

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Wednesday, 11 September 2024

The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell) took the chair at 10:31.

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

HERITAGE PLACES (ADELAIDE PARK LANDS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:36): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	23
Noes.....	13
Majority	10

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Mullighan, S.C.	Tarzia, V.A.	Boyer, B.I.
Gardner, J.A.W.	Stinson, J.M.	Speirs, D.J.
Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.	

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:40): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
 Noes.....13
 Majority10

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Boyer, B.I.	Speirs, D.J.	Mullighan, S.C.
Tarzia, V.A.	Stinson, J.M.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Malinauskas, P.B.	Hurn, A.M.	

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Motions***SINGAPORE AIRLINES**

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (10:48): I rise with a motion that I think is very important to South Australia's economy, the visitation economy, but also as an anchor tenant for trade relations into South Australia out of South-East Asia. I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates Singapore Airlines for 40 successful years of operations in Adelaide;
- (b) acknowledges Singapore Airlines as Adelaide's longest-serving international airline;
- (c) recognises the significant impact Singapore Airlines has had on the visitor economy, international student market and international trade and exports sector over the last 40 years;
- (d) notes Singapore Airlines has played a pivotal role in South Australia's COVID pandemic recovery and was one of the first international airlines to reintroduce flights in mid-2020 to help repatriate South Australians and to transport South Australian exports to global markets; and

- (e) commends Singapore Airlines for its long-term commitment to work in partnership with Adelaide Airport and recognises the airline's important contributions to the tourism, transport and aviation sectors in South Australia.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that you, as an avid traveller, have experienced Singapore Airlines in one way, shape or another, whether it is a flight direct to Singapore from Adelaide or whether it is being used as a stopover on your way to another country. I think it is worth celebrating the 40 years of operation here at the Adelaide Airport.

It is Adelaide's longest serving international airline and it has been an incredible contributor to the South Australian trade, tourism, aviation, transport, international and student education sectors. A little bit of history tells us that on 31 March 1984 Singapore Airlines' inaugural service with a Boeing 747 landed in Adelaide, and it really did change the landscape of international travel into Adelaide.

I vividly remember, as a young aspirant traveller, that when Singapore Airlines came to Adelaide it opened up the door of opportunity to travel internationally. It gave great scope for freight and to put some of South Australia's goods and services, food and beverage into the bellies of those planes, and introduce it to a market that we had struggled with previously.

Just 18 months after Adelaide Airport's international terminal opened, we saw Singapore Airlines really leaving its mark, and today it is a legacy that we enjoy. It has been a strong supporter of the South Australian market, operating nonstop, except for a small period through COVID, but it was the first international airline to reintroduce flights in mid-2020, repatriating South Australians and keeping our exports alive.

I commend the former federal government for some of the initiatives that they put into place, subsidising some of that international air freight. That was critical in putting some form of continuity into exports into countries that had seen a stop sign put in front of them and had seen a significant amount of disruption. Hats off to Singapore Airlines.

In 2018, they chose Adelaide as a global launch port for its new A350 MH aircraft. At that time, it had the highest seating capacity of 303 seats, and it was the primary aircraft used for the Singapore-Adelaide route. As of October last year, they upgraded the route to a Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 337 seats. For many of us, we would understand that the Dreamliner has been a game changer for international travel. It has long-range capacity and it really does bring a mid-sized aircraft into what I would consider the luxury capability of international travel.

What we have seen, particularly with Singapore and the SA trade relations, is that it is the busiest international freight route to and from Adelaide. There was seven tonnes of cargo in the 2023-24 financial year, and that equates to \$257 million of export value, but there was also \$1.88 million of import value. This was facilitated by the trade office reopening under the former Marshall Liberal government.

We cannot go past noting that wine is South Australia's largest export into Singapore. It is our fourth largest market for South Australian wine. It is about 8 per cent of all wine out of South Australia, but it has dropped to second place this year. I also want to commend Martin Haese, the Special Envoy to Singapore. Genevieve, his wife, is a Singaporean and he is doing an outstanding job with relations from South Australia into Singapore. Using Singapore as a hub-and-spoke approach, I think that he has the capacity to move the dial into some of our trade relations.

I think we need to keep that role bubbling along. We need to put a capacity there that will see a significant growth industry into South-East Asia. I know, from writing policies in a former government, it really did open up the opportunities of what the hub-and-spoke approach would mean into South-East Asia, and Singapore being one of the hubs, I think has really paid a dividend.

What I would say in regard to tourism is it is the second busiest international passenger route behind Bali and it is the fourth largest market for visitor expenditure. It generates about \$96 million every year and last year we welcomed 15,000 visitors from Singapore. It is our most mature travel market from Asia daily, direct access into Adelaide, but 91 per cent of Singaporeans who visit Adelaide have visited Australia before. Some of the experiences that Singaporeans want to

experience—and do experience when visiting South Australia—are, of course, the food and wine sector, the nature and wildlife experience, but also self-drive journeys and road trips.

We all know that Singapore is a very small country and to come and experience the vast opportunities here in South Australia is a bit of a culture shock. The tyranny of distance has for a long time been a bit of a challenge for some of our international visitation. I think people are now better prepared and also better organised when visiting South Australia to enjoy some of the great experiences that we have here on our doorstep. Twenty-eight per cent have visited regional South Australia and I expect that to grow significantly over the next five years. Some of the top locations visited are the Limestone Coast, Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

As to the future of international airlines, currently we have eight international airlines flying direct from Adelaide: Fiji Airways, Batik Air, Vietjet Air, Air New Zealand, Jetstar, Malaysia, Qatar and Singapore Airlines. I think Singapore really have been that anchor tenant here in South Australia, operating 37 flights into Adelaide every week. Next month, Singapore Airlines will increase flights from Adelaide to 10 per week. That is an extra 105,000 seats per year and that will move the dial in our visitation economy, so it is great to see international airlines getting behind South Australia.

I attended the Friends of Tourism function last night, compliments of the Minister for Tourism, thank you, and there are some more announcements coming. I will not burst the minister's bubble, but it is great to see more international airlines re-acquainting themselves with South Australia and I think that is just a boon not only for tourism, for our economy, but it is also about giving tourists a great experience and then, when they go home, they are one of the great ambassadors in their country to fly the flag for their family and friends to come to South Australia to visit and experience some of the great opportunities that we have to offer.

The unlocking of some of those new international routes and trading opportunities will enable the establishing of new markets and growth into the international audience—as I have said, the ambassador-type program. However, business and education visitation from Singapore is still below COVID levels and so there is much more work to do to reinvigorate an experience here in South Australia, but to do that what we are hoping to see is the reinstating of those two airlines, Cathay Pacific and China Southern.

In regard to fixing broken trading partnerships, especially with countries damaged by what I would consider putting a lot of our trading eggs into the China basket, China is a very important trading partner, inbound and outbound, but we have to learn from some of the issues that we had with sanctions put on to commodity trading hurdles—headwinds, if you like—that significantly hurt South Australia's economy. We have seen that that relationship has been mended but we need to make sure that we have learnt our lessons: diversifying our trading experience, diversifying countries that we have reliance on with trade relations, particularly in the commodity sector.

We also need to be very cognisant of the service sector that South Australia presents. Education is one of those, health care is another one, but it is also the emerging industries within defence, within space, within cyber, and within some of the country's security issues that we face today that we did not experience five years ago, so it is a huge opportunity.

What I would like to say in closing is that I congratulate Singapore Airlines on 40 years of successful business to and from Adelaide. It is incredible, the ongoing support to South Australia's growth and opportunity. Bringing visitors into both metro and regional South Australia is something we must be more focused on. Too often we see the experience of our international travellers who come to Adelaide and do day trips, whether it be just to the urban fringe of Adelaide.

We need to have more packages, more opportunities so that they can stay those few extra days, and they can travel to those slightly further away destinations that I think every traveller should experience. So I look forward to Singapore Airlines growing our relationship, not only with their presence at Adelaide Airport but for those visitors who grace our shores and further and grow the experiences that we offer here in South Australia. Congratulations to Singapore Airlines.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11:01): I rise to support the motion congratulating Singapore Airlines on 40 years of their operations here in Adelaide. Of course, they are based at Changi Airport and they are the national

carrier of Singapore. It is an incredibly extensive network that Singapore Airlines operates, covering 76 destinations. With one stop here from Adelaide, you can connect to Asia, North America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. One of the key things is the Star Alliance program which Singapore has been part of since 2001, but it is their continuous operation here in Adelaide that we are recognising today.

I particularly want to recognise the work during COVID, and the IFAM, which is what the member for Chaffey talked about. Singapore Airlines and Qatar were the only two international airlines still travelling and flying internationally from Adelaide, and they continued to do so during that time. It was a very difficult time and we want to make sure that when we recognise these 40 years we pay particular recognition to the pivotal role they played in our pandemic recovery. They were the first to reintroduce flights in mid-2020 and repatriated South Australians and transported our exports to the global market.

I had the opportunity to meet with Singapore Airlines to thank them for this role that they played in 2022. It was a really fantastic face-to-face meeting for them to talk about the challenges that they had during the COVID lockdown in Singapore and how they were building back and where they were going to go. They were ambitious about our opportunities. We know that we have connections through international students, and trade and exports, and that has been developed over 40 years, but I had the opportunity to host a lot of the trade travel when I was in Singapore and we had some very frank discussions about what Singaporeans want in South Australia.

They want five-star farmstays with good water pressure and no spiders. I said, 'Okay, good to know.' They particularly want to have a really high level of accommodation. Food and wine is something really important to them but they are keen to get into the outback and experience a true immersion in our natural landscape. It is good to hear what they want. That is how we then market to them but they also want that support when they are here as well.

As the member for Chaffey spoke about, in August 2023 Singapore Airlines added an additional 238 weekly seats to its Adelaide to Singapore service, replacing its aircraft with the B787-10 Dreamliner. That was a significant investment in this route and we thank them for that work. They will then increase that to 10 flights per week from October. This is something that is really important. When people are looking at coming here as international students or as tourists, that certainty that you can get that flight 10 times a week adds a lot of benefit to our economy, and of course we want to continue to invite people to come.

I really want to touch on one particular area that Singapore Airlines has been incredibly supportive of, which is their long-term partnership with sponsoring the Santos Tour Down Under. It has really been quite pivotal for us in increasing supporting women's equality in the Tour Down Under event. In January next year we celebrate 25 years of the Tour Down Under, and it simply would not be at the event status it is had it not been for Singapore Airlines' long-term sponsorship.

I know the former Minister for Tourism was very keen on advocating the role of bringing elite women to the Tour Down Under, paying them the same amount of money and hosting them as well as we can. That has been recognised, and now we have the elite women here as well as the elite men. That could not have happened had we not had Singapore Airlines give that long-term support to get people here.

It is incredibly important that we continue our relationships. Singapore has a deep relationship with South Australia. In fact, I remember that one of their former prime ministers actually studied here at Adelaide University and remembered us very fondly. When I was at university at Flinders, there were many people from Singapore studying here as well.

In order for us to be recognised as a great place for international students and tourists, aviation connection is supreme, and we have been fighting to reinstate all the flights that we had prior to COVID. I was happy in February to recognise that Emirates are coming back on 28 October, and I look forward in the near future to making announcements of other airlines that are coming back to increase our connectivity. But today this motion is about Singapore Airlines. We thank them for their 40 years and their commitment to South Australia. I support the motion.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:07): I will just say a few words on this—I know that we have Father Stavros and Father Michael and His Grace here ready for a motion about their parish and their celebrations—and on the experiences that I know that many Greeks and Italians in particular have had with Singapore Airlines. The member for Chaffey pointed out that it was the first international airline. Before the Tonkin government, there was no international airline or even a terminal here in South Australia.

I know that it made life for my father easier, when going back to Milan, to travel from Adelaide to Singapore and then from Singapore to Milan via Rome. I know so many other Greek families were also able to get back to Greece so much more easily, particularly in the 1980s when there was very little choice for leaving Adelaide directly for an international flight.

I do not think we can overestimate the value that brought to South Australia's multicultural community, particularly those who came here in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of them were able to get home to see relatives and family for the first time. I know that my father was here for more than 25 years before he was able to get back home, even though when he left he told his parents that he would be back in two years when the contract had ended—but, of course, life overtook his plans.

Of course, Adelaide has developed a relationship with Singapore because Singapore Airlines was an early mover in establishing a base out of Adelaide for South Australians to get to Europe in particular. I used Singapore Airlines a lot in the early 2000s when I was expanding my options with my furniture business and doing business in China. It was the most efficient and quickest way to get to Shanghai where I spent most of my time when I was in China.

The trade with Adelaide and China was obviously enhanced with the freight network that was developed through Singapore Airlines' connections here in Adelaide. So many of our producers of fresh produce, quality produce, produce that people were paying a premium for in Singapore and other parts of Asia, have that direct route out of Asia.

I know it was very important, as other speakers have mentioned, during the COVID period, ensuring that international currency kept coming into South Australia and that customers who had acquired a taste for the quality dairy products and meat products and other bespoke manufactured food products that came out of South Australia required that direct air freight, that short-as-possible time in getting their product to market in Asia, benefiting enormously from Singapore Airlines being a first mover for international flights out of South Australia. Congratulations to Singapore Airlines. We certainly hope there is at least another 40 years of the relationship to continue, and that both Singapore and South Australia will continue to benefit from that relationship.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (11:11): It is my pleasure to rise in support of this motion. This is a well thought out motion and the moment I first heard about it, it was something I felt very strongly that I wanted to talk about. I am not the first and I certainly know I will not be the last migrant kid who gets to speak in this chamber. My story as a young toddler who came over from the UK is not unique and I am certainly not fishing for any sympathy in raising this, but back in 1982, my mum and dad rightly decided that life would be better for us on this side of the world and made the bold decision to migrate. They had never been to Australia and I am pretty sure many of their friends and family back home thought they were pretty mad.

Growing up, I used to see my friends enjoy the company of their cousins, their grandparents and their uncles and aunts. I could see how much joy these special people brought to their lives and yet for me all I had were my parents and my sister. I felt that there was something missing, especially when my family spoke about these relatives on the other side of the world with such fondness.

I can always remember telephone calls to England where, at some crippling cost, you would have all of three seconds to say hello before the phone was frantically passed on to someone else. Then at Christmas time when a parcel of treats would arrive from the United Kingdom, you would just long to meet these wonderful people who were spoiling you but you just knew so little about them. You really wanted to meet them and just be like everyone else by having that extended family in your life. It was a gap as I grew up that I really was not fond of.

Thanks to an airline from a part of the world that, at the time, I knew very little about, things were about to get a lot better. It was 1984 that marked the arrival of Singapore's first flights into

Adelaide. They gave us affordable flights and connected us to lands that seemed so far out of reach. Most of all, they brought families back together. We all go through difficulties in our lives and the tyranny of distance was one that haunted my family long after we migrated. But, for several weeks at a time, I can remember just how super happy my family was because my grandparents were finally staying with us, and this was that special moment where I could get to know and grow to love these special people in my life.

Clearly, it was a commercial decision to fly into Adelaide, but as a young boy it meant so much more. For this, on behalf of all the migrant girls and boys who got to know someone special, I say a deep and sincerest thank you.

Singapore Airlines, over 40 years you have brought so much happiness to my family. I am confident that my story is not unique, nor am I alone in expressing this sentiment. As a company, it is clear they understand the value of bringing and keeping our families together. South Australians will never forget how Singapore Airlines stood with us during the COVID pandemic. The role they played was pivotal in pandemic recovery, and it is not forgotten that Singapore were one of the first airlines to reintroduce flights in mid-2020 to help repatriate South Australians.

I will defer to the member for Chaffey as the expert, at least in this chamber, but our appreciation also extends to the role they played in transporting our exports to global markets at a time when it was critical to get our perishable food back onto foreign plates. While I could not find a more updated figure, I do note that in June 2022 over 6,000 tonnes of South Australian cargo, made up of export products such as lobster, lamb, poultry, fruit and wine, travelled through to Singapore and then on to markets such as Hong Kong, China, the US, Vietnam and Thailand.

Singapore Airlines have brought many of our products to corners of the world where we could only dream of and, in the process, further bolstered our reputation as a state that produces clean, green, quality produce, to the envy of many. I am sure that the number has got bigger as their expansion into Adelaide continues.

Interestingly, in the same report that I unearthed that figure, I found that, overall, across all Australian markets—keep in mind this is 2022—Singapore Airlines were the largest international carrier to Australia at 17.1 per cent market share. While this was two years ago, I think it is reasonable to say that when a company has stood with South Australian events, families and businesses we do not begrudge this success, for their support translates into \$100 million in tourism spend for our state each year, and we could not be more grateful.

The good news is we expect their success to grow further with their plans to increase flights into Adelaide to 10 a week from next month. The future looks bright, but in those 40 years since the first plane landed in March 1984, there have been both ups and downs. The grand prix years were amazing, yet its loss was a blow that took some time to heal. We had the economic doldrums of the recession of the 1990s and the global financial crisis that followed decades later, but, throughout all of that, this proud company has stood by our side.

We are good as South Australians at brushing off the dirt and getting back up again and rebuilding, or adding value to great events such as the Tour Down Under, Tasting Australia, LIV Golf and our Fringe and Adelaide festivals. Let's not forget that in the past 40 years we have built a solid reputation as a destination for international conventions and a growing hub for foreign students.

To home in on an area where Singapore Airlines really has gone above and beyond, I refer to the Tour Down Under. I understand this is our biggest international event. While I thank the airline for its sponsorship, I feel that this is really more of a partnership in which the airline has invested itself significantly in ensuring our success as an events destination. For an event that last year generated \$87.2 million in economic activity for South Australia and attracted an estimated total attendance of 770,600 people while creating 490 full-time equivalent jobs, it is reasonable to suggest that there is no way we could do this without the support of Singapore Airlines.

You cannot have an event without riders. Through a social media post I unearthed, it is quite telling that, through their assistance as the official airline, they have connected close to 300 members from the 28 cycling teams from cities across Europe to Adelaide for this year's event alone. While they have signed on as an official premier partner to the event, what this means to its success is

invaluable. They have been incredible in their assistance in supporting women's equality in the event, which also speaks volumes for the company and what they stand for.

The success of the events that I mentioned, including the Tour Down Under, must be shared with the airlines that have supported us. In raising support throughout this 40-year journey that we discuss today, we also fondly remember how Singapore Airlines were the first international carrier to operate daily flights into Adelaide from 2006, and how our city was chosen as their global launch port for its brand-new A350 MH aircraft. I could go on for quite a while, but the reality is, as a parliament, I feel confident. We just want to say a big congratulations and thank you all for what you have done.

There are many layers to this of which I am just scratching the surface, but we appreciate how you brought families together, supported our events, exported our products and brought lots of friendly visitors to our shores, which in the past year amounted to 15,000. To Louis Arul, Singapore Airlines Regional Vice-President South West Pacific; Goh Choon Phong, CEO of the airline; its 14,800 employees and those who have made it great and proud in its 77-year-long history, we say a heartfelt thanks. On this happy note, I am very pleased to support this motion and commend it to the house.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (11:20): As I mentioned earlier, I know that you, Mr Speaker, are an avid traveller, and I am sure that you have spent a number of hours in a Singapore Airlines aircraft. The minister jogged my memory, and I just want to acknowledge that, obviously, Singapore Airlines are and were the inaugural airline sponsor of the Tour Down Under, and I think that cannot be overstated for what it has meant for our global reputation but also having that airline as an anchor tenant.

Just in closing, I do want to thank the minister and the member for Unley for sharing their personal stories and, of course, the member for Playford, who has quite eloquently given his contribution on this motion. I think we all have a personal story to share. As the shadow minister for trade, I think this motion does ring the bell for visitation, and it is the highway for the trade economy into South Australia. I think the motion is worthy, and I commend it to the house.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to extend on behalf of parliament a very warm welcome today to His Grace Bishop Silouan of Adelaide; the Very Reverend Father Stavros Psaromatis; Father Ioannis, Father John; and so many parishioners from the Prophet Elias church at Norwood. It is great to have you here today. We very much welcome you.

Motions

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE COMMUNITY AND PARISH OF PROPHET ELIAS

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (11:22): I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for the success of their annual Norwood Greek Festival;
- (b) recognises the work of the archdiocese parish and community, particularly for their many fundraising efforts in supporting the homeless and the Women's and Children's Hospital;
- (c) congratulates the Ladies Auxiliary of the Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for their Five Loaves Initiative in providing food for families in emergency situations; and
- (d) congratulates the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia that celebrates its 100-year anniversary in Australia this year.

I speak in support of this motion, which I have moved to ensure that the exceptional community work undertaken by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood is acknowledged in this place and throughout our community. It is with immense gratitude and pride that I stand to recognise and celebrate this remarkable community, a community I am not by faith or ethnicity part of but by which I have never felt more welcomed and where I have many friends.

Prophet Elias is a place to which I can go and feel the love and devotion from the laity to the clergy and from the clergy to the laity, a place which for me is one of untold joy and privilege to be present in.

Some years ago I was introduced to the kindly former president of the executive and exceptional chanter, Andrew Psaromatis. I was also blessed at this time to meet Father Michael and Presvytera Cynthia Psaromatis. They are both so generous of spirit, and I have valued our conversations. Father Michael and Presvytera Cynthia also gifted me a prayer book, which was personally an incredibly important and heartfelt gift to receive.

More recently, I met Father Ioannis Choraitis, or Father John as he is affectionally known, and Presvytera Angeliki. I have had the deep honour of becoming acquainted with Father John. He is a remarkable person possessed of both extraordinary humility and zeal. His love and devotion must surely be exceptional in his celebration of faith and spirituality as he tends to his flock, both in the church and during his numerous rounds of hospital and nursing home visits.

The Very Reverend Father Stavros Psaromatis and Presvytera Kyriaki have a status amongst the Greek Orthodox Community and Parish of Prophet Elias that can only be attained by devoting almost half a life of love, energy and dedication to the foundations of community that they have—40 years; 40 years of work that saw the institution of catechism for children and adults in English and Greek, weekly Bible studies, weekly youth group meetings and a newsletter in English and Greek and also saw him as the principal of the language school.

Under Father Stavros's leadership, a weekly radio program was initiated, as was a program of visiting Orthodox people in prison. The Ladies Philoptochos Auxiliary Committee also became more active, visiting hospitals, mental health facilities and nursing homes. Father Stavros even initiated Orthodox Christian sporting teams, including volleyball, tennis, soccer, and footy.

Last year, at the Norwood Greek Festival, it was my great privilege to take part in the presentation by Premier Peter Malinauskas of a silver platter to honour and recognise the Very Reverend Father Stavros's and Presvytera Kyriaki's incredible 40 years of service to the Community and Parish of Prophet Elias. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Father Stavros a very happy and blessed name day for this Saturday, together with all his grandchildren who are named after him—xronia polla, Father.

In 2022, I had the great privilege of meeting His Grace Bishop Silouan of Adelaide. Bishop Silouan is known for his deep commitment to fostering spiritual growth and community within the Orthodox Church. His leadership and dedication to pastoral care have made a significant impact on his congregation, further promoting a spirit of unity and compassion. His presence is marked by genuine warmth and dedication to the wellbeing of others, reflecting his deep faith and commitment to his calling. I am so very humbled by the warm wishes and communion that the parish and community have personally extended to me these last few years.

Today, I would like to honour and celebrate a rich history that spans 100 years of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and the 65th anniversary of the Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood. The history of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia is a story of resilience, faith, dedication and hard work. The first Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, the Holy Trinity in Surry Hills, was established in 1898. It was followed shortly by the Church of the Annunciation in East Melbourne. These early churches were not just places of worship, they were safe havens for early Greek immigrants, offering comfort and a sense of belonging in a new and often challenging land.

In South Australia, Greek church activities began in Port Pirie in 1924. It was not long before the faithful gathered in Adelaide and, in 1937, the foundation stone of the Church of Archangels Michael and Gabriel was laid on Franklin Street. The growing number of Greek immigrants in the Norwood area soon recognised the need for a parish of their own and, in 1959, the Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood was born.

The very first liturgy in this newly constructed church took place on the feast day of Prophet Elias in 1960. Since then, the parish has undergone many developments, including the construction of a community hall, youth group hub, a purpose-built Greek school and, most recently, a beautiful

new marble floor. Each addition has strengthened the community, providing a place to commune together in worship, education and fellowship.

The journey of the Greek Orthodox faith in this country is marked by milestones that serve as reminders of the sacrifices made by all our forefathers. The Holy Archdiocese of Australia now encompasses over 130 parishes and eight monasteries. Just a few months ago, the patriarch gave permission for each of the diocese bishops to reflect their Australian roots, and Bishop Silouan of Sinope became Bishop Silouan of Adelaide.

These milestones are possible because of the hard work and unwavering faith of those who came before. Of course, that spirit of faith, dedication and hard work has not just seen the success of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Greek Orthodox community has achieved remarkable success across law, medicine, commerce and business, building and construction, and politics. They have also had exceptional success in ensuring their culture endures here in Australia through their vastly successful language schools and through aged care, such as St Basil's Homes, which also celebrate the significant milestone of their 40th anniversary this year.

These three anniversaries alone, and the professional success achieved by so many, speak to the incredible determination to maintain a connection to culture and language and to thrive as a community. They have done this here in South Australia, in fact across the whole country, but the connection does not end there. It is maintained across the seas with family and friends back home in Greece and in Cyprus.

Today I also wish to honour in particular the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for their incredible contributions, not only to their community but, more broadly, to Australian society. Their efforts reflect the values of kindness, generosity and deep-rooted faith that have guided their mission for generations. I have had the privilege of building friendships with the Community and Parish of Prophet Elias since 2019, and in these years I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable spirit of this community. Over the years I have been welcomed into their church and been invited to share in the spiritual celebration of holy days, for which I am eternally grateful. The love and warmth in abundance in the church is unmistakable and it is therefore a great personal honour to be able to speak to this today.

The pinnacle of that community work is always the annual Norwood Greek Festival, which was enjoyed again this year by so many friends and neighbours who came from far and wide. The word 'culture' can mean so many things. I believe culture is demonstrated in the way a community celebrates itself. The generosity, hard work and fun that go into preparing for the Norwood festival is awe-inspiring. It signifies what the parish and its members consider important to their Greek heritage. Certainly there is beautiful food and drink, enthusiastic dancing and singing, but most importantly there is a sense of sharing, a willingness to open their arms to others and celebrate a proud tradition of a strong and compassionate community life.

It is also a place where our Ukrainian Orthodox community has been welcomed to celebrate their culture and enjoy the warmth and support of the wider community as they confront the tragedy in their homeland. The Norwood Greek Festival is more than just an opportunity to enjoy delicious food, vibrant music and traditional dances. At the heart of this event is a deep sense of connection, between generations, between neighbours and between cultures.

I have personally shared in the joy of volunteering at the sweet stand, working alongside other volunteers to make sure that everyone can enjoy the beloved loukoumades, which I must say are always extremely popular. Every year we struggle to keep up with demand, with long queues of festival-goers patiently waiting for fresh homemade loukoumades. I very much enjoy volunteering on that stall, where we all work cooperatively and diligently to serve Greek sweets to a large crowd as quickly as possible. It is moments like these that show how much a simple act, such as serving food, can bring people together and create lasting bonds.

The festival's success would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the parishioners, volunteers and leaders of Prophet Elias. Each year they pour their hearts into making the festival a joyful, welcoming and meaningful event for all who attend. Their commitment to preserving and sharing their culture and faith is truly commendable. In addition to their cultural

contributions, I recognise the exceptional work of the Archdiocese parish and prophet and community of Prophet Elias in their many fundraising efforts.

One program that stands out is the Five Loaves Initiative, led by the tireless efforts of the esteemed Philoptochos, the ladies auxiliary of the Archdiocese parish and community of Prophet Elias, Norwood. This initiative, born of a desire to spread a sense that all people matter, was to provide sandwiches and rolls to over 45 families in emergency housing every week. However, it now includes people experiencing homelessness, meaning that over 450 sandwiches and rolls for both the homeless and families in emergency housing are prepared each week. Recently the program expanded to include the donation of 100 toaster presses, allowing families to enjoy warm meals during the cold winter months. The co-ordinator at Prophet Elias, Mrs Mary Bambacus, and the Philoptochos should be so proud of this initiative, which keeps expanding and growing every day.

The giving does not stop there. Through their partnership with Lutheran Care, Prophet Elias also continues to deliver essential food and care packages to those in need across Adelaide—and let us not forget the incredible work done by the youth in the Neighbours in Need program. It is so impressive to see the younger generation stepping up to make a tangible impact by distributing clothes, food and other essentials to the homeless across our city.

In addition to this is the awe-inspiring work done for the Women's and Children's Hospital. In this spirit of giving, Father John and the dedicated youth of Norwood's Ark step forward to bring joy and comfort to those in need. Through their Christmas toy drive, they collected over 600 donations of new toys—a remarkable achievement. These toys were donated to the Women's and Children's Hospital, helping to brighten the lives of over 230 families during the Christmas season. The Women's and Children's Hospital noted that this was the largest single donation of toys they had ever received from one organisation. It speaks volumes about the generosity and community spirit of the parish, and especially the dedication of the youth.

It is not just during the holidays that Prophet Elias, Norwood, steps up to help those in need. Throughout the year members of the parish, alongside Father John, make regular visits to community members who are isolated, bringing comfort and support to those who are lonely or disconnected, reminding them that they are not alone. Additionally, through fundraising and donations, the parish has provided much-needed support to missions in Madagascar and Fiji, helping to lift up those in need across the world.

These initiatives remind us that charity begins at home but does not stop there. It is about showing love and care for our neighbours, both near and far, reaching out to those who need help, whether they are in our own backyard or on the other side of the world. I want to recognise the youth of Norwood's Ark and all those who have contributed to these incredible charitable efforts. Their generosity and kindness have made a real difference to the lives of so many, and they remind us all of the power of giving back.

I was also personally struck by the strong contingent of parishioners from Prophet Elias at the ANZAC Day dawn service in Norwood this year. The role of the Australian armed forces in Greece is one of the less well-known stories of the Second World War, but Greek people will tell you of their gratitude and admiration for the Australian forces who fought bravely through the valleys and mountains to hold back the invading forces in 1941. It was wonderful to share in that special service with members of the parish.

As these important anniversaries in the life of the Greek Orthodox community in Australia and in my community of Norwood are celebrated, I reflect on the journey that brought this wonderful community so far. The church has been blessed by the dedicated service of its priests, including the tireless 40-year ministry of the Very Reverend Father Stavros Psaromatis and the current leadership of Father John, and also the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to keep the heart of this parish beating. From the dedicated members of the Philoptochos to the youth groups and community members who help at every festival, fundraising drive and charity initiative, to the teachers and chanters, to the families and individuals, their work, their commitment and their dedication does not go unnoticed.

The SPEAKER: Member for Dunstan, your time has expired but you will get another chance to add some more comments.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (11:38): I rise in full support of the member for Dunstan's motion today congratulating the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for the success of their annual Norwood Greek Festival; recognising the work of the Archdiocese parish and community, particularly for their many fundraising efforts in supporting the homeless, and Women's and Children's Hospital; congratulating the Ladies Auxiliary of the Archdiocese Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood for their Five Loaves Initiative in providing food for families in emergency situations; and congratulating the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia that celebrates its 100-year anniversary in Australia this year.

I thank the member for Dunstan for bringing this motion before the house. It is an excellent opportunity for this parliament to show our thanks to the Greek community and to your parish. It is also a wonderful opportunity to welcome the community that joins us in the Speaker's Gallery today. On behalf of the opposition, can I extend my very warm welcome to the many volunteers and community members of the Greek community and the parish who join us today, and thank you for being here.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Community and Parish of Prophet Elias is one of South Australia's oldest Greek Orthodox parishes and celebrated its 65th anniversary this year. The parish formed its first executive committee in 1959. In order to gain official approval for the establishment of the community and parish, the committee collected over 1,500 signatures from Greek Orthodox faithful residents right throughout the eastern suburbs: from many areas of the member for Dunstan's electorate, suburbs such as Norwood, Kent Town, St Peters, Kensington, Stepney, Maylands, Beulah Park and Magill. But also many of my own constituents find their names on that petition from suburbs such as Rose Park, Stonyfell, Wattle Park and right across the eastern suburbs.

Now for many decades since 1959, you have been a thriving community in your own right, but I think importantly and what we acknowledge today a really important contributor to our wider community and we thank you today for that contribution.

Perhaps that is no better demonstrated than in the Norwood Greek Festival which, of course, is an annual festival held in February every year and is one of the largest Greek cultural festivals in the state. It was first held in 2011. I am told that in 2024 you had over 4,000 attendees at the Norwood Greek Festival. Many of them are in the chamber now, either in the gallery or indeed on the floor of the chamber. It has been an absolute honour to go to the Norwood Greek Festival myself ever since I have been elected. I went a couple of years ago and I also went this year.

I was joined by many parliamentary colleagues from both sides of the house, including the then Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, as well as many local members of parliament. It was a great opportunity to show some bipartisan support in this place for your community and the work that you do.

Why would we not be there, because isn't it a party! It is a great time at the Norwood Greek Festival. There is dancing, there is music and there is food—there is a lot of food. Some enjoyed the food more than others. I saw the Deputy Leader of the Opposition eating quite a lot of food. I can say that because he is not here. It is absolutely delicious and we had a fabulous time.

Not only is it fun, though, but it also does a lot of good. I think it is important that this motion also acknowledges all the work and fundraising work that your parish and your community engage in. You are a registered charity under the Australian Charities Commission. Your programs include visits to hospitals to see the sick, to retirement homes to support the elderly; the provision of a library facility and service for the local community; teaching the Greek language from reception to year 12, including SACE stages; as well as the maintenance, preservation and improvement of the first Australian Hellenic Museum in Australia.

This motion also acknowledges and congratulates your work with the Five Loaves Initiative. This was an initiative that began in Melbourne and was adopted by the Parish of Prophet Elias Norwood earlier this year. It supports and assists families who are in emergency accommodation in Adelaide by delivering fresh sandwiches and other food, and volunteers at the church donate and help make these sandwiches that are delivered to quite a number of families across the local area.

None of this happens without the enormously hard work of many, many volunteers. I am sure you all know what you do, we all know what you do, and the motion that this parliament will be unanimously supporting today is just a small acknowledgement of some of that work. We recognise your work, we thank you for your contribution to our community and we offer you our continued full support.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (11:43): I too rise in support of the motion moved by the member for Dunstan. I do acknowledge the presence in the parliament today of His Grace Bishop Silouan of Adelaide and the Very Reverend Fathers who accompany him, especially Father Stavros Psaromatis and Presvytera Kyriaki, of course, and the two Father Johns who are here as well. Sir John Kiosoglous is also here with us as well who is an icon of the church and a community leader, especially one of the founding members of the archdiocese.

This chamber has seen many debates, and these debates in this chamber have shaped this state. Whether it is a privatisation of a major asset or a change of a major reform, this parliament sets the scene for South Australia. What we are reminded of here today is what volunteers do for us out there that often goes unrewarded and unseen. The Orthodox Church led by our Archbishop Makarios of Australia and by our Bishop Silouan of Adelaide—those two servants who serve the Greek community also serve our state. They hold up a light, a lantern, for us to follow. They serve the Greek community by providing us with the church and its services which are so vitally important to the Greek community of South Australia.

We talk about festivals and we talk about the food and the loukoumades; what that really is is a gift back to the people of South Australia. Again, it is Greek hospitality at its best. It is the Greek community, whether it is in Norwood or any other part of the state, thanking our neighbours and thanking people who come and participate and join in the life of our church, our community and who we are. It is our identity to give, it is our identity to share and it is our identity to offer love and forgiveness, and that is what this parish exemplifies.

Under the leadership of His Eminence and His Grace, what we are seeing is our parishes deliver these remarkable services. Presvytera Kyriaki has done a remarkable job, along with the Ladies Philoptochos, in building a remarkable kitchen. The work that they do there and the food that they serve, whether they give it out to the poor or whether they serve their parish, it is done with love, it is done with honour and it is done in a reflection of service. It is a remarkable thing to see when you see these volunteers give up time away from their families, away from their grandchildren and away from people they love, to serve Christ and his church and to serve, of course, the community—because we are all in community together in that church. I think it is remarkable the level of service they have given.

Father Stavros has provided me with each and every Bible that I have been sworn in on as a minister and as a member of parliament, and I have kept all of those Bibles. The museum that he has built, the school that he has built and the community that he has built serve our community to this day and will continue to serve.

It is often said in our church that you can tell a tree by the fruit it bears. This tree at Norwood is a remarkable tree because it continues to bear good fruit, and that fruit will continue to serve when we are all long gone. When we have all passed and shuffled on, that community will continue to operate and continue to serve the people of South Australia because of the foundations laid by the volunteers who are here today. This parliament owes you a debt of gratitude.

How much better off are we that we have parishes and communities, whatever denomination they may be? What they do to bring us together, to make us think of something larger than ourselves, to be part of our community, to serve our neighbours, to serve our fellow man, to help those who are in need, to minister to people—what better example are they for us to follow? The state could not replicate that kind of love, that kind of charity and that kind of desire to serve. We cannot do it.

We pass laws. We try to frame society. But, ultimately, it is our citizens. It has often been said that the Premier is the highest office holder in the state, but the Premier always says that the highest office holder in any community is that of citizen. Our citizens at the Prophet Elias community

do their best and they are exemplary examples to our community of the very best of being a community member.

I know that it is often difficult to run these community groups and it is often difficult to put on a festival. We turn up and we make speeches and we get served food, and it looks lovely and easy and seamless. What we do not see is what goes on weeks in advance. What we do not see is the planning. We do not see the stress. We do not see the cost. We do not see the draw on time away from families. What we see is a snapshot of the hour, hour and a half, two or three hours that we are there.

What we do not see with our priests is the time that they are spending ministering to those who are dying, speaking to families about their problems and concerns, and preparing and carrying the weight of Christ's ministry. We do not see any of that. What we see are smiles, we see philanthropy, we see love and affection.

I want to pay tribute to the people who are unseen, for those who are unseen are the ones who are here, the ones the member for Dunstan has brought to light so that we can all know and acknowledge them. Even the people who are here in the gallery today would acknowledge that there are many more people—probably 10 times the amount of people—who are not here today who still help and contribute: the anonymous donors, the people who are asked and who, without hesitation, help.

They are the ones we are honouring today, so it is appropriate that this parliament take a small bit of time out of our very busy schedule, where we are contemplating weighty matters of state, to stop and pause and thank those people who are the glue of our community, who keep us together, who keep us united, who offer us that love and affection, that forgiveness, and, of course, most importantly, offer us the truth in Christ's church.

So thank you very much to the member for Dunstan for what she has done by bringing this to the parliament, and I thank the opposition for their bipartisan support. I am not sure how the deputy leader will be feeling about his weight management, from my young friend the new Manager of Opposition Business. I look forward to telling Mr Gardner in person what you said about him; I am sure he will take it with the humour that was intended—maybe. Nevertheless, I commend the motion to the house and look forward to its passage.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:51): I have to say that Greek food is very healthy, full of vegetables and lots of protein—that is why I like to eat lots of it as well. I also have the pleasure of standing to support this motion. Just as the minister spoke about what happens behind the scenes, this is also an opportunity to talk about how it all started.

We know there is a saying with the Greek and Italian communities—you heard from the Greek minister, and now the Italian member of parliament who has been adopted by the Greek community in my 18 and a half-odd years in parliament—and I learned the phrase very quickly: 'una faccia, una razza' or 'one face, one race'. If you look at what we shared between the Greek and Italian communities, particularly when they arrived here postwar, it was about building safe and friendly communities amongst those who were here, who may well have travelled to the moon it was so different to where they had come from.

Remember, they came from a metric currency system to pounds, shillings and pence; from a metric measuring system to feet and inches; from kilos to pounds for the measuring of food. Of course, many of those who were involved in the early days of the establishment of the parish were working in contracting, in the building of homes, and all of a sudden they had to use feet and inches—and I bet the church was built in feet and inches. It was a significant challenge, but that was overcome because of a very strong community.

This is not unique to the Prophet Elias; all the Greek parishes were built by hand by the parishioners. These days when communities say they are building something it means they are hiring a builder. In the case of the Parish of the Prophet Elias it was actually the parishioners who were on the picks and shovels, who were laying the bricks. There were other skills too, of course, with people helping to manage the funds and raising the money.

This was not in the days of a 38-hour week or flexitime. It was 40 hours a week, and many of those parishioners who built the parish, the building in particular, were working full-time during the week. They were running businesses or had land where they were growing fruit and vegetables that they worked on the weekends to sell to get some extra money, or they were investing in property and working on those properties on the weekends. They gave up their time, and they donated money. I know that many of your parents and grandparents even signed bank guarantees in order for the parish to be built.

I compare my heritage in Australia with what I have learnt about the Greek heritage in Australia. I do not know what it is but, with the Italians, after about the second generation, there is a drop-off in interest about the Italian heritage. What I see in the Greek parishes that I attend and visit is that new generations are continuing to join the older generations at festivals and at clubs. What is the difference? Why is that? The demographics are very much the same, the reasons for coming to Australia are very much the same, the work ethic is very much the same, and I believe it is because you had to build your own churches.

The Italians were able to move into the Catholic churches that were here. I grew up in Salisbury. It was actually the Italian community that built the brand-new St Augustine's Church in the 1970s. It was the Italian community that moved into and supported an established parish, but you had to start yours from scratch, and I think the involvement of families and the parish is what has also helped to continue that celebration of Greek heritage that is shared amongst the community, regardless of where the community is from, whether they are fifth-generation Australians or whether they are new communities from another part of the world.

Your parish, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese here in South Australia, are welcoming and provide open arms to those who want to share your culture, learn about your culture and share your activities. I know many of my colleagues who have attended your events always come away feeling very welcome and enriched by the experience. Congratulations, it is lovely to see you all here.

I thank the member for Dunstan for bringing this motion to the floor. I know that Steven Marshall would be very pleased to know that this celebration was happening today. He always enjoyed the time he spent with the Prophet Elias, and what he learnt and enriched himself with from the experiences and the culture of your church, and the friendship of your community. Congratulations, and thank you for what you do, not just for your community but for South Australia.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (11:57): I, too, would like to acknowledge all our special guests in the gallery today: His Grace Bishop Silouan of Adelaide, Very Reverend Father Stavros, Reverend Father Ioannis and Father John, and to all of your parishioners and volunteers, thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy lives to come into the parliament for us to celebrate you, and thank you for everything you do for your local community. I want to thank my dear friend, the member for Dunstan, for bringing this motion to the house today. As our minister Tom Koutsantonis was saying, this is just a small moment in which we can stop the parliament to be able to acknowledge you and thank you for everything that you do for our communities.

I want to make some short remarks in regard to my own beautiful Greek church in my community, St Anthony's in Prospect. I actually grew up in a country town in Naracoorte where, to my knowledge, we did not have a Greek church. But when you grow up in a country town community is in your DNA, and I never thought that I would actually find that same sense of community when I had to leave my country town to be the first in my family to go to university, but you find it. You find it in beautiful pockets of our community and, in particular, within our Greek community.

Whenever I step into St Anthony's, I feel such a sense of calm, of peace, of love, and of community. In this rough and tumble game of politics, that is not something you find very often. So what I very much appreciate when I am welcomed by my St Anthony's family is that peace and calm and love that the church gives to me.

Just earlier this year, for Palm Sunday, I went along to our Palm Sunday service there, and I was able to announce our contribution to St Anthony's new epitaphios. I have previously had the privilege of helping to decorate our epitaphios at St Anthony's, but let us just say that I think retirement might be well deserved for our epitaphios; it is getting a little old and long in the tooth. To be able to contribute to a new epitaphios, so that we can celebrate our Holy Friday, is going to be a very special

moment. It is little things like that, those special moments—when I am invited into such a beautiful, welcoming and loving community—that are some of the most wonderful things about this job.

Once again, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you and to thank you for what you do to build community and foster community, not just within your own families but wider. It cannot be overstated just how appreciative we are of the work you do and the community that you foster. Once again, thank you to the member for Dunstan for bringing this motion to the house.

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (12:00): In closing, I would also like to acknowledge the great contribution of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, who is so supportive of the clergy and volunteers here and recently visited Prophet Elias for its name day in July.

I also acknowledge the executive committee, currently led by the kind and good-hearted president, George Morias. It was previously led by equally good and dedicated people who have ensured the church's success. It is because of their selflessness that this community continues to thrive, not only as a place of worship but also as a beacon of hope and charity in Adelaide.

Looking back on the 65-year history of Prophet Elias Norwood, it is clear that the giants of today stand on the shoulders of the giants of yesterday, whose extraordinary efforts set an equally extraordinary foundation. The parish is strong and unified. I feel blessed to know those whom I already know and excited to meet those whom I have not yet met.

Long may Prophet Elias Norwood continue to be a place of worship, fellowship and charity for generations to come. *Xronia polla kai evlogimena*. I would also like to thank those from across the aisle for their heartfelt contributions. I am sure it means a lot. I commend this motion to the house.

Motion carried.

Mr BASHAM: Sir, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWTON PARISH

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:04): On behalf of the member for Morialta, I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that the St Francis of Assisi Newton Parish celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2023 and notes a special publication has been released to mark 70 years of legacy and achievement;
- (b) acknowledges the important work of the parish in preserving Italian heritage, cultural traditions and religious beliefs;
- (c) commends the significant positive social and cultural contributions that the parish has made to the local community, including fostering religious, cultural ties and community links between Italy and Adelaide; and
- (d) thanks parish priests, community leaders and volunteers of the parish for their dedication and wonderful support to providing a sanctuary for the local community to gather on special occasions and for organising community events and celebrations which promote interculturalism and multiculturalism in South Australia.

I am pleased to rise to move this motion on behalf of the member for Morialta, who is unavailable today. He is on a skills trip with the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, so I have the pleasure of moving this motion and speaking in support of this motion in his place. Unfortunately, the leader, who I know is also an enthusiastic attender and supporter of this event, is also unable to speak on this motion today.

St Francis of Assisi Newton Parish was first established in 1953 and celebrated its platinum jubilee in 2023. It has been recognised as one of the first parishes to introduce the Italian mass and eventually festa groups to the Italian community in South Australia. The St Francis of Assisi Newton Parish holds events for the community, including baptisms and weddings, and helps to facilitate the functions of many other community groups by allowing its church hall for hire.

The major event of the Italian community in the north-eastern suburbs is the Montevergine Festa, organised and hosted by St Francis of Assisi Newton Parish. This event brings together many

members of the community and also shares Italian culture and traditions with the broader multicultural community. The event is often attended by the Hon. Jing Lee; the member for Hartley, Vincent Tarzia; and the member for Morialta, John Gardner.

I have also attended the event on many occasions, particularly when I was first elected and when the north-eastern suburbs did not have a Liberal representative in the parliament. I remember how welcomed I was to attend and represent the Leader of the Opposition at those events in the early period of my role as the member for Unley. Of course, the big event was the parish street walk, if you like, from one church to another. I think at my first event it was the full length, but since then I believe it has reduced in length simply because of the increasing age of many of the participants so it is an event that is as inclusive as possible.

The event goes back a very long way. You only have to visit Italy at festive times of the year to see how important events like the Montevergine Festa are in Italy. Seeing that happen here in Adelaide by the community, which is very dominant in those suburbs, really does show how Australia has changed from its prewar demographic to its postwar demographic, where cultures and events were imported into Australia from parts of Europe.

I spoke earlier about the Greek community and, of course, what they have in common with the Italian community. Both of them have delivered so much to South Australia. According to the 2021 census data in Hartley, over 8,300 residents identify as having Italian ancestry, which is about 21 per cent of the electorate. In Morialta, over 8,100 residents identify as having Italian ancestry, which is nearly 22 per cent of the electorate. Comparatively, the overall state average of residents who identify as having Italian ancestry is about 5.8 per cent, which is roughly what we see in my electorate in Unley, which is slightly higher than those who identify as having Greek ancestry. There is a perception in Unley that the Greeks have a bigger community, but I say it is just because they are louder and that is why that perception has developed.

In Hartley, approximately 2,100 residents were born in Italy, which equates to 5.3 per cent of the electorate, and this is the third largest cohort of migrants in Hartley after the Chinese and Indian communities. In Morialta, approximately 1,600 residents were born in Italy and this equates to 4½ per cent of the electorate, and it is the largest cohort of migrants in Morialta.

Of course, we know that the bulk of the Italian migration started in the early 1950s and went right through to the early 1970s. Many of these people were men who came first and then brought their families, or they brought their wives and started families here. Others met people here and started families here, but one thing that they all have in common is that they are now very much in their experienced years—if you like, their senior years—and have so much to look back on as to what they have contributed to South Australia and to the north-eastern suburbs; in particular, what they have contributed to the economy, business in South Australia, to the community, to education, to law, to many of the professions and of course the building industry.

There is a significant difference with migration trends in Australia now, compared to the other time when there was a boom in steel migration. Migrants who are coming to Australia now are in fields like medicine, technology and social services—all needing houses, of course—whereas the migrants from Italy and Greece were actually building those houses. They had the skills that the economy needed for building those houses. I know so many Italians who, even though they might not have had building construction experience back in Italy, when they arrived, worked in the building industry and consequently we saw a building boom for those migrants who were coming to South Australia.

Brand-new suburbs, many of them in the seat of Hartley and the seat of Morialta were being built, and built by the very migrants who were buying blocks of land to establish their new lives in those suburbs. It was not just their communities they were building for; they were building for the growing population that was happening right across Australia and here in South Australia too, of course.

We have a lot to thank the Italian community in the north-eastern suburbs for. We know, because of the Italian community, there is a large affiliation with the Catholic Church in those suburbs. In Hartley, for example, over 11,000 residents identify their religious affiliation as Catholic, which is equal to nearly 28 per cent of the electorate. This is the second largest group by religious affiliation

in Hartley, only behind 'no religion' in Morialta and over 10,700 residents identify their religious affiliation as Catholic, so nearly 29 per cent of the electorate. This is also the second largest group by affiliation behind the 'no religion' group, so still a very strong community.

When I was a regular attendee at the Montevergine Festa, I was introduced to priests who had come from Italy to this event. When they were up on the stage, even though I did not know the local priests, I was still always able to quite easily work out who the Italian priests were. Deputy Speaker, I think you would understand this, because you just had to look at their shoes: the Italian priests who were visiting from Italy always had the best shoes. With my heritage in Milan, something I learnt very early as a young person is that Italians are very particular about their shoes. I certainly noticed that with the visiting priests at the event, but I do digress.

I commend this motion to the house. I congratulate the Italian communities in the seat of Hartley and the Italian communities in the seat of Morialta and, of course, those throughout Adelaide and in my own electorate too. Of course, we cannot forget places like Port Pirie that have a substantial Italian heritage community. We know that even though many Italians may very well have ended up in the suburbs of Adelaide, often their first job was on the railways in country South Australia. I remember hearing one story where somebody virtually got off the boat at Port Adelaide or Outer Harbor where they arrived by train from Bonegilla in Wodonga and were placed on another train and sent up north to work on the railways.

Their accommodation was an unlined tin shed with a tap outside and a canvas bed. But they were there, they worked, they earned money and they saved that money to start a future for their families here in South Australia, and what a tremendous contribution they have made. I thank my father every morning when I wake up for the gift that he gave me, that is, being born in Australia. To the St Francis of Assisi Newton Parish, congratulations on your 70th anniversary. I look forward to seeing the release of the publication that celebrates 70 years of legacy and achievements. I look forward to the continuation of the success of your community and the Italian community here in South Australia.

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (12:17): It is an absolute pleasure to support this motion today because I think it should well and truly be a bipartisan effort to acknowledge the achievements not just of the Italian community but specifically, of course, the community at St Francis of Assisi here in the parliament. They have contributed so much to Italian community and culture over the last 70 years but also to the rest of us who are not Italian by background. I know the fabric of our state is well and truly better off having so many incredible Italian migrants be part of it, and I personally want to put my thanks and my recognition to all the Italians in South Australia who contribute to that.

It was in the early 1950s that the Catholic Archdiocese recognised a real need to support the growing arrival of Italians in South Australia. In October 1953, the Capuchins had their first mass at Newton in the newly built church. I will say it probably has not changed much since the time it was built 70 years ago, but it also served as the first Italian community centre in South Australia and, by my understanding, there were about 3,000 Italians who attended the event on that day. The influence that they have had in South Australia since that time, in that 70 years, has been immeasurable, and I think now is a really good opportunity to recognise some of those specific names and faces who have contributed to that influence.

First I would like to acknowledge the man, the myth, the legend himself: John Di Fede. John has been a loyal stalwart of the Italian community for many years and has contributed to the Italian community in many ways. My own journey with the name John Di Fede goes back a little way. I worked at the John Di Fede Reception Centre for many years growing up, which he does remind me of every time I see him at an event. That is just one example of the ways that John has contributed to this community over decades and decades. Another example is through Radio Italiano 531, as well as his influence in St Francis of Assisi.

Just a couple of weeks ago, John and the team at St Francis of Assisi—the volunteers there—hosted the most beautiful function in their hall to celebrate the new Chair of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, Luisa Greco, who is another member of that community who has contributed so much to South Australia.

We had this beautiful dinner just for Luisa's family, friends and supporters in the hall on the side of the church. It was entirely put on by the community that make up that church—the volunteers who make up that church—at no expense to any of the guests who were attending. Again, I think that says a lot about the type of community that Italians have built in South Australia. That was not the first time that I attended a function entirely put on and supported by John and the volunteers around him. I really want to acknowledge that service, the service to the community, and also the ability that people like John have to lift others up.

Many people spoke that night about Luisa and her journey to become the Chair of the multicultural commission and spoke about how she had been a mum with a new baby sitting in the back at one of the Italian offices. She would bring her baby in every day. They saw something in her and have worked over many years to bring her up and bring her through different boards and communities across South Australia—to the point where she is now, as the Chair of our multicultural commission, which is such a beautiful role.

Luisa is another person in that community who has contributed so much. I think of my personal relationship with Luisa and what she has been for me in terms of supporting my community seniors forums in the north-east. John and Luisa have both been involved for a very long time at the Campania Club in Modbury North in my electorate. It was only about a year ago when I first called Luisa, telling her I had a function. I thought I had needed about 100 spaces but I had five days to move it to a space with 200 spaces, and of course she made absolutely everything happen so that we could accommodate an event like that for the community.

It was John and Luisa together—and they are a formidable duo at times—who first came to the government with the idea of supporting a book about the history of St Francis of Assisi in South Australia. Earlier this year, to mark the occasion, the minister, Zoe Bettison, alongside the Premier, yourself, Mr Acting Speaker, and I were there, along with a number of other supporters from the Italian community. Alongside all of the big names and faces in the Italian community, we launched that book in the Old Chamber here in Parliament House.

I do really want to thank John and Luisa for all the work that went into it, because it was their advocacy in that meeting that allowed the state government the opportunity to support the production of that book, and what a beautiful book it is. There is a section at the beginning that is in English, the back section is in Italian, and there are beautiful colour photos and beautiful graphic design.

They have all these amazing old photos that people have kept for generations, and it gives such a wonderful recount of the history of the St Francis of Assisi community here in South Australia. I loved looking at the ones from the late 1990s and early 2000s, as I actually grew up behind the church and we attended it when I was very little, so looking at the photos of that particular time was particularly warming for me.

I also want to thank the committee of the Madonna Dell'Arco who had the idea and put the support behind the book, and all of the individuals involved in its production. Emma Luxardo was very instrumental in putting that book together. Victoria Placentino had a lot to do, I believe, with the photography and design behind the book.

Enza is involved in everything. She has been an incredible support for that project as well, as have all the community members who got together to write a piece, to talk about their memories of St Francis of Assisi over the years and of course to provide their photos and supporting documents for such a wonderful piece of history that does not just describe the church itself but the Italian community here in South Australia in a really meaningful way.

Again, the church is known for the wonderful festas that it puts on. We are just a couple of weeks out from the Festa della Madonna di Montevergine, which they host every year. Of course, as mentioned by previous members, they do the wonderful procession with the icon through the streets. It is a really wonderful thing to be part of. I know that many talk about how it is much larger these days here in South Australia than the festas actually are back home in their home villages and home towns in Italy.

Again, that says a lot. We have an Italian community here in South Australia, 100,000 proud. I know for a fact that there are many small villages, particularly in places like Benevento, where we

actually have more people from that region or from particular villages in South Australia than are still in those villages back home, which says so much about the home that has been created by Italians here and for Italians here and the influence that, of course, they have had on South Australia.

We were just talking amongst ourselves about the influence even on this parliament. We have a number of members of parliament with Italian descent, of course, and we know that Italians continue to contribute in all of the highest professions, but also they achieve in the arts, they achieve in government relations, and in the law. We have such a large number of successful Italians to thank for the strength of this state.

Even on that evening, as I mentioned before, when we launched the book, you could see all the cavalieri all around and so many Italians who have contributed to our state in a meaningful way who have been part of that community at St Francis of Assisi. It is a real privilege to support St Francis and to acknowledge the contribution they have had here in Australia and South Australia today. I want to thank everyone who has been involved in all of the celebrations, particularly that book to celebrate their 70 years. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of that community over the last few years. Long may they prosper.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:26): I thank the member for Newland for her contribution. I thank the member for Morialta for bringing this motion to the house and for giving us the opportunity to celebrate the community in his electorate. There is one point I think that has been shared and understood today with both the Greek and the Italian communities in this place being mentioned, which is the bipartisan support and love of those communities by this parliament and by the people of South Australia. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we move on, I would just like to also personally extend my congratulations to the St Francis of Assisi parish community on their 70th birthday. I was able to, like the minister, say a few words earlier this year after the reception we held in parliament.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' DAY

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:28): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that Early Childhood Educators' Day took place on Wednesday 4 September 2024;
- (b) recognises the critical importance of the early years of a child's life;
- (c) acknowledges the unique and significant role early educators play in supporting positive early childhood development; and
- (d) commends the Malinauskas Labor government on the commitment to the introduction of universal three year old preschool.

Last Wednesday 4 September was Early Childhood Educators' Day. Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises and celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services across long day care, family day care, preschools and occasional care. It is a chance to call out their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and health development of young children in their care. To our early educators, thank you. Thank you for the work you do in guiding and educating all of our little ones in their early years and for the support you provide to families.

The early years of a child's life are critical, with more than 90 per cent of a child's brain development happening before the age of five. It is a short time to establish and form the foundation of all future learning and development and give our children the best start in life. With parents working more now than ever, they need quality early childhood education to support them, to give them peace of mind, knowing that their precious ones are being nurtured when they cannot be there themselves, and to assist our kids to grow up to be the best they can be.

The work that our early educators do, and the work of those who will take up the profession in the future, is vital. However, sometimes this work is often done without the recognition and reward it deserves. The role of the early educator needs to be acknowledged and celebrated for how

important it is. Today, we are here to do just that and to thank them for their professionalism, skill and dedication.

I was pleased to see the commonwealth government improve pay for educators and our own government investing in attracting and retaining this critical workforce in the preschool programs. We have also begun work to deliver three-year-old preschool, which will begin in 2026, with the 2024-25 budget delivering funding to build the workforce and infrastructure needed as quickly as possible. We are working to support our early educators so they can support our kids, so they can continue to ignite children's curiosity, nurturing their sense of wonder and instilling in them a spirit of kindness and empathy.

Over the last week, I have taken the time to visit many of the ELCs and kindies in my community. I have not quite got to all of them yet as there are quite a few, but I will get there. I dropped in to give our educators a little chocolate treat and had many valuable conversations about their centres, their current capacity and their opportunities.

In the electorate of Waite, we have seven kindergartens and 12 early learning centres. That is a lot, and I would like to give them all a call-out and give them the recognition they deserve. So thanks to all of the educators who work at Coromandel, Hawthorndene, Belair, Blackwood, Mitcham, Eden Hills and Jessie Brown kindergartens; Blackwood Community Child Care Centre; Scotch College Early Learning Centre; St John's Grammar School Early Learning Centre; Concordia College Early Learning Centre; Nido Early School at Belair; Precious Cargo Montessori Early Learning at Blackwood; Beyond Early Learning at Blackwood; Guardian Childcare at Coromandel Valley; Montessori Kids at Bellevue Heights; and Goodstart at Belair, Blackwood and Clapham. That is a lot of kids, a lot of educators and a lot of love.

I want to just mention a couple of the fun and fantastic things I witnessed, some of the special ways our early childhood educators are contributing to the child's educational journey. The most amazing was at the Jean Bonython kindy. The educators at this kindy, especially Rikki Skrodal, are doing an incredible job of teaching the children about reconciliation, about being kind. They are teaching them Kurna language in song and also speech. The children showed me just how clever they were by welcoming me, counting to five and then singing *Open Shut Them* in English and in Kurna. It was absolutely fabulous and very impressive.

The Eden Hills kindy is also doing a fantastic job at teaching its students to be kind, sensitive and culturally aware, and they are also learning Kurna language under the very clever guidance of Jen Lush and the director, Sarah Quihampton. I had a good chat to Sarah about the work that they are doing to share their stories of the past and the very significant Colebrook reserve just down the road. Jen has written many songs about Kurna children, about respect and care for nature. She is a talented guitar player and she shares her love for music with the children.

I visited Blackwood kindy and spoke to their director, Maddy, and also met students Harvey and Charlotte, who are cousins. They sat me down, took my temperature and prescribed me some very delicious strawberry medicine for my sore head. One was a nurse and the other a doctor. It was very cute indeed. They even had clipboards to take notes of my symptoms. Hopefully, we will see them working in our health system in 20 or so years' time.

At Coromandel kindy, I was well informed by Ewan about all of the excellent sports we saw during the Olympics. The kindy had a pinboard with lots of pictures of different Olympians. He was happy to tell me that BMX racing was definitely the coolest. They even hosted their own kindy Olympics.

Previously, I visited Hawthorndene kindy, where students, under the guidance of their kindy director, Louise Montesi, welcomed my work experience student, Abbey, a former student of the kindy herself, and I in Auslan. When I dropped in this week, I was greeted at the gate by the kindy monitor, who let me know she was issuing the five-minute warning bell to go inside. Our educators are amazing. They are providing our kids with an incredible start and access to so many opportunities to learn.

Personally, I started my educational journey at Belair Jean Bonython Kindergarten and then swapped to St John's kindergarten way back in 1980. I do not remember too much, but I do remember

our principal. Her name was Dorothy Pargeter OAM. I was saddened to hear this week that Mrs Pargeter had passed away on 1 September, so I would like to take this opportunity to speak a little bit about her as well.

Mrs Pargeter received her OAM for service to education, particularly in areas of curriculum development and student welfare. She established one of South Australia's first Montessori classes at her school and later introduced nursery school and kindergarten classes of which I was a student. She was also the principal of the junior school my brother attended, and she was well loved throughout our community. She was also a founding member of the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills. She is being laid to rest this afternoon, and I extend my deepest sympathies to her family, her friends, the St John's and Zonta communities and to the many students she nurtured in her time as an educator. Vale Mrs Pargeter.

Early educators play such an important role in our lives, it is clear. Forty-five years after I met Dorothy as a principal I still remember her, and I know this is the same for most of us. It is this care and kindness that starts us on our journey, and it stays with us. To our early educators I hope that you know what a valuable role you play in everyone's life journey. You are there helping our children to learn through play, encouraging children to learn and grow together while building resilience in a social setting. You also stand as champions of inclusivity. By celebrating diversity, you help our children to understand and appreciate differences, fostering a sense of unity and respect that will stay with them for a lifetime.

The impact of your work goes far beyond the baby, toddler and kindy rooms. By shaping the early experience of our children you are helping to build a future generation that is compassionate, open-minded and equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow. It is you as our workforce who are out there on the ground every day making all of this a reality. Thank you for fostering an environment where our children can flourish. Thank you for being the bedrock of their early development. Thank you for your commitment to creating a better and more inclusive future. Your efforts are not just appreciated; they are celebrated. And we stand with you, committed to supporting and valuing the work that you do every single day. I hope you all had a fabulous Early Childhood Educators' Day and continue to do the amazing work you do for our children.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (12:36): I rise today to make a contribution on the motion brought to the house by the member for Waite, particularly around highlighting the fantastic work that our early childhood educators do right across South Australia.

While the opposition welcomes the vast majority of the motion that has been put to the house today, we will be moving an amendment to the motion. I foreshadow that, and certainly put forward the opposition's view that paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) are well supported by, I am sure, both sides of the house and the crossbench alike.

In many ways this is one of the most bipartisan areas of policy within the state. We all agree: while we may have slight differences in terms of the rollout of particular programs or otherwise, the principle that the early years are of critical importance for the development of our children is something that is shared without a shadow of a doubt. It is why under the former government—and I will speak in more detail to this—we spent so much time, energy and effort setting up South Australia's early learning strategy.

To return to the amendment, I move to amend the motion as follows:

Remove all words after '(d)' and insert:

- (d) notes the pre-election promise of the Malinauskas Labor Party to offer three-year-old preschool to all children in South Australia from 2026, which has since been delayed until 2032;
- (e) notes that under the government's model 70 per cent of families accessing three-year-old preschool will be required to pay long day-care fees, while 30 per cent of families will benefit from free public preschool; and
- (f) noting that royal commissioner Julia Gillard has highlighted that the government will need a net extra 800 teachers and 1,000 other staff to fulfil this promise, urges the government to explain to the people of South Australia how they propose to achieve this.

In regard to those amendments, I think they speak for themselves. It is clear from the commitment documents and the policy documents that the Labor Party brought to the last election that there was a commitment around three-year-old preschool being available to all children in South Australia from 2026. They are the words that were included in the policy document that the Labor Party took to the last election. What we saw at every polling booth—just about; certainly ones that I was present at on election day—were posters saying that that delivery of universal preschool was going to happen.

Unfortunately, I think that this has been a case of selling a pup, in some ways, to a number of parents around South Australia who had an expectation that they would be receiving 15 hours of preschool per week for their three year old in the public setting by 2026. That is something that obviously is impactful for many families in many ways. We have outlined in this house before the importance of preschool, both from an educational perspective and a development perspective but also an economic perspective and what that means for getting parents back into the workplace.

The Gillard model that has been discussed—again, referenced in the amendments—essentially sets forward a pathway that will see 70 per cent of children receiving their dose of preschool in their normal long day-care setting. Again, I think that sits in contrast to the expectation of many South Australians when they saw red and were informed of the now Labor government's policy in regard to universal preschool. But, most importantly, I think there is a clear expectation from the sector more generally, but also those in policy setting positions, to understand how the government is proposing to recruit the significant number of workers that are going to be required to roll out this policy, even taking into consideration the model that has been proposed through the Gillard work.

If I return to the work of the words in the motion itself that the member for Waite has put forward, I certainly concur with her and recognise the significant work of the many early childhood educators across South Australia and particularly in the area that I represent. As a father myself of one child who has reasonably recently gone through early childhood education, I cannot speak highly enough of the experience that my family and my son had in that environment. I know that is replicated and that sentiment is shared by so many friends, family and otherwise across my local area and more broadly across South Australia. I think we can be very proud of the quality of the early childhood education that South Australia delivers.

The importance of the first five years of a child's life I think is again a shared bipartisan principle that is well recognised. As I referenced earlier, that is why the South Australian Early Learning Strategy was developed under the previous government. It was done because we all agree that giving our youngest the best start to life is important and that in the first five years we ensure that we help them develop the fundamental skills and abilities needed for school and life—the importance of ensuring that everybody is on track during that period of time.

It is why, during that work, with the Hon. Nicola Centofanti from the other place and the then minister, the member for Morialta and now shadow minister for education, I was very pleased to be involved in this process where, in particular, the work identified some key areas that needed to be developed and, in particular, the child development screening that is undertaken by CaFHS.

It was identified that far too many of our children, unfortunately, were not having these checks and that our coverage of those checks had been far too low. We were having a lack of identified development issues across South Australia, which led the state to be one of the very few since, I believe, 2009—I will find the exact figure, but the state was moving backwards in terms of the number of children who were meeting the development milestones identified, so that was concerning.

We undertook to develop a range of programs, one being the development of the Early Years app for parents, which works in tandem with what traditionally had been referred to as the Blue Book and which required an outline for parents—checks to understand the appropriate development of their children in the early years of their lives. That is an important part of continuing to improve the process of identifying development delays early in our children.

The Words Grow Minds public campaign was also successful in continuing to promote the focus on literacy that was undertaken under the previous government, both in early childhood education as well as in the early years of our school system. It is without any qualification one of the most important areas. Without literary skills, fundamentally it can have a significant impact on all the

other realms and areas of development that children need. That need, and rightfully so, was at the forefront of what we were doing.

Another focus of the strategy was on the importance of playgroups around South Australia, particularly on the back of the COVID period, where so many playgroups were closed or put into a period of being not necessarily undertaken as they once were. Those interactions are just phenomenally important, both for childhood development but also for interaction of parents to be involved in those areas, understanding and sharing stories, not just in terms of their own experiences but the development of their children and sharing where they are at. While the opposition supports paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this motion, we move amendments to part (d), with additional sections added.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (12:47): I want a quick word to thank the member for Waite for her motion and speak in support of all it deserves. Around the area of MacKillop we have a lot of primary schools, a young community and children who are on the waiting lists for childcare/early learning/resources around education. I want to say a quick word so that the member for Waite can sum up before we go to the break.

I am very supportive of the South Australian government in its support of children of the ages three and four being in the education system. I am very supportive and know that kindergartens/child care for this new cohort of children aged three and four have some sort of crossover and link. I want everyone to realise that we know the Treasurer and the budget had around \$715 million to roll out to help pay for resources that will be needed for this early learning. Obviously, we want to make sure the resources are being spent where needed.

I am not saying that would not be the case, but I know that already in my schools, without the early learning, which has not arrived yet, we have bathrooms and facilities where an area school has a bathroom for years 12 down to reception. The fit there is not as good as you would expect in the city of Adelaide. I am making sure the education minister, the government, knows there are shortfalls in our education system.

There are two points on that: yes, there are resources that need fixing and there are old resources, buildings and infrastructure that are tired, but also there is an opportunity to say thank you to the government for early learning and what it does for education, outcomes for the greater good by year 12, setting people up for adulthood, going into life and hopefully the workforce and family life. That would change some of the intergenerational shortfalls that we have seen probably going back infinitum.

With this early learning that is being rolled out, backed up in the federal report by the previous Prime Minister Julia Gillard with her findings around early learning, there is a really good payback. I have seen some statistical data, and Australia and the United States are very similar in some of the outcomes. They may not be exactly the same, but it has been pointed out to me that for every dollar spent on a child between the ages of one and five regarding education outcomes you will get a \$7 return; it is sevenfold, and that is statistically out there. It is avoiding education and learning shortfalls, it is avoiding drug addiction and substance abuse, it is avoiding anger and violence, it is trying to avoid incarceration rates, and it all stems from the first five years in life.

We are not DNA bred. We do not have genes that say that because Nick McBride has a gene he should be in jail. That is not how it works. You actually have to be brought up in a way that may lead to these sorts of outcomes. Your history is an indicator of where you will end up. It can even be intergenerational history, not in your own lifetime.

So I will sum up very quickly and say that we in MacKillop are looking forward to early learning. I back the member for Waite in her advocacy for what her government is doing. I think there are a great deal of good outcomes around education. Another thing I want to pick up on as well that I do not think is quite fully understood is that sometimes it is almost like saying, 'Yes, there are probably greater volumes, but it is not just low socio-economic families and individuals who will benefit from this.'

In the statistical data I saw, reading a book on early childhood and the damage that can be done between zero and five, of the most wealthiest families in America the top 1 per cent has the

highest mental unwellness of children because their parents do not know how to love. They are not valued as children. Their parents know how to make money, but that does not mean they know how to love. The education system can play a role in joining those dots and giving value and worth and trust to these children from the earlier ages than it already does, and that is how you break the mould of what goes wrong in people's lives from then on.

Another bit of statistical information I can tell you is that we know that through life beyond five years we can send our people off to war and trauma, and we can have accidents and massive trauma in people's lives that can extend for many years, but none of that will beat the first five years of trauma. The first five years of trauma is the hardest trauma to undo. So, backing up what the government is doing here with early learning for three and four year olds being picked up for education purposes is part of that solution. It does not mean it is the only solution. The next part of that solution is how you back the parents up to be able to provide the education and love to those children.

It is one thing to get the children into these systems and education centres, but it does not mean the parents are any better the next day. That is the next nemesis of this process: to make sure the parents are well supported so they can support the children to learn so we break the mould and the intergenerational problems. I support the motion that has been brought to us. I know the opposition might have amendments. I do not care what they are, I just support the motion wholeheartedly in its intentions and I wish them all the best with this process.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:53): I thank the member for MacKillop for his contribution, it was excellent. We will not be supporting the amendment from the opposition and we put forward the motion as is.

Amendment negated; motion carried.

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:54): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that the 2024 Mid-Autumn Festival will take place on 17 September;
- (b) acknowledges Mid-Autumn Festival traditions date back over 3,000 years and continue to be celebrated by South Australia's Chinese, Malaysian, Hong Kong, Vietnamese, Singaporean and Korean communities;
- (c) notes the significant role played by South Australia's Asian communities in enriching our social, economic and cultural life; and
- (d) congratulates the Malinauskas Labor government for its unwavering commitment to supporting, promoting and celebrating major cultural festivals.

As referred to in the motion, the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated on 17 September this year. The origins of the Mid-Autumn Festival can be traced back some 3,000 years. The moon was associated with an abundant harvest and a pathway to prosperity and today around the world it is a time to give thanks for the many blessings of life. It is still a central part of life in China and across Asia.

Here in South Australia, the Mid-Autumn Festival has been widely embraced and it has been wonderful to see how our community organisations prepare to hold events across our state to celebrate. Families celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival often by gathering for dinners, watching the moon, lighting paper lanterns and sharing mooncakes. I have been lucky enough to try a few of those in my time as local MP.

It comes at a time when diplomatic relations between Australia and China are strong. In June this year, Chinese Premier Li visited Adelaide for engagements at Adelaide Zoo and Penfolds Winery. We are obviously very pleased to be welcoming two new giant pandas as well.

There are also ongoing discussions around lifting trade tariffs on Australia's wine, meat and seafood. Growing up in a wine region close to the Coonawarra, I know how very important this is. As Minister Penny Wong confirmed, in 2023-24 Australia exported \$15 billion of previously impeded products to China—compared with only \$4.4 billion in 2022-23—with nearly half of all our wine exports for the April-June quarter this year going to China, which had a value of \$376 million.

To summarise, I wish everybody in my community and all across our state a very happy Mid-Autumn Festival. I commend this motion to the house.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12:57): I cannot believe that there are no speakers from the opposition. This is an incredibly important festival that is celebrated by one of our major multicultural communities. The fact that there are no speakers here speaks to the fact that this opposition is in a complete and utter shambles. The lack of respect to a key part of our community is absolutely unbelievable.

I know as minister that we are hosting a Mid-Autumn Festival, a reception, next week here in parliament where we will have people from the Chinese, Malaysian, Hong Kong, Vietnamese, Singaporean and Korean communities. This is a very important festival to those communities, celebrated for more than 3,000 years, a time of reflection and a time of coming together as a family to recognise this new moon.

The Tong De Association invited me to share a celebration with them on Sunday at Campbelltown. I made my very first mooncake. It was challenging but made. This is a key part of it. What we see is an opportunity to support the children who are here. The Tong De Association is fairly new, having been formed in 2018, supporting new migrant communities who are here, who want to keep their language strong and want to have their culture strong.

The reality is that this is why the Malinauskas government has put so much funding into multicultural affairs, because we want to support people to keep their culture and language strong. We want to support those community language schools, of which we have 92 now in South Australia, and 10,000 students every week are attending these language schools. We invested \$4 million over four years to do this, but this is what I hear time and time again from our diverse communities: 'How do we keep our language and culture strong? We know that we are being backed up by the Labor government.'

We know that this Mid-Autumn Festival takes place on 17 September. It is actually a very joyful time, a time when people come together. They also invite their friends, their neighbours and their work colleagues to come and share with them this special event. I think that is where we see that diversity is our strength in South Australia. People from 200 different countries have made South Australia their home but they want to continue to celebrate and recognise their cultures and invite other people in with a focus on interculturalism but, more importantly, say, 'I am Australian, but this is also what is important to me and I want to pass it on to my children and grandchildren.'

I am invited quite often to lots of different communities to celebrate and we see people who have been here for many generations and also those skilled migrants who are new.

Time expired.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

The SPEAKER: I direct that the written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

Ministerial Statement

H5N1 HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA, WILDLIFE PREPAREDNESS

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (14:07): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: In 2020 a new strain of avian influenza, H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b, emerged. Since October 2021 this clade has been circulating widely across the globe, causing a significant increase in the frequency and geographic range of H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in wild birds, poultry and mammals in other continents.

Overseas the strain of avian influenza has had significant impact on wildlife in countries that have experienced outbreaks. Currently, more than 500 species of wild birds are known to be affected, along with about 60 species of terrestrial and aquatic mammals.

This strain of HPAI is distinct from those currently affecting poultry in Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT. Similarly, while a human case of H5N1 avian influenza was reported in Victoria in May this year, this was of a different clade from the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b that is affecting wildlife globally and is not currently known to be present in Australia.

Overseas, the outbreak of this clade has effected a wide range of species, not just wild birds and poultry. Notably, from a wildlife perspective, it has also affected marine mammals, particularly sea lions and seals.

I am advised that while the impacts of H5N1 on wildlife have been severe, the World Health Organization assesses the overall public health risk posed by this disease to be low. However, people can be affected by avian influenza, and that is why, as I will explain later, people should be aware of this disease and follow government advice to protect themselves from it.

HPAI has now spread to all continents other than ours. Sadly, this includes mainland Antarctica, where its presence was confirmed around the start of 2024. Due to movements of wild birds, it is understood there is no way to prevent HPAI from entering Australia. While the HPAI impacts on our wildlife will likely be severe, we are fortunate that we have the opportunity to learn from experiences overseas about what has and has not worked to limit its spread and manage its impacts so that we can prepare for when it does arrive in Australia.

In South Australia, government departments, particularly the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, the Department for Environment and Water, and SA Health, are collaborating to prepare for an incursion of H5N1 HPAI. This preparedness includes working together with the Australian government, government agencies in other states and territories, and a range of non-government organisations, particularly Wildlife Health Australia and Animal Health Australia, to establish coordinated preparedness and response plans, given it is impossible to know with certainty where in Australia HPAI might first arrive and be detected.

For our native wildlife, it is expected that HPAI is likely to have significant impacts. In South Australia, of particular note are the likely impacts on some species that are already of conservation concern, such as Australian sea lions. It is not only threatened species that we should expect to be affected but there are also serious consequences for species that are common and abundant, such as black swans and Australian pelicans.

Given this, work has started to assess in detail the risks and potential effects of HPAI on our native species, as well as actions that can be taken to lessen its spread and the impacts of the disease. However, people must understand that there are no simple preventions or solutions to HPAI in wildlife. For example, there is currently no practical vaccine to protect our wildlife. That said, I am encouraged that government agencies are assessing options to minimise and manage the impacts of HPAI on our wildlife.

While the focus of this statement is on wildlife, I understand that PIRSA has plans in place to manage the incursion of HPAI on our agricultural sector, as it does for other pests and diseases as part of national agreements between the Australian governments and livestock industries. Similarly, SA Health is prepared should a human be infected with HPAI.

Returning to wildlife, I encourage members of the community to be aware of the risk of HPAI and follow government guidance given on it, given the likely inevitability of its arrival. Specifically, I encourage the community to remember the simple advice: to avoid contact with sick or dead birds; record the time, date, location and other relevant details, such as the species and number involved, if they encounter sick or dead wildlife; and report those observations to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (1800 675 888). Reporting this information is vital so that authorities can take action to protect our environment, people and industries.

In concluding, I recognise HPAI presents a significant and challenging threat to our wildlife and agricultural industries. However, it is important that the community is informed about this matter and is made aware that the South Australian government, the Australian government, and those in

other states and territories are preparing to respond to the arrival of HPAI and do what they can to minimise the impacts of this disease. To stay informed on this issue, I encourage people to check on the outbreak.gov.au website for accurate and up-to-date advice on this, and other biosecurity risks to our country.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the Lion of Hartley, the former member for Hartley Joe Scalzi. It is great to have you back. One of my great memories here of 2003 or 2004 was when Mike Rann bellowed across the chamber: 'You're the only one we fear.' It is great to have you back, Joe.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:13): I bring up the 49th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Question Time

POWER PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to the General Manager of Vili's about the cost of power in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It has been reported that beloved South Australian institution Vili's bakery will be forced to increase the price of its pies and pasties after being hit with an overnight 18 per cent increase to its power bills.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:14): It is always disappointing when we see a lack of competition, especially amongst our large energy consumers like Vili's. We saw this earlier with Nippy's as well. What is happening is a lot of these contracts are coming off very long-term contracts and they are now going back into the market and, given the increased gas prices that are in the market, a lot of the retail offerings to our large industrial customers have increased, and it is very, very disappointing.

The commonwealth government has put a cap of a gas price, along with a code of conduct. Unfortunately, I think that cap is acting like a floor rather than a ceiling and we are seeing offers of gas prices well above that \$12, which is informing what prices are for energy retailers. It is important to note that the best way to overcome this is for there to be a lot more renewable energy into the system. Gas is setting the price and gas is pushing the price up. As gas increases the price because of its scarcity because of the conflicts in Ukraine and what is going in Europe, you are seeing gas prices elevated and you are seeing some domestic policies on gas. You are seeing some domestic policies having an impact on gas as well.

You are seeing, of course, relief on the retail end of this here in South Australia. We are seeing some of the prices coming down for residential households, but they are not coming down anywhere near fast enough. This isn't a problem isolated to South Australia. This is a national problem. This problem is occurring in Queensland, it is occurring in New South Wales, it is occurring in Victoria, it is occurring across the country, and we need a national response to this. We want the commonwealth government to obviously have a national approach to this to see us then put downward pressure on gas firming prices.

Those gas firming prices are having a terrible impact on our businesses across the country, and we are seeing that of course in the national growth figures, which are showing that the national

growth across the economy is not as healthy as it is here in South Australia. But, yes, indeed it is tough for Vili's. It is very tough for our large—

Mr Teague: Are you going to go back to island South Australia? Are you going to cut us off from the grid now?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Words of wisdom. Cutting South Australia off from the rest of the grid would be a stupid thing to do, and members opposite who are advocating for it, like the member for Heysen, just shows the ignorance when it comes to the electricity market.

Mr Teague: Advocating for directly the opposite.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Why would we want to cut ourselves off from the National Electricity Market?

Mr Teague: It's what you've been talking about.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It's a silly and stupid suggestion to make. I have to say that they—

Mr Teague: You have been talking about this parochialism in South Australia. How dare you misrepresent the views of those opposite.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Then move a point of order.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I think he is upset. He applied to be a senior counsel and he was rejected, and I think because the application was rejected he is a bit sensitive. It's not my fault, I didn't reject him. It was his peers. It was his peers, not me. It was his peers. I didn't reject him.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Now, Mr Speaker, I am concerned about the impact of energy prices on companies like Vili's, because I really do enjoy Vili's. They are a great South Australian product and I hope that that family business can continue to succeed.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, I would like to welcome to parliament year 11 legal studies students from St Aloysius College, who are guests of the member for Adelaide.

Question Time

POWER PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier expect the price of pies and pasties to increase?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:18): The biggest contributor to increasing costs across the country is inflation and—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left will come to order. We will come to order. Can we just have one question at a time and one answer at a time?

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: You are all over economic policy. They should make you shadow treasurer.

The SPEAKER: The Premier!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Power prices in this state and across the country are being influenced by external forces that are beyond the control of the country. What we are attempting to do is put in cheaper power, which is renewable energy, to make sure we can put downward pressure on those prices. What is pushing prices up across the country is the cost of firming, and firming is

being done by gas across the entire eastern seaboard and the National Electricity Market and those gas prices are elevated, for a couple of reasons: one, international price shocks like the war in Ukraine, and two, policies that have been disadvantageous to the exploration and extraction of gas.

Now, who was guilty of that in this room? Well, members opposite, who banned fracture stimulation in our second-largest basin in the state, and now they are complaining about the cost of gas as an impact on power prices. I have to say it is very disingenuous of members opposite to be complaining about the impact of gas prices on power prices when they are the ones who are anti gas. A party of anti gas, members opposite. They are the ones who tried to ban it. They are the ones who complain constantly—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —but come up with no alternative policy. They had one policy, an interconnection into New South Wales—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and we are still waiting for it.

POWER PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to Drakes Supermarkets boss John-Paul Drake about the cost of power in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It has been reported that Drakes' power bills have increased by up to 60 per cent. He said, 'It means we don't grow as much, which means we can't employ people.'

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:21): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and I thank him for referencing Drakes Supermarkets with whom the state government has a good relationship. I have a lot of regard for both John-Paul and also Roger Drake. They are good South Australians who have generated a lot of positivity, not just for our local economy but for consumers and suppliers around the state.

In terms of power prices, I think it is well documented and an established fact for those who have familiarised themselves with energy policy that the single biggest contributor towards higher prices for those who participate within the National Electricity Market, beyond the privatisation exercise that occurred in the 1990s, is, of course, a lack of stability when it comes to major policy that informs investment decisions coming from the commonwealth, or the federal level.

There is a lack of policy consistency that has principally been driven through the prosecution of the climate wars, a partisan political debate—around science, you might add—that has undermined investment throughout the country. We desperately need as a country more generation. Demand for power is going up but the investment in generation is not going up at a pace that is consonant with that growth and demand.

The reason why we have not seen the market and investment follow that demand is because if you are in the business of building a power station, what type of power station do you build? As the Minister for Energy quite rightly articulated, what the country desperately needs now more than anything else is firming services, most likely best represented in the form of fast-start generation powered by gas. But we do not see investment in gas generation, because nobody knows what the rules are and whether or not they are likely to change on a political whim.

The insertion of the coalition to commit to a state-owned, publicly subsidised power utility in the form of nuclear power—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —only adds to the uncertainty, and the new shadow treasurer interjects by referring to the hydrogen jobs plan. What the shadow treasurer fails to understand is that the hydrogen jobs plan provides the exact type of firming service that the market is crying out for, which is very different to nuclear power which provides base load—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The shadow treasurer asks what is the difference between a firming service and nuclear power, which tells you everything you need to know about the man—

Mr Telfer: It is not doing anything for power prices, you have admitted it.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: It tells you everything you need to know about the man that would seek to occupy the role of treasurer of the state, the fact that he cannot distinguish between what is a firming service and the role that nuclear power would play in the market of providing baseload generation. What this country needs to drive prices down is policy consistency at a federal level that acknowledges that decarbonisation is necessary and important and allows for a transition to occur in an orderly manner.

It is what anybody who has a basic understanding of the way capital markets operate would appreciate. I know that here today is the former Treasurer of the state, someone who understands the power of government policy intersecting with investment policy to ensure we see investment in power generation. It is what we desperately need. Thank goodness that the shadow treasurer isn't anywhere near the Treasury benches, because that would yet again be another backward step in terms of policy consistency.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Speaking of former treasurers, I would like to welcome Kevin Foley, former Deputy Premier as well of South Australia. It is great to have you in the house today, Kevin. I hope you are going well.

Question Time

GROCERY PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): Supplementary to the Premier: does the Premier expect the price of bread and milk to increase?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:25): The Leader of the Opposition asks if the price of bread and milk is likely to increase. Let me reiterate or repeat some remarks I have made around grocery prices on the record. The South Australian people and the Australian people are more astute than what I think the Leader of the Opposition might give them credit for. The Leader of the Opposition would well know that the people who set the prices of milk, bread and other household groceries is the market. It is retailers in conjunction with suppliers. They make a range of decisions in a market-driven economy.

On this side of the house, we believe in market economics. We believe in governments establishing policy settings and making interventions where it is appropriate to do so, but for something as basic as grocery prices, we think the market should run its course, particularly provided that the market is competitive. We are very lucky here that in the state of South Australia, when it comes to the supermarket market, we have one of the most competitive jurisdictions anywhere in the country, because almost a third of all supermarket sales in the state of South Australia come through the tills of independent operators, which is very different to what we see in the Eastern States, where it is around 8 to 10 per cent. Here it is closer to a third.

That is a policy that we have always supported on this side of the house. It is why we have always, as a government or as a party, including our time in opposition, supported independent supermarket chains—the Romeos, the Drakes, the Chapleys, the IGAs, the Metcashes. We have stood with these retailers for years, while those opposite have always supported the policies that have suited the duopoly. They love the duopoly; we love competition.

When we think about the price of groceries, there is only one side of politics in South Australia that is firmly on the side of competition, which is what drives down prices. I would alert the South Australian public to the risk of having the alternative premier of the state suggesting that he will control the prices of bread, milk and petrol. When most South Australians or Australians hear a politician suggesting they will determine the price of bread and milk, it means one of two things: it either means that that would-be leader thinks that the people of South Australia are stupid or it means that that would-be leader subscribes not to market economics but rather to controlled, centralist economics, which doesn't befit a Leader of the Opposition who supposedly comes from the side of politics that appreciates how business operates.

STRZELECKI TRACK

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:28): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister advise the current works being carried out on the Strzelecki Track, including the total amount of the sealed and unsealed sections of the track, and the timeframes for the completion of the works? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain a bit further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I have had numerous phone calls regarding comments that have been made that there will be no more sealing of the Strzelecki Track. I just want to get this clarified today.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:28): The Strzelecki Track is a very important project, something that was begun under the previous Weatherill government, continued under the Marshall government, supported at the federal level by both political parties. It is an important lifeline to the Cooper Basin and to Queensland, and it is an important part of regional South Australia. It is 472 kilometres long, and it links towns like Lyndhurst and Innamincka in the north-east of the state with vital supply lines. Of course, it is a vital link to our oil and gas facilities in the Cooper Basin.

We have sealed about 40 per cent of the track, but we are facing tremendous hurdles with weather. Weather is causing lots of problems for us on the track. Rumours that we are ceasing the sealing project is just not true. Of course we are going to continue it. It is an important part. I am personally committed to it, the government is committed to it, we want to see it done.

I know there are members on both sides of this chamber who know the importance of sealing the Strez. We have problems in getting materials there. I have heard some proponents tell us—and indeed Rowan Ramsay has spoken to me personally about there being adequate road base nearby on the Strez. The department is not quite sure about the use of some of that road base. There are extreme costs.

We are doing a spray seal on the Strez because we are trying to do so much of it and I know that some members have very strong views about the impacts of spray seal. When it's done properly it can work well, but we are dealing with some pretty extreme conditions. We are committed to continue doing that work. I am going to make sure I try to keep the house impacted.

I have to say, to give you some impacts of flood events on the Strzelecki, from September 2020 through to August of this year, there have been 50 separate weather incidents that have stopped work, four of which resulted in significant flooding and damage to both the sealed and unsealed sections of the road. So we are dealing with some pretty tough conditions in some pretty remote parts of South Australia.

These events have led to the track being closed for 119 days and a further 230 days when restrictions were in place while the track was progressively being reopened. Ex-Tropical Cyclone Kirrily dumped significant rainfall across the Cooper Basin on 4 and 5 February of this year. Between 65 millimetres of rain was recorded at Moomba and 142 millimetres of rain was recorded at Innamincka, resulting in the closure of the track and Adventure Way from Innamincka to the Queensland border. So we are dealing with some serious rain events that are causing us a lot of problems.

Even the unsealed sections of the road still require maintenance. We are trying to do three things: (1) repair parts of the sealed sections that have been damaged through weather events; (2) we are having to repair and maintain the unsealed sections of the road until we can get the sealed sections done; and (3) we are rolling out the sealing of the entire track. Those three pieces of work are causing extreme delays for us, but we are committed and we are hoping for better weather.

The unfortunate thing for us is that the bureau is telling us, as are our internal predictions on the weather, that we are going to have a very wet spring and that the La Niña rain events are going to cause a lot of weather events for us in spring leading into summer. That's good news for a lower bushfire risk potentially but, of course, it is going to mean a lot more weather events when we are hoping to have some drier weather to do some of these roadworks in the South-East, across Eyre Peninsula, Upper Mid North and, of course, on the Strez. We are hoping for better conditions, but if those conditions don't improve I think we are up against it.

HOUSING ROADMAP

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:33): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the progress of the Malinauskas government's Housing Roadmap?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:33): I thank the member for Elizabeth for his question. The member for Elizabeth lives in the northern suburbs of Adelaide and appreciates the demand for housing in the northern suburbs of our city along with the rest of the state.

The opposition have asked a few questions related to cost of living and inflation and they would appreciate, as all members would appreciate, that the single biggest contributor to inflation in a South Australian context—and I think this is true also for a national context—is what we have seen happen to house prices. Rents have gone up at an extraordinary pace throughout the country and South Australia is no exception, particularly as we see strong economic growth relative to other parts of the nation. We haven't seen housing supply keeping pace with that.

There are a number of reasons why that has occurred, and what this government is doing is working at warp speed to address all of the individual challenges that collectively have slowed housing supply. This matters not just economically but for people and we particularly think about younger South Australians.

Housing forms an important component of social policy. Young people who would otherwise feel disenfranchised with politics or other institutions at the moment should not be denied the legitimate aspiration of being able to own their own home, so we have to increase housing supply. To that end, we have been grateful not just for the policies that we have introduced but for some evidence from independent sources that suggests that South Australia is outperforming the rest of the country when it comes to new home starts.

We see the ANZ Stateometer point to this and the Commonwealth Bank State of the States Report makes clear that housing construction in South Australia is one of our key strengths. We have also seen the BCA, the Business Council of Australia, endorse South Australian government policy in a number of different areas. Most recently, in the June quarter, we saw the total value of residential construction work in South Australia grow by 7.5 per cent and it was up 11.5 per cent over the past 12 months. The good news about that is that it's the fastest in the nation—the fastest in the nation.

Growth rates are the strongest in the nation, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Why would this be true? Well, we have a government that has delivered the biggest land release in the history of the state. We have a government that has not reduced stamp duty but abolished stamp duty for first home buyers who engage in new builds regardless of the cost of the home. We have a government that is addressing the major water infrastructure challenge that we have for a \$1.5 billion investment in water infrastructure.

How does that compare to the time that those opposite were in charge? In the last four years, we have seen I think somewhere in the order of a \$170 million investment in new trunk critical water infrastructure. This government—\$1.5 billion. So it's these policies combined that demonstrate that you can make a difference at a state level and you can aspire to be the best in the nation, which is what South Australia now is. But we know there is still more work to be done. We know that when it

comes to housing policy there is a lag time sometimes between decisions and getting the outcomes we desire, but we are making the decisions. We are taking the actions because we care about young people owning a home in the state of South Australia.

POWER PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to Mr Jon Seeley of Seeley International about the cost of power in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It has been reported that Seeley International, which produces air conditioning and gas heaters, saw almost a 60 per cent increase in their power bills. He said:

...we do have to pass on price increases through to our customers.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:37): There is often the saying in politics, 'Don't listen to what people say, look at what they do.' I saw Jon Seeley the day he made those comments to *The Advertiser*, and he reminded me that he was closing a factory in Victoria and moving it to South Australia. I have to say that using these people's names in the parliament in a partisan way really doesn't sort of befit—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No. I don't leak on my colleagues. I don't drop them off to journalists waiting to quiz them about videos. I don't claim something to be fake and then do nothing about it. No, that's not me, but you have taught everyone a valuable lesson, haven't you? Cross you and who knows what comes out. Don't cross the leader, that's right. It's a very, very valuable lesson you have taught each and every one of them. They know.

The Seeley family is a great South Australian family who do remarkable things. They have operations in the United States and here in South Australia. They make a wonderful product that is extremely efficient and is being used across the country. We want to see that grow.

Obviously, that company is not immune to the cost pressures across the country that every jurisdiction is facing. If the member opposite had an alternative policy we could compare, or if there was a jurisdiction in Australia that was able to produce cheaper power because they were experiencing some sort of unique set of circumstances that not every other jurisdiction is doing, point to it.

But the truth is there isn't, because we are all in this together. The entire country is facing this challenge. As the Premier said, there has been policy paralysis. There were no new wind farms opened during the period of the previous government.

We need renewable energy built. We need renewable energy to be firmed. The way you do that is either with long duration batteries, long duration storage or gas. What members opposite are telling us is they want to wait 10 or 20 years for nuclear base load to do firming services on renewables. That type of policy paralysis will mean nothing will be built. Then they will be telling the Seeley family and every other South Australian family business, 'You think you don't like power prices now. Wait until Peter Dutton's plan is rolled out. We will be doing nothing for two decades.'

I have to say we are yet to hear an alternative policy. We hear plenty of hot air. There is plenty of undermining of David Speirs in the media. We hear plenty of that. What we don't see is an alternative policy. We see rearranging deckchairs. What did Peds do wrong? What did the member for Colton do wrong? What did you do wrong?

The SPEAKER: Minister, the member for Bragg has a point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And those who benefit get up.

Mr BATTY: I don't know what the minister is on about.

The SPEAKER: Could those on my right please listen in silence. I can't hear the point of order.

Mr BATTY: I don't know what the minister is on about and what it has to do with power prices.

The SPEAKER: Do you have a number for your point of order?

Mr BATTY: 98, 127—take your pick.

The SPEAKER: Whatever it takes—it sounds like a Michael Keaton movie, *Mr Mom*.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: 'Whatever it takes' is a Graham Richardson saying. I think that the Seeley family is regarded very highly in South Australia, especially by this government. I have met with the Seeley family on a number of occasions about a lot of the pressures that they are facing. I think they recognise this as a national problem, not a uniquely South Australian problem. I think their moving operations to South Australia speaks volumes about their confidence in their state, despite other people trying to talk South Australia down.

SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. What does the Minister for Small and Family Business say to the small business owner of Little Juniper Distilling Co about the cost of power in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: It has been reported that this small business's power bill increased more than a quarter in 2024. The owner said, 'Opening during COVID was tough, but it's about as tough now. We are spending more to make less.'

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:42): I thank the member for the question. I can tell you on this side of the house we are doing more for small business than was ever done under the Marshall Liberal government.

In fact, we only recently announced the energy grants—\$20 million to support small businesses to invest in their businesses, up to \$50,000, dollar-for-dollar matching, meaning they can invest up to \$100,000 in their businesses to reduce their power costs. Those grants are now open. If any members in this place want to refer their small business constituents to business.sa.gov.au, we very much welcome any applications for those grants. It will certainly not only have a short-term but a very long-term effect on supporting small businesses with their power prices.

Of course, we have done much more than that since we came into government. We set up the Office for Small and Family Business. We engage very extensively with the small business sector here in South Australia. We have the Small Business Strategy for seven years, going to 2030. We have a number of programs that have been taken up by small businesses. Almost 7,000 small businesses have engaged in our programs. We have a highly successful Women in Business program—about 2,500 women have gone through that. We have a fundamentals program that is helping businesses deal with fundamental issues in their businesses: marketing, cyber, financial literacy, managing their businesses. These are all very popular programs. We are doing—

The Hon. K.A. Hildyard interjecting:

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Yes, we do support women in business on this side of the chamber. So we, on this side of the chamber, are doing an enormous amount. There are cyber programs, there is an environmental sustainability program that is being run by 2XE that feeds hand in hand with our energy grants. We have mental health programs. There are a range of programs supporting small businesses. I am very pleased that the small business community is engaging with the Malinauskas government on these programs and engaging with us on our Small Business Strategy, for which this government has committed \$14 million over the next couple of years.

SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:44): Supplementary: does the minister expect these power bill increases to increase the price of a gin and tonic?

The SPEAKER: That is not a supplementary, that is an extra question.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:45): I am not entirely clear on whether I am responsible in this house for the price of a gin and tonic, but I reiterate what the Minister for Energy said previously about energy prices and what the Premier has just said in his answers on prices for businesses. We are supporting small businesses in a way that was not done by the previous Marshall government, and those small businesses are engaging with us and telling us loud and clear how appreciative they are of our support.

UPPER YORKE ROAD

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister advise whether roadworks have started on the Arthurton to Kulpara road and how long he expects they will take?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:46): It's an excellent question and I thank the member for his advocacy on behalf of regional communities. He is someone who cares passionately about his patch. He is constantly on the phone to me on weekends when he is driving along a road and says, 'Just went down this road, don't like the look of it,' and he will give me his views in an unfiltered way.

I can let the member know that we released the program as part of the 2023-24 Australian government budget which was \$168 million which is funded on a fifty-fifty basis with the state government over a two-year period. We got a 12-month extension to that program, which was provided in the 2024-25 Australian government budget, and the program is now expected to end mid-2026.

The program includes upgrades to regional roads to a 3-star rating. What we are attempting to do is take roads that have a low road safety rating and lift them. On regional roads like the Arthurton to Kulpara road, what we would like to do is try to lift these roads up by giving them shoulder sealing, some road widening, audio tactile line marking, safety barriers and curve easing on appropriate parts. Work has started and is anticipated to be completed in the second quarter of 2025 on the Upper Yorke Road, Bute to Port Broughton and Kulpara to Arthurton. So that is welcome news for the member's constituents.

Again, I preface that answer with, of course, the impacts of weather. We are hearing there is going to be a lot of rain in spring and early summer, so late spring/early summer is going to be very, very wet for us. I am prefacing all of that in that vein.

It is important to note the importance of lifting these roads up in their star ratings. This road particularly is a very, very bad road. I remember the former Minister for Regional Roads asking me to drive it about six months ago, I think. I drove on that road and, indeed, the member for Stuart was absolutely right; it was a road that needed to be fixed. He was a champion of getting money from this program towards that piece of road, along with the member for Narungga. Both of these members have advocated long and hard for regional roads and regional road funding. A lot of that advocacy was missing during the previous government. This Labor government, despite having a majority of members here in—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What was that? Have you been in office for 20 years? Well done. Congratulations. What a vote of confidence from Two-votes Texas.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That's right: leak on your colleague, tear down your leader, but I'm playing the man. Right. Okay. Is that how it works? Well done, Texas. Thank you very much.

Any more cues? No? Okay. These two members of parliament, along with the member for MacKillop—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, can you stop with the interjections? I think the minister is doing a very good job dealing with you, but—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: He is not going to respond if you don't interject, so either you stop interjecting or you can take a break for the rest of question time.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I think the crossbench does an exceptional job on advocating. The point I was trying to make is that despite the majority of the members here, not all of them, but the majority—the member for Giles, the member for Kavel is in the ministry, obviously representing regional communities, and the member for Light as well—represent metropolitan Adelaide. Of course, to have regional members advocate takes—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, you will leave the chamber until the end of question time.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Sir, reflecting on the personal appearance of any member is completely out of order, and I ask the member, before he leaves the chamber, to withdraw and apologise.

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, you have been asked to withdraw and apologise.

Mr WHETSTONE: Sir, a point of clarification: I was complimenting the Minister for Housing on her new hairdo.

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, withdraw and apologise, and then withdraw from the chamber.

Mr WHETSTONE: I will apologise, and I won't send any more compliments.

The honourable member for Chaffey having withdrawn from the chamber:

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right! The member for Torrens has the call.

ILLEGAL TOBACCO AND VAPING PRODUCTS

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs. Can the minister update the house on how the government is cracking down on illegal tobacco and vapes?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:51): I thank the member for Torrens for her question and her interest. We are seeing a concerning trend in the sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products in South Australia and around the country. The sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products is becoming increasingly blatant, potentially involving serious and organised crime.

The Malinauskas Labor government is cracking down on illicit tobacco and vaping products in conjunction with the Albanese Labor government. Of course, new national legislation came into effect on 1 July 2024 to shut down the non-therapeutic retail industry by making the sale and supply of such vapes by retailers unlawful.

There has been a rapid growth in the illicit tobacco and vape trade across Australia in recent years, and it is a trade that is putting some people in danger. In Victoria we have seen regular reports of shops selling illegal tobacco being firebombed, as organised crime gangs seek to push out the

competition. The threat is such that Victoria Police have written to the state's landlords to advise them of the risks of leasing their shopfronts to tobacconists.

Thankfully we have not seen any similar escalation of violence in South Australia as that being experienced in Victoria, which is creating a serious risk to the safety of people in the vicinity of those illegal tobacco shops interstate. That is why we are taking strong measures to stamp out the illicit tobacco trade and to ensure that we do not see the escalation of violence, as has been witnessed over the border.

In addition to the serious harm caused by these organised criminal gangs, these products have not gone through the appropriate excise licensing or customs duty processes, and we know that they potentially pose additional health risks to consumers.

One of the most concerning aspects has been the uptake of vaping in young people. The rates of vaping in secondary school students has more than doubled between 2017 and 2023 from 13.5 per cent to 29.9 per cent. Amongst people from 15 to 29 years old it has risen from 2.6 per cent in 2014 to 15.1 per cent in 2023.

We have committed more than \$16 million to stop the growth of this illegal trade. As of 1 July the Premier has tasked me and my agency, Consumer and Business Services, with enforcing licensing and enforcement activities for the sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products in South Australia. Since we have assumed responsibility, CBS has been ramping up its enforcement, including onboarding an additional 22 FTEs to cover everything from licence applications, consumer inquiries and inspections.

Inspectors are now out enforcing compliance, and CBS has conducted more than 200 inspections, and confiscated more than 230,000 cigarettes, 606 kilograms of pouch tobacco, 138 kilograms of shisha tobacco, and over 3,500 vapes. Since CBS were tasked with these new compliance and enforcement activities, we have had almost \$650,000 worth of illicit tobacco and vaping products taken off our streets.

We know more work must be done to stamp out this insidious crime, and we are committed to driving this illicit trade out of South Australia. We know that smoking is a leading cause of preventable disease and death in South Australia, with 28 South Australians dying every week from tobacco-related diseases. The sale of these illicit tobacco products is funding serious and organised crime, and that is why we are committed to tackling this problem, and will continue to do so.

POWER PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:55): My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. What does the Minister for Small and Family Business say to small business owner Greg Maitland about the cost of power in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: It has been reported that Adelaide hotelier Mr Maitland estimates his energy bills have risen by about 30 per cent, and this was stunting the growth of his business.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:56): I will refer to my previous answer, and those of the Minister for Energy.

POWER PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:56): My question is again to the Minister for Small and Family Business. What does the Minister for Small and Family Business say to the family business Angove Family Winemakers about the cost of power in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: It has been reported that Angove Family Winemakers has had its power bill jump by 45 per cent. Joint managing director Richard Angove said that the business environment has never been as tough, possibly with the exception of world wars.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:56): I think we have made it pretty clear that nationally small businesses are doing it tough, which is represented, one, in the growth figures, and, two, in the national crisis around gas prices, which is pushing up power prices because the country has underbuilt its generation capacity.

The members make a complaint about those policies, yet when they were in office, their one policy was to connect us to those jurisdictions that have underbuilt their renewable resources and are closing their dispatchable generation and displacing our generation through that connection. That connection, operation Project EnergyConnect—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That's right, the member opposite says we supported it, but it wasn't our only policy. We had a suite of policies, including backup generation, which members opposite sold at the first opportunity. It's no coincidence that the moment they sold those backup generators 178 megawatts came out of the system. So they put 200 in and 178 came out. Now, while we are connecting to Project EnergyConnect, we warned them of this if they did it too early. They are connecting an 800-megawatt interconnection, and what's closing: 780 megawatts of South Australian generation. There is a displacement going on while they put a freeze on renewable energy being built in the state. And then, on top of that, they banned fracture stimulation in the South-East over the second largest gas basin in South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond, you are warned.

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Like when your colleagues are not giving you an SC? It's alright, we're both JPs, aren't we? The energy crisis that is hitting the country can be linked to external factors which everyone can see. There is not some secret recipe here in South Australia, or anywhere else, that makes us unique. The truth is that half the bill in South Australia is transmission and distribution costs, and we are in the hands of a monopoly on those two areas. Why? Members opposite sold them to a monopoly, and then they opposed to appoint a regulatory framework, which allows those monopolies to increase their prices each and every year. Rather than that return coming to South Australians' pockets, it goes to foreign investors.

So don't lecture us about the cost of power prices, don't lecture us about the structure of the power grid and don't lecture us about gas prices. Do you want to know who the guilty party is? It's over there.

POWER PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:59): My question is again to the Minister for Small and Family Business. What does the Minister for Small and Family Business say to South Australian business Golden North Ice Cream about the cost of power in this state? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: It has been reported that Golden North Ice Cream has had its power bill jump by 48 per cent. Managing director, Peter Adamo, said in relation to skyrocketing power prices, 'We won't be able to absorb it.'

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:00): I again go back to my original premise on the question, that the scenarios that are being faced across the country are not unique to South Australia, they are happening across the country. You are seeing this pressure in Queensland, you are seeing this pressure in New South Wales, you are seeing this pressure all across this great country. Why?

Because there are international price shocks to commodities, and those commodities are gas and coal.

What you are seeing is that those gas prices are setting the price of energy because they are being used to firm renewables, because renewables have not been built at the pace they should have been built because of the climate wars. So our previous answers stand. It is all very well to get up and start listing people who complain about higher power prices—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: We will, don't worry.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I'm sure you will. Do you know what the hard part is? Coming up with a policy to deal with it rather than complaining about it.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The shadow treasurer—I can't say that without laughing—says, 'What are you going to do about it?' Well, I will tell you what we are going to do about it. First and foremost, we have set a renewable energy target, bringing it two years forward to 2027. Why? Because renewable energy is cheaper, and no level of shouting into the wind will change those facts. When you overbuild renewables you actually see power prices drop. This government is not anti gas.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: This government is not trying to stifle the exploration of gas.

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders can leave the chamber until the end of question time.

The honourable member for Flinders having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What a loss for the team. In the absence of a policy, it is a bit rich for members opposite to continually criticise the government for scenarios that are out of our control. The idea that we can set the price of gas in this state for our gas fleet of generators is absurd. It is absolutely absurd. What do we do in response to that? We have a policy in place that allows companies like Beach and Santos, companies like Vintage that are growing in the Cooper Basin, and other companies that are exploring for gas, that are looking for conventional gas in the South-East, to encourage those companies to go out and make sure that they can actually get gas into the system to lower those prices.

We are also incentivising and making sure that renewable energy is built. We have legislated the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act. We are going out to the market this week with vast areas for consultation of gigawatt scale renewable energy to try to get those prices down. Members opposite didn't like us doing that on pastoral leases and pastoral land so we had to get that through the parliament.

We are doing what we can to try to lower power prices. Members opposite don't have a policy on energy. They don't have one. They don't have any policy. All they have is complaints, and complaints are easy. What is hard is policy. They are trying to ride on the coat-tails of Peter Dutton and some pie in the sky nuclear policy, which is not going to work because what we need is firming fast-start generation to come on and off to firm renewables. We don't need large base load generation because it is expensive and those costs will be passed on.

If they think prices are expensive now, imagine replicating what has happened in Georgia in the United States with the Vogtle nuclear power plant that was expanded—\$37 billion—\$37 billion for a nuclear generator. Imagine those costs being amortised across 860,000 households across South Australia. What would that do to power prices? You don't have to be a senior counsel to work that out, do you?

SOUTHERN PORTS HIGHWAY

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister advise if the recent funding announcement regarding the Southern Ports Highway will be used to rebuild or repair the road? Mr Speaker, with your leave and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: Two weeks ago following my strong advocacy you advised the house two sections of the Southern Ports Highway are proposed to receive \$18.3 million of upgrades as part of the National Road Safety program. These works are proposed to cover around 30 kilometres along two sections. While this is welcome and appreciated, I would like assurances that the funding will be used to rebuild the road where required.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:05): Again, I thank the member for his advocacy. We had a meeting today with the chief executive of Infrastructure and Transport and the member for MacKillop and his staff online and we had a long discussion about the impacts of what is happening on this section of road. There has been some confusion, I think, and a little bit of a misunderstanding about what it is that we are actually doing.

We will be rebuilding sections of the road and actually doing what the member has articulated and asked for, but there has been some temporary seal laid down as well and I think people are confusing the temporary seal with the actual works that we are doing that have been delayed due to the weather. We have been waiting for the spring and summer to do these works and, as I told the member earlier today, when we do those works in this section of road that he is advocating on behalf, those works will be done in accordance with the manner and method that he and his community are looking for.

That is not to be confused with the temporary seal that we have done, which a lot of people have assumed is the final fix for those sections of road and I can understand exactly why they are thinking that. What we have done is that, because some of the roads needed to be upgraded quickly, we have gone in with a temporary seal. Obviously weather has deteriorated those temporary seals and people have misconstrued that as being what we are going to do for the remaining sections. That is not accurate. The remaining parts that we will be doing as part of this program will be done in accordance with a proper rebuild, as the member has asked for, to make sure that the base is appropriate, to make sure that the seal is done properly and we get the appropriate work done.

I think the member went to a public meeting recently where there were a lot of concerns about the temporary seal that was done and the confusion that the community had about that. I hope this alleviates a lot of the concerns that the member has. He can take this back to his community and let them know that the government is committed to this.

The reason we are committed to it is because of his strong advocacy and the work that he has done to make sure that his community gets this work done where it is needed, because without the advocacy of the member for MacKillop and the regional independent members, regional communities would be missing out, because they are the true voice of regional South Australia. They are the ones who are out there fighting for regional South Australia. They are not out fighting for the Liberal Party or the Labor Party; they are out there fighting for their communities and I think it is very, very impressive the work that they are doing.

NUMERIC PLATE AUCTION

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:07): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister update the house on the numeric plate 8 auction?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:07): I can. Eight is my lucky number. Born in August, my parents obviously had a good time at Christmas.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Too much? August is an auspicious month for a lot of communities and a lot of cultures and the number 8 historic plate is actually up for auction now. There has been a lot of speculation about what this would sell for.

Just to give you some background, Lloyds auctioned the New South Wales numeric plate number 1 and the Queensland plate Q1, and the public auctions of those two plates generated massive interest across the country. In New South Wales the number 1 historic plate sold for

\$11½ million. The great thing about these numeric plates here in South Australia is they are, in effect, a property right. So when you purchase them from the South Australian government in these auctions, they are yours to keep and sell and they are exclusive.

The Queensland one, the Q1 plate, sold for \$5.6 million—staggering amounts of money. A fortnight ago we announced that the rare piece of South Australian automotive history is up for grabs, to a lucky person, hopefully a South Australian, but it doesn't need to be a South Australian, and it of course is number 8.

Interestingly, guess who texted me interested in this? Sally Zou. I think she is reading the tea leaves. She knows. She knows her old friends aren't what they used to be. I assured her that the influence that she had in the previous government, the way she got it, was not necessary on this side of the house. On this side of the house, we just believe in good government, not like members opposite. There were no cheques written out on my birthday. It is important to know that. Currently—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What's that? Are you making a submission?

Mr Teague: It was just cash—125 grand. That was just cash, was it?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Who gave you cash?

Mr Teague: 125 grand from the CFMEU—that wasn't a cheque; it was just cash.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We gave our money back to the CFMEU. We returned it. Did you return Sally Zou's money?

Mr Teague: It took you about a year.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Did you? Did you return that money? You didn't, and do you know why? And that's why you're not an SC. You raise an argument, and you don't know where it finishes. Hey, I'm just a JP. I'm not as qualified as you, despite what your peers say.

The number 8 already has reached—wait for it—\$1.1 million. That is in the range of an SC. An SC could afford a \$1.1 million plate—not a JP, an SC. Experts have told me that the '8' number will have a preference as a digital code because of its luck, its symmetry and what it represents to many cultures. I can also report that a number of other plates have gone up as well for auction.

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It really is a thing of beauty: if you mention the SC thing, he goes off. Have you noticed? It's amazing.

The bid for number 55 currently is just over \$222,000. These are a great opportunity to have a piece of South Australian memorabilia, and I hope South Australians can snap them up.

POWER PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:11): My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. Have power prices for small businesses increased under the Malinauskas government and, if so, why and what action is the Minister for Small and Family Business taking? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: The Essential Services Commission's most recent report confirms that power prices for small businesses are rising by nearly \$1,700 (or 46 per cent) since Labor came to office.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:12): First things first: that report looks backwards not forwards. It is true to say that across the country power prices have increased. Members opposite might not want to believe it, but the truth is that the events in Ukraine and the gas shortages have caused serious shocks to gas prices, so much so that for the first time in a long time there are measures to put a cap on gas prices by Minister Bowen, who has capped gas prices at \$12—he

does allow exemptions between there—and, of course, the code of conduct that is in place for gas explorers and producers.

What that has seen is the price of gas in comparison to our competitors out of Saudi Arabia and the United States. Where they are seeing gas at \$2 a gigajoule, we are seeing gas prices here of over \$12 a gigajoule. Those prices are very hard for businesses to absorb, along with other inflationary pressures that are occurring in the economy as a result of the Reserve Bank lifting interest rates, and is causing a lot of problems.

The other problem, of course, is that the investment that has been made into the gas markets here in Australia has largely been made by international investors for international markets. Of course, domestic investment in gas markets has been limited. That is for a couple of reasons: (1) activism, (2) political interference and (3) the actual resources are declining.

There has been a lot of talk about the decline in Bass Strait and the Cooper Basin. I am confident that we can recover in the Cooper Basin and see Santos and Beach and other companies invest in the Cooper Basin to see gas stocks increase. I understand that there are some long-term contracts that are coming to their expiry on the east coast that could see that gas redirected here to South Australia to help, of course, with our gas-fuelled turbines. Those gas-fired turbines, if they are operating at a cheaper rate, because there is more gas available and there is more liquidity in the market, we will see those prices drop. But ultimately, this is about the cost of firming renewable energy and that is the gap that we are paying for in our prices and it is not a uniquely South Australian problem: it is an Australian problem.

Grievance Debate

POWER PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:15): The last fortnight has brought more bad news about punishing power bills that South Australians are being overwhelmed by. Iconic South Australian company Drakes Supermarkets who employ over 6,000 people have seen their power bills surge from \$10 million a year to \$14.5 million a year: a 45 per cent increase. Another South Australian icon, Vili's, who employ 350 people and have a 56-year heritage baking pies, pasties and sausage rolls is the latest family favourite to see their power bills go up by 18 per cent compared with last year. Reluctantly, they have no option but to increase their prices.

It is not just businesses that are being punished with massive hikes to their power bills, it is also households. This was laid bare by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia energy retail offer prices report, a report that was released late on a Friday afternoon. Why would a government release such a report so late? Is it because they were hoping no-one would notice or is it because it laid bare the power price pain being felt here by South Australians?

The report showed that power bills for the average household family in SA have risen by \$411 between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024, an unsustainable 19 per cent increase. In fact, the average household electricity bill has risen to \$2,621, which is the highest residential power bill ever recorded by ESCOSA. Another record to go with this government's record on ambulance ramping.

This report is the third report released by ESCOSA under the Malinauskas Labor government and each report showed that power bills are going up. The last ESCOSA report released under the former Liberal government had the average household bill being \$1,823. By 30 June 2022, this had increased to \$2,041, by 30 June 2023, to \$2,210, and now with this latest report, the average household bill, as I said, is \$2,621.

Under the Malinauskas Labor government, families have seen their power bills jump by \$798: that is an increase of 44 per cent. This massive increase in household power bills is crippling for families who are also having to deal with interest rate rises and Labor's cost-of-living crisis.

These increases are not surprising because the current government had no plan at the 2022 election to ensure that electricity supply was both affordable and reliable. When you look at this 44 per cent increase, it is in stark contrast to the former Liberal government. ESCOSA previously reported that family household power bills were reduced by 19 per cent between 30 June 2018: from \$2,244 down to \$1,823.

All that hard work done by the former Liberal government has now been undone. We have South Australians, such as pensioner Rick Wahlheim, explaining that his power bill has been going up and it is getting tougher and tougher, with their bill rising from \$900 to \$1,400.

Similar to Drakes Supermarkets and Vili's, we have also heard only two weeks ago that Nippy's have had their power bills double as well. These power bill shocks are a huge concern and they are being felt by agricultural and food producers and by supermarkets where we all buy food and this could have a direct effect on everyone's grocery bills.

The ESCOSA report also showed that power bills for the average small business in SA have risen by a staggering \$791 between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024. All up, electricity bills for the average small business are now \$5,364; again another record under this government. In fact, business bills have increased by 45 per cent.

Of course, in this same fortnight, AEMO have released their Electricity Statement of Opportunities report and it again shows that South Australia is at risk of blackouts this summer. To get around this AEMO are going to have to seek and procure extra electricity from generators in the market that can then pass these costs on to consumers, which is another kick in the guts for struggling South Australians in the midst of Labor's cost-of-living crisis.

We know that South Australians are paying the highest prices for electricity in the country, yet despite this we have the lowest grid reliability. The Malinauskas Labor government must prioritise affordable and reliable energy in South Australia, instead of spending \$700 million on an experimental hydrogen power plant that Labor themselves have admitted will not lower household and small business electricity bills.

TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:19): Many in this chamber are aware of my family's history and background and today I want to touch on something that has been raised in the media in recent days. As you know, my family came from the village of Eptakomi in the north-east of Cyprus. In the mid-1970s, that village had a population of about 900 people, including my parents, two brothers, grandparents, uncles and aunts and others.

On 20 July 1974, the Turkish military invaded the island of Cyprus and over the next month about 150,000 Greek Cypriots, including my family, were displaced. As a result of the invasion, one in three Cypriots became refugees. For my family, it meant jumping in a car in the middle of the night, fleeing to the other side of the island to escape Turkish gunfire.

During the course of the invasion and subsequent occupation, many Greek Cypriots lost their lives defending their country. In fact, more than 2,000 Greek Cypriots were shipped off to Turkey as prisoners of war, many of whom were never released. Still to this day there remain some 1,500 Greek Cypriots who remain missing, unaccounted for.

The Turkish government has thumbed its nose at the condemnation of its actions in Cyprus for the last 50 years. Turkey's actions continue to have real-life implications for Greek Cypriots, both those who live on the island and those who were forced to flee. The Turkish government continues to suppress dissent and has taken moves to restrict artistic expression in relation to the invasion in recent weeks. During the second phase of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus, Turkish aircraft bombed the city of Famagusta and after a two-day campaign occupied the city. As a result of the Turkish air strikes, dozens of civilians died, including tourists.

Earlier this year, a Greek and Cypriot television co-production entitled *Famagusta* dealing with the Turkish invasion was aired across Greece. The story starts on a summer's day in 1974 on the day of the invasion of Famagusta where a young couple are forced to leave their home. In amongst that chaos, they lose their three-month-old baby in the process. It is a series that I understand is very powerful and one that I think we should all be exposed to.

Netflix had, in fact, picked up this series and publicly set a date to stream it internationally from 20 September. This was seen as a fantastic coup for both the Greek and Cypriot screen sectors in both Greece and Cyprus. Mr Speaker, you will not be surprised to hear that the Turkish government

is not a fan of the TV series, *Famagusta*, and the story of a couple who have searched for their child for the past 50 years.

From media reports, Turkey has lobbied Netflix seeking to prevent it from streaming *Famagusta* not only in Turkey but around the world. The story of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus is a story that needs to be told widely. It is a story that can be used to fight to reunify my family's homeland.

In recent days, quite frankly, I have been shocked and appalled by the reports that Netflix has acquiesced to demands of the Turkish government and I certainly hope that those media reports are untrue. The reports are that Netflix has agreed to restrict the streaming of *Famagusta* to within the borders of Greece only. I am concerned, of course, about attempts to limit the storytelling of those who were killed and those who continue to suffer due to the actions of the Turkish government. Cyprus's President, Nikos Christodoulides, said in response to Netflix's reported decision:

Apart from recording the truth, no-one can question the Turkish invasion in 1974. [The series] also sends very important messages for those who happened to watch it...It sends messages about the need to resolve the Cyprus problem and about relations between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

But as well as my personal concern and my personal story that has raised these concerns, I have deep concerns as arts minister. I hold grave concerns about limiting artistic expression at the behest of a national level government, and not only limits of artistic expression in that country but suggestions that it could impact on democratic countries like Australia.

Mr Speaker, as you know, art is inherently political. Governments that impose restrictions on artistic expression are directly seeking to restrict political discourse. The arts play an important role in promoting freedom of expression and enhancing civic engagement. These are all necessary for a vibrant democracy. Turkey's reported actions to compel Netflix to restrict the broader streaming of *Famagusta* outside of Greece is in my view an attack on our own political freedoms.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:25): I rise to make a contribution about what a week it was last week with the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia putting the Royal Show on fine display once again. I was fortunate enough to head along to the President's lunch, Andrew Bull Hardy being the host, with my lunch buddy, Jock Gosse, from the Cattlemen's Association—a great guy.

While I was there, over lunch, the Brenton Higgins Award was presented in memory of Brenton Higgins AM. It recognises significant effort, service and contribution to the South Australian dairy industry. It was presented on behalf of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia and the Dairy Industry Association of Australia's SA committee.

The award went to my colleague David Basham, who is a fifth generation dairy farmer. Pleasant Banks guernsey stud was started by Bun Basham, his grandfather. David attended his first South Australian/Western Australian branch AGM for the Guernsey Cattle Society of Australia in 1990. He was elected to the SA/WA committee in 1992, he became Junior Vice President in 1993, he was elected show convenor in 2000 but stepped down to become the treasurer of SA Dairymen's Association. He went on to be President of SADA for 10 years and served on the board for 18 in total. Also a longtime supporter of the show, he was nominated as the inspector for guerneys in 1993 and he continues that role today. In 1994, he was nominated as the steward for guerneys and continues to serve in both roles today. Congratulations to David on an award well deserved for dedication to an industry that he has long been a part of and represented. Also, this was before entering state parliament, so big congratulations to him.

I was a judge at the Science Investigation Awards—a great initiative for junior students from years 4 to 9 statewide. I think there were over 400 entries and the finalists, so we saw 85 entries. There was a good mix of metro and regional schools. Ramco Primary School from the Riverland entered and their drive was evident, as was their passion for science. They received a number of awards. It was great to see the Riverland there with a regional presence, particularly at the Citrus SA

stand, with its many volunteers. It was a great experience of the Riverland—a cup of freshly squeezed orange juice is something that needs to be experienced.

Taking a step back, congratulations must go to Belinda Kay and her team and the judges for those Science Investigation Awards. It really is part of South Australia's science and investigation future.

The President of the ag and hort society board, Andrew Hardy, gave us an overview: 10,000 volunteers supported South Australia's largest attended event. It really was a sight to behold. I was also busy entering some of my cooking and jams. I was able to get a couple of new varieties in this year along with my dried apricot. I got a strawberry and Pimm's jam in this year, and it has an exceptional flavour, along with my fig and ginger, and my ruby red plum received a ribbon. I am sure everyone in this place would like to see a ribbon like this on their mantelpiece to support their show, whether it be a regional or a city show. I am challenging every MP in this chamber to support their show, whether they be a metro MP or a regional MP. Get in the kitchen and do something to support your show. Put an entry in and be proud of what you represent and the people you represent.

Even though this is only a third-place ribbon, it demonstrates my commitment to the Riverland, it demonstrates my commitment to the cookery section and it also demonstrates a passion for flavour and great colours. All of the entries within the cookery section, animal husbandry, animals, grains, woodchopping and all of these exhibitions are a great example of what South Australia has to offer on a national stage. I cannot thank the board, the volunteers and the Show Society enough.

Schools that participate in all of the opportunities at the Royal Adelaide Show are winners. Every schoolchild I saw there enjoyed the great experience of the Royal Adelaide Show. Again, my challenge is to every MP: get in the kitchen and do some cooking.

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, firstly, congratulations on that fine-looking ribbon that I did not see displayed in the chamber. I want to reiterate what you said: we should all enter things in the Show. My dog Dusty won a blue ribbon first prize at the Kangaroo Island Show three years ago for the dog most like its owner. Dusty was drinking a beer at the time.

CHAPLAINCY AUSTRALIA

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:30): It is my pleasure to rise and say a heartfelt thanks to the men and women from Chaplaincy Australia, and to also extend this to all chaplains working across our community. It is a privilege to have around 30 guests from the sector join me today—I apologise for having my back turned to you—and I look forward to sharing afternoon tea with you all at the conclusion of these few words.

I am very fortunate to have the ONE Life Church based within my electorate. I count myself very lucky to have Pastor Jeff Marshall as a friend, and I also note the wonderful work he and his congregation do for people in need. Through this connection, I have become aware of his involvement in chaplaincy through his capacity as the State Director of Chaplaincy Australia. For those unaware, Chaplaincy Australia is a national network of chaplains from many different churches and denominations who engage in shared objectives, practices, training and support. They have had feet on the ground making a difference since 1999.

I think it is very easy from the outside looking in to have some idea of what chaplains do for our community, but when Jeff explained to me the purpose of his organisation—and, indeed, chaplaincy in general—it made me realise I had only grasped the tip of the iceberg. I look back favourably to Peter Riggs, my school chaplain, as a friendly, calming and welcoming presence. Not discounting the fantastic influence on me and my fellow students, my high school days were as close as I had been to a service that many so heavily rely upon.

To illustrate this point, chaplains across the country are making a huge difference meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Australians in such areas as drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, emergency food care, financial advisory services, youth care programs, employment training, aged-care services and relationship, family, loss and grief counselling, to name just a few.

Given the broad scope, it takes a special person attuned to so much to succeed and to make an impact in such a varied and challenging role. It is therefore no surprise that the training and supports given to those on the frontline to ensure success are to a very high standard. I give thanks to Reverend Dr Dean O'Keefe, the SA state director of Alphacrucis University College, who is here today representing the largest training provider to chaplains nationally, delivering courses including the Certificate IV in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care and the Diploma of Chaplaincy for those on the frontline.

While I feel it is human nature to focus compassion when needing support, it is very easy to overlook the pressures that these incredible people encounter in their day-to-day roles. This is why my speech today is not just a reflection on the depth and breadth of their work but a recognition of the challenges chaplains face in handling these issues at the coalface.

It is also worth pointing out that within groups like Chaplaincy Australia with its 1,003 members, the overwhelming majority of those making a difference on the frontline are volunteers with a passionate commitment to serve the community with care. When I say frontline, this should conjure up images of prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, hospices, rehabilitation clinics, mental health services, critical incidents and natural disasters—anywhere where someone may need some help.

Therefore, it takes a special person, equipped not only with empathy but also with the tools and the backroom support offered by groups like Chaplaincy Australia, which continues to make a difference to many vulnerable members within our community. To put this into perspective, in the past 12 months this team has made 377,520 pastoral interventions nationally. This is the combined effort of 605 chaplains and associates with strong support from 141 professional pastoral supervisors and 40 mentors.

It is therefore a privilege when 30 of them take time out of their invaluable work to come here today and, while I have taken examples from Chaplaincy Australia, we are also joined by Peter Skurray from the Schools Ministry Group and Darren McMahan, CEO of Your Dream School Programs, who has flown in from Sydney to be here. I am grateful for their presence, and look forward to offering them a warm greeting in the Balcony Room very soon. I do extend an invitation to other members present who would like to join us.

Making a lasting impression locally and nationally, it is my pleasure to express appreciation to these dedicated people who, without discrimination, have been and continue to be invaluable in assisting with the spiritual and pastoral needs of all people in every field of life.

EYRE PENINSULA

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:35): I rise today with a great deal of sadness to pay tribute to a pillar of the Eyre Peninsula community. Jo Clark, who was a driving figure behind mental health and wellness on the EP, passed away on Monday last week at the age of just 49. Jo's passion for community service lifted many of our community out of challenging personal circumstances, and helped drive the commitment of others towards community service.

Jo lived the challenges she fought against, experiencing homelessness in her younger years, which no doubt played a major role in her desire to see others avoid a similar fate. It was reflective of Jo's world view, that we can always do more to help those in need. Her efforts to provide tents and swags to those experiencing homelessness were, in her mind, not enough, because it did not solve the problem of homelessness but acted only as a temporary reprieve.

Jo's efforts were the precursor to an annual goods drive run by West Coast Youth in conjunction with the local radio station Magic 89.9, ensuring those without the means to support themselves do not go without in the colder months, with electrical goods, furniture, canned food and children's toys among the items donated.

However, Jo's greatest contribution was in the mental wellness space, in establishing Mentally Fit EP alongside the late Kirsty Traeger. Mentally Fit EP is perhaps the flagship program of the West Coast Youth & Community Support organisation, reaching out to those with personal demons and providing a sympathetic ear when times are tough. Its ongoing work is a testament to the vision of both Jo and Kirsty.

Jo's personal challenges in her younger years saw her embraced by a local Aboriginal community, a debt that Jo was ever passionate to repay, and her commitment to the Mallee Park Football Club reflected her life's dedication to community service, with Jo even, at one stage, taking up the coaching clipboard for the club.

Jo was also passionate in reaching out to the youth of our community, determined to listen and to act on what they had spoken of rather than what others believed would be their concerns. It is one thing to let people speak but another altogether to take on board what people are saying and then act faithfully on those wishes, something Jo was particularly good at.

Jo was always focused on serving the community, and even when she was acknowledged with community awards she did not celebrate them as a pat on the back for herself but instead as a reminder of how few people were genuinely committed to community service, as well as a reminder that more needed to be done.

Jo served the Eyre Peninsula faithfully. Sadly, being in parliament today meant I could not be at her funeral, but I understand it was standing room only, which is a perfect reflection of the impact she had in our community. I would like to pass on my love and condolences to her family and friends. We are better off for her time with us and far worse for her loss. Vale Jo Clark, and thank you.

Financial challenges being faced by South Australians are seemingly being ignored by this state government. Since this government came to power two years ago, inflation has been consistently ranked amongst the worst in the nation, with the cost of utilities rising more than 10 per cent in the last quarter compared with a national rise of just under 4 per cent. This is impacting on the lives of individuals and families all around our state.

The typical South Australian family is close to \$25,000 a year worse off since Peter Malinauskas became Premier, and it is starting to really hurt our communities. At the election, this Labor government promised no new taxes and no tax increases, but instead have chosen to significantly hike up South Australia Water bills for South Australian households and businesses.

The cost of electricity, the cost of water, the cost of complying with government regulation and red tape is hitting business and our community hard. We heard some examples of these cost pressures and how it is hurting business during question time. That cost is being passed on to our communities. We also heard in question time that this government is not taking any responsibility for the impact which their policy decisions are having on some of those costs, such as electricity. Indeed, we heard the minister use the Ukraine and Russia as part of his excuses.

Regarding their flagship hydrogen energy policy, the government has already admitted that it will not have any downward pressure on electricity prices in South Australia, while we have the highest energy prices in the country. This government is ignoring South Australians in a cost-of-living crisis.

LIGHT ELECTORATE

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:40): Today, I rise to share some remarkable stories and achievements within my Light electorate, highlighting the spirit of dedication, celebration and community engagement that actually defines our region.

Not many can boast about celebrating their 21st birthday in Parliament House, but the Gawler VIEW Club can. It was my pleasure to host the club members for a tour of parliament and lunch in the Speaker's dining room to mark this milestone. VIEW, which stands for the Voice, Interests and Education of Women, has nearly 300 clubs across Australia, fostering friendships and supporting disadvantaged children through the Smith Family.

I had the honour of attending the Gawler club's inaugural meeting in 2003 at the Kingsford Hotel during my tenure as the Mayor of Gawler. Celebrating with these dedicated volunteers, who have tirelessly worked to open up educational opportunities for young people, was truly a special occasion. It was a day filled with joy, reminiscing, and sharing ideas for our region's future.

I, like many across our state, recently attended the Royal Adelaide Show. I was there to witness a City of Playford citizenship ceremony conducted by Mayor Glenn Docherty. It was a

heartwarming event where new citizens from 25 different countries were welcomed to Australia. Among them was Ardyce Hughes, the partner of my long-term friend, Mr Anthony Hughes.

While at the show, I also had the pleasure of meeting Gawler's own award-winning cake maker, Josie Ireland, who won first prize in the Genoa cake competition. Congratulations to our new citizens, and to Josie for her outstanding achievement at the Show. It was a day of celebration and pride for our community, and a great opportunity to welcome and immerse our new citizens in one of our major cultural events—the Royal Adelaide Show.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Bob and Gwenda Green who on 31 August celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. I had the good fortune to be able to meet up with them on the day and share the occasion with them. Their love story, which began in the workplace with Bob working as a mechanic and Gwenda in the office, blossomed into a lifelong commitment as the pair tied the knot at Hamley Bridge. This is not only a taste of their story of dedication, patience and love but their journey is an inspiration to all of us living in the area.

Our local schools recently celebrated SSO/ESO Week, recognising the valuable contributions of school support officers and education support officers to our school communities. I had the privilege of signing and delivering over 540 certificates of appreciation to 11 schools and 14 different campuses across our region. These dedicated individuals play crucial roles in our schools, from supporting students' learning and wellbeing, to handling administrative tasks and providing customer service. Their efforts often go unnoticed, but they are an important part of the backbone of our education system and it is important to acknowledge that. It was an honour to personally present certificates at the Gawler and District, and Playford colleges. We must continue to recognise and appreciate their hard work every day.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our local football and netball clubs—Willaston, Gawler Central and South Gawler—on winning their way into grand final appearances on the weekend. There are still teams vying for the second grand final spot this weekend, but all Gawler teams already have representatives playing in the big dance in both netball and football.

Special mention to my club, the might Willaston Donnybrooks, for securing spots in both the A and B grades in the grand final in the Barossa, Light and Gawler Football Association. We were fortunate enough to have the Willaston women's seniors, under 16s and under 13s all make the grand final as well last month. Unfortunately, none of them took home the premiership, but here's hoping that the Donnybrooks can buck the trend come next Saturday 21 September at Tanunda oval. I would also like to thank the volunteers and the footy presidents, Aldo Pasin, Cosie Costa and Damian Brook, for their dedication and support throughout the season. Their efforts have made this success possible and I look forward to cheering on the teams in the grand finals.

These stories reflect the vibrant and resilient spirit of our community. From celebrating milestones and achievements to recognising the hard work of our unsung heroes, it is clear that our region is thriving. All that I have spoken about today has been because of the support of our volunteers. Let us continue to support and uplift each other as we work towards a brighter future in Light for all.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:46): The Unley Business Awards opened on 27 May and they are about celebrating the achievements of local businesses in Unley. The headings of the categories are business community leader, supported by the Community Bank at Goodwood. This award recognises businesses that foster a diverse community through inclusive employment practices, have focused on making their business accessible to all individuals, and are a leader within their business community.

The leader in sustainability and environment is supported by Norman Waterhouse, and is for organisations where a positive environmental outcome is the priority, and focusing on sustainability and climate change adaption initiatives, such as reducing carbon footprint and applying resources to climate change. Transformation, innovation and growth is category 3, supported by Toop+Toop. This

award recognises businesses that have been innovative or adapted to market changes, adopting new types of business models or technology to deliver quality products and services.

The people's choice award is supported by the City of Unley, which is nominated by peers and customers who have experienced service excellence and have shown their appreciation by submitting their thoughts in writing and nominating for this award. I am looking forward to attending the announcement of the finalists tonight, with the awards night being on 13 September later in the year.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:47): Today is 9/11 and it is the 23rd anniversary of the terrorist attacks that changed the world. Nearly 3,000 people were killed when hijacked jetliners crashed into the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania. On that day, 343 New York firefighters lost their lives in an instant.

Battalion chief of the New York City Fire Department, Orio Joseph Palmer, died whilst rescuing civilians trapped inside the World Trade Centre. He led his team up 78 floors of the South Tower to the floor where the plane had hit the building. As of today, his remains, along with many others, are still unidentified. Since the attack, a further 370 firefighters, more than were killed in the initial attack, have died from illness derived from exposure to toxins. It is a harsh reminder of the risk that firefighters face every time they answer the call, not only at the emergency but afterwards.

On the weekend, members of the Sturt CFS group from Eden Hills and the Coromandel Valley brigades within our community, after many months of training, took part in the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb. The stair climb is a charity event that sees firefighters don their full turnout gear, walking up 28 floors over 500 steps as a symbol of the burden of significant health and wellbeing issues faced by our first responders and their families to raise awareness and funds for cancer research and crisis support.

The Coromandel Valley brigade members, who even did our Belair National Park parkrun in their full turnout gear, raised over \$8,000. What an achievement. Our firefighters are worth their weight in gold. Today, I take this opportunity to thank them, to remember the fallen, their families and those who are battling illness, be it physical or mental.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:49): I am very excited for our two local football clubs this weekend, the Lockleys Demons and the Henley Sharks, because it is going to be a blockbuster Saturday of local footy grand final rivalry game. At Woodville Oval we will have Lockleys v Henley, not one addition but three. The C grade kicks off at 10am, the B grade at 12.15pm and then the A grade game at 2.30pm. This builds on the two Cowdrey Cup games that have already taken place this year. The first game was won by Henley, with a 21-point margin, the second game by Lockleys in the return league, a five-point margin in that win. Both winning away from home. To meet in the grand final this weekend it is going to be a cracker of a match.

The Cowdrey Cup I brought in, with the support of the two local clubs, to highlight the power of local footy, the importance of grassroots sport and to draw attention to this local rivalry, and I thank both clubs for helping to facilitate that. It has also allowed both clubs and the MVPs of both games, Bailey Chamberlain in the first, Bowen Hosking in the second, to support some important charities. The Little Heroes Foundation was chosen by Bailey. They do a lot of work, but particularly in regard to childhood dementia and Bowen chose the Sliding Doors Foundation, a charity that supports young people from socially or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Both teams beat Henley to get to the grand final and may the best team win this weekend.

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (15:50): I rise to give praise and acknowledgement to an excellent initiative that was celebrated today at a school in my electorate. Today Marryatville Primary School celebrated Neurodiversity Day. Cathy Cook, their autism inclusion teacher, is the perfect example of the difference teachers in her role can make in our primary schools.

Through her nation-leading role she has brought her school community together on this excellent day to not just learn about neurodiversity, but to celebrate it. I was invited and very much looking forward to attending, but being a parent of a neurodivergent child myself was not able to leave quickly from her school this morning to get there. However, that lived experience makes me all the more appreciative of the wonderful initiative of autism-inclusion teachers like Cathy Cook, the

initiative of the truly excellent Assistant Minister for Autism Emily Bourke in the other place. This is an initiative that has made a real difference to families like mine who for so long were calling for support for our neurodivergent children and now, because of this excellent initiative, we have the support and the understanding that our families and, more importantly, our children need.

Bills

HIGHWAYS (WORKS FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:52): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Highways Act 1926. Read a first time.

Second Reading

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

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

I am pleased to introduce the Highways (Works for Residential Developments) Amendment Bill 2024 which amends the *Highways Act 1926*. The introduction of this Bill aims to avoid situations where the Government needs to step in, undertake works and construct for common infrastructure at residential developments at a cost.

The introduction of this Bill supports the announcement by the Premier, Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, in August 2023, for this Government to provide an infrastructure solution to ensure builders could complete work on 20 unfinished homes in O'Halloran Hill after the builder Felmeri Builders and Developers Pty Ltd (formerly known as Felmeri Homes) entered into liquidation.

The Bill provides the Commissioner of Highways (the Commissioner) with the power to undertake prescribed works on residential developments, on approval from the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, after notice has been provided to the relevant council and the landowners.

Prescribed works includes roadworks, and the supply of water, gas, telecommunications, provision of stormwater, wastewater, sewerage management or other facilities and services prescribed by the regulations.

The Bill allows the Commissioner to recover the costs of these works from either the:

- Relevant developer being the person granted development authorisation under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* or the *Development Act 1993*, or any other person that is in the opinion of the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, responsible for undertaking the development and can include any related body corporate.
- Relevant council provided the council was the relevant authority for the development under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, or the *Development Act 1993*, and the development on the land is for residential purposes.

The Bill also restricts the council from passing on the costs to ratepayers, by restricting recovering through a rate, charge, levy, fee or other mechanism.

The Bill also provides the Commissioner with the authority to undertake these works without the need for a licence agreement from the community corporation, which occurred in O'Halloran Hill.

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

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

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Highways Act 1926*

3—Amendment of section 26—Powers of Commissioner to carry out roadwork etc

This clause amends section 26 so that the Commissioner is authorised to carry out prescribed works in a designated residential development area (both of which are defined). Power to recover costs for such works is provided for. The opening and closing of roads in designated residential development areas is also provided for. The clause provides for the Minister (by notice in the Gazette) to designate an area as a *designated residential development area*. The clause also provides an exemption from the application of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* for prescribed works carried out by the Commissioner in a designated residential development area.

4—Amendment of section 27F—Power of entry on land

5—Amendment of section 32—Application of Highways Fund

These amendments are consequential.

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

GREYHOUND INDUSTRY REFORM INSPECTOR 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) (15:53): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to establish a Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry and for other purposes. 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) (15:54): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise today to introduce the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector Bill 2024. As the house is aware, our government acted swiftly to establish an inquiry following the emergence of disturbing footage which demanded this action.

The Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry was conducted by former Victorian police commissioner Mr Graham Ashton AM APM. Mr Ashton did an excellent and thorough job and was assisted in his work by Ms Zoe Thomas, who was also exemplary in the work that she carried out.

The report was publicly released on 14 December 2023. It made 86 recommendations focused on helping ensure the greyhound racing industry modernises its practices in line with community expectations. The report's recommendations included significant animal welfare, integrity and administrative reforms to be progressed by the controlling body, Greyhound Racing SA.

A recommendation of the report was recommendation 57, to 'establish the role of an independent inspector for greyhound racing reform, to be known as the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector'.

The core role of the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector is to:

- oversee the implementation of the recommendations from the inquiry and resulting report.

To do so, the inspector's role is also to:

- develop and maintain relationships with relevant parties to oversee the review implementation;
- establish and convene a Greyhound Racing Reform Advisory Group to provide professional advice regarding the reform progress;
- regularly report to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing on the progress of the review implementation; and

- meet regularly with Greyhound Racing SA's General Manager Integrity and Welfare, who is required to report to the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector on welfare matters.

Mr Sal Perna AM was appointed to the position of Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector. Mr Perna's career spans five decades of fighting crime and corruption. He was appointed as Victoria's inaugural Racing Integrity Commissioner in 2010 and provided independent oversight of integrity of that state's multibillion-dollar racing industry. Mr Perna also conducted an inquiry into live baiting in greyhound racing in Victoria.

It is clear that Mr Perna, who formally commenced in the role on 8 July 2024, has already approached his remit with diligence and determination. Mr Perna is a highly competent and committed person.

There is currently, however, no legislative mechanism to compel Greyhound Racing SA to cooperate with the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector. We want Mr Perna to be empowered to carry out his role with the access to information and premises that he needs to do so.

To help ensure that the inspector can indeed have, as the recommendation states, 'unfettered access to Greyhound Racing SA systems and data', we introduce this new legislation. Having said this, it should be noted that to date Greyhound Racing SA have been very cooperative during this process.

The bill has been developed through targeted stakeholder consultation with a range of parties, including:

- Attorney-General's Department;
- Animal Justice Party;
- Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds;
- Department For Environment And Water (DEW);
- Greyhound Racing SA (GRSA);
- Harness Racing SA;
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA);
- Consumer and Business Services (CBS);
- South Australia Police (SAPOL).

It will absolutely support the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector to oversee the recommendations and ensure government is able to determine if the greyhound racing industry has sufficiently reformed after the recommended period of two years.

Enshrining the powers of the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector in legislation will ensure compliance with requests and assurance and the ability for the inspector to fulfil their function and duties with access to the required information needed to do so.

The provisions within the bill clearly establish the powers of the inspector, outline what is required of the inspector and define the independence required and functions of the role. As well as outlining these powers in relation to the requiring of information and the entering and inspecting of premises, the bill also sets out the applicable penalties regarding noncompliance. The bill seeks to support the sharing of prescribed information between the Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector and state authorities and defines the appointment of authorised officers for the purpose of the bill.

The act will be time-limited legislation with expiration at the conclusion of the reform period. The inspector has been appointed to satisfy the government and our community that real change is happening, and this bill is a key step in ensuring the inspector has the powers to help drive that change.

I progress this bill today as a key step forward in ensuring the role can be fulfilled and in the way that the report envisaged. I commend the bill to the house and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines key terms for the purposes of the measure.

Part 2—Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector

4—Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector

This clause provides that there will be Greyhound Industry Reform Inspector who will be a person employed in the Public Service of the State.

5—Functions of Inspector

This clauses specifies the functions of the Inspector.

6—Staff

This clause provides for staff to be assigned to the Inspector.

7—Delegation

This clause is a standard power of delegation for the Inspector and the Minister.

Part 3—Powers

8—Power to require information

This clause provides that the Inspector or an authorised officer may, by notice in writing, require the controlling authority, or an officer or employee of the controlling authority (within a reasonable time specified in the notice) information or documents in their possession, or to require a person to attend at a specified time and place. Failure to comply is punishable by a maximum penalty of \$10,000.

9—Powers to enter and inspect etc

This clause sets out several powers of the Inspector or an authorised officer to enter, search and inspect premises, seize things and require persons to answer questions in the circumstances and within the limitations outlined in the clause.

10—Offence to hinder or obstruct Inspector or authorised officer

This clause makes it an offence for a person to hinder the Inspector or authorised officer, use certain language to the Inspector or an authorised officer, refuse or fail to comply with a requirement of the Inspector or authorised officer, or to refuse or fail to answer questions to the best of the person's knowledge, information and belief.

11—Self-incrimination

This clause provides that a person cannot refuse or fail to answer a question or produce documents as required under the measure on the ground that to do so might tend to incriminate the person or make the person liable to a penalty.

If a person objects on either of the first two grounds, the fact of production of the document or the information furnished is not admissible against the person except in proceedings in respect of making a false or misleading statement.

Part 4—Information gathering

12—Sharing of information between certain persons and bodies

This clause allows the persons and bodies specified in subclause (1) to exchange certain information to each other without restriction.

13—Interaction with *Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016*

This clause clarifies that the proposed Part does not affect the operation of the *Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016*.

Part 5—Miscellaneous

14—Authorised officers

This clause provides for the appointment of authorised officers by the Inspector.

15—Impersonating authorised officer

This clause provides that a person who falsely represents, by words or conduct, that the person is an authorised officer is guilty of an offence for which a maximum penalty of \$5,000 applies.

16—Confidentiality

This clause provides for confidentiality of personal information, information relating to trade secrets or business processes or financial information received under the measure (except in certain specified circumstances).

17—False or misleading information

This clause provides an offence of making a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of the inclusion or omission of any particular) in information provided under the measure.

18—Final report

This clause requires the Inspector to submit to the Minister a final report on the implementation of the Report recommendations by the controlling authority, and the final report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

19—Regulations

This clause is a regulation making power.

20—Expiry of Act

This clause provides that once the final report has been tabled, the Minister may fix a date for expiry of the measure by notice in the Gazette.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Cowdrey.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION AND RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL LEASES) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (16:01): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011, the Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995, the Fair Trading Act 1987, the Farm Debt Mediation Act 2018, the Late Payment of Government Debts (Interest) Act 2013 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2012. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (16:02): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024 amends the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011, the Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995, the Fair Trading Act 1987, the Farm Debt Mediation Act 2018, the Late Payment of Government Debts (Interest) Act 2013 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

The bill seeks to provide clarity around the advocacy, dispute resolution and regulatory compliance functions undertaken by the South Australian Small Business Commissioner. This reform represents the first major revision of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011 since its commencement. It will support the future strategic direction of the office in carrying out its dispute resolution and advocacy functions in support of South Australian small businesses.

We recognise that business conditions have been particularly challenging. Rising input costs such as wages and rent are increasing the cost of doing business for many. In such a tough environment, a collaborative support network for small businesses is more important than ever to ensure their survival and growth.

The SA Small Business Commissioner, Ms Kilvert, and her dedicated team work closely with a wide network of stakeholders who share the same goal of mine—supporting the small business

sector. This includes working with small business owners directly, industry associations, state and local governments and federal agencies.

Through these networks, the commissioner seeks to understand, interrogate and amplify small business challenges, providing advice to government and seeking to influence an operating environment that supports the success of small businesses.

A key role of the commissioner's office is assisting small businesses when they face roadblocks or disputes, whether that be with other businesses or government departments. This can be over matters such as late or non-payment of invoices, disagreements relating to goods and services, commercial leasing matters, warranty issues or contractual disagreements.

The bill strengthens the support the commission can offer in dispute resolution. Currently, the commissioner administers a range of industry codes under the Fair Trading Act 1987, which afford the commissioner the power to notify and compel parties in a dispute to attend or participate in an alternative dispute resolution procedure. However, small businesses outside these prescribed industries are unable to benefit from this. To remedy this issue this bill proposes to standardise the level of support the commission can provide to small business owners seeking assistance with alternative dispute resolution irrespective of what industry sector they are in.

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

Leave granted.

As part of the designated alternative dispute resolution process, section 12E enables the Commission to require attendance at mediations and to produce documents or other information where this information is relevant to resolving the dispute.

A maximum penalty of \$20,000 with an expiation fee of \$1,200 applies where a person fails to comply with this requirement.

To provide certainty in the scope of alternative dispute resolution provided by the Commission, a definition of alternative dispute resolution has been included which excludes arbitration and expert determination.

In line with this objective, proposed sections 12A to 12H of the Small Business Commissioner Act and corresponding sections 66 to 68A of Retail and Commercial Leases Act outline the legislative powers available to the Commission to support small businesses in resolving disputes through a formal designated dispute resolution process.

Through the creation of Division 3 – Designated Dispute Resolution, a clear distinction is created between the preliminary assistance provided by Small Business Commissioners' Dispute and Regulation Advisors...

...and the process involving engagement of an independent mediator from Small Business Commissioner's approved panel where preliminary assistance cannot resolve the matter.

The Bill also seeks to streamline the Magistrate Court's enforcement of settlement agreements reached through Small Business Commissioner facilitated mediation by prescribing them as minor statutory proceedings.

This is intended to save small businesses from the additional time and cost of re-prosecuting legal arguments in court.

To maintain clarity, we have made a distinction between the enforcement of agreements under these provisions and Retail and Commercial Leases Act applications exceeding \$12,000 under section 3(1)(ba) of the Magistrates Court Act 1995.

Following the release of the draft Bill for consultation, we identified an opportunity to action requested amendments to Retail and Commercial Leases Act from the Property Committee of the Law Society of South Australia.

These amendments were originally proposed in 2018 under the tenure of the former Commissioner in response to the Retail and Commercial Leases (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2017 but were not included in the final version of the 2017 Bill.

These amendments aim to:

- simplify the process of determining whether companies are listed on a stock exchange outside of Australia;
- clarify that an exclusion of warranty under section 18 of Retail and Commercial Leases Act applies to renewals or extensions of retail shop leases, as well as any new leases between the parties for the same premises, whether on the same or different terms;

- specify that preference rights do not apply where lessees have a right of renewal or extension,
- simplify the wording of section 76 to state that the provision applies upon both expiry and termination of a lease; and
- increase clarity around the exclusion of fittings, fixtures or fit out of a retail shop from the term 'goods' in section 76.

Permissible methods of communication referenced throughout the Small Business Commissioner Act have also been updated to reflect modern modes of correspondence.

We have undertaken extensive consultation on the Bill throughout 2023 and 2024, with many of the amendments submitted being adopted. Consultation has comprised of open written submissions, targeted stakeholder forums and the workshoping of questions and concerns with individual stakeholders with relevant interests.

In closing, I want to reaffirm mine and the Malinauskas Government's commitment to the small business community in South Australia.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and through this Bill, we are taking meaningful steps to ensure they receive the support and resources they need.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Small Business Commissioner Act 2011*

3—Amendment of long title

This clause amends the long title of the Act to reflect the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

4—Insertion of heading

The Act is currently not divided into Parts. This clause is the first of a number of amendments contained in the measure that insert Part headings to divide the Act into Parts in order to better assist the reader in finding content in the Act.

5—Amendment of section 1—Short title

This clause amends the short title of the Act to reflect the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

6—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause adds several new definitions for the purpose of the measure.

7—Insertion of heading

This clause inserts a Part heading into the Act.

8—Insertion of section 3A

New section 3A is proposed to be inserted:

3A—Establishment of Commission

The Small Business Commission is established. The Commission is an agency of the Crown, and is to be constituted by the Commissioner.

9—Amendment of section 4—Small Business Commissioner

This clause amends section 4 such that the Small Business Commissioner is no longer an agency of the Crown, consequential to the establishment of the Commission as such an agency.

10—Insertion of section 4A

New section 4A is proposed to be inserted:

4A—Objects of Commission

Proposed section 4A sets out the objects of the Commission.

11—Amendment of section 5—Functions

This clause amends section 5 to establish the functions of the Small Business Commission, and provides that the Commission has power to do anything that is necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with performing its functions.

12—Amendment of section 6—Ministerial direction

This clause amends section 6 such that references to the Commissioner are replaced with references to the Commission.

13—Amendment of section 7—Terms and conditions of appointment

This clause amends the heading of section 7 to clarify that the terms and conditions of appointment relate to the Commissioner.

14—Amendment of section 8—Deputy and Acting Commissioner

This clause removes various references to the Commissioner and replaces them with references to the Commission where appropriate.

15—Insertion of section 8A

New section 8A is proposed to be introduced:

8A—Functions of Commissioner

Proposed section 8A establishes the functions of the Commissioner.

16—Amendment of section 10—Staff etc

This clause makes consequential amendments to references to the Commissioner, and establishes that a Deputy or Acting Commissioner is part of the staff of the Commission.

17—Amendment of section 11—Delegation

This clause makes a consequential amendment to a reference to the Commissioner and removes a requirement for the consent of the Minister to be required if a function or power is to be delegated to a person who is not a Public Service employee.

18—Amendment of section 12—Power to require information

This clause makes consequential amendments to various references to the Commissioner, amends the section to allow a notice to be sent by email, and establishes an expiation fee for the offence.

19—Insertion of Part 3

New Part 3 is proposed to be inserted:

Part 3—Dispute resolution

Division 1—Preliminary

12A—Interpretation

This section establishes a definition of *designated alternative dispute resolution process*, for use in the Part.

Division 2—General

12B—Alternative dispute resolution

Provision is made in relation to the Commission conducting alternative dispute resolution.

12C—Commission may refuse to deal with dispute

Provision is made for the Commission to refuse to deal with disputes in certain circumstances.

Division 3—Designated alternative dispute resolution

12D—Notice of designated alternative dispute resolution

This section provides that the Commission may determine that a dispute will be dealt with through an alternative dispute resolution process, and provides for how parties are to be notified of such a determination.

12E—Commission may require attendance at alternative dispute resolution processes and production of documents

This section gives the Commission the power to require attendance at an alternative dispute resolution process, and to require a person to produce documents.

12F—Statements made during alternative dispute resolution

Provision is made such that an admission or statement made by a person in the course of a designated alternative dispute resolution process is not admissible as evidence before a court.

12G—Power to issue certificates

Provision is made for the Commission to certify the outcome of alternative dispute resolution processes.

Division 4—Enforcement

12H—Result of alternative dispute resolution may be enforced

This section provides that the results of alternative dispute resolution may be enforced through application to the Magistrates Court in certain circumstances.

20—Insertion of heading

This clause inserts a Part heading into the Act.

21—Amendment of section 13—Confidentiality

22—Amendment of section 14—Regulations

These amendments are consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

Part 3—Amendment of *Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995*

23—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

Definitions of *alternative dispute resolution* and *commission* are inserted purpose of the measure, and the now obsolete definition of *mediation* is removed.

24—Amendment of section 4—Application of Act

This amendment establishes that the Act does not apply to where the lessee is a body corporate incorporated outside of the Commonwealth of Australia, or is a subsidiary of or is controlled by such a body corporate.

25—Amendment of section 7—Administration of Act

26—Amendment of section 9—Commissioner's functions

27—Amendment of section 11—Copy of lease to be provided to prospective lessee

These amendments are consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

28—Amendment of section 18—Warranty of fitness for purpose

This clause amends section 18 to provide that once a warranty has been excluded for a lease, it is also taken to be excluded if the lease is renewed or extended, or if there is a new lease between the same parties for the same premises.

29—Amendment of section 19—Security bond

30—Amendment of section 20—Repayment of security

These amendments are consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

31—Amendment of section 20C—Application of Division

This amendment establishes that Division 3 of the Act does not apply where a lease contains an option to extend or renew the lease.

32—Amendment of section 20H—Failure to comply with rules

33—Amendment of section 20K—Certified exclusionary clause

These amendments are consequential.

34—Amendment of section 51—Confidentiality of turnover information

This amendment replaces a reference to mediation with one to alternative dispute resolution.

35—Substitution of heading to Part 9 Division 1

This amendment is consequential.

36—Amendment of section 63—Responsibility of the Commissioner to arrange for mediation of disputes

These amendments are consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission, and establish how the Commission will deal with alternative dispute resolution.

37—Substitution of section 64

Current section 64 is proposed to be deleted and a new section 64 substituted as follows:

64—Statements made during alternative dispute resolution

Proposed section 64 provides that an admission or statement made by a person in the course of alternative dispute resolution is not admissible as evidence before a court.

38—Insertion of heading

This clause inserts a division heading into the Act.

39—Amendment of section 65—Stay of proceedings

This amendment is consequential.

40—Repeal of section 66

Section 66 is repealed.

41—Insertion of Part 9 Division 1B

New Part 9 Division 1B is proposed to be inserted:

Division 1B—Designated alternative dispute resolution

66—Notice of designated alternative dispute resolution

This section provides that the Commission may determine that a dispute will be dealt with in an alternative dispute resolution process, and provides for how parties are to be notified of such a determination.

66A—Commission may require attendance at alternative dispute resolution processes and production of documents

This section gives the Commission the power to require attendance at an alternative dispute resolution process, and to require a person to produce documents.

66B—Power to issue certificates

Provision is made for the Commission to certify the outcome of alternative dispute resolution processes.

42—Amendment of section 67—Power to intervene

This amendment is consequential.

43—Insertion of section 68A

New section 68A is proposed to be inserted:

68A—Result of alternative dispute resolution may be enforced

This section provides that the results of alternative dispute resolution may be enforced through application to the Magistrates Court in certain circumstances.

44—Amendment of section 70—The Fund

45—Amendment of section 72—Accounts and audit

These amendments are consequential.

46—Amendment of section 76—Abandoned goods

This amendment inserts a definition for use in the section, clarifies the application of the section and makes a consequential amendment.

47—Amendment of section 77—Exemptions

48—Amendment of section 78—Annual reports

49—Amendment of section 80—Regulations

These amendments are consequential.

Part 4—Amendment of *Fair Trading Act 1987*

50—Amendment of long title

- 51—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation
- 52—Amendment of section 4B—Administration of Act
- 53—Amendment of section 16—Meaning of generic terms used in Australian Consumer Law
- 54—Amendment of section 28F—Regulations relating to industry codes
- 55—Amendment of section 28J—Compliance with applicable code of conduct
- 56—Amendment of section 28L—Regulations
- 57—Amendment of section 46—Interpretation
- 58—Amendment of section 47—Conduct of legal proceedings on behalf of consumers
- 59—Amendment of section 48—Public warning statements
- 60—Amendment of section 49—Immunity from liability
- 61—Amendment of section 76—Authorised officers
- 62—Amendment of section 78A—Use and inspection of books or documents produced or seized
- 63—Amendment of section 79—Assurances
- 64—Amendment of section 80—Registration of deeds of assurance
- 65—Amendment of section 81—Offence
- 66—Amendment of section 82—Enforcement orders
- 67—Amendment of section 83—Injunctions
- 68—Amendment of section 85—Orders for compensation
- 69—Amendment of section 86—Sequestration orders
- 70—Amendment of section 86B—Civil penalties
- 71—Amendment of section 86D—Civil expiation notices
- 72—Amendment of section 86E—Late payment
- 73—Amendment of section 86H—Withdrawal of civil expiation notices
- 74—Amendment of section 91—Evidentiary provisions
- 75—Amendment of section 96A—Confidentiality
- 76—Amendment of section 96B—Delegation by Minister responsible for administration of Small Business Commissioner Act
- 77—Amendment of section 97—Regulations
- The amendments to the *Fair Trading Act 1987* made by this Part are consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.
- Part 5—Amendment of *Farm Debt Mediation Act 2018*
- 78—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation
- 79—Amendment of section 8—Notice of availability of mediation to be given
- 80—Amendment of section 9—Farmer may request mediation
- 81—Amendment of section 10—Creditor may agree to or refuse mediation
- 82—Amendment of section 12—Application by farmer for issue of prohibition certificate
- 83—Amendment of section 13—Issue of prohibition certificate
- 84—Amendment of section 14—Application by creditor for issue of exemption certificate
- 85—Amendment of section 15—Issue of exemption certificate
- 86—Amendment of section 17—Duration of exemption certificate
- 87—Amendment of section 18—When is a farmer or creditor presumed to have refused to participate in mediation?
- 88—Amendment of heading to Part 3
- 89—Amendment of heading to Part 3 Division 1

- 90—Amendment of section 19—Administration of Act
91—Amendment of section 20—Functions of Commissioner
92—Amendment of Section 21—Functions of mediators
93—Amendment of section 22—Commissioner must arrange mediation
94—Amendment of section 23—Conduct of mediation
95—Amendment of section 25—Mediation fees
96—Amendment of section 32—Regulations

The amendments made to the *Farm Debt Mediation Act 2018* made by this Part are consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

Part 6—Amendment of *Late Payment of Government Debts (Interest) Act 2013*

- 97—Amendment of section 7—Disputes

This amendment is consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

Part 7—Amendment of *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*

- 98—Amendment of section 274—Approved codes of practice

This amendment is consequential to the establishment of the Small Business Commission.

Schedule 1—Transitional provision

- 1—Transitional provision

Provision is made such that a reference in an instrument or document to the Small Business Commissioner will, unless context requires, be taken to be a reference to the Small Business Commission.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Cowdrey.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the minister, I acknowledge in the gallery a delegation of the Asian Development Bank, being led by Dr Emil Bolongaita, guests of the Minister for Trade and Investment. Welcome to our parliament.

Bills

ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (16:05): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to provide for the protection of animal welfare and the prevention of harm to animals, to make related amendments to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, the Sentencing Act 2017 and the Veterinary Services Act 2023, to repeal the Animal Welfare Act 1985 and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (16:06): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am so pleased to be bringing this piece of legislation to the house. This bill will replace the Animal Welfare Act 1985. One of the government's key commitments has been to modernise animal welfare laws so they are consistent with contemporary practices, science and community expectations. I have been heartened by community interest in the review of the state's animal welfare laws through the two consultation phases that informed this bill. Over 1,000 submissions were received on each occasion.

On that basis, I can today present a bill that is well informed by extensive stakeholder and community engagement that will meet the expectations of South Australians. The bill will also lead the nation in some areas, including its significant increases to penalties for animal welfare offences. I am very encouraged by the community support for these increases.

The bill addresses seven key reform areas, with an eighth area of reform on shelter licensing that will be progressed in the next year. The seven areas of reform relate to:

- updating the purpose and including objects in the act to better explain why the law exists and help readers interpret its intent;
- better recognising animal sentience to acknowledge that animals experience feelings, both positive, such as pleasure, and negative, such as pain and fear;
- broadening the definition of 'animal' so that more types of animals are covered by law—the exclusion of fish has been removed and cephalopods such as squid, octopus and cuttlefish are included in the context of scientific purposes;
- introducing a duty of care provision to create a positive requirement to provide a minimum level of protection;
- improving regulation, oversight and transparency of the research and teaching sector, which enables greater accountability and addresses community concerns;
- increased abilities to administer and enforce the act so that people who do not meet animal welfare requirements can be held to account, cruelty can be prevented and welfare can be promoted; and
- contemporising the governance and administrative provisions for the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to ensure that animal welfare advice comes from a transparent and diverse group.

The bill provides a new framework with a multitude of improvements that put animal welfare at the centre of decision-making. The bill clearly states that animals are recognised as living beings, with the ability to experience positive and negative states. A broader range of animals are included within the definition so that the law has a wider reach in protecting animal welfare and preventing harm. A new duty of care proactively obliges owners to provide food, water and appropriate living conditions. Greater accountability within the research and teaching sector will be introduced through updated terminology and improved licencing and registration requirements.

The bill creates for the first time an animal welfare fund to capture licence fees, fines and penalties that can be put back into supporting and promoting animal welfare outcomes. The range of tools available in this legislation will make its enforcement much more effective, swift and animal focused. Tools such as interim orders, notices to comply and enforceable undertakings are modern ways to achieve outcomes that are tailored to their circumstances.

Some of the enforcement tools include seizure as a consequence of noncompliance. Seizure of animals is never undertaken lightly; it is only used where required for the welfare of the animal. Under the changes proposed, the ongoing welfare of the seized animals is the priority.

Instead of seized animals being held for long periods of time, sometimes years, while waiting for a court outcome, the bill provides for the animal to be considered forfeited after 30 days unless the owner uses the appeal process. This enables the animals to be managed and rehomed to ensure their long-term wellbeing. Owners are still provided with natural justice rights and can appeal the decision to seize to the minister. An additional avenue of appeal to SACAT has been provided in the bill on process grounds.

The bill also proactively prevents harm by addressing interstate offenders coming into South Australia through recognition of interstate animal welfare orders. Additionally, the government has incorporated a recommendation from the Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry within the bill. The house will be aware that the inquiry recommended that animal welfare reporting obligations should be introduced so that persons working in the sector must report

any suspicions of animal welfare offences being committed. The Animal Welfare Bill introduces those obligations so that employees, contractors and volunteers in the sector must report their suspicions.

Perhaps some members may feel cautious the bill expands the definition of 'animal' to include fish and also applies to cephalopods such as cuttlefish, squid and octopus for scientific purposes. I can assure the house that fishing and aquaculture will not be affected. Fishing practices will still be carried out in compliance with the relevant legislation, namely the Fisheries Management Act 2007 and the Aquaculture Act 2001. The Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, which researchers must abide by, covers the use of cuttlefish, squid and octopus.

The provisions known as Koda's Law are brought into the animal welfare legislation from their previous operation under the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. These provisions recognise that harming or causing death to a working animal are a specific offence, with penalties commensurate to other ill treatment of an animal offences. Cost orders may also be sought specifically compensating for damage or loss of a working animal.

I am thrilled to be bringing these reforms here today. This bill significantly progresses animal welfare outcomes in South Australia and will bring the law into line with what the community increasingly expects. The bill presents a robust framework that will be of immediate use in responding to animal welfare issues. It has sought to anticipate potential regulatory needs to provide the basis for future management. I commend the bill to the house and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

This clause is formal.

2—Commencement

Commencement of the measure is by proclamation. Section 27(6) of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* is disapplied.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines terms and phrases used in the measure.

4—Application of Act

This clause clarifies that the measure does not derogate from other Acts or laws.

5—Principles and objects of Act

This clause sets out the principles and objects of the measure.

Part 2—Animal welfare offences

6—General duty of care

This clause provides that the owner of an animal must provide the animal with appropriate and adequate food, water and living conditions (whether temporary or permanent) and must take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise harm to the animal. Breaching these care requirements is an offence. A defence is provided to a charge of an offence against the proposed section if the owner proves they were acting in accordance with a prescribed code of practice.

7—Ill treatment of animals etc

This clause provides that it is an offence to ill treat an animal. The clause also creates aggravated offences where reckless or intentional ill treatment of an animal causes the death of, or serious harm to, the animal. The clause provides a list of examples of behaviour that would amount to ill treatment of an animal and provides that a person charged with an aggravated offence against the clause may be convicted of a lesser offence if the court is not satisfied that the aggravated offence has been established beyond reasonable doubt but is satisfied that the lesser offence has been so established.

8—Causing death or serious harm etc to working animals

This clause replicates sections 83H and 83I of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.

9—Prohibited activities

This clause makes it an offence to take part in a prohibited activity. The clause also creates an offence of being present in a place at which a prohibited activity is occurring. The clause provides a list of activities which are prohibited and provides a definition of what it means to take part in a prohibited activity.

10—Possession of certain items prohibited

This clause prohibits the possession of certain items without the approval of the Minister. A list of prohibited items is provided.

11—Electrical devices not to be used in contravention of regulations

This clause makes it an offence for a person to use an electrical device designed for the purpose of confining or controlling an animal in contravention of the regulations.

12—Jumps racing prohibited

This clause makes it an offence for a person to organise, promote or participate in, or participate in organising or promoting, jumps racing.

13—Special requirements for greyhound racing entities

This clause requires a person employed by a prescribed greyhound racing entity to, if the person suspects on reasonable grounds that an offence against proposed Part 2 is being committed and that suspicion is formed in the course of their employment, report their suspicion to the Minister. Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence. The clause sets out circumstances where a person need not report a suspicion under the clause.

14—Exemption for fishing activities etc

This clause provides that aquaculture and fishing activities will not constitute an offence against proposed Part 2 provided that such activities are done in compliance with the *Aquaculture Act 2001* or the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* (as relevant) and do not involve any acts that are prescribed, in relation to aquaculture or fishing activities, as ill treatment of an animal by the regulations.

Part 3—Advisory committees etc

15—Establishment of committees by Minister

This clause provides that the Minister may establish committees, including an Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The membership of a committee established under this clause, the terms and conditions of office of members of a committee established under this clause, the allowances and expenses to which members of a committee established under this clause are entitled and the functions of a committee established under this clause will be determined by the Minister.

16—Conflict of interest

This clause provides that a member of a committee will not be taken to have a direct or indirect interest in a matter by reason only of the fact that the member has an interest that is shared in common with those engaged in or associated with primary production generally, animal welfare organisations generally, veterinary practice generally or medical or biological research generally, or a substantial section of those engaged in or associated with any of those fields.

Part 4—Licences, permits and registered activities

Division 1—Licences for prescribed activities

17—Requirement to hold licence

It is an offence for a person to undertake a prescribed activity, as defined in this clause, if the person does not hold a licence authorising the activity.

18—Classes of licence

For the purposes of the measure, there will be the following licence classes:

- animal supplier's licence—a licence authorising the breeding and supplying of animals for scientific purposes;
- animal use licence—a licence authorising the keeping and use of animals for scientific purposes.

The regulations may prescribe additional classes of licence, divide a class of licence into subclasses and prescribe the persons or organisations, or classes or groups of persons or organisations, to which licences, or any classes or subclasses of licences, may be granted.

19—Application for and grant of licence

This clause sets out the requirements for an application for a licence.

20—Nomination of responsible person for compliance

This clause requires an applicant for a licence who is not an individual to nominate an individual who will be the responsible person for complying with the conditions of, and any obligations under, the licence. If a person commits an offence in relation to the licence or the prescribed activity under the licence, the responsible person will also be guilty of an offence unless they prove that they could not, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, have prevented, or that they took all reasonable and practicable measure to prevent, the commission of the principal offence.

21—Conditions of licence

This clause provides that a licence is subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose. It is an offence under this clause to contravene a condition of a licence.

22—Term and renewal of licence

This clause sets out the term of a licence and the process for renewing the licence.

23—Licensee to notify change of particulars etc

This clause requires a licensee to, within a specified timeframe, notify the Minister of certain changes. Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence.

24—Cancellation, suspension or surrender of licence

This clause provides that the Minister may, in prescribed circumstances or if a licensee contravenes the measure or a condition of the licence, cancel the licence or suspend the licence for a specified period. This clause also allows a licensee to, with the Minister's approval, surrender their licence.

Division 2—Permits

25—Permits for prescribed activities and items

This clause provides that the Minister may, on application, grant a permit permitting a prescribed activity or permitting possession of a prescribed item. Organising, conducting, promoting or participating in a prescribed activity or possessing a prescribed item without a permit is an offence.

A permit issued under this clause may be subject to conditions. Contravening a condition of a permit is an offence. The Minister may cancel, or suspend for a specified period, a permit issued under this clause.

Division 3—Registered activities

26—Interpretation

This clause defines terms used in the Division.

27—Activities that must be registered

This clause makes it an offence for a person to, unless registered in accordance with this Division, conduct an activity involving the establishment and operation of an animal ethics committee for the purposes of approving any activities of a licensee or an activity of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

28—Minister may maintain registers

This clause provides that the Minister may maintain registers for the purposes of the proposed Division.

29—Registration

This clause sets out the requirements for an application for registration of an activity.

30—Nomination of responsible person for compliance

This clause requires an applicant for registration of an activity who is not an individual to nominate an individual who will be the responsible person for complying with all conditions of the registration and any legal requirements applicable to the registered activity. If a person commits an offence in relation to the registration or the registered activity, the responsible person will also be guilty of an offence unless they prove that they could not, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, have prevented, or that they took all reasonable and practicable measure to prevent, the commission of the principal offence.

31—Conditions of registration

This clause provides that registration of an activity is subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose. It is an offence under this clause to contravene a condition of registration.

32—Term and renewal of registration

This clause sets out the term of registration of an activity and the process for renewing registration.

33—Animal ethics committees

This clause establishes the membership requirements for, and the functions of, an animal ethics committee. If an animal ethics committee refuses or fails to perform its functions and conduct its business in compliance with the measure and the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, the applicant who applied for registration in relation to the animal ethics committee, the responsible person (if any) nominated under proposed section 30 and each member of the animal ethics committee will be guilty of an offence unless they prove that they could not, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, have prevented, or that they took all reasonable and practicable measure to prevent, the commission of the offence.

34—Applicant to notify change of particulars etc

This clause requires an applicant to, within specified timeframes, notify the Minister of certain changes. Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence.

Part 5—Enforcement

Division 1—Authorised officers

Subdivision 1—Appointment and identification of authorised officers

35—Appointment of authorised officers

This clause empowers the Minister to appoint a person to be an authorised officer for the purposes of the measure. An appointment may be subject to conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.

36—Identification of authorised officers

This clause requires that authorised officers appointed under the proposed Part be issued with photo identity cards. An authorised officer must, at the request of a person in relation to whom the authorised officer intends to exercise powers under the measure or any other Act, produce for the inspection of the person their identity card.

Subdivision 2—Powers of authorised officers

37—General powers

This clause sets out the general powers of authorised officers.

38—Provisions relating to seizure of things other than animals

This clause sets out the procedure for dealing with things other than animals seized by an authorised officer under proposed section 37.

39—Routine inspections

This clause makes provision for authorised officers to conduct routine inspections of premises or vehicles for the purposes of administering the measure.

40—Animal welfare notices

If an authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that the exercise of powers under this clause is warranted, the authorised officer may give the owner of an animal an animal welfare notice specifying the action that the authorised officer considers should be taken for the welfare of the animal. Refusal or failure to comply with an animal welfare notice is an offence. An animal welfare notice may specify that refusal or failure to comply may result in the seizure and forfeiture of an animal or animals owned by the person in accordance with proposed section 46.

41—Notice to comply

If an authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that a person is contravening a requirement of the measure, the authorised officer may issue a notice to comply directing the person to take or cease specified action within a specified period. Refusal or failure to comply with such a notice is an offence. A notice to comply may specify that refusal or failure to comply may result in the seizure and forfeiture of an animal or animals owned by the person in accordance with proposed section 46.

42—Offence to hinder etc authorised officers

This clause makes it an offence for a person to hinder an authorised officer or to falsely represent that the person is an authorised officer. This clause also makes it an offence for a person to refuse or fail to comply with a requirement of an authorised officer or to refuse or fail to answer questions to the best of the person's knowledge, information and belief.

Division 2—Enforceable undertakings

43—Enforceable undertakings

If the Minister is satisfied that a person is contravening a requirement of the measure, the Minister may ask the person to consent to an enforceable undertaking which sets out actions the person agrees to take or cease within

a specified time, costs or expenses the person agrees to pay and any other matter that may be agreed between the Minister and the person. Refusal or failure to comply with an enforceable undertaking under this clause is an offence. An enforceable undertaking may specify that refusal or failure to comply may result in the seizure and forfeiture of an animal or animals owned by the person in accordance with proposed section 47.

Division 3—Special powers relating to animals

44—Powers are additional

This clause clarifies that powers under the proposed Division are additional to, and do not derogate from, any other powers conferred on an authorised officer, or the Minister, under the measure.

45—Special powers to protect animal welfare

This clause empowers an authorised officer to examine an animal and its living conditions. If the authorised officer suspects on reasonable grounds that the animal is experiencing or will imminently experience unnecessary harm, pain or distress, the authorised officer is empowered to provide treatment and care to the animal or cause the living conditions of the animal to be modified or, if the authorised officer suspects that no other action can reasonably be taken or that any such action would not be effective to alleviate the animal's harm, pain or distress, seize the animal or destroy or arrange for the destruction of the animal.

46—Seizure and forfeiture following noncompliance with notice

If the owner of an animal has refused or failed to comply with an animal welfare notice or a notice to comply and that notice specified that refusal or failure to comply may result in the animal being seized and forfeited in accordance with this clause, an authorised officer may, if the authorised officer reasonably believes it is in the best interests of the animal, seize the animal. The owner of an animal seized under this clause has 30 days to apply for a review of the decision to seize the animal before the animal is forfeited to the Minister.

47—Seizure and forfeiture following noncompliance with undertaking

If the owner of an animal has refused or failed to comply with an enforceable undertaking and that undertaking specified that refusal or failure to comply may result in the animal being seized and forfeited in accordance with this clause, the Minister may, if the Minister reasonably believes it is in the best interests of the animal, seize the animal and declare that it is forfeited to the Minister.

48—Dealing with seized animals

This clause sets out the procedure for dealing with animals seized under the measure. An authorised officer may keep an animal seized under the measure at the premises at which it was seized or move the seized animal to any other premises. The Minister may, in certain circumstances, sell, rehome, destroy or otherwise dispose of animals seized and no longer required to be retained.

49—Costs

This clause provides that the costs and expenses reasonably incurred by a person or the Crown in taking action under the proposed Division may be recovered as a debt from the owner of the animal.

Division 4—Court orders

50—Interim orders

A court may, in proceedings for an offence against the measure, make such interim orders as the court considers appropriate. This clause sets out a nonexhaustive list of interim orders a court may make. Noncompliance with an interim order under this clause is an offence.

51—Court orders on finding of guilt etc

This clause sets out a nonexhaustive list of orders that a court may make against persons found guilty of offences against the measure or if declared to be liable to supervision under Part 8A of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*. Noncompliance with an order under this clause is an offence.

52—Compensation and other costs—working animals

This clause replicates sections 83J and 83K of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.

Division 5—Miscellaneous

53—Warrant procedures

This clause sets out the procedures to be followed in order to obtain a warrant from the Magistrates Court.

54—Self-incrimination

This clause provides that a person cannot refuse or fail to produce, or provide a copy of, a document or information, or to answer a question, as required under the measure on the ground that to do so might tend to incriminate the person or make the person liable to a penalty. However, if compliance with such a requirement by an

individual might tend to incriminate the individual or make the individual liable to a penalty, then the fact of production, or provision of a copy of, the document or the information (as distinct from the contents of the document or the information), or the answer given in compliance with the requirement, is not admissible against the individual except in proceedings in respect of making a false or misleading statement.

Part 6—Reviews

55—Reviews by Minister

This clause entitles a person aggrieved by a decision of an authorised officer under Part 5 of the measure to apply to the Minister for review of the decision.

56—Reviews by SACAT

This clause confers SACAT with jurisdiction to deal with matters consisting of the review of a decision of the Minister under this measure and establishes timeframes within which an application for review may be made.

57—Reviews of decisions of animal ethics committees

This clause confers SACAT with jurisdiction to deal with matters consisting of the review of a decision of an animal ethics committee under Part 4 of the measure.

Part 7—Animal Welfare Fund

58—Animal Welfare Fund

This clause establishes the *Animal Welfare Fund*, and sets out the manner in which the Fund is to be applied and managed.

Part 8—Miscellaneous

59—Registration of interstate orders

This clause empowers the Minister to register an interstate order. The person the subject of the interstate order must be served notice of the registration and the notice must inform the person that registration of the order does not take effect until 14 days after the notice is served and that, from the time the registration takes effect, a contravention of the order in South Australia is an offence.

60—Arrangements for exchange of information etc

This clause enables the Minister to enter into arrangements with a Minister responsible for the administration of a relevant law for the exchange of information or the exercise of powers under the measure for the purposes of the relevant law. 'Relevant law' is defined as an Act or law of this or another State, or a Territory, of the Commonwealth, relating to or affecting animal welfare or the control or management of animals, or providing for the enforcement of such Acts or laws, confiscation of proceeds or instruments of offences under such Acts or laws, or dealing with animals or things seized or forfeited under such Acts or laws.

61—Delegation

This clause empowers the Minister to delegate functions and powers under the measure, other than a function or power prescribed by the regulations.

62—Exemptions

This clause allows the Minister to exempt a specified person or a specified class of persons from the operation of a provision or provisions of the measure and sets out the notice requirements. It also allows the Minister to vary or revoke an exemption for any reason the Minister thinks fit and makes it an offence for a person to contravene a condition of an exemption.

63—Waiver, reduction or refund of fees

This clause provides the Minister with the discretion to waive, reduce or refund a fee prescribed for the purposes of the measure.

64—False or misleading statements

This clause creates an offence for a person to make false or misleading statements in information provided under this measure.

65—Power of veterinarians to destroy animals

This clause empowers a veterinarian to destroy an animal if of the opinion that the condition of the animal is such that the animal should be destroyed.

66—Power to provide food etc to neglected animals

This clause provides that, if a person believes on reasonable grounds that an animal has not been provided with adequate food or water over a period of 24 hours, the person may, with the authority of an authorised officer, enter premises for the purpose of providing the animal with food and water.

67—Service of notices and documents

This clause sets out the options for service of notices and documents under the measure.

68—Proceedings for summary offences

This clause sets out the time requirements for commencement of proceedings for an alleged summary offence against the measure.

69—Proceedings for indictable offences

This clause provides that an indictable offence against this measure must be prosecuted and dealt with by the Magistrates Court as a summary offence. However, if the Court determines that a person found guilty of such an offence should be sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding 5 years, the Court must commit the person to the District Court for sentence.

70—Offences by bodies corporate

This clause makes additional provisions in relation to a body corporate who may be found guilty of an offence.

71—Continuing offences

This clause provides for the liability of a person who is convicted of an offence in respect of a continuing act or omission.

72—Vicarious liability of employers in certain circumstances

This clause provides that, if a person commits an offence against this measure in the course of employment by another, the employer is guilty of an offence and liable to the same penalty as is prescribed for the principal offence unless it is proved that the employer could not by the exercise of reasonable diligence have prevented the commission of the principal offence.

73—Evidence

This clause deals with various evidentiary matters to assist in the conduct of proceedings under the measure. The clause also incorporates section 83L of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.

74—Codes

This clause requires that a copy of the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* be made available for inspection on or through a website determined by the Minister. It also provides that evidence of the contents of a code incorporated into or referred to in the measure may be given in legal proceedings by production of a copy of the code apparently certified to be a true copy.

75—Act does not render unlawful practices that are in accordance with prescribed code of practice

This clause provides that the measure does not render unlawful anything done in accordance with a prescribed code of practice relating to animals.

76—Reports in respect of alleged contraventions

If a person reports to an authorised officer an alleged contravention of this measure, this clause requires that the authorised officer must, at the request of the person, inform the person (if practicable) of any action proposed to be taken in respect of the allegation. This clause does not apply in relation to a report made under proposed section 13.

77—Victimisation

This clause provides that a person commits an act of victimisation against another person if they cause detriment to the other person on the ground, or substantially on the ground, that the other person has disclosed or intends to disclose information, or has made or intends to make an allegation, that has given rise or could give rise to proceedings against the person under this measure. Any such act of victimisation may be dealt with as a tort or as if it were an act of victimisation under the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

78—Regulations and fee notices

This clause provides power to make regulations and to prescribe fees by fee notice.

79—Review of Act

This clause provides for a review of the operation of the measure to be undertaken after the measure has been in operation for a period of 5 years.

Schedule 1—Related amendments and repeals

Part 1—Amendment of *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*

1—Amendment of section 20AA—Causing harm to, or assaulting, certain emergency workers etc

2—Repeal of Part 3C

Part 2—Amendment of *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*

3—Amendment of section 59D—Power to destroy dogs

4—Amendment of section 60—Power to seize and detain dogs

5—Amendment of section 63—Power to destroy cats

6—Amendment of section 64D—Notification to owner of dog or cat destroyed etc under Part

These Parts make related amendments to the Acts specified consequential to the enactment of the measure.

Part 3—Amendment of *Sentencing Act 2017*

7—Insertion of section 26A

This clause inserts new section 26A into the *Sentencing Act 2017* as follows:

26A—Additional orders for offences involving animals

A court may, on finding a person guilty of an offence involving animals or on sentencing a person for an offence involving animals, make any order it thinks fit under section 51 of the proposed *Animal Welfare Act 2024*.

Part 4—Amendment of *Veterinary Services Act 2023*

8—Amendment of section 50—Veterinary services must be provided at registered premises

9—Amendment of section 51—Offence to carry on certain businesses other than at registered premises

These clauses make related amendments to the *Veterinary Services Act 2023* consequential to the enactment of the measure.

Part 5—Repeal of *Animal Welfare Act 1985*

10—Repeal of Act and regulations

This clause repeals the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and all regulations under that Act.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Cowdrey.

CONVERSION PRACTICES PROHIBITION 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) (16:12): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to recognise and prevent the harm caused by practices directed at changing or suppressing the sexual orientation or gender identity of individuals, to make related amendments to the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Standing Orders Suspension

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) (16:13): I move:

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: An absolute majority not present, please ring the bells.

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

Motion carried.

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) (16:14): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am proud to rise today to introduce the Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2024 into this parliament. This bill fundamentally seeks to send a clear message to every South Australian that this government recognises, condemns and seeks to prevent the harm caused by conversion practices directed towards the LGBTQIA+ community. The term 'conversion practices' refers to practices that are directed to an individual and are intended to cause a change to that individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

This bill arises out of an election commitment made by the Labor Party to work to ensure that conversion practices do not occur in South Australia. The objects of the legislation, as laid out in the bill, are to recognise and prevent the harm caused by conversion practices and to promote respectful and open discussions regarding sexuality and gender. The bill presents an opportunity through legislative intervention to make it clear that sexual orientation and gender identity does not constitute a disorder, disease, illness, deficiency or shortcoming. There is nothing broken or wrong with a person that needs fixing if they identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

In order to fulfil these objects, the bill creates several new criminal offences and also creates a civil cause of action. The bill is closely modelled on the New South Wales Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024 (the NSW act) that passed the New South Wales parliament in March, but with some differences to reflect the South Australian context. The NSW act was drafted based on extensive public and stakeholder consultation. The SA bill defines a conversion practice to mean a practice, treatment or sustained effort that consists of more than one event or occurs on more than one occasion and that is:

- directed to an individual on the basis of the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- directed to changing or suppressing the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sexual orientation is defined in the bill to mean an individual's orientation towards individuals of the same sex or different sex and includes having a lack of sexual attraction to any sex, otherwise known as asexuality. The bill provides that a conversion practice does not include:

- clinically appropriate health services or treatments—for example, assisting an individual with therapeutic identity exploration or advising an individual about potential impacts of gender-affirming medical treatment;
- genuinely facilitating an individual's coping skills, development or identity exploration to meet the individual's needs, including by providing acceptance, support or understanding to the individual;
- the use by a person, without more, of expressions—in particular, expressions of a belief or principle, including a religious belief or principle and in prayer; and
- expressions that a belief or principle ought to be followed or applied.

This provision makes it clear that a general expression about a religious belief or system of beliefs is not prohibited. This could be made to a group or to an individual. It could be through a sermon or a simple one on one conversation that does not seek to target the individual or change their sexual or gender orientation. This goes to the heart of freedom of expression, religious freedom of expression and the freedom to speak one's mind when it comes to particular beliefs.

I want to further make it clear that a conversion practice does not include religious teachings or prayers presented to a general audience, as this is not directed at an individual on the basis of the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. For clarity, the bill also contains a list of examples of behaviour that do not constitute a conversion practice. These include:

- stating what relevant religious teachings are or what a religion says about a specific topic;
- general requirements in relation to religious orders or membership or leadership of a religious community;
- general rules in education institutions; and
- parents discussing or providing guidance on matters relating to sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual activity or religion with their children.

In relation to the last example, it should be made very clear that parents are not prevented from being able to have challenging discussions or provide guidance about these matters with their children. Such parent to child discussions are not captured by the bill. This exception is there to make this very clear.

As defined in the bill, a parent of a child includes a step-parent or a person who stands in loco parentis to the child. This is a Latin term that means 'in the place of a parent'. The definition is drawn from the existing definition in the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Regulations 2019. It will be an offence to perform a conversion practice on a person with the intention of changing or suppressing the person's sexual orientation or gender identity that causes serious harm to the person. The maximum penalty for this offence will be five years' imprisonment.

Harm is defined to mean physical or mental harm whether temporary or permanent. Mental harm means psychological harm, and includes mental illness, nervous shock, distress, anxiety or fear that is more than trivial. Serious harm is harm that endangers a person's life or is substantial. As defined in the bill, serious harm may be caused by a combination of conversion practices, and must be assessed by considering the totality of those practices.

It will also be an offence to take a person from the state or arrange for person to be taken from the state with the intention that a conversion practice is to be performed on the person outside of the state, or engage a person from outside the state to provide or deliver a conversion practice in the state. For each of these offences the maximum penalty will be three years' imprisonment or \$15,000 or both of those penalties.

These criminal offences, separate from the civil scheme, will apply regardless of whether harm was or could have been caused by the conversion practice. Further, all the bill's offences apply whether or not consent to the performance of the conversion practice is given by either the individual or, if the individual lacks capacity, a parent, guardian or other person who has decision-making authority. Consent is not a defence in any circumstance.

The bill will also create a civil response scheme to support survivors and facilitate appropriate resolutions between parties. A further amendment will be made to the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 to insert a new provision into part 6 to provide that it is unlawful to perform a conversion practice on any person or to arrange for a conversion practice to be performed on any other person.

Importantly, the bill makes it clear that the existing functions of the Equal Opportunity Commissioner under section 11 of the Equal Opportunity Act will also operate in relation to conversion practices, which includes the commissioner's research, data collection and education functions.

A complaint regarding a conversion practice may first be brought as a complaint to the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity. It can then be subject to conciliation and, if not resolved by agreement, may be brought to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) for a resolution. This operation reflects how the existing victimisation and sexual harassment provisions operate in the Equal Opportunity Act.

Under the Equal Opportunity Act a complaint must be brought by the person purporting to have suffered discrimination or, under this bill, a conversion practice. We have heard from survivors of conversion practices that they see it as important that others are able to make complaints on behalf of the victim, who may not be in a position to do so. This is something the Attorney-General is considering, although it is outside the scope of this bill.

Consistent with the current operation of the Equal Opportunity Act in other areas, a complaint regarding conversion practices must be lodged within 12 months of the date on which the contravention is alleged to have been committed or, if a series of acts are alleged, within 12 months of the last of those acts. However, it should be made clear that the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity has discretion to extend the time for lodging a complaint, even if the 12-month time limit has expired, so long as they are satisfied that there is good reason for the complaint being made outside this time frame and that it is just and equitable to do so.

This is an important existing discretion of the commissioner to highlight, considering that in many cases of conversion practice it is common for targeted individuals to take years, even decades, to realise that what happened to them was a conversion practice, let alone to then have the courage to come forward and make a complaint.

This context will be an important consideration for the commissioner when assessing whether to exercise their discretion in waiving this time limit for the civil complaint scheme, and it is anticipated that this discretion to consider waiving the time limit will be exercised in most circumstances, based on feedback from survivors.

If a complaint alleges a contravention by a registered health practitioner in the course of practising a health profession, pursuant to the definitions in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity must refer that complaint to the relevant health complaints entity. The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity is prevented from then proceeding or otherwise dealing with that complaint under the Equal Opportunity Act.

I will note that here currently in South Australia, there is some existing legislation that restricts certain conversion practices, mainly in the space of health practitioners. The combination of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, the federal Australian Consumer Law and, specific to South Australia, the Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004 combine to effectively prohibit conversion practices across various health and community service settings, and in trade and commerce.

This bill prescribes that a review of the legislation must occur as soon as possible after a three-year period from commencement, with a report to be tabled in parliament within four years after commencement. This will ensure that the effectiveness of the bill can be appropriately reviewed.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the many groups and individuals who have made this important reform possible. Thank you to the Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher in the other place, for his work in bringing this legislation to life, to the Hon. Nat Cook, Minister for Human Services, and the LGBTIQ+ Minister's Advisory Council for being such a strong voice for this community.

Thank you to Equality Australia and the South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA) for all your years of advocacy, and for providing a safe community for people to speak out, be vulnerable, and to feel heard. And, most importantly, a sincere thank you to all of the incredibly brave survivors of conversion practices, both those who have been able to share their story publicly and also those survivors who have not been able to come forward.

I was grateful to meet with some people this week, and I was deeply moved to hear their lived experience before introducing this legislation. I would now like to briefly share the experiences of two of these brave survivors who have generously allowed me to tell their story of conversion practices.

Jace Reh is 24, and a proud trans and queer Gamilaroi person who was subjected to conversion practices as recently as nine years ago. Jace grew up in a small country town isolated from the city. Jace has said:

My experiences were surrounded by a fear of who I wanted to be and who I felt I had to be. I would spend every week, prayed over multiple times a week, reminded how I needed to maintain the image of a godly woman, that I had to be with a man and that I was the housewife.

I was told that my true and authentic self was something to be afraid of and that I was being called by the devil to do awful things.

This has damaged my ability to maintain relationships, my ability to form connections and my ability to succeed in my own life.

I spent the ages of 8 to 15 in conversion practices and many years after that in psychiatric institutions as I tried to recover.

We need this ban or people like me will continue to hate themselves and feel like there is something wrong with them. But we have a chance now to make a difference.

Another powerful testimony came from brave survivor Megan Barnes, 37 years old:

I'm a victim-survivor of conversion therapy, suppression and practices in South Australia.

I was subjected to a belief system that enforced there was something wrong with me. I was told that it is unacceptable to be who I am.

When others around me were pursuing life, I was left in a suicidal state, in and out of programs, disguised as healing and support groups.

I was given a brochure and referred to attend a live in program for 'troubled' girls run by a religious institution. At this point in my life, I was helpless and I believed everything I was told by people in positions of power and authority over me.

I thought it would be a safe place for me, but it was an abuse of power. The program left me permanently traumatised.

In my life experience, conversion practices not only occur within programs, but within the medical system, religious based schools and facilitated by people who I should have been able to trust.

I am unable to describe the psychological and emotional harm caused. I questioned my reality and had no agency over my thoughts.

I'm committed to rebuilding my life and gaining a sense of autonomy and agency for the first time.

An absence of legislated prohibition will allow the abuse of vulnerable people to continue. My liberty was taken away from me. This should not be up for debate.

This bill could provide an opportunity for peace of mind, not just for me, but for the many others who have also suffered at the hands of conversion practices.

I thank Jace and Megan for allowing me to share their stories to highlight just how important this bill is. We are sorry that you had to go through these traumatic experiences in order for this issue to be brought to life. May this reform be an important and validating step forward.

It is also appropriate that we acknowledge those who have undergone conversion practices who are sadly no longer with us today. This bill is for them. Today, the government makes it clear through this bill that conversion practices are not tolerated in the South Australian community and that LGBT people deserve to live freely and safely, true to who they are and protected from these harmful practices. I commend the bill to members and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines terms used in the measure.

4—Meaning of conversion practice

This clause defines a conversion practice as a practice, treatment or sustained effort that consists of more than 1 event or occurs on more than 1 occasion, and that is directed to an individual on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity and is directed to changing or suppressing that sexual orientation or gender identity.

5—Objects

This clause outlines the objects of the measure.

Part 2—Offences in relation to conversion practices

6—Offence to engage in conversion practice that causes mental or physical harm

A person who provides or delivers a conversion practice to an individual intending to change or suppress the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity and who causes serious harm to the individual is guilty of an offence punishable by 5 years imprisonment.

7—Offence to take individual from SA, or engage person outside SA, for conversion practices

A person who takes an individual from SA, or arranges for the individual to be taken from SA, intending that a conversion practice be delivered or provided to the individual outside SA or who engages a person outside SA to provide or deliver a conversion practice to an individual in SA, is guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment for 3 years or a fine of \$15,000, or both.

Part 3—Miscellaneous

8—Review of Act

A review of the Act must be conducted after 3 years.

9—Regulations

This is a regulation making power.

Schedule 1—Related amendment of *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*

1—Insertion of section 86A

Proposed section 86A provides that it is unlawful for a person to provide or deliver a conversion practice to an individual or to arrange for a person to provide or deliver a conversion practice to an individual.

2—Amendment of section 93—Making of complaints

If a complaint alleges a contravention of section 86A by a registered health practitioner in the course of their practice, the Commissioner must refer the complaint to the relevant health complaints entity (and the Commissioner may not proceed to investigate or otherwise deal with the complaint under the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*).

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) (16:30): First of all, can I say thank you so much to the Deputy Premier for her really important words and explanation of this incredibly important bill and also, Deputy Premier, for the sheer compassion that you have brought as you introduced this bill and that you bring to everything that you do in this house and indeed everything that you do in our community.

I also want to thank the Attorney-General and his team for their incredible work towards this bill that is being introduced today, as well as the Minister for Human Services and her team and the ministerial advisory group that I know has worked towards this moment for such a very long time. I also want to honour and say thank you to everybody who is with us in the gallery today. Thank you so much for staying the course towards this incredibly important moment today and thank you for your enduring advocacy. I know so many of you have so incredibly and bravely shared your stories that have helped us get to this moment today. Thank you so much for being here and for your voices.

We often say that our state prides itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. These laws speak to that. They will ensure that we are rightly protecting members of our community, especially children, from harm. Through this bill I hope that our South Australian government sends a really clear message to our LGBTIQ community that you are loved, you are seen and you are always accepted just the way you are.

As the Deputy Premier articulated, this damaging practice that this bill rightly deals with is a form of abuse that seeks to force members of community to abandon who they are under the guise of saving or helping them. This bill absolutely ensures that this practice is rightly outlawed. Perpetrators who cause serious harm to the person subjected to this abhorrent practice will face up to five years in jail. Individuals who either try to take or arrange to have someone taken from the state for this purpose will face up to three years in jail, or a fine, or both. This proposed law also allows those subject to these practices to bring a complaint to the equal opportunity commissioner, with enforceable remedies ultimately available through the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

As the Deputy Premier outlined, this bill really clearly deals with a terribly harmful practice, and rightly so, but it also does so very much more. I am deeply passionate about representing our community, about amplifying the voices of community and particularly the voices of those who sometimes go unheard. There are many things that guide me when we consider issues in this place that impact people across our state, like this one before us today. Again, the voices of people who need us to listen absolutely guides me.

I am also guided by my faith and what my faith tells me is that in everything we do in this place, in everything that we do in our community, love and acceptance of all people must always be paramount and that is, I think, absolutely what this bill privileges.

I thank all those who have advocated for this bill for such a very long time: SARAA, Equality Australia, Rainbow Labor, Pride of the South in our local southern community and so many individuals and other organisations joining together right across state borders as well. As the Deputy Premier said: this bill is for you. This bill is for those we have tragically lost after an experience of being subject to these horrific practices. At the core of this bill is love and acceptance for everyone in our community and I commend it to the house.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (16:36): I, too, rise in support of this bill. I want to open my remarks to echo to every member of the LGBTIQA+ community the words of our Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher MLC, in the other place when he said, 'You are loved just the way you are.'

As the member for Adelaide and as the co-founder of the Parliamentary Friends of the LGBTIQA+ Community, which I established with the Hon. Robert Simms and the Hon. Michelle Lensink in the other place, I want to express how proud and pleased I am to speak on this legislation today. It is being delivered on the cusp of the 49th anniversary of the Dunstan Labor government's decriminalisation of homosexuality. This bill is about stopping the harm caused by damaging conversion practices which seek to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

During the summer I was proud to stand with my Rainbow Labor colleagues at their stall at Feast Picnic in the Park, encouraging people to sign a petition to support the ban of conversion practices. Only a few months ago I proudly attended the Rainbow Advocacy Alliance's IDAHOBIT event, the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia Intersexphobia and Transphobia, with my colleagues Catherine Hutchesson and the Hon. Nat Cook.

We came together at Palace Nova to watch the film *Prayers for Bobby*. I challenge anyone to go and watch this film and not be impacted by the themes in this film. It is based on the true story of Mary Griffith who, due to her religious intolerances, lost her gay son through death by suicide. It was an incredibly emotional evening, but a reminder that, together, we need to continue to fight for the rights of the LGBTIQA+ community.

This bill delivers on our election commitment and will bring South Australia in line with other jurisdictions, including New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT, which have introduced similar laws. This bill is modelled closely on the New South Wales laws which passed into law earlier this year. It is commonsense reform that protects members of the LGBTIQA+ community, especially children, from harm caused by the false idea that the way they identify can be changed.

As a mother of two young children, who I love with all my heart, I want them to grow up in a world knowing that they are loved just the way they are—that all of you are loved just the way you are. I want to thank all of you for being here in the gallery today. I know you live such busy lives but by being here and supporting the introduction of this bill means so much to us. Just you being here means very much to us.

I want to thank the Rainbow Advocacy Alliance, Equality Australia, Rainbow Labor—Tamsin Anspach is here; thank you—and all our parliamentary colleagues, Nat, Katrine, Susan and Kyam, for your support. With those words, I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (16:39): I am absolutely delighted to stand here today and support this bill. I will just speak from the heart and thank all of you for sharing the powerful stories that you have shared with me.

This has been not just a journey of recent days, weeks or even years. If we reflect on the historical journey of South Australia and, indeed, Australia, we can look at many milestones that mean something to the LGBTIQ+ community in many different ways. This will become one of those milestones. This will become one of those times in history where we in South Australia can reflect with pride, with true liberation of our thoughts and ideas, that we are saying everybody is equal, and nobody should be pressured to feel, to believe, to act or to do anything that they do not innately feel is right.

I am so proud to have worked not just now but for many years with so many members of our community to make love be equal for all of us. There is nothing that I can reflect on that makes me feel more pride than I do today.

I have been able to contribute to a few things along with colleagues over a number of years now. I reflect back quickly to ensuring that PrEP was available, ensuring that we provided pre-exposure prophylaxis to the homosexual community. I reflect on times when I, as a healthcare worker before entering this place, would deal with many sensitive matters for people who were hiding a reality in their life because they were ashamed, but mostly because they were afraid.

This is a time when we, together, as a community, say no more—no more having to be afraid, no more feeling like somebody is going to be able to, within the law, pressure you to be different than what you are.

I am afraid I will miss thanking somebody, but there are a couple of particular groups that I want to really thank: Equality Australia, of course, and our beautiful comrades in Rainbow Labor, who keep the pressure up constantly and remind us as elected members that we are elected to represent you and your values and beliefs. To do that is something that is a great tribute to you.

About six years ago, I made it very clear that I would do everything I could to ensure that we legislatively banned conversion practice. I have worked very hard, but no harder than the rest of you, to ensure the language is right, that we do not use the word 'therapy'. There is nothing therapeutic about conversion practice. I have worked very hard to try to represent truly what is needed here, and I could not have done it without all the support, help and advice from our rainbow community and particularly SARAA. It is a body that I work very closely with, which I am so pleased is connected with the Department of Human Services to help us meet that inclusive agenda across our state.

I think what we see now as well is a culmination of us being able to bring together members of parliament that really do represent a diverse community in its thinking and a strong community that is absolutely uncompromising in what we think and how we are able to advocate on your behalf.

The Deputy Premier, Susan Close, is a great warrior for social justice issues. I do not think we would have come this far without Susan and also the Attorney-General, Mr Kyam Maher, in the other place helping us to bring together this thinking and this organised way of being able to demonstrate that we can do these brave and bold policy ideas.

My friend, Katrine Hildyard, member for Reynell, has been an absolute warrior for diverse communities and particularly the LGBTIQ+ community since coming into parliament and before. All these excellent people around me have all believed that a voice is important and a voice directly to us is so vital, so my ministerial advisory council that we established determined to make sure we had the right information coming directly to us. You need to know that this has happened because of you.

On behalf of all the other advocacy groups in our community, you have pulled back together and those powerful stories, I know, have helped to inform that. Thank you so much. Thank you on behalf of my community that I represent as well. I know that they will be very pleased to see that this is coming to fruition. I cannot wait to see it pass here and in the other place.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (16:45): I stand in support of the bill. It is, from what I can recall, the first bill to expand rights for the LGBTIQ+ community put to this parliament by Labor since Michael Atkinson brought the domestic partners bill, which was considered as a joke at the time because it had the effect of simply—

The Hon. K.A. Hildyard interjecting:

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The minister is saying that we did this together.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: We didn't even know about this until it was in the media yesterday and—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Unley, can you resume your seat for a second. Members on my right, I think we will have some decorum. Given the seriousness of the matter we are discussing, I would appreciate we give it the dignity it deserves and don't interrupt. You can disagree civilly during the debate.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Thank you for your protection, sir. This is an important issue. It is important to me, it is important to the people in the gallery and it is important to so many other people who are aware of the struggles that people from the LGBTIQA+ community have suffered for multiple generations—for the history of mankind in many societies.

Getting back to what I was saying before, this is the first bill for this community since the domestic partners bill. I just want to remind people that this was in the mid/early 2000s—I think it was about 2008 when the domestic partners bill came to the parliament. There was a lot of pressure at the time to recognise same-sex relationships. What the conservative former Attorney-General at the time did, Michael Atkinson, was equate the relationship of two siblings living together with that of two lovers of the same sex living together. It was an appalling bill. It was all that was available for the community at the time. They took it, of course, but it was all that was available at the time.

It was not until 12 years later that Vickie Chapman brought in a bill here so that South Australia would no longer be the last state that still allowed people to get a lesser sentence under the gay defence. If you assaulted somebody or you killed somebody because they were of the same sex and they made a proposition to you and you were so offended by that it was a justification for killing them and they got a lesser defence. That is no longer a law in South Australia, thanks to Vickie Chapman, the former Liberal Attorney-General.

I know that this was a promise that was made three years ago by the Labor Party and it is here now, not two years ago, not one year ago, here now, and the Labor Party, the government will not even allow a week for members of parliament to receive the bill. The bill was only given to me after it was tabled by the minister about half an hour ago.

I have had a quick look at it, and I will want to go into committee to ask some questions because I am particularly curious about some of the examples that are given under the religious exemptions where certain actions under a religious banner are not seen as conversion therapy. Particularly in the biggest Christian country in the world, the United States of America, we see some extreme views of the Christian religion and we see the hell that gay children go through by organisations that say that they care for them and love them. Conversion therapy is also known as—

The Hon. N.F. Cook: Practice.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Conversion therapy is a practice, yes.

The Hon. N.F. Cook: It's offensive to call it conversion therapy.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: If you do not mind, I sat here and listened to you.

The Hon. N.F. Cook: I didn't try to rewrite history, mate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister on my right, I have asked politely that we try to maintain the decorum. I will now put you on notice, minister.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: You are so tiny, aren't you? So tiny.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: This is a big issue, and you are worried about the nuances. You are so tiny. It is also known as reparative therapy. It is a set of practices aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. It is based on a misguided belief that being LGBTIQA+ is a disorder that can be cured; however, it is neither scientifically valid nor ethically justifiable. The harmful consequences of these practices are well documented and today I share why conversion therapy is dangerous and why it should be banned.

Firstly, conversion therapy is rooted in a false premise. The major medical and psychological organisations, including the American Psychological Association, the Australian Psychological Society and the World Health Organization, all unequivocally condemn conversion therapy. They recognise that sexual orientation and gender identity are intrinsic aspects of who we are and that attempting to change them is both ineffective and harmful.

The danger of conversion therapy lies not only in its ineffectiveness but also in its profound psychological harm. Individuals subjected to conversion therapy often experience increased levels of depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. Studies have shown that those who undergo conversion therapy are significantly more likely to suffer from mental health issues compared to their peers who are accepted and supported for who they are.

Let me share some examples of why conversion therapy is particularly harmful with a focus on reports from Australia. In Australia, there have been several disturbing accounts of the effects of conversion therapy. For instance, the Brisbane Youth Service reports a case where a young person was subjected to conversion practices by a religious organisation. This individual, who had been confident and self-assured before the therapy, developed severe depression and self-harming behaviours during and after the therapy. The therapy not only failed to change the person's sexual orientation—duh—but also aggravated their mental health issues.

Another example comes from Victoria, where a former participant of conversion practice spoke out about their experience. The individual was subjected to intense psychological pressure to change their sexual orientation, which included humiliation and shaming tactics. The emotional trauma inflicted with these practices led to a prolonged struggle with self-worth and identity, resulting in long-term psychological scars.

These cases are not isolated. They reflect a broader pattern of harm associated with conversion therapy. It is important to recognise that the suffering is not limited to those who are directly involved. Families are also affected as they witness their loved one's distress and struggle. Sometimes they fall victim to peer pressure, particularly in some religious groups.

Furthermore, conversion therapy contributes to a broader social stigma against the LGBTIQ+ community and individuals. It perpetuates the notion that being LGBTIQ+ is something to be fixed or hidden, rather than celebrated and accepted. This stigma can discourage individuals from seeking support and can lead to a hostile environment where LGBTIQ+ people feel that they must hide who they actually are.

This is a concern that I know many have about the rush of this bill through the parliament today. Not bringing the community with you, not allowing participation and debate and consultation in this bill could set up a sect, if you like, or a sector of people who think there is some conspiracy: what are they hiding, why are they putting this through? Instead, this is something to be celebrated, we should be talking about this for weeks, not trying to ram it through in a day without fully talking about the changes and the benefits, and the what ifs. We need to have the discussion of the what ifs, making sure we are picking them up.

In the discussions I have had with the South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance, they were surprised, as we all were, about this bill being rushed through the parliament today. They wanted consultation. As a matter of fact I got an email from them today saying that they would like to come in tomorrow to talk to me about the bill. It will be a bit late tomorrow, because of this government.

The normal convention is that a bill lays on the table for a week after it has been introduced and then it is publicly available. It is available for members of parliament and interest groups to look at the bill, go through it and give feedback to members of parliament, to the government, to the minister. This community was denied that by this government. I do not know why. Why did that happen? Why has this community been discriminated against when it comes to the standard process that is afforded every other interest group or South Australian citizen when it comes to debating bills in this place. They are invited to be involved in a consultation. I have been told that the South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance are not happy that this bill has not been open for consultation.

Getting back to the conversion practice, given the evidence of harm, the ethical implications of subjecting individuals to practices that have been discredited and condemned and the broader impact on societal acceptance are clear that conversion therapy must be banned. Legislation should reflect the scientific consensus and the moral imperative to protect individuals from practices that are not only ineffective but also deeply damaging.

In Australia, some states and territories have already moved to ban conversion therapy. I am pleased that this move is now being made in South Australia. I want to make it clear that I support this bill. This bill will do the job, although I am sure it could be improved, but we do not know that because we have not had a chance to go out and ask you what is missing. What did the government miss?

In Victoria and Queensland, they have implemented laws to prohibit such practices. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that these protections are uniform across the country and that those who continue such conversion therapy are stopped and held accountable if they break the law. I think that is an important measure. What a broad consultation process of the bill would do, of course, is help meet that goal of ensuring that we have uniform or as close to uniform legislation throughout the country.

We certainly do not want a situation in Australia that you see in the United States of America where, depending on what your state's restrictions are on abortion or on other social issues, you have to move to another state to have your health care dealt with because the state that you live in does not allow that type of health care. We see that particularly with the right to abortion and the ban on abortion in many of the southern states in America.

In conclusion, conversion therapy practice is dangerous and it is harmful. It is a practice based on discredited theories and it causes significant psychological harm to those subjected to it. The experiences of individuals in Australia and around the world underscore the urgent need for a complete and unequivocal ban on conversion therapy. From my reading of the bill so far, I do not think it does this. This is why I am interested in the committee process to try to nut out just what is exempt from conversion therapy.

By standing here today and supporting the bill, we are not only protecting individuals from harm but also affirming their right to live their lives as who they are, without fear. We have come a long way since the domestic partners bill. Before that, we came a long way since the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1975. Of course, that process started earlier. The Hon. Murray Hill, a Liberal member of the upper house, was the first person in Australia to actually bring a bill to a parliament in Australia to decriminalise homosexuality. That, of course, is what got the process started. I think now we are more mature on these issues and we should be able to get the process right with the very first bill. A consultation would certainly help us do that.

I will give the minister some advance notice of where I am concerned. In clause 4 of the bill, from what I can gather, there are some descriptions about examples of health services or treatments that do not constitute a conversion practice. One of those is 'genuinely advising an individual about the potential impacts of gender affirming medical treatment.' To me, that sounds a bit unclear.

I do not think this will be the sort of problem that you would experience in Texas, for example, but what if that medical practitioner is somebody who wears their religious identity on their sleeve and their advice, impact or information is telling that person that if they go through this process they will go to hell? Is that still exempt under this example that has been given by the minister? Clause 4(4) states:

- (4) To avoid doubt, the following are examples of what does not constitute a conversion practice under this section:
 - (a) stating what relevant religious teachings are or what a religion says about a specific topic;
 - (b) general requirements in relation to religious orders or membership or leadership of a religious community;
 - (c) general rules in educational institutions...

These are very vague. I would like to see assurances from the minister as to exactly what they mean. If you are speaking to a group of people—not specifically one person sitting in a room under a hot

light—and talking about the illness of homosexuality, is that exempt, or is it only a conversion practice if it is a one-on-one practice rather than a group of young people, in particular? Let us face it, these are the victims of conversion practice, young men and women, teenagers and young adults.

I am curious about requirements in relation to religious orders or membership of religious communities, and am trying to think of how that is relevant at all to conversion practice. Either it is an illegal activity under the act or it is not, either it causes harm or it does not. If it is in the name of religion, does that somehow mean it is not doing the same damage as if it were simply because a couple of bigots decided to do it?

We know, from what we have researched and learned about conversion practice, that it is predominantly in religious communities that we see conversion practice. So I will be asking for explanations from the minister when this bill goes into committee.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the community for their advocacy—the LGBTIQ+ community, which has certainly grown in the period I have been politics—and the commonsense approach they take to their advocacy as well. They are a very respectable group of lobbyists and they deserve to be heard. I dream of the day when it is of no interest what somebody's sexual orientation or preference is unless you want to ask them out. Otherwise, what does it matter? What on earth does it have to do with anybody else?

It is something that is learnt, discrimination or feelings of discomfort against people who might be same-sex attracted or who fit within that LGBTIQ+ group of our community. I would like to see the day when it is simply not considered an issue for anybody, and that will only happen when you are successful with your goals.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (17:07): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2024, and indicate that this is a matter of conscience for the Liberal Party. In those circumstances, our party room would appreciate a briefing on this bill, or at least to have had the opportunity to have read the bill before coming in here today. I understand that as we speak the shadow attorney general is trying to seek that briefing and is working constructively with the Attorney-General's Office on that front. It is our hope that can be received before debate is concluded on the bill.

The circumstances around this bill being introduced are highly irregular and unusual. I do not understand why members of this parliament were only provided with the bill about 30 minutes ago when the minister moved it. I do not understand why we are suspending standing orders to complete debate today, and I do not understand why it has only appeared on the weekly program about a couple of hours ago. That is very disappointing with a bill of such importance.

I do hope we can at least have the opportunity to read the bill before concluding debate today. If we do not, I indicate to the house that I will be supporting this bill, because I support the objects of this bill, which are to recognise and prevent the harm caused by conversion practice and promote respectful and open discussions regarding sexuality and gender. Those are objects I am very happy to support. The rest of the bill I have not had the opportunity to read or understand. I hope I get the opportunity to do so before the conclusion of this debate or that members might have the opportunity to do so between the houses.

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) (17:10): I am pleased to close debate in order to make progress to get this piece of legislation into law. I am grateful for the contributions, particularly of course from the people on this side of the chamber who always speak so eloquently and emotionally not only from the heart but also from the head about what is right to do.

I am grateful that there has been an indication, at least in principle, of general support for the concept of not having conversion practices in South Australia from the two speakers from the opposition. I note, however, that as it has been declared a conscience vote we will have a variety of views being expressed at some point on this subject.

I have always found that the member for Unley has been a strong ally on issues relating to social justice, in particular those relating to the LGBTIQ+ community, and so I was a little

disappointed that there was a lead-off in trying to make this a party political challenge. It was a little inaccurate as well. I know that my good friend the member for Reynell in a previous incarnation under the Weatherill government was involved in, I think, some four pieces of legislation that were about extending greater rights. I do not say that to try to continue to do pointscore but simply to make sure that the record is aware that there were, particularly on surrogacy and reproduction—

The Hon. K.A. Hildyard: Relationships register.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Relationships register, which of course has beautifully been largely surpassed by marriage. I was also involved in a piece of legislation that enabled adoption to be extended to same-sex. Again, it is not about trying to do the pointscore but simply that it is unfortunate that a party political attack attempt was made in the context of what is such an important and seriously quite beautiful piece of legislation.

I say that recognising that there will be some people, particularly I imagine those who have suffered so badly from the experience or have loved ones who have, who would wish it to be slightly different, who may wish to have seen something more and something slightly different. The art of the democracy in the form that we have it, is that we seek to gain sufficient support in order to carry legislation through. I pay enormous credit to the Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher from the other place, in his capability to push legislation as far as it can go and yet remain a piece of legislation that will gain support. I pay tribute to his capacity to do that on this particular piece of legislation.

We, as the people in the gallery may have noticed, spend a lot of time talking and sharing and comforting each other on this side, and I really appreciate the messages that I have received from those who have not spoken and also particularly from those who have. My other very good friend, the member for Hurtle Vale, Minister for Human Services, I know has carried this particular issue for a number of years, and will sit with me as we go through the committee stage.

There is such a unanimity of strength that we experience in our team and it is the source of keeping all of us going. When one feels a little overemotional, the others will step in and support, so thank you for that and particularly for the support when I was struggling with the second reading speech.

What is most important here is not our experiences but those of the community for whom we are making this change: those who have experienced it, those who have loved people who have experienced it, and those who we now hope will never experience it. I commend this bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Minister, are you prepared to take more than just three questions per clause, considering the shortness of the time?

The CHAIR: It is actually not her say, it is my say.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Are you, sir, prepared to allow additional questions per clause? I am not sure that I will need them but I may.

The CHAIR: I am happy to take it case by case, so I am open to it. If I think the question is quite valid I will allow an additional question. If I think you might be straying a bit then I might say no.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Minister, are you able to advise when you told the SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance that the bill would be presented to the parliament for the first time today and it would be started and finished within the one sitting?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I personally did not. This is a bill that belongs quite rightly to the Hon. Kyam Maher. I am informed there have been discussions for a considerable amount of time with SARAA about this piece of legislation.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Are you able to advise the house when they were actually advised then? Not when you told them but perhaps when they were advised by the appropriate minister.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: No, I am not in a position to advise on that.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Your advisers do not know? You have different advisers on the floor here than the minister relied on for this bill?

The CHAIR: The minister has indicated that she is not in a position, which would include advice she is given, so we need to move on. I will take that second question you asked as a supplementary so I will give you two more questions.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Can you advise when the work on the bill began?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: This was an election commitment, so it was stated prior to the last election that Labor would be seeking to introduce such a piece of legislation, and I am advised that it has been worked on since coming into government.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: When was the first draft completed?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Given that the process of drafting a bill is a confidential matter that relates to cabinet processes, I do not propose to give all of the timing details. However, the bill expresses the intent that was in the election commitment and since coming into government the Attorney-General has had, as part of his program of work, to prepare such a piece of legislation.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: When did the department start consultation on the bill?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: As it was an election commitment, the consultation, whether departmental or through the aegis of the Attorney-General individually, has taken place since before the election.

Clause passed.

Clause 2 passed.

Clause 3.

Mr ELLIS: I want to ask specifically about the definition of serious harm. In a briefing, which we were very appreciative to receive recently, it was suggested to us it would set quite a high bar for harm, so I want to confirm that that is the case. And I wonder whether the minister might elaborate on some examples of what would be considered 'substantial', if that is an appropriate thing to do, so specifically serious harm, subclause (b).

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I appreciate the intent of the question to better understand at what point there is a trigger between harm and serious harm, given that one is civil and the other is criminal. Obviously the definition that sits here is reasonably useful, particularly in terms of mental harm: psychological harm, including mental illness, nervous shock, distress, anxiety or fear that is more than trivial. The question of the point at which that moves into serious harm is reasonably straightforward when it endangers a person's life. It is something that would be judged by the courts in terms of 'substantial'. While I appreciate it is a reasonable question to ask for examples, my adviser is reluctant to give one specifically that might then shape the way in which the legislation is interpreted. We think we need to let the courts do that.

Clause passed.

Clause 4

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: In my second reading contribution I referred to examples of health services or treatments that do not constitute a conversion practice. Dot point three refers to 'genuinely advising an individual about the impacts'. 'Impacts' is quite a broad term, because there are both positive and negative impacts, of course, when you are using the words 'impacts of gender-affirming medical treatment'. So if a religious belief is impacted, or if a religious belief is that you would go to hell, for example, if you went through this process and the doctor was of the persuasion that he or she believed that and that was part of the process of advising the potential patient of an impact of going through with that process, would that not constitute a conversion practice?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The reading of that dot point in the smaller font as one of the examples needs to be read in the context of the work that is being done under clause 3(a). What would govern that question of whether it is genuine advice being provided on potential impacts has to be read in the context of the health service being offered by a practitioner that is clinically appropriate under reasonable professional judgement and also that there has been compliance with all relevant legal, professional and ethical requirements.

If it sat alone as a separate example, you might well want to know what the line would be about what is acceptable in talking about potential impacts, but read within (i) and (ii) that is then more narrowly constrained by those legal settings about reasonable professional judgement and complying with the legal, professional and ethical requirements. In the end, as with anything, that could only be tested by the court. But in determining whether a case would be taken or what the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner in the case of these services might choose to do, that is the context in which that would be read.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Just to be clear, what if the patient was at a private hospital being run by a church organisation and one of the conditions of employment at that church organisation was that you were aware of church practices—faith practices—and you were expected to apply those? We know that happens, because we saw it happen to the Catholic-run hospital in Canberra when they refused to do abortions. It is now run by the ACT government. What if the religious practice was considered of equal value—or equal status, if you like—to the health practice of a hospital that was run by a religious organisation?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: My understanding is that anything that was done on the basis of religious views could not override reasonable professional judgement and legal, professional and ethical requirements of operating as a health practitioner. As I say, that could only ultimately be tested through a court. But when taking a complaint, either by the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner or through the courts, the idea of a religious practice being seen to supersede operating in a way that was clinically appropriate would not be given support through the wording of this legislation. I am just looking at my adviser to make sure I have articulated that sufficiently clearly.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Clause 4(3) goes on to say:

- (b) genuinely facilitating an individual's coping skills, development or identity exploration to meet the individual's needs, including by providing acceptance, support or understanding to the individual; or
- (c) the use by a person, without more, of the following expressions:
 - (i) an expression, including in prayer, of a belief or principle, including a religious belief or principle;
 - (ii) an expression that a belief or principle ought to be followed or applied.

Just to be clear, are you able to perhaps rephrase that in a manner that would clarify as to whether a therapy or a practice of using prayer or scripture or some other religious tool would be exempt from the bill?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The section of the clause we are talking about, obviously, is about areas not included in an understanding of what conversion practice is. We have addressed the health context and now we are turning to ways in which conversations can occur to genuinely support an individual in their coping skills, their development or identity exploration to meet their needs and, within that context, also saying that a person is able to have an expression of prayer, belief or principle and whether that in fact ought to be followed.

That last qualification of saying what is not a conversion practice, that one I just articulated, turns in part on the clause 'without more,' so the expression of those views 'without more' is not a conversion practice.

The question is essentially what work is 'more' doing in that clause? Without having the wide variety of experiences, it is difficult to fully qualify what 'more' might consist of, but it would be examined in detail in the event of anyone bringing a complaint about their experience of being preyed on in a way that was experienced by that person as an attempt to change their gender identity or

their sexuality. Again, this kind of legislation, given the full diversity of the human experience and interactions, will be tested through its application.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: I think that would be quite confusing for the average listener. I am just wondering what guidance a magistrate might get from reading the *Hansard* to try to understand the intent of the parliament, as to what it actually wanted, when it debated this bill.

If the Church of Scientology, for example, was offering services for parents who had children who identified in the LGTIQA+ category and who wanted them to have a different view of the world or a different view of themselves, would they be able to use their religious teachings to, if you like, try to explain their view of the practice that that child may very well be attracted to?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The advice I am receiving is that, if one is to better understand what the 'without more' term means, what is permitted is the expression of a belief or a principle that ought to be followed or not followed and that needs to be read in the context of the first subclause under 4, which indicates what a conversion practice is, which is something that is:

- (a) directed to an individual on the basis of the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity; and
- (b) directed to changing or suppressing the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

So there is the distinction between expressing a view and directing to seek to alter the person's identity.

Clause passed.

Clause 5 passed.

Clause 6.

Mr ELLIS: I have a solitary question, I suspect, minister. I have a question about causation. Clearly, in order to make out the elements of this offence in a criminal matter, the Crown will have to prove that the serious harm occurred as a result of the conversion practice. I am not an expert on this front by any stretch, so if I embarrass myself I hope you will forgive me, but my understanding is that people who are confronting quite a few of these challenges in terms of gender identity and sexual orientation can quite often have a long, difficult road through some of these challenges in terms of finding themselves and that sort of thing, and it is reasonably foreseeable that that long winding journey might have a number of adverse events that take place throughout it.

Does the Crown anticipate that there will be any difficulties in establishing that there was causation between the conversion practice and the serious harm and will reasonable doubt possibly be raised that it might have occurred at any number of those other adverse events if they, in fact, occurred?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: The member does identify one of the many challenges in this part of the law and in addressing any challenges that people experience, particularly after some time has elapsed. Causation is a well-known concept within the law, and it is one that courts are practised at seeking to determine. That would have to be done on a case-by-case basis that the court was able to identify sufficient proof to identify causation. It will not always be a simple matter, as the member has rightly identified.

Mr ELLIS: I am potentially asking legal questions as opposed to drafting questions, so hopefully you forgive me here. Would it then be the case if there are multiple events in this hypothetical situation that would mitigate the harm and potentially drag it down under the level of serious harm, if that makes sense? If there are a number of events that cause accumulation of harm to build up over that journey, amounting to serious harm at the end, would those events then possibly be spread out over the entirety of those events thus attributing a small amount to each? Does that make sense?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am advised that serious harm can arise from a combination of conversion practices and that it must be assessed by considering the totality of the conversion practices.

Mr ELLIS: Not all those events would be—and this is a wildly hypothetical situation—conversion practices. I do not have a specific example to share but it could be other adverse events that happen that contribute to the harm experienced.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: This is something again where the court will have to do work. It is about that concept of causation, so the court identifying that there has been a causation between the conversion practices experienced as opposed to other challenging experiences, which I think is what the member has been drawing out, that someone may have a series of complexities in their life and end up in this case where you would say this person has suffered serious harm in the course of their life. Not all of it may have directly come from conversion practices. Again, that is the burden of a court to determine whether there is sufficient proof that the conversion practices element rises to the test of serious harm alone.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (7 to 9) schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third 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) (17:42): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

I appreciate the opposition may well have more questions and matters to put on record in the other place. Given this is an issue that has been a longstanding one that has required being addressed and was also an election commitment, it cannot have been a complete surprise that it might come up at some stage. I am grateful nonetheless for the member for Unley having asked some very serious and thoughtful questions, and of course the member for Narungga has also asked very serious and very thoughtful questions, and I appreciate those. I am grateful to the advisers who I had next to me who try to make up for my deficiencies in legal training. I look forward to seeing this bill not only pass through here but become law and be commenced so that we can address this matter once and for all.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 August 2024.)

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (17:44): I am the lead speaker on this bill. I will try to be as effective as I can.

Mr Odenwalder: We believe in you.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: You weren't here last sitting week, Lee.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown): Order! The member for Unley will be heard in silence. He has the right to be heard in silence. Member for Unley.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Thank you, sir. The Liberal Party supports this bill. The bill proposes a substantial overhaul of the driver training and licence framework in South Australia, primarily by transferring responsibility for practical driving tests from private authorised examiners to government examiners. Additionally, it mandates higher industry standards, including the introduction of mandatory GPS tracking and cameras in training vehicles. The reform is positioned as a measure to combat widespread corruption and misconduct within the industry as highlighted by past complaints and the findings of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The bill seeks to address significant issues in the current driver training system, including unethical behaviour by some examiners and concerns about the adequacy of driving instruction. The key changes include a shift to government examiners. The most notable change is the transition from approximately 263 private authorised examiners to a government-led testing system of around 40 to 50 examiners.

Obviously, there is some concern, particularly in regional South Australia, about that significant reduction in examiners and what that might do for wait times for people who have gone through the process of getting their hours up, having their driving lessons, filling out their logbook and then sitting for the test. I wonder whether that will mean—a bit like the way some parents will enrol their child in the school of their choice five years before the enrolment date because there is such a waiting list—that learner drivers will need to enrol or book their tests 12 months out in order to not have a delay.

We know how important it is to have a driver's licence. Statistically, you are three times more likely to struggle to get a job as a young person without a driver's licence than if you have a driver's licence, so it is such an important tool in the toolbox for those who are entering the workforce in particular. We believe that the dramatic reduction in amateurs will have severe impacts on the availability of tests, particularly in regional and remote areas where lack of resources could lead to significant delays and force residents to travel long distances. We have a public hospital system here, but we are seeing that there is outsourcing to private hospitals for beds. This government does seem to have an obsession against the private sector.

There have been some awful things that have happened to young women, in particular, in cars with the driving instructors, and we have all read about those in reports in the paper. However, I do not accept that how the personnel are employed will make a difference. It is things like cameras, GPS tracking and so forth that will make a difference, that will make it safer.

I know, from when I had the education portfolio, the number of child sex offences that were committed by public servants who were teachers, or who worked at government schools, was very high—and many of them were still on the payroll while they were going through the process of the court system.

At the briefing, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport noted that there is a shortage of instructors in regional South Australia, but did not consider that the proposed reforms would hamper service delivery. So we are starting from behind the eight ball already when it comes to the testing services, even before this is off the ground. I know my colleague the Hon. Ben Hood, who is a very effective and committed regional-based member of parliament, would certainly like to see those services improved in regional South Australia and down in the South-East, Mount Gambier in particular.

The department will purchase driver training vehicles on a one-to-one basis—that is, 40 or 50 vehicles—and will rely on customers' own vehicles should they have a disability requiring a special set up. That is different from the old days when I had my driving test, back in 1978 I think it was. A government-employed driving instructor at Elizabeth—I think it was the Elizabeth Department of Transport back then, I do not think they had fancy names like Service SA—sat in my car while I drove and marked me off on my three-point turn, my parallel parking, indicator, using my rearview mirror, not exceeding the speed limit, and so forth.

With a portion of vehicles being off-line for servicing and getting deployed to regional communities where there is a need, there is a concern that there will be insufficient supply to meet demand. That is a genuine concern from the Liberal Party.

The department claims that most of the current authorised examiners do not work full-time and that the new model will satisfy current needs. That is a good point, because a hybrid system where you have government and fully-vetted instructors may very well enable people who are transitioning into retirement get a new set of skills. They might only want to work a week a month or a couple of days a week or whatever, particularly those who might be running a farm in regional South Australia. In the off season they could earn some extra money working for the government or, alternatively, working under contract delivering these driving test services.

That would benefit not just the drivers being tested, with the availability of booking space for the driving test, but also in terms of opportunities for additional employment options in regional South Australia. Perhaps that could be considered by the minister or the department when the scheme rolls out.

The competency-based training assessment method used by 80 per cent of learners until recently will no longer be available in its current form. Instead, all learners will be required to take a practical test with the government examiner, with a hybrid vehicle road test model proposed. This system change would lead to increased costs for learners who may need additional lessons to prepare for the driving test. I think this is an additional expense that has surprised some who have been observing this process.

We know that we are already in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. We know that families are struggling. It is a family responsibility getting a young person a driver's licence, and it is a very pleasurable one. My advice to the transport minister with his daughters is that he be their instructor and spend all of those hours with his daughters in the car. It is amazing what conversations you can have once they are competent enough to talk and drive at the same time as they get their hours up—and they can't leave; they have to sit there and listen to you and talk to you.

Mr Basham: And they want you there.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Indeed. They want you there because they want to get their hours up. I advise every father to be the volunteer to help those young learner drivers get their hours up. It is amazing when you can advise your children to drive to new and exciting places that they have never been to before and give them a bit of a history lesson as to why you are there.

Technological requirements: the introduction of mandatory cameras and GPS tracking in all vehicles is aimed at increasing the transparency and safety, but it has raised concerns regarding privacy and mental health. The market will determine what types of cameras and GPS systems will be employed. I know that the Hon. Mr Hood has raised some concerns about ignition-linked GPS. Many of the MDIs will have camera recordings in their vehicles, for both private and business purposes, kept by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, with the technological aspects of storing and sending this data to be determined.

The reforms promise a reduced cost for learners. This may be misleading, as instructors argue that learners will likely need more lessons under the new model, resulting in higher overall expenses. Currently, the average cost of obtaining a licence is \$1,400. This could rise significantly as more lessons are required to meet the new testing standards.

No compensation is proposed for the current authorised examiners. This is a significant change for those who have built up a business model, of course, around this business. I know that it is one of those areas that is in short supply of quality people who are in it for the right reasons, so people who are doing it, and have done it for quite some time, have put in a significant investment of time and money. They are extremely responsible and take their jobs very seriously. Many of them are probably on the pathway to retirement because they may have come from another job that may have been more labour intensive, for example, and their bones are sending them some messages that maybe they should be looking at doing something else, and they have found this and enjoyed it. So that is sad, that people will be losing their businesses and there is no compensation.

When we had significant changes with the interruption of Uber, for example, there was compensation for taxi drivers, but it is disappointing that there is no compensation or even a phase-out period—that we are aware of anyway—for the drivers. That is an issue that has been raised with the shadow minister on this matter as well. The reforms will create a new regulated fee of \$240 for on-the-road assessment. Currently, it is market-driven except for the \$38 learners fee which was calculated to cover the proposed expected costs.

Sitting suspended from 18:00 to 19:31.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The Liberal Party has been told by the industry that very little consultation has occurred with them on these reforms. Consultation for any change in this portfolio under the previous government was always insisted upon when the minister was the shadow minister in this area. I know that the Hon. Ben Hood in the other place, who is the shadow minister for this,

would like to see the bill slowed and not rushed through before the industry has an opportunity to respond to some of the concerns that they have.

Many fundamental questions remain about these reforms, with few answers to be found in the bill, with inadequate assurances about the impact and the department's ability to deliver timely government examiner-conducted assessments, particularly in the regions. I covered that earlier before the meal break. There are 266 authorised examiners currently and we are going down to 40 to 45 government examiners to cover the whole state. We have significant concerns for regional communities and the extra delays and a growing backlog that will be created as a result.

Can the government assure the people of South Australia that the \$240 assessment fee will not be increased? Industry groups that the Liberal Party consulted with were concerned that a whole range of additional costs were not being factored in. When the supply of MDIs inevitably contracts as a result of these changes, driving lessons will surely increase. What will this mean for road safety? Will it mean that learner drivers will be getting less instruction? Surely, especially during the cost-of-living crisis, parents will not be inclined to send their kids for professional driving training. When people have limited choices it may very well be that, where a professional driving coach may be required, a family member may step in for the family to save the cost of that lesson.

The opposition have heard strong criticisms of the additional and exorbitant powers being handed to the registrar, things such as that powers could exceed those of SAPOL, or even ASIO some people have raised. We have been advised that by removing police officers from having responsibility over much of this legislation their rights to appeal are effectively being taken away from them.

It is the Liberal Party's understanding that anyone employed as a government examiner cannot be operated as an MDI, therefore does this not remove the ability for corruption or bribery to occur which the minister believes is so rampant? Many South Australians go down the competency based training and assessment pathway, particularly those very young people who face unique challenges such as those with anxiety, domestic violence survivors, those with behavioural difficulties and those on the spectrum. With all these options being abolished, we have concerns about how these people will receive appropriate driver training as government vehicles will only be used.

This could add another layer of complexity, particularly for those young people with various degrees of autism. We know that change can be quite distressing for somebody who has autism. Where they have spent the last 12 months driving a particular car, with a particular seat style or a particular driving wheel, they know where the gearstick is and how the accelerator feels, then all of a sudden they are in a car that they are not familiar with, will that mean that the anxiety that they are experiencing will mean that they simply will not be able to focus on passing the test because they are too worried about the changes that are around them? I think that is a very genuine concern and I just wonder if the minister has got an answer on how that would be dealt with.

I know that some jurisdictions have the option of the family car or the car that the child has been driving to gain their experience which can be used. But from what I understand with this bill, it is simply that the government car is the option, which obviously has other issues. What if the car is in for a service? That means instead of 50 cars you are down to 49. What if there is some bizarre system in the computer that sends 10 cars off on a single day for their servicing? What happens in that instance? It just seems that restricting it to 50 really does make it difficult to understand how we will not see a bottleneck or queues or parking, rather than ramping, when it comes to access to the examiners.

We are told that the department has no concerns about dispatching vehicles to far-flung places like Ceduna and Mount Barker to undertake driving tests. The industry have told us that they simply do not believe that it is possible for just 40 to 50 examiner vehicles to service the demand. The department acknowledged the market failures in certain parts of regional South Australia, but how can an 80 per cent reduction in examiners possibly overcome this market failure?

Ultimately, we have heard out loud and clear from the motor driving industry that it is the need for fair, reasonable and reliable testing. They share our concerns, and these reforms do not achieve those outcomes, so I reiterate that both the industry and the opposition have strong concerns

about the lack of consultation and the sudden urge for the progression of the bill, despite reforms in the industry being flagged some years ago.

Contrast that with the government's proposed Rider Safe motorcycle reforms, which I understand were heavily consulted on with the direct input of industry groups, where it is the same courtesy to what the minister described as the most significant reforms that any government has made to the driver training industry. The lack of consultation, combined with the lack of detail included in the bill, leaves much of it to the regulations and to the discretion of the registrar, making it difficult for the opposition to give its full support to the bill as it is presented. I am also aware that the shadow minister only this afternoon received answers to his questions after he was first briefed on the bill a week ago.

To conclude, we will not be opposing the bill in this place. The opposition implores the minister to halt the rushed passage of these fundamental reforms to the motor driving training industry and urges him to go back to the community to consult with the industry.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (19:39): It is important that we ensure that everyone who is learning to drive is given the absolute best opportunity to do so and that everyone's safety, be it the student, the instructor and all others who are using the roads, is protected to the best of our ability. It is why I give support to the Motor Vehicles (Motor Driving Instructors and Authorised Examiners) Amendment Bill 2024.

Over the past eight years, I understand that there have been a total of 135 disciplinary actions that have been undertaken involving 124 people, representing about 20 per cent of industry members. Of these, 12 authorised examiners/driving instructors were convicted on multiple charges, including bribery, fraud and corruption, as well as, disturbingly, sexual offences.

Following a number of investigations and prosecutions, the industry was reviewed during 2017 and 2018, and it was found that the appropriate level of oversight of the industry is an issue. This was also confirmed in a 2022 ICAC report. Now we have the bill before us today, which is designed to strengthen industry standards, raising accountability and improving safety outcomes for all who are learning to drive.

One of the biggest changes out of this is that we will now see practical driver tests for class C car licences being undertaken by government examiners and not private operators. For those undertaking what is formally known as the Competency Based Training and Assessment, more commonly referred to as the logbook method, they too will have to undertake a practical test in the company of a government examiner rather than a private operator to be able to obtain their provisional licence (or P-plates).

Turning 16 and being able to learn to drive is a rite of passage for so many South Australians. It can be a really intense time. I know this firsthand because, for me, it was both a combination of ecstatic energy to be that little bit closer to independence, but it also fluctuated with the anxiety of being able to take that next step to learn something new in what did entail serious responsibility and a degree of risk. That is more than enough for somebody who—

The SPEAKER: Excuse me, the member for Elizabeth and friends, maybe if you could just keep the chatter down a little bit so I can hear the member for King. Thank you.

Mrs PEARCE: As I was saying, that is more than enough for someone to navigate through. Learning how to drive should not come with the additional risks to one's safety above what can be expected when you get behind the wheel for the very first time, nor should they be ripped off for this necessity, with many relying on being able to drive to get to school, work, volunteering commitments and so on.

Now private operators will continue to deliver driver training, and the reforms introduced in this bill will implement higher industry standards, including safety measures such as the mandated use of in-vehicle cameras and GPS tracking. Not only is the utmost priority of the government the safety of our learner drivers, but I can also attest that it is the widely shared sentiment among the community that, where it arises, we stamp down on inappropriate behaviour within the sector.

These recording devices will be required to operate during all training and assessments that are delivered by both private industry providers and government examiners. Such use of the devices will help to minimise misconduct and poor behaviour and provide reassurance to both trainers and learners alike. The cameras will also ensure that training and assessments are being delivered in the correct and appropriate way.

Should a camera not be used in line with the requirements, it will be an offence of the requirements; however, drivers will not have to utilise the camera during their own private use of the vehicle.

With the new code of practice to be developed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, it will set the standard expected of all instructors through the inclusion of expectations such as:

- a minimum standard of conduct and behaviour;
- standards of driving instruction;
- business practices such as written agreements for services, refund rights and costs provided to customers and issuing of receipts;
- camera use and data transfer requirements; and
- complaints management processes.

Failure to follow the code will be enforced with breaches able to be sanctioned by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, who will be given greater power to sanction driving instructors through measures including formal warnings, providing expiation notices, prosecution, requiring further training, the suspension of accreditation and the possible cancellation of accreditation.

Of course, when it comes to safety on the road, we also have it front of mind that people cannot be learning in cars that are long past their best before date, which is why I am pleased to see that there will also be the introduction of a minimum standard for vehicles used for training and assessments.

In line with this, it will be the standard that all training and assessment vehicles will have to meet the standard of a minimum ANCAP rating of five stars, be no older than 10 years, be fitted with dual brakes and, key amongst all others, be roadworthy. Like many, though, hearing this news, my mind also extends to the country kids who are learning to drive, often due to the necessity of needing to navigate further distance, which comes with a life in the regions.

Around 7,000 Class C tests occur in regional areas each year and, as a girl who learned to drive out in the back paddocks of the family farm, I am pleased to share that these reforms will significantly improve the quality of service they will receive in this space because learners in regional South Australia will benefit from reduced and regulated fees, ensuring that they are able to receive the same fair pricing as learners in the city. In application, it will mean that no matter where a learner driver wishes to take their test in South Australia, they can rely on receiving the best quality of service at the same prices as a learner in the city.

I understand that with the passing of this bill, there will be permanently based authorised examiners in the regions to deliver practical tests, with the locations of these examiners to be decided upon following discussion with the industry in the coming months. These reforms as a whole are a significant step forward, helping to make the process of learning to drive more consistent, more fair and safer across the board for all who are involved in what is already a daunting process.

Through our introduction of stronger oversight, higher standards across the industry and our steadfast commitment to prioritising the safety and wellbeing of learner drivers, this bill will help drive much-needed improvements within the industry.

I commend this bill to the house and welcome the many necessary changes it will bring. Importantly, it is another step in the Malinauskas Labor government's commitment to improving road safety for all South Australians.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (19:47): I rise to make a brief contribution and, in doing so, I understand and recognise that there will be a certain amount of information which will need to be gained through the committee process, not just in this house but I assume in the other place as well.

Although I recognise there are intentions that are good and pure when looking at this process, there are aspects that, as a regional member of parliament, especially one from the further flung areas of our state, I have concerns about—for example, the realities of how it will be delivered to regional communities.

Already, at the moment, with the existing number of trainers and authorisers within regional South Australia there are challenges. There are challenges for accessibility for people in further flung regional areas and there are challenges with affordability.

The member for King, who has just spoken, highlighted the aspects around trying to create a system that puts in place a level of equity and that is something which, indeed if it is able to be achieved through this process, is certainly admirable and welcomed.

I still have a lot of uncertainty about the reality of how this looks for regional communities and near-on concern about what it will mean for those of us who hail from small regional centres, small population centres and isolated population centres but population centres nonetheless. I think about communities such as Ceduna and Streaky Bay. Obviously, Port Lincoln is a significant regional centre, but it is an area that still has challenges when it comes to making sure there are enough trainers and accreditors within a populace like that.

With the proposals that are put forward here, I worry that that number is already at a stretch as far as the ability to be able to appropriately service the populace. The proposal that is put forward here and the details that are being provided broadly to the opposition actually point to there being fewer opportunities and fewer examiners that may be accessible. As a regional MP, I know the smaller the number, the harder to access. We are always at the pointy end when it comes to these arrangements, so I recognise the intent of the bill.

There is some uncertainty in my mind as to the size or the scale of the problem that the minister is aiming to solve as far as some of the alleged inconsistencies when it comes to the assessment process. My interest is really in ensuring my regional community is not further disadvantaged through this process because regional kids in our communities actually rely on having their licence, having their transport, having the ability to get to work and get to different parts of their region even more so than their metropolitan cousins because there are no other alternatives. There are no public transport options. There is no ability to more easily carpool because the populations are spread out further.

Through this process, I am looking forward to trying to unpack and get some answers from the committee stage to come and also, I am sure, in between the houses and in the other place. As a regional representative, what I want to ensure is that my community, my regional kids learning to drive, are not further disadvantaged by this process.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (19:51): I want to thank members for their contributions and thank them for their thoughtful, constructive advice on this piece of legislation. It is legislation that has had a long passage. It was borne out of an ICAC report to the previous government. It is fair to say that this legislation has been borne out through a long and bitter process. I hope it has a speedy and bipartisan passage through both houses of parliament.

What we were attempting to do is to lower the cost of getting a driver's licence for families and ensure that our children are indeed safe while they are learning how to drive. The important reforms we are making here are cameras in cars and making sure that the final assessment is done by an independent government employee, not the trainers. That delineation is vitally important to improve probity and improve measures to make sure there is no unnecessary cost put on families and of course the insourcing and the assessment are a big part of that.

Most importantly, we want tools available for parents to teach their children how to drive available for them freely on the internet. I think parents are best placed to know when their children are ready to take a test. By and large, these reforms are pretty similar to the reforms introduced by

the previous government that were delayed for a period of time by the previous government and these reforms now should, I think, achieve a good level of bipartisan support. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 11 passed.

Clause 12.

Mr TELFER: Thank you, minister, for this opportunity. As I said, there are some questions and uncertainties. In my second reading contribution I highlighted that there are some aspects which, especially as a regional member of parliament, I am looking to have some clarification on—in clause 12, the interpretation aspect in particular. Is the interpretation of this part modelled on the outlaw motorcycle gang legislation and, if so, why is it considered necessary for such restrictions of association to be imposed on motor driving instructors?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, it is loosely based on those association laws—loosely. Again, remember that the foundation of this legislation is an ICAC report. The ICAC report found a lot of systemic issues of corruption, bribery and sexual assault, and what we are attempting to do is to make sure that we can protect young people from predatory behaviour in this industry.

This is very similar to the legislation the previous government introduced when my predecessor was in this position, so I am pretty sure that the member is familiar with the reasoning for this—maybe not the current member, but the previous member would have been reasonably comfortable with the assessments done on this, based on what their party room had been briefed on by the previous minister.

Mr TELFER: That being the case, what evidence does DIT or SAPOL have about the extent of that criminal association in the MDI industry?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is not about particular connections with outlaw motorcycle gangs, it is about protecting people from that type of behaviour within the industry. The government is not making an assertion that there are people who are involved in training and assessment who have links to outlaw motorcycle gangs. What we are saying is that we are using similar pieces of legislation, through the drafting by parliamentary counsel, that allow us to ensure that the types of practices and behaviours that might have occurred can be outlawed and to make sure that we minimise any impacts on young people. I am not sure what the concern is.

Mr TELFER: I am just trying to unpack the nexus of the legislation. Given that government examiners will be taking over the testing regime of the provisional drivers, alleged offences such as bribery and the like that may have been in the previous regime will now obviously no longer be an issue—we sure hope. The powers of the Registrar are significant powers. Why then do we hand the Registrar such significant powers and legislate against driver instructors' families and friends being associated with potential criminals when the opportunities for bribery and corruption are now, hopefully, significantly lessened?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: There are a couple of reasons: (1) we do not want people who are associated with these organisations teaching young vulnerable people how to drive, and (2) in the heavy vehicle sector there is still the training and assessment being done by the private sector, so we want to make sure we remove that risk. These were all parts, from my understanding, of the previous government's reforms that were outlined in the ICAC report.

I think it is a pretty fair and reasonable thing to say that we do not want people who are involved in illegality or criminality training and being in close contact with young people in any form of enterprise. The specific prohibition is to protect people who are learning how to drive from these types of nefarious behaviour and also to make sure that in the areas where we have heavy vehicles, where you still have the training and assessments done by external providers, we specifically say there is illegality in that area, and we can clamp down on it quickly.

Again, it all goes back to the foundation principle of the ICAC report. I spoke to Ann Vanstone about this on her last day in office. One of the key guiding principles in all these reforms for both governments, the Marshall government and the Malinauskas government, has been her report. Wherever we can stamp out organised crime or any level of criminality, or wherever it can flourish in an area where, at the end of the process, it is a regulated benefit, there is the potential for bribery and corruption, so whatever measures you put in place leading up to that regulatory benefit give the government and the public a safety valve to know that the people who are assessing and training are free from any influence of any organised crime.

Mr TELFER: It is a unique part of a piece of legislation. I am trying to unpack the nuance, the detail. We consider a lot of different legislation and regulated aspects within this place and there is not too much where there is this level of definition around association included within the legislation. I am interested, obviously, in trying to understand the consultation that went with the process of developing this legislation, this part in particular. What level of consultation was there and who was consulted during the development of this part in particular and what, if any, concerns were raised?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Consultation was done by the previous government. Ministers Wingard and Knoll did a large part of the consultation. I make no apology for the fact that we did not consult with the industry on the insourcing of the assessment. The industry quite obviously and blatantly would not support that, because that is a direct impact on their financial model, but it is also fair to say, in the consultation done by the previous government and in our ongoing consultation, that they also accept that the only way to remove the risk of bribery and consultation is to have an independent assessment process.

Let me give you some of the anecdotal stories I have heard back from people who have had their children learn how to drive through a training and assessment process with an outsourced private company. It is fair to say that I do not want to generalise across the entire industry. The ICAC report has made its findings and they are, I think, bankable. What we were hearing is that people were being told to bring large cash amounts to car parks to pay an assessor for the last lesson and assessment. At the end of that large payment in cash, children were being failed and told that they needed further training and further assessment.

The ICAC, the government and the previous government felt that that system was flawed. Whenever you consult on an industry body that does the training and assessment and say to them, 'What do you think about us carving off the assessment part from your business model?' I think the answer is pretty obvious: they will say, 'No, don't do it.' So we have looked at this, gone out and consulted, and we accept that the industry as a whole will not say that this is a good move for them, because it is actually impacting their financial model. But simultaneously, what the consultation has showed us is that even the people who are doing the training and assessment do concede that the only way you are going to rule out bribery and corruption from this industry is to insource the assessment.

The insourcing of the assessment I think makes a lot of good common sense. I will be entirely frank with you: it is not my natural place to think the solution here is more public servants and more bureaucracy, but here it is pretty clear-cut. Parents know their children. The member for Unley spoke quite eloquently about his experience with his children. It is a good experience teaching your children how to drive and you generally know when they are ready to take an assessment.

We are saying that we are happy for parents to have all the modules and the training available for them online for free that they can access and understand what they need to know and what their children need to pass a driving assessment, but simultaneously we are not going to allow the people who deliver that training to also do the assessment, because they are inherently compromised because they are almost perversely incentivised to fail people so they get more training out of them. What we are saying is we accept that the consultation did not come back with the outcome we chose, because the outcome we chose is not beneficial to the people we consulted.

The member for Unley made a very good point. In his remarks in his second reading speech—and I do listen to what the member for Unley says; I always pay attention to his remarks—he made it very clear that this is going to hurt the financial model of some trainers. My view is the

good trainers will prosper, the poor trainers will suffer—the ones whose financial model is to continually fail students or continually try to impose more training, more assessment, through these processes to get more revenue and more income. The good ones will want high turnover, giving good training and a high success rate, and they are the ones who will have the financial model and will succeed under what we are doing.

So I hope that answers your question. There is no level of consultation where we are going to get a tick from the industry saying, 'Yes, great result—you're crashing our business model.' No-one is going to like that, and I accept that, and so did the previous government.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The authorised examiners will be employed by the department; it will be their employer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: They will be public officers.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Public officers on Public Service terms and conditions. Is there anything in this legislation that prevents that term of employment being a contract, not in the way of a public servant contract but a contract where they work exclusively for the government, and the government is paying them to conduct the examinations? They manage their own finances, they pay their own tax and they have an ABN. Does it stop that from happening? Is it prohibited under the bill and is it prohibited under the bill for labour hire?

In other words, a company may start up and provide the training and the specialist skilled staff to then work directly for the government in the same job, and the government would be billed by the labour hire company to actually employ them while they are conducting the same work that employees would do. It happens often, particularly in the hospital system. Is there anything that prohibits that from happening or is that an option if the registrar chooses to do so?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That is a good question by the Opposition Whip. I will just lay out a few governing principles for me as minister. First and foremost: no, we are not looking at labour hire. We are looking at government employees. Government employees cannot have a secondary piece of work, a second job, without the permission of their employer. All of our assessors will be employed by the South Australian government. If they wish to do driver training as another business, they will need to seek the permission of their employer, and obviously they would be inherently conflicted if they were attempting to assess a former student.

I suppose the question then becomes: would you let someone train someone for free? No. My point is we want these people to be public officers. Once they are public officers, they are captured by the governing rules of the public sector, which also includes the Office for Public Integrity, the Ombudsman and the ICAC. Any public officer acting outside the limits of the legislation would be subject to maladministration, misconduct and corruption findings or proceedings against them.

I think what you are asking me is: can we hire someone who has an ABN or has his own company to do assessments on behalf of the government, like a provider? The answer to that is we are not specifically legislating in the legislation to say they will be government employees: we are in-housing them. It is the view of the government that we do not need that in the legislation. We are simply going to say that assessment will be done by the government, and we are going to go out and hire assessors to work for the South Australian government as public sector employees to deliver the service on behalf of the government. We will pay them their wages and conditions, and we will charge the public a fee.

So we are not prohibiting the scenarios that you have mentioned, but that is not our intent. Our intent is to hire people to work for us as public servants in the same way we hire other public servants to deliver frontline services, like at Service SA or in any other form. They would be working for us in delivering this service.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The 40 to 50 number of examiners that has been quoted in the debate: is that full-time equivalent? In other words, is there an ability for, for example, women who want to get back into the workforce to only work a couple of days a week or six hours a day, or farmers to be employed during the off-season by the Public Service, and what would the registrar's attitude be to them having a secondary job, whether it was running a farm or whether it was the family

business? Will it be the default position that, no, you have to do this full time, or if you are doing it part time or casually you will not be able to do anything else, even if it is unrelated?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Again, excellent points by the Opposition Whip. They will be full-time equivalents. I am up for some of the scenarios that the Opposition Whip mentioned. They make complete sense. If in regional areas it is going to be hard for us to find assessors, why not find farmers who could do the work, like the member for Flinders? From what I hear, he is not a very good farmer, and that is why he is here. That is a joke.

Mr Telfer: It is not funny.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I think it is; it is what your colleagues tell me. I think it is a good idea. Women in the workforce: absolutely. All these scenarios are welcome. What I am not keen on, though, is the idea that we would have people doing training and assessing and cross-contaminating the two processes, because the fundamental aspiration of the act is to disconnect the two to make sure we do not have the ability for corruption and bribery. Importantly, the other aspects are where we have young, vulnerable people who are subject to sexual assault or grooming.

So we want a number of things to change in the entire industry. This is a pretty radical upheaval of the industry; I accept that. Not everyone in the industry is going to like this; I accept that. But I also say that two governments in a row, Labor and Liberal, have both read this ICAC report and have come to the same conclusion: it cannot continue.

We cannot have young, vulnerable women in cars without cameras and trackers. We cannot have it. We cannot have the people who are exposed to potential sexual assault or bribery with the people who have the keys in their hands to a driver's licence. Think of what a driver's licence offers a young person: freedom and employment. It is something that they strive for.

It is a very important regulatory licence that the government issues, and it is important that there is integrity behind it. We have two responsibilities: one, to make sure that people who earn this licence to drive on our roads are fit and proper to do so, and two, to make sure people who are seeking to earn that right to drive on our roads do so in a fair and proper way without having to succumb to sexual assault, sexual intimidation or bribery.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Do you think it is then clear enough in the legislation, or under the Public Service Act, that the default position would be: no, if you are a private driving instructor we will not be giving you a job as a government examiner? Or could that happen under these changes?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: There are a number of private trainers we would like to hire. There are a lot of private trainers in the industry who we think are first-class, who we would like to pinch to come and work for the South Australian government to deliver these assessment processes. This would mean we would lose them to the training sector.

What we want is a market-driven training market and a government-led regulatory assessment, which I think is a good mix of best practice. What we do not want is for somebody to have the ability to do both the assessment and the training. We are leaving it in place for the heavy vehicle sector simply because of productivity and commercial requirements, but when it comes to class C licences I think it is important that we separate them, as per the ICAC report.

The CHAIR: The member for Flinders has actually had four questions already, but I will be lenient.

Mr TELFER: Thank you, I appreciate that, sir. The clarification is supplementary to that, and this is where I look at it from a regional perspective and the capacity to be able to have enough people to do the work. Would there be a scenario that you envision where assessors can be MDIs, or vice versa, but not for the same individual? For example, I could be a driving instructor doing the lessons for a student who I could not then assess, or I could assess a student who has received training from someone else. I have the ability and the skill set to do either, but not on the same student. So separate that out but obviously give the opportunity—especially in regional centres where you might not be able to have the capacity to attract people to do the separate jobs? Do you understand?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I will be very clear: no. In regional areas, I expect public servants will have to move to regional areas to do assessments over a period of time if there are backlogs. I will be very clear: I understand the concerns that regional communities have about there not being enough assessors, so I would expect that there are a number of metropolitan-based assessors who would be required, under the terms and conditions of being a South Australian public sector employee, to travel to a regional centre to conduct assessments. What I am not going to have is in the industry people who do training and assessment for a class C licence. That is not going to happen anymore.

Mr TELFER: Even separately?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Even if it is separate. I am not going to have them saying, 'I can train Johnny but assess Jill.' No: you are either an assessor or you are a trainer. If you are an assessor you work for the South Australian government; if you are a trainer you are in the private sector. There is a very clear delineation of responsibilities. One is market driven.

Families will be able to go and see a price structure and a plan about what they need to do to train an individual to get their driver's licence, but the assessment is done independently, which means you cannot go off and (1) buy your driver's licence from a trainer, (2) trainers cannot extort vast amounts of money by continually failing the students and insisting on more training, and (3) people know themselves, people know their children and they know when they are ready.

I do say this as a Labor MP: I would have thought Liberals (conservatives) would have thought this is a much better system because a lot of farmers would have taught their children how to drive. A lot of people in regional areas do not necessarily need to do lessons. I imagine a lot of them have been driving well before they were potentially legally able to, but maybe on private roads.

My point is that, as long as the assessment is independent and rigorous, does it matter where you got your training? The member for Flinders is probably well equipped to train his own children how to drive. He might not have to spend a cent on driver training. Right now, people are spending up to \$2,000, \$3,000, sometimes \$4,000 to teach their children how to drive. In a cost-of-living crisis, those types of dollars are huge. Then ask yourself, in this system, how many people of a lower socio-economic background, who require a driver's licence to get a job to go off and work, simply cannot afford to do so because the people who are offering the training are insisting on more and more training before you pass an assessment?

There is no rigour in between. There is no independent umpire who you can go to and say, 'I think I passed this test but I failed.' There is no camera, there is no independent assessment—you are completely reliant on the person you are paying to do the training. What we are attempting to do is to say, 'Hang on a second. The ICAC report is independent enough for us to rely on to think that there is a lot of extortion going on here and a lot of bribery and a lot of sexual assault, and we need to clean it up.'

I think, by and large, this legislation will fly through the parliament because I think we all generally know this is the right thing to do. I also understand that there are vested interests in industries that are very upset about this, and that is what should reassure us because that tells us everything we need to know about what we are cleaning up.

Mr BASHAM: Just a quick follow-up in understanding that answer in relation to someone training for a car not being able to assess: what about someone who is a heavy vehicle trainer? Could they be an assessor?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Can you explain that?

Mr BASHAM: You said earlier that there is still going to be the private sector looking after heavy vehicles, but could someone who is a dedicated heavy vehicle trainer assess someone in regional areas? If the government employed someone as an assessor, could they employ that person as assessor—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: For car licences?

Mr BASHAM: —for car licences if they do not do car licences.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No.

Clause passed.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: In the gallery a few minutes ago there were students from Christies Beach High School and they were guests of the members for Kaurna, Reynell and Hurtle Vale. We have them on the record.

Bills

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

Committee Stage

Debate resumed.

Clause 13.

Mr TELFER: Thank you for your guidance there. Obviously, there is some substantive clauses and a lot of detail in the subclause. As a part of looking at clause 13, and it is in the context also of the information which has been provided in the previous clauses, this in particular is amending a section. In the context of the powers that are given to the registrar in the previous, there is a lot of vagueness or ambiguity within the legislation as to leaving open the opportunity for the registrar to decide a lot of the detail. Can you give some guidance as to the reasons why more specifics were not put into the legislation? I am guessing when the registrar specifies, is that going to be within regulation or is it going to be guidelines? There is a lot of power and process that the registrar has been equipped to do, rather than putting it in the legislation. Can you give me some guidance as to why, minister?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I do not want to be difficult. You have not given me a specific clause to talk about, so I will give you some general overview that you might want to focus in on afterwards. My view is, with legislation we are becoming too prescriptive. Clause, subsection (b), you will walk on this line forevermore. What we want to do is give as much flexibility to our experts to allow them to walk within guardrails of what it is we are attempting to do.

I am up for you asking me specific questions about specific clauses about what this actually means in terms of specificity. What do you mean by giving the registrar discretion on this issue? I can give you an answer. My general principle is that I think that when we have statutory officers like the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, the Inspector of Mines, the Commissioner of Highways or whatever it might be, the greater level of flexibility we have in legislation for them actually assists the public in good outcomes.

When you are too prescriptive, and I will give you an example of that, which is a bit off topic, Mr Chair, if you will allow me—the alienable rights legislation amendments that the previous government moved in compulsory acquisitions. It leaves no discretion for the Commissioner of Highways when we are compulsorily acquiring a property where there is no alienable right. What does that mean? Mum and dad own a property. They lease it to their kids to run a business. There is no lease in place, therefore there is no alienable right, therefore that business is not compensated. And this is from the party of small business. It is the complete opposite of what you would have intended from those amendments, but that is the outcome of being so prescriptive.

Now my view is, given ministerial oversight, the less prescriptive we are the greater flexibility we have to intervene as legislators and parliamentarians to give better outcomes to our citizens, so we are not bound to the letter of a piece of legislation. Now that is my general overarching principle. I accept the criticism that this does give some bureaucrats a bit too much power, but it also means it gives us more power to intervene.

As a minister, I like the power to intervene. What I do not like is when I am bound by legislation and I cannot give people commonsense outcomes, like the alienable rights issue, where

clearly mum and dad have bought the property, the kids are running the business, and there is no lease because it is mum and dad. There is no alienable right, so we cannot compensate the business, and it is an appalling outcome. Flexibility in legislation is very important.

If you had a specific example, and I am looking at the shadow minister sitting in the gallery, which I should not be mentioning, if there was a specific example between the houses where you think that there is a level of bureaucratic flexibility that is too broad that you would like me to tighten, I will have a look at it, but I would also tell my friends on the other side of parliament this type of legislative freedom is actually quite good for good outcomes for our citizens because it gives us more scope to be flexible.

The CHAIR: No further questions?

Mr TELFER: I have probably already stretched it a fair bit.

The CHAIR: I was trying to work out where in clause 13 you were getting that question from.

Mr TELFER: I was just trying to instigate a broad theory in all encapsulating clauses, sir.

Clause passed.

Clauses 14 and 15 passed.

Clause 16.

Mr TELFER: This aspect of the Motor Vehicles Act amendment bill, speaking about enforcement stuff in particular—the appointment of the authorised officers—I am trying to get an insight into what that process is going to look like. You talked about the potential to utilise or harvest existing MDIs to get into the process of becoming authorised officers, authorised assessors. What is that process going to look like in practice? Is there a training program which is going to be an obligation? Is there the recognition of an existing skill set?

There is already, obviously, accreditation when it comes to the training of MDIs currently, and those MDIs, indeed, in the current system do assessing. What additional process is there going to be for us as we go through the appointment of the authorised officers?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The authorised officers are not the same as the assessors. These are the people who do the investigating, so it is a very different cohort of people. These are people who will have the powers to check phone records, once a complaint has been made to have powers of enforcement to go through and check what has occurred. So this is not a training issue or an assessment issue. This is an enforcement issue.

Mr TELFER: So for me to get an insight into looking at what that process is going to be, the authorised officers, the ones who are doing the investigation, there is a fair old range of powers that have been given to them: entering vehicles, places, examining, etc. Does it stretch to mean that spouses, children of assessors can be questioned? They are fairly broad powers they have within this clause. I am trying to get an insight into where the line is, because with this power we have to make sure that it is not undue power in context of what the bill is trying to achieve.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Authorised officers will have powers that are pretty standard practice across a broad range of industries, such as the Passenger Transport Act (the same sort of authorised powers under that act); the Road Traffic Act; the Harbors and Navigation Act; the Fair Trading Act; and the Environment Protection Act. We have these powers in other pieces of legislation for authorised officers to conduct themselves. We have based it on that.

I do point out to the shadow minister that we are talking about pretty vulnerable people here, who have been in vehicles and who have been subject to some pretty horrific types of crimes that have been reported independently by the Independent Commission Against Corruption. We have looked at a standard set of powers that authorised officers have, and we have taken those well-established powers that are in other pieces of legislation that are longstanding and transferred them here.

This is not a new invention. If you are operating under the Passenger Transport Act, authorised officers have these powers now. If you are operating under the Harbors and Navigation

Act, authorised officers have these powers now. If you are operating under the EPA Act, authorised officers have these powers now. They are well established.

We are not creating a new cohort of powers where we can kick in doors and do all sorts of crazy things that you might be concerned about. These are powers that are well established in other pieces of legislation that we are transferring and using as a template for this act.

Mr TELFER: I get that broader aspect. What we are dealing with often will be small businesspeople—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Fishermen.

Mr TELFER: No, I am just saying within this act here. So individuals running a small business, often out of their own home as their business premises. Page 24 of the bill provides:

- (2) An authorised officer may not exercise the power of entry under this section in respect of premises unless the premises are business premises being used at the time in the course of business.

The scenario may well be that someone's home office is their place of business. Further down it provides:

- (4) In the exercise of powers under this Act, an authorised officer may be assisted by such persons as the authorised officer considers necessary in the circumstances.

Does this give rise to an occasion or an opportunity where there could be a business run out of someone's home, an authorised officer could go to someone's home, enter under these powers and a spouse, a child or a member of that person's family may be considered necessary by an authorised officer to assist within that process? I am not trying to conflate. This is the nuance of this industry in particular.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I point out that these powers under the Passenger Transport Act apply to taxidriviers and rideshare. They are small businesses too. They operate out of people's homes. These authorised officers have similar powers under that act.

Some of the powers we are talking about are things like verify a driver's licence; have a licence examined by a document expert to determine if the driver's licence is counterfeit or not; require a person to confirm their identity; produce your driver's licence, which I think is pretty reasonable; gather evidence that a person is being paid for providing a service; people providing driver training without holding a licence; the lesson test was conducted without the required camera being switched on; gather evidence of text messages and photos on mobile phones; to show the breach of an offence, for example, inappropriate messages to children; evidence that a lesson or a test took place; evidence of knowledge of a VORT route when not entitled to know the VORT route; inspect, verify and/or seize diaries to determine particulars of an offence, e.g. motor driver instructors' diaries to confirm date, times and places of training.

Evidence can be lost or altered if not seized at the time of offences detected. In terms of vehicles, we can get into someone's vehicle and make sure that all the required equipment is functional: the camera works, the tracking device works, the paperwork has been completed, the vehicle is roadworthy. When the public is entrusting their children to people who are going to be basically accredited to do this work, they would expect the state to have the powers to make sure that the people they are entrusting their children with are able to be verified that their children are safe.

I will also say to the shadow minister that this is a volunteer sport. No-one is forcing anyone to be a driver trainer. If you want to be a driver trainer these are going to be the rules, because you are training young children, sometimes vulnerable children, sometimes desperate children or desperate families who need a licence, need an income or need a livelihood. Protections need to be in place.

As I said, the powers that I am talking about are available in other pieces of legislation. These are not new or invented. These are legislative frameworks that we have gotten from authorised officers in other pieces of legislation that have the same impacts on small businesses.

Mr TELFER: Thank you minister, I think this is good clarification that is necessary. The aspect on page 27 about the self-incrimination I am interested in. Once again, we are talking scenarios where—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Self-incrimination.

Mr TELFER: Self-incrimination on page 27; a scenario where you could have an authorised officer coming into a home and questioning the family potentially, going through the sort of documents that you talked about, and it talks about the capacity here—commentary around the self-incrimination. In a scenario when it is a police officer, for instance, and now in the previous clause we removed police officers as being involved in the process, there is a process around making sure people are aware of their rights when it comes to entering of a property and the risks around self-incrimination and the fact that, in answering questions, they have the right to have legal representation and the like. None of that is specified here. With this aspect, in particular, with the authorised officers, is there a risk that people are going to find themselves in situations where they legally put themselves at risk because there is not the same obligation on an authorised officer as there might be on a police officer, for instance?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I do not know who you are trying to protect. I am trying to protect the children being trained. That is point one. If you are more interested in protecting the driver trainers that is a different scenario altogether. However, I accept the point that there are common law rights that cannot be extinguished and the legislation has that.

So, I will just read this out to you so I get this right: the utility of mandatory cameras will be limited if the footage cannot be assessed or used as evidence in administrative or criminal proceedings. For this reason the bill specifically includes a provision, clause 134T, that disappplies the privilege against self-incrimination, limited to the provision of camera footage, which will enable the audiovisual footage to be used in criminal proceedings and for disciplinary offences. In this bill the self-incrimination privilege has been partially abrogated so that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles can access and use the footage produced by the camera as evidence for disciplinary or criminal proceedings.

If we applied the rights that you are talking about we could not use that footage to apply disciplinary proceedings and so I put to you: what is the use of a camera? Imagine this scenario: we have the footage of someone asking for a bribe, sexually assaulting a child, and not being able to use it to discipline them or take away their accreditation so they cannot do it again.

Mr TELFER: Who has the footage?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Crown would own the footage.

Mr TELFER: This is the bit that I am having trouble with. So the Crown will own the footage. That scenario would not be self-incrimination, you are not requiring the owner of the footage, the owner of the evidence to give that to the authorised officer, it is the Crown that already owns that, rather than trying to obligate the person to give that to you.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: You make a good point, probably. If we have to ask for that footage, what we do not want is for them to have the ability of a line of defence of self-incrimination, that, 'Because I provided you with the footage, I was required to, you cannot use that against me.' So it is important that we have the ability to be able to use that footage, if we require you to deliver it to us, to be able to use that against you.

Again, I go back to the principle: who are we trying to protect here? We are all public officers here. We have all decided, as public officers, that we can be coerced to give evidence, even if it is self-incriminating. It can be used to discipline us, not necessarily in a criminal court, but it can be used in disciplinary measures through the ICAC legislation. So we have decided that already. Why would you not apply that to driver trainers?

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (17 to 21), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (20:46): I move:

That this bill be read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

MOTOR VEHICLES (PREVIOUS OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (20:46): I indicate that the Liberal Party supports the bill, which helps to promote safer driving behaviour and imposes appropriate penalties for those who flout our road rules. This bill aims to close gaps in current road safety laws, particularly around how repeat offences like drink driving are handled. The proposed changes will make sure that past offences are properly considered when someone commits a new offence, even if those past offences had not been fully processed at the time.

One important change is how multiple offences are treated. Instead of dealing with them all at once, they will now be handled one after the other, which will result in longer licence disqualification periods for repeat offenders. There was an interesting story in the paper this week about a well-known Adelaide personality, who had been caught for the fourth time drink driving, so it is obviously a problem.

The bill also give the registrar more power to mandate the disqualification periods, especially in cases where the offender faces significant hardship. The opposition understands that the bill essentially tidies up a current anomaly enabling the registrar to impose disqualification periods that would take into consideration previous alleged offences that had not yet been expiated.

These changes will apply to offences committed before the bill takes effect, helping to ensure that all repeat offenders are held accountable. Overall, this bill strengthens the road safety laws, particularly in the area of drink driving, and is expected to have support in the community.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (20:48): I would like to thank the opposition for their support. This is an anomaly that we are attempting to overcome—the Coke principle, which is ironic given the week. Did you like that one? Too soon?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It was too soon. This is my experience as a justice of the peace. I thank the opposition for their support. This is a good set of reforms that needs to pass, and pass quickly, to give justice to people who do the right thing.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (20:49): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council with a message drawing the attention of the House of Assembly to clauses 41 to 45 and clauses 48 to 53 printed in erased type, which clauses being

money clauses cannot originate in the Legislative Council but which are deemed necessary to the bill. Read a first time.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 20:52 the house adjourned until Tuesday 12 September 2024 at 11:00.

*Estimates Replies***ELECTRONIC MONITORING**

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (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 total grant funding is \$1,279,240 to increase the vessel monitoring and electronic monitoring on commercial fishing vessels in South Australia.

MESONET WEATHER STATIONS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (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 Mesonet automatic weather stations network has previously received funding, with contributions going towards the capital investment component of the projects.

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (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:

Within this new budget allocation \$360,000 has been set aside for the Rural Financial Counselling Service in 2024-25. This amount is indexed for each year in the forward estimates.

In addition to this, the South Australian government continues to provide \$200,000 each year towards the core funding of the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

In total, \$560,000 will be provided to this important service in 2024-25.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOFTWOOD PROCESSORS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (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 matter of a voluntary code of conduct for the timber industry to facilitate long-term timber supply contracts between producers and processors for mutual benefit was raised at the forestry ministers' meeting held 8 December 2023.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will continue to keep an oversight on the topic.

FISHING INDUSTRY

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (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 matter of a voluntary code of conduct for the timber industry to facilitate long-term timber supply contracts between producers and processors for mutual benefit was raised at the forestry ministers' meeting held 8 December 2023.

I am advised the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will continue to keep oversight on the topic.

FISHING INDUSTRY

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (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 cost of the Fishwatch hotline varies as PIRSA is charged based on the number of inbound and outbound calls, and SMS' handled by the service, and is approximately \$7,000 per month.

FISHING INDUSTRY

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (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 Fishwatch line received over 6,000 calls during the 2023-24 financial year. The Fishwatch line is used for multiple purposes. Commercial fishers use the Fishwatch line to report their fishing times and locations and these calls represent approximately 52 per cent of all calls received.

During the 2023-24 financial year there were 2,933 calls received from the public regarding topics such as reporting an offence to the duty fisheries officer, general fishing related inquiries, shark sightings and fish kills.

FISHING INDUSTRY

In reply to **Mr PEDERICK (Hammond)** (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 Finfish Harvest Strategy contained within the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Lakes and Coorong Fishery 2022 aims to manage fishing to sustainable levels through setting a total allowable commercial effort (TACE) for the finfish sector. The harvest strategy does this by way of restricting the number of net units that are able to be set at any one time in the fishery on a Lakes and Coorong Fishery licence. This is in contrast to some other commercial fisheries whereby an annual total allowable commercial catch (TACC) may be established. Based on the performance indicators of the harvest strategy, the TACE has been set at 100 per cent of the allocated net units in the Lakes and Coorong Fishery, for the current and previous three years.

FISHING INDUSTRY

In reply to **Mr ELLIS (Narungga)** (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 statement of cashflows represents inflows and outflows across PIRSA's administered funds on a cash basis, rather than the value of revenue and expenses realised across the financial year.

The reduced cash inflows in 2022-23 (\$5.0million) mainly reflect the fee relief provided to the rock lobster sector in 2022-23 (\$2.6million) and fees to the sardine sector in 2023-24 (\$0.7million), with the balance (\$1.7million) reflecting the timing of cash receipts in relation to all fees across the industry which may have been as a result of the prepayment of 2022-23 fees in the 2021-22 financial year or the fees owing at the end of the 2022-23 financial year that will ultimately be recognised as cash in 2023-24.

The statement of comprehensive income on page 67, specifically the fees, fines and penalties line item is a more accurate representation of fees charged across the years, with the variation between 2022-23 actual and 2023-24 budget being due mainly to the rock lobster and sardine measures mentioned above.