

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Wednesday, 25 September 2024

The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell) took the chair at 10:30.

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before we move into business, I welcome officers from the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Victoria who are visiting our parliament this week as part of an exchange program between our two parliaments. I hope you have an enjoyable time here, and that you learn a little bit. Sorry, like South Australia, you did not get a local team into the grand final on Saturday, but it is great to have you here. Go the Lions!

Bills

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

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

That this order of the day be postponed.

The SPEAKER: I knew it couldn't last. We went 10 minutes; that was awesome.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes18
Noes.....11
Majority7

AYES

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

NOES

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

PAIRS

Stinson, J.M.
Speirs, D.J.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Hurn, A.M.

Teague, J.B.
Savvas, O.M.
Tarzia, V.A.

Koutsantonis, A.
Cowdrey, M.J.
Malinauskas, P.B.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Motions***CLONTARF FOUNDATION**

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:45): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes that it is five years since the former Liberal government brought the Clontarf Foundation into South Australian schools;
- (b) notes the dramatic and positive impact that the Clontarf academies have had in improving attendance, behaviour, academic participation and employment outcomes for Aboriginal boys and young men in the program;
- (c) commends the staff, volunteers, donors and supporters of the Clontarf Foundation for their achievements, and congratulates those students who participate in the various academies and programs; and
- (d) encourages the government to continue support for the program, growing into the future, alongside other relevant programs including those targeting female Aboriginal students, as well as the SAASTA program.

The Clontarf academies are operating around Australia at hundreds and hundreds of locations, it feels like. I am fairly certain it is into the hundreds. They harness the power of sport, the power of mentorship and the power of education to get better life outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.

The program was conceived by, founded by and continues to be nurtured by Gerard Neesham, who, at one point was best known for being the coach of Fremantle, and having a storied football career prior to that, but is now I think most substantially known for his contribution to South Australia and, more particularly, around Australia, in regard to outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.

The key focus of the Clontarf program is to take Aboriginal boys and young men who, in many cases, and particularly those boys and young men who are targeted by the program, are vulnerable and at risk of potentially not having an educational completion, and ensure that they are set on a track where they are not only encouraged to attend their school and complete their school but also given life skills that will encourage them to have successful lives, particularly employability skills to encourage them to have jobs.

Clontarf goes beyond that because, through the philanthropic work, the support that is given to Clontarf by a range of businesses large and small, Clontarf will also use those connections to help young people in their academies into jobs where they will be suited and where they will be able to earn money and they will be able to achieve things in their lives.

Clontarf has been going I think for now two decades around Australia—I will check the exact date—but in South Australia just for five years. When I was first approached about this, it was by Corey Wingard, the former member for Mitchell and Gibson. Through his significant connections throughout the sporting fraternity around Australia, he knew Gerard Neesham. Corey, prior to the 2018 election, was eager for us to consider ensuring, should we be elected to government, that we would work with Clontarf to bring them to South Australia.

I also remember, as a result of that initial introduction, I met with Gerard Neesham prior to the 2018 election. I was also pleased when The Advertiser Foundation invited us to go to Waymouth Street and have a lunch at which we were able to talk with Clontarf, talk with some of their people,

and also hear from some of the young people who were living fulfilled and prosperous lives, which they accredited, in no small part, to their engagement with Clontarf over the years. I thank The Advertiser Foundation, which was doing it as part of its corporate sponsorship of the program, and I thank so many other large companies around Australia, and small ones as well, which have been significant contributors.

The funding for the program rests on a three-way split between federal government funding, state government funding and the business and philanthropic support that Clontarf is able to attract to itself. Indeed, that is a key to its success, too, because not only is that business and philanthropic support able to make slightly cheaper what would otherwise be a more expensive program but also these businesses invest not just their money but their engagement, whether it is through mentorship or, more usefully even, through ensuring that there are job vacancies made available and people given a chance to have a crack.

In a practical sense, the requirement for the schools that are engaged, and these academies are physically located on school sites—initially we had five, I think: Ocean View, Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Whyalla and there may have been a fifth. In Whyalla at the time there were of course three public high schools, and those three were consolidated into one academy. It is obviously now one public high school in Whyalla. Ocean View was an R to 12 school, and it was a slightly different model for the academy because it went into the primary years as well.

Those original four or five academies have now expanded into more than 13, I think—there are other sites, including in the northern suburbs and Salisbury, and I know in Murray Bridge and I believe in Coober Pedy and a range of other sites, they are now benefiting from them as well.

Ultimately, it is about providing a physical location, a safe space, a culturally appropriate space and also a space where the boys are encouraged to come to school. It is a space where breakfast is provided and where the people working in the program often have a sporting background, potentially. Certainly, there is the opportunity to engage in sporting programs: the AFL particularly in South Australia, although in other states it operates with rugby as well as with other sports. There is a soccer academy that has been engaged as part of the program too. This is a space that the boys and young men enjoy coming to, but to be able to participate in the program they must also attend school.

When I went to Port Augusta, within six months of the program starting in 2019 they had a board identifying student attendance at school. The average attendance for the cohort of students in that first cohort at Port Augusta had been south of 25 per cent. We know that every day that is lost in school attendance is an educational opportunity lost and a loss in the educational entitlement of that student. It is a lost opportunity for learning and is also to the direct detriment of that child's social and educational development.

From less than 25 per cent attendance on average, they are north of 80 per cent attendance among that cohort of students within six months. Indeed, some of the students—and they were very proud of it—had perfect records. These are young people who had been attending less than half of the time prior, and in many cases less than a third of the time, and six months later having perfect records. It is clearly a program that speaks to the young people, engages with them in their space and encourages them to be there.

All the young people were able to confidently present themselves to me and the other people travelling with us—introduce themselves and shake our hands. This may sound trite or it may sound paternalistic in a way, but, for the life experience of the young people involved, it is in many cases the difference between them successfully getting a job, or not, when they leave school. For any young person, being able to present yourself with confidence—being able to shake a hand, being able to introduce yourself—is a significant thing that many young people struggle with. Clontarf ensures that these things are not left behind.

The achievement, whether it is through academic pathways to university, a vocational pathway to an apprenticeship, or even getting a job in retail straight out of school or during year 12, is a significant thing. When we are talking about children, or sometimes even grandchildren, of people who have not had a job, having that job brings pride and brings purpose and I think is something that those young people should be immensely proud of.

Clontarf continues to grow and thrive and as the academies grow in South Australia so does the opportunity for young people to be engaged. In 2023, across Australia, Clontarf recorded 10,000 young people participating in their program, 836 participants completing year 12 and overall across Australia attendance rates of participants in these programs improving to 78 per cent, with 86 per cent of their year 12 graduates remaining engaged in employment or further education 12 months after graduating. This is why the federal government and successive federal governments have continued to support the program and why I am urging the state government to ensure these programs continue.

In South Australia, the most recent new academies include Ceduna, Christies Beach, John Pirie in Port Pirie, Murray Bridge as I said before, and Wirreanda in the southern suburbs. There may be a couple of academies that were not in the last group that I missed out in-between and I apologise to those who have taken the time to read *Hansard* that I have missed them out, but the point is that, as this work continues, so will the opportunities for these young people, and as these young people complete school, their contribution to our state, our economy and our society will continue to improve.

When the member for Unley, David Pisoni; Steven Marshall, the former Premier; and I were working on getting this program up in 2018-19, the question in our mind constantly was: why on earth have we not done this before? Clontarf had certainly approached the South Australian education department on a number of occasions. The simple answer is that the South Australian education department or previous South Australian governments had not chosen to invest the money required and I think that was largely because they were very proud of the work that is done by SAASTA, the South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy.

SAASTA is a great program. SAASTA is a program that is particularly designed to ensure that young Aboriginal South Australian men, boys and girls who are in school have their academic opportunities maximised, whether that is to a university outcome or indeed to a skilled or an apprenticeship outcome and SAASTA continues its important work.

I think the insight that had been missing prior to the 2018 election change in government was that SAASTA and Clontarf are largely there to serve different cohorts of young people. The Aboriginal young boys and young men who Clontarf supports are largely those at risk of non-school attendance and SAASTA was there largely to support students to get the most out of their schooling experience.

There are now many young people in the Clontarf academies who are also engaged in SAASTA and that has a great outcome, too. Many of those young people perhaps would not have been able to attend SAASTA and get the opportunities that SAASTA provides them had they not been first engaged back in school or encouraged in their schooling journey more by Clontarf. So, it is not a problem that there is an overlap. It is actually a good outcome, but, ultimately, they are there, and they serve different sectors for what we are trying to achieve for these young people. I commend those people who have been involved in SAASTA over the years, helping those young people achieve strong things.

The other question that has often been raised about Clontarf by the Department for Education over the years and by prior governments is that Clontarf exists primarily to support boys and young men and the question was always: why are we not supporting girls and young women as well? We must, of course, all be seeking to achieve great outcomes for all of our young people—boys and girls, young men and young women alike—but the challenges confronting boys and young men and girls and young women are not always the same, particularly when we are talking about social challenges.

The particular biases and preferences, the particular behaviours and the peer pressures that boys and young men are experiencing are often different to those experienced by girls and young women. The outcomes are very different. Attendance by young boys and young men in schools—the Aboriginal cohort that we are talking about—was much lower than their female counterparts and the opportunities to improve their attendance could be served by the outcomes provided here.

But that does not mean we should ignore girls and young women. That was why I was really pleased, as Minister for Education, to engage with a range of different service providers who were looking at models and academies particularly serving the needs of girls and young women. The first

one or two of those academies started before the change in government. I believe they are also increasing now, and they should.

We have a particular challenge amongst our Aboriginal boys and young men, and Clontarf has been an incredibly important part of the response able to be provided by the state government now to address that. The fact that it continues to increase its work—and I trust the education minister will shortly reassure the house of the government's continued support for Clontarf; I certainly hope that is what he is here to say—is good news.

I take great pride in having been part of the Marshall Liberal government that brought Clontarf to South Australia. I think this house and the people of South Australia can have great confidence in the work Clontarf will continue to do. I want to commend Gerard Neesham and all the team at Clontarf—all of its volunteers, all of its mentors, all of its educators, all of its supporters, philanthropists and donors—and special congratulations to all of the young people who are now prospering in South Australia and around our country, particularly as a result of the support they received from Clontarf over the years.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (11:00): I rise to speak to the motion from the member for Morialta. I advise that we intend to move an amendment to paragraph (d) of the motion as it stands, which currently reads:

- (d) encourages the government to continue support for the program, growing into the future, alongside other relevant programs including those targeting female Aboriginal students, as well as the SAASTA program.

I propose to replace that with:

- (d) notes the Labor government's continued support for the program, alongside other relevant programs including those targeting female Aboriginal students, as well as the SAASTA program.

Having said that, I want to acknowledge from the outset the member for Morialta's excellent track record on Clontarf in this area. It is certainly an area of bipartisanship when it comes to not only the support for Clontarf and the fantastic work that it does, but also in terms of Aboriginal education generally. It is certainly something that I have sought to continue in my time as the Minister for Education.

I have had quite a bit to do with Clontarf as an organisation. It has been a privilege, I think it is fair to say, to go and see their work on the ground at a number of the sites where they operate. One that stands out to me is the work at Whyalla. The new secondary college there is just about the most impressive piece of education infrastructure I think probably in Australia. It has certainly been a school that has had its challenges in the first few years of its operation by virtue of having three existing high schools merge into one on a new campus. I do not apportion any blame for that. I dare say that would have been the chosen way forward, no matter who was in government.

That has made for a very challenging start to the school's existence. I think things are much improved there, and I want to commend Tricia and her staff at Whyalla for the great work that they do. Of course, it is a school with a high number of Aboriginal students, and the work that Clontarf has been doing at Whyalla I think has played a really big role in things settling down at the school and making sure that the quality of education that is received at Whyalla and at the other sites on which they operate is of an excellent standard, which is obviously really important.

There are a few other things I would like to touch upon. State government funding of the program, as the member for Morialta pointed out in his contribution, started in 2019. We have then seen in the period since the change of government—and I am not suggesting that we are responsible for all this growth, but I think it has been a bipartisan effort from the former government and the current one to support Clontarf and see growth—the number of Clontarf academies in South Australia double from seven to 14. That has included additional academies at the following sites: Berri Regional Secondary College, Ceduna Area School, Christies Beach High School, John Pirie Secondary School, Murray Bridge High School, Wirreanda Secondary School and Woodville High School.

The information that I have as of today is that across those sites we are seeing a strong uptake—as high as 70 per cent of eligible Aboriginal male students accessing the program. I know

the way that that manifests itself on site is high attendance, which is often an issue that is challenging right across our schools, but sometimes particularly amongst our Aboriginal students in getting that consistency of attendance. I think the incredible work that Clontarf does to build relationships, not only with the students but also with the local community and with the parents and elders in that community, builds a really high level of trust and encourages that attendance, which is what you need for all those other things that schools do to follow.

I also want to acknowledge the positive impact that the Clontarf academies have for students and the host schools. Like I just mentioned, the program has had success in achieving agreed target outcomes in areas of attendance and retention, but also improved behaviour, improved academic participation and academic success. Employment outcomes are, of course, vitally important for Aboriginal young men who are enrolled in the program. The data that we collect as part of the agreement that the state government has with Clontarf to fund some of these programs bears that out as well around improvements in all those areas, which I think does show, as the member for Morialta said, that this has been a wise investment by the state government and an area that is worthy of further investment, because it really is getting strong results.

That data shows that students enrolled in Clontarf have a higher school attendance than Aboriginal male students in the same schools who are not actually enrolled in the Clontarf program, and that a higher proportion of year 12 students enrolled in Clontarf programs in 2023 achieved their SACE at a level of 75 per cent, by comparison with Aboriginal male students not enrolled in Clontarf, at the same school where it is provided, in the same year, being 2023, having a 17 per cent SACE attainment level, which is a pretty stark comparison, I have to say.

If there was one thing that I would point to around why or how Clontarf has been so successful and why it has been worthy of continued government funding, it would be to look at the difference between a 75 per cent SACE attainment level for those students at schools where the Clontarf program exists and they are enrolled in it, compared to a 17 per cent SACE attainment at the same school from Aboriginal students who are not enrolled in the Clontarf program. I think that is pretty incredible.

Of course, it means we have more work to do. We would like that figure I mentioned earlier of around 70 per cent participation at Clontarf-participating schools to rise, because we know that one of the direct outcomes from an increased participation level in the program is an increase in the SACE attainment rate and we know there is a direct flow-on there towards job outcomes for young Aboriginal men. I think Clontarf has shown that it is very capable of not just increasing participation rates and attendance at school, but also helping young Aboriginal men get jobs when they leave school as well.

I would like to refer to another part of the motion, given that we are focused on Clontarf, which is a program for young Aboriginal men. The member for Morialta moved in his motion around supporting other programs as well. Of course, there is the Shooting Stars program, which is a program akin to Clontarf, but for female Aboriginal students. I have met with the Shooting Stars team on a number of occasions. The work they do is really important and we know that the link between sport and school is a very powerful one. It is certainly a very powerful one amongst young Aboriginal men, but we need to remember it is also, and can be, a very powerful connection for young Aboriginal female students at school and netball as well.

I am very keen to make sure that the program or the current grant agreement that we have with Glass Jar Australia to provide the Shooting Stars program for Aboriginal girls in Whyalla between 2024 and 2026 is ongoing. I would like to see it expand as well, and we are actively pursuing other sites that might be interested in providing Shooting Stars because I think the kinds of positive outcomes we have seen at those sites offering Clontarf can be seen for female Aboriginal students as part of a Shooting Stars program as well.

I thank the member for Morialta for the motion and again acknowledge his work and his time as the Minister for Education on Clontarf. I note again that it is a strong position of bipartisanship between the two sides of this chamber around supporting it. I hope that in however much time I have left in the role of education minister I can further expand Clontarf into other parts of the state and work on doing the same with Shooting Stars as well.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:10): I stand to support the motion as well and also support the government's amendment. I was very pleased to see that the government will continue to support the program. As the member for Morialta mentioned in his contribution, the Premier at the time, Steven Marshall, the member for Morialta and I were very interested in this program. I think there is no doubt that there is a bipartisan view in this place that more needs to be done to support Indigenous students and Indigenous kids to get a better start in life and the debate is often about how you achieve that. That is the politics, if you like, of our modern democracy that we have here in Australia in our Westminster system. It is terrific to see that we agree not just on the outcomes but also on part of the process in order to achieve the bipartisan support of the Clontarf Foundation.

The Marshall government was very quick to start to address some of the barriers, if you like, for Aboriginal kids who needed some support to improve their options in life and improve their self-esteem that drives them to have enthusiasm for the future. Using sport in this instance has obviously been the first step that has led to other opportunities that the Clontarf report clearly shows has led to one of the key areas of growth in employment opportunities and those in employment. That is the area that obviously interested me in particular as the minister for skills at the time.

I only have anecdotal evidence of this, but within 12 to 18 months of the funding of this program and the introduction of this program in South Australia we actually started to see an increase in the commencements of Indigenous apprentices and trainees in South Australia. By the time the Marshall government had reached its full term we actually saw South Australia delivering the largest percentage growth of commencements of the number of apprentices and trainees in training and the number of completions. Three ticks in the box that brings joy to every training minister, to see an increase in commencements, participation, training and completions—the biggest growth in the country in that period of time.

I am sure it wasn't just the Skilling South Australia program that helped deliver that outcome, but it was also the work of the Clontarf Foundation in working with those kids and giving them a sense of empowerment and to be able to identify a pathway for them to lead successful and rewarding lives by being gainfully employed with a valuable skill set.

It is one of the areas that has always interested me as someone who has grown up in Salisbury and seen the fewer opportunities that are available for people from working class and welfare families. I, myself, did not finish high school, wanting to get out early and start an apprenticeship, and how difficult it was even with the support of my parents and a close-knit family unit. It was difficult at that time with over 100 job applications that were simply rejected. To be able to then get a start after application number 101 that said, 'Yes, you've got the job,' it obviously is a life changer, and programs like Clontarf are the stepping stones.

I will always use the term 'the ladder of opportunity'. Unfortunately, in every western economy in the world, there are people who are not even on the first rung when they enter this world. As a matter of fact they are born in the ditch before the ladder of opportunity and have to actually get out of that ditch before they start. Programs like Clontarf are part of the opportunity for those who are born into that situation.

I congratulate the member for Morialta, I congratulate the education minister, on their commitment and the government's ongoing commitment to this program, and their passion for delivering outcomes—real outcomes—for Indigenous boys and young men to have control of their own lives, to have self-esteem, to have an ability to have something to offer, to start their journeys on the road to success in South Australia or in their region, in their town, in their city and in their suburb. Partnerships like this should be encouraged with government.

The people who operate philanthropic foundations such as this have a key motivation, and that is to get outcomes for the participants. They are not there for their own careers. They are not there because they need a job. They are there because they are committed to getting an outcome for people who they care for, people who they want to support, people who need that support, and so consequently they are very focused on delivering those outcomes.

The outcomes are the most important issue. Sometimes when people are delivering programs they talk about how many staff they have or they talk about how much money they are

spending. With organisations like Clontarf it is very clear from reading their annual report that it is all about the outcomes they are achieving, and for that I congratulate them.

The SPEAKER: The minister.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (11:19): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and can I take the opportunity to just express my condolences to you on your loss. We are all here for you, and any time you need to talk, of course, we all have an ear we can lend. Best wishes to you and the family.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and anyone who makes me cry today is going to get kicked out.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I am really pleased to speak in support of the motion and, of course, the amendment moved by the Minister for Education. Most of you in this place would know that I really do hold a very strong passion for creating pathways that divert young people from what could be a potential path of poor choices, quite often due to lack of opportunity, lack of leadership and mentoring and guidance, and lack of positive role models and opportunities in their lives.

Programs such as the Clontarf program provide such a great opportunity for young people to come into contact with such mentors and leaders and positive role models. It is a really great initiative for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to make healthier decisions and engage in prosocial and positive activities in a welcoming and supportive community, building on what is already available in schools.

With the program run across Australia, I understand it is supporting more than 11,000 young people and participants. I have met with representatives from the Clontarf Foundation on a couple of occasions and seen some of the good work they do. I understand they have about 580 staff working in this amazing organisation. The stats and the alumni stories are worthy of further interrogation by all people in this place, as they really do speak to the importance and the benefit of the Clontarf Foundation.

The flexibility and transferability of the program is also something to be commended. They have many academy rooms across the country. This allows young people to move between programs if needed, which can be quite common amongst communities. It also provides a place of familiarity for participants to be able to rejoin into those communities—they can slot straight into them.

Mentorship is definitely one of the most important things that I hold close to my heart in terms of young people. Providing someone with a strong mentor to engage participants in this really rich activity, providing a safe space, and keeping young men at school and on the right path are things that the Clontarf Foundation offers and puts at the centre of what they are doing.

The opportunity to connect with mentors must never be underestimated—that constant in the life of someone young, who potentially has not had an adult or a role model who they can trust and has quite often been let down a number of times. To have a committed mentor and a structure around that mentoring system is absolutely vital in the lives of young people. It will allow, and does allow, participants to not only improve life skills but also expand on that personal growth journey, build self-esteem, and build that self-discipline to be able to set themselves up for life to make better, more informed and sensible choices about their future.

School attendance, retention to school, and pathways to completion of a formal qualification are so very important. It is not just important for the young person themselves but it is actually important for community. Last week I was in Coober Pedy and again spent some time talking with local community members about some of the challenges that they face filling the workforce opportunities that are there in Coober Pedy.

This message is reflected right across our community, particularly in rural and remote South Australia, in the many communities that I have journeyed into over the past few years. In fact, this morning I opened a conference that is about just that: planning workforce opportunities in care and supporting career pathways for ageing. That is most definitely something regional and remote communities are thirsty for and that is helping to connect those pathways. For what a program such

as Clontarf can do in terms of providing that impetus and that incentive to remain engaged and connected to school and role models, and to seek and learn about pathways for career opportunities moving forward, I think that is an absolute benefit of this program and how it engages in communities.

While it is life-changing for students, I know that the staff also know that it is life-changing for them to be involved and engaged in such an incredible program. The staff, volunteers and supporters—and there are many excellent supporters in both private industry and government—work incredibly hard to ensure that the programs are sustainable and that there are opportunities for growth, and they cannot be commended enough. Run by community and for community, I believe that this program having staff of diverse backgrounds is so incredibly important, especially Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff who provide that cultural connection and that cultural familiarity, understanding and guidance. It is just so very important.

I want to thank the staff and the connected people who are helping my community through the programs at Wirreanda and Christies Beach high schools. I know that young people and families in our community are really appreciative of the ability for them to connect and engage in those programs and are achieving outcomes like we have not seen before for these community members. We know from that five years ago to now, and the growth, that it is absolutely true that from little things big things grow. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:26): I rise to speak on this motion in support of the Clontarf Foundation. As has been mentioned already, there are two academies in my electorate of Flinders, of which I am very proud and always excited to see the positive outcomes that are driven by the work that is done; one is partnered with the Port Lincoln High School and the other one with the Ceduna Area School. Indeed, Port Lincoln was one of the program's pilot locations in South Australia in 2019 when the Marshall Liberal government looked at the good work that the foundation was doing in other states and made a \$2.8 million commitment to a three-year trial as part of a 10-year Aboriginal Education Strategy. There were four locations in South Australia then, and now there are 14—as I said, two of those 14 in my electorate.

Operating for 24 years, the Clontarf Foundation now has 158 academies around the country catering for nearly 11,000 boys. The good work that this foundation does is immeasurable, and it is immeasurable because of the fact that they take such a holistic approach to every aspect of the lives of the Aboriginal boys who participate in this program.

Its main aim is to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys to help them improve their education, their discipline, their life skills, their self-esteem and their employment prospects; to come to school, to stay at school and then to transition into employment or further study; and to enhance their overall education experience and increase the likelihood of staying at school which, in turn, leads to greater engagement with their communities and within their communities and, ultimately, to achieving better life outcomes.

To see some of the positive outcomes and to hear some of the stories firsthand of these young Aboriginal lads who, especially in the far-flung parts of our state like in my electorate, have been enabled to be their whole selves through this program is so exciting. The staff mentor and they counsel and they really lead these young people through a range of lifestyle issues, encouraging them to embrace more disciplined, purposeful and healthy lifestyles. The approach is to capitalise on existing passions, and over my way a big one of those existing passions is sport and usually football, but this is not just a sporting program.

There is a statewide year 12 leadership trip, where students get together with their counterparts from around the state. They make a pledge and set goals, both long-term goals and life goals. There is an annual employment forum for year 11s and year 12s in Adelaide, featuring inspiring guest speakers and site visits to workplaces. There is a bit of an eye-opening for the young people involved in this program in workplaces such as Flinders Ports, Australia Post, StarTrack and Bunnings, just to name a few.

A highlight for Clontarf students is the major trip, where all graduating year 12 students, who have fulfilled their agreed-upon commitment at the start of the year, get to go on their final Clontarf camp as students. It is a nationwide camp, which was held in Darwin last year. Twenty-six young men from our South Australian academies were accompanied by 10 staff for a once-in-a-lifetime trip

to Darwin to celebrate and reward their hard work and commitment to their schooling journey. The group spent five days in Darwin exploring Litchfield National Park, barramundi fishing, a spectacular croc jumping tour on the Adelaide River, the Darwin aquatic park, and they conducted a presentation to Santos.

It is so exciting, as I said, to see the outcomes for these young people and to hear the stories firsthand, especially in my electorate both at Ceduna and Port Lincoln. The Ceduna Clontarf Academy is relatively new, having been founded last year, operating out of the Ceduna Area School. It was a pleasure to visit the facility recently to see the positive outcomes being driven and to hear how as a program it caters for students in years 5 to 12 and currently has 40 young men engaged in the program and to hear some of those individual stories of those 40. They are stories of young men who have not been at school for years, young men who through this program have now been actively engaged not just in school life but also in community life, who are held accountable, who are able to set goals and are able to have support structures in place to achieve those goals.

These academies are actively involved with local businesses, helping to deliver pathways into post-year 12 work arrangements. Last year, I went to the Ceduna Area School graduation and saw the amount of pride within the graduating year 12s, the young Aboriginal men, who no doubt have faced challenges, no doubt have had times when they were questioning why they bothered continuing with their year 12 studies. Having the structure and support of the academy and the wider school community got them to that point of graduation, and it was so exciting.

The academy at Ceduna facilitates certificate II training in resource and infrastructure management for year 11 students, which not only allows the boys to gain 40 credits towards their SACE certificate, but it also creates employment opportunities. The certificate is run by TAFE in partnership with Iluka Resources, which has their mine site 200-odd kilometres north-west of Ceduna. It is the world's largest zircon mine and recognised for its high level of Indigenous employment. The pathways that these students' eyes have opened to, because of this Clontarf participation and the ability for them to be able to attend the course at TAFE as part of their school timetable, including site visits, really opens up the opportunity for them to not just better their own lives and their own positive outcomes but also their community's as a whole, their family and wider.

In Port Lincoln, the academy has been running for a number of years, and it currently has 66 students from years 7 to 12. A number of local Indigenous men are employed to run the program, including providing early morning training sessions, breakfasts, after-school activities, camps, football and basketball, worksite visits, health checks, community activities and obtaining casual employment. The Port Lincoln community as a whole and all local partners should be commended for their ongoing support, which allows such a fantastic program for our young Aboriginal men to be run so effectively. To see the positive outcomes at Port Lincoln really highlights that it is a whole-of-community effort that is necessary and delivered.

We are fortunate to have such diverse industry in Port Lincoln that supports positive outcomes. A number of the aquaculture operations within Port Lincoln have a great relationship with the Port Lincoln High School and are able to provide industry-standard training facilities.

These young Aboriginal men who, as has already been mentioned, often do not have positive adult role models, especially positive male adult role models in their lives, within the structure that Clontarf delivers are able to see their own potential. They are told that they are able to achieve. They are encouraged to achieve. Perhaps a good indicator of the success of the Clontarf program is the annual awards night held at the end of the year. It is a highlight of the year, which last year saw over 130 people attend at the Port Lincoln Yacht Club to celebrate the achievements of the young men who had engaged with the program.

Unfortunately, we were sitting with parliament and I missed the event that night, but I know that that night acknowledged all of the support received by industry partners and the wider Port Lincoln community. It certainly is, as I have said, a community effort. That community aspect, both within the Aboriginal community and the wider community, is probably the reason why it is so successful.

I am so grateful that the Clontarf Foundation has selected these two locations in Flinders at Port Lincoln and Ceduna and can recognise the positive outcome and the positive opportunities that

this program drives. They have continued to work with local Indigenous communities and lead these young lads, as I said, who may have been told or may have had expectations that were low, but through this program, through the work that this foundation does, has highlighted their potential not just to better themselves but to better their whole community through positive leadership and positive outcomes. This is why I am so thankful to the member for Morialta for bringing this motion, and, indeed, I commend it to the house.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Morialta, I would also like to place on the record my thanks to the Clontarf Foundation for the great work they have done with the Dudley United Football Club on Kangaroo Island for the past decade or so. It has been great to have some extra players in the local footy league but also many of those young men helped build the Kangaroo Island Airport as well.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:36): I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to present this motion to the house today, and I thank all of the members for their contribution. We are happy to accept the Minister for Education's amendment, demonstrating, as it does, that there will be continued support for the Clontarf Foundation. I understand their initial or possibly the second iteration of their contract was due to be renewed this year, and the fact that that has happened has been very important to enable them to continue their growth, continue their good work.

I commend the government for continuing the support that we first provided in 2019, and that expansion should continue to go on because when it gets good results like this, yes, you cannot do everything on day one—you start with four, you grow to seven, you grow to 12, you grow to 14—and there will be other schools that will benefit from it in the future. I commend, again, all of those people at Clontarf who have been involved in that work and thank the minister for his remarks.

I thank the member for Unley for his remarks and particularly in highlighting the strong engagement between students coming through the Clontarf Foundation into meaningful pathways. Those meaningful pathways, whether they be finding a job, whether they are going to be in a university pathway or, as the member for Unley particularly highlighted, into a traineeship or an apprenticeship pathway, we are agnostic as to how that pathway goes.

Different students and different young people will have different pathways that suit their talents, their aspirations and their desires, but the fact that, since Clontarf came in, that was part of building part of the fastest increase in the nation in uptake of apprenticeships from young Aboriginal people and particularly numbers in training and completions in that cohort I think is a sign of the important work that has been done. I thank the member for Unley for his personal contribution because, obviously, when we brought it in he had a particular interest in supporting that as well. I think the member for Unley along with former Premier Steven Marshall were my greatest supporters when we sought to bring this in.

I thank the Minister for Human Services for her contribution. When I described earlier the lunch we had at The Advertiser Foundation as part of the renewed push, the successful push, because we said yes to their approach, the Minister for Human Services was at that lunch and I think she was the first Labor frontbencher to meaningfully engage with the program in that way.

I knew at that point, I think as I had just recently become the minister, and there was never any doubt in my mind that we were going to do this work, but it is always nice to know that there is a reasonable chance of bipartisan support. So I thank the minister for her engagement with Clontarf in 2018-19, which was helpful, and for her continued support.

She mentioned Coober Pedy, and her trip to Coober Pedy Area School recently, and talking to young people who are engaged in training and job pathways there. I was talking to the principal of Coober Pedy Area School, Maurice Saah, not so long ago, and he was very enthusiastic to have Clontarf come to Coober Pedy. His track record in education is—I would not say unique but it is very highly regarded around the place. When he was at Marree I think he was given a front page in *The Advertiser*, highlighting the work that he had done in getting some of their students to complete year 12 for the first time in more than a decade. They got three SACE graduates in that one year, which is no small token, due to the turnaround there thanks to his work.

At Coober Pedy he has been a really important principal over the last six years. Clontarf, through its focus on school engagement and pathways to careers, has been really good for that. He has highlighted what I think is a fairly similar story to the one that the minister has just told, which is the engagement that the mining companies, in particular, but also other large Australian companies, have had in giving opportunities to those young people to get into meaningful job pathways and careers, which is great.

Finally, member for Flinders, thank you for your contribution as well. It reminded me of when I was visiting Port Lincoln just before the election, when the member for Flinders was the candidate, and we spoke with the principal at Port Lincoln High, who at the time I think was Todd George. He was talking about the way that Clontarf had had an impact in his school.

I do not think it is talking too much out of school to say that he was open-minded but needed to be convinced of Clontarf's value when it arrived. He did not have a problem with it and he did not disrupt the school, but he really grasped the value that it had when he had four young Aboriginal men who were given a job opportunity, through the Clontarf Foundation, by a large business that had not previously been in the habit of giving jobs to those high school kids at Port Lincoln High. However, because of their engagement with Clontarf, they gave those kids an opportunity, and those kids are now living meaningful lives with job opportunities and dignity. I thank all members for their contributions and commend the motion to the house.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (11:42): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September;
- (b) recognises the importance of supporting and promoting the linguistic diversity of Australian deaf people;
- (c) acknowledges the incredible work of Auslan interpreters throughout the pandemic who provided crucial updates to deaf Australians; and
- (d) commends the Malinauskas Labor government on providing fee-free access to study Auslan at TAFE.

I rise to speak about the International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September and to recognise the importance of supporting and promoting the linguistic diversity of Australian deaf people. In that process, I also want to acknowledge the incredible work of Auslan interpreters throughout the pandemic, who provided crucial updates to deaf Australians.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 23 September as the International Day of Sign Languages. They have done this in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realisation of the human rights of people who are deaf. It acknowledges that early access to sign languages and services in sign language, including quality education available in sign language, is vital to the growth and development of the deaf individual, and that it is critical to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. It recognises the importance of preserving sign language as part of linguistic and cultural diversity and also emphasises the principle of 'Nothing about us without us'.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also recognises and promotes the use of sign languages. It makes clear that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages and I would like to speak a bit about that later when I mention one of my schools.

This year, National Week of Deaf People is also celebrated at this time, with the theme 'Sign Up For Sign Language Rights'. The National Week of Deaf People is a weeklong national celebration of deaf individuals and the deaf community that includes celebrating the International Day of Sign Languages, both of which are initiatives of the World Federation of the Deaf.

I would like to take the opportunity to mention here the launch of an Auslan program, Auslan90, a new pilot project starting on Monday 30 September, funded by the federal government's

Department of Social Services' Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Program. Auslan90 will be delivering daily 90-second news bulletins in Auslan, Monday to Friday, plus weekly in-depth videos that unpack stories in more detail. With support from SBS News, each bulletin will cover the top stories of the day, all in Auslan. I know that the Director of SBS News and Current Affairs, Mandi Wicks, was very excited when she said:

SBS is committed to informing and serving Australia's diverse communities, and our partnership with Deaf Connect on the Auslan90 pilot reflects that. By supporting this initiative, we're helping to ensure Deaf Australians can access timely, accurate and trustworthy news in their language.

We see Auslan interpreters at press conferences during floods, bushfires and pandemics and, while this is extremely important, it is only some of the news content available to the deaf community in a landscape where hearing Australians can access news in a 24-hour day, so Auslan90 is a crucial step forward in creating a more connected and accessible society for all Australians. It is more than a news service. It is a statement about the value and visibility of Auslan. It goes some way in saying that making all of our community have the ability to access information so they can live their life to the fullest is something all governments should be about.

I would like to just mention here Klemzig Primary School in my electorate of Torrens. It is not just Klemzig Primary School as it is the Centre of Deaf Education and Auslan Bilingual Preschool. I would like to acknowledge the work by the principal, Michele Smith, and the assistant principal for the Centre of Deaf Education, Sandra Kelly, and all of the team who play an amazing role in delivering a bilingual education to all students at the school.

I would just like to mention Lorraine Ferguson, Briony Harrison, Laura Potter, Sarah Lewis, Eliza Shalley, Louise Lawless, Sandra Di Fava, Stacey Thompson, Teagan Allen, Tracey Kelsall, Brittany Wright, Amanda Taylor, Tim Tutty, Heba Ahmed, Alison Way, Crystal Markovich, Leona Priori and Tania Leone. They are all either teachers of the deaf or bilingual student support officers.

At this point, I would also like to acknowledge the great work that I know our TAFE system does in delivering Auslan to teachers and people who want to learn Auslan. I note that yesterday the Minister for Human Services and the Minister for Education announced an Australian-first program developed in South Australia by TAFE SA that will meet the learning needs of deaf students. The Certificate I in Deaf Gain Education has been designed specifically for the deaf community, with a focus on building literacy, numeracy and Auslan language skills. It was designed proudly by TAFE SA educators. The accredited course is being delivered free to 30 students and it is attracting interest from interstate students and training providers. I know that both ministers met with students undertaking the course yesterday at TAFE SA's Adelaide campus.

Importantly, the course helps students develop basic levels of proficiency in Auslan and, in addition, written English, numeracy and digital literacy and bilingual and bicultural skills required to work effectively between the hearing and the non-hearing worlds. The course can be for up to three years and it paves the way for deaf students to obtain more qualifications for work. The new qualifications add to TAFE SA's nationally recognised Education and Languages program, including Certificates I, III and IV in Auslan.

Auslan (Australian sign language) has its own vocabulary and grammar that is different from spoken languages, and I know that the teachers and support officers at Klemzig Primary School are particularly excited about these developments. I spoke recently with the principal at Klemzig Primary School's Centre of Deaf Education and bilingual preschool about the importance of three year olds accessing this education. It is crucial, because many children who are deaf from birth need to be able to communicate.

We communicate with babies and they learn through that. But when we have a baby who does not hear, then the ability to communicate is much more difficult. That is why at Klemzig school they want to make sure that three year olds have access to this special class. They also have a playgroup, which is an amazing thing that has just recently come into play. I know there is a benefit to those families because they are able to mix with other families as well who are facing those same challenges. There are only around 10 in a class at a time, and they have them over the week right on the campus at Klemzig Primary School.

Just going back a step, Auslan enrolments under a fee-free TAFE initiative (2023) have resulted in 115 completing the certificate II, eight completing the certificate III and 15 completing the certificate IV. That is a total of 138 teachers or people in our community who now have those skills to assist in our schools and in the local community. I would also like to highlight Avenues College, which also follows through to high school level with children who are deaf.

I think it is really important at this time that as a society we acknowledge that everyone should be able to have access, and that we provide those opportunities through our education system at the TAFE level, at preschool level and through our primary schools. I thank all those interpreters who are there for our deaf community, whether it be during times of crisis or at other times. When we had the pandemic, I know that the interpreters at Klemzig Primary School produced videos for the parents and sent them to them so that they could have the information that everyone else was getting on the television. I am sure the Auslan90 program will go some way to also providing access to information. I commend the motion.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:54): I am happy to have the opportunity to speak on this motion. In particular, I acknowledge that the International Day of Sign Languages is on 23 September, and I want to add my gratitude to all the educators—whether in TAFE or in our schools or across our community—who support the learning of Auslan and, indeed, recognise the importance of Auslan to our community, in particular, our deaf community.

When I was the Minister for Education, I think schools like Klemzig Primary School, Adelaide High and other schools with a particular focus on deaf education were still at that time called centres for hearing impairment. I remember having a meeting fairly early on in my time as the minister with representative groups seeking to have that nomenclature changed to 'centres for deaf education'. There was a pride in the deaf community that Auslan was being understood as a language, not just as something to assist people in getting around in their daily lives. It was really important to them and it was an easy change to make, and so we got that done fairly quickly. I think having this motion is a good opportunity for the parliament to highlight that important work and the way in which we recognise the importance of Auslan.

We have in our schools a desire for every school student in Australia to learn languages. Sometimes we do get caught up in the communication about how we do that and its importance and the benefits. Learning languages provides many benefits to children and young people. The different languages that children and young people learn potentially also adjust the nature of the benefit they get. We know that learning what were called the romance languages sometimes assists in certain mechanisms of how we communicate in English. The common derivations that German, French, Italian or Spanish have with the English language provide certain benefits.

Learning a number of Asian languages presents different challenges and different opportunities. Certainly for students who want to go on to work in business in South-East Asia, right on our doorstep, having language opportunities in Asian languages is beneficial too.

Auslan as a language within this context provides a different range of opportunities for our students and young people. I think particularly the way in which it opens up our young people's minds to how they can communicate with a deaf person, or another person who speaks sign language, who is able to use Auslan, is really beneficial. But when we talk about intercultural understanding, when we talk about empathy, when we talk about all the different capabilities that we want our school system to imbue in young people, alongside the knowledge and the key pieces of information that will be considered within the canon, Auslan is a really useful subject to be taught in schools.

You cannot do everything in every school, you cannot do everything in every classroom, but if we want our young people to learn a language, then having Auslan understood to be on the same plane as the other languages is, I think, absolutely appropriate. There is no one language that is a better language for somebody to learn—other than English—so Auslan should be considered in that matrix.

Some other countries, in their schooling systems, assume that English is going to be the second language that is taught, because English is a language that is spoken widely around the world. Every education minister will always say this: that in English-speaking countries we do less

well at encouraging people to speak other languages than in countries that do not have English as a first language. Across America, England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand—less so Canada because it is a bilingual nation in many ways—across the Anglosphere, if you like, this is a challenge.

Auslan is a really interesting language to see taught in a classroom, it has to be said. I encourage all members, if you have the opportunity to see an Auslan class in one of your local schools, take that opportunity; it is a glory to behold. It is a calm place in many ways. It is an interesting sight to see.

However, in raising this as an opportunity, I also highlight one of the real challenges. It is not just Auslan that has this challenge, but Auslan potentially, as much as any language, has the challenge of finding suitably qualified teachers who are able to give those students a great educational experience, because there just are not a large number of them.

Auslan is not the only language that has this challenge, and schools that had chosen Auslan as a language would regularly report to me on either how grateful they were that they had been able to hold on to their teacher or what a challenge it was for them to be able to find a suitably qualified and capable teacher, somebody who was fluent in Auslan as well as a qualified teacher who was able to do great work in the classroom. In a number of schools they resolve this by having teachers learning Auslan as they go. The teacher does their best to stay at least one year's learning ahead of the class that they are teaching, and that can be a solution.

Certainly, while our Centres of Deaf Education—and there is a handful of them across the public school system—are, I guess, lighthouse peaks of achievement, there are a large number of other schools that would like to teach Auslan as their language, and the work that we do to encourage a suitably large and growing pool of Auslan teachers is important work. I commend them in that work. I thank those teachers who are already in the system and those interpreters who are doing useful work.

The member for Torrens highlighted the importance of that work in the pandemic, a time when many people felt isolated, anxious and uncertain of what the future would be, uncertain of what the next day might look like, and so communication was important then as at any other time only more so and this work was especially important at that time, and it is good that she has highlighted that to the house today. I thank the member for Torrens for bringing this motion.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (12:01): I would like to say 'happy national week of deaf people'. In saying that, I acknowledge that this motion raises awareness and is an important celebration for, on behalf of and with the deaf and hard of hearing community in South Australia and, indeed, Australia.

It is a real opportunity for us to come together and celebrate the deaf community, language, culture and history. As other people have already done so, the awareness around the use of Auslan, its history and importance really is something that we all need to be aware of.

I encourage everyone to do some research into the history of that wonderful language. I have done a module of Auslan, and I am completely terrified when I try to put voice and signing together, but it has given me an absolutely enormous depth of gratitude and appreciation for people in our community who work in the space of Auslan interpreting. It is quite the skill and I avoid doing signing and voice at the same time because I do not think I have the right left-brain coordination to handle it but, indeed, I endeavour to do my best and show some respect to the community in that regard.

As has been talked about, the Certificate I in Deaf Gain Education at TAFE really is an absolutely excellent stepping stone and pathway to connection and inclusion in our community. Visiting TAFE in the city the other day with the excellent Minister Boyer, we managed to really connect with some of the community members who are doing that wonderful certificate at TAFE SA and hear from them using Auslan to understand some of the challenges and barriers and reasons why, in fact, they are doing that certificate. It is the only course of its kind in Australia, but I do think others will get some support to roll that out interstate and also become accredited to deliver that certificate.

For the students, it is more than a piece of paper: it is actually an opportunity to be part of a community. Many of them have the opportunity as well to develop their own signed name and

expressions during the gaining of that certificate. Seeing the way that they interact and support each other in a way that many never have previously, I do not use terms such as 'heartwarming' very often, but honestly, it warmed the cockles. I was really pleased to see the engagement, the support and the real genuine love for each other in that journey.

From correspondence I have received during the course of being a member of parliament, but particularly being a spokesperson for disability in our party, the awareness I have now about the barriers faced by people in the community with a whole range of disabilities has increased. Definitely, recent correspondence has raised the barriers around ticketing for events and inclusion of people, from purchasing a ticket right through to accessing and navigating venues.

Some of the experiences raised with me include the fact that interpreters are being positioned sometimes on the opposite side of the stage to those who require the interpreter. The accessible seating is behind people who are standing, so they actually cannot even see the interpreter. There are broken hearing loops, so there is no alternative choice or notice for people, and also advertising the interpreter and not having one available.

We know the challenge to that skill, and through all these excellent courses at TAFE and other places there are more people getting trained to be Auslan interpreters, so we do understand the challenges, but advertising and not having one there is pretty poor form without providing notice for the people who need it.

Importantly, we as a government have acknowledged these barriers for all people who are contacting us, and we have been holding ticketing and inclusion roundtables, facilitated by the good roosters at DHS, and providing opportunity to venue operators, ticketing organisations and, importantly, the community with lived experience to jump in on those sessions and provide their direct feedback, and there have definitely been people from the deaf and hearing impaired community. That will continue, and the outcomes of the round table are now being pulled together by people who are much better at keeping things brief than I am.

That also has not stopped some organisations already reaching out to make some changes so that they are implementing things. The Festival City Adelaide are being really proactive to their approach to the issues, and we are really looking forward to working with more organisations to actually raise practical approaches to solving these barriers to inclusion because that is at the heart of the Disability Inclusion Act. It is at the heart of the things that we all are doing on both sides of this chamber to ensure that everyone can access events and services in our community.

One thing I actually wanted to talk about from a local point of view is people might recall about seven years ago there was a commitment to build a large adventure playground in my electorate in Hurtle Vale; \$1.3 million was committed to do that, and the local council, the City of Onkaparinga, matched that. We have an evolving, beautiful play space right in the heart of Morphett Vale, right near all of our wonderful sporting facilities as well. Every day I go past there and go there, there are people playing, engaging and connecting. It is the site of so many wonderful family celebrations. I have had kids' birthday parties there myself. There is a beautiful miniature train and a whole range of things. I think that was completed in about 2020 or 2019 thereabouts.

One thing that people were saying to me was that while they had a couple of things that were accessible for people with a range of disability there was not enough, unlike the Hendrie playground at Hendrie Street Reserve down Marion way and some of the other playgrounds around the place. So last election I secured a commitment for a \$100,000 investment to the Wilfred Taylor Reserve playground for accessible equipment upgrades, and we have held a number of community sessions to engage and see what it is that people want. Of course, you could probably spend that 20 times over with all the excellent things that are around, but we have tried to leverage the support of external organisations and philanthropic and service groups to try to value-add to that \$100,000 commitment.

What we have been able to do—through the great work of Anna in my office—is connect with a fellow called Anthony Simons from an organisation called Fit N Well, which is all about active inclusion for people with disability. He is sponsoring the erection of a communication board, which is being designed by the council, and that specifically meets the need of providing an alternate form of communication for children with differences in languages and abilities with their hearing. They can

point to a board and say, 'We want a ball. We want to go here. We want to do this.' It is a communication sign board.

This will enable children to connect with their community as they provide a pathway to inclusion, interaction and an ability to belong. They do not just benefit children with hearing difficulties; they help children who are non-verbal with autism and people for whom English might not be their first language. We are having that board put in. To my understanding, it costs several thousand dollars. It is being put in by a provider who provides a service to people with disability, and that will give us the opportunity to use those thousands of dollars for something else.

In terms of inclusion, I think all of us in the community want the best possible access and the best possible opportunity for people with disability. I think specifically for the hearing impaired and deaf community, weeks and days such as this provide an opportunity to highlight how we can better engage and how we can better develop our inclusion skills in our community.

I want to thank the member for Torrens, Dana Wortley, who year upon year upon year has been absolutely tireless in her advocacy for not just the deaf and hearing-impaired community but for the vision-impaired community as well through her contacts in her local community and her absolute dogged commitment to advocate on behalf of those people. I commend the motion.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (12:11): I rise to support this motion. I thank the member for Torrens for bringing this important motion to the house and appreciate the contributions that I have listened to so far in regard to this motion.

My old primary school, Brighton Primary School, has had a long association in supporting deaf and hard-of-hearing students. I always enjoy now having all of those students come on my parliament tours and am looking forward to attending sports day on Friday. I am a diehard house member of Sturt, so I will be supporting green on Friday.

This is a really good opportunity for me to speak today in regard to the Centre of Deaf Education that sits as a crucial part of the Brighton Primary School community. This centre provides a caring and positive learning environment for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to develop and master their skills for their current and future learning, empowering them to be independent and lifelong learners.

The student programs there are constructed using the Australian Curriculum, and special focus is given to the areas of literacy, numeracy, STEM and all other essential learning areas. This is all part of the school's plan and future directions. The centre holds exactly the same values and aligns with the mainstream school and has exactly the same high expectations for students' academic, social and emotional success.

The Centre for Deaf Education aims to maintain an integrated and inclusive facility that meets the educational needs of all deaf and hard-of-hearing students. This is achieved through provision of high-quality educational programs, use of appropriate technologies, and implementation of relevant teaching and learning methodologies to enable students to reach their potential.

A range of class settings are available depending on the individual needs of each child. They are supported in mainstream classes with Teachers of the Deaf and Bilingual Student Support Officers, and students can access their education in the mode that best suits their needs and their preferences, using spoken language, Australian Sign Language (Auslan) or a combination of the two. Students also access the support and solidarity of the deaf world through connecting with their deaf and hard-of-hearing peers and adult role models.

These approaches complement and support each other to provide the very best foundation for students' future development, personal growth and lifelong learning. In fact, all students at Brighton Primary School learn Auslan as their Language Other Than English, and all students are equipped to participate in an integrated and inclusive learning environment.

Deaf culture and connections to the deaf community are important factors in regard to the Centre for Deaf Education. The centre welcomes children of deaf adults and their families from across Adelaide and the school community. There are opportunities for the whole school to participate in the Brighton Signing Choir, which I have enjoyed at all the primary school graduations

I have attended for Brighton. It is great to see all students, regardless of whether they are mainstream students or deaf students, participate together so proudly in presenting this work to their parents.

I am not able to do this as smoothly as Minister Cook did, not knowing all the words in Auslan, but I can sign the alphabet: [simultaneously interpreted into Auslan] I support Auslan.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope Hansard got that.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (12:15):

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I, too, rise to support the motion from the member for Torrens. I would also like to echo the words of those who have spoken today before me and acknowledge the member for Torrens' many years of work with the deaf community in South Australia and her advocacy through multiple state governments for further support for that community.

I want to put on the record briefly a couple of things—that have already been touched upon by the member for Torrens and the member for Hurtle Vale—that come primarily from the training and skills part of my portfolio and some work that we have done in the last about 12 to 18 months with TAFE to try to improve access to the courses on offer for Auslan.

The one that was referenced by the member for Hurtle Vale that occurred most recently, just Monday of this week, was an announcement that the member for Hurtle Vale and I made at the TAFE campus in the city around the funding of a Certificate I in Deaf Gain Education. We were fortunate enough to go along and meet some of the students in the inaugural cohort which is about, I think, 20 students strong—which, I have to say, for a new certificate I course is a pretty strong number and I think it speaks to the importance of us having this provision. It would be remiss of me not to make mention of the role that TAFE has played as our public training provider in putting this certificate I together.

In this place and outside of it I have spoken on a number of occasions around why it is important that we have a really strong public training provider. We also talk about TAFE being at the centre of our skills and training system. I accept that sometimes those comments might not mean a whole lot to the casual observer on the street, but I think that the work TAFE has done in terms of access to courses around Auslan is a very good example of why we need to have a strong public training provider and what we mean when we say that public training provider should be at the centre of our skills and training system.

You would not expect—and I certainly do not expect, as the Minister for Training and Skills in this state—that our private or even not-for-profit training providers would be putting a course like the Certificate I in Deaf Gain Education together. It is not going to be a high-volume course and it is unlikely to be a very profitable course, but that does not mean that it is not a course that we need to have and it does not mean that it is not a course that should be offered in South Australia and supported by the state government.

I think the fact that TAFE has stepped into this space and has done the work around putting the certificate I together—and, as the member for Hurtle Vale said, we are the first place in Australia to do it—is the kind of work I expect the public training provider to do. It is the kind of work we fund them to do. It is the kind of work I do not expect other training providers to do. It is an example of why we need to have a strong public training provider to move into some of the skills and training areas that are important for the state strategically. That might be in some of those areas of skills and training, where we are going to have a very large demand into the future but perhaps do not have that demand right now.

Some examples are probably around electro-technology and hydrogen. We know this state is making a big push into those areas, but the increases in demand in terms of the workforce are only just coming online. It is also in areas like this, with the provision of a Certificate I in Deaf Gain Education, a very particular area. I want to state from the outset that what the member for Hurtle Vale and I announced together just this Monday are good examples of why that work is important.

For anyone who would doubt that—I cannot imagine there would be anyone in this place who does—they need only get along to see some of the students who are studying that certificate I at the TAFE campus to get an incredibly powerful example of the importance of a course like this. It was a very humbling experience for me and the member for Hurtle Vale to be there. Most valuable

for us was the opportunity at the end to sit with a couple of students. We had someone signing for us, but we had the opportunity to ask those students why they had decided to enrol in the course and what they were hoping to get out of the course. I found that really interesting.

I had the opportunity to speak to Bradley and Gaila. Bradley is a young man, I would say probably in his early 20s, and Gaila is an older woman. I sat and had a chat with Bradley and asked why this course was important to him. He spoke about improving his Auslan skills and keeping them sharp and said that one really important part of his certificate I course is to help students develop basic levels of proficiency in not just Auslan but also written English, numeracy and digital literacy, and other kinds of foundational skills needed to get employment now.

Bradley told me he already has a couple of jobs, so he has employment, but that brushing up on those skills and learning a bit more will help him either increase his hours of work or potentially change his career later on. So for him, the purpose of studying that certificate I was really clear. As I said, he is a young man in his 20s just starting out in the working world.

I then had an opportunity to speak to someone who was at a different stage in their life, Gaila. I asked her what incentivised her to do the cert I and she said it was good opportunity to stay connected with other people. We know that sometimes that is very hard for people in the deaf community. There are things that those of us who are not members of that community take for granted, which can be harder, that social contact. Gaila pointed to that as a reason she wanted to be part of the certificate I, to come along and meet other students.

There was another point that I thought was very interesting, and it is something that I think is easy for those of us outside the community to take for granted. Gaila commented that, just like spoken language, for instance English, Auslan is constantly changing. Some of the signing changes over time. Gaila said it is very easy, as a member of the deaf community, as they get a bit older, to get a bit out of touch with some of the new signing techniques. An example that she used was the signing for 'biscuit'. For reasons that she is not clear on, it is now signed differently, and there were also some other examples. She said having access to the certificate I gives her the opportunity to stay current with the signing techniques for now, which helps her get out there and make sure that she can communicate with different members of our society.

I want to thank the member for Hurtle Vale for being there with me on Monday and most of all thank those students for sitting down and speaking with us so frankly and honestly about why the provision of that certificate I is important and other things that we need to be doing as a government to support the community. I also thank TAFE for doing that fantastic work.

The other thing I will mention is what the member for Torrens spoke about, which is fantastic. I know she has a real interest in this because we have spoken about it on a number of occasions. Another thing that we did with TAFE last year, in this case as part of our agreement with the federal government for fee-free TAFE, was, in the first agreement, sign up to about 12,500 fee-free places. They have all been used, which is great, and we are now part way through a three-year deal with the federal government to offer a further 15,000 fee-free places.

In 2023 and 2024, as part of that fee-free TAFE provision, we offered Auslan certificates II, III and IV as fee free, so not just subsidised but at no cost at all, removing that barrier for anyone who wished to go along and learn Auslan at the certificate II, III or IV levels. I can tell you that the response was really positive. We had those who enrolled in certificate II as part of fee-free TAFE—and this is just in South Australia—115 enrolments; in certificate III, eight enrolments; and in certificate IV, 15 enrolments. That is a total, in not much more than 12 months, of 138 enrolments in one of the three different certificates in Auslan as part of fee-free TAFE, which I think is really important.

One of the things that I have watched very closely as part of fee-free TAFE, given that we have committed both state and federally to a lot of taxpayers' money, is that the people who are accessing it are people who would have accessed it anyway. I think that has certainly been true, and true, too, of those who have accessed the Auslan course.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:25): I would just like to thank the Minister for Human Services, the member for Hurtle Vale; the Minister for Education, the member for Wright; the Deputy Leader of

the Opposition, the member for Morialta; and the member for Gibson, for their valuable contributions. I support the comments made by the education minister about making these courses available and easily accessible to people in the community who are wanting to do them because it really is about ensuring that we have, in our deaf community, equality of access and ability to communicate and receive communications through the sources that we spoke about earlier today.

Motion carried.

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:26): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that National Police Remembrance Day is held on 29 September 2024;
- (b) acknowledges that this day honours the memory of police men and women who have lost their lives in their service to the community, and pays tribute to that ultimate sacrifice;
- (c) appreciates the ongoing dedication of sworn and non-sworn SAPOL members across the city, suburbs and regions of South Australia; and
- (d) acknowledges the great work of the South Australia Police and the Australian Federal Police in protecting our communities and providing us with a safer and more secure community.

This important motion that I bring today is pertinent this week. As I said, National Police Remembrance Day was first held in 1989 and is commemorated annually on 29 September, which is the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel, the patron saint of police officers. It is a day to pause and to honour officers whose lives have been lost while performing their duty. It is also a time to remember police officers who have lost their lives through illness or other circumstances. On this day, we honour the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to keep our community safe.

Our police officers right across our state, and, indeed, across our nation, put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve, and it is important that we take a moment to remember and appreciate their dedication and their selflessness, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety of our community.

There is no more pertinent time when we reflect on the past year because, as we lead up to National Police Remembrance Day I would especially like to acknowledge the upcoming first anniversary of the death of South Australian officer Jason Doig. Sergeant Jason Doig was fatally shot while attending a property late on 16 November last year at Senior, north of Bordertown. He was a man who was simply doing his job—his important job—of keeping our community safe, one which he had been committed to for decades, and he was cut down in such a brutal fashion.

What the police officers faced that night was unimaginable to those of us who have not served in the police force, but, in talking with many police officers around the state, it is a real and present danger that is faced regularly by those who have the responsibility and take it on their shoulders to keep our communities safe.

Jason Doig had served the South Australian community for decades, and at the end of his career he was serving in the South-East at Lucindale, as I said, before his life was fatally taken at Senior, north of Bordertown, while helping his colleagues. Before that, he served on Eyre Peninsula in my electorate, prominently in Cleve on the eastern Eyre Peninsula. That is where I first met Doig, back in the day at Cleve when he was someone who engrossed himself in our local community during his time serving in Cleve.

Regional police officers, in particular, are such an important part of small regional communities because they are a point of reference and a point of leadership; indeed, they are part of the community. They provide a level of leadership that is so necessary in our regional communities, and that is why I will always be one who fights for continuing police representation in our regions. Doig did so in Cleve in his unique way. Anyone who described Jason would describe him as a unique cat, and in his time in the South-East I know he created great connections with his community. In their unique and incredibly important role in our regional communities, our police officers are often

serving in isolated places, and they have to be self-sufficient, motivated and driven and have the best interests of their community's safety at heart.

The tragic circumstances that we saw play out on the night of 16 November last year is a stark reminder of the sacrifice and the spirit of servitude that our police force live out in their work every single day. Our police force does important and challenging work in our communities right across all of South Australia.

It has been a privilege, in the last couple of years, to be able to attend the National Police Remembrance Day service at the academy at Fort Largs and to stop to remember and recognise that we should never underestimate the personal and family sacrifice of those men and women who are on the frontline of some of the most dangerous and challenging situations in our community. Indeed, the burden that families carry is one they carry for their whole life.

I also want to talk about the case of a cousin of my father who lost his life: Constable First Class Dennis Ronald Pugsley. He died in 1980, before I was born. He died after the police motorcycle he was riding collided with another vehicle on the Lower North East Road in Houghton. I bring this up not just to once again say his name in this place and make sure it is on the record but to recognise the impact that a loss of life, especially one that is lost while serving on the frontline, had on the family of Dennis. As the years and decades continue on, we should never underestimate the impact of the sacrifice that those serving on the frontline make for us and for our community.

It continues to be an impact of some 40-plus years on the lives of members of his family and his siblings. I know his parents—we lost dear Aunty Eva a few years ago, and she always carried the burden of losing her son who was sacrificed on the frontline while keeping our community safe.

Every day that an officer dons their uniform and every hour that they are on duty, they knowingly and willingly put themselves in harm's way to protect the rest of us. It is important that we take a moment to remember and appreciate their dedication and selflessness. Indeed, on 29 September I will be doing just that. As the shields of our community, our men and women in blue risk their lives, and sometimes, ever so sadly, police officers pay the ultimate price for their dedication to law and order. The people of South Australia, and especially us as elected representatives, join together recognising these officers, including Brevet Sergeant Jason Doig and Constable First Class Dennis Ronald Pugsley, who made the ultimate sacrifice in keeping our community safe.

National Police Remembrance Day is an important one to be able to acknowledge not only the officers who never returned home but also their loved ones and the impact that it has on their families. We heard only recently again from the family of Jason Doig, who is still coming to terms with the loss of their beloved brother, son and friend. Today, we honour those through this motion who continue to risk their lives for the greater good, supported by their families. Thank you to all police officers for your bravery, your sacrifice and your dedication. To those committed police officers who recognise the risk tied to the profession but still provide the best service possible to keep their communities safe, we thank you.

I also want to commend the police commissioner and former State Coordinator, Grant Stevens, for his work and also note in this regard the important work of the Police Association. To speak firsthand to officers who serve is so special to be able to recognise the sacrifice they make and to also recognise—as we always continue to discuss, debate and challenge each other on either side of this floor—the need for us to properly resource our police officers, those who are tasked with keeping our community safe, and that ongoing challenge to make sure we do support them to an appropriate level.

To each and every serving member of our police force, we thank you and we take the time as we note National Police Remembrance Day on 29 September to especially recognise those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I endorse this motion and commend it to the house.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (12:36): I also would like to say a few words in support of the member for Flinders' motion on National Police Remembrance Day on 29 September. The member has put it very eloquently about the dedication and commitment to our communities that our police officers across all of South Australia and Australia have. One of the things I want to be able to

do is to acknowledge the dedication, courage and sacrifices that not only police officers themselves make but also their families and their friends, specifically in regional areas.

In regional areas in particular—and the member for Flinders also mentioned this—once they take the uniform on and apply for the position they become our protectors. They become the protectors of our community, our youth and our future generation. Once they are in regional areas, specifically with small communities, one of the things they have to do is build trust with those communities. They become part of that community, and it must be very difficult on some occasions when they have to carry out their official duties, specifically when they are in very small communities. Whilst they are part of that community, they still have to do their jobs.

I know for a fact that lots of my friends have gone into smaller communities and they have had to abide by the regulations and the law and at times it is very hard for some people who they become very good friends with—maybe play football with or against or whatever it may be, and even with some of the ladies out there who play netball—when they have to apply the regulations and the law to those particular people. It is very hard because they also live in a very small community.

One of the things I would like to reinforce is that people in regional areas—and I will talk about Marree and locations up there—not only are looking after a small community but they have to patrol and make certain that they are out there for some incidents that may be 200 or 300 kilometres away. They take their own lives in their hands when they travel on these roads because it is very dangerous at times, specifically when you have to get up there for an accident and things like that.

I cannot say enough for our dedicated police members, past and present. As the member for Flinders has indicated, 29 September has to be remembered every year in recognition of that. I have the opportunity to attend quite a few of my police stations as the local member and this weekend, 29 September, I am going to Port Augusta to celebrate National Police Remembrance Day there. Unfortunately, like the shadow minister and others, we cannot be everywhere, but if this house can show its support for this motion I am sure that that message and support will get out to the whole of regional South Australia, and South Australia in general. Again, I commend the motion to the house.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth—I should also note, a former serving police officer.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:40): Indeed, thank you, sir. I rise, of course, to support the member for Flinders' motion:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that National Police Remembrance Day is held on 29 September 2024;
- (b) acknowledges that this day honours the memory of police men and women who have lost their lives in their service to the community, and pays tribute to that ultimate sacrifice;
- (c) appreciates the ongoing dedication of sworn and non-sworn SAPOL members across the city, suburbs and regions of South Australia; and
- (d) acknowledges the great work of the South Australia Police and the Australian Federal Police in protecting our communities and providing us with a safer and more secure community.

I have spoken at length on motions similar to this every year I think, so I will not trouble the house today with a lengthy contribution, but I do want to support the member for Flinders in bringing this motion to the house and I want to acknowledge the ongoing bipartisan nature of these expressions of support for South Australia Police. It is really important for serving police officers out there to know that, despite whatever differences we may have in this chamber, the parliament itself and the individual members of this parliament support our police every time they go out and do their job.

As the member for Flinders said, every time a police officer wakes up in the morning or in the evening, as it may be, they know that they are going out into the unknown. When I was in the job—I do not know what the call sign is now; presumably it has changed—the most common job you would get was a 101 disturbance. You would get very little information; you would get whatever information there might be on the premises you were attending, if any. You would have no idea what you were going to, and police officers do this every day.

Every day they go to work they will get seven, eight, nine or 10 of these disturbance calls. Thankfully, 99 per cent of the time these are easily resolved in one way or another, but sometimes of course there is violence and very, very occasionally a police officer is called upon to give their life. It is in the service of the community, and they know that. They know that going into the academy, they know that going out onto the street every day, and so I think they are worthy of the acknowledgement of this house.

Regardless of any government support for the police, it is worth this parliament expressing its support—and not just for police officers; there are police security officers, too, who should be acknowledged. They are trained, they are armed; they come to places like this, and Government House and schools every day. Their role has been expanded into other operational policing areas, and they take very similar risks to our sworn police officers and I want to acknowledge those people today as well.

As I said, I will keep my remarks short, other than to express my absolute solidarity with the member for Flinders in this regard. I do note his observations about regional policing and the late Jason Doig. I did not know Jason, but I do know regional police officers and I do absolutely concur with the member for Flinders' observations that regional police officers do play a special role in their communities. They serve as a binding force in their community, they have a leadership role in that community in a very different way to metropolitan police, so I do want to commend them as well. With those few words, I commend the motion to the house.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (12:44): I, too, rise to speak on this motion ahead of National Police Remembrance Day this weekend. I thank the member for Flinders, the former shadow minister for police, for introducing this motion to the house today, because it is a really important opportunity for us as a parliament to really reflect on the service and the sacrifice of all serving police officers right across Australia, and particularly in South Australia, who serve us now and also those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of their duty.

This motion acknowledges the memory of police men and women right across the country who have made that sacrifice and, in particular, today we rightly acknowledge the 62 South Australian police officers who have tragically lost their lives in the line of duty. When you go and look at the honour roll, when you go and look at the Wall of Remembrance at the Police Academy, I think it is very important to remember these are not just names or plaques and that 62 is not just a number: these are humans who had lives and livelihoods and left behind parents, partners and children in the course of making that ultimate sacrifice to serve their state to keep us safe. That is why they do what they do; they do it to keep us safe.

When most of us see danger we run away from it. The people we are celebrating and acknowledging in this motion today run towards that danger when they see it. Their selflessness, bravery and sacrifice is to be commended today, on the weekend and on all days. This year, in particular, as the mover of this motion has acknowledged, we particularly mourn the loss of Brevet Sergeant Jason Doig, who, on 17 November 2023, was killed in the line of duty after responding to a call at a property near the Victorian border. At that time, Jason became the 62nd South Australian police member to be recognised on that Wall of Remembrance who died carrying out his duties. I commend and agree with all of the comments made in this house about the sacrifice that Jason Doig made.

A couple of weeks ago I had the honour of attending a ceremony for the unveiling of Jason Doig's plaque on that Wall of Remembrance. I had the honour of meeting his family, who, I must say, are carrying themselves with exceptional strength through what we can all only imagine is the most shocking and tragic of times. The family is attending the National Remembrance Service in Canberra over the course of the weekend, which is why this ceremony was held a little bit earlier, to give them the opportunity to be here in Adelaide when that plaque was unveiled.

I also commend and acknowledge those who have travelled in the annual Wall to Wall: Ride for Remembrance. This is an occasion when SAPOL officers join their counterparts from right around the country on a motorcycle ride, from the Wall of Remembrance in each city to Canberra, for a tribute ride. This year is particularly poignant because, for the first time, that journey from Adelaide to Canberra had a new name added to the roll of honour which, of course, was Jason Doig. I want

to particularly acknowledge the very, very sad loss of Jason Doig in the line of duty, along with all those others who have lost their lives.

This motion also rightly acknowledges all South Australian serving police officers. We have one of the oldest police forces in the country. There are some 6,000 sworn and unsworn SAPOL officers who risk everything for us every day on a 24/7 basis. I particularly acknowledge, as others have, the toll that sometimes takes on their families and on themselves.

To conclude, I want to acknowledge all those serving officers and thank them for the work they do. It is our work here to make sure that we always protect those who protect us and we always honour those who have served us. This motion today seeks to do just that and I am very pleased to commend it to the house.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:50): I rise to support the motion the member for Flinders has brought to the house and join with speakers who have participated in the debate in once again ensuring that this house recognises National Police Remembrance Day that is coming up this weekend and I make particular reference to the service that will commemorate National Police Remembrance Day on Friday at the Academy.

I want to say some words in particular today about the loss of police officers in the Hills. I want to make particular reference to the grandfather of my constituent and friend Peter Tregoweth. Peter's grandfather, Thomas Tregoweth, died in service on 19 December 1926. Thomas was stationed at the Burnside Police Station. As police often were at that time, he was called to investigate a bushfire in Waterfall Gully on 15 December 1926.

He became encircled by the fire and was badly burned when trying to escape. He died four days later of what was described as 'shock'. He left behind his wife, Mary, and a two-year-old son, William Thomas Tregoweth, Peter's father.

Thomas Tregoweth had fought for the AIF in France. He had been captured and had been held as a prisoner of war. When he returned to Australia in 1919, he joined the SA Police and in 1922 he was posted to Burnside. As I said, the outset officers at Burnside were often tasked with fighting bushfires as part of their duties.

As the member for Flinders has reflected, the loss of Thomas Tregoweth occurred almost a century ago. The effect of that loss has travelled down the generations. Peter Tregoweth is now himself a proud grandfather. At this time of the year in particular, but also at different times of the year, and we see each other regularly I am glad to say, he reflects on the loss of his grandfather in those circumstances. It is obvious that the loss in those circumstances travels throughout communities and across generations. So we remember and I pay tribute in particular to Thomas Tregoweth and his family.

I also want to mention the Police Heritage Site at Waverley Ridge Road, Crafers West, because it recognises and commemorates the loss of three officers in similar circumstances not quite 30 years later. On 19 January 1951, Sergeant Instructor Cecil Sparkes—together with two special constables in Special Constable Mervyn Casey and Special Constable Colin Kroemer—was called from the Adelaide Police Barracks to attend, along with 20 officers, a blaze up in the Hills.

They were sent up there with knapsack sprayers and they were confronted by a blaze in a gully. The wind swept the fire around them, cut off their escape and, so terribly, the three police officers died in that fire. They were found subsequently very badly burned, with knapsacks still on their backs. Their loss is commemorated by the memorial that is located at Waverley Ridge Road at Crafers West of that terrible day in 1951.

Whether police are going out each day, called to—as the member for Elizabeth said—that most usual of calls, to a disturbance, or whether indeed police, as in times past, are called to service in response to a bushfire emergency, police have over the life of our state been at the centre of what it is to display ordinary daily profound courage in the interest of the service of our community. We recognise them, we particularly mourn the loss of those who have died, and we thank police for their service across the state. I commend the motion.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:56): As I rise to conclude the debate on this important motion, can I just recognise that indeed it is a motion which quite rightly has bipartisan cross-party support. It does not matter who is in government, who is in opposition, who has the control of the budget purse strings, it is the responsibility of us as decision-makers to make sure that we are supporting those who are protecting us and our community, and also enabling appropriate resourcing for those who put their lives on the line every single day for us.

I would like to thank the member for Stuart for his contribution. In fact, the member for Stuart represents such far-flung regional centres that really the work that is done in those outback police stations in particular is unique, and for him to speak those words of recognition of that community aspect for not just rural or regional but for those far regional areas of our state was really important, so I do thank the member for Stuart.

I thank the member for Elizabeth for his contribution, recognising that his experience as a former shadow minister for police gave him an insight into the force and into the work of police officers right around our state, and highlighting that it is not the first time he has made a contribution on a motion similar to this. As the years pass, there is no less important opportunity than we have every single year to recognise, especially around this Police Remembrance Day, the sacrifice that is made.

I would like to thank the member for Bragg for his contribution and, as the shadow minister for police, getting the insight into the recent unveiling of the plaque for Brevet Sergeant Jason Doig. As I mentioned in my few brief words, the family has come together with this state to mourn the loss of Jason, and the service which we had last year was an incredibly moving one. An amazing turnout from police officers down the length of North Terrace really was not just recognition of the sacrifice that Jason made, but also recognition that this could be any one of them in those same circumstances.

I thank the member for Bragg and the member for Heysen for bringing that historical context that, indeed, as the years pass the memories may slightly fade, but the importance of the sacrifice continues on. In doing that, I would like to thank members once again for their contribution and, as we near this weekend and National Police Remembrance Day, I would like to wholeheartedly endorse the passage of this motion through this place.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Petitions

PORT NOARLUNGA ESPLANADE

Mr COWDREY (Colton): Presented a petition signed by 1,644 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government and the Minister for Planning to restore allotment 108 Esplanade, Port Noarlunga, to open space status, acknowledge the ecological and community significance of this land, cease attempts to sell off this allotment, and preserve this allotment for community purposes.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Annual Reports 2023-24—

Employment Tribunal, South Australian

Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before we go any further, I would like to welcome to parliament a few guests who we have in today. Can I remind MPs that if you have guests in, can you email my office? I am sitting up here with bunches of handwritten notes and text messages and everything else. We do have a system; it is much easier.

Mr McBride: I thought that was the system.

The SPEAKER: It's not my system. I cannot even read your writing, member for MacKillop. Let's start off with the students we have here. They are from Kimba Area School, years 8 to 10, and they are guests of the member for Flinders. I saw you walking around North Terrace with your Kimba shirts on and you were doing your town and your peninsula a great justice in the way you were behaving out there in public. I am sure the member for Flinders is being a great host for you and I hope everyone behaves themselves in here. We do not want to have to chuck anyone out for doing stuff that you would not get away with at school.

We also have a delegation of staff from the Victorian parliament who are over here on an exchange program. We welcome you to the South Australian parliament. We have representatives from the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) who are guests of the Premier and the Hon. Emily Bourke MLC. It is great to have you in the house as well.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley could not resist an interjection. It would have been unusual had he not said something. I am sure it was complimentary too. To the letter I will try to decipher here: we have the CEO of the Limestone Coast Local Health Network, Ms Emma Poland, and the Mayor of the Naracoorte Lucindale Council, Mr Patrick Ross. It is always great to have people from the Limestone Coast in the chamber. Via text message, a late one, we have from—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: You know who you are, minister. The Minister for Human Services has a guest in here, Edward Mickan, who is the 30th Youth Governor of South Australia. I hope I have not missed anyone amongst the pile of notes here, but if I have, you are all welcome in parliament.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:10): I bring up the 50th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Question Time

The SPEAKER: Guests, this is question time. This is the best hour of parliament you will see. Let's hope everyone is on their best behaviour. I hand you now to the Leader of the Opposition.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): My question is to the Premier. Has the government sought advice on any exposure the state faces in the event that the Whyalla Steelworks is placed into voluntary administration? If so, when did it seek this advice and what prompted it to seek this advice?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:11): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Yes, the government is actively procuring advice on a range of areas regarding the Whyalla Steelworks. It's principally being driven through the work of the government in the Steel Task Force. The Steel Task Force has been stood up for some time. As the Leader of the Opposition is well aware, it is chaired by Mr Bruce Carter, who has a high degree of familiarity with the operation of the steelworks. In fact, Mr Carter was advising the government throughout the exercise of the administration of the steelworks as it transitioned out of the ownership of Arrium ultimately to GFG.

On a day-to-day basis, the Steel Task Force has been providing advice to the government principally on the \$50 million that we've got on the table that we want to make available to GFG for the purposes of the transformation of the steelworks. More recently, the task force has been undertaking work on behalf of the government to contemplate any actions that we may take to ensure the state is prepared for any eventuality that may present itself with the steelworks. That includes the procurement of the types of advice that the Leader of the Opposition referred to in his question.

That work has been ongoing. I would submit to the Leader of the Opposition that the Steel Task Force has become increasingly engaged in terms of the day-to-day operations of the steelworks ever since trouble started to emerge a few months ago, particularly with the events around the blast furnace, where troubles saw the blast furnace not operating in a way that we would expect. That has been ongoing ever since then, including most recently getting advice on what the state will do in the event that something unfortunate happens with GFG.

In terms of the exposure to the state, that is relatively limited. The state is a creditor of GFG in a number of areas. As the Treasurer yesterday indicated, currently GFG is not up to date in terms of its payments of royalties. This is not unprecedented. It has occurred in the past and subsequently been rectified, and we have every hope that that's what will occur in this instance. In terms of exposure to the state, there isn't exposure beyond those types of arrangements in a financial sense. The real exposure to the state really comes in the form of our concern for the people of Whyalla, the businesses that service Whyalla, the people who work at the steelworks. That's where we are concerned and that is what is of course occupying the minds of the government and all concerned who are invested in this effort.

What I wouldn't expect the Leader of the Opposition to be familiar with is that for some weeks now—well beyond some weeks—the government has had various press conferences, particularly myself and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. The media have, naturally, been asking us about the work we are undertaking and we have made pretty plain that we are treating this seriously and in a way some ways are public facing, others less so.

But, as I said yesterday, I could not possibly overstate the fact that the government is behind the scenes working as hard as we can to not unfairly or unreasonably fuel concern or speculation, but at the same time act in a way that is prudent and measured so as to ensure that the government is well prepared for anything that might happen with GFG.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): My question again is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on any contingencies that the government has in place for the Whyalla Steelworks should GFG enter voluntary administration?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:15): Contingencies—was that the word you used?

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: Yes.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: There is a balancing act that the government seeks to perform that hopefully the Leader of the Opposition appreciates. The Leader of the Opposition was on radio earlier this morning saying, in a way that I think is commendable, that he does not have an appetite to catastrophise the situation regarding GFG, and that is an approach that the government would commend. It's unfortunate that in the same breath the Leader of the Opposition was then trying to liken this to a State Bank disaster—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I was complimenting the Leader of the Opposition. The government is seeking to get the balance right here in making sure that we are calmly and methodically working behind the scenes to prepare for anything that may eventuate. We hope, mainly, that those things don't eventuate but at the same time we are not seeking to unnecessarily alarm people who are engaged at the steelworks.

In that context, it would not be appropriate for us to fully illuminate the types of things that the government is working on. Much of it has already been traversed in the media, including what

was frankly a good get from *The Tiser* in terms of the procurement that we have in the market at the moment on some advice that we are seeking to make sure we have at hand. But what I think that does is demonstrate just how seriously we are treating the situation and that the government is actively considering a range of possibilities and a range of ways we would respond to those events, should they present themselves.

GFG ALLIANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question again is to the Premier. Has the Premier sought assurances from GFG Alliance today that it can pay its debts as and when they fall due and payable?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17): We have regularly communicated to GFG, not just in recent weeks but over years, as I am sure the former government did when these matters arose from time to time. It is the government's expectation that they meet their financial obligations as and when they fall due to the various and quite numerous creditors they have throughout the state and around the country.

The other thing I would say, though, just to add to that, is, of course, it is the government's expectation that directors of GFG in their Australian operations abide by the law. There are very clear duties that are required, as a matter of law, upon directors to ensure that businesses and enterprises trade in a way that is solvent—that is to say that they meet their debts as and when they fall due and they have the capacity to do so. Those directors' duties exist on GFG as much as they do on any other enterprise that operates within the state of South Australia.

It's worth, though, illuminating the house about some of the variables that GFG is seeking to contend with. They are serious and not all of GFG's making. Yes, there have been troubles in respect of the blast furnace, and they have largely been overcome with an extraordinary amount of work. The current difficulty they are having with the blast furnace speaks to an impurity that was allowed to present itself within the blast furnace. As it is in its hot idling state, the impurity is progressively being addressed.

On the advice that we have got from GFG, they expect that, in the early days of October, that will be resolved and the hot idle state that the blast furnace is in will be lifted, allowing the blast furnace to return to more commercial operations. That will be a good thing for cash flow within the business. Its obligations to customers, though, are being met out of inventory that it currently has on hand; that is the advice that we have.

Separately to that, of course there are other problems that the company has had in regard to securing supply of coking coal. Again, that has largely been addressed. There is an import of a significant volume of coking coal that has been sourced from an overseas market, coming to Australia via Indonesia, and that is due to arrive in the not-too-distant future, if it hasn't already. The other element is that they were able to secure a supply of coking coal from BlueScope. We would like to put on the record the state government's acknowledgement of and appreciation for BlueScope engaging in a degree of fellowship and stewardship throughout some of these various concerns that GFG has had.

On top of that, of course, GFG is confronting global headwinds in terms of the steel market. The global price of steel has reduced substantially, and that is causing not just problems for GFG but for global steel producers. That is particularly of concern within China, and of course that in turn is having an impact on iron ore prices that have started to come back in not-too-recent history.

So we are seeing a number of challenges that GFG has, but of course, whatever those challenges are, they do not exonerate GFG, or relieve GFG, of their obligations that they have under Australian corporations law.

MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINING

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): My question is again to the Premier. Did the Premier approve the Minister for Energy and Mining's gazetted leave this week? If so, when?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:21): I most certainly did. Indeed—and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is well aware of this, but nonetheless I will illuminate him for the sake of his question—whenever ministers—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader, you have asked your question. Everyone is being fairly well behaved today, which I think is important given the subject matter that we are talking about and the importance it has for the entire state, but in particular for the member for Giles, the member for Stuart and the member for Flinders and for those students from Kimba in the gallery. So I would ask both sides, members on both sides, to maintain the silence and stop the interjections. You know they are unparliamentary and you know they are in breach of the standing orders. The Premier would like to continue his answer.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Thanks, Mr Speaker. As the Leader of the Opposition is well aware, when ministers leave the country, whether it be for the purpose of annual leave or for the purpose of travel, they have to go through a cabinet submission process. That was done, as is always the case. The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport is currently in Germany regarding a range of transport-orientated activities. It is a relatively quick trip, and he will be home in the not-too-distant future.

The SPEAKER: The member for MacKillop has the call. I want to thank him on behalf of everyone at Glencoe for umpiring the Senior Colts to a premiership on the weekend. You can have all the questions for the rest of the day, member for MacKillop!

Mr McBRIDE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It was a very good game, and they dominated all game without umpire interference, that's what I will say. So the best team won the day against a very gallant Nangwarry.

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:23): My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister direct local health networks to revert community health services at Lucindale, Tintinara and Coonalpyn to the level they were before the changes were made earlier this year? Mr Speaker, with your leave, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: Community health services in these towns have been downgraded and locals are not happy.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:24): I thank the member for MacKillop for his question and for his passionate interest in and advocacy on behalf of health services in the Lucindale community and also in the Limestone Coast more broadly. There is a very clear expectation from this government, in terms of our devolved health system arrangements that we have under the Health Care Act with local control through our boards, that our health networks are delivering and improving health services across South Australia, and obviously that includes the Limestone Coast and the Lucindale community.

As a government, we have increased the budget quite substantially for health services and including the Limestone Coast, where the budget is now up to over \$201 million for the Limestone Coast. That is a 22.5 per cent increase up on when we came to government, under the previous government. An increase in resources has been made available, but of course we want to make sure that they are delivering results on the ground.

There has been a model of changes in terms of the Lucindale community nursing services that have occurred over the past year. That is not something that has been directed by me as the minister or us as the cabinet, or even by the health department in Adelaide—this has been through work that has happened at the local level through the Limestone Coast Local Health Network under the auspices of their governing board, and clearly there has been concern.

Obviously, I appreciate the member today bringing a delegation of some of the residents from Lucindale to meet with me, including the mayor of Naracoorte and Lucindale to meet with both

myself and also the Chief Executive Officer of the Limestone Coast Local Health Network, Emma Poland. There has been a very clear commitment from the network and also from the government to listen to those concerns and to make sure that we can ensure that the services being provided to the Lucindale community meet the needs of the community.

Clearly, there is also an issue in terms of GP access, which goes to what every community in the whole country is facing at the moment with the GP crisis that we need further action from the federal government in relation to. But I think there is a clear number of matters in which further work needs to happen in terms of the Limestone Coast nursing services, one of which is clearly in relation to the frustrations that members of the community have found in terms of booking appointments to see the nurses at the Lucindale clinic. There has been some work to try to improve that, but the feedback that we have heard today is that that is still not working, and not to the satisfaction of the representatives that we met with today, so we need to do some further work to make sure that that's an efficient process where people can book in their services.

There were also concerns raised in terms of whether nurses are operating to the full extent of their scope of practice. This is something where the government has a policy position, and we want to see as many nurses as possible operating at their full scope of practice. So that is something that we need to look at further as well.

I can report that services continue to be provided at the Lucindale clinic. Year to date, in 2024 there have been 128 blood tests, 74 wound appointments and 128 vaccinations undertaken through the Lucindale clinic, which is pleasing to see, but we obviously want to make sure that they are as available as possible.

The other element I point out is, thanks to the member for MacKillop's advocacy, we undertake clinical service planning across the region, including Lucindale, and we are open. The Limestone Coast Local Health Network CEO has made it clear and is looking at whether there are options of enhancing services in Lucindale, looking at where we have had some nurse-led clinics operating elsewhere, and that is certainly a matter we will consider as part of that work for the Clinical Services Plan.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In keeping with the Naracoorte theme, it's time to cross to one of the greatest exports from Naracoorte, the member for Adelaide.

STATE ECONOMY

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:28): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house on the South Australian economy?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:28): I am grateful to the member for Adelaide for the question and her interest in the economy because, as recently as last week, there was yet another round of good news about South Australia's economic performance. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly in the face of a national economy which is slowing, and slowing in response to the most swift and extraordinary increase in the cash rate by the Reserve Bank in an effort to get inflation under control. Not only have we recorded good figures in the last week but, once again, they are nation-leading figures; and at a time when the nation's economy is slowing, for South Australia again to be performing as the best in the nation is really good news for our community and the participants within our economy.

Last Thursday the ABS released the latest labour force data and it showed that our unemployment rate had fallen to 3.9 per cent, the equal lowest in the nation and, pleasingly, once again below the national average of 4.2 per cent. It is interesting to note that this is the 13th time that the ABS has reported monthly labour force data for South Australia where our unemployment rate has had a 3 in front of it, that it has been below 4 per cent, and that is the 13th time since records began 46 years ago. Those 13 times have been recorded in the last two years, so that just shows how strongly our state's economy is performing. A full percentage point lower than what it was—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders! The leader!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —at the time of the last election. A full percentage point lower—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader and the member for Flinders, I don't want to have to chuck you out in front of the Kimba kids.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —and 44,000 extra jobs created since the last election. Good news for our state's economy. It is also recorded on the back of, once again, more than 20,000 job vacancies recorded in the state's economy. So not only are records being set for a nation-leading low unemployment rate, but record-high job vacancies are still persisting in the economy.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: That is absolutely terrific news for our economy. The Leader of the Opposition cries out that this is something which the government should not be celebrating. We should be celebrating the fact that there are 44,000 more South Australians in work today than 2½ years ago—44,000.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader and deputy leader will come to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta will leave the chamber for the rest of question time.

The honourable member for Morialta having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. That is really good news for those South Australians who are continuing to look for work in our economy. The good news continues, of course. As we previously reported, South Australia is rated the best-performing economy in the nation three quarters in a row and those three quarters being the last three quarters of data recorded by the CommSec State of the States report—really good news for participants in the state's economy.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:32): My question is to the Treasurer. Is GFG Alliance in arrears on its payroll tax, land tax or any other state tax and, if so, by how much?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:33): I am not advised that that is the case, but I am happy to check the records and bring back any further particulars to update the house, but I am not advised that that is the case at this point in time.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:33): My question again is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer provide to the house the value, structure and security of any South Australian government super senior funding facility available to GFG Alliance?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:33): As I indicated to the house yesterday in some detail, there is a funding facility that has previously been announced by the government for GFG for the purposes of investment in the steelworks. That amount of money was made available between the time of GFG purchasing the steelworks after Arrium and its trading business OneSteel going into administration in 2016 in an effort to provide a further incentive for the steelworks to be invested further in, to upgrade the capital equipment of the steelworks and to try to transition these very longstanding, productive operations into more efficient, more cost-effective, more profitable and more sustainable operations into the future. That money remains available for investment in the steelworks.

As I articulated to the house yesterday, there are a range of conditions the government has had in place since that time, since 2017 off the top of my head when that funding was first made

available, and to date those funds have not yet been provided. The government has not provided those to GFG and they remain available for investment in the steelworks as long as those conditions are satisfied.

As I said yesterday, and as I repeat today, the purpose of making those funds available is to invest in the plant and equipment and the future sustainability of the plant's operations, not to meet current day-to-day operating costs.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:35): Supplementary: the Treasurer referred to the funding guidelines for the \$50 million option for GFG. Have those funding guidelines he referred to in his answer changed in this term of government?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:36): I thank the member for his question. They were certainly under review in this period of government. I will correct this if what I am about to say is not 100 per cent accurate, but my understanding is that they were also subject to review under the term of the last government as well. They have been periodically reviewed but overall the purpose of the funds and the guidelines providing strictures around the use of those funds overall has not changed and that is for the future investment in the steelworks in order to improve their operations and their sustainability into the future, not for use to meet day-to-day operating expenses.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:36): My question is to the Treasurer. Has the Treasurer made any inquiries about how many South Australian businesses are creditors of GFG Alliance and, if so, how many creditors are there and what is the value of this debt?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:36): The government has been doing that through the Steel Task Force, as the Premier articulated yesterday. They have been liaising with GFG on their current operating conditions. I don't have that detail at hand, but I will see what I can provide to the house in due course.

CHARITABLE RECYCLERS SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Will the government commit to providing 100 per cent subsidies to charitable organisations under the South Australian Charitable Recyclers Subsidy Program? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: In 2020, the subsidy provided was at 50 per cent. Then credit to this government, it has been lifted to 75 per cent at the start of this year, but charitable organisations in my electorate are asking for it to be increased to 100 per cent so that they can keep more money that they raise for charitable purposes.

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) (14:37): This question is a challenging one for government policy. As I came into being the Minister for Environment a couple of years ago, I became aware that there had been for some time a request from the charity sector to have the waste levy waiver increased to 100 per cent from the 50 per cent that I think had been pretty longstanding.

For people's understanding, this means that when charities receive a whole lot of material, as much as possible, of course, they either give it away or sell it, but there is inevitably some that they need to dispose of in various ways. Recognising that they are charities, for some time there has been a 50 per cent discount on the waste levy for that which they dispose directly to landfill.

It seemed to me that given the excellent work that they do, and particularly in the context at the moment of a cost-of-living crunch that's hurting particularly those who are on lower incomes, it was reasonable to give them a greater waiver.

We did quite a bit of policy work in the Green Industries section of the government on what kind of signals needed to be sent because ultimately we don't want materials going into landfill. What we want is for as much as possible those products, those materials, to be re-used or recycled in some form. The advice that I received, and I accepted, was that an increase to 75 per cent was a significant decrease in the cost for the charity sector, but remained therefore an incentive for finding other disposal methods that are available other than putting into the landfill.

The challenge with going to 100 per cent is that the cheapest option would be simply to dump everything, and so trying to find that balance between continuing to drive for a circular economy and, at the same time, recognising the importance of that sector, is what I have been seeking to do.

I recognise that many people across the charity sector are both grateful for the relief and wanting to see more, and I therefore recognise obviously the legitimacy of the question, but at present that balance is one that I think is probably the right place to be, but I would say that is constantly for me under review. It was a relatively recent decision and I will be seeing how that translates, what kinds of challenges remain for the appropriate recycling and diversion from waste levy that the sector is able to undertake, and I will continue to work with them to see whether there needs to be more relief given at a later date.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY ROUNDTABLE

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:40): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier provide an update to the house on the recent South Australian government-led lithium-ion battery roundtable?

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) (14:40): Lithium-ion batteries are incredibly useful, obviously, but also extraordinarily challenging, mainly because they so easily under certain circumstances set themselves on fire, and it's a fire that is very difficult to put out. Having heard from a number of waste facilities in particular, but also people involved in emergency services who have to respond to these fires, I recently decided that we needed to have a round table of all the relevant organisations involved, so that we could go through the issues before us and what options there might be. That was obviously very recent, and I was very glad that the Minister for Emergency Services was able to attend along with me.

What had been happening previously was that there had been work that was initiated at the commonwealth level, and is in fact ongoing, and we are expecting to hear more about that towards the end of the year at the next Environment Ministers' Meeting. That work is largely around the beginning of the process, which is the question of how we can better design materials so that it is obvious that there are lithium-ion batteries in them, and what the disposal route ought to be, and also that they are easily accessible so they are easily able to be taken out.

You find now that there are vapes, kids' shoes—the ones that have the little lighting up bit at the back—toys, pregnancy tests even, toothbrushes, bluetooth headphones, digital cameras, wireless computer devices, which are all the kind of products that have these lithium-ion batteries embedded within them and not easily removed.

Also, I would say for the Premier's benefit, when Taylor Swift came through the country there were those light-up bangles that a lot of people were wearing: they all had lithium-ion batteries in them as well. Now, my expectation is that everyone has held on to those and hasn't thrown them into the bin, but the challenge is, of course, that if you throw those into the bin, either into the recycling or into the landfill, then it is likely to end up causing a problem when they end up at the recycling facility or the landfill facility.

What we have found is that there have been an enormous number of fires—and I am just looking for the figures—some 10,000 to 12,000 battery-related fires a year. What happened in the ACT was that an entire recycling facility was wiped out by such a fire, and they don't do recycling in the ACT; they have to do it in New South Wales. That's the scale of the challenge. Of course it is very expensive for the recycling facilities. They receive these materials. In order to get insurance,

which is going up astronomically every year as a result of the risk of these fires, they have to also not only pay more but put in a lot of fire-suppressant technology that is also very expensive.

It is far better for us not to have it entering the waste stream in the first place. We are working with B-cycle on ways in which we can have collection places for people to be able to come and bring their batteries to be able to be recycled and also, of course, we are working on places across Australia where those batteries can be taken and the recyclable elements of them recycled and those that aren't disposed of in a safe way.

But while it might seem a little amusing and I was teasing the Premier a little bit about Tay Tay's bangles that I think he may have a few of at home, the truth is that this is a very serious economic challenge for Australia for the materials recycling facilities but also for all of us. We need to pay attention because lives may well be lost as a result of these fires caused by these batteries and we need to be working together to find the various solutions that are required at each stage of the creation, consumption, disposal and, we hope, recycling of these products.

STATE PROSPERITY PROJECT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. What impact would the scenario of the Whyalla Steelworks being placed into voluntary administration have on the State Prosperity Project?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:45): I appreciate the shadow minister's question because I think the State Prosperity Project very much demonstrates the need for the type of policy that we are talking about here for Whyalla. In fact, to put that another way, the challenges that we have persistently seen around the steelworks demonstrate the need for a serious government policy to set Whyalla up for the future.

The challenges that we are seeing at GFG or to contemplate the hypothetical—we certainly hope it is a hypothetical—that the shadow minister refers to, in the event that the steelworks were to go through a change of ownership, would not curtail the government's ambitions or the opportunity that the Upper Spencer Gulf has around Whyalla.

To put a bit more meat on those bones, the mine at Whyalla sits on a long-term, profitable, economic magnetite resource. Magnetite is a critical ingredient towards the creation or production of green iron and then ultimately green steel. The state government's ambitions principally exist around green iron.

Green iron is an emerging market. We know that steel production is responsible for somewhere between seven to 10 per cent of all global carbon emissions. There is no world where we achieve the Paris targets without decarbonising steel. In order to decarbonise steel, you need a few different things. One of them, of course, is iron ore and magnetite iron ore lends itself towards green iron production far more readily and economically than hematite, which is why already on global iron ore markets there is a significant premium for magnetite over and above hematite. That is already real. It is already baked in. It can be accounted for by simply looking up the price at the moment.

The iron ore resource, which of course is Australia's longest known iron ore resource when iron ore was first found in the Middleback Ranges near Whyalla, is principally magnetite and that is profitable and readily able to be exploited. What we would like to see is that magnetite, rather than just being dug out of the ground and sent overseas, to be used domestically for the creation of green iron. In order to be able to do that, we know there is a role for both natural gas and in the long term and far more desirably hydrogen, hence the government's plans around the Hydrogen Jobs Plan. But we are committed to these plans, regardless of the ownership of the steelworks.

The other thing I would say, of course, is that the State Prosperity Project has at its heart not just the green iron opportunity or the hydrogen opportunity but also the copper opportunity, hence our commitment to engaging with BHP in the pursuit of Northern Water. So there are a number of elements to the State Prosperity Project because it is a comprehensive long-term strategy.

Let me say this: there is no serious economic policy that is available to basically any government or any jurisdiction around the world that will not encounter challenges, that will not

encounter issues, that need to be addressed on that journey. That is the nature of serious policymaking. But if you are serious about it, you have to be willing to invest the effort, invest the resources and invest the capital to make sure you realise those ambitions and that is exactly what this government is committed to because we are not just focused on today or tomorrow, we are actually genuinely focused on the economic prosperity of the state in the long term.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Morphett, and, member for Morphett, when you ask your question maybe don't just yell out all the time while the Premier is answering it. Your next question.

STATE PROSPERITY PROJECT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:49): Thank you. My question is to the Premier: will any entity produce green steel under the government's State Prosperity Project and, if so, which entity and when?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:49): As I referred to in my previous answer, there are a number of elements to the State Prosperity Project: copper, green iron and hydrogen. The green iron opportunity is best able to be realised in the nearest term by the enterprise that owns the Whyalla Steelworks. I think most ideally you would take the existing capital and you would take the existing knowledge to be able to transform the existing steelworks into a facility that can produce green iron.

But let me say this for the benefit of the shadow minister: this is a long-term strategy. To be able to produce green iron requires a huge capital investment wherever it is produced. You need not just the resources—the magnetite, the hydrogen, the natural gas—but also a DRI facility, and that is a major capital investment. In the first instance, that would most likely be realised by a pilot program—a trial program, maybe something in the order of one million tonnes—but it would be far more advantageous if the existing owner of the steelworks was the one who was most committed to it.

But the thing is, there is one side of the house that has plans, there is one side of the house that is demonstrating its commitment with robust policy, and then there is another side of the house that is worrying about the culture wars. There is the other side of the house worrying about preselections.

Mr BATTY: Point of order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right will stop interjecting. The member for Bragg.

Mr BATTY: Standing order 98: the Premier is debating and providing a bizarre commentary on what the opposition is up to. He should get on with answering the question.

The SPEAKER: I will ask the Premier to resume his comments. I think what the Premier was doing was responding to interjections, which are unparliamentary and in breach of the standing orders.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The people of South Australia are quite rightly scrutinising every member in this place and asking: what is the economic plan, what is the strategy that governments or alternative governments have to realise the opportunities before us? We know that there will be challenges; we know that nothing worth doing is necessarily simple in a modern context, particularly given the sort of complexity that we are talking about—but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be committed to it.

There are some who I think are gearing themselves up to somehow think there is a political opportunity in the demise of a business in South Australia. We don't take that view. We know—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey! Final warning for the member for Florey. Members on my left, you will listen to the Premier in silence.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The Leader of the Opposition shouts across the chamber that he is just trying to help. Well, if the Leader of the Opposition—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader, you can leave the chamber until the end of question time.

The honourable member for Hartley having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: If the Leader of the Opposition was serious about trying to help, he would make sure that the alternative government of this state isn't focused on its internal culture wars and instead is focused on developing and procuring serious policy that might actually help someone in South Australia.

Mr BATTY: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order from the member for Bragg.

Mr BATTY: Standing order 98 again. You directed the Premier return to the question last time. He is defying your order now.

The SPEAKER: No, I directed the opposition to stop interjecting and I have heard nothing but—

Mr Batty: But we're not—

The SPEAKER: You can leave the chamber for the rest of question time too, member for Bragg. I am sick of the interjections. This is a really serious subject for South Australia and you should be listening in silence. The Premier.

The honourable member for Bragg having withdrawn from the chamber:

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right, you will be leaving, too, if you continue with your interjections.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Our commitment to the State Prosperity Project is sincere. We would love to see GFG be able to realise its own transformation plans. Regardless, we believe there is a bright future ahead for the city of Whyalla, given the natural resources that are at its disposal, and we are committed to realising all of that potential.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:54): My question is again to the Premier. Has the government been in any discussions with any other entities to run the Whyalla Steelworks?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:54): The owner of the steelworks is GFG and the company that we are in regular discussions with is, of course, the owner of the steelworks and that is GFG and we wish them every success.

Regarding the opportunities around the State Prosperity Project, including the green iron opportunity, there is a range of companies we are speaking to. I personally have spoken to representatives of BlueScope, Nippon Steel, POSCO, thyssenkrupp and Tata Steel regarding the green iron opportunity in South Australia. They are engaging in it. We have had an expression of interest process being run by the state government regarding the green iron opportunity because it's long-term and it's a big one. During the course of last week, I had another meeting with the net zero authority and I had a meeting with ARENA at a federal level all discussing these opportunities.

Understand this, and I come back to the fundamentals: the fundamentals are sound. We have the magnetite, we have the renewable energy, we have a steelworks and we have a port. If we bring those things together, we can produce green iron. I would actively encourage—and this is not me being cute, because I have been on a significant journey myself becoming familiar with this area of policy—but the green iron opportunity, I submit to the opposition and any other person in this state observing parliamentary proceedings, is a multi decade long opportunity that is a very big one for South Australia and it would be a great shame if we didn't start investing the effort in a bipartisan way to realise it.

No different to the state's pursuit of the naval shipbuilding industry and the state's pursuit of the space industry, we have achieved this because there has been bipartisan support for it, across different governments, of different political persuasions, across a sustained period of time. The same can be true for the green iron opportunity.

The world is going to need to consume green iron. Green steel, I think, is an even more long-term prospect again. I think we should focus on what can be achieved in the next 10 or 20 years and green iron is very much in that category if we play our cards right at this particular point in time. There is global competition for it. We know the Saudis are interested. We know in America they are interested. We know that others are looking at actively investing in DRI. There is DRI being invested in in northern Europe at the moment to produce green iron because it is going to have to happen in order to decarbonise steel. We can get in on this if we get in early and we get active and seek to exploit the natural advantages that we have here in this state.

Quite rightly, the shadow minister asks questions about the State Prosperity Project and the steelworks because all of these things are important, but know this: the owner of the steelworks is an important consideration but it's one that is second to the fundamentals economically for the long-term future of the state. Whoever owns the steelworks, or whoever is investing in a green iron opportunity, will be a significant partner to whoever is occupying the treasury bench. We have that great privilege at the moment and that is why we are actively working with all parties at every available opportunity.

BEACHPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the government commit to upgrading the Beachport Primary School? Mr Speaker, with your leave and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: The Beachport Primary School is made up of numerous transportable buildings that date back 50 years. It has category 2 asbestos, limited light and ventilation and numerous safety concerns including a verandah with a concrete floor that has been enclosed to make a classroom. Additionally, there is insufficient space to accommodate the increase in students due to the implementation of the government's universal access to preschool for three year olds and the town's population growth.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:59): I thank the member for MacKillop for his question and his longstanding advocacy for schools in his area. I am aware of the issue to which he refers in his question about Beachport Primary School. I can't say I have visited the school yet, but I certainly intend to. I think it's got about 34 students, not dissimilar to the primary school that I attended myself. I know what is commonplace amongst particularly small regional schools is that often they have a lot of maintenance issues, often a backlog of maintenance issues, that we probably haven't got to.

We do have the added complexity at the moment of ageing infrastructure, which is not unique to South Australia. It is something that all education systems right across Australia are grappling with. I think the average age of a building in the South Australian education system at the moment is about 44 years, and that is despite a good, solid 10 years of investment and building. I thank the member for MacKillop for his advocacy on behalf of Beachport.

I am also aware of the fact that the majority of the buildings there are the notorious DMAC buildings. As the member said, they do come from 50 or 60 years ago. By their very nature they were designed to be temporary and portable. They have not stood the test of time well and they are not what I would like to see our students learning in now. The challenge for us as a system is how we get around to all those schools.

Just this morning, I was at Stradbroke Primary School with the member for Morialta opening up new facilities there, with \$7 million that was actually committed by the member for Port Adelaide when she was education minister back in 2017. Certainly, it is my desire as education minister now to see the same level and quality of school infrastructure at all our sites, including those in regional areas like Beachport.

More specifically, in terms of the question the member asked, we sent representatives from the Department for Infrastructure's team out to Beachport in March of this year to review the site, I am told, in relation to asbestos, which unfortunately does exist in a lot of our schools. We do keep a register of that, and the level 2 nature of this asbestos is safe. It is monitored very closely. It is not a risk to students there unless it is disturbed. We have very stringent protocols around how that is managed if works are to occur.

We have looked very closely at the issues with the roof as well. I am expecting some advice to come back to me on the investigations that have been made by the department so that we can make an assessment, along with all those other projects that are in a fairly long list of work that we need to do around what we can do to support Beachport. Once that's done, I will be in touch with the member for MacKillop. I certainly hope that in the not too distant future I get the opportunity to join the member for MacKillop at Beachport Primary School. I am happy to inspect these things myself and speak with the school community about what we can do to better support them into the future.

REGIONAL HOUSING

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Can the minister outline how the Malinauskas Labor government is continuing its commitment to deliver housing in regional South Australia?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:02): Since becoming the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, we have changed the focus of Renewal SA away from being a suburban-based development agency to being an agency that operates across the state and, most importantly, in regional South Australia. Part of changing that mission, of course, was putting someone from the regions on the board. We placed Anne Moroney, formerly of the Barossa RDA, a person who has had a long time lobbying both sides of this house on behalf of the Barossa and has had a particular interest in housing over that time in the regional setting.

In February 2023, we established the Office for Regional Housing. In the same month, we announced 30 homes in those key regional areas, but for government workers, and basically trying to stand up a model that we thought could stand the test of time. There are 30 homes in the Copper Coast, the Riverland, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Ceduna.

Later that year, with the member for MacKillop and the Tatiara council, we expanded what we call the Bordertown model, where we, as part of a partnership with the council, bought five out of the first 15 blocks in an area that will eventually have 60 allotments not just for government workers but for private industry and the residents of those towns. Of course, that then led us to sod turning, with the member for Stuart in Port Augusta and the member for Giles, for that really important project that houses two policemen and two nurses—a really important contribution to the project.

We also made \$10 million available for the Regional Housing Initiatives Program. What that allowed us to do was put out there to local government that we wanted to partner with them in the same way we did with Bordertown and make that part of the feature of going forward.

We have seen milestones for those 30 homes, from flat frames to slabs to site activations. We have projects in Port Augusta and Mount Gambier running three months and two months ahead of schedule, respectively, and other projects on budget and on track. There are six in Ceduna with early works on site, and pre-fab occurring in Adelaide.

Budget day was a good day for regional housing. Another \$20 million was announced as part of regional housing initiatives, a really important sign of this government's commitment to regional South Australia. Of course, those four homes in Port Augusta are now reaching their final stages of completion, and we are just about to hand over keys next week to the tenant—signs of real progress.

The next exciting announcement is that the Renewal SA board has endorsed proposals for the expenditure of that \$10 million that I mentioned before, subject to commercial agreements. That has the potential to see the development of over 400 housing outcomes across 12 separate projects and across five different regions over the next three years, a real partnership with local government,

and an important partnership with local government who have the local knowledge and often skin in the game, and want to get skin in the game, in terms of providing housing for their communities.

That's all following out of the experience that was pioneered by Tatiara council, and they deserve great credit for their policy initiative. I would like to thank Dean Johnson. I would like to thank the LGA. Obviously, housing is a big issue in the regions and we want to make sure we are a good partner with the local governments in those towns.

FORT LARGS POLICE ACADEMY

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Police. When did the government first become aware of the safety breaches at the Fort Largs Police Academy? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: It was reported in *The Advertiser* today that the Fort Largs Police Academy gun range was secretly shut for five months earlier in the year after catastrophic safety failures risked lives.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (15:07): I want to emphasise that at no time was there any threat to public safety in consequence of a technical failure with the projectile barrier at the firing range at the Police Academy at Fort Largs. The suggestion that there has been a threat to public safety was described by the police commissioner this morning as outrageous.

The other matter that I want to emphasise very clearly to the shadow treasurer is that at no time did any projectiles or fragments leave either the firing range or the maintenance room. The maintenance room is rarely accessed. It's locked at all times. Training for cadets and PSOs has not been delayed in any way, I am advised, in consequence of the failure of this particular projectile barrier. That is because there are alternative arrangements in place which allow for this particular technical training to be delivered at an alternative site. Proof of the fact that there has been no delay in relation to the delivery of this critical training lies in the fact that there has been an increase in the number of graduates that this government is delivering.

Let me emphasise this point as well by way of context to the shadow minister, who, as it happens to be, is not the shadow minister for police because he has had to leave the chamber, no doubt to prepare another—

The SPEAKER: Minister, as a former Speaker you know that it's unparliamentary to reflect on who is in the chamber and who is not in the chamber. Also, on a day when we have asked for quiet on both sides, please don't provoke those opposite you. Please just answer the question.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your direction and encouragement to follow the standing orders. These are matters that I always take closely into account. As I say, it was inaccurate to suggest that there was a risk to public safety. It was, on the police commissioner's suggestion this morning, in fact outrageous. It is also inaccurate to state that the facility was secretly shut down. South Australia Police had to inform more than 2,000 staff that alternative arrangements were in place. This wasn't some kind of nefarious bit of information that just wasn't shared widely; it was shared effectively with the entire police community. Do you know how long it took for you to do anything about it? Months. Months.

Mr TELFER: Point of order, sir: this is obviously in breach of No. 98: debate. I asked a pretty simple question about when the minister found out. I don't know what this is that he is doing.

The SPEAKER: Minister, please stick to the question with your answer.

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN: Indeed, Mr Speaker. I am endeavouring to deal with the substance of the question and certain matters which are in the public domain in consequence of a press release that has been put out that suggests that there is some danger to public safety. There is none. One of the most outrageous things that a shadow minister can do is suggest wrongly in the public domain that there is some threat to public safety—and that has been described rightly as outrageous.

*Grievance Debate***FROST DAMAGE**

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:11): Last week we saw severe frost right across South Australia. Temperatures were below minus 5, and it is the worst frost that South Australia has encountered since 1982. It was the lowest ever spring temperatures in South Australia. That widespread frost in the ag and horticulture sector right across the state has wreaked havoc in the Riverland, Mallee, Clare Valley, Barossa, Mid North, Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula. Every corner of the industry has been hit in some way, shape or form.

Some of the crops—grain crops, legumes, wine grapes, citrus, almonds and many other horticulture crops—have seen losses between 25 per cent and 100 per cent. If we look at what that equates to, it is going to be billions of dollars lost in the economy here in South Australia. Many horticulturalists will not harvest a grape, nut, citrus or peach product this season.

It is similar for some of the livestock farmers. Some farmers are now having to sell 50 per cent of their herds. Many farmers are unsure whether they will be able to feed them due to the short stock of hay. We are already facing feed shortages, and domestic feedstock is at a historic low for this time of the year. Farmers are reporting difficulty in buying due to cost and availability, which leaves very little feed for exporting.

The transport industry has also weighed in to say that they have projected losses, a drop in freight of up to 50 per cent, which makes their businesses unviable for the upcoming season. On the back of flooding, drought, China's trade tariffs, record high electricity prices, the cost of doing business and the lack of export initiatives, it is an unforgiving time for many of those primary producers and small businesses that are feeling the squeeze. We are not out of the woods. We are currently still experiencing very dry conditions right across the state, which could see that frost return.

I have asked the minister, and I have already briefed the Premier, to please step up and take some responsibility. There is a role for government to play in listening to the needs of the regions and in getting on the radio to say that we are still gathering information.

A lot of people have insurance for weather events. It is simply being out of touch to suggest that all primary producers have insurance on crop. There are some sectors that do because it is affordable, but most do not because it is out of their reach. The regions are in a desperate time. They are in need of a state government, a federal government, to do wide valuation, to come out and give support.

First and foremost, the concerns around a lot of primary producers is that on the back of a challenging series of years that we have had, the mental health of our primary producers is at a testing point. It is testing their ability to continue to go on financially stressed, to look at their crops withering. Many crops—whether they are cereal crops—are white; they will not mature, they will not fill out. Many vineyards right across the state are black. Sadly, the frost was of significant strength that we saw the first frost burn off the primary bud, whether that is on a grapevine or a tree. The second frost came along and burnt the secondary bud. That will mean, as you will probably know, that we will not see a crop off much of South Australia's primary production this year.

To our primary producers, our regional communities, I ask all of you to look after your neighbour. Look after your family and your grower friends. There is an opportunity to back our locals through these tough and trying times. In particular, my call is to every South Australian: whether you have a relative on a farm, whether you have family or friends out there as a primary producer, give them a call. Ask them if they are okay because with what I have seen in the Riverland, with what I have heard on the phone right across South Australia, things are in a perilously fragile state at the moment. The grain growers are doing it tough. They have already put their crops into the ground, inputs have been paid and yet will see very little return.

The horticulture sector and the wine sector are already on their knees. They are industries that are worth saving, they are industries in which the government do have a role to play, and I urge this state government to get on the phone, to speak to their federal colleagues and make sure that South Australia is still on the map for another season.

CHILDHOOD LITERACY

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:16): Childhood literacy is something very close to my heart. It is a passion of mine and I am sure it is a passion shared by many in this chamber. I am particularly pleased that it is also a passion shared by many leaders in the school communities in my electorate. It is not just literacy, it is not just reading, it is about stories—and stories are intrinsic to what make us human: telling each other stories, listening to each other's stories and learning through stories as they are passed down through generations, and so on. So I believe very strongly that reading and stories are an essential part of a child growing up and learning to be an adult.

I have been involved in Elizabeth Park Primary School for a very, very long time. When I was first elected, the long-term principal there, Patrick Moran—someone I still have a very good relationship with—was an excellent principal. He still has a role to play at Elizabeth Park Primary School, working as a peer-support person alongside the current principal, Kath Best, who has been there for a number of years now.

Kath Best has taken the baton from Patrick Moran and really run with it. She is an excellent leader, full of passion for her community, full of passion to build the school and improve the school, but sadly this is her last year. So I do want to pay tribute to Kath and the work she has done. There are some infrastructure upgrades in the pipeline thanks largely to her advocacy and her leadership team, and I do want to pay tribute to her. I am very proud that the person replacing her, I am advised, is also from another local school who has been promoted in the local school system. So it is good to have people in the electorate who are really passionate about literacy, and that is what I am talking about today.

Elizabeth Park Primary School run what they call Reading Superstars awards. A lot of schools do something similar where they encourage kids to read a certain number of books. The Premier's Reading Challenge is the obvious example, but this goes beyond it: it gives books out as gifts and prizes for students. They also invite people like myself, the mayor, various councillors and other community leaders to their school assembly to read to kids, to share stories with the Elizabeth Park kids and also to tell them about our favourite books and books that influenced us and changed our lives and why. We talk about the importance of libraries, too.

In the time I have left, I also want to pay tribute to the amazing art teachers at Elizabeth Park Primary School, particularly Sally and Jen. Every year, like many members here, I run a Christmas card competition where kids from all over the community submit artwork to be placed on a Christmas card calendar that goes out to the entire electorate. I am pleased to announce—I hope I am not pre-announcing it; my staff will kill me—that someone from Elizabeth Park Primary School this year has won. I will keep the name secret for now, but I am very pleased that it is someone from Elizabeth Park because it is a great little community.

Sir, with your indulgence I do just want to talk about one matter in the time I have left. I want to say happy birthday to my beautiful wife, Ann. Ann is overseas at the moment with my two boys, Felix and Miles, and she is giving them an educational experience and a language-immersion experience that is incredible and I hope it will stay with them for the rest of their lives and change the course of their lives. Ann will probably be getting breakfast ready for the boys now, but I know she is an assiduous watcher of the proceedings of this place so I just want to say I love her, I miss her, I am very proud of her and I wish her a very, very happy birthday from afar.

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth saving on Zoom call fees, using the parliamentary live feed to send messages of love—we've got everything today.

PORT NOARLUNGA ESPLANADE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:21): I rise today to talk about a matter of interest within my portfolio responsibility. Earlier today, just prior to question time, on behalf of the broader community of Port Noarlunga and in particular those who live in close proximity to the dune conservation reserve, I tabled a petition of more than 1,500 signatures for the save the porties dune petition.

This particular issue revolves around an allotment of land at 108 Esplanade at Port Noarlunga, which is an ecologically significant portion of what has essentially become part of

the Port Noarlunga sand dunes. It sits directly adjacent to, but may as well be, for practical purposes, part of the South Port Noarlunga conservation reserve.

I had the opportunity to go down there a couple of weeks ago to meet with the petitioners and the broader group of the community there that are very passionate about this issue. It arose from the fact that in their view there had been an intention by the state government to sell the particular plot of land that I have just referenced. There have been moves obviously within the community there to reject the proposal, to bring this issue to light and to work to have that section of land retained as public open space.

There is a long history as to how that particular allotment of land has been treated historically. It has, from time to time, been seen as public open space land. It has had that designation changed and since then there has been a push, and a part of this petition is to try to have that sense of zoning returned to that particular allotment of land so that it cannot be developed and is there for many members of the local community to enjoy into the future. There are very few sections of our coastline that now see such significant sand dune systems on them. I am very jealous; I wish my section of Adelaide's coastline had as significant a dune system as they have down there. We obviously support that push and that change.

What is clear now, given there has been a statement from the planning minister that there is no longer any intention to sell that land, is that there is still not clarity in terms of how that land will be zoned into the future. I think that is something that is going to be explored in the not too distant future. It is something that those particular petitioners, the more than 1,500 people of Port Noarlunga and the surrounding suburbs, are keen to get a clear answer on from the government as to what the zoning around that particular allotment is going to be into the future.

While I am on my feet I would also like to recognise a significant event that occurred on 14 September, a Saturday afternoon. It was essentially the Lockleys and Henley footy clubs going back-to-back to back against each other in the C, B and A grade grand finals of the division 3 section of the Adelaide Football League at Woodville Oval. It was a fantastic day with a crowd that I am sure most SANFL games would be jealous of. There was a huge number of my local community down there supporting their two local football clubs. Unfortunately for Lockleys, despite having a ripper of a season, they went down in all three of the grades. They were very close games in terms of the support from both sides but not necessarily, unfortunately, the score lines.

To have a situation where we have Lockleys, a strong junior club, developing as they are, shifting from division 3 now to have promotion into division 2 next year is going to be fantastic for them, but for the Henley football club, a return to division 2 football next year. Both clubs have a significant women's program that is continuing to gather steam and momentum as those two programs continue to grow.

To Damon and his coaches and the leadership of the Henley football club, congratulations on your season. In anticipation of being on behalf of the Lockleys Football Club, can I thank Tom Clarke, the A-grade coach over the last number of years, for his contribution to the club. He announced post the grand final that he would be stepping away from the club. On behalf of the local community, thank you for what you have done, Tom, in re-energising and bringing the Lockleys Football Club up into a division that is well and truly competitive in division 2. For the Sharks and the Demons, we look forward to Cowdrey Cups continuing into next year and for some good local footy in the 2025 season.

PORT PIRIE ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:26): Today I would like to speak about an annual event that has taken place not only in Port Pirie but also in Port Adelaide, Fremantle and Molfetta in Italy. I had a notice of motion before the house today, but the member for Playford was called before me so I had to withdraw that motion. I did not even present it.

I want to concentrate on the 95th Annual Blessing of the Fleet recently held at Port Pirie. The celebrations are in recognition of the hardships of the original Italian fishermen who came to Australia, and in particular Port Pirie, 95 years ago looking for a better life for themselves and also their families. Many fishermen left their families at home in Italy at the start, but once they established

themselves they then brought their families out to Port Pirie in this instance. Many of those fishermen have a long history in Port Pirie.

In their own country, these people were renowned as great fishermen and they used these skills in the new country they had called their new home in Australia and in particular Port Pirie. Their vessels were not like those of today, but were wooden, and when they went out fishing they stayed out in the gulf for many days, coping with cooking on the wooden floors and also without any fresh water.

The organisation of this event has been shared by many over the many years, but this year the president was Philip Amato who, with his wife, Tina, and their very dedicated group, were able to carry out one of the biggest attended blessings of the fleet activities in our community for many, many years.

The celebration starts with a debutante ball for those young people who elect to make their debut. This year, there were 11 couples choosing to make the 95th celebration their night of celebration. The next morning, there was a celebration at the Catholic St Mark's Cathedral where the crowd was the largest for many, many years. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Vincent Tarzia was there for about three-quarters of an hour but then he had to go to Port Augusta.

From the cathedral, the procession proceeded to where the selected members of the committee carry the statue of Our Lady of Martyrs to the Port Pirie boat ramp where further festivities are undertaken, this year with many food stalls where the public was able to enjoy various food celebrations. I must admit, the crowd there was absolutely fantastic and the atmosphere was really terrific. One of the good things about that was there were lots of people from outside of Port Pirie who were seeing some of the actual celebrations and the attractions of Port Pirie.

After these festivities, the statue is then loaded onto a fishing vessel where the statue, plus the bishop, other clergy and the debutantes, are then taken out onto the Port Pirie River to celebrate and acknowledge the hardships that our Italian forefathers endured in those early years.

Every year, my partner Lyn and I have been able to go on to the fishing boat but, unfortunately, this year there were only two boats and by the time the bishop, the clergy and the debutantes were on board, for the first time in the history that we have been there, we were not able to go on the vessel. We then returned to the cathedral for the final blessings and left there with great thoughts.

This year, we were privileged to have the bishop of Molfetta and some clergy attend the 95th anniversary. The bishop was absolutely fantastic. The conversation was very hard because he does not speak English and I do not speak Italian; however, we did have one of the Filipino priests there translating, and I said to Father Jimmy, 'You are doing a fantastic job there, Father Jimmy.' He said, 'Geoff, I could tell you anything and you would believe what I am telling you.' At the end of the day, it was very good. The bishop of Molfetta was very impressed with not only the dedication but also the commitment from the locals.

In closing, I would like to mention that for the duration of our celebrations there have been only seven presidents in 95 years. As I mentioned, Phil Amato is in his fifth year. I would also like to commend Dino Gadaleta, who has served on the committee since 1968 and served as president for 38 years. Also, as a non-Catholic, I have been privileged to have attended—according to Philip Amato on the night of the debutantes—for 30 years, celebrating and learning with other community members there.

I also would like to acknowledge that over these years I have had the opportunity to learn more about the Italian heritage and their history, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to learn from other organisations; it is a great thing. I am looking forward to the 100th anniversary and, as I have mentioned to the minister, we will be looking for funds for the 100th anniversary in five years.

NETBALL AND FOOTBALL GRAND FINALS

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:31): I rise to celebrate and recognise two sensational occasions in the Hills: the grand final days in netball and football respectively that have just been run and won at Mount Barker on the weekend and over at Uraidla a couple of weeks ago. It is good to recognise

these very special occasions, coming as they do just after last Sunday that saw back-to-back premierships for Glenelg. I will have a bit of a word to say about the Bays in a minute as well.

The Hills Netball Association has covered itself in glory again. Really, the entire day hosted by Uraidla Netball Club saw the mostly girls—girls and boys—all the way through to the senior women playing in grand finals that were attended by the community far and wide. It was just a fantastic festival of netball with some absolutely fantastic netball played. It was freezing cold weather, I might say, suitably, and Uraidla, as Uraidla is wont to do, turned on a really crisp, cold day where you needed to turn up with basically your skiing jackets on and all that sort of thing if you were not playing.

In the B grade netball, Aldgate defeated Ironbank—congratulations to Aldgate—and Uraidla prevailed over Crafers netball, with whom my family, our eldest daughter in particular, have had a long association. I just want to single out for special praise all of those who contributed to what was just a tremendous occasion. Congratulations to all the winners in all the teams on that day.

The same was true of the Hills Football League grand final day just at the last weekend. That day started with a magnificent win by the Mount Lofty Devils over Blackwood, a really courageous run. At the risk of singling out those superstars, I want to just make special mention of the Goldstone and Illman families, who participated in some early celebrations. It was a really tremendous performance by the Devils.

Then, in the Div 1 contests, the Bs had a really hard-fought hit-out between Echunga and Hahndorf. Echunga just managed to get over the line. That will be a proud victory long remembered. A special shout-out to 'Bomber' Lancaster, who has played I think his 500th game or thereabouts. He is a true hero and has played most of those games at Bridgewater but has made the move to Echunga. It was just brilliant to be there to see and to give him a big hug and say, 'Congratulations; well done.'

In the As, I think there was some poetry in Hahndorf prevailing over Nairne. Congratulations to Hahndorf, which has just such a proud history of success in the Hills Football League. I want to make special mention as well of Kangarilla and Gumeracha. Gumeracha prevailed and Kangarilla was gallant in defeat in the Country Division grand final.

Having seen footy played in the Hills like that on Saturday and then to see the truly historic event on Sunday of the Bays going back-to-back at Adelaide Oval prevailing over Norwood in which there were shadows of Norwood coming from fifth in 1984, we know we are in great shape locally. The Bays were really not expected to prevail over Norwood as minor premiers, but they came up from fourth and they have gone back-to-back.

I think there have been a few people saying over the last couple of days that Liam McBean really encapsulates that victory in so many ways. McBean kicked seven straight in a five-point win from all angles, all over the place. If he misses one, they go down. Not only did he captain the side but he won the Jack Oatey Medal and the Bays went back-to-back. If there is a personification of that great victory for the Bays then congratulations to that giant, in all sorts of ways, literal and metaphorical—I think he is just a tick over two metres tall—Captain Liam McBean and his magnificent men of the Bays. Congratulations to you.

I say, as well, very special greetings, congratulations and recognition to Rob Gillies, once again continuing his service on the board of that great club, alongside so many who have made contributions of significance to the Glenelg Football Club over many, many years. Congratulations.

LIGHT ELECTORATE

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:36): Today, I rise with immense pride and joy to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our local sporting teams and the outstanding success of the 2024 CCL Label Clare Valley Wine Show. A winning culture certainly swept through the Gawler region this year. It started with my beloved Willaston Donnybrooks. As a member of the club, I was pleased to see extraordinary performances by both the A-grade and reserves on the weekend to bring home both premierships in tightly contested matches, each decided by a mere three points.

Commiserations to Angaston in the A-grade and Gawler Centrals in the reserves, but it is heartening to see other Gawler clubs also tasting success on grand final day. Centrals triumphed in the under 17s and under 13s grand finals, while South Gawler emerged victorious in the under 15s.

Our community's winning streak extended beyond football. In netball, South and Centrals showcased their dominance, with South winning five of the seven senior premierships on offer; however, it was Centrals that took home the ultimate prize with the senior 1 premiership, along with victories in senior 4, inter 2 and junior 2 leagues. Willaston also managed to secure a win in the sub junior 2 category.

These achievements across football and netball reflect the dedication and hard work of our athletes, coaches, supporters and, most importantly, all the volunteers not just on grand final day but throughout the year and I congratulate them all. The tone for winning premierships was set the previous weekend, though, as the Gawler Hockey Club secured premierships in the A-grade women's and mixed under 14s in the Barossa Valley Hockey Association. It is the A-grade women's 11th consecutive premiership, while the under 14s have now gone back-to-back. The club's mixed under 12s were declared winners as well, after finishing at the top of the ladder in their division.

The Gawler Strikers outfit were not as lucky as the C-grade men and the under 16s, but it is still a wonderful achievement. The Trinity Old Scholars Hockey Club also made us proud by winning the B-grade women's team premiership, clinching victory in overtime with a golden goal. Although Trinity narrowly missed out in the B-grade men's category, losing four to three in penalty shootouts, their effort and determination were commendable. Congratulations to all teams on making it to the grand finals and representing our community with such distinction.

Another thing I would like to turn to now is the 2024 CCL Label Clare Valley Wine Show. I had the privilege of representing the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development at this prestigious event that celebrated the exceptional quality and diversity of wines produced in the Clare and Gilbert valleys.

This year's show was a resounding success, with the Penna Lane 2024 Watervale Riesling shining brightly after receiving the highest honour, being awarded the Best Wine of Show. Other notable winners were Jim Barry Wines, who secured seven awards including Best Exhibitor of Show, Best Vintage Section Cabernet Sauvignon for their 2022 The Farm Cabernet, and Best Fortified Wine of Show for the 1975 Tawny. Pikes Wines also excelled, taking home several awards including Best Sweet White of Show for their 2023 First Cut Riesling and Best Rosé of Show for their 2024 Luccio Sangiovese Rosé.

I would also like to acknowledge Taylors, Paulett and Naked Run Wines for winning awards and Anthony Koerner for taking out the viticulturist award. These awards highlight the exceptional quality and craftsmanship that define our state's wine industry, and I congratulate everyone who presented at the event.

It is crucial to celebrate and support our wineries, especially given the challenges grapegrowers have faced in recent years. The Clare Valley is renowned for its world-class white and emerging red wines, and events like the CCL Label Clare Valley Wine Show play a vital role in promoting the region and its products. They provide a platform for our winemakers to showcase their talents and for us to acknowledge their hard work and dedication.

It is a privilege to be able to honour all these achievements by publicly acknowledging them in this chamber. Here is to hoping our community continues to nurture the remarkable potential within our region, allowing us to thrive and succeed long into the future—and, fingers crossed, the Donnybrooks can secure a back-to-back premiership next season.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:41): I rise for a happy statement: a surprise community event this morning for one of the Riverland's living legends in Loxton. At 9.30 this morning the community gathered at the Cross of Sacrifice in Loxton to celebrate Howard Hendrick OAM, who turns 101 years old next week.

Today's event was kept secret and Howard was not told why he had to be there this morning, but when he arrived the road running behind the Cross of Sacrifice connecting Kokoda Terrace and Tobruk Terrace had been named Howard Hendrick Way in his honour. This is a great way to acknowledge Howard's outstanding contribution to the nation as well as to his local community.

Howard left his Riverland block to serve in World War II as a fighter pilot. He logged 31 successful operations over Europe in a Lancaster bomber. He returned home and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and, in 2019, a Medal of the Order of Australia for his contributions to the country and the Riverland community. His legacy in the streets of his home town could not have made him more proud.

I also want to acknowledge the thoughtful work of the Loxton RSL and the Loxton Waikerie district council for organising this great event. Howard is a legend. Howard is a great friend of the Riverland. He is up and about every day. He has his seat at the coffee shop and he is there to entertain people who come past. Congratulations to Howard Hendrick.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:43): I rise on behalf of several of my constituents who are somewhat concerned about a business practice in need of a bit of friendly tinkering. Specifically, I am singling out organisations that insist hardworking Australians stay home for up to half a day to wait patiently for one of their staff to pay them a visit. I do not want this to be a witch-hunt and I am going to refrain from naming anyone, but specifically I am referring to technicians, tradesmen and delivery drivers who insist an adult stay home for a protracted time for them to visit.

In most cases, one or two hours of waiting is reasonable, but being told you need to be on the ready between 8am and 1pm or 1pm and 5pm seems divorced from reality. Noting most workers have just 20 days off in a year, the last thing anyone wants to do is to take a day off and sit around waiting for half a day for the doorbell to ring. I appreciate they have time pressures, but so do workers, and I want to take this opportunity to suggest there is a need to tone down the expectations.

It is my intention to share this message on my Facebook to hopefully generate a polite message in the hope this motivates them to do better. When you consider that most of these visits at best take up to an hour, there is a lot of time either side that some respectful scheduling could significantly reduce. After all, the boss is probably flexible to let you duck out for a few hours, but it is a bit of a stretch to allow staff out for half a day without taking leave—and let's face it, who wants to do that?

We are all about give and take in this world and I am simply asking that certain companies begin to appreciate that half a day of waiting is time wasted and, in respect of the busy lives everyday Australians lead, there is good reason they should consider mending their ways.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:44): I take this opportunity in parliament to congratulate everyone involved on another successful City-Bay Fun Run, from the organising committee and the volunteers to all the participants—the runners, the walkers and even the rollers. This year's City-Bay was the 50th anniversary. Started in 1973 by Bob Clarke, the first race had 1,600 runners and went from the Adelaide Town Hall to the Glenelg Town Hall.

After the challenges of COVID and not being able to run the race for two years, there were over 25,000 people who took part, including my wife, Tammy, and myself. In a fitting result, both the men's winner, Isaac Heyne, and the women's winner, Izzi Batt-Doyle, are from South Australia. While Tammy and I were slightly further behind, we both enjoyed the colour and friendly atmosphere, with the highlight being running up Jetty Road and seeing many friendly faces encouraging the runners towards crossing the finish line.

Special mention goes to two of these runners, Tony Heard and Gil McIntosh, who have run in all 50 City-Bays. I caught up with Tony after the race. While this year's race was a challenge on his body, he was always going to cross the finish line. Thank you to Joe Stevens and his team for a fantastic City-Bay and for ensuring the 50th celebrations were worthy of the significance of this race both to Glenelg and South Australia.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:46): On Friday night, I was very proud to be accompanied by agriculture students Noah McKiggan and Fred James from Trinity College Senior and Daniel O'Reilly and Jasmine Reid from Gawler and District College at the Agricultural Bureau of

South Australia 2024 Spirit of Excellence Awards. The Ag Bureau motto is 'connecting sustainable communities' so it is no accident they support both a Rural Youth Bursary and a Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship to encourage research in agricultural sustainability.

The 2023 award winners, Lourens Coetzee and Emma Faint, both provided reports on how they utilised their awards in exploring innovative farming practices, with Emma speaking about how to improve soil biology while Lourens discussed how to improve viticulture practices. Their talks were the highlight of the award night.

With more than 40 branches across the state, the bureau, which is governed by a very hardworking six-member board, provides members with learning opportunities through the sharing of information and knowledge. It was the last night that Chair Janette Ridgway would be attending in that role as she has decided to retire from the position. Janette has been a tireless supporter of the bureau and the agriculture sector in general. I thank her for her contribution to our state.

The 2024 winners, Tim Paschke from Waikerie and Emily Weir from Macclesfield, will be exploring how to improve dry farming practices and the cheese fermentation process. I look forward to hearing their reports at the 2025 awards. The bureau members and branches provide an important forum for our farming community to improve their practices through the sharing of information and knowledge.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (15:48): By leave, I move:

That Mr Basham be appointed to the committee in place of Mr Telfer (resigned).

Motion carried.

Bills

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (BREEDER REFORMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (15:48): Introduced a bill for an act to amend the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and to make a related amendment to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (15:49): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

One of this government's election commitments was to introduce legislation to eradicate puppy factories and prevent any such operations setting up here in South Australia. The commitment was to ensure that standards governing commercial breeding of companion animals in South Australia are at least as strict as any jurisdiction in the nation so there is no incentive for unscrupulous operators to move here to establish their cruel operations.

The Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 addresses this issue. It introduces a new breeder licensing scheme that will require breeders to adhere to strict standards for breeding, adhere to limits on the number of female animals per breeding program and the number of litters that may be bred by the licence holder. Mandatory reporting for each litter will be introduced. This will outlaw large-scale inhumane puppy farms that increase the risk of animal cruelty and bring South Australia in line with Victoria, currently the strictest jurisdiction in the nation for breeding programs.

Applicants will have to apply for licences and will not receive licences if they have been convicted of relevant offences. Fines of up to \$10,000 will apply for breeding animals without a licence or contravening a condition of a licence, as well as the ability to suspend and cancel breeder licences. The bill also increases fines and penalties for offences associated with dogs wandering at large, dog attacks and other safety offences. I recognise today in the gallery the presence of June Deane, the owner of Ruby, who was sadly and horrifically attacked by another dog earlier this year and subsequently passed away.

If a dog attacks a person or another animal, causing serious injury or death, the owner will face a maximum fine of \$25,000 instead of the current \$2,500 penalty. The fine would be up to \$50,000 if the attacking dog was already the subject of a dangerous dog order, an increase from \$10,000. All other fines and expiations for dog attacks will be increased under the changes.

The bill also includes amendments to change several definitions to clarify ambiguity and to add new definitions as required. It will reduce the number of Dog and Cat Management Board members from nine to seven and amend the publishing date for the annual report of the Dog and Cat Management Board to 31 October, which aligns with other reporting timeframes.

The bill will ensure the operation of the online registration system, Dogs and Cats Online, is accurately reflected within the legislation. Explicit provisions are also included to provide for sharing of information, including that held in Dogs and Cats Online, particularly where there is a risk of harm to animals.

The bill will change plans of management relating to dogs and cats to allow councils to incorporate their dog and cat management planning with other operational planning to simplify processes and improve clarity for the community.

The bill will introduce subclauses regarding a new 'wandering dog' order to manage dogs which continually escape. The new order will stipulate reasonable steps to be taken by the owner to prevent the dog escaping and to attend training where appropriate. It will remove the requirement for greyhounds, having retired from racing, to wear a muzzle, which is consistent with the approach in other states and will reduce barriers to greyhound adoption.

The bill will address other minor issues to ensure effective operation of the act. The changes further allow for the recognition of certain interstate orders, allowing the minister, on application, to recognise interstate dangerous dog orders or prohibition orders. This amendment aims to manage the risk identified in another jurisdiction without having to wait for an attack or incident to occur in South Australia.

I would say that this bill has been some time coming, with many people in the community having done a lot of good work in lobbying and asking for the changes that are represented in this bill. In some senses, it looks like there are two elements to the legislation, one being the addressing of the standards associated with breeding and the other dealing with the impacts and consequences of dog attacks. Another way of looking at it, though, is that it is about the more responsible ownership of dogs in South Australia.

We who have dogs and we who know dogs love them; they form part of our family. The only sad thing about having a dog is knowing that they are not likely to live as long as we are. There is something painful about having a dog come into the family knowing that it is likely that you will also have to farewell it.

When dogs are embraced into a family, it is so important that the people who purchase the dog from a breeder—if they are unable to have a dog from a sanctuary (a rescue animal)—and bring that dog home for the family, they need to be absolutely confident that that puppy has come from a mother who has been well treated. The idea of bringing a dog into a family but knowing that what sits behind that cute puppy is years and years of misery for the mother, being overbred, of not being walked, not exercised, not fed, not socialised, that is something that no family wants to do.

While there have been strides ahead in addressing some of the challenges with breeder standards, it is this legislation that will finally put beyond doubt that treating dogs badly, when having them be the suppliers of the puppies for families, is unacceptable in South Australia and will be addressed firmly and with clarity.

Once those dogs are in our family, we owe an obligation to our community that those dogs not become nuisances, and most particularly that those dogs not then attack other dogs, other pets, and people. I have heard so many heartbreaking stories of people who have lost their animals to a dog attack from an unruly, undisciplined, freely roaming dog. It happens too frequently on our beaches where people think that they have control over their animal and they only discover they do not when it is too late for someone else's pet.

I also hear about it happening outside a vet, in someone's backyard, walking along a street, where they have their own animal well under control, well managed, and they are savagely attacked by a dog that is out of control. We have an obligation to make sure that we do not cause that level of pain to another family and the dog that they own, or, indeed, as happens from time to time, an attack on a child or an adult in the public.

That is why these two elements belong together, because the consequences of having a cruel puppy farm ought to be severe, but so too ought to be the consequences of having a dog that, having been taken into a family, then attacks another. I pay tribute to the people in the gallery today who have chosen not to simply suffer in silence in their own grief but to raise their voices to say that the consequences are not good enough, and I hope that in some measure they can feel some satisfaction with the changes that we are making today.

There is a further element that needs to be addressed and that is the compliance undertaken by local government when something like that goes wrong. That is not for this bill, and I will not use too much of my second reading speech to refer to it, other than to acknowledge that it is also on my mind. I hear, too often, about people who have had their animal attacked by another, that they know which dog it is, they know who the family is that owns that dog, and yet there has not been adequate follow-up from councils. That is something that is very much on my mind that I wish to address.

As I say, in conclusion, dogs can be life-changing companions for people living alone and in families. They can encourage children to understand and love nature and other animals, other species that we share this planet with. They can be enormous sources of comfort and joy and reasons to get out and exercise. We cannot treat them cruelly in breeding dogs to live with people and we must not, once we have these animals, allow them to cause pain to others. I commend this bill to the house and I seek leave to insert in *Hansard* the explanation of the clauses without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

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

3—Amendment of section 3—Objects

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 3 of the Act.

4—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause amends section 4 of the Act to define key terms used in the Act as amended by this measure.

5—Amendment of section 12—Composition of Board

This clause amends section 12 of the Act to reduce the number of Board members from 9 to 7, and adjusts the makeup of members accordingly.

6—Amendment of section 17—Proceedings

This clause amends section 17 of the Act to reduce the quorum of the Board consequent upon the reduction in the number of Board members.

7—Insertion of Part 2 Division 2A

This clause inserts new Part 2 Division 2A into the Act, with new section 20 inserted requiring the Board to establish and maintain a centralised dog and cat registration system, which may be in an electronic form.

8—Amendment of section 24—Annual report

This clause amends section 24 of the Act to change the date by which an annual report of the Board is to be provided to 31 October in each year.

9—Amendment of section 25—Dog and Cat Management Fund

This clause amends section 25 of the Act to enable moneys held in the Dog and Cat Management Fund to be applied towards facilities for detained cats.

10—Amendment of section 25D—General powers of authorised persons

This clause amends section 25D of the Act to require warrants to be issued by the Magistrates Court rather than justices.

11—Amendment of section 26—Council responsibility for management of dogs and cats

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 26 of the Act.

12—Substitution of section 26A

This clause substitutes section 26A of the Act, and continues to require councils to prepare plans of management for dogs and cats in their areas, but simplifies the process for the councils to do so.

13—Amendment of section 31—Offence to hinder etc authorised person

This clause amends section 31 of the Act, with the offence currently created by subsection (2) being shifted to be included within the scope of section 20AA of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*.

14—Amendment of section 34—Registration procedure for individual dogs

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 34 of the Act.

15—Repeal of section 35

This clause repeals section 35 of the Act.

16—Amendment of section 37—Notifications to ensure accuracy of registers

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 37 of the Act.

17—Repeal of section 38

This clause repeals section 38 of the Act.

18—Amendment of section 42E—Certain dogs and cats to be desexed

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 42E of the Act.

19—Amendment of section 43—Dogs not to be allowed to wander at large

This clause amends section 43 of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

20—Amendment of section 44—Dogs not to be allowed to attack etc

This clause amends section 44 of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

21—Amendment of section 45A—Miscellaneous duties relating to dogs

This clause amends section 45A of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section, and creates an offence where owners of dogs that defecate in a private place fail to deal with the faeces.

22—Amendment of section 45B—Dogs of prescribed breed

This clause amends section 45B of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

23—Amendment of section 45C—Greyhounds

This clause amends section 45C of the Act to remove the requirement for non-racing greyhounds to be muzzled in public.

24—Amendment of section 45D—Attack trained dogs, guard dogs and patrol dogs

This clause amends section 45D of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

25—Amendment of section 50—Destruction and control orders

This clause amends section 50 of the Act to add to the orders that may be made under the section an order relating to dogs that are persistently wandering at large, or are the subject of such an order under a corresponding law.

26—Amendment of section 51—Grounds on which orders may be made

This clause amends section 51 of the Act to set out the grounds on which a Control (Wandering Dog) Order may be made.

27—Amendment of section 55—Contravention of order

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 55 of the Act.

28—Amendment of section 56—Notification to council

This clause amends section 56 of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

29—Amendment of section 57—Notification of order to proposed new owner of dog

This clause amends section 57 of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

30—Amendment of section 59B—Contravention of Prohibition Order

This clause amends section 59B of the Act to increase penalties for offences under the section.

31—Insertion of Part 5 Division 4

This clause inserts new Part 5 Division 4 into the Act as follows:

Division 4—Recognition of interstate orders

59C—Recognition of certain interstate orders

This section allows the Minister to recognise and register certain interstate orders corresponding to orders under the Act, and makes procedural provision for doing so. The section creates an offence for a person who is the subject of a such an order to contravene the order.

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

This clause amends section 60 of the Act to add 2 additional grounds under which a dog may be seized and detained.

33—Amendment of section 61—Procedure following seizure of dog

This clause amends section 61 of the Act to modify the way in which notices of the seizure of a dog are required to be displayed or published.

34—Amendment of section 62—Destruction or disposal of seized dog

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 62 of the Act reflecting the change in terminology from registered veterinary surgeon to veterinarian.

35—Amendment of section 63—Power to destroy cats

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 63 of the Act reflecting the change in terminology from registered veterinary surgeon to veterinarian.

36—Amendment of section 64—Power to seize and detain cats

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 64 of the Act reflecting the change in terminology from registered veterinary surgeon to veterinarian.

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

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 64D of the Act reflecting the change in terminology from registered veterinary surgeon to veterinarian.

38—Substitution of Part 7

This clause substitutes a new Part 7 of the Act as follows:

Part 7—Breeder's licences

Division 1—Preliminary

68—Meaning of *to breed* and *bred*

This section defines these key terms.

69—Board may publish or adopt standards and guidelines

This section enables the Board to publish guidelines for the purposes of the proposed Part.

Division 2—Licensing of breeders of dogs and cats

70—Offence to breed dogs or cats unless licensed

This section creates an offence for a person to breed a dog or cat unless licensed to do so under the Part.

71—Application for licence

This section sets out how an application for a breeder's licence is to be made, and sets out circumstances in which a licence must not be granted to an applicant.

71A—Terms and conditions of licence

This section sets out the conditions that must be imposed on a breeder's licence, and allows for other conditions to be imposed. The section creates an offence for a licence holder to contravene a condition.

71B—Reporting obligations

This section obliges a licence holder to report to the Board in the event of specified events occurring.

71C—Renewal of breeder's licence

This section provides for the renewal of breeder's licences.

71D—Suspension or cancellation of breeder's licence

This section enables the Board to suspend or cancel a breeder's licence in the circumstances specified by the section.

71E—Dealing with dogs and cats where breeder's licence suspended or cancelled

This section makes provision that requires any dog or cat owned by the holder of a breeder's licence that is suspended or cancelled must be dealt with in accordance with the scheme set out in the regulations.

71F—Register of licensed breeders

This section requires the Board keep and maintain a register containing the information specified in subsection (2) for the purposes of the proposed Part.

Part 7AA—Sale of dogs and cats

Division 1—Sale etc of dogs and cats

71G—Offence to sell etc dogs of prescribed breed

This section prohibits the sale or giving away, and advertising for sale or giving away, of dogs of a prescribed breed. However, the section does not prevent the surrender of such dogs to certain specified person and bodies.

71H—Offences relating to sale of certain dogs and cats

This section prohibits the sale of certain dogs or cats that are not microchipped or desexed in accordance with the regulations.

71I—Certain information to be given to buyers

This section requires the vendor of a dog or cat to give the new owner the information set out in subsection (1), and similarly requires advertisements relating to the sale of dogs and cats to contain the information set out in subsection (2).

39—Amendment of section 72—Review of certain decisions by South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 72 of the Act.

40—Insertion of section 73

This clause inserts new section 73 into the Act, allowing the persons and bodies specified in the section to exchange certain information with each other.

41—Amendment of section 83—No liability for action taken under Act

This clause amends section 83 of the Act to clarify the extent to which liability is limited in relation to certain actions taken under Part 5A of the Act.

42—Insertion of sections 84 and 84A

This clause inserts new sections 84 and 84A into the Act, which make provision in relation to the liability of directors for offences committed by bodies corporate, and imputing certain states of mind and conduct to bodies corporate.

43—Amendment of section 86—General defences

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 86 of the Act following the insertion of new sections 84 and 84A.

44—Repeal of section 87

This clause repeals section 87 of the Act.

45—Substitution of section 88

This clause substitutes a new section 88 of the Act, updated to reflect the changes made by this measure.

46—Substitution of section 89

This clause substitutes section 89 of the Act, and sets out how penalties paid for offences against the Act are to be dealt with.

47—Substitution of section 90A

This clause inserts a new section 90A into the Act, requiring a review of the operation of the Act (as amended by this measure) to be conducted within 6 months after the third anniversary of the commencement of the new section.

48—Amendment of section 91—Regulations

This clause amends section 91 of the Act to allow regulations to make transition and savings provisions, and for fee notices to be made under the *Legislation (Fees) Act 2019*.

Schedule 1—Related amendments and transitional etc provisions

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

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

This clause amends section 20AA(9) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935* to include authorised persons under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, or a person assisting an authorised person in the exercise of powers under that Act, in the definition of prescribed emergency worker under that section.

Part 2—Transitional etc provisions

2—Composition of Board

This clause vacates each member's office (and any deputy) on commencement of the clause and modifies the provisions by which a new Board is appointed to reflect the reduction in member numbers under this measure.

3—Transitional arrangements for registered breeders

This clause sets out transitional arrangements for those breeders currently registered under the Act as they transition to the new licencing scheme enacted by this measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 24 September 2024.)

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:59): I rise to speak to the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. South Australia has long proven itself as a world leader in decarbonisation and renewable energy generation, and it is fair to suggest that our ambitions in this space are ever-growing. On coming into government in 2022, we moved swiftly to declare a climate emergency and to progress our vision for a net zero emissions economy, which is work that this bill will expand on.

Today's amendments will enshrine South Australia's short and long-term emissions reduction targets in legislation, all with a view to limiting the extent of climate change and creating a healthier future for our state. As the Deputy Premier has already referenced, this bill increases the

state's emissions reductions target to a more ambitious 60 per cent by 2030 and, ultimately, net zero by 2050.

While 'ambitious' is the appropriate word to describe this government's transition plans, it is worth noting that South Australian Labor already has runs on the board. Largely, we have overseen a 50 per cent emissions reduction since 2007, and that is a credit to our renewables sector, which has its own new target of 100 per cent net electricity generation by 2027. Also included in the bill is a requirement for five-yearly interim emissions targets, which will be implemented between 2030 and that all-important date of 2050.

We can set these targets, but why is legislation required to support them? We all tout the success of South Australia's early adoption of renewable technologies, and clearly we have been on the right track for some time. But targets are only as good as the policies and programs that support them, and this legislation is a clear signal to business, investors and the broader community that this government is wholly committed to a net zero emissions future. There is no room for ambiguity, and if our intentions were not already clear then they certainly are now.

What about those opposite? They are the architects of policy initiatives like the Liberal Energy Solution, which promised to cut average household power bills by hundreds of dollars during their term of government. Where did that land us? Well, power prices went up, not down, and then, in an attempt to save face, they shifted some goalposts and set accountants loose on their numbers. They tried to slap a bow on it before moving quickly along, but I think it is fair to suggest that South Australians saw straight through that.

Now they are at it again, wanting to amend the bill to introduce a new reliability target, which, for the benefit of everyone playing along at home, already exists. In fact, the Australian Energy Market Commission has made a final recommendation to extend the interim reliability measure until June 2028. So it is either a silly thought bubble—not first one they have had this week—or a poor attempt at political strategy. Either way, it deserves no further thought.

There is no internal debate on this side of the house as to what our state's future looks like. We are in lockstep and we are getting on with the task at hand, because that is what the community expects its elected officials to do.

A point that I would like to touch on briefly is that the targets we set here are floors, not ceilings. They are ambitious but certainly not impossible, and they will help support a transition that is as economically sustainable as it is socially responsible. In February, we announced that we would bring forward our 100 per cent net electricity target from 2030 to 2027. That is an example of how you can move the goalposts to deliver positive and lasting change. This is not the only target that can be changed, and if there is good reason to do so—for example, a recent scientific development or the introduction of new technology—then we are prepared to do that. As I said, these targets are floors, not ceilings.

The bill before the house today has been subject to extensive consultation, starting in April 2023 at the inaugural Industry Climate Change Conference, which brought businesses and communities together to discuss opportunities for our net zero emissions future. From there, community climate conversations were held in May and December before public consultation commenced in February this year. We took the opportunity to listen, and at each step we heard, loudly and clearly, that people want and expect more. We heard your calls for more ambitious emissions reduction targets, we recognised widespread support for increased renewable electricity generation and we understood concern around the inclusion of offsets in making a claim to net zero. All of that brings us to where we are today.

This bill cements our status as a leader in the push to decarbonise. It is a position we have long held, not just within Australia but right across the globe. This bill is a clear indication that we are not resting on our laurels. We can be proud of what we have achieved today, but we cannot risk bringing that hard work undone through inaction. This is ambitious policy, but if any jurisdiction can meet its targets—the targets set out in this bill—surely it is South Australia.

I would like to thank the Deputy Premier for her tireless efforts in developing this legislation, and I also extend that thanks to all in my community who have participated in the process. I commend this bill to the house.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (16:05): I rise in support of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill:

- updates the state's emissions reduction targets to a more ambitious 60 per cent by 2030, and to reach net zero by 2050;
- updates the state's renewable electricity generation target to 100 per cent by 2027;
- requires a state emissions reduction plan to help achieve South Australia's emission reduction targets;
- requires a statewide climate risk assessment to be prepared to identify risks and opportunities to inform adaptation planning—an entirely thorough approach;
- introduces an ability for the Premier to nominate a public sector entity to prepare a climate change plan for an entity or sector;
- provides for public sector action and reporting on reducing emissions and managing climate risk in government actions; and
- requires five-yearly interim emissions targets to be set between 2030 and 2050.

We are leaving no stone unturned in our goals to meet these targets.

The Malinauskas Labor government makes an election commitment to update our state's targets in this Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act. When the act first came into operation under the Rann Labor government, it was the first of its kind in Australia. It has guided policy and planning in our state to achieve world-leading outcomes in renewable energy, generation and climate mitigation, something of which we are all very proud and have the opportunity to build even further upon.

This government takes climate change seriously. We declared a climate emergency in May 2022, soon after forming government—something of which I know my community in Gibson is very proud—and we committed to restoring a safe climate by transforming the economy to zero net emissions. This bill continues the work and enshrines in the legislation South Australia's short-term and long-term emissions reduction targets to help limit the extent of climate change. Importantly, it also strengthens policy and planning provisions in the act to allow the targets to be achieved.

As the member for Davenport has said, this is ambitious policy but entirely achievable because we are all so committed to this policy work. I thank the Deputy Premier and all her staff who have worked so hard on this legislation, and I commend the bill to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:08): I rise to make a contribution to the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill was introduced into this place on 29 August 2024 by the Deputy Premier and follows on from the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Targets) Amendment Bill 2021, which was introduced into this house by the then Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon. David Speirs MP. The bill included targets such as net zero by 2050, reducing net emissions by more than 50 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels and achieving 100 per cent net renewable energy generation by 2030. The bill never got to be debated before parliament was prorogued.

It should be noted that most of the reduction in the state's greenhouse gas emissions has occurred in the energy industries and land use and forestry, and I will talk about land use a bit more later on, with large changes occurring in 2020-21 and 2021-22 and coming after the summer bushfires in 2020.

The bill, in regard to the 2050 net zero emissions target for the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024, seeks to replace the existing South Australian target to reduce by 31 December 2050 greenhouse gas emissions within this state by at least 60 per cent to an amount that is equal to or less than 40 per cent of 1990 levels

with a target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A new interim 2030 target is proposed to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent by 31 December 2030, and that is from 2005 levels.

The 2014 renewable electricity generation and use targets in the current act have been achieved and will be removed. The bill proposes to update the renewable electricity target in the act to 100 per cent net renewable electricity generation by 31 December 2027.

In regard to five-yearly interim targets, section 5 of the act will also be amended to include a requirement for the minister responsible for the act to set interim five-yearly emissions reduction targets for the state between 2030 and 2050, with each target to constitute a greater reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions in South Australia than any preceding targets, including the 2030 target. So these dates are set at 31 December 2035, 31 December 2040 and 31 December 2045.

An amendment is proposed to section 14 of the act to introduce a requirement to prepare a publicly available statewide emissions reduction plan that will be reviewed and updated in line with the five-yearly targets. The plan must set out the government's objectives, policies, programs and initiatives for reducing, limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions. The bill also proposes to add another subsection under section 14(1)(a) allowing the minister to develop a policy or policies that would outline how government agencies should consider and manage climate-related risks in their operations and activities.

I just want to talk about that for a moment, because coming off the land I am very concerned about what could happen in primary industries. Farmers have been doing such a great job for 30 or 40 years with either minimum till, or mainly now zero till operations in reducing carbon, in caring for their country, in increasing plant growth, increasing plant root growth by these excellent farming practices. We have certainly seen that in this very tough year.

As many farmers have said to me—and the member for Chaffey indicated it earlier today—it is a year where we have had not much rain and now we have been impacted by heavy frost, with severe damage right across the state. Even my property, which I have leased out, for the first time in my life I have seen whole patches of frost in wheat, where the wheat has just gone white and there will be nothing reaped there, mainly on the slightly sandy country, and we just have to see what happens in the end.

It is very hard work, with farmers looking at this and right now calculating whether or not to let the crops go through to harvest or cut them for hay. That creates another issue where if the crop is not long enough it will fall out of hay rakes as it is raked into rows and will not be able to be baled. That comes at a considerable cost in the cutting, raking and baling of that hay, if that is the option taken. People are making critical decisions.

As I said, I must commend our farmers for what they do. I saw beans sown on my property in ground that had been well prepared on the little bit of limited rain over summer, sprayed out, browned out, beans that were sown in what I thought was dead dry, and yet they germinated on some of the slightly sandy soils. It is amazing how the crops came up and have grown.

This is what happens with these advanced farming methods that farmers are using right across the state to make sure they get the optimum growth and optimum carbon retention into the soil. Farmers have been doing this, as I said, for 30 or 40 years. In the old days we used to go across our paddocks multiple times, sometimes eight to 10 times, whether we were working the paddocks with cultivators or harrows, and now, once all the preparation is done over summer and making sure there is no loss of moisture where possible with spraying weeds out, in one pass you can go in and sow your crop.

I certainly asked these questions in estimates, and what farmers are concerned about going into the future is what they will be required to do to make excellent farming practices even better. They acknowledge they have to keep up this high standard of agriculture but, as I asked the agriculture minister in the other place during estimates, where is your baseline point for measuring improvements in agriculture? You can only wring so much out of the land. But in saying that, I note that people with these practices are caring for their land even more every year because if they do not they do not get these yield results.

Even with a year like this, where it has been so tough—and it is tough—apart from the frosted areas, it is a green drought in many areas. There are some paddocks that have essentially died. Some people have put sheep on crops just to get something out of them. Farmers need to know that they have the ability to put their crops in into the future in a responsible way without having too many impingements and noting that they need to be rewarded for the amount of stubble that is left behind with their wide-row spacings, the ability that they use to sow between rows, whether it is with tined implements or disc implements, disc seeders, and making sure that they are recognised for that work that has been going on for decades.

What concerns me, because farmers are thinking about this type of legislation, and rightly so, is that we do sort out the appropriate baseline where we start this work so we can measure the carbon inputs. I am concerned that we will not get the appropriate carbon monitoring that we need to in regard to noting the work that farmers do in making sure that they are not overworking their soil, that they are actually managing emissions with one-pass farming and doing a great job. And it is of great concern to me if there is a serious impediment as to how farmers operate in this state. But they will work through it. Apart from this legislation and all the agencies having to respond, our farmers have a very serious year that they are working through right now.

The bill seeks to amend the act to require the preparation of a statewide climate risk assessment within two years of the enactment of the amendments, and after this the risk assessment will be reviewed every five years. It is proposed within the bill to introduce a new section, section 14B, which will introduce an ability for the Premier to nominate that a public sector entity prepare a plan for an entity or sector relating to emissions reduction or climate change adaptation or both.

Also, an amendment is proposed in regard to section 16 to clarify that sector agreements are intended to cover climate change adaptation measures, as well as strategies and methods to meet state targets for emissions reductions or renewable energy.

There will also be clarifying provisions that are included to outline the status and effect of policies and plans under the act. A new section is proposed to require government agencies and other public entities to include information in their annual reports about how they are addressing climate-related risks and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We, on this side of the house, are also seeking to move amendments, including:

- a residential power price guarantee—seeking to legislate a target to reduce power prices for the average households in this state with the target to be the average household bill as specified in the ESCOSA retail prices report as at December 2021;
- a small businesses power price guarantee—seeking to legislate a target to reduce power prices for the average small business by 31 December 2027, with the target to be the average small business bill as specified in the ESCOSA retail prices report as at December 2021;
- a grid reliability guarantee—seeking to legislate a reliability standard to keep the lights on, and based on AEMO's reliability standard of unserved energy in South Australia being no more than .0006 per cent of the energy demand; and
- inclusion of an objective detailing the importance of the agriculture sector, as I have just outlined, to South Australia, and acknowledging the fluctuation of emissions from this sector.

I note what has been happening in this state in recent years, and certainly I was here in September 2016 when the lights went out across the whole state. I am proud to say that for the four years when we were in government that certainly did not happen. We had put up the policy of EnergyConnect through to New South Wales, building that new interconnector through to New South Wales, and initially the current mining minister was all in favour of it.

I am a bit unsure where he stands because he comes in here talking that interconnector down, which will be a magnificent project that when completed—the South Australian side has been completed and we just need to see the New South Wales side completed to augment that line—will mean that renewable energy that we generate here, whether it is sun or wind, solar or wind, can be transferred through to New South Wales so that it can be more utilised there because we do have a

huge amount of renewable energy in this state, and if we can do more to reduce emissions, not just here but right across the eastern connected section that we are in, that will be great work.

But we have heard the minister in recent times say that this EnergyConnect interconnector is no good. Yet, looking at comments that the minister made on 21 December 2023 with the completion of the South Australian side of EnergyConnect, he said, 'What a great thing,' and 'Isn't it great that we will have the ability to export this renewable power to New South Wales.' I am just not sure where the Minister for Energy sits on this.

We also have the issues with the so-called state prosperity plan. I for one hope that we do see prosperity in Whyalla and the northern areas, but there are so many billions of dollars that need to be invested. I have said it here before that certainly with the hydrogen plan no-one of any scientific ability—professors or engineers—can tell me how it will work because essentially there will be thousands of wind turbines go up and thousands of hectares of solar panels go in and 80 per cent of that power will be lost in the transition to hydrogen and that is if they can make the hydrogen work.

We had the Premier finally admitting in the house yesterday that there will be gas essentially making it work. I have said for a long time that, unless there is a big gas pipe up the back of that hydrogen plant, it will not work.

I am concerned, as we all are, about the GFG steel plant in Whyalla. The plant in Whyalla has been in place a long time and I just hope that that survives. Whenever the pegs go in for this hydrogen plant, which I think will blow out in cost by at least double and then only work because it is supplemented by gas, we will just have to see what happens into the future.

But we certainly do want to see how things progress. I want to hear in committee the government's answers to what happens in a sustainable way with the removal of wind towers after they reach their 30 or 40-year lifespan, whether it is the blades that currently have to be buried in landfill or whether it is the towers, which are probably the same thing. We heard from the climate change minister today about the problems with lithium batteries. In a world where we are trying to reduce emissions, we need to find out how to sustainably do something about disposing of lithium batteries that just are not operational anymore and the same goes for solar panels.

I have had solar panels on my farmhouse for many years and they do a great job in collecting power and utilising it for the house during the daytime, but, as we have seen over time with all of these issues, whether it is wind turbines or solar panels or batteries, what is the sustainable way in this carbon-constrained world to dispose of those suppliers of energy when their life comes to an end? If someone can hit me with that answer, I would be glad to hear it, but we certainly need a carbon-constrained way that can be done so that, if we are really serious about climate change and emissions, we can do that in a sustainable way for the state. I note the legislation and welcome the debate in committee.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:28): I also rise to speak in support of another incredibly important bill, one that delivers on yet another election commitment of the Malinauskas Labor government, which is seeking to update the state's targets in the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act. Labor governments in this country have been at the forefront of big changes that have helped shape the country as we know it and it has been Labor governments that have not shied away from the big challenges.

When the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007 came into operation, it did so under a Labor government, which of course at the time was the Rann government, marking the first piece of legislation in the country that aimed to tackle one of the biggest challenges that we face in our time—climate change.

The act has undoubtedly helped to propel South Australia to the front of the pack domestically and has helped shine a light on South Australia on the international stage to showcase what is possible when it comes to our progress in adopting renewable energy generation and climate mitigation strategies. Due in part to the massive success we have had in achieving our goals, we need to modernise the act to fit the situation that we currently find ourselves in, which is why the bill will see an update to the state's emissions target to a more ambitious target of 60 per cent, given

data which has indicated that South Australia has achieved a 57 per cent emissions reduction in recent financial years.

This will then be built on with five-yearly interim emission targets between 2030 and 2050, with new targets required to improve upon previous targets and the statewide emissions reduction plan to be reviewed with the new interim targets.

On this side of the house, we are taking climate change seriously and we have been up-front and honest about it. We are steadfast in delivering on the commitments that we made to the South Australian public at the election, which is why we declared the climate emergency upon coming into government and why we are debating the bill before us in this place today.

Among a raft of other measures that have passed through this place since coming into government, we committed to doing something and, once again, we are delivering. Meanwhile, those on the other side of this place are intent on putting up amendments that appear to be without substance, amounting to nothing more than meaningless and obstructive politicking.

Let us not forget that it was the Liberal Party who in 2018 took to the election their Liberal Energy Solution that would reduce the average household electricity price by \$302 a year compared with that of the 2016-17 financial year. The numbers do not lie, because by the end of the Marshall Liberal government's short one-term government they finished it out with the average price of market offers sitting at \$2,041 according to the regular retail price comparison report from the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.

This would be well and good if \$2,041 was a \$302-a-year reduction on the average price at the time of their commitment, but instead it was actually a \$65 increase—not exactly a commitment delivered. This does not really boost confidence, nor does it boost trust. The South Australian people were let down by this commitment in this space and appear to have a very short memory about it, as do those sitting across from us in the chamber today.

As the Premier has often been quoted as eloquently saying, when commitments such as these are made, nine times out of 10—well, you know the rest. The reality is that the way to help address the cost of living, such as the price of electricity bills, is not by making up commitments to trick the public—be it a commitment to do what you cannot deliver or by distracting the public with energy solutions like nuclear that are not really economically viable—but instead looking to set up solid foundations that allow the growth of high quality and secure jobs.

As is highlighted in our state's Economic Statement, our commitment to reducing emissions, boosting our renewable energy capacity and pioneering hydrogen production are all significant opportunities for our state and for the green reindustrialisation of our wider community. It will be South Australians who will benefit greatly from this, as we have to date from 2004-05 whereby our emissions have reduced by 57 per cent and our gross state product has in turn increased by 39 per cent.

To suggest that we as a state do not have it within us to get our emissions down and still compete in the economy absolutely neglects the great work that has been undertaken across the many sectors of our community to achieve just that.

Providing for short-term and long-term emission targets and legislation strengthens our policy and provides a clear environment to allow this to happen. It is not one or the other. It is not a focus on emission targets to the neglect of other challenges that exist in the community because, of course, we debate this bill at the same time this government has gone about delivering some of the biggest cost-of-living relief packages that we have seen in recent budgets, in direct acknowledgement of the challenges that do exist across the community and to lend a helping hand where it is needed most.

This has included, as part of the government's recent state budget, a total of \$266.2 million committed to address the rising cost of living and set about delivering an expanded electricity payment scheme for our state's most vulnerable households, delivering up to \$800. This expansion followed the earlier \$51.5 million commitment which allowed for the extra once-off additional Cost of Living Concession payment of \$243.90 to be received by all eligible recipients of the Cost of Living Concession payment in that financial year.

Let us also not forget the 3,500 public and community sector homes which will also benefit from significant energy bill savings through the government's \$35.8 million social housing energy upgrade initiative, and, just recently, the government opened applications for small businesses to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to help reduce their energy bills through round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund, helping them to invest in new power supply and generation equipment, energy-efficient appliances, technologies to promote greater energy efficiency and building in improvements to heating and cooling—and that is just the recent work.

We have a challenge on our hands when it comes to dealing with climate change. Each and every one of us has a responsibility, there is no doubt about that, but we must have serious legislation in place that can set up the state to be able to tackle this challenge, and that is going to be done with the interim targets, setting a date to get to 100 per cent net renewable energy generation, adaptation planning, sector planning and true leadership—all things that the opposition's amendments lack.

This is not going to be achieved through meaningless politicking that lacks substance. It is going to be achieved through sensible reforms and commitments that prioritise the magnitude of the problem we face, with a government in charge that is determined to see South Australians benefit from any such changes. With that in mind, I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

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

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 11 September 2024.)

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (16:37): I rise to say a few words in support of the bill. As the lead speaker for the opposition I indicate the opposition's support for the bill, which has been through now at least a couple of iterations on its way here. I commend the minister for engaging particularly with the Law Society in relation to concerns about early versions. One that I perhaps single out to illustrate progress was a concern that, I think, made its way through an early draft and then even a first round review just in relation to the proposed section 12E and the capacity of the commissioner to compel the production of documents, and concerns that the Law Society made on behalf of the profession about the risk at the inappropriate scope of the compulsion for the production of documents.

I welcome the fact that the bill has now made tolerably clear certain exclusions from the commissioner's role and power in relation to what is now a formalised regime of what is described for the purposes of the structure as a designated process of alternative dispute resolution. Of course, alternative dispute resolution plays a central, integral role in the process of disentangling parties from disputes that might have them find their way all the way through formal processes of litigation, the process of attrition in nobody's interest.

The advances for the commission to have now a more advanced means and structure to be able to undertake alternative dispute resolution in relation to small business disputes is welcome. I acknowledge that there remains a certain degree of uncertainty about the scope of the service applying, as it does, to small business. That will be something that will work its way out. I detect that Commissioner Kilvert is really, it seems to me, motivated to make this new process a real winner in terms of serving the small business sector and in turn the relevant disputes that will be caught, the subject of the Retail and Commercial Leases Act, as well.

I take the opportunity to commend the commissioner. As I have said, when working through hearing from the commissioner about how this is going to roll out, it will prove itself up in the process. We know that there is already an established panel of participants. I hope that that may be attractive to expert would-be mediators over time, and the number can be even expanded. Certainly, the provision of alternative dispute resolution at an essentially nominal cost to the parties removes a barrier to participation. I really do hope that it serves as a practical means by which that disentanglement can occur at an early stage and that we are not therefore seeing disputes proceeding unresolved that are not in the interests of either party.

I emphasise that, in terms of addressing the commission's power to compel parties to participate in these processes, it is welcome that references to the nature of that participation be removed. The removal of references to meaningful participation, for example, is welcome. What really needs to be engendered here is an environment in which there is willing and voluntary participation by parties who can see the benefits that are available in participating early in this form of dispute resolution.

With those brief remarks, I again commend the minister for the work that has been done, particularly in the iterations of the drafts that have led us to where we are now. I commend the Law Society for staying the course in its engagement with those iterations as well, I think most recently the subject of a letter in about May, and that follows prior engagement last year. I think that augurs well. Over to you, Commissioner Kilvert.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (16:43): I, too, rise in support of the Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2004. As small businesses are the driving force of South Australia's thriving economy, this government is implementing key strategies to grow and support the small business sector. In rebranding, to become the Small Business Commission SA, a distinction has been made between the commission and the Office for Small and Family Business to reduce confusion for stakeholders and better facilitate the bridging between small businesses and government agencies.

Part of this support is creating an adaptable dispute resolution process, allowing the commission to engage independent mediation while excluding arbitration and expert determination. This bill seeks to implement a consistent approach for dispute resolution across all industries, rather than the limited industries the Small Business Commissioner currently has authority in. This will ensure that all small businesses in South Australia can access the support needed to reconcile disputes.

The bill also authorises the commissioner to impose penalties and fees for noncompliance of mandated mediation sessions and the production of necessary documents. In addition to this bill, work is being done to ensure our small businesses are adequately supported for them to continue growing and thriving.

As we are all aware, some small businesses do currently face challenges around wages, rent and utilities, which can place additional pressure on operational costs. An initiative such as round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund offers up to \$50,000 for energy efficiency investments, with the goal of helping about 8,000 businesses lower their energy costs and contribute to sustainability efforts.

Just during the week, I had the pleasure of visiting a local business in my community to talk about the energy efficiency grants. Thank you to Annette and Violet in Walkerville. They run the amazing Georgie Paws, which is a sustainable dog toy and accessory business in Walkerville. I really commend them for their efforts in creating a more sustainable business, which really reinforces their passion for contributing to a healthier planet. It was my pleasure to go along and talk about the energy efficiency grants. I have had great pleasure dropping in on various local businesses in my community, encouraging them to apply for the grants.

Another wonderful program within this remit is the Women in Business Program, which aims to encourage women business owners of varying experience to develop their business, with more than 2,000 women participating in the program so far, including the incredible and wonderful Jacquie Sinclair, who is owner of Kennedys Boutique in the CBD. Earlier this year, I had the absolute pleasure of visiting Kennedys Boutique with Minister Michaels. They have really just created a wonderful business from the ground up, packing thousands of orders from across all of Australia, and they have a really beautiful product for women. I really want to congratulate Jacquie on the amazing small business that she has created, as well as being an employer of other wonderful women who work in her business.

I also want to thank the minister, her staff and her department for all they do to support small businesses in our community and for this work on this important bill. The significance of small businesses in South Australia's economy cannot be understated. By improving dispute resolution processes and strengthening the role of the Small Business Commissioner, these changes promote

a fair and supportive environment while ensuring more effective assistance when facing issues, such as commercial disputes, late payment of invoices and contract disagreements. With those comments, I commend this bill to the house.

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (16:47): I also rise to speak on the Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024. We on this side of the chamber know that small businesses are the backbone of the South Australian economy; in fact they contribute over \$49 billion to our economy and provide almost 40 per cent of all employment. When small business is doing well, South Australia is doing well.

The Malinauskas government supports small business, and we do so by genuinely listening to the small business community and by using the power of government to deliver practical policies that make a real difference; for example, our \$4 million Women in Business Program and the \$6.5 million investment over the next four years accompanying the Small Business Strategy. These are both initiatives that have addressed genuine gaps in policy and have been gladly received by the many small businesses I have spoken to, both in my role as a member of parliament and in my previous role as a small business coach and mediator.

This bill addresses a real need of small businesses by ensuring that there are clear guidelines pertaining to the commissioner's role in advocacy and dispute resolution to enable more effective assistance to small businesses facing issues, such as commercial disputes, late payment of invoices and contract disagreements.

I have spoken of my passion for small business before; indeed, not only was I a small business owner before being elected to this place but my husband is also a small business owner, and both he and I come from families who were all successful small business owners. What we see in small business owners is a spirit of entrepreneurialism, a determination to succeed and a need to keep costs down wherever possible to ensure your P and L is as pleasing as it can be.

So ensuring that dispute resolution is available and in fact the first avenue to resolving a dispute is critically important because what we know is that court action is expensive and time-consuming—both commodities many small businesses do not need to be needlessly wasting. Currently, only specific industries can be mandated to participate in dispute resolution as a means of solving a dispute. This bill seeks for this to be consistent across all industries, providing a greater level of support to all small businesses, regardless of the sector they operate in.

In addition to mandating businesses' attendance at mediation, the bill also empowers the commissioner to require businesses to produce relevant documents where necessary. To enforce this, a maximum penalty of \$20,000 and an expiation fee of \$1,200 will be applied for noncompliance. The bill also highlights the office's role in promoting a fair and supportive business environment by not only facilitating independent dispute resolution but also acting as a conduit between small business and government agencies.

Rebranding the Small Business Commissioner to become the Small Business Commission SA aligns the office with similar structures in other states and clarifies the office's identity without altering its function. It also distinguishes the Small Business Commission SA from the Office for Small and Family Business, as this has caused confusion amongst stakeholders in the past.

Furthermore, the bill introduces a formal definition of alternative dispute resolution that excludes arbitration and expert determination, ensuring that business owners have certainty as to the extent of the dispute resolution types available.

Another significant element of the bill ensures settlement agreements reached through mediation facilitated by the Small Business Commissioner will be treated as minor statutory proceedings, simplifying enforcement in the Magistrates Court.

In addition to the changes to dispute resolution processes, the bill enacts changes, originally proposed by the Law Society of South Australia's Property Committee in 2018, to the Retail and Commercial Leases Act. These are significant changes that provide certainty to small businesses.

As an advocate for small and family businesses in my electorate, I want to thank the Minister for Small and Family Business, Andrea Michaels MP, for her ongoing commitment to improving

regulation and support for South Australia's small businesses. I know that, as someone who has been involved with small business herself for many years, Minister Michaels understands the challenges, joys and sheer hard work that go into running a business.

Minister Michaels spearheaded the development of the South Australian Small Business Strategy and ensured it was a genuine reflection of the needs of South Australian business owners by undertaking the most comprehensive and intensive engagement program with small and family businesses this state has ever seen and ensuring it was backed up with substantial funding, as mentioned earlier, of \$6.5 million.

To that end, I want to acknowledge the many small businesses in my electorate: the many cafes, restaurants, pubs and bars, gift shops, clothes shops, homeware shops, professionals and many more. We understand the difficult business environment you are currently operating in. This bill seeks to provide small businesses with the support they need to overcome some of the challenges they may face, which can mean the difference between success or failure, and to support their growth and resilience.

Along with our \$14 million Small Business Strategy and other programs like the Small Business Fundamentals Program, the Women in Business Program and the Small Business Digital Capability Program, the government recently announced round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund, offering energy efficiency grants of up to \$50,000, with \$20 million allocated to this round. The initiative aims to help up to 8,000 businesses lower their energy costs.

The Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024 demonstrates that this government is listening to the small business community and values the incredible contribution small business makes to not just our economy, as important as that is, but to our society and to our local communities.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:53): I also rise to speak on the Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024. As the member for Dunstan has just explained, we are a government that is committed to supporting small businesses because we know that they are the backbone of our state's economy. They help to create strong and connected local communities, and I know that they certainly contribute significantly to mine. I was reminded of this at a recent presentation evening for the Modbury Jets Soccer Club. While I was there, I had the opportunity to catch up with Ryan and Corina, two local legends who have been operating Smith Partners Real Estate in the heart of Golden Grove for over a decade. They absolutely exude passion for their local community.

For those who do not know Smith Partners Real Estate, they are truly impressive in what they have been able to achieve over the past decade. Just to name a few of those achievements, they were the recipient of the 2018 and 2017 silver award for the REISA Awards for Excellence in the category of small agency, as well as being finalists in the same category for 2016 and 2015. They were also named as one of the five finalists across Australia in the category of best new office back in 2015 in the Real Estate Business Awards. They have continued to grow and thrive over the years. Just last year, they were awarded the highest honour of No. 1 real estate office in South Australia in the medium agency category—quite an amazing achievement that we are all so incredibly proud of them for.

More important is what they have been able to achieve in our local community. They are deeply ingrained in our local community, so much so in fact that they even travelled interstate to be able to cheer on our mighty Modbury Jets at the Australia Cup a little earlier this year. I am very confident that through the work that they have been doing, and their ability to partner with other local community businesses, sporting clubs and organisations across the community, they are doing great things. I will just name a few that they have partnered with.

They have partnered with: Styled. Home Staging; Muffin Break; Sfera's; Read Brothers; WRXSA; Key Conveyancing Services; Cass and Co Conveyancing; Down to Earth Electrical, Data and Air-Conditioning Services; Inspect Real Estate; the Epilepsy Centre; Eckermann Conveyancers; Carpet Giants; MLS Plumbing and Gas; The Grove tavern, one of my absolute favourite local pubs in the area; Cancer Council; SATS; Merritt Plumbing and Gas; MND Australia; Plantscape Interiors; Officeselect; Storage King; ATTICA; Pinnacle Pools and Spas; Simmonds Heating and Cooling; M&R

Airconditioning; Gepps Cross Rams; the Tea Tree Gully Tennis Club; the Modbury Jets; the mighty Modbury Hawks; and Still Aware.

That is quite an extensive list, but it goes a really long way to showing just how much of an impact just one local business can have in a local community to be able to support a strong and connected local community, and in turn helping to support our state's economy.

I sincerely thank Smith Partners for all the contributions that they have made to our community to date. Of course, I express my appreciation for their contribution in the years to come, which I am sure that they will continue to do and deliver for our community.

As part of my appreciation, I am absolutely proud to be part of a government that wants to support businesses like Smith Partners Real Estate. With that in mind, we have this bill before us today that represents the first major revision of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011 since its commencement, and it is an essential step in supporting the office's future strategic direction. It aims to provide clearer guidelines around the commissioner's role in advocacy and dispute resolution.

By strengthening these functions, the bill will help the commissioner to offer more effective assistance to small businesses facing issues such as commercial disputes, the late payment of invoices and contract disagreements as well. One of the key changes introduced by this bill is to provide consistency in the state's office's alternative dispute resolution services across all industries. Currently, the Small Business Commissioner can only mandate dispute resolution for businesses in specific industries.

This bill will extend this level of greater support to all small businesses, regardless of the sector that they operate in. This will ensure that every small business in South Australia can access the same level of support when they face disputes or challenges. Additionally, the bill empowers the commissioner to require businesses to attend mediation sessions and produce relevant documents when necessary. To be able to enforce this, a maximum penalty of \$20,000 and an expiation fee of \$1,200 will be applied for noncompliance.

We acknowledge the difficult business environment that many small businesses are currently facing. Rising costs, including wages and rent, are increasing the financial pressures on businesses making it more important than ever to be able to provide a robust support network. This bill does ensure that small businesses have access to the help that they need to be able to navigate these challenges and continue to grow and thrive. By strengthening the role of the Small Business Commissioner and improving the legal framework around dispute resolution, this bill will provide small businesses with the support they need to overcome challenges and also to thrive.

It complements the work that we are doing through our \$14 million Small Business Strategy, which is being rolled out through the Office for Small and Family Business, based on six key themes that were identified through consultation with small businesses. These themes, of course, include strengthening business capability, building skills and workforce, navigating the digital environment, boosting sustainability, embracing diversity and improving access to government services. These focus areas are being supported by a range of initiatives designed to help small businesses build their capabilities to be able to remain competitive and, of course, to succeed.

Programs like the Small Business Fundamentals Program provides essential support in areas such as financial management, marketing, human resources and business coaching. Over 2,300 participants from various industries have already accessed the program, benefitting from mentoring and also essential knowledge-building.

Additionally, we also have the Women in Business Program, which is a \$4 million initiative designed to support women entrepreneurs in all stages of their business journey. This program, I am really excited to share, has reached over 2,000 women, helping them to grow and succeed in the areas that they are passionate about.

This government is also prioritising digital readiness and resilience through the Small Business Digital Capability Program, which includes the Cyber Uplift Step Program. This initiative helps businesses safeguard themselves against the growing threat of cyber attacks, equipping them with the necessary skills to protect their digital assets and respond effectively if breaches do occur.

We also understand that sustainability is a key focus for businesses right now and we also have programs to support in that area. As a part of this effort, I am really pleased to share that round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund has been launched, offering energy efficiency grants of up to \$50,000 to help small businesses invest in energy-saving measures such as efficient appliances, power generation equipment and building improvements as well.

This is something that I know many in my local community have been very excited about as I have been getting out there and engaging with our local businesses in our community about the opportunities that are presented to help them with not only their short-term needs but also their long-term needs. With \$20 million allocated to this round, this initiative really does aim to help build up 8,000 businesses and lower their energy costs, contributing to both economic and environmental sustainability.

For those who have not already had a look at this, I certainly encourage all local businesses in my local community to continue looking into this initiative. As I have already said, I know that it will provide benefits for years to come should they be successful in their applications. With all that in mind, I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (17:02): I am absolutely speaking in support of the bill, brought in here by my colleague, who I want to commend for not just the excellent work in regard to this bill but for her excellent work more generally in terms of advocacy around the small and family business portfolio connecting with the consumer and business affairs. I think she is doing an extraordinary job advocating on behalf of so many thousands of small businesses we have that keep our economy ticking.

This bill does propose a range of changes—the first significant changes in more than a decade, I understand, since about 2011—which include reforms to the management of leases and, even more importantly, improving dispute resolution. As I said before, this speaks significantly to the way that this minister has worked in a conciliatory manner to bring in all of these reforms and a range of funding and policy initiatives, really helping small business in South Australia.

These include the Small Business Fundamentals Program, which boosts skills in areas such as financial management, marketing, human resources and business coaching, and the Women in Business Program. I heard my colleague the member for King just before speak to some of these excellent programs. There really is a flavour as well coming from having potentially more women around not just the cabinet table but the caucus itself, really speaking strongly on behalf of supporting women, financial literacy, financial independence, and the Women in Business Program, which is that \$4 million support for women entrepreneurs in all stages of their business journey, which is part of that excellent work that is happening.

There is the Small Business Digital Capability Program—we could all do with a bit of help in regard to that; reboot is not always the answer, I guess—which includes the Cyber Uplift Step Program that helps businesses safeguard against the growing threat of cyber attacks and to respond effectively if breaches occur. There is also the Mental Health and Wellbeing Program that provides support for business owners and employees, helping them build resilience and cope with mental health challenges.

The Small Business Sustainability Support program is helping small business assess their climate impact and implement energy-efficient practices, reducing environmental footprints and delivering cost savings. Another program is the Economic Recovery Fund, which includes energy-efficiency grants of up to \$50,000 to help small businesses invest in energy-saving measures, such as efficient appliances, power generation equipment and building improvements, all helping businesses do what they do best without as high overheads as they have seen previously.

All of the initiatives are critical to support a part of our economy that employs around 300,000 people. That is about 40 per cent of our workforce. It is quite significant. Previously, as the member for Fisher, I did quite an exercise in discovering where businesses actually were in my electorate. That electorate now is probably a big chunk of the member for Davenport's electorate and part of my electorate.

When I was first really getting to know the different areas within the business community in my electorate, it was often described as more of a dormitory because there is not a lot of industry. It is where people live and raise a family. However, I did uncover that there was a significantly high proportion of sole traders and businesses being operated from home. Often, we do not see some of the businesses that are there but they certainly are there and they are a major employer and contributor to our economy. A thriving small business sector is absolutely critical for our state overall but even more so for our local communities.

Small businesses respond to local needs and employ locals. They give people a chance to spend their hard-earned dollars outside the major chains. I may just mention some of those major chains that have recently come under a cloud in regard to those very serious allegations of manipulating prices with fake specials. I think small business gives us an opportunity to actually spend the money in those family-run operations which probably are not doing such practices.

Within my ministerial portfolio, we also have some programs that are supporting people, and again especially women who may have been out of the workforce for some time, to build their own businesses. There are two great examples of these women whom I have met recently. One of them, of course, is an excellent human with the name Natalie, who is an autistic single mum with two autistic children. She established her business called Adore hairdressing.

Natalie noted a gap in the market, and she provides specialised in-home hairdressing services for children with autism, as well as older people in care facilities; an excellent initiative, particularly for people who find a lot of discomfort and displeasure in attending places where there is a lot of stimulus going on—noise, lights—and also the discomfort of leaving a home environment.

Then there is Michelle, who set up her business Adelaide Arts Psychotherapy and Therapy Dog Services. She provides creative therapy and animal-assisted services to clients funded by the NDIS. Michelle now has a thriving business after experiencing a really challenging business partnership breakdown that led to 12 months of unemployment a number of years ago. It significantly impacted Michelle's emotional and financial wellbeing.

Both of these women were supported by a program called LaunchMe, which is a partnership between Good Shepherd—who are excellent micro-finance providers of support to many people who are often needing support, financial assistance, and who provide low-interest loans or no-interest loans with the support of our department—and the Department of Human Services. LaunchMe is an excellent program which gives women with a sustainable business idea access to no-interest business loans of up to \$5,000, as well as business coaching and resources. In the 2023-24 financial year, 31 women were supported through this program.

If we want people to take a risk, innovate and become entrepreneurs, then government needs to create the right conditions for people to succeed. If government puts in the hard yards at the start with good legislation and good regulation, people will step up and put in the hard yakka to build a business for the future.

But this is not just a generic discussion about generic businesses and businesspeople. Sadly, people with disability still face significant stigma and discrimination in workplaces across Australia and, in fact, across the world. For so long, Australia prided itself on giving people a fair go, so we need to keep up our efforts to make our workplaces fairer and more inclusive. But the barriers to mainstream employment mean that people with disability, and those with partial capacities to work due to medical conditions, caring responsibilities or age, often turn to start their own businesses as a way to participate, as a way to participate in the economy on their own terms.

And this reinforces the need for a Small Business Commissioner with the right powers to ensure this part of our economy has the tools and protections to thrive. As noted earlier, a critical part of this bill is to improve mediation, which can resolve disputes faster and come at a dramatically lower cost than traditional court proceedings.

One of the pillars of the South Australian Economic Statement is an inclusive economy. Now, economists often talk about the three Ps when it comes to economic growth, and they are population, participation and productivity. In even simpler terms, this is how many people can potentially be working, those who are engaging in the labour market, and how much they produce or do when they

do get involved. An economy that is more inclusive finds a way to bring people into the market; people who can provide goods and services for others while providing for themselves and their families.

One of the greatest tragedies of the modern era is the vast amount of wasted human potential that is left by the wayside because the traditional model of standard full-time employment in mainstream workplaces does not suit their needs. As a good Labor person and a union member, I will always support improvements to workplaces that make them safer and more inclusive.

As someone who is deeply committed to making life better for those on the margins of our community, and on the margins of the labour force, I am so pleased to see legislation like this that helps to make the small business sector a more inclusive place also. When people have a valued role in their community and have the opportunity to create value, then we all win. I really feel that this is exactly what this bill does and what it seeks to do. I commend the minister for bringing this bill to the house and I commend the bill.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (17:14): I also rise to support the Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024. I think it is an important enhancement of the bill that we have before us. Obviously, there are a number of provisions that have been strengthened, that have been changed, to assist small businesses. We all know that in this state small businesses employ about 40 per cent of the workforce and indeed well over 90 per cent of the actual businesses in the state, so they have an incredibly important role.

Both currently and in the past, I have been made fully aware of the importance of small business, given what my community has gone through on a number of occasions. I reflect upon the role that previous Small Business Commissioner, John Chapman, played when Arrium went into administration and the role that John Chapman played was exceptional and essential.

I want to call him out because of the work that he did. The case then of Arrium is a bit of a similar picture in some ways, but hopefully it is not going to have the same result. Arrium had been very tardy in paying their contractors, especially some of their small contractors and small businesses in Whyalla. Many businesses had not been paid for a period of over 90 days and that was sort of the maximum that Arrium used when it came to the payment of small businesses. Come the 90 days, they would always then find something to question in the invoices, so the delays became even longer. That is bad enough under normal circumstances, but when Arrium then went into administration all of these businesses had major cashflow issues. Indeed, a whole range of those businesses would have gone to the wall if it were not for the intervention of the Weatherill government.

As I said, John Chapman played an incredibly important role in that. I had a part to play, but a couple of contractors, Jarrod Starkey, an employee of a contractor, as well as Kingsley Ewings, who owned Ewings Contractors, a heavy haulage company, assisted me very ably. We worked together to bring together a whole bunch of contractors and then had a meeting at Kingsley's business. There were scores of contractors there, all facing an incredibly difficult time, so we listened to what they had to say. John Chapman went back to Adelaide and got the imprimatur of the ministers at the time to act quickly to put something together to provide a package for the contractors.

Without that multimillion dollar package that was provided, a whole bunch of contractors would have gone to the wall and the industrial contractor ecology in Whyalla would have been destroyed, with the loss of all those skills and the loss of all those businesses that were built up over many years. Many of these were small family businesses in which they had put all their heart and soul into developing and they were put at risk because of the actions of a large company. I will always acknowledge the role that the Small Business Commissioner played. Now we have Nerissa Kilvert as the current Small Business Commissioner. She has been visiting Whyalla. She is encouraging all of the contractors who are experiencing difficulties to get in touch to provide their story so that we have a comprehensive picture of what is going on once again in that contractor ecology in Whyalla.

Despite what was discussed in parliament today during question time, when that big word 'administration' loomed large, as a responsible government and as a government that has taken an incredibly deliberative approach to what is going on at the steelworks, we have to look at all contingencies. Administration might be one of those contingencies, but it is certainly not a certainty. There are all sorts of scenarios that could develop when it comes to the operation of the mines and

the steelworks in Whyalla, but suffice to say we are part of a government that is incredibly committed to the ongoing future of mining and value-adding in Whyalla.

There are many reasons for that, not least of which are the workforce that is dependent upon that, the sovereign manufacturing capacity, and also the dependence that a lot of these small to medium-sized businesses in Whyalla have on GFG, for good or ill. It is clear that at the moment GFG are not paying their bills on time and often question invoices to delay things even further. The tactics that some of the companies have had to use to get paid if they provide essential services are tactics that they should not have to use but have been forced to use.

The Small Business Commissioner is up there again, providing really active support in the community of Whyalla. There has been a group of contractors who have come together—facilitated by, amongst others, Jarrod Starkey, who helped the last time—so that the contractors can have a bit of a voice and can share their collective experiences. They have sent the message out to the people they know, asking people to get in touch with the Small Business Commissioner. It is essential that we support these businesses in Whyalla.

I visited a number of contractors the other week. Some of the stories are very difficult. One contractor, Tony Angel, started work at the steelworks many years ago. He developed some particular skills and took the chance to go out on his own and build his own business. That has been an exceptional business in Whyalla, Avid Engineering. It provides great services when it comes to metal fabrication and fibreglassing work, a lot of which is focussed on the steelworks and the mines. This is a business that he built up over many years, a business that employed locals—and locals who were committed to the business. He had a very limited turnover of staff, so when he employed people they stayed with him.

Tony has had to take heartbreaking action in relation to his employees: he has had to lay off 19 of his employees, many of whom have been with him for many years. He is still retaining them as casuals in the hope that work will come. One of his issues is not so much the late payments, although there is a little bit of that, but it is the fact that work from GFG, from Liberty and from SIMEC has essentially dried up. After building this business over all of these years, he has had to let go of some people, although he is still employing them as casuals where he can. This is the difficult situation that is now being faced in Whyalla when it comes to our incredibly important contractor base. Once again, this is a role that the Small Business Commissioner is playing in the community to provide the assistance that she can within the powers and the resources that she has.

Like I said, there is a whole range of potential scenarios with that big operator, but it is one of those things in this country: that imbalance of power between small businesses and big businesses and some of the really, really big businesses. Some of this needs to be tackled at a federal level. One of the issues is the issue of big companies using small companies as their piggy bank and owing them money for—it could be 30 days, it could be 60 days, it could be 90 days, it could be more than that.

There has been some legislative change at a federal level. Some people with better knowledge may correct me if I am wrong. Some of that legislative change at a federal level has been about the big companies now having to report their payment schedules, but it needs to go beyond that. I think this is the first stage. There are other potential amendments, assuming big businesses do not start to do the right thing by small businesses, because it is totally unacceptable for big businesses—and some of the biggest businesses in this nation—to use the small business sector as piggy banks and not paying in an efficient and timely way.

Of course, there have been changes at a state government level in this state when it comes to the requirement for state departments and agencies to pay in a timely way. That is a good move and we should see that move—like I said, it is more of a federal issue when it comes to some of the big corporations in Australia doing this. At the end of the day, small business is a massive employer. It is people getting out there, taking a risk and having a go, and we should not be putting in place unnecessary barriers and unnecessary traps. Anything that we can do to strengthen the role of the Small Business Commissioner to provide the resources that are needed is a welcome step forward. I commend the bill.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (17:26): I rise in support of this bill. I understand from my reading of the bill that it demonstrates this government's commitment to supporting small businesses in this state by providing a whole range of new measures to provide them with some dispute resolution mechanisms, etc.

Importantly, this bill represents the first major revision of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011 since it commenced all those years ago. I will provide some background information, Mr Speaker, because I was actually involved in the process of getting the Small Business Commissioner Bill going. Minister Tom Koutsantonis was the minister at the time and the bill was based on two inquiries which were undertaken by a committee that we both sat on at the time; they were the franchisee inquiry and also the farm machinery inquiry that we undertook. It is interesting that the farm machinery inquiry was actually opposed by the Liberal members of that committee at the time, and also the Small Business Commissioner Bill was opposed by the Liberal Party when it was introduced—

The Hon. A. Michaels interjecting:

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Yes, minister, it was opposed by them. I do remind those opposite from time to time what they did in those days. This bill and the original act represent the first major and significant mechanism for small businesses to get some protection when they are dealing with larger businesses, and that is really important.

At the federal level, we see the federal government taking some action on a code of practice for the retail sector—again, that is big businesses that deal with small businesses. In those cases the small businesses are usually farmers of some sort. Farmers are an important small business in this state and, in fact, one of the motivating factors to get this bill off the ground back in 2011 was issues raised by farmers in my electorate at the time who were having difficulties getting their farm machinery serviced or supported by the manufacturers. So the bill came as a result of those two inquiries.

The original bill was supported by what was then the South Australian Farmers Federation as well. I remember the minister, myself and the then CEO of the South Australian Farmers Federation working very closely not only to get the bill up but, more importantly, to get the structure of the bill at the time to have provision through regulation for a whole range of codes of practice in different industries. This bill was deliberately intended in its design to be flexible, to be amended from time to time, to enable different sectors in different industries to be brought under the oversight of the commissioner.

Coming back now today, I understand that this bill provides clearer guidelines around the commissioner's roles in advocacy and dispute resolution, an important part of the bill. By strengthening these functions, the bill helps the commissioner to offer more effective assistance to small businesses facing issues such as commercial disputes, late payment of invoices and contract disagreements. Commercial disputes were a major motivator back in 2011, which was part of the franchise inquiry, when a lot of franchisees had disputes with franchisors. The franchisees were obviously the weaker party in that case and often were locked out of premises and shopping centres, etc., and that motivated that inquiry.

One of the key changes introduced by this bill is to provide consistency in alternative dispute resolution across all industries. This actually increases the coverage of the bill to make it very clear that it does not matter what industry you are in, you can be supported by the Small Business Commissioner. The bill also extends the level of support to all small businesses regardless of the sector they operate in. This will ensure that every small business, whether it is in urban or rural South Australia, can access the same level of support when they face disputes or challenges.

Additionally, the bill empowers the commissioner to require businesses to attend mediation sessions and produce relevant documents when necessary. To enforce this, a maximum penalty of \$20,000 and an expiation fee of \$1,200 will be applied for noncompliance. Again, that is very important because when we have a power imbalance between two businesses, the bigger party can use the delays to hurt the smaller party in any dispute and force them out of any dispute resolution process. So it is really important that we have these penalties.

The bill amends the objects section of the Small Business Commissioner Act to better reflect the commissioner's day-to-day functions. It highlights the office's role in promoting a fair and supportive business environment, facilitating independent dispute resolution and acting as a bridge between small businesses and government agencies. That is one thing we need to remember: often, small businesses have disputes with government and this bill does cover that, which is really important. The office will undergo a rebranding to become the Small Business Commission of SA. This change aligns with similar structures in other states and clarifies the office's identity without altering its function. Importantly, it removes any confusion between the Office for Small and Family Business and the office of the commissioner.

To provide certainty regarding the scope of alternative dispute resolution, the bill introduces a formal definition of alternative dispute resolution that excludes arbitration and expert determination. That is very clearly a different process. This legislative power is available to the commission under the bill and is intended to offer a structured yet flexible process for resolving disputes. I think the important part of the dispute is the mediation process. It is designed to get parties to speak to each other and understand each other's position and hopefully come to a mutual agreement. When parties come to a mutual agreement, it is the best agreement we can get.

Another element of this bill is the streamlining of court processes. Settlement agreements reached through mediation facilitated by the Small Business Commissioner will be treated as minor statutory proceedings, simplifying enforcement in the Magistrates Court. This will enable the parties to avoid the reprosecution of the case in the Magistrates Court. The bill includes amendments to the Retail and Commercial Leases Act that were originally proposed by the Law Society of South Australia's Property Committee in 2018, which I assume the member for Heysen was referring to earlier in his comments.

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Well, I will give you the benefit of the doubt. These amendments include simplifying the process of determining whether companies are listed on foreign stock exchanges, clarifying that lease warranty exclusions apply to both renewals and extensions, specifying that preference rights do not apply where lessees have a right of renewal, and simplifying wording regarding lease termination in section 76.

This bill importantly recognises the difficult environment small businesses are operating in at the moment and it seeks to support those small businesses to make sure there is a level playing field in our economy. With those comments, I support the bill.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

CONVERSION PRACTICES PROHIBITION BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 17:35 the house adjourned until Thursday 26 September 2024 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***GP PAYROLL TAX**

In reply to **the Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley)** (27 August 2024).

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries): I have been advised that clause 17C—Other exemptions for previous financial years, as the title suggests relates to the payroll tax amnesty announced for registered general practitioners (GPs), dentists and non-GP medical specialists in respect of their past non-declaration of taxable wages earned under contract arrangements with medical practices or clinics that ended on 30 June 2024.

Subject to the passage of this bill, it is the intention that regulations will be made under clause 17C to declare the scope of wages (being 100 per cent) under the payroll tax amnesty as exempt wages for payroll tax purposes for the financial years preceding 2024-25. This will remove the need for medical practices to submit up to five years of prior wage data relating to general practitioner, dentists and non-GP medical specialist's contractor payments needed to calculate and provide ex gratia relief on relevant liabilities covered by the amnesty.

The regulations are currently being developed in consultation with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Medical Association.

MINING TENEMENTS

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (27 August 2024).

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries): I have been advised:

1. South Australia is the only state that distributes rental to freehold landowners. This is a legacy issue where amounts the department receives from lease and licence holders, as part of their annual fees, are distributed to freehold landowners in addition to the compensation received from the lease or licence holder.

This amendment seeks to bring South Australia into alignment with other states, where the payments made to landowners are solely made by the lease or licence holder through their negotiated compensation agreements, and licence fee revenue paid to the regulator is retained by the regulator.

The amendments will progressively reduce the department's role as a middle person facilitating payments between landowners and lease or licence holders. Instead, the parties will utilise the provisions in the Mining Act and Mining Regulations to appropriately negotiate and facilitate compensation.

2. In June, all landowners known to the department associated with active leases and licences were notified of the proposed changes both by email and post. To maximise awareness of the proposed changes, the notification was sent to all landowners, whether they were currently eligible for distributions or not.

The Landowner Information Service was briefed about the changes and provided with the notification, to enable the service to support both existing landowners impacted by mining, and landowners who may in the future be impacted by mining.

Departmental officers met with the Concrete Cement and Aggregates Australia to discuss the scope of the changes.

The department's website has been updated with information about the proposed changes, including a copy of the notification issued to landowners. The website provides examples of how the proposed changes would apply in practice.

Relevant application forms, including notice of entry forms, have been updated to reference the proposed changes.

Of the very limited feedback received:

- there were remarks that the amounts of money involved were not large relative to other factors;
- some landowners were unaware of the entitlement to rental distributions to begin with, given the stage of mining operations on their land; and
- there was a concern that the approach may increase costs to mining operators through higher compensation arrangements.

Upon passage of the bill, the department intends to communicate the changes to lease and licence holders through their industry bodies.

3. Where there is a transfer on or after 1 July 2026 that is not with a familial relationship, the amounts not distributed, that is the 50 per cent reduction, will be retained by government.

4. The rental amounts which are not distributed to freehold landowners are recognised as 'fees and charges' revenue for the department. This is consistent with the approach for rental amounts which do not relate to freehold land, or where the landowner is not eligible for a distribution, for example where the freehold landowner is a related body corporate of the lease or licence holder.

5. Yes, that is correct. Where a familial relationship exists for a transfer of freehold land which occurs on or after 1 July 2026, the new freehold landowner will be exempt from the 50 per cent reduction.

MINING ROYALTIES

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (27 August 2024).

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries): I have been advised:

- The proposed amendments will strengthen the existing royalty provisions in sections 17(5) and 17(6) of the Mining Act. The updated provisions will support the preservation of state royalty revenues, consistent with the intent of the act, by ensuring that minerals are valued fairly for the purpose of calculating royalty.
- The amendments will enable the Treasurer to determine the market value of minerals sold pursuant to a contract with a genuine purchaser at arm's length, in the unlikely event that the quoted price of the minerals is significantly lower than the value of the minerals compared with a recognised market index or reference price.
- Following the proposed amendments, where the Treasurer is not satisfied that the minerals sold under a contract between a royalty payer and an arm's length purchaser reflects the market value of the minerals, the market value of the minerals will be determined according to an observable market index price in a relevant industry market, the declaration of a price or method by the Treasurer (after consultation with the minister), the use of a price obtained for comparable arms-length transactions, or (if none of those options apply) a reasonable and validated estimate of the value of the minerals.

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY SCHEME

In reply to **Mr PATTERSON (Morphett)** (27 August 2024).

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries): I have been advised:

The detailed design of the scheme is currently being undertaken by the Department for Energy and Mining. Details in relation to potential contributions by participants are yet to be finalised.

The intention is to undertake broad stakeholder engagement on the proposed design of the scheme, and associated regulations, once they have been developed.

MOBILE PHONE TOWERS, LIMESTONE COAST

In reply to **Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop)** (29 August 2024).

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning): I have been advised by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development:

Telstra has advised that it is currently working with the commonwealth government in relation to the contract for the funding secured through the Regional Connectivity Program round 3.

It is anticipated the rollout schedule for the 27 proposed mobile base stations for the Limestone Coast will be shared on completion of the contract negotiations.

Estimates Replies

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Department for Infrastructure and Transport

I am advised by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport that this information is confidential.

Department for Energy and Mining and the Office of Hydrogen Power South Australia

The total value of the termination payments was nil.