population boom of teenagers in the next few years migrating to Australia and joining the workforce and paying high taxes. That simply will not happen. That is a problem in the entire Western world.

We already have one of the oldest retirement ages where the pension is paid at 67. Australians have really done the hard yards in preparing for their future. I think many of the changes that were made have been uncomfortable, particularly lifting the pension age. But, just remember, when the pension first came in, the average age of the Australian male was 61 years—61 years was the average age of death, and the pension kicked in at 65.

There are a lot more people receiving it. Because of the longevity and the baby boomers retiring we are seeing a lot more people receiving the pension. Again, our unique superannuation scheme is open to every single wage earner. Everybody who earns a living through employment receives it compulsorily—and I am fully supportive of that. I was supportive of it at the time when it came in, and I am fully supportive of it now.

But I am not supportive of changes that affect people who have already made plans for their retirement and that may force people to delay their retirement, delay the sale of their home or their downsizing, or do not encourage them or reward them for making their home available for another family so that they can move into a retirement village or a smaller townhouse or smaller accommodation.

Most people when they retire, when they do move they actually want to live within around about five kilometres, or certainly the recognisable neighbourhood where they brought up their families. We are seeing that in Unley with the Living Choice development. It was very controversial at the time. It was on the former Julia Farr Centre land. There was a tower that was burnt out and left there for probably 10 or 15 years as a skeleton. It was knocked down and this amazing retirement village, the first of its type to offer such a range of services for its residents, was built.

Originally, when the planning application came in, it was heavy on one and two-bedroom apartments but when they went out to market the demand was for two and three-bedroom apartments, and so there were fewer apartments built but they were bigger apartments. Why is that? Because these senior people, these people in the youth of their senior years, had international experiences, they had friends or family who lived overseas or interstate, they had grandchildren and they wanted to be able to cater for them when they visited. They did not want there to be a financial burden on their family or friends who were visiting them, flying into Adelaide and then having to pay for accommodation. They wanted to have that ability to do that and so, consequently, that was a big factor in why the design was changed prior to the work being started, but after it went out to market it was to accommodate larger apartments with more bedrooms.

It also has an amazing entertainment and dining area, a public lounge area, and a restaurant that is open to the public. People who live nearby will cross the road and go over for dinner and meet their friends there who may be living at Living Choice. I think we will see more of those. I know that Living Choice are building another one in the southern suburbs that backs onto a golf course. These are the sorts of things that we need to encourage, and we need to see more of, because when people retire it does not mean they are retiring from living.

They want to live, they want to have the freedom to spend their money knowing that they have set their children up to be independent and working on delivering their own nest egg, their own wealth, and so they want to spend the money that they have earned enjoying their retirement. It is so important that we have laws in South Australia in regard to the running of retirement villages that enable those services to be provided, developers to invest and people to be protected.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:50):** I would like to thank all the members who have contributed to this debate. This is a very important area and a very important area of reform, and it is one where we need to get the balance right. We need to get the balance right between the rights of people who own and manage and build retirement villages

and also the rights of the people who live and buy into retirement villages and leave retirement villages. My view and I think the government's view has been that there needs to be a rebalancing of that and certainly this bill seeks to do so.

There were a number of comments that have been made that have surprised me from some of the contributions to date. I think we have heard a number of comments that have been contradictory from the other side in terms of basically pointing out everybody's wish list on either side without understanding that some balance and decision-making needs to happen in the middle.

It has not just been me noticing that. I have been receiving some notifications from people outside the parliament who have been listening in on the debate, who have been very surprised by some of the comments that have been made from the Liberal Party. In fact, Bruce Djite, who is the Executive Director of the Property Council, contacted me during the debate and he in fact gave permission for me to read in the parliament his thoughts on what is happening in the debate. He said:

The Libs have lost a sense of reality. They have abandoned any understanding of commercial contracts as they worry about one or two squeaky wheels in increasingly marginal electorates for them.

That is a comment from Bruce Djite.

**The Hon. N.D. Champion:** It's not a ringing endorsement.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** 'It's not a ringing endorsement,' the minister says. But we have sought to get the balance right. I will be very keen to come back and address some of the detailed comments that have been made one by one. I think the other point that I would make is when people make complaints to me or raise concerns, they have the ability to make amendments, and let's see those amendments when we get to the committee stage. With that, I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### **HERITAGE PLACES (PROTECTION OF STATE HERITAGE PLACES) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendments made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL) BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

At 17:53 the house adjourned until Tuesday 10 September 2024 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***PRISON GREYHOUNDS**

**138 Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (7 February 2024). In relation to the Mobilong and Adelaide Women's Prison Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) programs:

- (a) What evaluations have been conducted on the program and what were the results of those evaluations?
- (b) How long has the program been running?
- (c) How many inmates have participated in the program every year since it commenced?
- (d) How many dogs were subsequently adopted after their participation in the program?
- (e) Are inmates paid for their participation in the program?
- (f) Are there any financial arrangements between Greyhound Racing and the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) in relation to the program?
- (g) How many prison staff are dedicated to the administration and operation of this program and do these prison staff require additional qualifications to administer and operate this program?
- (h) What qualifications and incentives can inmates earn from their participation in the program and how long does it take them to earn that qualification?
- (i) Who teaches the inmates how to train the dogs?
- (j) How much does it cost to run this program?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

The Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) program commenced at the Adelaide Women's Prison (AWP) in 2014 and at the Mobilong Prison (MOB) in 2017.

AWP currently has eight greyhounds, and 10 prisoner handlers. MOB has 16 greyhounds, and 18 prisoner handlers.

Approximately 300 greyhounds have been adopted from MOB since the commencement of the program.

Prisoners receive a prison employment allowance pursuant to the Correctional Services Act 1982 for their work as a GAP handler.

DCS has not borne any direct costs associated with the GAP program, which is funded through Greyhound Racing SA (GAPSA). There are dedicated DCS staff allocated to the program. Existing staff oversee and coordinate the program within their other duties.

GAPSA provides prisoners with training, induction and ongoing support. Participants do not receive a formal qualification. However, the program provides rehabilitative benefits, including positive mental health and wellbeing, and encourages participants' positive behaviour to maintain their position with the program.

**PRISON DOGS**

**139 Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (7 February 2024). Aside from the Mobilong and Adelaide Women's Prison Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) programs:

- (a) In what other ways does the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) utilise dogs in prisons?
- (b) How many dogs in total are utilised in these ways?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

The Department for Correctional Services' Operations Security Unit utilises 12 Passive Alert Detection dogs which are trained to identify contraband.

**REMARK POLICE STATION**

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (20 March 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

Remark Police Station continues to function as a 24-hour, seven-day operational patrol response.



Signs are situated at the front of the police station advising when police are on patrol and requesting members of the public to contact 131 444 for police assistance or to make an appointment, or 000 in an emergency.

Administrative support continues to operate per arrangements in place since 2015.

#### POLICE NUMBERS

In reply to **Mr TELFER (Flinders)** (10 April 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

As at 12 April 2024, SAPOL had an active full-time equivalent (FTE) of 4,520 police.

There has been an increase of 75 FTE police since May 2023.

SAPOL is actively working on recruitment initiatives to fill vacancies and meet the establishment of 4,674 FTE police.

SAPOL strategically allocates its resources to address demand and does not view the present officer vacancies as a risk to the safety of South Australians.

#### HIGHWAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

In reply to **Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop)** (11 April 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is the control agency for traffic management. Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers undertake traffic management duties at times during emergencies as they are often first on scene at incidents in regional or remote locations. It is always the intent to relieve CFS member of such duties at the earliest opportunity through established local traffic management plans.

On 6 April 2024, the CFS Chief Officer—Brett Loughlin, Executive Director—Cameron Devey, and Regional Commander—Jason Druwitt met with the member for MacKillop to discuss recent incidents where CFS volunteers had undertaken extended traffic management duties.

The CFS has also raised recent scenarios like this with SAPOL, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and relevant local councils to clarify traffic management plans.

The CFS regularly engages with partner agencies to raise and discuss such matters through local consultation with SAPOL local service area commanders, DIT, and council representatives.

The CFS Director of Strategic Operations is also a member of the Traffic Management Incident Working Group, which is managed by DIT as the department responsible for the state's management of highways, major roads, public non-council roads, and associated traffic management plans. This working group works to maintain cohesive coordination and address any issues in a collaborative way across the state.

In February this year, CFS representatives met with SAPOL, DIT and local councils to review the Dukes Highway traffic management plan, with a focus on enhancing contractor engagement to support traffic and detour management.

#### GRAIN HARVEST

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (2 May 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

Further to the response provided at the time of this question, I provide the following post-harvest statistics recorded at the end of the 2023-24 season:

Header Fire Statistics—2023-24 season	
Number of header fires recorded	23
Average fire size (Ha)	110
Maximum fire size (Ha)	300

#### METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (16 May 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

A proposed framework for direct entry for firefighters and senior firefighters across Australia to enter the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) has been developed. This proposed framework will require applicants to undertake an assessment to ensure that they meet the requirements for a firefighter or senior firefighter in South Australia.

This framework is currently undergoing consultation with MFS staff and the United Firefighters Union of South Australia.

#### SPEED LIMITS

In reply to **Mr COWDREY (Colton)** (5 June 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

From 17 May 2024, two weeks prior to the speed limit change, the following measures were put in place to advise motorists and the wider community of speed limit changes on Tapleys Hill Road at West Beach:

- Large, trailer-mounted variable message signs (VMS) were installed on both the northern and southern approaches, as well as on West Beach Road on approach to Tapleys Hill Road, advising that speed limit changes would take effect on 31 May 2024, with enforcement in line with legislation commencing on the same date.
- Altered messaging was provided on the VMS trailers as the date approached to advise of the imminent changes.
- On 31 May 2024, the text on the VMS trailers was changed to advise that speed limit changes were now in place.
- The VMS trailers were retained for a further two weeks after 17 May 2024, and removed on 14 June 2024.
- Yellow 'speed limit changed' signs were installed underneath all new 60 km/h signs along Tapleys Hill Road.
- On 17 May 2024, a media release was issued by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.
- The change in speed limit and the date it took effect, was notified via letterbox drop to nearby residents and businesses.
- Motorists and the wider community were notified via a social media post by the department on 17 May 2024, followed by a second boosted social media post on 24 May 2024.

#### SCHOOL CROSSING ROAD SAFETY

In reply to **Mr BELL (Mount Gambier)** (5 June 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

In the recent state budget, \$2.6 million was allocated to installing new signage at priority locations near school pedestrian actuated crossings where the new 40 kilometre speed limit will apply.

In relation to Suttontown Primary School and Allendale East Area School, the department will review pedestrian safety at these locations in conjunction with the local council.

#### SPEED CAMERAS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (6 June 2024).

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State):** I have been advised:

As part of the 2024-25 state budget, \$38.7 million is being invested over four years for an additional 30 cameras across the state. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport together with the South Australia Police is undertaking a rigorous assessment process to identify priority locations.

I have been advised priority locations are identified by considering matters including casualty crash statistics, other camera locations, driver behaviour, presence of vulnerable road users, existing alternative road safety treatments, intelligence from South Australia Police and community feedback.

Following the assessment process, suitable locations for potential camera installations in metropolitan and regional areas will be considered.

*Estimates Replies*

**EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Since 1 July 2023, the following executive appointments were made.

Role Title	Classification
Chief Veterinary Officer	SAES1
Director, Office of the Chief Executive	SAES1

The total annual employment cost for these appointments is \$434,511 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as details in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

**EXECUTIVE POSITIONS**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Since 1 July 2023, there were nil executive positions abolished.

**EXECUTIVE POSITIONS**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Since 1 July 2023, there were nil executive position terminations.

**CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

**CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

The estimated total cost for engagement of consultants is \$208,000 and contractors is \$10.87 million in 2024-25.

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2024-25.

Consultancies	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Fishwell Pty Ltd	Project lead for Blueprint for the Future Directions of the Marine Scalefish Fishery	\$60,000

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2024-25.

Some contracts cover multiple financial years.

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Plant Health Australia Limited	Model Development for electronic Plant Health Assurance Certificate	\$192,818

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Aus-Meat Limited	Food and safety auditing services	\$160,000
End2End Consulting Pty Ltd.	Project Lead—West Beach Infrastructure Upgrade Works – Project Management	\$135,168
Hosking Willis Architecture Pty Ltd.	Architectural Services – Concept design – SIT facility	\$50,000
BDO Services Pty Ltd	Economic Analysis of fisheries and aquaculture activities within SA	\$871,927
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Business Case to attract people to careers in the food, wine and agribusiness sectors in SA.	\$63,734
Pinion Advisory	Compilation of Crop and Pasture Report	\$36,364
BDO Services Pty Ltd	Preparing Primary Industries for the impact of compounding and complex disasters	\$131,330
Phoenix Australia Barratt Mollison Consulting Group Pty Ltd	Review of PIRSA's Family and Business Mentor Service SA River Murray Transition Program—Program Oversight, delivery & technical services	\$220,000
BDO Services Pty Ltd	Business case for a replacement coastal research vessel	\$34,000
Urrbrae Foods Pty Ltd.	Senior Food Technologist Services	\$220,000
Solstice Media Pty Ltd	Ag Town of the Year award partnership	\$29,334
Apex Biometry Pty Ltd	Statistical Services and designing experiments for Australian Eggs 'Updating layer grain apparent metabolisable energy (AME) data for near infrared (NIR).	\$14,300
John L Black Consulting	Australian Eggs – 'Updating grain AME data for NIR'.	\$19,800
Proyectos Y Mas	Finalisation of the use of Ivanti Neuron for onboarding.	\$25,000
Proyectos Y Mas	Improving the Request to Fill forms in the iApply system for Human Resources.	\$20,000
Cindy Flower	Assistance in developing the Suicide Prevention Plan.	\$12,000
LA & AM Matthews PTY LTD (Wrights Air)	Aviation Services	\$50,000
Gum Creek Station	Bait making and Coordination	\$50,000
Wild Dog Trapper Program (multiple)	Wild dog trapping program	\$430,000

### GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	79,251	39,811	38,891	36,834

The increase in 2024-25 relates to time-limited programs.

### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities:

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget
Communications Branch	FTE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
	\$m	1.37	1.39	1.41	1.43

**GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website: <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>.

**GRANT PROGRAMS**

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—Controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
<b>Primary Industries and Regional Development</b>				
Agricultural Technology Revolution	Increase the take up of technology by primary producers to drive improvements in efficiency in the industry.	850	850	850
Horticulture Netting Infrastructure Program	Assist primary producers in South Australia fund the purchase and installation of new netting, or the replacement of any damaged netting over land used to grow horticulture crops.	3,000	-	-
Implementation of eID for sheep and goats	Assist producers with the implementation of individual electronic identification (eIDs) for sheep and goats	2,350	-	-
Mobile Black Spot Program	Address mobile phone black spots across South Australia. Improving mobile phone coverage within the state will contribute to improved productivity, improved safety and enhancing the reputation of the state's key tourist destinations.	630	-	-
Regional Growth Fund/Thriving Regions Fund	Support projects that unlock new economic activity in our regions, creating jobs and strengthening regional communities.	25,361	17,814	15,000
Regional Development Australia	New funding commitment for the seven non-metropolitan Regional Development Australia associations (RDAs) for a four-year term from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2026. This funding commitment will allow RDA Boards to continue to provide vital advice and support to drive economic development in each region.	3,307	3,307	3,307

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer.

Grant program/fund name	Beneficiary/Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
<b>Primary Industries and Regional Development</b>			
Agricultural Technology Revolution	Various recipients	Increase the take up of technology by primary producers to drive improvements in efficiency in the industry.	175,000
Horticulture Netting Infrastructure Program	Various recipients	Assist primary producers in South Australia fund the purchase and installation of new netting, or the replacement of any damaged netting over land used to grow horticulture crops.	2,491,000

Grant program/fund name	Beneficiary/Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Regional Growth Fund/Thriving Regions Fund	Forestry Products Masterplan (PIRSA)	Develop a Forest Products Domestic Manufacturing and Infrastructure Masterplan, including a focus on future skills needs.	650,000
	Snapper Management (PIRSA)	Snapper Management Arrangements and industry assistance measures	1,198,000
	Implementation of eID for Sheep and Goats (PIRSA)	Implementation of individual electronic identification (eIDs) for sheep and goats.	3,950,000
	Marine Scalefish (PIRSA)	Marine Scalefish Fishery offset licence fees for licence holders with quota over the financial years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27.	1,550,000
	Rural Business Support	To support a continuation and expansion of the free, confidential and independent Landowner Information Service	465,000
	Beston Pure Dairies	Accelerated Lactoferrin plant expansion & Bio-protein research Cluster establishment	1,100,000
	Chalk Hill	Chalk Hill Production, Tourism & Events Development	300,000
	District Council of Grant	Mount Gambier and District Saleyards Infrastructure Upgrade Project	50,000
	Eyre Peninsula Ocean Jackets Fishing Cluster (Ferguson Fisheries Pty Ltd)	Upgrade the existing processing room at Mori Seafoods with new equipment to receive, process, retail pack and export Ocean Jacket fillets	740,000
	Fleurieu Community Co-operative	Capital works to re-establish the Strathalbyn Abattoir	1,002,323
	Gadaleta Steel Fabrication	To purchase & install automated steel processing machinery	2,000,000
	Goolwa Wharf/Alexandrina Council	Revitalisation of the Goolwa Wharf Precinct	1,250,000
	Karoonda Business Growth Precinct	Public infrastructure at an existing industrial site	125,000
	Leadership program – seven non-metropolitan RDA's	Place-based program to empower leaders in regional South Australia	1,012,000
	Livestock Underpass—BK & HM McHugh & Sons	Establish livestock underpasses linking farming properties (or abattoir or saleyard) that are crossed by public roads	100,000
	MacKillop Farm Management Group (MFMG)	Establishment of Limestone Coast Mesonet	735,000
	Primary Producers SA	To assist Primary Producers SA Incorporated ('PPSA') with their role of developing primary industries in South Australia.	100,000
	Seven Point Pork	Construction of a truck wash to decontaminate trucks found to be carrying African Swine Fever	250,000
	Shield Intermodal	Bordertown Intermodal project in southeast region of SA. The project will involve the construction of an intermodal freight handling, transshipping and loading facility on the main Adelaide to Melbourne national railway line located at the Bordertown train station.	100,000
	South Australian Seafood Industry	Support the implementation of the seafood industry's Seafood Growth Strategy for SA	279,000
	South Australian Spirit Producers' Association	Funding of Executive Officer to manage implementation of the Spirits Industry Blueprint	150,000
	Torrens Valley Orchards (contact free products)	Updated Packaging Line	47,349
	Torrens Valley Orchards (sprinkler)	Innovative Growing/Watering Technology	170,000
	Town of Gawler	Create a cycling path from Adelaide to Angaston	63,230
	Yumbah Hatchery	Future-proofing SA oyster spat supply & selective breeding program	200,000

Grant program/fund name	Beneficiary/Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
	Millicent Golf Club	The Millicent golf club wheelchair and disabled access project	28,802
	54 31 Collective	The 5431 Connect   Create   Celebrate   Project	23,879
	Bundaleer Forest Community Areas Association	Wayfinding Signage—Bundaleer Forest Reserve	50,000
	The National Trust of South Australia—Glencoe Branch	Glencoe Woolshed toilet upgrade with inclusion of a disabled toilet	18,063
	The Callington Agricultural and Horticultural Society Inc	Show Pavilion	25,000
	Hardwicke Bay & District Progress Association	Shelter/Look out at the boat launch area	20,000
	Wilmington Progress Society Incorporated	Wilmington Community Multipurpose Gym Facility—Amenities	17,000
	Riverton Community Management Committee	RCMC Community Storage Shed	22,250
	The National Trust of South Australia—Willunga Branch	Building the Wirra Creek Garden shelter for community access and connection	31,196
	Girl Guides South Australia Inc	Renmark Guide Hall Upgrade	50,000
	Loxton Netball Club	Rebuilding of playground	38,000
	South Australian Produce Market Ltd	Biosecurity Precinct	4,000,000
	Riverland Wine Industry Development Council Inc.	Implementation of Riverland Wine Industry Blueprint	200,000
	Vinehealth Australia	Industry assistance measures to Phylloxera and Grape Industry Fund for grape growers	125,000
Regional Development Australia	Seven non-metropolitan RDAs	Support the development of South Australia's regions	6,614,000

There are no grant programs under my responsibility for 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—Administered.

#### REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (25 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. C.M. SCRIVEN (Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries):** I have been advised that for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

The department's budget includes 'remote work' it is general monitoring and management of the entire PIRSA network environment. The agency has an annual cybersecurity program of work which uplifts the agency's posture against the South Australian Cyber Security Framework (SACSF). While this program is not dedicated to 'remote work' per se, it does improve our security posture for all staff including those working remotely.

#### EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

Since 1 July 2023, the following executive appointments were made:

Role Title	Classification
Director, Housing Infrastructure Planning and Development	SAES1
Director, Housing	SAES1
Director, Defence	SAES1
Chief Operating Officer	SAES2
Director, Planning	SAES1

Role Title	Classification
Director, Policy and Legislation Reform	SAES1

The total annual employment cost for these appointments was \$1,381,636 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

Since 1 July 2023, there were five executive positions abolished.

Role Title	Classification
Director, Space and Defence	SAES1
Director, Growth Management	SAES1
Director, Critical Technologies	SAES1
Director, State Assessments	SAES1
Director, Housing	SAES1

The total annual employment cost for these abolished positions is \$986,122 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

The total value of termination payments was \$301,038 which excludes the value of accrued leave entitlements.

#### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

#### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

The estimated total cost for engagement of consultants and contractors in 2024-25 is \$687,465 (excluding a commercial-in-confidence cost for Satalyst). Final data and contracts for the year will be published in the 2024-25 annual report.

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2024-25.

Consultancies	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd	Selicks – Urban Design	\$147,818
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd	Concordia – Social Infrastructure assessment	\$102,631
GHD Ltd	Concordia – Aboriginal heritage assessment	\$87,938
Urbis Pty Ltd	Concordia – Economic assessment	\$69,450
ARM Architecture	Festival Plaza Urban Design	\$75,000
Cylad Aust Pty Ltd	Concordia – Aboriginal heritage assessment	\$54,233
Tonkin Consulting Pty Ltd	Concordia – Stormwater management assessment	\$48,218
Senversa Pty Ltd	Concordia – Site contamination	\$25,844



The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged as at 30 June 2024 at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2024-25.

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
BDO Advisory	Internal Risk and Compliance	\$73,333
Satalyst	ICT Third Level Escalation Support	Commercial in Confidence

### GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	127,168	128,015	128,813	130,576

It should be noted that these amounts reflect budgeted expenditure for the Department for Trade and Investment at the time of the release of the 2024-25 budget and includes trade and investment functions, as well as Planning and Land Use Services, Offices of the Registrar-General, Surveyor-General, Valuer-General, and Design and Architecture.

From 1 July 2024, budgeted expenditure for Trade and Investment functions will be transferred to the Department of State Development.

### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates.

Table 1: FTEs employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget
Planning and Land Use Services	FTE	6	6	6	6
	\$	722,549	733,387	744,388	755,554
Corporate	FTE	4	4	4	4
	\$m	534,759	542,781	550,922	559,186
TOTAL	FTE	10	10	10	10
	\$	1,257,308	1,276,168	1,295,310	1,314,740

### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website:

<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>

### GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—Controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
Economic Investment Fund	Attracting investment opportunities to South Australia to grow the economy and job creation.	3 611	-	-
Global Expansion Accelerator	Provides funding to support high-growth, export-ready South Australian businesses to build their export capability and capacity and become the state's next global leaders.	500	500	500
SA Landing Pad (Investment Acceleration Program)	Provides funding support to businesses looking to establish a physical presence in South Australia, with an emphasis on key growth sectors.	1 740	1 000	1 000

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer.

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$000
Economic Investment Fund	VeroGuard	Investment to grow the business and create jobs	2 500
Economic Investment Fund	Pirate Life	Investment to grow the business and create jobs	500
Economic Investment Fund	Enzen	Investment to grow the business and create jobs	350
Economic Investment Fund	Sundrop	Investment to grow the business and create jobs	261
Global Expansion Accelerator	Redarc Electronics Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Accolade Wines Australia Limited	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Agilex Biolabs Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Bec Hardy Wines	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Kelly Engineering	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Avinet	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Philmac Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Avance Clinical Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Mayne Pharma International Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Negociants International Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Camms (CA Technology)	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Coopers Brewery	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	JT Johnson Sons Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	De Bruin Engineering Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Eyre Peninsula Seafoods Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Daycone Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Bleasdale Vineyards Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$000
Global Expansion Accelerator	RG and RT Trott Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Dinko Tuna Farmers Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Angel Oysters Australia Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Life Whisperer Diagnostics	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Balco Australia Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Robern Menz (MFG) Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Amplify-Now Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Lightforce Australia	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Fleet Space Technologies Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	SAGE Automation Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Seeley International	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Zonte's Footstep Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Ferguson Australia Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Apxium (OneBox Holdings Ltd)	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Brauer Natural Medicine Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Cancer Research SA	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Fusetec 3D Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Glaciem Cooling Technologies Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Jtwo Solutions Pty Ltd (AppCentric)	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Link4 Australia Pty Ltd	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Micro-X Limited	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Nova Farms Pty Ltd.	To expand existing and create new international market	50
Global Expansion Accelerator	Penley Estate Pty Ltd (The Trustee for JAPHSAN UNIT TRUST)	To expand existing and create new international market	50
SA Landing Pad	Additive Surgical	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Anatomize3D	To establish an operation in South Australia	24
SA Landing Pad	Barton Gold	To establish an operation in South Australia	63
SA Landing Pad	CBG Systems	To establish an operation in South Australia	10
SA Landing Pad	Cellr Wine Pty Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	15
SA Landing Pad	CH4 South Australia	To establish an operation in South Australia	60
SA Landing Pad	CimGlobal Australasia	To establish an operation in South Australia	9
SA Landing Pad	Cobra Resources (Lady Alice Mines)	To establish an operation in South Australia	73

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$000
SA Landing Pad	CVX Semiconductor	To establish an operation in South Australia	45
SA Landing Pad	Deep Planet	To establish an operation in South Australia	42
SA Landing Pad	Digitact	To establish an operation in South Australia	80
SA Landing Pad	Equatorial Launch (Arnhem Space Centre)	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Geninus (Helixa)	To establish an operation in South Australia	71
SA Landing Pad	Ghenova	To establish an operation in South Australia	40
SA Landing Pad	Hawkin Dynamics	To establish an operation in South Australia	79
SA Landing Pad	Hensoldt	To establish an operation in South Australia	72
SA Landing Pad	Keywords Studios	To establish an operation in South Australia	99
SA Landing Pad	Kumanu	To establish an operation in South Australia	59
SA Landing Pad	Leading Keyideas	To establish an operation in South Australia	40
SA Landing Pad	LGM Australia	To establish an operation in South Australia	14
SA Landing Pad	Lux Aerobot Pty Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	80
SA Landing Pad	Market Motion	To establish an operation in South Australia	73
SA Landing Pad	Onside Pty Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	78
SA Landing Pad	RegenCo	To establish an operation in South Australia	80
SA Landing Pad	Resolve Mining	To establish an operation in South Australia	40
SA Landing Pad	RV Automation Technology Company Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	68
SA Landing Pad	Providence Consulting	To establish an operation in South Australia	80
SA Landing Pad	The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)	To establish an operation in South Australia	48
SA Landing Pad	Universal Business School Sydney (UBSS)	To establish an operation in South Australia	70
SA Landing Pad	Blume Industries LLC	To establish an operation in South Australia	38
SA Landing Pad	Big Ant Studios	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	AMP Procurement	To establish an operation in South Australia	80
SA Landing Pad	AMP X	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Apolo Electronics	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Beca	To establish an operation in South Australia	80
SA Landing Pad	Cloudpurge	To establish an operation in South Australia	60
SA Landing Pad	DL E&C Co Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Dragon Resource Investment Pty Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	NDB	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Omni Health	To establish an operation in South Australia	100

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$000
SA Landing Pad	Planet Protector Packaging	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	QL Space	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Savormetrics Inc	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Trinity Photonics	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	STERIS/Synergy Health Sterilisation UK Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	EX-Fusion Australia Pty Ltd	To establish an operation in South Australia	100
SA Landing Pad	Rockburst	To establish an operation in South Australia	100

#### REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Department for Trade and Investment:

There is no specific ongoing budget for remote work infrastructure. Remote work is a business-as-usual capability that has been undertaken by the Department for Trade and Investment over several years. The department uses cloud infrastructure which allows for both on-premises and remote activity. All staff are issued with portable devices as standard practice.

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenditure on remote work infrastructure	N/A	N/A	N/A

#### EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

Since 1 July 2023, nil executive appointments were made.

#### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

Since 1 July 2023, there were nil executive positions abolished.

The total annual employment cost for these abolished positions is \$nil (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

The total value of the termination payments was \$nil which excludes the value of accrued leave entitlements.

#### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

#### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	622	473	485	497

These budgets are subject to change during normal budget processes throughout the year and represent operating related expenditure only.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget
	FTE				
	\$m				
	FTE				
	\$m				
TOTAL	FTE				
	\$m				

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website:

<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>

#### GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years—controlled:

Grant program / fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-2025 Budget \$000
Local Government Grants Commission	Financial Assistance Grants, Roads to Recovery and Supplementary Local Roads Program.	238,916
Municipal Services (MUNS) on Aboriginal Lands	To provide non-APY Land Aboriginal communities funds to provide municipal services that are not covered by other grant or funding programs (breakdown by recipient below).	3,347
Outback Communities Authority	Community affairs resourcing and management and community assistance funding for outback communities.	445

Note: The Department for Infrastructure and Transport advises that grant programs beyond 2024-25 are subject to approval through future state budget processes.

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program mentioned in the previous answer, in 2024-25:

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	2024-2025 Budget \$000
Municipal Services on Aboriginal Lands	General	To provide non-APY Land Aboriginal communities funds to provide municipal services that are not covered by other grant or funding programs.	143
	Berri Barmera Council (Gerard)		97
	Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation (Ceduna Homelands)		329
	Cooper Pedy Council (Umoona)		318
	Yorke Peninsula Council (including Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation)		140
	Kalparrin Aboriginal Community		117
	Koonibba Community Aboriginal Corporation		245
	Nipapanha Aboriginal Corporation		199
	Oak Valley (Maralinga) Aboriginal Corporation		263
	OCA (Dunjiba)		131
	Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation		230
	Scotdesco Aboriginal Community		199
	Tia Tickia Association		100
	Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation		471
Yartawarli Aboriginal Corporation	365		

#### REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for the Office of Local Government:

The budgeted expenditure for remote work infrastructure for the financial year 2024-25, and for previous years 2022-23 and 2023-24 is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenditure on remote work infrastructure			

#### EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

Since 1 July 2023, there were nil executive appointments made.

#### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

Since 1 July 2023, there were nil executive positions abolished.

#### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

The total value of the termination payments was nil, which excludes the value of accrued leave entitlements.

#### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

#### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

The estimated total cost for engagement of consultants and contractors in 2024-25 is \$78,000.

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2024-25.

Consultancies	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
		NIL

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2024-25.

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
		\$65,500
Be Sustained P/L	Design and delivery of Mentoring Program	\$13,000 (2024-25)

#### GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	593	525	537	550

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTEs to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates.



Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget
Veterans SA	FTE	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
	\$m	0.124	0.126	0.128	0.130

**GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website:

<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>

**GRANT PROGRAMS**

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years—controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
Anzac Day Commemoration Fund	Yearly funding for grant program	100	100	100
Legacy Support Grant	Provide support to Legacy SA to provide services to veterans and their families	100	100	100
RSL Support Grant	Support RSL to hold commemorative services	100	100	100
Centennial Park Grant	Maintain veterans' grave sites in the area nominated as Derrick Gardens	114	117	120
Veterans Community Security Framework	Improve wellbeing of veteran community	97	99	51
Veterans SA minor grants	To fund small ad-hoc grants as new initiatives arise	60	70	43
Capacity Building Grant Fund	Provide support to ex-service organisations to build the capacity of their organisation to deliver services	25	25	25
Commemorative Service Grant Fund	Provide support to organisations supporting veterans to host commemorative events	15	15	15
AVSA Commemorative Services Grant	Support the annual Aboriginal Veterans Commemoration Service	5	5	5
Veterans SA Scholarship Fund (Pilot)	Support veteran community access to higher education	50		
WW2 80th Anniversary Grant	Support projects that commemorates the 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW2	132		
2024-25 State Budget Measures	Veterans Community Programs	250	250	250

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer.

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Centennial Park Grant	Centennial Park Authority	Maintain veterans' grave sites in the area nominated as Derrick Gardens	351
Anzac Day Commemoration Fund	Anzac Day Commemoration Fund	Yearly funding the grant program	300

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—administered:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Anzac Day Commemoration Fund	Funding for Anzac Day commemoration events	100	100	100

#### REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans Affairs):** I have been advised that for Veterans SA:

The budgeted expenditure for remote work infrastructure for the financial year 2024-25, and for previous years 2022-23 and 2023-24 is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenditure on remote work infrastructure	NIL	NIL	NIL