

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 26 September 2024

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

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Parliamentary Committees

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: NOARLUNGA DOWNS/PORT NOARLUNGA PROJECT

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

That the 91st report of the committee, entitled Noarlunga Downs/Port Noarlunga Project, be noted.

This project, delivered by Renewal SA, is part of a broader state government strategy intended to address housing pressures by delivering public housing and affordable homes. Last year, the government released a plan for A Better Housing Future, providing a range of initiatives and projects with the goal of delivering quality public housing, more affordable homes, more support for people to buy homes, more affordable rental opportunities and greater protection for people renting. Working from these goals, the project also contributes to targets outlined in the National Housing Accord.

Renewal SA (the agency) has identified approximately 22 hectares of land to the east and west of Lovelock Drive in the Noarlunga area that is suitable for development. With a project aim of creating a diverse community in a high-quality setting of mixed density housing, the project master plan proposes the construction of 626 new dwellings, with 15 per cent to be affordable housing. These plans include serviced allotments for the SA Housing Authority to deliver 80 new dwellings, which equates to a 12½ per cent concentration of public housing.

The mix of dwelling ownerships will benefit the broader community, in addition to providing new infrastructure, quality open spaces and streetscapes and extensive tree canopy that will assist in creating a high-quality neighbourhood amenity. The development will also benefit from its proximity to an established neighbourhood and is in close proximity to a major retail centre, transport interchange, strong transport connections, schools and sporting clubs.

The 22-hectare project is comprised of seven allotments across three distinct land parcels: 14.8 hectares over three allotments are under freehold ownership of the SA Housing Trust; 1.3 hectares, comprised of three allotments, are owned by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; and a single allotment of 6.5 hectares previously owned by the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing is now under the ownership of Renewal SA. The agency is also considering an opportunity to acquire a one-hectare land parcel from the City of Onkaparinga.

The works will create 526 traditional dwellings and 100 apartments, including 80 SA Housing Trust dwellings, aim to build a minimum of 90 affordable housing dwellings, build housing that responds to future climate needs, and create new infrastructure, roads and enhanced streetscapes with a 25 per cent tree canopy target.

Renewal SA estimates the project will cost \$103.2 million, consisting of civil and infrastructure works, landscaping, public realm, the acquisition of land parcels, and associated professional consultancies. It is estimated that the SA Housing Authority will spend \$37.4 million in the construction of its 80 dwellings within the project, including the purchase of land.

Renewal SA estimates operating costs of \$17.7 million over the project life, and will maximise market sales and partnership opportunities in the housing sector. It is anticipated that sales of the developed lots and built forms will provide approximately \$130 million in revenue. In total, the project is estimated to contribute \$92.4 million to gross state product over the construction period. It is also

anticipated to support an average of 90 full-time equivalent jobs, peaking at 144 in 2027-28. Cabinet approved the whole-of-life funding for the project in May of this year.

The proposed development, including civil and landscape works and sales of allotments, is scheduled to commence in 2025, and the agency has engaged most of the key consultants for the project. It is anticipated that the first residents will move into homes in February 2027, with the project anticipated for full completion in June of 2032.

Project delivery will follow best practice principles for procurement and management following Renewal SA's project management framework. There is the possibility of failure to acquire the council reserve land, which could result in compromising delivery of the master plan, which is considered in the framework. The project will also need minor upgrades to two key intersections controlled by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and it is expected further works will be necessary due to the increased volume of traffic created by the development.

Renewal SA has also engaged SA Power Networks and SA Water to minimise potential service connection delays and reduce any program and budget impacts. Similarly, the agency is in consultation with the local council and PlanSA to acquire any necessary development approvals. Furthermore, Renewal SA has highlighted there are some uncontrollable variabilities with market sales and the agency has considered this in the marketing budget and states that there are benefits in the nearby facilities, available transport, open space and access to amenities in comparison to competing developments.

The Noarlunga project is targeting a Green Star-Communities five-star rating. Green Star is a weighted tool that evaluates sustainable attributes of the planning, design and construction of community-scale developments. These targets include providing diverse, well-connected healthy places to live, developments that maintain and restore the natural environment, and environmental leadership and sustainability.

An Aboriginal cultural heritage survey indicates the possibility of encountering archaeological features and artefacts, and an archaeologist has been employed to survey the area. Preliminary results recommend further physical exploration, and Renewal SA will be in ongoing consultation with the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation throughout this process. An application has been made to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for authorisation to disturb Aboriginal sites and objects if necessary. A cultural heritage management plan, agreed in consultation with Kaurna, will be adhered to during project delivery.

The south-west portion of the Goldsmith Drive site is subject to a heritage place and Renewal SA is conscious of protocols that the adjacent developments do not dominate, encroach on or unduly impact the settings of this place.

Since the public announcement of the projects in 2023, the agency has been in active consultation with key project stakeholders. Ongoing consultation with the City of Onkaparinga is working towards a heads of agreement, and the revocation process is underway. Renewal SA is also in consultation with Department for Infrastructure and Transport regarding land acquisition, as well as the expected increased traffic requirements in the area.

SA Power Networks has given preliminary advice that there are no foreseeable capacity issues, with consultation with SA Water continuing. A community and stakeholder engagement plan has been developed, with 3,400 properties notified by mail, and face-to-face engagement sessions scheduled from July this year.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Noarlunga Downs/Port Noarlunga project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were: Shane Wingard, Acting Executive Director, Property and Major Projects, Renewal SA; Peter Gatsios, Acting Executive Director, Residential Project Delivery and Assets, Renewal SA; and Michael Wood, Executive Director, Commercial and Business Services, Renewal SA. I thank the witnesses for their time.

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: THE OUTBACK HIGHWAY FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:10): I move:

That the 92nd report of the committee, entitled The Outback Highway Flood Recovery Works, be noted.

In January 2022, significant rains led to severe flooding of northern parts of South Australia. The floodwaters damaged large parts of the regional arterial road network, including substantial damage to a 78.5-kilometre section of The Outback Highway. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport proposes to repair and reconstruct this damaged section of road as well as make improvements to fortify it against future weather events.

The 272-kilometre section of The Outback Highway between Hawker and Marree forms part of the national key freight network declared by the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts. It is the main access between Hawker and Marree as well as a vital connection for regional communities within South Australia via the Oodnadatta Track and in Queensland via the Strzelecki and Birdsville tracks. These tracks are key to ongoing economic development for the state as they provide access to mining and gas fields in the Far North region.

The highway is also a critical link for pastoralists and provides key access for tourism. The identified section of road needing repair experiences an annual average daily traffic count of 150 vehicles, of which an estimated 12 per cent are heavy vehicles. The 2022 flooding event left significant sections of the road under water, causing extensive damage and closing the road to all traffic between Marree and Lyndhurst for several days until temporary repairs were made.

The closure led to major disruption of supply lines and services for local, state and national communities, causing significant negative social and economic impacts. Unfortunately, this is not a lone event. Since 2013, The Outback Highway has been closed for a total of 68 days due to weather events. Through the proposed repairs and improvements, this project aims to improve the resilience of the regional road network in line with a supply chain review drafted by the Australian Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics.

The proposed works will build formation works to raise the road profile throughout the flood-affected areas to reduce risks from future weather events, construct new floodways and drainage structures to accommodate future flood events, introduce cement-stabilised pavement materials that will enable the road to better withstand future inclement weather events and prevent damage to the pavement, construct new pavement and surfacing for the extent of the works, add new line marking and remove vegetation where required.

The new road will be gazetted for vehicles equivalent in size to a triple road train. The detailed design considers the potential need for service relocations, and the department will engage service authorities early during project development to ensure any necessary relocations are complete before the main construction works commence. The project will require the clearance of some native vegetation and weeds, and necessary approvals will be sought in accordance with the department's vegetation impact assessment guideline. The department states that removal will be minimised where possible.

The project is estimated to cost \$25 million and is jointly funded by the Australian and South Australian governments on a fifty-fifty basis through the infrastructure betterment program, which was approved under the commonwealth-state disaster funding arrangements. Ongoing costs for the maintenance of the improvements will be sourced from the department's operating budget. The department will manage the project in accordance with its program and project management framework. Construction works will be managed in accordance with the General Conditions of Contract: GC21, with a contract being awarded through a competitive tender process.

A detailed design has been awarded and delivery is proposed to be undertaken through a separate construct-only contract. Procurement will be in accordance with the state government's procurement management framework and guidelines. Construction is estimated to begin early next year and is targeted to be complete and operational by the middle of 2026.

The department has highlighted key risks for the project, which include construction delays due to adverse weather, which will be considered through the development of a comprehensive construction program; impacts on the road network during construction, for which the construction contractor will create traffic management plans to mitigate disruption; and delays in obtaining statutory approvals, for which the department will undertake early engagement with relevant authorities.

The works will adopt a range of initiatives that consider sustainable objectives. These initiatives include the use of recycled construction materials, opportunities to use potable water where possible, and a contamination remediation management plan that promotes beneficial re-use of materials. The report has been endorsed by the Department for Environment and Water.

The Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects has identified no Aboriginal heritage sites within 50 metres of the project. Further assessment has determined there is a moderate risk of encountering unknown Aboriginal heritage sites, and measures are in place to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act if required. Native title has been extinguished on the parcels of affected land, and there are no further native title implications. A non-Aboriginal heritage assessment has identified no direct impacts on commonwealth, state or local heritage places.

A community and stakeholder management plan has been drafted to ensure appropriate levels of communication and consultation with relevant stakeholders, residents, property owners and businesses. This includes consultation with traditional owners of the land, the Outback Communities Authority, government departments and agencies, local members of parliament, emergency services, industry bodies and the community. The department state that they will continue to consult with relevant stakeholders and community representatives throughout the delivery of the works.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to The Outback Highway flood recovery works project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Scott Cooper, Acting Executive Director, Transport Strategy and Planning, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and Jodie Grayson, Team Leader, Northern Rural, Department for Infrastructure and Transport. I thank the witnesses for their time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Stuart, who provided a written statement to the committee supporting this project in his electorate.

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

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (11:16): I have great pleasure in speaking on the Public Works Committee submission regarding the funding for some of the outback roads up there. These funds are well and truly appreciated by not only the people living in those locations but also the ever-increasing number of travellers who use the road, especially between Lyndhurst and Marree.

Just recently, a couple of weeks ago, I travelled this road over a six-day period and was extremely surprised at the flood damage that had been caused to this section of The Outback Highway. I know that the aim of these funds is to improve the road infrastructure, which will reduce the times this section will be closed due to extreme weather conditions, which cause economic losses not only to the pastoralists but also the ever-increasing tourism opportunities.

I must admit there are ever-increasing opportunities for tourism there. The member indicated 110 or 112 vehicles a day; I think that is growing every day. So this is an issue where what we have to do as a government and in this chamber here is try to get more funds for those roads up there, not only for the pastoralists and the economic opportunities for them but also to satisfy the ever-increasing tourism opportunities that also increase the economic benefits for the businesses in those outback areas.

This section is very low lying and has been closed nearly 100 days recently—in the last 12 months—due to weather conditions. The conditions were particularly bad in the 2022 intense rains and subsequent flooding. Whilst these rains are great for the pastoralists, it causes great damage to the roads and, as I say, at the same time it creates economic challenges for the businesses up there. It also adds increased costs to the pastoralists in getting their produce down to the markets in the south and in getting food up to the people in the north.

I also mention that a further, northern section of The Outback Highway, north of Marree to William Creek, has sustained lots of damage that has occurred since the rain some months ago. Whilst the road was graded to a safe condition, there was more traffic and more rain, and the traffic went through, causing more damage to that road than it should have done. This is an absolute disgrace from the general public's point of view. The signs say that the roads are closed due to safety requirements, but people still go through there.

What has been caused on that particular section of road, just north of William Creek, from Maree to William Creek, are big ruts in the roads. It is a very big issue for safety and things like that. More rain went through, causing damage to several sections of this highway, with traffic now reduced to a single lane. I took photographs of that particular section of road and have sent them to the minister.

The frustrating part about this, from information I received just recently, is that pastoralists have been ringing the contractor in Port Augusta and have been told that it will not be assessed until November this year. Again, this is an issue I will be taking up with a minister to try to accelerate it. These concerns, plus photographs, have been taken to the minister and I am certain there will be remedial work carried out prior to the pastoralists bring their stock down to the markets.

As I said, just recently I have had discussions with a lot of people up there and, as with others, they get calls from all over South Australia. However, there is a cost factor for pastoralists bringing their produce down—especially the cattle, when there are triples coming down. There is a lot of damage to those vehicles and that cost is then put onto the produce coming down, which puts up the price of the produce for the general public.

With regard to this particular section, as I said a bit earlier the locals have been advised that it will not be assessed until November. If that is correct that is a very bad way this contract has been written. I know the minister, with the member for MacKillop, has been concerned about some of the contract work down there for maintenance, and he is going to be taking that on board. This is another area of concern I have, as the local member, and I will be taking this up with the minister himself.

However, in regard to this project, I thank the members of the Public Works Committee, on all sides of politics, for their deliberations. This is well worth the \$25 million, and I know the people of the communities up there in the outback areas, as well as the ever-increasing number of tourists, will thank both the state and federal governments for their consideration on this \$25 million—which, I understand, is on a fifty-fifty basis.

I commend the report to the parliament and look forward to the start and continuation of the works up there.

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:22): I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Stuart for his contribution, as always an impassioned but rational plea on behalf of his community for proper roads. Speaking for myself, I have certainly learned a lot more about regional roads than I knew before from talking to the member for Stuart. He does his best to make sure us city folk are informed about what is going on up there, and I thank him for his support of this project.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: BAROSSA TRUNK MAIN (BENTLEY ROAD) PROJECT

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:22): I move:

That the 93rd report of the committee, on the Barossa Trunk Main (Bentley Road) Project, be noted.

This project, from SA Water, proposes to install a new pipeline in Evanston Park, in the town of Gawler, to increase the capacity of the water supply network in Gawler East and surrounding areas.

Over the last 20 years, development in the area has significantly increased the number of water connections serviced by the existing trunk main. Augmentation plans predict that over the next 20 years there will be a further 127 per cent increase of connection volume to this area's network. The projected growth will overwhelm the existing capacity of the Barossa trunk main system, and it is a high priority for SA Water to address imminent capacity pressures as well as prepare the network for the anticipated growth.

The project proposes the installation of approximately 1.9 kilometres of a 375-millimetre pipeline along Bentley Road from Potts Road to Alexander Avenue. The pipeline will allow two service mains to be interconnected, increasing overall capacity of the water supply network.

Once complete, the upgrade will serve as a critical link supplying water to the Gawler, Craigmore, Munno Para, Elizabeth, Pooraka and Northfield areas. Strengthening the water system will not only ensure capacity for current water needs but also ensure reliability and resilience for the future, in line with the expected expansion of the network—particularly with the planned Gawler Springwood East development.

Due to the nature of the project being a direct upgrade of an existing service, only one concept option was considered and assessed on technical and financial components as well as net value and risk assessment. The pipeline site is located within the Gawler council area and most of the pipeline will be within the road reserve, with no easement required. Where the pipeline alignment impacts the council reserve, the council will be consulted regarding works and necessary easements. Some removal of natural vegetation and regulated trees will be required and necessary approvals will be sought prior to any clearance or damage. SA Water anticipates that construction will commence within the fourth quarter of this year, with practical completion in the second quarter of 2025.

The project is anticipated to cost \$9.4 million, and funds are available within the capital budget submitted by SA Water to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia for the 2020 and 2024 regulatory determinations. There will be nil impact to SA Water customer bills nor overall contributions to government. No benefit cost ratio has been drafted, as one is not required for SA Water projects when the primary driver is not for economic benefit to the state. The benefits cannot be quantified in financial or economic terms, as they are a continuation of an existing service and there will be no operational costs once the project is complete.

The Barossa trunk main project is included in the Water North Framework major program. Procurement processes have been conducted in accordance with SA Water's policies and procedures and conform to all applicable government policies. Concept design was completed by SA Water engineering and the project delivery is planned to use a design and construct model. The agency states that a major framework partner is anticipated to submit a proposal which will be analysed and awarded in accordance with SA Water's delegation of financial procurement authority and applicable Treasury and government policies.

The project will be managed by a project manager from SA Water's capital planning and delivery group who will be responsible for the development and delivery of the overall project, including seeking the necessary approvals as well as managing the selected contractor. SA Water administers a business management framework to identify potential project risks, determine related impacts and likelihood and develop strategies to mitigate risks and remedy problems. This framework will apply over the course of the project, and the agency will hold facilitated risk assessment workshops with relevant stakeholders.

SA Water has identified key risks for this project, which include impacts to the environment from construction and operations, for which project design has minimised adverse impacts to native vegetation and fauna, and network isolation failures and loss of supply to customers, for which the project has developed detailed shutdown planning, coordination and impact assessments. All project risks will be logged and monitored in a live risk database and addressed as appropriate by the team during the life of the project.

An environmental control plan has been developed to ensure the project is delivered in compliance with relevant regulations and legislative frameworks. The selected contractor will be encouraged to develop processes with due regard for short and long-term, local and global, environmental, social and economic considerations. These include conservation and efficient use of resources and raw materials, engaging local subcontractors, where relevant expertise exists, reducing carbon emissions, developing flexible processes and products, and implementing recycling and re-use initiatives.

SA Water also has a commitment to operate sustainably to support viability now and into the future. Through the Water North Framework partnership, SA Water will engage a contractor that has

an established construction environmental management plan. Additionally, a site environmental management plan will be developed to address the site-specific requirements that will be reviewed and endorsed by SA Water.

The project lies within the Kaurna native title determination, and SA Water confirms that native title has been extinguished on the project site provided that works remain within the gazetted road reserves and previously disturbed corridors within SA Water-owned land parcels. The agency has determined a medium level of risk for encountering or impacting Aboriginal heritage and requires the construction contractor to comply with standard operating procedures for the discovery of Aboriginal heritage during construction work.

Construction employees will also be required to attend a site-specific Aboriginal cultural heritage induction prior to ground disturbance works. The agency's environment and heritage expertise has determined no impact on non-Aboriginal heritage items. The new pipeline is being built parallel to the existing pipeline alignment, and the agency has been in consultation with relevant stakeholders and will remain in ongoing communication through the life of the project. SA Water has consulted with the Gawler council regarding project plans and will continue to engage the council prior to the commencement of the construction to ensure appropriate levels of traffic management are in place. Internal stakeholders and involved partner organisations will be kept informed throughout the project life cycle. Feedback from the relevant government departments indicates support for the proposed project.

The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Barossa Trunk Main (Bentley Road) Project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Ross Kameron, Senior Project Manager, SA Water, and Peter Seltsikas, Senior Manager, Capital Delivery, SA Water. I thank the witnesses for their time. Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: CEDUNA SUPPLY SYSTEM AND TANKS RATIONALISATION PROJECT

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

That the 94th report of the committee, entitled Ceduna Supply System and Tanks Rationalisation Project, be noted.

The submission from SA Water, also known as the agency, proposes to construct and commission a new 4.5-megalitre tank with a connecting 12-kilometre pipeline to the Ceduna township to ensure reliable water supply to customers in the township and surrounding areas. The project is a high priority for SA Water to ensure sustained water delivery that meets the regulated standards for customers.

Ceduna is situated approximately 780 kilometres north-west of Adelaide and receives its water supply from the River Murray and southern Eyre Peninsula bore field via a pipeline that extends from Tod to Ceduna. The water from the pipeline is transferred to Ceduna via local supply storage tanks located along Kalanbi Road and a larger tank at Pimbaacla. These tanks provide potable water for approximately two and a half thousand customers, and currently provide less than 10 hours of backup reserve in the event of a water outage due to a break in the pipeline.

Due to the remote location, major repairs to the pipeline would take a minimum of 16 hours, and the limited current capacity poses a significant risk to customers' water supply. Furthermore, the current pipeline is above ground and water quality can be compromised by high temperatures. The installation of the new tank and pipeline upgrade aims to resolve these water security and quality challenges.

The agency considered two options during concept development. Option 1 provides a pumped solution, constructing the new 4.5-megalitre tank and a pump station in the Ceduna township. Option 2 utilises a gravity system and would build a 4.5-megalitre tank nearby to the township and a 12-kilometre pipeline to connect the tank to the Ceduna township water network.

After consideration of technical and financial components, and risk assessments, option 2 was the preferred solution. In addition to providing water security and quality requirements, the gravity system design uses less power, simplifies maintenance and operational procedures and will be more cost-effective over the project's life cycle.

The new tank will be built adjacent to the existing Bonython tank site, at Lot 625 Kalanbi Road, on land owned by SA Water. Due to the size of the new tank, a portion of an adjacent private property has been secured. The proposed pipeline is located within the road reserve as well as on the secured private property.

The project is targeted for completion in quarter 1 of 2026 and is expected to cost \$37.4 million. The agency estimates an average annual cost of approximately \$14,000. The operating and capital costs are funded through SA Water's regulatory determination allowances approved by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia. These costs will have no impact on the agency's overall contributions to government or SA Water customer bills that are set for the regulatory determination of 2024.

The project does not require a benefit-cost ratio because its benefits are not quantifiable in financial terms as they are a continuation of an existing service. A financial analysis of the concept options was undertaken in accordance with Treasurer's Instructions and SA Water guidelines. The preferred option was determined to have the best net present value.

The project is included in the Water North major framework program, and SA Water has conducted procurement processes in accordance with SA Water's policies and procedures, conforming to all applicable government and Department of Treasury and Finance policies. In June 2020, SA Water awarded major framework partner agreements, with these agreements to apply across the suite of SA Water's system-based programs, being Water North, Water South, and Wastewater.

A design-and-construct model was selected to deliver the project, and the award of the design-and-construct package will be in accordance with SA Water's delegation of financial and procurement authority and applicable government policies. The project will be managed by a project manager from SA Water's capital planning and delivery group. The project manager is responsible for the development and delivery of the overall project, including seeking the necessary approvals and management of the selected contractor.

Through a business management framework, SA Water identifies potential project risks, determines related impacts and likelihood, and develops strategies to mitigate risks and remedy problems. This framework will apply over the course of the project, and facilitated risk assessment workshops will be held with the relevant stakeholders. The agency states that the key risks for the project include:

- inadequate community engagement and involvement, for which there has been early stakeholder engagement with the local council, impacted landowners and regional Aboriginal councils; and
- failure to consider the challenges of the remote location when procuring materials and equipment, for which the project leadership has identified potential long lead times.

There will be ongoing evaluation of design and construction risks during the detailed design, and all project risks will be logged and monitored in a live risk database and addressed as appropriate by the team during the life of the project.

SA Water has developed an environmental control plan to ensure the project is delivered in compliance with relevant regulations and legislative frameworks. The selected contractor will be encouraged to develop processes with due regard for short and long-term, local and global, environmental, and social and economic considerations, including considerations of the use of local subcontractors, the reduction of carbon emissions, the implementation of re-use and recycling to reduce waste, and the efficient, flexible and conserving use of resources and raw materials.

SA Water will engage a contractor that has an established environmental management plan, and a site environmental management plan will be developed to address site-specific requirements

that will be reviewed and endorsed by SA Water. The project has also been designed to minimise impacts on native vegetation where possible, and the agency has submitted a clearance application to the Native Vegetation Council.

The project lies within the Far West Coast native title settlement, and SA Water confirms the works will not interfere with any native title rights and interests. The agency has identified a medium level of risk for encountering or impacting on Aboriginal heritage and requires the construction contractor to comply with SA Water's standard operating procedure for the discovery of Aboriginal heritage during construction work. Construction employees are required to attend a site-specific Aboriginal cultural heritage induction prior to ground disturbance works. The agency's environment and heritage expertise has determined no impact on non-Aboriginal heritage items.

SA Water is in ongoing consultation with external and internal stakeholders and partner organisations, and it has advised that there will be ongoing communication with stakeholders during the project life cycle. Feedback from the relevant government departments indicates support for the proposed project.

The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Ceduna Supply System and Tanks Rationalisation Project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Ross Kameron, Senior Project Manager, SA Water, and Peter Seltsikas, Senior Manager, Capital Delivery, SA Water. I thank the witnesses for their time.

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

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:37): I rise to speak on this report of the Public Works Committee, specifically pertaining to what I think is an essential investment but also one that should be seen as only part of a suite of necessary upgrades to the water system on Eyre Peninsula, specifically the far west of Eyre Peninsula where we have isolated communities that produce so much and give so much to our state's economy. We need to make sure we get proper investment back into the key infrastructure that enables those communities.

The proposal that has been put in this report is for a replacement upgrade of the existing tank, and there is now going to be a 4.5-megalitre tank next to where the current Bonython tank is. For those locals who would know, that is north of Ceduna, on Kalanbi Road, and the pipeline that feeds the tank.

The water distribution system on Eyre Peninsula is a unique one. As has been mentioned in the report, the original source of water and the continuing source from the south of Eyre Peninsula is unique as a gravity feed system that feeds from the south, down near Port Lincoln, all the way up to Ceduna. I welcome the fact that, in looking at the different options, the SA Water proposal is to replace the tank in the basic existing framework and footprint of the current distribution network, which really is a recognition of the engineering feat of many decades ago.

The 12-kilometre pipeline that will feed from that site at Kalanbi Road is going to be undergrounded. As has been pointed out, it will give a bit more certainty as to the longevity and also minimise the risks to any impact on our supply if something was to happen to that pipeline. It is a pretty significant project proposal.

The member highlighted that it is a \$34 million project, which is looking to be delivered by quarter 1 of 2026. Indeed, it was pointed out that there cannot be a specific cost-benefit analysis because it is an existing supply to the township of Ceduna, but we should never underestimate, as I said, what we need to be doing as decision-makers to invest in our regional communities, in particular those that are further flung but that give so much to our state's economy.

The future potential growth and sustainability of Eyre Peninsula as a whole is really predicated on making sure that this community infrastructure, such as tanks, is invested into by the state government. We have seen examples on the West Coast, in Ceduna and Streaky Bay, where there has not been the ability to guarantee supply for residential growth, because there has not been investment like this into the tank system and the pipe distribution for our water.

I welcome this as the local member, an investment into the water distribution network for Ceduna, recognising that currently there is a select committee of the upper house looking at Eyre Peninsula water needs and supply—that is not only the supply source but also the distribution network that is necessary to go across the whole of Eyre Peninsula—and at what potential residential, industrial and commercial growth there is going to be on Eyre Peninsula, so that we can actually be looking forward and have a vision for the investment that is going to be necessary for such key infrastructure as the water network.

This step, which is the 4.5-megalitre tank to replace the tank that supplies the Ceduna township and community, is very much welcomed. I think it fits in well with the big picture perspective, which I hope SA Water and the government are going to continue to have when it comes to the water distribution system for Eyre Peninsula.

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:42): I just want to take this opportunity to thank the member for Flinders for his contribution to the debate and put on the record how much I am looking forward to working with the member for Flinders as the newest member of the Public Works Committee. I am sure he will continue to fulfil his duties on the committee in the same spirit that the previous member, the member for Hartley, did during his very brief period of time on the Public Works Committee. During his brief period of time, he was a very diligent member and contributed greatly, and I am sure that the member for Flinders will do exactly the same thing.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING—DIRECT DELIVERY APARTMENTS (LOT 51 BOWDEN, LOT 18 AND 59 PROSPECT)

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:43): I move:

That the 96th report of the committee, entitled Affordable Housing—Direct Delivery Apartments (Lot 51 Bowden, Lot 18 and 59 Prospect), be noted.

In November 2023, cabinet approved the 2022-23 Mid-Year Budget Review housing package, which includes Renewal SA's direct delivery of three priority affordable rental housing projects in response to the current housing crisis. These projects will build affordable housing apartments within existing Renewal SA developments at Bowden and Prospect.

The projects aim to provide 180 affordable rental apartments in locations well served by existing transport linkages and amenities, seek funding from the commonwealth through the first round of the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF), deliver a key contribution towards the state's commitments under the National Housing Accord, and deliver built forms that achieve the same design quality and sustainability requirements expected from any developer of a Renewal SA project.

The Bowden Lot 51 site is a rectangular island with access to the Outer Harbor railway and a pedestrian walkway that provides direct access to the Outer Harbor Greenway and Bowden station. First residents are expected to reside in January 2026 and, subject to final design refinement, the Lot 51 project will develop a mixed-use building with:

- 80 affordable rental apartments comprised of 21 per cent studio, 39 per cent one-bed and 32 per cent two-bed apartments, with a supporting street-fronted residential lobby and a residential community terrace;
- four ground-floor loft townhouses, to be sold at market value;
- six one-bedroom apartments, designed to achieve highly accessible certification;
- a commercial, public multideck car park, with separate public entrance and lobby, to be operated as a paid commercial car park by a third-party operator;
- ground-floor retail shopfront tenancies; and
- a ground-floor bicycle and scooter hub.

Lot 18 is located within the Prospect Corner project and is the gateway on the corner of Churchill Road and Payinthe Drive. The expectation is for first residents to reside in October 2025, with the project to construct:

- a five-level building containing 29 affordable rental apartments comprised of four studio, 10 one-bed and 15 two-bed apartments, with a supporting residential lobby and 13 secure undercroft car parks;
- a ground-floor apartment that delivers a Disability Discrimination Act dwelling arrangement; and
- a ground-floor bicycle and scooter hub.

Similar to Lot 18, Lot 59 is located within the Prospect Corner project. The site will be serviced by an internal road and has direct access to the Islington train station. With first residents expected to move into dwellings in March 2026, the project will create:

- an eight-level building containing 71 affordable rental apartments comprised of three studio apartments, 18 one-bed apartments, 43 two-bed apartments, three two-bed Disability Discrimination Act dwellings, and four three-bed apartments;
- a supporting residential lobby;
- 32 open at-grade car parks; and
- a ground-floor bicycle and scooter hub.

All three apartment buildings aim to achieve a five-star Green Star sustainability rating, which is considered Australian best practice.

Cabinet approval for the project was subject to Renewal SA finalising the designs and associated budget approvals. In September 2023, the Department of Treasury and Finance approved initial design and consultation funding of \$7.7 million from the central provision, and in January this year the Treasurer issued approval for the balance of the project's capital budget of \$94 million, bringing the total cost to build these three affordable rental housing projects to \$101.7 million. It is estimated that there will be operating costs of \$2.3 million over the delivery of the program for all three apartments. This includes holding costs, legal fees and sales costs.

The program of works is estimated to contribute \$72 million to gross state product over its life, peaking at \$36 million in 2025-26 during the peak construction period, with the projects forecast to support 231 full-time equivalent jobs during this time. The projects will be delivered following best-practice principles for procurement management following Renewal SA's Project Management Framework.

The agency has identified a number of risks and has considered mitigation measures accordingly: to manage potential risks arising from the project's fast-tracked delivery, the procurement model uses an industry standard lump-sum novated design and construction process to secure early contractor involvement and stage approvals so as to allow early construction and avoid delays. While Renewal SA is responding to government commitments within A Better Housing Future, no direct time or cost penalties threaten the project, should occupation dates extend beyond forecasts.

The project also uses a new partnership model that utilises government capital to deliver affordable housing quickly, while securing a community housing provider (CHP) to acquire the stock at the delivery cost upon practical completion. The state CHP sector is limited and the model will test the appetite of larger interstate CHPs to enter the South Australian market. Renewal SA has begun to engage with CHPs through expression of interest.

It is challenging to build large-scale quality designed affordable apartment accommodation in the current construction pricing environment without government subsidy, either through HAFFF or the state. Renewal SA has engaged an experienced development consultant and cost manager to work closely with design teams at each phase to drive value for money and cost efficiency. Lastly,

the fast-tracked nature of the projects and the requirement to find fixed construction pricing and confirm delivery programs pose challenges in sounding the market and finalising exit strategies.

The Bowden and Prospect projects have completed Cultural Heritage Management Plans in negotiation with the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation as part of the master development. The design briefs include elements of Kaurna artwork, and the landscaping of all three projects will involve direct engagement with the Kaurna community. The project has identified no state or local heritage impact.

The three projects have received development plan consent, and a detailed review by the Bowden Design Review Panel approved the Bowden project in March this year. The Prospect apartment buildings secured planning approval in February this year via the State Commission Assessment Panel, including a design review by the Office for Design and Architecture South Australia. Both the City of Charles Sturt and the City of Prospect were engaged through the statutory planning process.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the affordable housing direct delivery apartments at Lot 51 Bowden and Lot 18 and Lot 59 Prospect. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Shane Wingard, Acting Executive Director, Property and Major Projects, Renewal SA; Peter Gatsios, Acting Executive Director, Residential Project Delivery and Assets, Renewal SA; and Michael Wood, the Executive Director, Commercial and Business Services, Renewal SA. I thank the witnesses for their time.

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: REBUILT CAMPBELLTOWN AMBULANCE STATION

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:50): I move:

That the 97th report of the committee, entitled Rebuilt Campbelltown Ambulance Station, be noted.

In early 2022, the state government made an election commitment of \$38 million to deliver four new and four rebuilt ambulance stations, with an additional \$12 million for land acquisition. The program aimed to significantly expand the service delivery capabilities for the South Australian Ambulance Service, otherwise known as SAAS.

The expansion was designed to strengthen emergency responses across metropolitan Adelaide and surrounding regions through a strategic increase in the quality and capacity of ambulance infrastructure. The program has since expanded to include five new and six rebuilt stations, with the funding increased to \$102 million to accommodate the increased scope of the project as well as to accommodate the significant cost escalations in construction trade pricing, land acquisitions, demolition and utility connections.

SAAS operates 119 ambulance stations across South Australia, including the MedSTAR emergency medical retrieval service at Adelaide Airport. For the Campbelltown locality, the relocation of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, combined with the tram extension along North Terrace, has impacted response capabilities in Adelaide's eastern suburbs. There has also been a requirement for Campbelltown crews to attend cases in the Adelaide CBD and, when using North Terrace to return to base, they can be impacted by periods of peak traffic.

The rebuilt Campbelltown station will complement the existing stations in Oakden and Parkside as well as the new station in Norwood to provide a service that meets the objective outlines in the SA Health strategic plan; namely, to strengthen primary health care and enhance hospital care by providing more services close to where people live.

With practical completion expected in November 2025, the investing budget for the Campbelltown Ambulance Station project is \$8.4 million, and cost and value management throughout the design phases will aim to ensure ongoing value-for-money outcomes. The new station will garage nine ambulance vehicles and two light fleet vehicles and provide expanded facilities to

accommodate additional SAAS crews, providing increased patient-centred emergency services designed around community needs.

The current arrangements are that the ambulance station is co-located with St John Ambulance and the site is on Crown land with St John Ambulance listed as the custodian. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has approved the rededication of the land to SA Health, and the new facility will remain co-located with St John Ambulance, which will take a new sublease for its accommodation. The SAAS portion of the new building will be generally closed to the public, as per the current arrangements.

The decision to rebuild the station was made after a detailed investigation indicated the station required upgrading to meet the increased demand in the area. The selected upgrade concept is to construct a two-storey rebuilt station that will provide modern, fit-for-purpose facilities at the existing Montacute Road site that will accommodate the additional workforce required to meet operational needs and emergency provisions for the surrounding areas. The rebuilt station will house 36 paramedics across various shift lines, with a minimum of 14 staff on site at peak periods. The rebuilt station will include:

- a main garage for nine ambulances and two light vehicles, with supporting storerooms, linen utilities and drug store;
- a large training room with audiovisual equipment, a multiuse room and two offices with workstations;
- a kitchen and dining space, an eight-person crew rest room, as well as storage, ancillary supporting accommodation and seven personal work rest break staffrooms;
- bathroom, toilet and cloakroom facilities; and
- a 22-space car park as well as bicycle parking for staff and visitors.

Further works for St John Ambulance include two covered ambulance vehicle parking bays, a four-person office, a shared training room, a kitchenette and supporting facilities. The Campbelltown Ambulance Station crew will decamp to a building in Stepney when demolition commences.

The delivery of the project will follow best practice principles for project procurement, including extensive consultation, evaluation and review of solutions against the brief, development of formal communications with community and stakeholders, preparation of a program that reflects the project scope, establishing and managing a cost plan, appointment of professional service contractors, and scheduling reviews of design, documentation and construction.

The project team is managing project risk, and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport will undertake its mandated risk-management approach for the project. A steering committee has been established with executive-level membership across SA Health, SAAS, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Risk management has identified capital cost pressures from high rates of inflation and escalation, and the team has also reviewed geotechnical information and undertaken destructive tests and boreholes to establish and mitigate any existing adverse conditions.

The project team has established formal processes to ensure that sustainable development principles are incorporated into the design, construction and operation of the ambulance station. SA Health recognises that providing a facility with good environmental qualities will provide a positive environment and work place for staff and users, support improved wellbeing and assist in managing behaviours. Design measures have been incorporated to support increased adaptability with minimal impact.

These include provisions for future electric vehicle charging stations, options for full or partial solar output, and highly accessible and flexible spaces to support changes of use to incorporate shifting technology and mechanical systems. A range of detailed initiatives are in place to maximise sustainable outcomes throughout the project's life span regarding indoor environmental quality, energy efficiency, monitoring, transport, water use, materials and emissions. An independent advocate consultant will be engaged to assist in the successful delivery of the sustainable aspirations of the project.

There are no local heritage places or items located on the site, and SA Health confirms that any significant trees within the development zone will be protected in accordance with legislative requirements. The Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects determined that there is no record of Aboriginal sites in the proposed works location.

SA Health will engage in ongoing consultation with stakeholders and the community throughout the construction process and into service readiness. The community has been informed via targeted letter drops as well as a community information session held last October. Throughout the implementation of the project, SAAS and the SA Health media and communications unit will manage required external communications, media inquiries and press releases. The project teams have also undertaken specialised subject matter expert reviews with various units and agencies within SA Health and SAAS, including work health and safety, infection control, hygiene advisers and industrial bodies.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the rebuilt Campbelltown Ambulance Station project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Melissa Nozza, Director, Capital Projects, Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Rob Elliot, Chief Executive Officer, South Australian Ambulance Service; Paul Lemmer ASM, Executive Director, Metropolitan Operations, South Australian Ambulance Service; Francesca Hughes, Project Manager, Building Projects, Department for Infrastructure and Transport; and Paul Townsin, Associate Architect, Walter Brooke and Associates. I thank the witnesses for their time.

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

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:59): I will not hold the house for long; I believe we have one minute. Obviously, with this investment of the renewed Campbelltown Ambulance Station in my electorate of Morialta, I am very pleased to see this work underway. It was one of the government's very small number of new commitments in Morialta at the last election. I am very supportive of that work going ahead. I am very grateful to the people who are working in that area in SA Health and the SA Ambulance Service and, particularly, all of those who serve the community in Morialta through this important piece of infrastructure in Newton. I thank the committee for their work.

Motion carried.

Bills

OFFICE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 24 September 2024.)

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:00): I continue my remarks from Tuesday, when we commenced discussion of this bill. On that day, I particularly focused on the issue of the powers which are sought as a result of this bill for the Chief Executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development. I will therefore spend less time on that today. Today, I will go through the bill briefly in terms of what it is created to do and will come back to where the opposition is landing in terms of its support, most likely with a final position between houses if we conclude our work in the House of Assembly today.

I highlight again that we had expected originally, when the Minister for Education and I departed for WorldSkills, that this bill might have been likely for next week. Therefore, I had hoped to have that time during the school holidays to receive feedback from a range of early childhood education providers and other stakeholders.

I am not complaining about this; I understand that it is a function of the house that bills can come on quicker than expected. But when we did depart, I believe that there were about 30 bills or thereabouts higher than this one in the order of precedence. When we came back, we discovered

that the government had guillotined more bills last sitting week than all governments in the combined history of South Australia up until last sitting week had done, and therefore this was elevated somewhat in the precedence.

Therefore, we have not yet had feedback from many of those organisations yet. I have spoken to a couple; I anticipate hearing from a great many more in the next couple of weeks. But if the bill passes today, as it may well with the government's support, then we have time nevertheless between the houses, and if the Liberal Party has any amendments to make or a position to offer, then that will be made clear in the Legislative Council.

The speech could begin here, if those wishing to just have a quick summary of the opposition's position are following. The Gillard Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care recommended, amongst other things, that there be an Office for Early Childhood Development established in legislation as a steward for South Australia's early childhood education sector.

Noting that this sector comprises government and non-government institutions, with the non-government sector including community not-for-profit institutions, small businesses and massive national companies, based either here in South Australia or some interstate, Commissioner Gillard argued that the sector, which she and the government sometimes call a 'system', perhaps aspirationally, is very difficult to coordinate and so a system steward is required in order to achieve strategic targets for our state—so argues Commissioner Gillard.

In particular, the commissioner set an aspirational target for a reduction in the proportion of South Australian children who are developmentally vulnerable when starting school, from the 23.8 per cent currently, which is above the national average, down to 15 per cent. This is the Early Development Census data, which comes out every three years or so. One of the office's functions in the legislation, described as the primary function, is to achieve this reduction.

To that end, the bill creates certain powers for the office, particularly in relation to information-gathering over both other government departments and also non-government providers. Given the other functions, such as 'to align supports and services with the needs of children' and 'to provide overall strategic direction in relation to government early childhood development services', it is set up to provide a level of central coordination for the sector, based on government power and authority, potentially matched by increased government support for non-government providers. We shall see.

It should be noted, as I explained on Tuesday, that this office already exists. It was established as a government department with its own CE, Kim Little, and departmental officers. Like most government departments, it was established under the powers of the Public Sector Act. Establishment under legislation of its own provides certain extra powers not available to other CEs. The Minister for Human Services' CE does not have such power. The Minister for Transport's CE does not have such power, but the Minister for Education's CE in the Office for Early Childhood Development will have certain powers—certain powers available to the Ombudsman and other statutory officers in other departments. So, those extra powers are not available to other CEs. It also sets the functions of the office in legislation, complicating potentially the task for any future government to adapt any policy outcomes, should that be desired.

The matters that the government has provided and the opposition considers favourably include an agreed position between governments and opposition, and I imagine some minor parties as well. The government can play an important role in improving early childhood development outcomes, including through support or coordination with non-government providers. The first three years of children's lives—the first 1,000 days as often described—are a time of rapid development and potential vulnerability. Positive interventions to address vulnerabilities during this stage, whether through the early diagnosis and treatment of a challenging condition or even just the social opportunities created by playgroups, for example, can improve a child's short and long-term prospects.

Playgroups are an example that I will come back to, because we know the value of playgroups. Playgroups in South Australia have a long history of establishment, but they are established in a fairly ad hoc fashion. Some areas have a wealth of playgroups, some have few.

Government preschools have a history, going back to the old kindergarten union days, of providing playgroups where they can, but where they are full they do not. Consequently, playgroups were a good example of the work done during the former government's early childhood plan, announced in our last budget before the change in government. Having Playgroups SA supported to better coordinate the establishment of new playgroups, potentially through some grants, was a key part of that plan.

A higher proportion of South Australia's children are coming to school with some form of developmental vulnerability than the national average. One of the key measures in the \$50 million package that I described—the early childhood budget package in the last year of the Marshall Liberal government—was the provision of \$16 million a year, which is an ongoing budget allocation that has been continued by the new government, for an increased scale and numbers of the free child development checks being made available for preschool-aged children.

These checks were identified as a significant lever to improve outcomes for children and better prepare them for their learning at school. That is now being rolled out. To put that into context, everybody in South Australia who has had a child in the last couple of decades would know all about the Blue Book. When a child is born, you have development checks and you go through the system. What is less known—we did the research three years ago—in fact, known to less than half of parents, is that there are two other stages at which those development checks are offered as well.

The problem is, I think it was the 18 months and three years checks, less than half of South Australian parents were getting those checks done at those points—25 per cent for one and 33 per cent for the other. Those checks enable early diagnosis of serious conditions. Those checks can also be a reference point where families can be pointed towards services, whether active services to potentially remediate a vulnerability, or passive services such as playgroups, which I described before, which in and of themselves can help reduce the risk of vulnerability.

That \$16 million a year was funded for two things: to add an additional two checks to the system, including a preschool-aged check and another in one of those interim years, and also to massively expand the delivery of those checks. While potentially not being a universal check because it is obviously a voluntary check, the research showed that it was not in the most part because parents were not wanting these checks, it was in the most part because they were not aware of them or, potentially, that they were not convenient. The work was being done, and continues to be done, to roll that out more broadly to find ways to make it more convenient and, indeed, to fund the delivery of that.

The question would often come back when we announced this in 2021: is there funding adequate to the task of providing those interventions where needed? Ultimately, interventions where needed were often going to be universal service provisions anyway: if somebody has an entitlement to something that could be funded under Medicare or potentially through one of the disability programs, then that is a matter for those parts of government to fund.

While there is a challenge in workforce in some of those areas, ultimately there is a saving to government in the longer term too. Mr Deputy Speaker, as a former Minister for Disabilities, you know well that early intervention will often improve an individual's life outcomes, but in terms of the government's service provision the earlier you can provide a service, often that will lower the cost in the long term because you will have a reduced level of service required in many cases.

Putting aside for a moment the consideration of whether a government unit should be legislated, as this bill provides, the premise of a unit within government providing a certain level of policy leadership for the early childhood education sector has some merit. One does not need the recommendations of a royal commission to identify that there are significant geographical childcare blackspots within South Australia where it is difficult to find long day care services. There are workforce shortages across the sector. There are infrastructure challenges.

The Department for Education is primarily responsible for the provision of early childhood services only within the public system—and certainly prior to the Marshall government's recent budget measures there were few examples where the state government played a role in that sector beyond that of either service provider through the Department for Education and mostly public preschools, but not entirely, and also as a regulator through the Education Standards Board.

Non-government service providers, largely long day care services, are mostly funded by commonwealth subsidies and parental fees, with a modest state government subsidy paid to some centres, with various historical arrangements of an ad hoc nature. It has been argued that any attempt to lift outcomes and reduce vulnerabilities for children across the state through the levers available to the early education and care providers is severely limited by the ad hoc nature of the sector, albeit the government is obviously preparing fairly large financial engagement now.

It is likely that many early childhood services will attract a certain level of extra funding as a result of the government's three-year-old-preschool program, given that to deliver on the model to which the government has committed—the Gillard model—a preschool-type offering, or the preschool 'dose' to be available as part of their progressive universal service delivery model, will be required to be delivered at hundreds of non-government long day care facilities. Seventy per cent of children captured under the government's model will not have access to preschools as three year olds but will receive their 'dose'—I use the word again and it is an unusual word; maybe it is the right word, but it is an unusual one—of preschool-type offering in their childcare service.

These non-government long day care services will continue to be funded in their current manner, so there is no subsidy for three-year-old children to have free preschool, as I think many parents who voted for it were potentially expecting. They will have their parental fees, albeit with the commonwealth rebates that are pretty generous, certainly by world standards, for most parents, but there would be a level of state government funding required to support the requirement for there to be a teacher in the three-year-old room for it to be described as a preschool room.

There was a briefing provided by the department and, as I did on Tuesday, I reiterate my gratitude to CE Kim Little, Joanna Blake and Jamie Burt from the Department for Education and Amy Ralfs from the minister's office. I also thank Nic Kimberley, from the minister's office, for coordinating it at brief notice. In the briefing I received, the department assured me that the government had undertaken a wide amount of targeted consultation and that a number of services had welcomed the bill.

That is my encapsulation of the arguments in favour of the bill, if you like. We have some areas of concern that give us pause before being able to offer our support for the bill. I indicated earlier that we will consider the matter further between the houses, particularly relying on the feedback that we expect to receive in the next couple of weeks from a range of those services. There are probably 2,000 stakeholder organisations in South Australia affected, largely long day care services, preschools and out-of-school hours care services and also some fairly significant umbrella group stakeholders as well.

The first matter of concern for the government—and I am sure the minister in his second reading response will make some comment—is the question: why legislate? The Public Sector Act provides all the powers needed to create a department—it has already done so in relation to this department—or a unit within a department. Other government departments do not have their own acts of parliament. There are other acts that are committed to ministers. Those ministers are supported in the administration of those acts by public servants operating in Public Service administrative units, such as departments, as per section 24 and onwards in the Public Sector Act.

Bodies established with their own legislation, i.e., a statutory authority—which this will sort of become—have unique reasons for operating under that framework. Some are bodies that have become part of government or were created by government to operate, or at least appear to operate, independently of the government. For example, universities, the Art Gallery, various arts institutions largely operate under their own acts.

I was reflecting that Greg Mackie, when he was giving testimony, just this Monday, in the Statutory Authorities Review Committee (SARC) of the parliament, which is currently undertaking an investigation into the Museum and the Art Gallery, described a conversation he had with Don Dunstan about why South Australia has more separate acts of parliament for the arts organisations than any other state does.

I paraphrase Greg Mackie's paraphrasing of Don Dunstan. My recollection was that he said, 'Basically, if they are legislated, then they are very hard to change or get rid of.' That was the purpose for which a lot of those acts of parliament were created—and, as the shadow minister for arts, I am

certainly happy to see that. But, of course, those arts organisations largely organise their affairs separately from the government of the day, depending on government funding from the government of the day. Ultimately, it is a matter for them to organise their priorities without necessarily having to have recourse to the government of the day—unless they want to explore some opportunity for major restructure, such as the Museum has just done, and ultimately we come back to this bill.

It is worth reflecting—and the minister may have advice in his second reading response—on whether, as an established department through legislation, the operations of the Office for Early Childhood Development will be subject to the strictures of the Legislative Council's Statutory Authorities Review Committee. I look forward to hearing that advice.

Some bodies, established under their own legislation are legislated because the government wishes them to act in a corporatised manner—for example, TAFE SA or SA Water. Some are bodies with oversight or advocacy roles that require a level of independence from government in order to conduct their functions. We are talking about the Guardian for Children and Young People, the children's commissioners, for example. Some are units of government that require special powers specifically set out in the legislation in order to do their work—for example, the Ombudsman or the ICAC.

The reason for legislating in this case, over and above the fact that it was a recommendation of the Gillard royal commission, appears to be the desire to create information-gathering powers for the CE and the office. I talked about them to an extent on Tuesday and I will come back to them.

The other feature of legislated units of government common to all, and this sort of goes to what Don Dunstan was talking about, is that the functions, purposes and duties of statutory authorities are much harder for a new or a future government to amend than those of a regular department or an attached office. So a body created by the Premier under the Public Sector Act, or the Administrative Arrangements Act potentially, can be edited or abolished by a new premier. However, an act of parliament is required to amend the duties of an office created by an act of parliament.

A couple of examples: the department for state development under the Weatherill government became the department for innovation and skills with a number of its other functions separated into separate departments under the Marshall government. The Hon. Steven Marshall had a strong view that one CE should be responsible for one department and reporting to one minister wherever possible with clear lines of authority, not to create silos but to create clarity.

Indeed, the department for industry and skills, as it was, became innovation and skills, and under the new government became I think, innovation, industry and science under the Deputy Premier and is now the Department of State Development again with other departments folded back into it. So departments can be created or abolished or amended by a premier to serve the state efficiently according to the government's priorities of the day. That is not capable of being the case with a department established under an act of parliament.

As a result of the functions of this bill, it establishes the legislated responsibility for the government to deliver three-year-old preschool. I note the fact that the government will of course not be delivering on that promise because they do not have the workforce, and they have set out a new delayed timeline of 2032. However, the good news for the minister and for the government is they can be comforted by the fact that there are no enforcement provisions in this bill if they do not deliver on its requirement.

We will talk about the functions briefly. Clause 6 of the bill sets out the functions for this office. Given that, as a department, if it was established as this one has been already under the Public Sector Act, the premier of the day can set out his priorities or her priorities for any department, instead this parliament, this house, is seeking to take that role and set out the priorities for this department. They do so through the functions set out in clause 6. They are in the bill, but I propose to read them so that members are clear on what is being established:

- (1) The primary function of the Office is to act as a steward of the State's early childhood development system, and in particular to reduce the proportion of children in the State who are developmentally vulnerable when starting school.

- (2) The Office also has the following additional functions:
- (a) to facilitate, commission and support research relating to early childhood development;
 - (b) to support and facilitate the development of systems, policies and processes for the secure sharing of data across the early childhood development system;
 - (c) to support the universal reach of child health and development checks;
 - (d) to promote a vision of place-based, responsive and connected service delivery, building early childhood education and care as the backbone of a universal early childhood development system;
 - (e) to promote universal access to 3 and 4 year old preschool, developing and implementing funding models and connecting preschool providers to the broader early childhood development system;
 - (f) to develop, implement and fund fit-for-purpose infrastructure and targeted programs and services, including commissioning integrated service hubs, to support the early childhood development of children at increased risk of developmental vulnerability;
 - (g) to align supports and services with the needs of children by partnering with families, State authorities, non-government organisations and local and Commonwealth governments;
 - (h) to provide overall strategic direction in relation to government early childhood development services;
 - (i) to commission or recommission government services, as required;
 - (j) to promote the recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of children accessing services within the early childhood development system;
 - (k) to promote the participation of children with disability in the early childhood development system;
 - (l) to promote the participation of children in care, children who are in contact with the child protection system and children who are receiving child and family support services in the early childhood development system;
 - (m) to undertake strategic workforce planning to support early childhood reforms and service provision;
 - (n) any other functions conferred on the Office by or under this or any other Act or by the Minister.

It is a fairly long list.

I note that the South Australian Museum has its own act of parliament. In that act there is a requirement for the Museum to facilitate or conduct scientific research. There has been a moment in the last few months where that has become incredibly problematic for the state government because the board of the South Australian Museum, led by former chair Kim Cheater, decided that that was not going to be what the Museum was going to do anymore and sought to remove the 27 scientific research positions that had been undertaking that function under the South Australian Museum Act.

The act was written in such a way that, arguably, they were not breaching the law in doing so, but they certainly breached the spirit of that act and it created enormous problems for the government. The government has now put in \$4 million over two years to sort of push that problem past the election, potentially, but unless further funding is provided, or unless the government wants to amend the legislation, they are going to have to address their failure to meet that function which is in the act for that statutory authority. The Premier announced last Thursday that there would be consideration and working with the universities as to how that function might be fulfilled. They do not have an answer for that yet.

That is a long list of priorities that the government has. Many of them are consistent with government policy—three-year-old preschool, for example, being legislated in this way. Some of them are in relation to operational matters. I highlight an example: the bill proposes to commission integrated service hubs. That is not something that alarms me in any way; I think that sounds great. That is what we currently think is the appropriate way to go about bringing services together.

But what happens if—through a result of federal-state relations changing, or offering new service models, or new research offering a different way forward—it requires an act of parliament to

change that from being something this office is legislated to deliver? It is not potentially a reason to oppose the bill in itself. It is certainly a matter for consideration and it is certainly a matter for the government to consider as it seeks to legislate offices of the Public Service rather than allowing the Premier to use his powers under the Public Sector Act, as has been traditionally the norm.

Anyway, those are the functions, and when people are debating the merits of whether or not there should be early childhood education services provided by such an office, I just want to be very clear: that is not what this bill does. That work is already done. This office already exists. This bill just establishes whether the functions are going to be there in perpetuity or requiring an act of parliament to change, and/or whether or not the extra powers can be created.

I will finish by talking about the extra powers. Clause 10 of the bill sets out the powers for the chief executive to require information of another government department. In doing so, to be clear, the chief executive can ask another state authority to prepare and provide a report in relation to any matters specified in the notice, so long as those matters are obviously relevant to the functions of the act—that is 10(1)—and if the other state authority refuses or fails to comply with this request for information, the chief executive can report the refusal and failure to the minister and to the minister responsible for that other state authority. The chief executive includes the details of that failure and then:

- (4) The Minister may, by notice in writing, exempt a State authority from the operation of this section.

I am not sure which minister. At any rate, we will see what happens there. I assume the Minister for Education is the arbitrator.

So if the chief executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development seeks information from the Minister for Human Services' department and the Minister for Human Services' department says, 'This is a burden. We don't think it's important. We're not going to do it,' then the chief executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development tells the Minister for Human Services and the Minister for Education, and the Minister for Education has to tell the Minister for Human Services to get her people to provide the information, as best I can tell it. If there is a disagreement, I am not sure what happens after that.

At any rate, clause 11 is potentially the more interesting one. I am sure you guys can work that out. Clause 11 is—

The Hon. N.F. Cook interjecting:

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I think that that may be a potential solution. I apologise for having my own side conversation with the Minister for Human Services there. Clause 11 is the one on which I have potential concerns. Clause 11 sets out that the chief executive can require and seek information from a specified entity, which can basically be anyone who is relevant to the early childhood services sector, anyone who is relevant to the functions of this act. That information can be on really any matter that can be related to the functions of the act.

The entity must provide that information within the period specified by the chief executive. That is quite significant power, and we are reliant on the chief executive to use it in a reasonable way because an entity who refuses or fails to comply with such a notice is guilty of a new offence with a \$5,000 penalty. Again, if the state authority refuses or fails to comply with the notice, the chief executive may report the refusal or failure to the minister and, indeed, there is that offence provision of \$5,000.

The minister may, by notice in writing, exempt an entity from the operation of this section. So the Minister for Education again is then in a position to alleviate that \$5,000 fine. I imagine that this power will likely not be abused—I would certainly hope so. This is already a fairly regulated area, and there are certain information provisions that have to be provided to government in return for government funding. I am unclear as to why these new provisions are so necessary, this stick is so required to get this information, especially if it is largely going to be in relation to providing funding to services—long day care services, for example, if it is related to the three-year-old preschool program.

There is a financial transaction there that can require certain information to be provided. What would really concern me is if a family day carer, operating as a sole trader in effect, or a small

business, a small mum-and-dad operation in a childcare centre, or some other organisation associated with the early childhood sector—somebody running a playgroup, for example—had this notice provided to them by the chief executive seeking information that was useful to the department but not necessary for the people of South Australia to be accumulated by government necessarily, that person has got a \$5,000 fine hanging over their head.

That is something on which we are seeking feedback more broadly from the sector to ensure that there is not fear of a compliance burden. I am not outright stating that this is going to be a problem: I am seeking to have more feedback from the sector to see if they think it is going to be a problem.

Also, in relation to the sharing of information between entities at clause 12, there are some fairly significant information-sharing powers there, and they, I am assured, are welcomed by many in the sector and the institutions that are identified as being captured by them. I am reassured by the Office for Early Childhood Development that that is the case, and I certainly hope that is, but we are going to the trouble of checking because there are \$10,000 penalties there for misuse. I suspect that with the information being sought to be shared, a \$10,000 penalty is probably appropriate. We do not want this information to be misused. I imagine that part is going to be less controversial.

With all of that, I recognise that a number of the things this bill talks about are welcome developments. A number of them were started under the former government, a number of the programs referred to were started under the former government, and I am pleased to see them continuing. The new government has added to that list of programs, particularly through the measures set out in the Gillard royal commission, and a number of those pieces of work are progressing with or without this legislation.

This legislation sets some of those things in stone and it provides opportunities for the government to have new powers. We are giving serious consideration to those and will confirm that position between the houses.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:34): I rise in support of the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. There has been a vast change in the way we juggle parenthood compared with our parents or perhaps more so our grandparents' generation. My grandmothers Bobby and Lois and my mother, Penny, were all farmers' wives when they had their young children. As an example, I was only ever babysat by my grandparents. I never attended child care as a small child and my mum picked me up every day from school or from the school bus, which was on Moyhall Road near the Bool Lagoon drain.

Fast-forward to my generation as parents and the early years and that of my two children, and how we are raising them could not be more different. When my children were babies and I was a part-time working mum, I relied on child care and now, as a full-time working mum, I rely on before school care and after school hours care, in particular because my family support, as is the case for many others, does not live in our city. My mum, stepdad and my dad, otherwise known as granny, grandad and grandad Robin, live more than 3½ hours away at Naracoorte and Bool Lagoon.

The experience of working families has changed dramatically over the last generation and, to be frank, I feel in some ways our system has not kept up with that change. As an example, my son attended a local public kindergarten in my local community where drop off was at 9am and pick up was at 3.30pm. It is the most incredible kindy with dedicated educators and staff, a wonderful kindy community, and the memories and friends made will last a lifetime, but the reality is that those drop-off and pick-up times for parents just do not really suit working families.

If you travel a few kilometres into the city where my daughter went to kindy at a children's centre, there was a long day care option for parents to pick up their children by 6pm in the evening. Again, two incredible public kindies with amazing staff just a few kilometres apart, but the drop-off and pick-up times for working families were completely different. So something needed to be done.

That is why I am so proud to be part of a Malinauskas Labor government that through this bill is establishing the Office for Early Childhood Development as a steward of South Australia's early childhood development system. The office will work collaboratively to mobilise long day care, early

learning centres and government services in every community to importantly deliver a new offer of universal three-year-old preschool.

Universal three-year-old preschool was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, which recognises that in South Australia nearly one in four or 23.8 per cent of children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains when they commence school. This must be addressed, and the Malinauskas Labor government is addressing it.

Three-year-old preschool will be rolled out progressively from 2026, with initial focus on regional and remote communities. Access to preschool and wraparound out-of-hours care in these communities will support not only children's development but also workforce participation, particularly for women, and improved economic outcomes in the regions. Additional supports will be provided for particularly vulnerable children, with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available to children who need it most.

It is understandable that these reforms require significant resources, and that is why the SA budget 2024-25 included an investment of an additional \$1.9 billion in early childhood services and supports over the period to 2032-33. This investment represents a once-in-a-generation commitment to reducing the rate of South Australian children entering school developmentally vulnerable. The rollout of these reforms also relies heavily on the early childhood education and care workforce. That is why we are investing \$96.6 million in early childhood education and care workforce initiatives to support attraction, qualification pathways, retention and quality.

I would hazard a guess that all of us in this place know an early childhood educator and know just what incredible, intelligent, empathetic and dedicated people they are, but we do need more of them to support these reforms, so I welcome this significant investment in the early childhood workforce. I also want to acknowledge the minister, Blair Boyer, and his staff, his department and the new office for early childhood for their hard work on this bill and on all these reforms. It is so incredibly important, and I thank them for their important work.

In closing, if one day I am a grandmother I will gladly babysit my grandchildren, but I also know, thanks to the reforms of this Malinauskas Labor government, that it will not be the only option available to my son and daughter if they go on to juggle work and family life. They will have access to a modern-day early learning childhood education system supported by the Office for Early Childhood Development that supports working families and ensures our little ones have the best chance of reaching their full potential. I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12:39): I rise to speak in wholehearted support of the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. The nurturing, early learning and access to positive environments for our youngest South Australians is absolutely crucial to their wellbeing and positive development in their early years and, indeed, across their lifetimes and generations.

Early childhood education plays a vital role in that overall mental, emotional and physical development and wellbeing of children, particularly those who are more vulnerable. A young person's formative years, typically from birth to age five, are critical in shaping a child's cognitive, emotional, social and physical development. We know that positive early childhood education offers profound benefits in those early years that extend well into adulthood and that help prevent long-term negative outcomes associated with a lack of proper care and support in the early years.

Children in contact with the child protection and family support system often face multiple adversities, sometimes including the impact of poverty, intergenerational trauma, mental ill health, and exposure to domestic violence and sometimes substance misuse. These factors can absolutely hinder a child's development, placing them at higher risk of behavioural issues, learning delays, and emotional and mental health problems.

The provision of early childhood education can absolutely serve as a protective factor. It provides a stable, nurturing environment that fosters learning and growth during times when things may be really difficult in a child's home. As well as providing that nurturing environment, one of the

most significant impacts of early childhood education is its ability to improve cognitive development. Research shows that children who participate in high-quality early childhood education programs develop better language, literacy and mathematical skills compared to those who do not. For especially vulnerable children this cognitive support from an early age can create pathways towards success in school and increase their chances of breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma that can inhibit their learning.

Social and emotional development can absolutely be advanced through access to early childhood education. Stable, nurturing relationships with educators in an early childhood setting can help children develop trust, empathy and self-regulation. These skills are crucial for forming healthy relationships across the course of one's life and managing emotions, which are often areas of difficulty for children who may have experienced trauma or instability at home. Through positive interactions in early childhood education, children learn to navigate social situations, cope with stress and build resilience, skills that are critical for their future wellbeing.

We know that these benefits and many others that improve outcomes for South Australian children require a holistic approach across the entire early childhood development system. The royal commission was a unique opportunity to understand what we need to do to establish South Australia as a place where all families have the support they need to give their children the best start in life.

Universal three-year-old preschool was a key recommendation from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care in recognition that in South Australia nearly one in four children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains when they commence school and that one in three children here in South Australia come to the attention of the child protection and family support system at some point during their lives until the age of 18.

We are reforming our education system to ensure early education and intervention are critical pieces of how we invest in our children and our future. This reform sits alongside and aligns with the transformation of our child protection and family support system. We know that if we are to respond to the complexity of issues that children and their families face we need efforts across every part of our system, across every area of government. This excellent bill really speaks to this very important effort.

The bill we progress today establishes the Office for Early Childhood Development to provide statewide strategic oversight and direction of South Australia's early childhood development system. This also sets up the mandate for the office to collaborate and to engage with the many organisations and people who intersect in the early years of a child's life.

Our government's significant investment into early childhood workforce development rightly increases the recognition and value of early childhood education workers in Australia, 92 per cent of whom are women. It endeavours to attract and retain a highly skilled workforce for the long term and will contribute to shifting attitudes that devalue feminised work.

Alongside this, I highlight the recent federal government's announcement to fund a 50 per cent wage increase for early childhood education and care workers. This commitment is crucial to attraction and retention in the sector into the future. This wage increase, phased in over two years, will mean that a typical—one of those incredible—ECEC educators who is paid at the award rate will receive a pay rise of at least \$103 per week, increasing to at least \$155 per week from December 2025.

As was stated at the time of that announcement, ECEC workers are some of the most important workers in the country, and they absolutely deserve to be appropriately remunerated. I congratulate all those ECEC workers, and their union, who campaigned so hard towards this wage increase.

I am deeply passionate about the connection between child protection and family support and education, and indeed whole-of-government efforts, in ensuring children and young people in contact with the system are well supported to achieve in education and elsewhere. As I have also talked about, it is crucial that those in contact with the child protection and family support system have access to the benefits that early education offers.

Our draft Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill 2024 rightly embeds a public health approach framework, widely recognised as the preferred approach for child protection and family support. The bill also introduces a requirement for a whole-of-state strategy for children and young people to be created as a framework for collaboration and coordination across government, and the provision of supports and services to children and their families. It recognises the need to mobilise sector and community partners in keeping children safe and ensuring they have the best chance to thrive.

Children and young people in care and in contact with the system are deserving of the opportunity to access quality learning from preschool right through to vocational and tertiary education. In fact, it is life-changing in terms of developmental progress and in terms of providing that wonderful sense of community family.

The safe and structured environment of early childhood education can serve as a haven where particular children feel supported. This sense of safety is vital for healthy brain development and children being better able to explore, learn and thrive in a nurturing early learning environment. The office this bill supports will work collaboratively to mobilise long day care, early learning centres and government services in every community to deliver a new offer of universal three-year-old preschool.

Additional supports will be provided for particularly vulnerable children, with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available to children who need them most. Three-year-old preschool will be rolled out progressively from 2026, with an initial focus on regional and remote communities. Access to preschool and wraparound out-of-hours care in these communities will not only support children's development but also support workforce participation and improved economic outcomes in the regions.

This bill also has another really important and positive consequence. We know that a lack of access to quality early childhood education and care is a barrier to women's economic participation. Women continue to spend more time than men on unpaid care work, which limits participation in the paid labour force and has cumulative impacts on lifelong economic security.

Access to long day care and the costs of long day care before children reach preschool age can have a disproportionate impact on women. Women who participate in the unpaid care of children in Australia spend one hour and 15 minutes more than men each day on this unpaid work. The introduction of universal three-year-old preschool will support women's economic participation by alleviating some of that unpaid care burden and better matching care hours to standard working hours.

I am really proud of our government's 2024-25 commitment to invest an additional \$1.9 billion into early childhood services and support over the period to 2032-33. This investment represents a once-in-a-generation commitment to reducing the rate of South Australian children entering school developmentally vulnerable and it will empower women.

The reform the Office for Early Childhood Development will oversee will see us leading the way in creating a system that makes it easier and more accessible for modern, working families to balance working and raising children and will help ensure that vulnerable children are not left behind. I thank and congratulate the minister and his team on this important work and I commend the bill to the house.

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (12:52): I, too, rise to speak on the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. Labor took to the 2020 election a commitment to establish a royal commission into early childhood education and care. This commitment was underpinned by the now universal knowledge that the first 1,000 days of a child's life are crucial to their brain and social development. But that was coupled with acknowledging the alarming statistic that nearly a quarter of South Australian five year olds are starting school behind their developmental milestones, nearly the highest proportion of all states.

A royal commission was subsequently established by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who had formidable experience in the field of education and who set the standard for early childhood education in 2012. The royal commission examined, amongst other things, how universal quality

preschool programs for three and four year olds can be delivered in South Australia and confirmed quality early learning programs can have a significant and lasting impact on children growing up in disadvantaged environments.

On the basis of that and the specific recommendations of the royal commission, the Malinauskas government took immediate action to begin building the workforce required to deliver three-year-old preschool and expanded out-of-hours school care, and today this bill seeks to build on that by establishing the Office for Early Childhood Development as a steward of South Australia's early childhood development system.

Being a mother of four children, I feel well placed to speak to the extraordinary importance of early childhood education. Anyone who has experienced a toddler knows that learning to regulate their emotions and to interact with their peers in an appropriate way is crucial to their learning experience. I have fond—or perhaps not so fond—memories of one of my children as a toddler screaming the entire way around the supermarket and was very thankful when they finally learned that that simply was not a socially acceptable way of negotiating being allowed to walk, not run, if allowed out of the supermarket trolley. And I am sure most parents and other caregivers will also have fond memories of our littlies learning the hard-won lesson of sharing.

On a more serious note, these are actually fundamentally important life lessons that are reinforced by the experiences of play-based learning and interaction with other children that occurs in a quality preschool environment. Equally important are their language and cognitive skills, the ability to communicate and develop general knowledge, and a child's physical health and wellbeing, which can be casually observed in a setting of trained early childhood educators.

These are all areas which are measured by the Australian Early Development Index, and how we know that as of 2018 South Australia was indeed the second worst state in the country in terms of the percentage of developmentally vulnerable children, meaning the approach of the Malinauskas government was demonstrably overdue and a very welcome initiative.

This bill provides the legislative mandate for the office to provide statewide strategic oversight and direction of the early childhood system, and to collaborate and engage with the many organisations and people who intersect in the early years of a child's life. The office works with communities, Aboriginal leaders, local government, non-government and government providers in health, human services and child protection, and government and non-government ECEC providers to support children to thrive. The office will work with a range of providers to mobilise long day care, early learning centres and government services in every community to deliver a new offer of universal three-year-old preschool.

I specifically want to thank the providers of early childhood education in my electorate. I have had the great pleasure of meeting with many of our local preschool and childcare operators, and I can say without exception they are committed professionals, dedicated to the growth and wellbeing of the littlest members of our community. They are keen to step up to provide a service to all three year olds and to work with the government to ensure that early childhood care and education is provided in a way that works for families, that allows parents—often mums—to get back into the workforce and, in so doing, ensures that parents and caregivers can have complete confidence that they are giving their three and four year olds the very best to a successful start in life.

I want to acknowledge that delivering early childhood education is hard work, and the people who work in this sector are everyday heroes without whom society would simply come to a grinding halt. I also want to acknowledge and thank both the Minister for Education and the Premier for their dedication to change the status quo, and their devotion to children and young people in this state. I want to acknowledge the work of the staff of the Office for Early Childhood Development, who are committed to reducing the rate of childhood developmental vulnerability, to create better lives for all young South Australians and their families.

This is an example of the kinds of reforms that only Labor governments are able to deliver, and this Malinauskas Labor government understands that our future will be defined by how we treat our children, by the care they receive and the quality of their education, and we will not let South Australian children down.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (12:57): I also rise to speak on the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. I do so because the science has made this abundantly clear. Making an investment in the early years pays the biggest dividends to providing our young people with the absolute best chances to thrive in life. The way a child grows, learns and develops in the years before school is absolutely pivotal. It lays the foundations for a better life in all components of their life, be it their wellbeing, their educational outcomes, their ability to form connections within the communities in which they are living in and so on.

This government is absolutely all about doing what we can to help create the best start for every child and working to facilitate a future in which every child can thrive and learn through getting the support that they need. It is why we established the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, and why we are working to implement the recommendations made.

One of those is what has led us here today: to legislate the office for the early years to lead the early childhood development system, with a mandate to increase the proportion of South Australian children who are developmentally on track when starting school and to be able to reach the goal defined in recommendation one—reducing the rate of South Australian children—

The SPEAKER: Member for King, would you like to seek leave to continue your remarks?

Mrs PEARCE: Yes. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Independent Commission Against Corruption—2023-24 Financial Statements—Report
Public Integrity, Office for—Annual Report 2023-24

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

Criminal Investigation (Covert Operations) Act 2009—Annual Reports 2023-24—
Assumed Identities and Witness Identity Protection—Australian Criminal
Intelligence Commission
Independent Commission Against Corruption
SA Police

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

Government Response to Standing Committees—Legislative Review Committee: Report
on House of Assembly Petition No. 50—Western Hospital at Henley Beach—
Government Response

Ministerial Statement

WHYALLA CABINET MEETING

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:01): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Whyalla has been an industrial powerhouse for generations, making the steel used to build our houses, our infrastructure and our industry while creating jobs, and we want to see this continue. The steelworks are an important part of Whyalla, with a history of steelmaking dating back more than 100 years. The entire cabinet will be travelling

to Whyalla on Monday 21 October to hold a cabinet meeting and to meet with key businesses and community stakeholders.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley, if I hear one more peep out of you, you will be gone before the questions start. This is a very important statement for all of South Australia, and the Premier will be heard in silence.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We know the steel industry around Australia is responding to increasingly slender margins and increased price competition from China and other steelmaking countries. South Australia and GFG are not immune to these global market pressures. We welcome GFG's recent statements that they are continuing with their plans to 'shape a stronger and more efficient plant that will last for years to come' and that Whyalla remains Mr Gupta's highest priority. However, we continue to monitor closely the situation at hand.

The South Australian government will continue to work with GFG, which includes a meeting this afternoon with Mr Gupta, because South Australia and, indeed, the nation have an interest in ensuring a long-term future for the creation of structural steel. We will also continue to stand by the Whyalla community to ensure that steelmaking remains a major contributor to jobs and economic prosperity in South Australia.

South Australia is the birthplace of the nation's steel industry. As a nation that has a vast abundance of iron ore, we have to ensure that we have a sustainable steelmaking capacity within this country. We simply cannot be the largest iron ore producer in the world and not manufacture our own steel. We are abundant with magnetite resources and renewable energy. South Australia, and in particular the Upper Spencer Gulf, is well placed to become a global green iron powerhouse.

My government stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Whyalla. We remain committed to delivering on opportunities in the Upper Spencer Gulf that will deliver more jobs and more economic activity for decades to come. I look forward to being on the ground in Whyalla, with the entirety of my cabinet, and further updating the house with more information as we continue to unlock the full potential of Whyalla and the Upper Spencer Gulf.

BEASLEY, MS M.C.

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) (14:04): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I rise to pay tribute to Mary Constance Beasley AM, the first South Australian and the first Australian woman to be appointed to the role of Commissioner for Equal Opportunity. Mary Beasley was a trailblazer in many fields, and it is right that we acknowledge her legacy in this place.

Mary Beasley was born in 1933 in Glenelg and was educated at St Peter's Girls' School, graduating with honours in the leaving certificate. It appears that she was always set on forging her own path in life, her first job being in marketing with the Vacuum Oil Company (later Mobil). She left this role and spent time in Sydney, following her marriage at 19 years of age. The marriage, however, did not last and Mary Beasley returned to Adelaide with her two-month-old son, Richard.

On returning to Adelaide, Mary Beasley re-entered the workforce in 1968 with an employment agency, rising through the ranks to the role of general manager. Her leadership at the employment agency and her two terms on the Unley council gave Mary Beasley the confidence to apply for the position of South Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner. In 1975, she was appointed the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, a national first as a South Australian and a woman. In 1978, she was promoted by Premier Don Dunstan to commissioner on the Public Service Board.

Continuing her string of firsts, Mary Beasley was the first woman director on the Qantas board and in 1985 became South Australian Ombudsman. She was appointed by premiers of both

major parties as Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, then chief executive of the industrial relations department, and finally chief executive officer of the information technology workforce strategy office.

Mary Beasley unsuccessfully tried to join the all-male board of the Port Adelaide Football Club, but was a founder of its Women in Power. She chaired the boards of the Australian Dance Theatre and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as well as heading the 1994 South Australian Women's Suffrage Centenary Committee, with the late Hon. Jennifer Cashmore AM as her deputy.

Mary Beasley was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2004 for service to the public sector administration in South Australia and to the community, particularly as an executive member of organisations in the fields of the arts, education, health and community celebrations.

Mary Beasley was a person of great strength and tenacity. I acknowledge Mary Beasley's years of service to our community and I extend my sincere condolences to her family, friends and loved ones, in particular her son, Richard. I know she will be missed, although her impressive and nationally significant legacy will live on. Mary Beasley was many firsts as a South Australian and a woman, for which we are all thankful, paving the way for many other women to represent their communities and hold positions of leadership. Vale Mary Constance Beasley.

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:07): I table a copy of a ministerial statement made in the other place yesterday by the Hon. Clare Scriven.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to welcome students from University Senior College, who are in parliament with us today in the gallery. They are the guests of the member for Adelaide. We also have students from Seaview Christian College in Port Augusta, who are the guests of the member for Stuart.

Question Time

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier provide compensation to Perfection Fresh or its employees and, if so, how much and when? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It has been reported that 500 job losses occurred at Perfection Fresh following orders issued by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions. Under section 50 of the Plant Health Act, the government has discretion to compensate those individuals and those businesses that are forced to close because of quarantine orders.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:09): Potentially; we are seeking advice on that through the appropriate channels. Obviously, this quarantine order is in its relative infancy, given the scale of the challenge. As we have said publicly, the government obviously doesn't issue a quarantine order of this nature without a degree of caution, and also without a degree of regret. I mean, it has an impact on people, it has an impact on business owners—good people who work exceptionally hard—and then of course all of their employees, of whom there are a significant number. So the government doesn't make the judgement lightly.

At the same time, though, the duty of the government is to make sure we are protecting the industry. It is a \$230 million industry, it is a significant employer within the state. Like so much of our horticultural sector, South Australia punches above its weight, which means we produce high-quality produce for the rest of the nation—not just for ourselves. So we've got to protect the industry and hence the decision has been taken.

The impact on the business is regrettable. As the Leader of the Opposition accurately points out, the act does foreshadow and facilitate the vehicle for compensation but that needs to be

assessed carefully. We won't be making an off-the-cuff commitment. It needs to be analysed and we need to understand the circumstances that have led to the virus getting to the property.

This afternoon, I was hoping to have already had the chance to speak to the CEO of the company or the main company that has been affected—I will endeavour to do that later today; there has been a bit of phone tag going on—but we look forward to speaking with the CEO and starting to discuss those options. As I said, we will make a clear-eyed assessment once we have a better understanding of exactly the circumstances that led to this instance.

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the process by which the government identified areas at Perfection Fresh as dangerous contact premises, and is the Premier satisfied with that process?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:11): We have complete faith within the officials who exist within PIRSA who are responsible for making the judgements around quarantining, and there are various notices that have been issued.

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): Supplementary, sir: is the Premier satisfied that Perfection Fresh has been afforded procedural fairness with respect to orders made by this government on 23 September 2024?

The SPEAKER: That's not a supplementary; you were reading it.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:12): Well, I think the paramount consideration that we would expect our officials within PIRSA to have here is to make timely decisions to protect the industry. Of course, those sorts of decisions need to be made in a way that is entirely lawful. We have no reason to believe that is not case.

The act provides very specific authorities and powers to our biosecurity officials in order to protect the industry more broadly. I should make the point that, given the fact that we send so much of our produce interstate, we aren't just a supplier domestically for the South Australian metropolitan market or regional market—it's for the rest of the country. That is to say, because of that the rest of the country pays attention to every action that our biosecurity officials are undertaking. If interstate counterparts see a lethargic response from PIRSA or department officials, then they will be making far more adverse decisions to shut the state's industry down and stop the supply going interstate.

We have already seen restrictions put in place by Queensland and Western Australia. We want to curtail the number of instances where interstate officials are banning South Australian produce that is perfectly safe and healthy from being able to be exported to other markets. So the decisions that are made by our biosecurity-empowered officials under the act need to be timely so as to protect the rest of the industry. That might be interpreted by some as not applying procedural fairness. The opposite could be true, because a lack of procedural fairness would be bestowed upon everybody else in the industry who has been unaffected if a decision isn't made in a timely manner.

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): My question is to the Premier. Did the government consider any potential alternative measures before making orders pursuant to the Plant Health Act on 23 September 2024?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:14): I did have an opportunity in recent days to speak to the chief inspector of biosecurity within PIRSA. Naturally, one of the matters we discussed is at what point these types of decisions get made in a decision-making matrix, so to speak. It is clear that the department is well aware of the severity of the consequences for those people who are affected when they make a decision of this nature, and they don't make it lightly. I am satisfied, from the inquiries that we have made, that PIRSA are acting in accordance with the law, but more importantly, they are acting in accordance with the best interests of everybody who works within the industry throughout the state.

The Leader of the Opposition, and I'm sure all who are observing these events unfold, would appreciate that sometimes governments and their officials have to make tough decisions to protect the interests of everybody else.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Of course, the Leader of the Opposition interjects and points out 'like COVID' and he's right—he's absolutely right. During the course of COVID, the Leader of the Opposition might recall that those on this side of the house provided absolute bipartisan support—

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —absolute bipartisan support to the government of the day. I note that the Leader of the Opposition has called for a review. I'm not too sure what exactly he is proposing to review, but the simple fact is this: our officials are making the best decisions they can with the information that's available to them, in the interests of the industry and the people who work within it.

PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:16): My question is to the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Primary Industries. Will the government be providing any assistance to our farmers who are facing tough seasonal conditions across South Australia? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: Primary producers are currently experiencing their second failed spring with record low rainfalls, limited to no feed and frost, which has decimated the wine industry. Farmers want to know what the government is going to do to assist them.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:16): I thank the member for MacKillop for his question. I also thank him for raising these concerns with me directly. I am also aware that other members of the house have also put on record, including in this week, including the member for Chaffey, as well before him the member for Hammond, and highlighted to the parliament the concerns of their constituents and of the agriculture industry more generally about the very difficult seasonal conditions that have persisted through the course of this year.

To somebody who is admittedly less experienced and practised in primary industries as those members and those other members representing regional areas, it seems to me that these seasonal conditions have felt even tougher because they have come after previous seasons that have been very good seasons. So it is not only noticeable but it is an extraordinary wrench in experience for a lot of primary producers compared with what we have had only in recent seasons.

Of course, both the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and also the federal primary industries department keep a very close eye on these seasonal conditions, particularly for the risk of drought and for the capacity of those longstanding assistance regimes that are triggered for parts of our country experiencing very low rainfall or drought conditions.

That is something that is being actively watched. To give a more direct answer to the member, while we are paying very close attention to this, which is helped by the direct reports we are having from members who are reporting the difficult experiences of their constituents, I am not aware of those specific assistances being triggered yet, but it is something that we are very concerned about.

I have reported to the house previously that one of the stronger contributors to the state's economic performance, particularly over the last two years, has been the very, very productive and very lucrative seasons of crops we have had in South Australia. We are going from a position where crop production has been very high and exports have been correspondingly high and the receipts of those exports have been very high to now what we are expecting to be the opposite experience, which will also affect the overall economic performance of our state.

This is not just an issue that is particular to regional members and the communities that they represent; this is something that is likely to have a much broader economic impact on the state, particularly if these conditions continue to persist. I am certainly no meteorologist, but I am not sure that we are yet being given any comfort that these prolonged periods of lower than expected rainfall are about to break and that is why so much focus and attention is being put on it.

I thank the member for MacKillop for his question. I also thank those other members who have raised with me directly, but also raised in this place, these concerns, because I think it is important. All South Australians should be aware of them and give them careful thought.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PROPERTY SECTOR

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (14:20): Can the Treasurer update the house on the South Australian property sector?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:20): I thought given how positively and effusively the house received my response to a question on the state's economy yesterday, I should take another opportunity to update the house with some further encouraging news about the performance of an important sector of our economy: the construction and property industry.

As many members would know, South Australia's property and construction sector employs a lot of South Australians and drives a substantial amount of our economic activity. That has especially been the case in the last two years. In fact, you might recall that during the course of 2015, 2016 and 2017 a previous Labor government took the nation-leading decision to abolish stamp duty on commercial property transactions throughout our economy, giving up an eye-watering amount of revenue but providing an incredible incentive for inbound investment into our state's economy.

Today the Property Council of Australia and Procore have released the results from their survey of confidence in the property sector. It shows that South Australia's property sector has the highest confidence levels in the country, well ahead of other states. This survey measures confidence and expectations of industry participants on multiple issues affecting the industry. Perhaps most notable for our purposes here today, this survey measures industry views on state government performance in planning and managing growth.

According to the Property Council, industry views of state government performance under the leadership of the Premier have the Malinauskas Labor government as the best performing in the nation. The South Australian participants in the property sector also have the highest expectations for state economic growth in the nation, and that is a good indication of confidence in this important sector for our state's economy. South Australia also ranked first on forward work schedule expectations and debt finance availability.

As the house might recall, this survey follows a previous survey from the Business Council of Australia (BCA), which recognised the state government's effectiveness at creating a business-friendly operating environment. The BCA labelled South Australia as the best place in the nation to do business—the best place in the nation to do business. The head of the Business Council, Mr Bran Black, said, and I quote:

I think that South Australia with the right regulatory settings, with a government that is clearly ambitious for business investment, policy initiatives such as a State Prosperity Project, focusing on AUKUS—those things really count.

That is further good news from a key part of our economy.

I remind the house that construction activity has also been a key driver and contributor to how our state's economy has performed in the national context. The amount of construction work done was one of the three leading indicators where South Australia led national economic performance in the CommSec State of the States report, the third quarterly report in a row from CommSec where South Australia has ranked as the best performing economy in the nation. I recognise that the nation's economy is slowing. I recognise that we are faced with challenges in particular sectors, like the agricultural sector, but we approach those challenges from the strongest possible position because of the performance of our state's economy.

TOMATO BROWN RUGOSE FRUIT VIRUS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier expect the government to make any orders under the Plant Health Act for any other farms and, if so, what will be the impact of those orders on the tomato market?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:25): The government clearly reserves its rights to be able to do that under the act. We don't hope for that, we don't aspire to do that, but the government will make whatever decision is appropriate in order to protect the industry more broadly.

Currently—and I invite members not to place too much emphasis on this because it is still early days—the testing that has been undertaken has demonstrated that the virus has only been found at three sites. There have been 2,919 samples taken. I seek to use this occasion to clarify the record. I had my numbers wrong this morning on ABC Radio; I was doing it from memory.

The results that we know is that, of the almost 3,000 tests, 50 of those have produced a positive result, but those 50 are all isolated at three particular affected properties. A very significant amount of testing has been undertaken and a lot more will continue to be undertaken, is my advice. Thus far we have every reason to believe that this hasn't extended beyond those three properties, but this is a virus and we know how easily it is able to be transmitted. We monitor it closely. We don't aspire to institute any other orders on facilities, but, of course, we will if that's what is deemed appropriate and necessary.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:26): My question is to the Premier. Does GFG Alliance owe the state money and, if so, how much and when will it be paid?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:27): I indicated to the house earlier this week that GFG is behind on its royalty payments and some members may be aware, of course, of the provisions of both the Taxation and Administration Act and also the Mining Act that prevent the government from releasing specific details about the obligations of taxpayers and where those taxpayers are up to with those obligations. That is the reason why we haven't disclosed this, but I can confirm, yes, they are behind in their royalties.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Housing Infrastructure. Is GFG Alliance in arrears to SA Water and, if so, by how much and for how long?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:27): The SA Water Corporation has a number of commercial clients. Those accounts are managed by the corporation in accordance with their charter and in accordance with those accounts. You wouldn't expect me to give a blow-by-blow account for any business—those matters are commercial-in-confidence—and I won't do it for GFG either. I don't think that is prudent or sensible and those are matters for the corporation.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right and the member for Unley and the member for Flinders, the member for Narungga has a question.

COVID-19 UNPAID QUARANTINE BILLS

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:28): My question is to the Minister for Health. Is it appropriate for the state government to be threatening court action over unpaid COVID-19 quarantine bills? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: A constituent of mine left Australia on 20 January 2020, which I am led to believe was prior to the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, and was then unable to return home for 12 months—in January 2021. He tells me that he was informed by the authorities that he wouldn't

have to pay for quarantine because he left prior to the outbreak, but he has since been hit with a \$3,000 bill which he is contesting. More recently he has been threatened with court action for the recovery of that money.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:29): I thank the member for Narungga for his question representing his constituent. Obviously it was somewhat before my time, in relation to hotel quarantine arrangements that were undertaken, so I can't vouch for the particular commitments that were made by the previous government in terms of whether somebody would or would not have to pay.

As the shadow minister at the time, I don't recall commitments being made from the government that there would be people who wouldn't have to have paid that at the time, but I am certainly more than happy to look into the matter for the member for Narungga in relation to his constituent and, certainly, if there were commitments made by the previous government in relation to those fees that were attributable due to the medi-hotel quarantine arrangements that were place at the time.

TELSTRA BEST OF BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (14:30): My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. Can the minister please update the house on the 2024 Telstra Best of Business Awards?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:30): Thank you to the member for Elder for her question—noting that one of the winners is actually in your beautiful electorate. The Telstra Best of Business Awards are a great occasion to showcase the innovation, excellence and outstanding contributions made by the South Australian business community. This year's state winners show us that success isn't just about business profit or growth, although they are key, but this year's winners demonstrate they are about making a real difference to our community, health and the environment.

For example, the Barossa Veterinary Service was a winner in the Building Communities category. They take care of over 14,000 animals across three locations, showcasing their commitment and support to the region. There is MAC Trade Services, who claimed both the Embracing Innovation and Promoting Sustainability awards. They are at the forefront of helping businesses and homes transition to clean energy solutions, helping communities lower their carbon footprint.

Rainy Day Recruitment—which is located in Tonsley in the member for Elder's electorate—took home the award for Indigenous Excellence, offering personalised, ethical and transparent recruitment services in IT, engineering and professional roles. MyVenue are developers of cutting-edge point of sale software for iconic sports venues right around the world, and they won the award for Outstanding Growth. Adelaide Mums and Babies Clinic earned the Accelerating Women award for offering expert care in breastfeeding, paediatrics and women's health.

I want to highlight one particular winner, Bellberry, who took out the Championing Health award. This great local company provides high-quality efficient, ethical and scientific reviews of human research in Australia, which is a really critical component of advancing medical science. Bellberry has been around for 20 years; in fact, I believe the Premier might have been at their 20-year anniversary last month.

Over the last two decades, Bellberry has built a community of over 200 professionals who have supported more than ten and a half thousand clinical trial studies at 1,400 sites across the country. It makes them the largest reviewer of human research in the country, with custodianship of over 40 per cent of Australia's clinical trials—all from South Australia. But their influence doesn't just stop there. More than half of new therapies approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been reviewed by Bellberry's committees during their development, and that is an absolutely huge achievement for a South Australian business.

What is truly remarkable is their dedication to reinvesting back into the research community. In fact, they have donated over \$12 million of surplus revenue to Australian Medical Research, and that's the kind of contribution that doesn't just benefit South Australia but actually has a global impact.

Bellberry's story speaks to the importance of creating an environment where businesses can thrive. It also highlights that our state continues to punch well above its weight in business excellence in many different sectors.

Those of us on this side of the house are continually committed to supporting South Australian businesses. Of course, Mr Speaker, you are aware of our \$14 million Small Business Strategy through which we are ensuring businesses have the tools and support that they need to grow and to succeed. We have the Small Business Fundamentals Program, where we have had over 2,300 participants receive mentorship, training and coaching to build essential business skills.

Our Sustainability Support Program is helping businesses assess their environmental impact and become more energy efficient, and this is particularly crucial to businesses facing rising energy costs. To further assist this, we have launched round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund, providing grants of up to \$50,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits looking to invest in energy-saving technologies and equipment. Once again, I want to congratulate all our state winners of the Telstra Best of Business Awards.

GFG ALLIANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Small Business. How many South Australian businesses are creditors of GFG Alliance?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:34): I don't have that information, in terms of numbers of creditors, but I do know that the Small Business Commissioner has been actively involved in supporting small businesses that have come to her in terms of invoices that are paid late or that have not been paid.

She has been very active through Whyalla; in fact, she has been out there a number of times and has encouraged small businesses to come to her with those sorts of issues. Her intervention has directly contributed to small business operators receiving outstanding payments by GFG to a collective sum of about \$650,000 and more is underway. I think there are six active cases at the moment that she is looking at. So for any small business that has been impacted, we strongly encourage a connection with the commissioner. I am out there on Tuesday next week, as well.

We have some small business supports out there with RDA Eyre Peninsula, which is a program delivery partner for our fundamentals program. There is mental health support that is part of our Small Business Strategy, and there are various other supports that are there to support Whyalla businesses. In particular, our Office for Small and Family Business' support, as well as the Small Business Commissioner's proactive stance in assisting small businesses reclaim any debt that is owing to them from GFG, is, I think, very important for the region.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): A supplementary: has the minister sought any advice on what impact to small businesses in South Australia there would be if the Whyalla Steelworks does, in fact, enter into administration?

The SPEAKER: That is fresh question, not a supplementary.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:36): We are working very closely through the Small Business Commissioner throughout Whyalla and, of course, there is the task force that is working very closely on that. Any of those businesses that are facing trouble are very much encouraged to contact the Small Business Commissioner or myself to provide any support possible.

It is difficult to intervene in any of those private commercial arrangements unless those businesses want to come to us to provide that assistance, but absolutely we are more than encouraging those businesses to reach out to me or to the Small Business Commissioner to provide our support if we can.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): My question is again to the Minister for Small Business. What does the minister say to small business owner Tom Antonio? With your leave—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right!

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Mr Antonio, a small business owner in Whyalla, was reported this morning as demanding the government make public its contingency plan for the steelworks, describing the economic climate in the city as 'diabolical'.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:37): As the government has reiterated and made clear, not just during the course of this week but for some weeks, this is a government that is very assiduously and thoroughly preparing for all eventualities. We are not barracking for the failure of GFG, we are not seeking—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey and people on my left will listen to the Premier in silence.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We are not barracking for the failure of GFG; in fact, we wish whoever owns the steelworks, GFG or anybody else, every success in realising the opportunity we have before us. Of course we are impatient for success, as I said on the radio this morning, and we want to see commitments materialise into actions, but we are planning for every circumstance—as we reasonably should.

The impost that is placed upon small businesses when bills are not paid on time is massive. The impost on workers when they lose their hours is just as dramatic for a household. That is why we do call on GFG and reiterate to GFG their obligations to pay their debts as and when they fall due. But, more than that, we would love to see GFG actually make the big capital investments in the steelworks to realise all the opportunities that they themselves know exist. The big reveal, which was well and truly championed by the former government, was made towards the end of 2018, if my memory serves me correctly. Those on the opposite side of the house were very quick—and I think quite reasonably quick—in wanting to support Mr Gupta in realising the transformation plans at Whyalla.

I would remind the Leader of the Opposition that they were certainly barracking for Mr Gupta while in government, just as we were in opposition. As I said, we want to see them succeed. We are very aware of the circumstances. There are clearly challenges that GFG are experiencing, and should that manifest itself in the worst of circumstances for GFG and they go into voluntary administration, then this government stands ready to have a plan of action. We don't anticipate that will happen. GFG are telling us it won't happen. As I foreshadowed earlier this morning, I am meeting with Mr Gupta not long after question time via video link or phone link. We will continue to monitor the situation as closely as we can.

But I would make this point—and I am not seeking to make it a partisan one, but just an objective fact—that it is true that only one side of the house has a plan to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in Whyalla. We are so committed to the Upper Spencer Gulf opportunity centred around Whyalla that we went to the election with a significant policy that had a costing associated with it of hundreds of millions of dollars to actually seal the realisation of that opportunity. Of course, the contrast is really stark. I don't recall there being any substantial policy at the last state election, or any substantial policy that has been announced since then, that would seek to advance the opportunity in Whyalla. That is just an objective fact. We are getting on with the task, and we remain committed to it.

DINGO UNPROTECTION ORDERS

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:41): My question is to Minister Mullighan, representing the Minister for Primary Industries. Has the government made any representation to the Victorian government regarding their decision to stop unprotection orders for dingoes in north-west Victoria? Mr Speaker, with your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: From March this year, the Victorian government made the decision to stop the unprotection order for dingoes in north-west Victoria. This area borders both the Tatiara District Council and the southern Mallee council. Primary producers believe this decision will pose a significant risk to their livestock.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: Good question.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, go your best for the dingoes.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:42): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Something that I agree with the Leader of the Opposition about: it is a very good question. Wild dogs, and dingoes in particular, are a substantial problem to farmers particularly who have sheep on their farms and particularly because of the two different approaches between South Australia and Victoria when it comes to managing these species. Of course, we would all be aware that there was an initiative commenced under the previous government to rebuild the dog fence. We are all intimately familiar with this initiative because we received at least two updates per sitting week from the member for Chaffey about the dog fence, so we are thoroughly briefed about it.

As the member for MacKillop says, there has been an order lifted in Victoria, which is threatening now farmers in South Australia on our side of the border, for dingoes to start moving from Victoria into South Australia. The approach that we have taken as a state, I am advised, has been one of significant control efforts, including baiting of wild dogs. I am also advised that we are now having to deploy additional resources to the South-East for these efforts in order to understand the now apparent increased threat from dingoes in the South-East to farmers, in particular these wild dogs moving through the Ngarkat Conservation Park on towards farms where sheep are located. So it is a concern to us.

Of course, when that change in policy was made in Victoria, there was obviously communication between the respective departments of both states to understand what was now the case in Victoria and to gain an understanding about how that would impact South Australia and making sure that there are additional resources being allocated to this region.

As the member for Chaffey reminded us, when you have a—I had better get this right—2,150-kilometre long dog fence trying to protect the roughly southern third of the state from the northern two-thirds of the state where dingoes and wild dogs breed, it is a resource-intensive challenge to make sure that that bottom third of the state and the sheep that are farmed within that third of the state are protected.

I am advised that the combination of these protection efforts in South Australia in the last financial year was over \$8 million, funded by both the Australian government and the South Australian government and also from primary producers and other industry participants. That is how seriously South Australia approaches this challenge and we are very concerned about policy changes on the Victorian side of our border and how it may impact sheep farmers.

Again, a really important question for the house to consider is how we are responding to this, but I can tell the member for MacKillop and his constituents and those with an interest in sheep and the associated industries that we are deploying more resources as a result of this change of policy from Victoria.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (14:46): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the house on any developments in South Australia for community pharmacy?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:46): I thank the member for Playford for his question and his interest in health and pharmacy in South Australia. I note that nearby his electorate, in fact in my colleague the member for Ramsay's electorate, is the location of one of our three 24-hour pharmacies that we have across the metropolitan area that have seen many thousands of South Australians be able to get access to around the clock health care that they might otherwise have had to either wait an extended time for or go to one of our hospital emergency departments for. That is just one of the many reforms we are undertaking in terms of expanding the role that community pharmacy can play in terms of helping South Australians.

Yesterday was World Pharmacists Day, a day when we celebrate the incredible work that our pharmacists do in helping provide health care and managed medications across our state. It was also a day when we made a very significant announcement that we will be undertaking reforms in South Australia to expand the scope of what pharmacists can do.

This follows work that we have already undertaken to expand the scope of what pharmacists can do to cover prescribing for urinary tract infections (UTIs) and also the reapplication for scripts for the oral contraceptive pill. That follows work this house and a committee that members from both sides sat on and heard evidence did. The committee, chaired by the member for Badcoe, recommended that we take that action.

The evidence we have seen from the first six months of the rollout of that trial has meant that some 4,000 women have been helped by being able to get access to UTI medication through their community pharmacy. The benefit from that is not having women wait extensive periods, in many cases, to get access to a GP appointment and also that we have actually seen a 21 per cent reduction in emergency presentations at our EDs for women in that cohort with UTIs, so that is making a real-world difference for women now.

But we believe we can go further and safely work with pharmacists who will do additional training. They will do an additional year of a graduate diploma studying particular high-volume, low-acuity cases in areas such as skin conditions, shingles, dermatitis, school sores, ear infections, wound management, nausea and vomiting, reflux and musculoskeletal pain—just some of the conditions where we will expand the scope of what pharmacists can do.

This follows many of those conditions being in place in the UK, in Canada and in New Zealand, and also work that has happened in Queensland as well. This is going to provide more options for people, particularly as we face such a huge issue in terms of the availability of primary care right across the country over the past 10 years as we have seen declining bulk billing rates and declining availability of general practitioners.

Pharmacists are keen to do more. We have just hosted a function in the parliament—and I thank members who were able to be present for that—to pay respect to our pharmacists and to thank them. I met some of the younger pharmacists in the room, and they are itching to undertake this additional study and to be able to help more South Australians with their health conditions in a timely way. Just as we are also doing work to expand the role that they can do in terms of vaccinations, medication reviews and mental health first aid, there are a lot more ways in which we can utilise the role of community pharmacy to help South Australians, to avoid pressure on our GPs and ultimately on our emergency departments as well, and to give people more timely access to care when and where they need it.

FROST DAMAGE

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:50): My question is to the Premier and to the Treasurer.

Members interjecting:

Mr WHETSTONE: Take your pick. What support will the government provide to South Australian primary producers impacted by the recent frost damage that occurred between 13 and 17 September? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr WHETSTONE: Primary producers have reported losses of between 25 per cent and 100 per cent of this year's crop, equating to billions of dollars lost in the state's economy, with some reporting that the cost of harvest outweighs any possible return. Some farmers have also had to sell more than half their livestock to ensure they will have the feed to support them. Many horticulturists will not harvest a grape, nut, citrus or peach product this season, and the grain sector, South Australia's largest ag export, has also seen significant damage.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:51): I thank the member for Chaffey for his question. When I was providing my previous answer in response to the member for MacKillop, I perhaps was too specific in talking about some of the seasonal conditions that we have had during the course of this year. I alluded more to rainfall conditions, to the exclusion of the circumstance that the member for Chaffey has quite rightly highlighted, namely, the impact of other weather and temperature events in causing things like frosts, which similarly and quite literally are shockingly impactful on crops and also on the capacity for farmers to maintain their livestock.

Perhaps what I could say from the outset is that it's not just the rainfall that we are watching; it's also some of these other conditions that are impacting on primary producers. However, I think the comments that I made earlier also stand in this respect: we are very conscious of these particular challenges the primary producers are going through. We are not only watching them from a South Australian primary industries perspective but also liaising with our federal counterparts to make sure that those longstanding support regimens and programs are able to be deployed to try to assist primary producers through these difficult times.

What I will have to take on notice for the benefit of the member and the house is to what extent we are at the point where those support programs are triggered. One of the things that has been enhanced as a result of the state government's response to the River Murray event is a general expansion of our regional counselling services, which are an immediate personal support to those people who are experiencing these conditions.

Some members opposite, as well as members of the government, who have more direct experience of this than I do will know that sometimes, in the first hours of primary producers needing support, it's that personal support and that counselling support that is important, before making sure that they have access to the other support mechanisms that are able to be provided by both government and non-government organisations. At the very least, that is something that we have stepped up. As for more direct financial support, which I suspect is more the basis of the member's question, I will bring back to him how far down the path we are of getting that triggered and activated.

BESTON GLOBAL FOOD COMPANY

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:54): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier taking action to assist the employees of Beston Global Food Company. If so, what action? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It has been reported that the Beston Global Food Company has gone into administration and over 150 local jobs are on the line.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:55): I thank the leader for his question. I did, aside from the leader, particularly want to thank the members for Hammond and Finnis, because they have been in contact with me in recent weeks to highlight the challenging circumstances in particular that dairy producers have found themselves in, as a result of the trading difficulties that Beston has found itself in.

Everyone in this place would be familiar with the tribulations that our dairy producers have been in over the last 10 years, in particular from difficult conditions caused by weather or market

demands or by the pricing which is paid to them by people who buy their milk. I would like to think that as a country we have made some progress in shining some light on those difficulties, but by no means have we made sure that our dairy producers are being treated as well as they could be.

It is in that context, I think, that the member for Finnis in particular—who used to be the primary representative, I think the President, of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, if I have got that title correct—as well as the member for Hammond, raised this with me. What they were concerned about was that there was a period of time in recent months when Beston was late in making payments for the milk that they were taking from dairy producers, which is of very great concern to the government, as it should be generally to the community.

Yes, we are absolutely concerned about the future in store for the workers directly employed by Beston, but I also think we need to be acutely aware of the circumstances that dairy farmers find themselves in as a result. I received not only the notice to the stock market that was made on Monday, on the 23rd, that Beston was going into voluntary administration, but I also received on the same day a letter from the chair, Roger Sexton, who would be known to many people in this chamber.

Beston, of course, is not a particularly longstanding company, but a company that has raised a significant amount of capital to invest in new plant and equipment. Two of their major products are lactoferrin, which I understand is of great use and interest in pharmaceutical and other purposes, and cheese, in particular mozzarella.

The concerns that Beston have had are that the dairy prices they have been paying here in Australia, while good for our dairy farmers, they say are out of step with what global milk prices are—I think it is a matter for other people's judgement to see if that is a reasonable criticism to be making—as well as other high operating costs, but in particular while the lactoferrin side of the business has been productive and profitable the same cannot be said for mozzarella.

The company has now gone into voluntary administration. I have asked the South Australian Government Financing Authority to make contact with the administrator—which, off the top of my head, I think is KPMG—to see what the circumstances are, whether the business will continue trading during the administration and what efforts will be made to sell the company. Of course, they were trying to sell it to a Japanese firm, Megmilk, which was looking very likely until it didn't eventuate, which caused them tip to in to administration. I expect to be able to say more to the house in coming days and weeks.

NEGATIVE GEARING

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:59): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier agree with federal Labor's position on negative gearing? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: It has been reported today that the Prime Minister has refused to rule out any further changes to negative gearing.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: I am not sure that that question is in order given that—

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: It offends standing order 97, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes. I rule that question out of order. The Premier isn't responsible for federal Labor policy.

Mr Telfer: Sir, with your leave?

The SPEAKER: Have another go, member for Flinders.

NEGATIVE GEARING

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:59): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier be advocating to the Prime Minister on behalf of South Australians concerning negative gearing and, if so, what will be the nature of that advocacy?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:00): It won't surprise the shadow treasurer that this government is focused on housing policy to the extent that we can control it and, of course, our control is very substantial indeed. It's why we have released a Housing Roadmap that seeks to undo the dramatic underinvestment in water infrastructure that has hindered growth of housing supply for a very long time indeed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford! The Premier will be heard in silence.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. One of the biggest investments in water infrastructure in this state's history has been facilitated on the top of one of the biggest land releases in the history of the state and one of the biggest investments in public housing that has occurred over the last 30 years, and we are very pleased that the South Australian Labor Party has actually made decisions to cut taxes to unlock housing supply.

We are the government that hasn't just reduced stamp duty but abolished stamp duty for any new build for a first-home buyer in the state of South Australia. Again, that presents us with an opportunity to compare and contrast because, of course, the policy of those on the other side of the house during the course of their time in government, when it comes to taxation on property, was to make a decision to retrospectively increase land tax. That's what those opposite did. They were all there, lining up to make a retrospective imposition on hardworking mums and dads in respect to land tax. So those on this side of the house will stick to cutting taxes when it comes to unlocking housing supply, while we know those opposite decide to increase taxes.

CAPE JAFFA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:02): My question is to the Premier. Could the Premier inform the house regarding the lunch that was held on 25 June—the Housing Roadmap lunch—at the Convention Centre, and the fact that he mentioned the Cape Jaffa development? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: At the lunch, the Premier made what I would have to call a really positive speech around the underinvestment, underdevelopment and perhaps even the desertion—leaving these responsibilities to local government—and it couldn't be a clearer highlight of mismanagement in the past in a development like Cape Jaffa, where it is now silting up, they are losing their potable water and it is a half-finished development that has now been left for local government and the state or federal government to clean up.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:02): It's an important question. Yes, I was rather candid in my remarks at the Housing Roadmap forum about the circumstances we see here at Cape Jaffa, but the Cape Jaffa circumstance of course isn't unprecedented either.

When it comes to housing supply, we know that water infrastructure is absolutely critical. I said this at the Housing Roadmap event as well. I think it is fair to say that there are a number of governments who have culpability for not seriously thinking through what the future looks like when it comes to investment in water infrastructure and how critical it is in terms of housing supply.

When people turn on their taps at home they expect water to come out, and they see the services provided by SA Water as a service. In actual fact, we've got to look at SA Water not as a service delivery agency but, rather, as an economic agency that helps unlock growth. That is a fundamental change and a shift that is being led by this government.

The circumstances at Cape Jaffa were allowing a developer to have an approach around water supply exclusively with an eye on their margin and their profit, rather than actually thinking about the people who would live there and who would pay for the cost of having not just a service but a maintained service that will withstand growth into the future.

When those private schemes are allowed to run unfettered or unchecked, then invariably what can occur is the developer leaves having pocketed their return—which is their prerogative, we want developers to make money—but then having a failed scheme. Where there is a failed scheme,

of course, the insurer of last resort for the people who live there ends up being either a local government or the state government. That, of course, is wholly unsatisfactory—wholly unsatisfactory.

That, of course, invites a policy response from government to make sure that we don't allow those mistakes to happen again in the future; therefore, there needs to be a positive obligation imposed by the state under an appropriate regulatory framework to ensure that when developers are allowed to install the water infrastructure that it meets standards, is sustainable and is funded.

Where they are not able to meet that test, then, of course, they shouldn't be allowed to develop the property unchecked, or the state makes sure the developer purchases a piece of land with a degree of consciousness about whether or not water is going to be connected at any time soon, which is why we need the road map, which is why we need a policy that actually says, 'Here's where the water is getting connected and when.'

If you buy a piece of land at a cheap price, you can't just expect the government to be there the next day delivering that infrastructure regardless of the cost to the taxpayer or the water consumer. We need to have a planned approach so everyone knows what to pay for that piece of land and with a knowledge of when water is coming, if it's coming at all. That's why we have the road map and why the minister has been meeting with industry.

There is an industry working group, the Property Council, HIA, UDIA, CCF, sitting down, working through with industry saying, 'Here's where we are investing the water supply to come to and here's where it's going when it's going to come.' Of course, every developer wants water at their land yesterday, but we are doing it in a thoughtful and methodical way to make sure that we are unlocking as much growth when we can and learning the lessons past of what happened at Cape Jaffa.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the 2024 South Australian Training Awards?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:07): I thank the member for Torrens for her question. Last night, I was pleased to join the Premier and the shadow minister at the South Australian Training Awards, which is the gala night for the training sector in our state, an opportunity to award those people who are perhaps apprentices or trainees in the system or even those organisations, and we have many great examples of them, who do that training.

I want to take the opportunity that the member for Torrens' question affords me to thank the South Australian Skills Commissioner, Mr Cameron Baker, for the enormous piece of work that his team did to organise the night, which saw about 600 attendees. I would also like to take the opportunity to share the names of a couple of the winners with this place. There are some very uplifting stories about the things that are happening there. As the Premier said, it is really those training providers in our system who are the ones we task with the responsibility of making sure that those job opportunities that we speak about in this place so regularly, those benefits and opportunities actually get out and are reached and felt by everyday South Australians.

I want to give a special mention to the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was given to Jo Denley, who is someone who will be known to many in this place in a lot of roles but most recently as the long-term Chair of the TAFE Board. I want to thank Jo for an incredibly long period of service. It was fantastic to see her rightfully acknowledged last night.

The Industry Collaboration Award was won by Road to Redemption, which is a collaboration between Workskil Australia, Carey Training and the Department for Correctional Services. It is an amazing story about reducing recidivism. I think the most startling stat that I have seen in relation to this is that 70 per cent of participants who take part in Road to Redemption secure work, which is a fantastic story and something that was very worthy of the acknowledgement it got last night.

Small Training Provider of the Year went to FCTA—Building Careers, the only Australian provider of accredited training in heritage trade skills. On that topic, I know that members in this place will be very pleased to know that Kapunda High School won the VET Innovation for Schools Award.

I know their local member will be pleased to hear that, but also we have a couple of members on this side of the house who are old scholars of the school. We know that, tragically, the Eringa Building caught fire back in 2022. We are on the way to rebuilding that incredible piece of South Australian history, but the really good story and the intersection with the skills and training awards last night is that it is Kapunda High School students who are actually doing the work to restore that building and, as they do it, they are learning skills in heritage trades, which I think is fantastic. I was very proud as minister to see them acknowledged for those efforts last night.

The Vocational Student of the Year is Zander Lee, a Cert IV in Live Production and Technical Services student, who is now a professional lighting technician at the Adelaide Festival Centre. Stephanie Hernandez is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year, having overcome leaving school at year 10 and the balancing act of raising three kids while studying a diploma of nursing at the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Education Centre. That was a great story. Stephanie spoke really passionately about the things she had to overcome and the fact that she wouldn't have done it without the amazing help she got from the ANMF's education centre, which was a great story as well.

I also want to mention Bianca Taylor, who last night was awarded the state's Apprentice of the Year Award, the last award of the night. She is the state's first female stonemason, which is a pretty amazing achievement. She is very passionate about her industry and she has already set up her own heritage restoration business. Bianca is very young, as you might imagine, and I think she is going to be an inspiration to many other young people who might be considering what kind of future they could have in some of our traditional trades.

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners. As I said last night, there is only so much we can say as politicians to inspire other young people to choose a path like this. What is far more successful is seeing other people who have already done it in their lives get up and explain to others why it might be such a great thing for them to consider as well.

Grievance Debate

STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:11): What an extraordinary week it has been in South Australian politics. What this Labor government has shown us is that you cannot trust them when it comes to your job, you cannot trust them when it comes to your health, and you cannot trust them when it comes to keeping their election promises.

I rise to speak on the appalling state of affairs that we witnessed this week under this Premier and this arrogant cabinet. What we first discovered here in this chamber was that GFG Alliance were in arrears in paying royalties to the state government. The Labor government is making headlines nationally for all the wrong reasons at the moment. We have also learned that the Treasurer has actually known about this for several weeks, yet it took the questioning of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition to get them to actually take action in this regard.

Following question time on Tuesday, we actually saw the Department for Energy and Mining come up with this half-baked, furiously published procurement activity report which, if you look at it, is actually too good to be true. The spelling errors on it show it is seeking a specialist financial and insolvency advisory service relating to GFG's South Australian operations. What we heard today was absolutely extraordinary.

You have to wonder: when did the Premier actually think about going there in a month's time or so? When did he maybe think about getting the Minister for Energy and Mining back from overseas, whatever he is doing over there? He does not have a very good record of delivering on these overseas trips. Do not forget, it was not that long ago that the Minister for Energy and Mining was sent to Spain to investigate, amongst other things, Talgo. I have to say, other than probably lots of sangria and paella, I do not think there was too much that was actually delivered.

I do find the timing of this trip especially notable. We will see what happens when he comes back, but I think it is absolutely outrageous that during such a serious time in South Australia's economy and history the relevant minister has been allowed to go on gazetted leave.

How disappointing that it has taken the opposition to catch out the government on their failure to treat this matter with the urgency that it requires. We know already that over 100 jobs have recently been lost at the Whyalla Steelworks. How many more are to come? Today we learned about the businesses that are owed money: we know contractors are owed money and we know that people are losing their jobs. It does not seem like this government is taking that as seriously as it should. It seems that all this government is interested in is cauterising bad headlines.

We will wait to see where GFG Alliance Whyalla Steelworks ends up. Obviously, we do not want to see the town of Whyalla in serious jeopardy, but I cannot believe that the Minister for Energy and Mining has not been in South Australia while the town of Whyalla hangs in the balance—literally, in some respects. Is he, as I said, enjoying the spoils of Oktoberfest in Germany? Maybe we will get to ask him when he comes back.

Then you have Labor's supposed prosperity project. All I can say is that Labor's prosperity project—or posterity, or was it austerity project? Whatever it is, all I have to say is that this project is becoming less and less prosperous by the day, as business owners come forward in the town of Whyalla, as people are losing their jobs in the town of Whyalla. They are all calling on the government to come clean about its contingency plan for the steelworks. You know what, I do not reckon the government has got a plan. I think they are making it up as they go along and I think they have been flat-footed when it comes to this failed hydrogen plan as well.

Only last week we came to learn that this government is now seeking to pull the wool over the eyes of South Australians on another one of their election promises. We heard recently—at the Budget and Finance Committee, in fact—that the Office of Hydrogen Power has not undertaken the relevant modelling to see what, if any, savings there are to South Australian bills that this experimental hydrogen plant will actually deliver.

We have also heard some really sad news when it comes to the tomato industry as well—again, another example of the government being flat-footed. Can you believe at 9 o'clock this morning we were being told that the Premier and relevant ministers did not have the decency to be there at 9 o'clock? I just find it absolutely appalling.

When it comes to health, the government has been busy spending taxpayer money, telling South Australians how good a job they are supposedly doing, like the \$1.9 million advertisement to tell you how good the health system is. You know what, the health system has never been worse. If it is going that well, why do you have to spend \$1.9 million of taxpayer dollars telling that to the people of South Australia? You cannot trust Labor. You cannot trust Labor with your health, you cannot trust them on jobs and you cannot trust them to deliver on their election promises either.

YORKE PENINSULA ECOTOURISM

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:16): Footy season has finished—it certainly will be on Saturday when the grand final will be played. Spring is in the air and summer is on its way which means, of course, that it is time for tourism season in the wonderful electorate of Narungga. We are heavily reliant on tourism in our part of the world. It is one of the only other dominant industries that we have, aside from agriculture, and so we are desperately hoping for a successful tourism season, considering the dry winter that we have had for broadacre farmers.

Yorke Peninsula is, I think, an underdeveloped tourism asset. I do not think it necessarily receives the attention from the advertisers in Adelaide that it should and, as a result, we would like to think that we could attract more intrastate visitors than we ordinarily do. Notwithstanding that, we know that it has a tremendous brand salience in South Australia itself. I met with the YP tourism officer only last week, who informed me that it is a 98 per cent brand salience in the state of South Australia. I think that would accord with the wonderful views of everyone in this room about how positive it is, and it shows the wonderful asset that we have on our hands there.

As I said, it has been a dry winter and we do need strong tourism visits to ensure that our local economy can continue to thrive. Hopefully we get that this year and hopefully plenty of people come up and visit.

There are a couple of things that need addressing in the meantime, or hopefully can be addressed as soon as possible. The first one is that since COVID we have seen this incredible rise

in the popularity of beach camping. It is an absolute sight to behold nowadays. When you fly over Wauraltee Beach on a long weekend, or you visit Flaherty Beach on a public holiday, it is a really extraordinary thing to see the number of caravans and visitors we have there camping, and basically unfettered. There is not a great deal of regulation or policing about those who camp there and the habits they keep. It really is basically a free-for-all, and I can imagine what the attraction is for the people who do visit. I can see how that would be a thing that would attract a large number of people to it.

We need to be aware, and I know this parliament has been advised about it before, of the side-effects of that increase in popularity. There are extraordinary numbers of people there who all have to ensure their waste gets disposed of properly and they all have to make sure they look after the native environment and care for the dune system that we have there. Unfortunately, with the pure number of people who are there that does not always happen and the lack of policing makes that problem all the worse. We need to see a bit of action from the government. I do not necessarily have the perfect answer, but we need to see some action or some trials to address that problem; bring it into order and make sure that damage is not being done to the environment.

I know Perlubie Beach on the EP has a wonderful set-up there with the facilities required. It is a really attractive camp destination, so perhaps that is a precedent that can be followed at other beaches around the state. We need to see some action. There have been plenty of people living along those beaches who have been pushing for quite some time, and it is time to act.

YP Council, to their credit, have done a coastal management strategy and one of the ideas they have put forward is to have a one-month or two-month shutdown of Flaherty Beach to ensure that it can recover and recuperate and not too much damage is done. Credit to them for trying something, but if that does happen it will place even more stress on other beaches around the electorate, and that will result in even more caravans and more people camping on them and greater damage being done. We need to try something. This is another call to action. I know it is on the minister's agenda; we have talked about it. Here's hoping we can get something done sooner rather than later.

The other thing I have been pushing for, which is more of a proactive measure and has not quite come to fruition yet, is that I would love to see a ferry between Adelaide and Yorke Peninsula. It has been trialled in the past with limited success, but I think that a ferry from Adelaide to the southern part of the peninsula, perhaps Port Vincent, would open it up to even more tourism and provide more opportunity for people to get straight down to the bottom and provide opportunity for the local economy down there.

We have met with SeaLink, who did not think it was a financial and commercial investment at this stage, but I would like to keep pushing that idea. Perhaps it might take government investment or subsidy in the initial years to get it going, get it up and running and provide a commercial case study for someone who might well take it over thereafter, but I think the benefits of that would be tremendous and I really hope that we can one day reach a position where it is possible.

It is a big tourism season coming up in Narungga. There are a couple of things that I would like to see government do or assist with in the short term to try to drive tourism because, as I said, we are heavily reliant on agriculture in our electorate and the more that we can diversify our local economy, the more it is safeguarded from seasonal dangers like we are seeing this year and the difficulties we have seen this year. It will make Narungga just that bit stronger economically and just that bit more affluent for those of us who live there.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:21): Last night was the South Australian Training Awards, an important opportunity to recognise excellence in the training sector. Skilled vocational and technical qualifications are critically important as we seek to deliver—for South Australia's economy, our workforce and, indeed, the young people who are looking for careers—the best possible, most optimal outcomes for our future.

We have great opportunities in South Australia to deliver economic advantages for children and young people, for future generations, if we can grasp them. But one of the greatest risks that we

find for businesses, industries and our whole state in grasping those opportunities is the lack of skilled workforce to deliver on them. Whether it is AUKUS, other defence projects, innovation projects related to IT and cybersecurity, our construction industry, our agriculture industry, our agtech industry, our personal care sector or, indeed, education where there are significant workforce shortages, we have opportunities—particularly in the VET sector—to create great careers for young people moving forward. The South Australian Training Awards are a key part of highlighting excellence in these areas.

It is far too long that too many families, too many young people, have had a perception that a training pathway, a VET pathway, is a second option to universities. There is a level of unanimity in our political discourse about how we can change that perception. The key thing is to get results and encourage young people to strive for excellence in training, to help them be the ones who can also convince their peers that there are great careers going forward.

Congratulations particularly to those who won awards last night: Imogen Smith in the Voters' Choice Award category, from Cardijn College's Marcellin Campus; Zander Lee in the Vocational Student of the Year category, working at the Festival Theatre through TAFE SA; Lisa Brazzalotto in the Trainee of the Year category, from Clinpath Laboratories and trained by the Australian Institute of Management; Bianca Taylor in the Apprentice of the Year category, employed at Taylor Made Heritage Restoration and trained by FCTA—Building Careers, and we will come to them again shortly; Stephanie Hernandez in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year category, doing a Diploma of Nursing with the ANMF Education Centre, one of last year's winners, and employed by Flinders Medical Centre through SALHN; Lara Wilson in the School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year category, a student at Underdale High School, employed through MEGT and trained by MADEC; and Dee Slade in the VET Teacher/Training of the Year category, employed by Complete Hospitality Training Skills.

Jo Denley, as the minister acknowledged earlier during question time, was acknowledged for her lifetime achievement. Jo Denley was someone who was appointed as chair of the TAFE Board by Liberal and Labor governments and whose contribution to TAFE over the last 13 years has been important, particularly through the period after the quality catastrophe of 2017, when we were seeking to rebuild TAFE's reputation and its capacity to deliver quality training.

Without reflecting on anyone else, the record will reflect that Jo Denley was the only board member identified for reappointment, certainly at the encouragement of the reviews into TAFE after 2017. Her corporate knowledge and capacity has been immeasurably important to TAFE, as they were to Bridgestone, where she did incredibly important work through VET. As she said last night, just because she has won a lifetime achievement award she still has a lot to give, and I look forward to seeing that take place.

Congratulations to the other winners, the organisations. CJM Electrical Services won Small Employer of the Year, and Flexible Construction Training and Assessment—Building Careers at Hope Valley won the Small Training Provider of the Year. They do terrific and important work in stonemasonry and other heritage areas like that. They are a family business and a repeat winner from a number of years ago and a previous generation.

A particular congratulations to Kapunda High School, to all the staff involved as well as the principal, on winning the VET Innovation for Schools award, and to Morella Community Centre for the Excellence in Diversity award. Congratulations to the Roads to Redemption program through Carey Training, Workskil Australia and the Department for Correctional Services, and congratulations to David Brown and the team.

Congratulations to Datacom, the Large Employer of the Year, and I note that TAFE SA once again won the Large Training Provider of the Year. They are sort of in a class of their own, with the scale and being a public provider, but congratulations to them, and to all of those who were acknowledged for their work in the training sector last night.

GREAT SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:26): Footy season has come to an end for pretty much everyone except the AFL—and I wish the Brisbane Lions all the very best for Saturday as they take on the Sydney Swans.

One of the greatest football matches I have ever seen was the A grade Great Southern Football League on Saturday, where Myponga hosted the grand final between Myponga, the Mudlarks, and Victor Harbor, led by Jesse McKinnon and Bryce Gibbs. Jesse is a great footballer, winner of the male medal this year.

The Mudlarks had not won an A grade premiership for 40 years and, with just a couple of minutes on the clock in the final quarter, they were down by five points. Jake Spinks managed to take a great mark about 30 metres out; he went back, he steadied, and he put it through. I was part of the green and gold army, and it was just pandemonium as the final siren went to give the Mudlarks a one point victory to break that drought.

To celebrate we are going to light up parliament in green and gold on 10 October—and I am looking at the Serjeant-at-Arms, who is a little worried. It just happens that the Soccerroos are also playing that night and they also happen to be green and gold, so the parliament will be lit up in green and gold—and I am going to say to honour the mighty Mudlarks.

These champions on the field are only matched by the legends off the field who put so much into making sure that this club has built up into being a successful club. They also won the senior colts grand final on Saturday as well.

Given the chance in the rotation of hosting grand finals, Myponga left nothing to chance. They had meetings months out, and I was at one of their meetings about four weeks ago. The amount of organisation and preparation that went into it was incredible, because they know that you only get this chance every 10 years to actually make a whole lot of money for your club.

There was a proposal from David Hutchinson, one of the most enthusiastic Mudlarks supporters, for me to jump out of a plane strapped to someone else with a parachute on with the premiership cup. I rang a mate who organises airshows and he said, 'The whole thing about airshows is you minimise the risk. There is nothing about you and 110 kilos being strapped to someone jumping down onto an oval with 5,000 people around it.' He said, 'Don't do it.' At least I had a good excuse not to do it.

The cricket club, the bowls club, the community club—everyone came together to help make it a real success. Any member who represents regional South Australia will know that the fabric of these country towns is the sporting teams. They are the people who bring everyone together, and it is as much about mental health as it is about physical health. There are a few people who I really want to single out—the president, Geoff Hutchinson, who was there as a player when they won their last flag back in 1984; Baz Clarke, who played more than 550 A-grade games and who is a record holder in community football in South Australia; and Kym Alldritt as well—for the leadership they have shown.

Baz Clarke and Geoff Hutchinson are owners of Fleurieu Milk—indeed, the biggest employer in the Yankalilla council area, so very important to the local economy—and they are also number one supporters of the club. To playing coach Darren Shillabeer, congratulations, along with Richo, your assistant coach, who has been there for about five years now. Darren brought up his 100th goal for the season in the first quarter, but they still had a lot of work to do to get in front of Victor, who were their much more fancied rivals. Victor finished first and Myponga finished fourth at the end of the minor around.

I want to thank everyone—the players, the coaches, the trainers, the timekeepers, the sponsors, but most importantly the fans of Myponga, who decorated the entire town in green and gold in the week leading up to it and then just really got out there in numbers. When I left there at about 10 o'clock on Saturday night, they were going strong. I went down with 40 pizzas the next morning, because we know that if people have had a few drinks throughout the night they are probably going to need something in their stomachs. They were still partying hard after that 40-year

drought, and they were still quenching their thirst at about lunchtime on the Sunday. Well done to the mighty Mudlarks!

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Hammond, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the public gallery today of representatives from a number of preventive and public research and health promotional organisations, including the Public Health Association of Australia, the Australian Health Promotion Association, the Centre for Health in All Policies Research Translation, the Cancer Council of South Australia, the Heart Foundation, the South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services, the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Preventive Health South Australia, Chief Public Health Officer Professor Nicola Spurrier, and Chief Psychiatrist Dr John Brayley. They are the guests of the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. We should all be well today with all these people here helping us.

Grievance Debate

HAMMOND ELECTORATE

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:32): On the health issue, I just want to raise an issue that happened with someone from my electorate regarding the ambulance shortage in South Australia, or the lack of ambulances being able to turn up on time. I quote directly from my constituent:

On August 20th, my 85-year old mother collapsed at home in rural South Australia. Amid a medical emergency, I was shocked to be told that there were no ambulances available to respond promptly. I was advised to drive her myself to Mount Barker Hospital, [thankfully only] 20 km away, which I did. My mother, who had collapsed due to a heart condition, was admitted and well cared for at Mount Barker. However, once it was determined that she required surgery at Flinders Medical in Adelaide, we had to wait over 12 hours for an ambulance to transfer her. When the ambulance finally arrived at 11:30 pm, she was told to sit in the front seat—despite having a hip replacement and being under heart monitoring—because another patient needed the back. This situation highlights the serious issues with ambulance availability in South Australia. No one should face such delays during critical moments, and we must address the shortage to ensure timely access to emergency medical services.

We have a government that promised at the last election they would fix the ramping crisis, yet we have seen over 100,000 hours of ramping since the Labor government have taken office and it just gets worse and worse.

Then I get this heartfelt letter from the daughter of an 85-year-old woman who not only could not get an ambulance on the first pickup to get to Mount Barker hospital where she was cared for very well but then had to wait hours and hours and hours only to be told, 'You need to sit up in the front.' What is going on? This would be happening not just hundreds of times across South Australia but thousands of times and we would not know the half of it. Why are there these hold-ups? Why are people not being picked up appropriately in time and on time? Considering that this patient needed coronary care as well—and Flinders certainly do an excellent job in that regard—the simple fact is that in this state people just cannot access that care on time.

The second issue I want to raise today, and it has been debated today in question time, is Beston Global Food Company going into administration. I really care for the 150 or so jobs that are there and the dozens of dairy farmers who supply the two factories at Jervois and Murray Bridge. Certainly, as the Treasurer said today, the member for Finniss and I have been keeping the government informed on the situation as we have seen it over the last few weeks. It has become dire now that the company has gone into administration and I am concerned about, I think for the third time since I have been in this place since 2006, a crisis at both the Jervois factory and the Murray Bridge factory.

We noticed there was an offer that could have been made by an international company that fell through, with Beston now going into administration. I am doing my utmost as the local member to work with the government and work with potential companies that may see an opportunity come in here, as I have on the previous two occasions in my time as the member for Hammond.

I know there are people who can see an opportunity here, but there is a long, long way for that sort of opportunity to be realised. We have to see how KPMG handles this situation that is under

administration. I know the dairy farmers are having a meeting. They are probably meeting as we speak. We need to do all we can, and I have talked to the Treasurer and said, 'I would like to get this fixed in a bipartisan way so we can get people operating these two factories for the benefit of not just the dairy industry but my local community.'

INTERFET

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (15:37): I rise to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Australian-led deployment of the International Force for East Timor, or INTERFET, the acronym by which it has become known, which was commemorated last Friday 20 September. I had the honour of attending the service at the National War Memorial on behalf of the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Joe Szakacs MP, and it was a duty I was humbled to carry out, which I particularly felt as I took my place amongst the veterans of that force.

This anniversary is particularly poignant for my family because my husband was at that time a soldier with 2RAR and deployed four times to East Timor, now Timor-Leste, as part of that effort to support and protect the then newest nation in the world.

Journalist Evan Morgan wrote a very enlightening piece for the *Townsville Bulletin*, including interviews with officers and soldiers who deployed as part of the original 1999 force and then subsequently as part of INTERFET. Evan Morgan writes in part:

When the call came to deploy to East Timor in September 1999, Townsville-based 2RAR was one of the units tapped on the shoulder to become the spear-tip of the original mission. Alongside was 3RAR, and later 5/7RAR then based in Sydney.

Of course, when 5/7RAR split, 7RAR relocated here to Adelaide, a regiment we are all so proud of and sad to see leaving us when they relocate to Darwin. Mr Morgan interviewed then Major Bob Hamilton, a close friend of my husband and myself, about what he recollected of that time. Major Bob Hamilton and B company were the initial unit who took over the security of the perimeter of Dili airport. Bob said:

[His] soldiers were not apprehensive, after all their previous training they were ready for potential conflict and the task ahead.

He goes on to say:

It was a rifleman section commanders war—they were at the coalface making split second decisions that made the mission a success.

Bob describes a very tense situation his section faced when they came face to face with Indonesian soldiers. He said:

There was a standoff near the airport between Australian and Indonesian troops. It was very tense and...we literally had guys standing there, point[ing] rifles at one another from 50m.

One of the section commanders...just got up, put his rifle down so it was hanging, and walked over and offered [an Indonesian soldier] a cigarette. Gutsy move.

My husband, James, was a 25-year-old lance corporal in B company who was a part of that first breakout from Dili airport. To Evan Morgan he says, 'He is proud of what 2RAR achieved on that first deployment and the difference they made to the wellbeing of the people of East Timor.' He went on to say:

When you were there for the right reason, and the people's reaction to us was just fantastic, and overwhelming sometimes. So very, very proud we went over there, and then also how we did it—it was quite professional.

We did the right thing as a country. I'm particularly proud of that—we supported a country in need...

Bob Hamilton says that on the day of the anniversary of this deployment he will be reflecting on the welfare of those he served with.

This is the outstanding and genuine nature of those whom I have had the pleasure of meeting since becoming part of a defence family. It is what I also think of whenever I talk to a veteran and whenever I attend a veterans or commemorative service. I honour the veterans who deployed as

part of INTERFET and all our veterans and current Defence Force members, and I thank them for their service.

Matter of Privilege

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:41): Sir, I raise a matter of privilege. Yesterday, in question time, the Treasurer said, and I quote:

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 at the time of the last election.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force data from December 2021 reports the unemployment rate for South Australia at 3.9 per cent. It is clear that the Treasurer has knowingly and intentionally misled the parliament to ballast his argument that good economic outcomes and low unemployment rates are the result only of this Labor government. I seek, sir, that you give consideration to this matter according to precedent.

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Morialta and ask the member to provide me with all relevant information. I will consider the request in due course and come back to the house on whether I consider the matter to be prima facie a matter of privilege.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:43): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 11am.

Motion carried.

Bills

**TRANSPLANTATION AND ANATOMY (DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AND DELEGATION)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:43): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:44): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

The Bill before the House today will amend the South Australian *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983* to make it easier for the families to share their stories about their deceased loved one's donation or transplant, and to make minor administrative amendments.

The *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983* relates to the donation of human tissues including solid organs, eye and other tissues, and blood, for transplantation or other therapeutic, medical, or scientific purposes, and to body donation and post-mortem examination. The legislation aims to protect identifying information about a donor or

recipient from becoming publicly known, except with the consent of that person. The legislation does not currently allow for consent to be provided on behalf of a deceased person.

Some families of deceased donors currently consider they may be in breach of the legislation for sharing stories about their loved one's donation, particularly for the purposes of commemoration or raising awareness about organ and tissue donation. The amendments clarify that restrictions on the disclosure of information will apply only to persons involved in an activity, function or service relating to the removal of tissues, body donation, and post-mortem examinations, and will allow for a next of kin or personal legal representative (or a parent or guardian in the case of a child) to consent to the disclosure of information on behalf of a deceased donor or recipient. It is also proposed to modernise the legislation by updating the language and providing for the delegation of Ministerial powers or duties.

Consultation on the draft Bill was undertaken over a four-week period from 25 July to 16 August 2024. Detailed information on the proposed changes and a survey inviting feedback was made publicly available on the YourSAy website and promoted on the SA Health website and through social media. Targeted stakeholder consultation was also undertaken with local and national donation and transplant service providers, government departments and advisory groups, the Commonwealth Organ and Tissue Authority, DonateLife SA, advocacy and charity groups, and representatives of South Australian donor families.

I would like to sincerely thank the stakeholders for their contributions to the consultation process. In total 85 responses were received, with 82 survey responses and 3 written submissions from both local and national respondents. Overall, there was strong support for families of deceased persons who were a donor or transplant recipient being able to share stories about their loved one. Over 95% of survey respondents supported the proposed changes.

The South Australian legislation forms part of a nationwide set of human tissue laws. Some jurisdictions have undergone similar legislative amendments to provide legal clarity to families who wish to share stories about their deceased loved one's donation or transplant. Nationally, health professionals and governments maintain confidentiality and protect the identity of organ and tissue donors and recipients. These arrangements are not changed by the Bill.

I would like to thank the Department for Health and Wellbeing Public Health Division and the Department's Blood, Organ, and Tissue Program staff for their work in developing the Bill and undertaking extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community.

The Transplantation and Anatomy (Disclosure of Information and Delegation) Amendment Bill will ensure greater legal clarity for donor families acknowledging their loved ones publicly, and in-person at events for the purposes of remembrance, commemoration, or raising awareness about organ and tissue donation.

I commend the Bill to Members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983*

3—Amendment of section 39—Disclosure of information

Currently, section 39 of the principal Act provides that a person must not disclose information or a document about a person in respect of whom certain activities or functions under the Act have been undertaken if the identity of the person may become publicly known as a result of the disclosure (other than in specified circumstances). This clause restricts the operation of section 39 to disclosure by specified persons, being those who have knowledge of, or access to, that information or document only by reason of their work in undertaking an activity or function, or performing a service, under the Act (but not those who undertake a function under the Act by reason of being the next of kin of the person to whom the disclosure relates) or—

- through working for or with such a person at the time of the activity, function or service, or later; or
- being an entity (that is a legal person) that engages such a person to work at, or on behalf of, the entity; or
- through working at or for an entity that engages such a person to work at, or on behalf of, the entity at the time of the activity, function or service, or later.

This clause also clarifies that the restriction on disclosing information and documents applies in respect of information or documents that may result in the identity of a person who is deceased becoming publicly known.

It also amends section 39 to allow a child's parent to consent to the disclosure of information or documents related to the child. In the case of a deceased person, the deceased person's next of kin or legal personal representative can provide consent for the disclosure of such information or documents.

4—Insertion of section 40A

This clause inserts a new section.

40A—Delegation

Proposed section 40A is a standard power of delegation for the Minister.

Schedule 1—Statute law revision amendment of *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983*

The Schedule makes various amendments of a statute law revision nature to the principal Act.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH SA BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:45): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to provide for the Office for Preventive Health SA, to confer functions on its chief executive, to establish the Preventive Health SA Council and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:45): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Whilst many South Australians experience good health, rates of chronic disease conditions are increasing, with some population groups and communities experiencing poorer health outcomes compared to others. Combined with an ageing population, this is having an impact on escalating demand and costs on our healthcare system and, more importantly, an impact in terms of the human cost of illness and lost productivity.

According to recent research, 8.7 per cent of South Australians aged 15 years and over currently smoke, 68 per cent of adults and 27.5 per cent of children across South Australia are currently overweight or obese, and more than 29 per cent of South Australian adults consume alcohol that puts them at risk of harm of alcohol-related disease or injury.

When you consider population growth, projections indicate that without intervention the number of people experiencing these risk factors will increase. It is expected that by 2029 an additional 1,900 children and 48,000 adults will be overweight or obese. For adults aged 18 years and over, it is projected that an additional 9,800 females and 15,000 males will be exceeding alcohol consumption limits, 7,800 females and 4,900 males will report high to very high levels of psychological distress, and 2,600 females and 3,300 males will report suicidal ideation.

We all know the adage that prevention is better than cure and we must ensure that attention is given to taking comprehensive action to reduce this growing burden of ill health and disease. We must ensure preventive health effort is a key component of our overall health response, because we know its proven impact on reducing health risk factors, such as smoking tobacco and UV sun exposure, and how such changes reduce rates of chronic disease and improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and the community as a whole.

We know that targeted preventive health action must occur to improve the health and wellbeing of priority population groups, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, who experience a burden of disease that is 2.3 times greater than other Australians. Under previous South Australian governments, reviews of non-hospital-based services have led to reductions in primary prevention funding and uncertainty in relation to resourcing and priorities for prevention work in South Australia. Such changes have resulted in South Australia not sustaining preventive health infrastructure that can deliver coordinated and comprehensive strategies to prevent ill health and downstream costs to the South Australian health system.

Despite this, good work has continued to take place to promote preventive health initiatives in South Australia. In 2020, Wellbeing SA was established to support the physical, mental and social wellbeing of South Australians, using a population health approach to improve the health of the entire population. While this agency included many important priorities and functions that continue to be

delivered today, it was also responsible for integrated care services that supported public hospitals with system-wide demand initiatives.

Preventive health functions related to smoking, vaping and alcohol sat separately as part of Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia. Earlier this year, Preventive Health SA was established, strengthening the prevention agenda in South Australia through the consolidation of these key prevention functions into a single agency.

The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 we are introducing today is the first of its kind in South Australia, formally recognising preventive health as an important area of health policy and ensuring it becomes a permanent part of the infrastructure of the health system in South Australia.

The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 demonstrates the South Australian government's commitment to embedding systems and structures in legislation for long-term, sustainable health system enhancements to support positive health and wellbeing outcomes which, over time, will reduce pressure on the acute health system. The bill provides the legislative infrastructure required in South Australia to build a sustainable prevention system for the future and help drive long-lasting positive health and wellbeing changes for current and future generations.

Over the past 40 years, legislation has been critical to taking action on complex public health challenges, playing a key role in reducing fatalities and injuries on roads and reducing smoking prevalence. We have been fortunate in South Australia to lead the way with contemporary preventive health legislation over the past couple of decades. The South Australian Public Health Act 2011, which replaced the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987, provided the state with a modernised, flexible legislative framework, supporting a better response to emerging and traditional public health challenges.

The Suicide Prevention Act 2021 is another example of unique and nation-leading preventive health legislation, the first of its kind for any jurisdiction in Australia, which aims to reduce the incidence of suicide in this state. The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 strengthens and complements the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 and other key prevention legislation in South Australia relating to suicide prevention, controlled substances and alcohol and tobacco.

In February this year, the Preventive Health SA Establishment Advisory Council was established to provide expert advice on the drafting of this bill. Chaired by the Hon. Nicola Roxon, members of the council had expertise in epidemiology, public health policy, Aboriginal health and health equity, preventive health strategy, government policymaking and business. The council sought community and stakeholder input into the drafting of the bill, with a range of individuals and organisations providing feedback through public consultation held earlier this year.

There were high levels of support for enshrining preventive health policy and action in legislation, and the bill was strengthened following consultation feedback. The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 contains a number of objects, which outline the intent of the bill to:

- ensure a dedicated focus on improving the health and wellbeing of South Australians by preventing and reducing the burden of noncommunicable health conditions through addressing preventable risk factors and the associated determinants of health;
- improve health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, as well as other priority population groups;
- lead preventive health action and strengthen collaboration across government, non-government and other key sectors; and
- embed the prevention agenda for long-term and sustainable outcomes.

Within 18 months of the legislation being assented to, the chief executive will ensure the strategic plan for preventive health action in South Australia is available, identifying preventive health policies, priorities and measures in order to further the objects of the legislation. The Preventive Health SA Council will also be established under this legislation and will include members with diverse preventive health knowledge, expertise and experience.

I am very pleased that this legislation is one of the first to be considered by the South Australian Voice to Parliament, and has been strengthened following their feedback. The objects include a focus on improving health equity for priority population groups, but of note is the specific object focusing on healing and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons through preventive health action. The council established under this legislation will have strong representation, with at least two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons as members.

The bill also enshrines the strong commitment to working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through the requirement for the chief executive to consult and collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons and their representative bodies in performing their functions.

There are a number of provisions in the bill that support the government's commitment to create an independent prevention agency, ensuring the ability to lead and engage across multiple government agencies on preventive health action while providing impartial, evidence-informed advice and information. Independence of the chief executive and the council is essential for transparency, and influencing and driving positive change and decision-making and action.

The challenge ahead of us is great and the government cannot do it alone. I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of partners that have supported the prevention agenda. Organisations such as the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), Cancer Council SA, Heart Foundation, Diabetes SA, University of South Australia, Flinders University, Adelaide University, Public Health Association of Australia, Australian Health Promotion Association, South Australian Council of Social Service, Local Government Association of South Australia and the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network are just a few of the organisations that have shared our commitment towards improving the health outcomes of all South Australians.

I acknowledge representatives from those organisations and the many other preventive health organisations joining us today. I would also like to thank the members of the Establishment Advisory Council who have provided their advice to help the drafting of this important bill, including the Hon. Nicola Roxon, Dr Michelle Atchison, Todd Harper, David Pearson, Professor Caroline Miller, Associate Professor Odette Pearson, Kim Morey, Dr Rhiannon Pilkington, Andrew Culley, and Dr Alison Edwards.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the staff of Preventive Health SA for their continued work since the establishment of the agency earlier this year, including Marina Bowshall who has recently been appointed as the first Chief Executive of Preventive Health SA.

This is an important and much needed piece of legislation. I believe this bill will play a significant role in South Australia becoming a leader of an even healthier state through strengthening collaborative and evidence-informed preventive health policy and action well into the future. I commend the bill to the house and I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Objects and key principle

The objects and key principles of the measure are set out.

4—Interpretation

Certain terms are defined for the purposes of the measure.

5—Interaction with other Acts

The measure is in addition to, and does not derogate from, any other Act or law.

Part 2—Office for Preventive Health SA

6—Office for Preventive Health SA

The Minister is required to designate an administrative unit of the Public Service as the Office for Preventive Health SA.

Consultation with the Preventive Health SA Council under the measure is required before the engagement, transfer or termination of the employment of the Chief Executive of that administrative unit under the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

7—Functions

The functions of the Chief Executive of the Office for Preventive Health SA are set out.

8—Exercise of functions

The Chief Executive is required to act independently, impartially and in the public interest in performing their functions. The Minister is authorised to give the Chief Executive a direction in relation to the performance of the Chief Executive's functions, except in relation to certain specified functions.

9—Strategic plan

The Chief Executive is required to prepare a strategic plan for preventive health action in South Australia and review it at least once in every 4 years. Other provisions relate to preparing, reviewing and publishing the plan.

10—Annual report

An annual report on the performance of the Chief Executive's functions under the measure is required to be prepared and tabled in Parliament.

11—Delegation

Provision is made for the Chief Executive to delegate their functions.

Part 3—Preventive Health SA Council

12—Establishment of Preventive Health SA Council

The Preventive Health SA Council is established. The Council consists of the Chief Executive and at least 8 other members appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Chief Executive, of whom at least 2 must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons.

The collective knowledge, expertise or experience required of members of the Council is set out.

13—Terms and conditions of membership

The terms and conditions of appointment of members of the Council are to be determined by the Minister.

14—Vacancies or defects in appointment of members

This clause is technical.

15—Remuneration

The remuneration of a member of the Council is to be determined by the Minister.

16—Functions

The functions of the Council are provided for.

17—Committees

The Council is authorised to establish committees.

18—Delegations

Provision is made for the Council to delegate its functions.

19—Procedures

Procedures of Council meetings are provided for.

Part 4—Miscellaneous

20—Resources for preventive health

This clause makes provision in relation to the Minister determining the resourcing that the Chief Executive reasonably needs to carry out the Chief Executive's functions under the measure.

21—Regulations

A regulation-making power is set out for the purposes of the measure.

Schedule 1—Transitional provision

1—Transitional provision

A transitional provision relating to the first strategic plan is provided for.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Pratt.

OFFICE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:57): As I was saying a little earlier in this place, we are here today to legislate the office for the early years to lead the early childhood development system with a mandate to increase the proportion of South Australian children who are developmentally on track when starting school, and to be able to reach the goal that was defined in recommendation 1, that being to reduce the rate of South Australian children entering school developmentally vulnerable as measured by the Australian Early Development Census from the current rate of 23.8 per cent to 15 per cent.

The recommendation sets out that the legislation should describe an early child development system that includes families, communities, local government, non-government and government providers in health, human services and early childhood education and care. It should note the particular role of early childhood education and care as a backbone service in the universal child development system.

It should describe the particular responsibility of the office to promote the cultural safety of early childhood education and care services for Aboriginal children. The functions of the office should be separate from state government responsibilities for service delivery. Those functions include:

- establishing and maintaining a child development data system;
- ensuring the universal reach of child developmental checks;
- building early childhood education and care as the backbone of a universal early child development system;
- ensuring universal access to three and four-year-old preschool, including commissioning new integrated service hubs, developing funding models and ensuring that preschool providers are connected to the broader early years system;
- ensuring supports and services are aligned with the needs of children by partnering with non-government organisations and local and commonwealth governments;
- providing overall strategic direction to state government early years services, noting operational planning and delivery should remain in current line agencies; and
- commissioning or recommissioning state government services as required.

That is what we have here before us today through this bill.

We do intend that the office will work collaboratively to mobilise long day care, early learning centres and government services in every community to be able to deliver a new offer of universal three-year-old preschool.

I know that there are so many from all across my electorate, from Golden Grove up to One Tree Hill and Salisbury Park through to Surrey Downs, who are so eagerly awaiting the progressive rollout of three-year-old preschool from 2026. I must say, as a country girl whose parents did not have this opportunity afforded to them, I am so incredibly proud that there will be an initial focus on regional and remote communities. We all know that access to preschool and wraparound out-of-hours care in these communities will not only support a child's development but also support the workforce participation and improved economic outcomes within the regions as well.

I am so pleased that additional supports will also be provided for particularly vulnerable children, with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available to children who need them most. It includes functions to promote the participation of children with disability and children in care in the early childhood development system.

An integrated early childhood education and care system will bring together education, health and human services to be able to support the best outcomes for children. There are five key elements in a successful early child development system: prenatal and maternal child health care, paid parental leave, parenting supports, early childhood education and care, and of course wraparound health and social services to be able to support families that have greater needs.

By creating and coordinating referral pathways, we will be able to better support children to access the services that they need to thrive and prevent some of the evidence that was found by the commission in relation to poorly connected government and non-government services from occurring again.

I feel it is really important to acknowledge that to achieve all of this change we also need to ensure that we have a workforce that is able to back this in. I am so pleased to share that our investment of \$96.6 million in early childhood education and care workforce initiatives will be able to support attraction, qualification pathways, retention and quality.

I am pleased to share with this place that my community is so fortunate to have some of the best educators in the early years system. With that in mind, I would like to specifically highlight and thank both the Hillbank Community Children's Centre and the Golden Grove Homestead Community Children's Centre for the phenomenal work they do to support families in my local community and the youngest members of our community so that they can get the absolute best start in life.

There is something really special about one of these centres that I would like to share with you all, and that is in regard to Golden Grove Homestead. Her name is Deidre. For 32 years, Deidre has been helping keep our little ones well fed and nourished over at the Golden Grove Homestead Community Children's Centre. It is such an incredible achievement, one the member for Wright and Minister for Education and I have personally thanked Deidre for. There are so many who attended this centre who now have their kids also attend the centre, and a big part of that is because of the amazing team and care provided to young people in our community by members like Deidre.

What is really special is that Deidre is not alone in her term of service. There are a number of people who work at the centre who have provided decades of service to young people in our local community through this centre, and they do this because they are incredibly passionate about the work that they do. The impact they have had is absolutely clear. With that in mind, I would like to thank Deidre again. In fact, I would like to thank all early childhood educators for all the work that they have done over the years to support our young people.

The royal commission also found that there was a lack of comprehensive child development data which has held South Australia back. We have taken this as an opportunity to accelerate the translation of research into practice in the early childhood development space by designing an Office for Early Childhood Development that brings together new data, an international research agenda and a local footprint that connects with services and will position South Australia at the forefront of translating new global research insights into practical and deliverable reforms.

It would be a nation-leading system, supporting best practice, to ensure that policy is maintained across early childhood services. I am extremely excited about that. I am a big believer in doing absolutely what we can to help create a better, fairer and more equitable state and I believe that this bill before us today helps to build on that in such an incredibly important area. With that in mind, I would like to commend this bill to the house.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:05): I rise to speak on the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. As a former teacher, a parent and a member of parliament I know the enormous importance of education and, relevant to the bill before us today, the importance of the early years in the development of a child's brain in the first years of life.

Going into the last election we acknowledged the importance of the first 1,000 days being crucial to the brain and social development of children. Knowing that close to a quarter of

South Australian five year olds were starting school behind their developmental milestones, we knew that something had to be done. That is why the Malinauskas government established the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care.

Coming out of the royal commission was a recommendation for universal three-year-old preschool, in recognition that in South Australia nearly one in four children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more areas when they start school. That is, that on the first day of the school year, as excited five year olds walking through the school gate beginning their school journey almost one in four were behind their developmental milestones in at least one area.

With children developing key skills in the early years required for positive learning and outcomes, the introduction of the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024 is a huge step toward improving outcomes for South Australian children. It aims to reduce the number of children who are developmentally vulnerable when they walk through the school gate.

Importantly, the bill provides the legislative mandate for the office to provide statewide strategic oversight and direction of the early childhood system and to collaborate and engage with the many organisations and people who cross into the early years of a child's life.

The Minister for Education has ensured that through the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024 a number of areas will be addressed. The office will ensure that children are not vulnerable when starting school by:

- facilitating commission and support research relating to early childhood development;
- supporting and facilitating the development of systems, policies and processes for the secure sharing of data across the early childhood development system;
- supporting the universal reach of child care and development checks;
- promoting a vision of place-based responsive and connected service delivery;
- building early childhood education and care as a backbone of a universal early childhood development system;
- promoting universal access to three and four-year-old preschool;
- developing and implementing funding models and connecting preschool providers to the broader early childhood development system;
- developing, implementing and funding fit-for-purpose infrastructure and targeted programs and services;
- including the commissioning of integrated service hubs to support the early childhood development of children at increased risk of developmental vulnerability;
- aligning supporting services with the needs of children by partnering with families, state authorities, non-government organisations and local and commonwealth governments;
- providing overall strategic direction in relation to government early childhood development services;
- commissioning or recommissioning government services as required;
- promoting the recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of children accessing services within the early childhood development system;
- promoting the participation of children with disability in the early childhood development system;
- promoting the participation of children in care, children who are in contact with the child protection system and children who are receiving child and family support services in the early childhood development system; and
- undertaking strategic workforce planning to support early childhood reforms and service positions.

In performing these functions under the act, the office will consider the views of children and their families, and it will have regard for and seek to give effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and any other international human rights instruments affecting children.

Our government has committed to actioning the recommendations of the royal commission, setting ambitious but, I believe, achievable goals for childhood development in South Australia. In June this year, the Malinauskas government announced that the 2024-25 budget would invest \$715 million over five years to implement universal three-year-old preschool and other key recommendations from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care. This is only part of the investment of \$1.9 billion over the period 2032-33.

We know that this investment in early childhood will lead to three-year-old preschool being rolled out progressively from 2026, with an initial focus on regional and remote communities. Long day care centres across the state that meet the quality requirements will also be able to begin delivering three-year-old preschool. In addition, supports will be provided for those children who are most vulnerable, with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available.

As I have already mentioned, the bill before us today includes functions to promote the participation of children with disability and children in care in the early childhood development system. I know this will be welcome in my community, where Klemzig Primary School, the Centre of Deaf Education and the Auslan Bilingual Preschool are working hard to not only deliver three-year-old education to deaf children but also to deliver playgroups for parents and their children who are deaf, including babies and toddlers.

Crucial to the successful implementation of the royal commission recommendations is an integrated early childhood education and care system, bringing together education, health and human services to support the best outcomes for children. This includes well-coordinated referral pathways being created to support children to access the services they need. The Office for Early Childhood Development will work to mobilise long day care, early learning centres and government services in every community to deliver the offer of universal three-year-old preschool.

Of course, delivery of our ambitious early childhood education reforms relies on the early childhood education and care workforce. The minister has told us that investment of \$96.6 million in early childhood education and care workforce initiatives will support attraction, qualification pathways, retention and quality. Our early learning teachers and support staff are passionate about their role in the lives of young children. They understand the importance of the early years and it is important to value them too as an integral part of our education system here in South Australia. I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:13): I rise to support this bill because on this side of the house we believe that every child should be born with equal access to opportunities to realise their full potential. Nearly one in four or 23.8 per cent of children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains when they commence school. In South Australia, we have an ambitious goal to reduce that rate from 23.8 per cent to 15 per cent. The Office for Early Childhood Development Bill will provide a mandate for the state government to collaborate and provide direction on matters affecting the early years of a child's life. This will be done by establishing the Office for Early Childhood Development as a steward in this work.

The early years are absolutely critical to a child's development and we know that significant brain development occurs in the first five years of a human's life. It is imperative that a child has regular, positive and supportive interactions with adults to help their brain develop. This enhances the brain's ability to help regulate impulses, make plans and achieve goals.

For too long South Australia has fallen behind our state and territory counterparts when it comes to developmental vulnerability, and that is why we have a bold 20-year plan to positively change the trajectory of a child's life through early childhood education. As part of this plan, the Office for Early Childhood Development will deliver universal three-year-old preschool for every community.

Delivering on our election commitment, three-year-old preschool will be rolled out progressively from 2026 with an initial focus on regional and remote communities. Long day care

centres across the state that meet the quality requirements can also begin delivering three-year-old preschool in 2026. Additional supports will be provided for particularly vulnerable children, with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available to children who need them most.

I would like to commend the Hon. Julia Gillard AC for leading the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care. The royal commission heard evidence from across the community and the sector, informing the 43 recommendations made in the final report. It is important that we are not introducing this legislation in isolation. The Malinauskas Labor government is investing an additional \$1.9 billion in early childhood services, and support will go from 2024 to 2033.

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs I am very pleased we are rolling out these nation-leading initiatives to ensure that children of all backgrounds have the best possible start. I meet parents from a migrant or refugee background who have made the brave decision to come to South Australia to raise their children free from conflict, persecution and turmoil, and we know that this time of settlement is a very taxing time on families.

The migration journey, whether it is because they have come as skilled migrants or seeking safety, has a time of settlement, and a lot of pressure is placed on parents to settle their children into their new home and their new life. Often trauma and pressure can follow a child throughout their development unless they are adequately supported through development and education. There are also barriers to communication between parents and their child's school or preschool. This can be caused by language barriers, adjustment to different cultural norms and generational differences perpetuated by migration.

As part of this package we are investing in attraction, qualification pathways, retention and quality to bolster the early childhood education workforce. Bolstering the early childhood education workforce and providing more sector-wide direction will assist migrant or refugee parents to settle their children into a good quality, supportive and nurturing education. As these children grow up it is important for them to be supported by their educators and teachers, to know that their diversity is their strength.

I will conclude by thanking all the early childhood educators and teachers for their hard work, dedication, patience and passion for their job in raising the next generation. I speak here as the daughter of a kindergarten teacher, who was very dedicated to her profession for many, many decades. When she heard about our new plans for three-year-old preschool she welcomed them. My mum, and now a cousin of mine who is also preschool educator, knows that children coming to them for the very first time can, with extra time and extra support, be far more school ready than they have been over the last few generations.

I think about this today as I support this bill and commend it to the house, and I think about how we can lift our educational attainment rates. We know it is the biggest differentiator for everyone in life, but we can do it in the best possible way when we do it at the beginning.

When I think about our multicultural community—which is incredibly diverse, and diverse because of the opportunities they have had—some people come here incredibly highly skilled because we have asked them to come because we need their skill sets, or they have had the opportunity to be here as international students and then choose to stay on here in South Australia, or Australia. Others, who have often spent time in a third country, over many generations we have welcomed here as a place of safety, taking our role in the world as part of the development of who settles new people here.

If there is one thing I have seen in my time as Minister for Multicultural Affairs it is that when people are here they are ready to learn and they are excited for their children and their grandchildren. The member for Enfield talks about the trauma that her family experienced when they had to leave with very little notice.

Every parent has ambitions for their children, but often they have not had that educational opportunity themselves. We see it particularly in the Afghan community, where women were prevented from going to school or, in other larger families, where only the male children were able to go to high school. We know that when people are here and ready to set up their life, their connection

to education, their connection to a school program, is incredibly important. That means that if we can get in early to support them with language development, to talk to them about their concentration, it would be welcome, and that is something that is highly needed in our community. I support the bill.

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 25 September 2024.)

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:21): I rise today in support of the Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024, which seeks to amend a variety of legislation to support small businesses in South Australia. Small businesses are not only vital to the South Australian economy but they also strengthen our communities by providing employment and connections and support through their goods and services. Ninety-seven per cent of our state's total businesses are small businesses, employing 300,000 people, which is nearly 40 per cent of our entire workforce.

The Malinauskas Labor government understands the difficult environment that many small businesses are operating in. Global supply chain and inflationary pressures continue to increase the cost of running a business, making it more important than ever to provide robust support to our small business community. This bill, which is part of our small business support initiatives, seeks to ensure small businesses have access to the support they need to not only survive these global challenges but tackle them head-on and thrive.

To strengthen the role of the Small Business Commissioner and improve the legal framework around dispute resolution, this bill seeks to amend the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011, the Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995, the Fair Trading Act 1987, the Farm Debt Mediation Act 2018, the Late Payment of Government Debts (Interest) Act 2013 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

This bill is the first major revision of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2011 since its commencement. Such reform is essential to supporting the office's future strategic direction. These amendments seek to provide clearer guidelines around the commissioner's roles in advocacy and dispute resolution. By strengthening these functions, the bill helps the commissioner offer more effective assistance to small businesses, particularly those who are working through commercial disputes, late payment of invoices and contract disagreements.

At present, the Small Business Commissioner can mandate dispute resolution only for businesses in specific industries. A key reform included in this bill will provide consistency in the office's alternative dispute resolution services across all industries.

The bill will also extend this level of greater support to all small businesses regardless of the sector they operate in, ensuring that every small business in our state facing disputes or challenges can access the same level of support. Furthermore, this bill empowers the commissioner to require businesses to attend mediation sessions and provide relevant documents where necessary. This will be enforced by a maximum penalty of \$20,000 and an expiation fee of \$1,200 for noncompliance.

Another key provision of this bill is to refine the Small Business Commissioner's role to better reflect the commissioner's day-to-day functions. This bill also amends the objects section of the Small Business Commissioner Act to highlight the office's role in promoting fair and supportive business environments, facilitating independent dispute resolution, and acting as a bridge between small businesses and government agencies.

We understand there has been some confusion amongst stakeholders between the commissioner and the Office for Small and Family Business. To provide some distinction between these services, the commissioner will undergo a rebranding to become the Small Business

Commission SA. This change to clarify their identity also aligns with similar structures in other jurisdictions.

Other key provisions included in this reform provide clarification on dispute resolution and streamline court processes. To provide greater certainty regarding the scope of alternative dispute resolution, the bill introduces a formal definition of 'alternative dispute resolution' that excludes arbitration and expert determination. The legislative powers available to the commission under this bill are intended to offer a structured yet flexible process for resolving disputes, including preliminary assistance from the commissioner's advisers and independent mediation facilitated by an external mediator engaged by the commission.

Another change proposed in this bill will save businesses time and costs associated with prosecuting legal arguments in court. To streamline court processes, settlement agreements reached through the mediation facilitated by the Small Business Commissioner will be treated as minor statutory proceedings, simplifying enforcement in the Magistrates Court.

Finally, the bill introduces amendments to the Retail and Commercial Leases Act that were originally proposed by the Law Society of South Australia's Property Committee in 2018. 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.

Debate on this bill could not have come at a better time as we celebrate Support Small September. For the past four years—because I started even before I became the member for Elder, before I was elected to this place—I have participated in this social media trend to engage in the goods and services of a small business in my electorate every day for the month of September, and I give a shout-out to Rhiannon Newman for this excellent idea. I have continued it since she first suggested it.

This year so far, I have visited Good Burger, which is on Goodwood Road. It is actually in the place where a fabulous cafe called Our Food Project was, but the owners decided that they wanted to mix it up a bit, move away from the morning coffee crowd, and head into the evenings more. I highly recommend Good Burger for anyone looking for an excellent burger, to be honest. They also have these fantastic hot chips that they put what might even just be Keen's curry powder through and they are so delicious. I cannot recommend it highly enough. They also do poutine, so if anybody has enjoyed a trip to Canada and has been interested in it, that is the place to go for some poutine. Just in case anyone is wondering, I will be celebrating my birthday there the night before with some dinner and I am looking forward to their tiramisu. Everyone is welcome.

I also have visited Pullman Espresso Accessories. This was actually a small business that I stumbled across. I was doorknocking one day and was chatting to the person at the door and then she started talking about the business she and her husband run. Her husband creates the most gorgeous coffee accessories.

I actually cannot make a coffee to save my life, but Josh in my office can and I know others can and will appreciate this. All the things that you need to make your coffee at home with an espresso machine, they make. They hand carve beautiful wood and it is absolutely gorgeous. I cannot recommend their stuff enough. If you have a coffee snob in your life and you need something exciting and different—I see the member for Morphett is probably writing it down—it is Pullman Espresso Accessories. I highly recommend them.

Our Boy Roy is a business in Clarence Park, on East Avenue. They are a cafe, and they hosted the member for Badcoe's baby shower a few months ago, and it was excellent. They have a lovely outdoor area at the back, a lovely garden. They are very dog friendly, so you can take your pooch there for some breakfast. I can highly recommend their chilli scramble. Instead of serving it on sourdough or toast, they serve it on roti bread and it is next level. They also fry up curry leaves and sprinkle those on top, and it is excellent.

Another business that I stumbled across while I was doorknocking—because I am always out and about, chatting to the community—is CM30 Fitness Studio. This is a great little at-home

fitness studio where they help one or two people at a time with some personal training. The clients who were there when I stopped by could not speak highly enough about the support they were getting there.

Yiro Yiro is a new business on Winston Avenue. It is not far, just in the same block of shops as Beck's Bakehouse, which I am sure people are very familiar with. They are in Melrose Park. It is all in the name; it is an excellent yiros place. I am very partial to their haloumi yiros, but I also hear good things about the others as well. If you are lucky, you might turn up on a day when there are some excellent Greek desserts available too.

The CAROclub started off in a food truck, and they also have a bricks-and-mortar spot in Edwardstown on South Road. They do burgers—I know we have already spoken about Good Burger—and if you are not really into meat they also do a fried mushroom burger as well. It is not one big mushroom; it is lots of little ones, so it is extra crunchy.

There is also a place called Handmade Gifts, Homewares and Crafts, which is in Panorama. They are actually just across the road from Hark Coffee Roasters, which is another small business I have been highlighting this month, who make excellent coffees and also very good brownies. The gift shop is only open on weekends, I think, and they have different handmade gifts from a number of different people. What happened is that there were a number of women who, during COVID, realised they were spending their time making things and then ran out of people to give them to, or could not find ways of selling them to people.

So now there is this great place where you can get coasters, handmade dog treats—and what I got was a gorgeous apron, because I have discovered that I cannot keep cooking and ruining all my clothes by splashing oil on them. I cannot make coffee and apparently I cannot cook without getting myself messy, so I have a beautiful apron from there. There are also beautiful handmade baby blankets and beanies and gorgeous jewellery. There are so many great things there. You pop in there and then go grab an excellent coffee from Hark, where you can smell the coffee beans roasting.

Trezona Gluten Free Bakery is another excellent small business. They are located in Edwardstown. They actually started off in St Mary's and were a wholesaler (St Mary's is also in my electorate, which is excellent. I love that they did not move too far). They then decided to have a public-facing shop as well, so you are able to go grab a coffee and grab a gluten-free sausage roll or sweet treat. It is really great to know that there are options available to people who are coeliac or gluten intolerant.

Bebe Luxe is, I have to admit, just across the road from my electorate, but we welcome everybody into Elder. Bebe Luxe have beautiful, bright products like picnic rugs, dog leads and leashes, and bags. What I bought for my daughter is a hooded towel made of quick-dry material, which was really handy during my daughter's school swimming week, when every day she was coming home with wet things. This was something that was really quick to dry but also gave her the privacy she wanted while she was trying to get changed at the school swimming.

Friends with Florence is in Melrose Park as well. It is so cute and they have a little area for children to play. They also have a section where you can buy a second-hand book or different locally made products. I have to tell you that their hot chocolate is out of this world good. I had the one which has a house-made chili honey in it. It was incredible and I am really keen to get back there. Hopefully, I can swing by there first thing in the morning.

Hanns greengrocer is in Cumberland Park on Goodwood Road, just before you get to the corner of Cross Road. It is only a small fruit and veg shop, but they have an incredible selection of really high-quality fruit and veg that is generally in season. They try to have things that are really high quality rather than ending up with having everything available but not necessarily the best. I think we have all purchased some not so great, not so great-smelling strawberries in our time. They always make sure that they have really good quality control. That is Hanns greengrocer.

Pretty and Prickle is an adorable cacti and succulent shop that is run out of someone's home in the electorate, and it is very sweet. There is a huge array of options. I bought a little something for my new office. It is a great place to pick up a gift for somebody.

I have also headed to Bake Boss, because my partner had his 50th birthday celebration recently. It was a joint one with another friend who was turning 40, so I headed to Bake Boss and grabbed some of the number candles. Honestly, they have the biggest selection of sprinkles you could ever imagine in your life—multiple types of gold, all different colours, rainbow shapes. There are some Halloween sprinkles. If you are looking to decorate a cake anytime soon, or bake one, I highly recommend checking out Bake Boss in Clarence Gardens on South Road.

Recently, we had the pleasure of hosting a community barbecue, because one of my election commitments, an upgraded playground at Rozelle Reserve in Melrose Park, was being opened. We opened that and had a community barbecue. I have never seen sausages go as quickly as that. It was very well attended. It was excellent. People loved it, and I think part of that was that the sausages were from Cimarosti Bros in Daw Park. They have excellent meat. They are very popular, and they are also a really good community business. They support a lot of the local sports clubs, which is great.

We also have the Adelaide Detailing Garage, who did a gorgeous job on my car. I have a child I let eat in the car, so it is not an easy feat cleaning that car. Well done to them. It was lovely chatting to the ladies at Soma Skin and Beauty, especially Jackie and Alexandra, who took great care of me. They are really focused on finding out what your skin needs and providing you with the best treatment for you.

The member for Badcoe recently celebrated a birthday. Leading up to that, I went and visited Shaun C. Duncan Custom Framing and Fine Art Printing and got one of *The Advertiser's* newspaper articles about the member for Badcoe and her new baby Quinn framed for her birthday. It came up really well, so thank you to Shaun.

With school holidays coming up and my to-be-read pile by my bed starting to decrease, I headed to Colonel Light Books on Goodwood Road and got a selection of second-hand books for myself and my daughter. I also last week went to B Acupuncture and Body. Briony was incredible. I highly recommend heading there if you are looking to getting any sort of niggles and pains looked at.

Rice Bar, which is also in the same block of shops as Becks and Yiro Yiro serve excellent Japanese food. It is really affordable. Apparently, miso soup is very good for our gut health, so I recommend heading there for a bento box and a miso. I also have gone to Sweetlana Alterations in Mitchell Park. Lana is—actually, it is all in the name again—very sweet. I got a couple of pants altered. It was super affordable and really well done, so thank you, Lana.

On Monday, I was in Port Pirie for a Suicide Prevention Council meeting. I got home about seven and was very hungry, so I went to Bhoje Chhen on Daws Road for some excellent momos and some more food, because I love Nepalese food. We are really lucky to have a good Nepalese restaurant in our area.

Michelangelo Dial A Pizza in Clarence Gardens, another hot tip, is on a notorious intersection, but it is worth going there. Caulfield and Winston is tricky, but Michelangelo's is worth stopping at, and I recommend their veggie pizza. I have also highlighted DRIP House of Hot, a new gym in Cumberland Park where you exercise in a 35-degree heated room with infrared sauna lights on top. It is very sweaty but it is really great; you feel pretty good afterwards.

With just a few days left to go, I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for the next few small businesses that I will be sharing. After four years of participating in Support Small September, members of my community have a single place highlighting more than 100 small and family businesses in my electorate, and there are many more to go.

Meeting so many small and family business owners has given me an appreciation for the unique pressures, challenges and risk of investing your own capital and providing for your workers and the broader community. There are so many unique and powerful ways the Malinauskas Labor government is supporting small businesses in South Australia, including the reforms being debated today: whether it is our \$14 million Small Business Strategy or programs like our Small Business Fundamentals Program, Women in Business Program, Mental Health and Wellbeing Program or Small Business Sustainability Support Program, just to name a few, we are providing a dynamic and expansive suite of support for small and family businesses to thrive in South Australia.

Whether you own, run, work in or for a small or family business in South Australia, we thank you. Bills such as the one before the house today are just one of the many ways this state government is here to support you. I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (16:41): I am very pleased to have the opportunity to rise to speak on this bill and offer a few words of support in my capacity as the member for Wright. One of the characteristics of the seat that I represent in the north-eastern suburbs is that it is made up of a lot of small and family businesses; I do not have a lot of what you would describe as bigger businesses in my electorate. I did when I had Salisbury South within the boundaries for one term, but that is no longer the case. I know from living in the community and the work I have done around doorknocking and meeting people that there are a lot of small and family businesses that also employ a lot of people.

We know that, as a number of speakers who have already contributed to this bill have already remarked, it is a big task running a small business and we are in an age where I think all households are probably busier than they have ever been. Certainly, one of the comments that is often passed on to me by a small business owner, and also the partner of that small business owner who may work either full-time or part-time on the business as well, is that it is harder than ever to do the work you need to do, whether it is around payroll or compliance or whatever it might be, whilst simultaneously juggling that person's other job and the pressures of having a family as well.

So I think it is really important that governments of whatever political persuasion do whatever they can to try to assist small businesses with some of the things that come up that can make their lives more difficult and to try to actually do that in a meaningful way. I commend the Minister for Small Business for the work that has been done here with this bill and the consultation that has been done as well.

I want to offer my thanks as well to South Australia's Small Business Commissioner who I know is a very active and passionate person, which is what you need to have in that role. By its very nature, the work it is often doing is trying to bring parties together who might be opposed on an issue to try to find a way through situations that can often be complex without them needing to go further in terms of needing more costly or complicated dispute resolution, and I think that is important.

Whilst we often talk around the need for our legal system to be accessible and affordable, I still think the truth—not just here in South Australia but around the world—is that for many people it is routinely not affordable or accessible, particularly when one needs to enter a courtroom or retain formal legal counsel and therefore pay for that. Often, the decision that is made by that party is that it is all too hard and they will step back. That is often done even in scenarios where they may be on very, very strong legal ground in terms of what has been done.

I think too that sometimes parties who know that they have the deeper pockets and are able to push an issue all the way potentially into one of those formal legal settings and are able to pay for their own legal counsel to represent them will do so in the knowledge that the other party eventually will have to pull out because they cannot afford to do that and it is invariably the small business operator who is on the losing end of that scenario and that is why having this model of a Small Business Commissioner in South Australia is really, really important.

I know that the minister has had, of course, a lot of feedback from parties who have used the services of the Small Business Commissioner about how useful and successful it is, but I have also had examples passed on to me, as the member for Wright, from people who have used those services and have been very, very impressed and I think that is fantastic. I think it shows that there are practical things governments can do around dispute resolution and keeping access to dispute resolution affordable so all people can use it.

One of the things I wanted to particularly touch upon here that I was talking to the minister about just before, which I think is really important and an impressive feature of the bill, is its proposal to strengthen the support the commission can offer in a dispute resolution scenario. The current arrangement is the commissioner administers a range of industry codes under the Fair Trading Act, which afford the commissioner the power to notify and compel parties in a dispute to attend or participate in alternative dispute resolution procedures, and that is a really good thing.

However, small businesses outside these prescribed industries are unable to benefit from this. To remedy this issue the bill is proposing to standardise the level of support that the commission can provide to small business owners seeking assistance with alternative dispute resolution, irrespective of what industry sector they are in. I think that is an excellent feature of this bill: to broaden essentially the remit or the breadth of those who can seek to have remediation or support from the Small Business Commissioner to those who have currently been unable to do so.

I think what that will ultimately result in is more cases where there has been a dispute arise between, for instance, a business or a small business and another party that might otherwise be a protracted case that goes for a long time unresolved, which costs potentially both parties a lot of money, which can come before the Small Business Commissioner who can use their powers to compel them to come to the table and actually reach a resolution that does not cost either party money and hopefully enables them both to move forward.

On behalf of the small business owners, particularly in the seat of Wright that I represent in this place, I wanted to acknowledge the importance of this bill and my support for it and thank the minister and her department, including the Small Business Commissioner, Ms Kilvert, on the work that has been done so far to get it to this point. We have had, I think, now a Small Business Commissioner, if I remember correctly, in South Australia since about 2011, so we are about 13 years into having that.

I remember at its inception the work that was done to set it up, but in 13 years a lot changes and it is right that this has come before the house and we look at making changes to bring it up to speed with all those things that have changed in the 13 years that have passed since it was first set up but also to look more precisely at things that can be done to strengthen the powers of the Small Business Commissioner.

I very much hope that those people in the north-eastern suburbs who run small businesses who might be in a situation where they need some kind of assistance but do not feel able, for whatever reason, to seek that through a more formal legal procedure will consider using the services of the Small Business Commissioner either now or if they were previously not able to once hopefully this bill passes this place and the other place and is enacted into law. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (16:48): I rise to speak in support of the Statutes Amendment (Small Business Commission and Retail and Commercial Leases) Bill 2024 and do so in full context and appreciation that it is tough out there. Running a small business is no walk in the park and it is usually small businesses that bear the brunt whenever economic conditions become difficult.

I choose my words in full appreciation that as we pay the price for the relief delivered through the pandemic, the pain that these companies feel through high inflation and high interest rates against large home mortgages is biting hard. Having said that, anything that can make life that little bit easier, even if it is what I call a 'one per center'—not to diminish the value of the bill—should be welcomed. I am pleased that the merits of this bill have also been recognised by the opposition.

In this context, I am pleased to lend my voice in support of this legislation, as its root and core is a driving force to make life easier for the mums and dads and everyone else who works tirelessly in their small businesses across our state. We can never forget that they are the backbone of our economy and it is vital that we enshrine a strong advocate who bats hard on their behalf.

In contrast to alternative dispute resolution services, I welcome how this bill extends the level of support offered to all small businesses regardless of the sector that they operate in. We have had the commissioner in place since 2011, which was a great initiative by the previous Labor government. This change ensures every small business can access the same level of support when they face disputes or challenges.

It is also encouraging that the powers of the commission have been broadened, giving them the ability 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. Let us hope this power is not used that often, but it does provide peace of mind to the overwhelming number of small businesses within my community that strive to do the

right thing. Importantly, this reform has the potential to avoid court proceedings, broadening the efficiencies and bottom line of our small business sector.

Also saving small businesses time and cost is the streamlining of court processes. Settlement agreements reached through mediation facilitated by the Small Business Commissioner will be treated as a minor statutory proceeding and therefore a welcome simplification around enforcement within the Magistrates Court.

I am sure there have been numerous businesses that have suffered as a result of ambiguity in the existing legislation. I note other important 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 of the act.

While my electorate is surrounded by some big industry, Playford from the air looks primarily like an electorate consisting of mostly houses, schools, community groups and some amazing small businesses. We have the retail precincts in Paralowie, Parafield Gardens and, of course, Hollywood Plaza in Salisbury Downs, all of which are populated by some amazing small businesses, often run by locals themselves.

What separates us from many parts is the make-up of multicultural communities working hard to make a living and often bringing a piece of their homeland to share in the process. I want to thank them all for sharing all that they cherish. Restaurants operated by my friends Mr Jaskaran Dhillon and Jimmy from Stanleys spring to mind, and there are also a lot of brilliant Indian, Asian and even Fijian grocery stores that feature prominently on the retail landscape. We are of course the epicentre of the banh mi, and I would happily raise a bet against any other MP seeking to prove me wrong—perhaps the member for Wright or the member for Ramsay. Maybe we will have a competition in the future just to see if I am right.

I understand a lot of success in the commissioner engaging with these communities is attributed to the effort taken to translate materials into languages other than English. When 42 per cent of my community was born overseas, myself included, efforts like these go down well and clearly show that the commission is working well and really does mean business.

The other sector in my community in which small business is pivotal is based around the light industry we see around Green Fields. This includes a lot of small and medium-sized businesses, including logistics companies and the businesses that support them, but I would also be surprised if there were a space beyond this area that would sell as many caravans as you would be able to sell within my community. Noting that this bill also broadens the objects within the act, I think there are many businesses in Playford that will gain a greater understanding of the commission's purpose by highlighting the office's role in promoting a fair and supportive business environment and also facilitating independent dispute resolution and acting as a bridge between small businesses and, of course, government agencies.

On a slight segue, recently my office visited many businesses, one by one, and explained to them the state government's grant scheme to lower the costs of energy consumption as part of Round 2 of the Economic Recovery Fund. Energy efficiency grants of \$50,000 will certainly be welcome and not just deliver efficiencies but, again, lower the costs of operating in a competitive environment. I am hopeful that many local operators pursue a grant application, as I know the reward will be tangible and welcomed deeply. And, of course, when they win, this also gives them room to take on more employees. Given that small businesses equate to 97 per cent of the state's total businesses and employ 300,000 people, or nearly 40 per cent of the workforce, collectively they are too big to fail and we must do whatever we can to ensure their success.

While I have painted what I think is a positive picture of small businesses within my community, we cannot ignore that even in the best of times it is tough and the sacrifices are deep and real in order to succeed. This bill rightfully acknowledges the difficult business environment that they operate within. Arguably, for the first time in recent memory, rising costs, including wages and rent, do not seem to be on the wane and reinforce the importance now, more than ever, to provide a

robust and supportive network, and I feel it succeeds by ensuring small businesses have access to the help that they may need.

While I like this bill and feel it is worthwhile, I think it is also down to the commissioner herself. She is often seen in and around the City of Salisbury explaining her role to the community. I am sure she spends a lot of time also behind a desk, but I feel the current commissioner, Nerissa Kilvert, should be commended for all the fieldwork that she does and it is certainly noticed by a lot of the business operators in my community and absolutely appreciated.

I will say also from the perspective of the local MP that I have found her nothing but approachable and hard working. It is lovely to be able to say just these few words and put it down on the record how much of an asset she is to our community. It also bears mentioning some of the work of the other commissioners as well in the past. I do remember working alongside John Chaplin when things first got set up and he was also exemplary in the role. But getting back to Nerissa, I do think it is fantastic that she and her team connect with their grassroots, and I am sure other members will attest to how active she is within their communities.

With this in mind, I feel they should be rewarded, not just with the powers that they need to get the job done but also the time of this parliament in recognition of the hard work that we all see. We cannot and should not ignore the difficulties linked to running a small business, be it in the sacrifice of time needed to succeed, the huge risks associated with getting set up and running, compliance, insurance, rising costs, and just the difficulties of luring customers through the front door. Anything that makes life easier for those out there, we should welcome, and with this in mind I am very, very happy to commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (16:58): I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the bill particularly by praising the work of small business operators and owners in South Australia, and particularly in my electorate. I have had a very long history of firsthand experience, second-hand experience and everyday experience with small businesses in the electorate of Unley. It was where I started my small business career, and it is where we have seen a lot of resilience in small business and a lot of change in small business. It was in 1984 that I started my 22-year career in small business. At that time it was in the furniture manufacturing industry. Finishing an apprenticeship, I saw an opportunity to perhaps go out and do something myself, and I think that says a lot about the accessibility that a country like Australia has for people who want to have a go at their own small business.

There are some people who think that people who are in business are born into business, or they are given a business, or they have lots of money and that is why they are in business, and they cannot possibly be in business because they do not have the connections, they do not have the family money and they were born on the wrong side of the street. The fact is that small business works for anybody who wants to give it a go. But there are massive risks in small business. Half of small businesses do not get to 12 months and of those that do get to 12 months, half of them again do not get to five years.

I think that is something that we need to remember: when people take that risk and decide to have a go for themselves, if their business fails it does not mean that they have failed. Australia has a funny culture about people who have a go and fail; we tend to write them off. In places like America, Israel and other countries that are very focused on entrepreneurship, people will see that as another notch on the stick that has moved you closer to your goal of being an entrepreneur and having a successful business.

It is commendable that we are seeing a lot of people of my children's age moving into taking control of their own lives and working as a contractor with the skills that they have learned at university or as apprentices in the building industry or the IT industry. They have learned that they have a skill that is in demand and they have learned what it is worth, and consequently they have been given that opportunity. It was unusual for someone in their early 20s to start their own business back 40-odd years ago; however, now it is quite common, and it is terrific to see.

People who may move into a contracting role or being ABN-registered for GST can even then decide to become a proprietary limited and grow their business enterprise without employing a single person. There are thousands of small businesses in South Australia that are successful and

that have shareholdings, usually family members, and one or two directors—again, usually family members—and these are the small businesses that drive the South Australian economy. These are small businesses that are available to anybody.

There was a terrific story about Rupert Murdoch and his beginnings on *Australian Story* just the other week about how he turned a single ailing inheritance, *The News* and the *Sunday Mail*, into a multinational business. That is how multinational businesses are built. Ironically, many of the businesses that support the retirement incomes of so many employees and others now in Australia started off as family businesses and are now multinational publicly listed businesses.

Banks and large retailers—whether it be Coles or Woolworths, who are getting a bit of a hammering at the moment—their profits are providing income-generating and profit-generating streams for industry super funds, the Public Service super fund and private super funds. People's retirements are benefiting from these once small family businesses that have become public companies and are now the subject of shareholdings and superannuation funds.

It always amuses me when I hear those on the Left, particularly—whether it be the Greens, whether it be the ACTU—whingeing about the profits that companies make. What they do not realise is that if those companies were not making profits their members would have to work longer before they could retire because their superannuation balances would be smaller, and they would be smaller because these publicly-listed companies were not making profits.

This is the beauty of the free enterprise system, that it works for everybody. It works for all those who participate in it and even those who do not participate in it benefit from it. We know the social experiment of the Soviet Union lasted only 70 years; an economy without any supply and demand mechanism, without any private sector, was simply not sustainable.

Small business has become a lot more complicated since I started, and I certainly feel for people who may not have a business background, who may not have an MBA or a finance degree, but who might just be very good plumbers or carpenters or bakers, for example. There is a lot more compliance they must meet these days and there is a lot more risk to getting paid.

One of the things I learnt very early in my small business career was to make sure you get paid. That was key advice from someone I was introduced to who had been running a kitchen manufacturing firm for many years. They said, 'Make sure you get paid. You deserve to get paid. You've done the work, and make sure you get paid.' It was very good advice, and I certainly made that a number one priority, because when you do not get paid in small business it is not just you that suffers but also your staff and your creditors as well.

We are seeing that with what is happening in Whyalla at the moment with GFG not paying their bills. We see that flowing down through the whole small business community in Whyalla, and it is affecting employees of those businesses, who are either having their hours cut, if they are able to work, or are being laid off. Small businesses are not spending money, either discretionary money out of their incomes or money investing in their businesses locally, whether that be upgrading the business or getting new equipment, training staff. It has a spiralling effect.

I remember when I walked into what I think was called the Small Business Centre on the corner of South Terrace and Walker Street. It was old white Victorian building—which I think is still there—where I got advice around what I might need to do to start my own business, as a 21-year-old who just finished an apprenticeship. Compare the services that were being provided at that very early entry point—and if I had not had that available to me, without anybody in my family or anybody I knew being in business, I do not know if I would have taken the step to start my own business—to the complexities of small business now, needing to elevate it to a Small Business Commissioner, and giving that commissioner additional powers and services to provide to small business, which are really focused around litigation and fairness and a much more established level for business.

I would like to see more support for aspiring young entrepreneurs, people who have got to a stage in their life where they might want to give it a go. They have established themselves in their profession or their field and they are in a phase of their life where they are no longer paying off debt. They are debt-free and they can take a risk or two that they were not prepared to take when they had a mortgage to pay, and they might decide to do something completely different.

We do see this. How often do you hear a story of someone who has left the public sector in their early fifties to buy a caravan park or a newsagent?

It is great to see, and people should be encouraged and, of course, there should be support for them to move into that process so that their business is successful. Just because you have bought a successful business, it does not mean that your running of that business is going to be successful if you are not ready for it, if you are not prepared for it.

I always find it slightly amusing that, when somebody buys a successful business and they are paying a substantial amount of money for the goodwill of that business, the first thing they do is put a sign at the front saying, 'Under new management'. All of a sudden, you are telling people who have been loyal to that business, you are giving them an excuse, to not come anymore because it is not the old owners anymore, even though they may never have met them or did not know who they are.

I understand if you bought a business that does not have a very good reputation and you bought it at a bargain and you want to let people know that things are changing and it is getting better, but if you buy a business that is very successful because of its reputation and people are automatically going there because of its reputation, and you put a sign up saying, 'Something might change here. Maybe you want to think twice about spending your money here,' I always find that extraordinary.

I know people might be very excited about the fact they have a new business and they want people to know about it, but my advice would be that if you have bought a business because it has a massively good reputation, then do not sell it. It is a bit like Beaumont Tiles who successfully did a deal with Bunnings, but the family are still very much seen as being part of the business. That is the successful way to run a business.

There was a stage when the big breweries were buying the small craft breweries and then absorbing them into their own businesses and rebranding them, and then wondering why they did not work. About five or six years ago, they moved the process of buying those breweries, not making any announcement about the purchase and letting those who used to own them run them under the same brand. They have been very successful in their transition because they have capitalised on the goodwill that that business had developed or worked up over the years.

This government is certainly not doing enough for entrepreneurial culture, embracing and supporting entrepreneurial culture. It is very disappointing that we do not have the entrepreneurial high school concept anymore. It was a project that we got off the ground very early, an entrepreneurial curriculum. I was so impressed when I visited those schools as the Minister for Innovation and sat there and heard pitches for products or services that had been developed by year 9 students who were talking about profit and explaining how they needed that profit in order to expand their business and achieve the outcomes they wanted.

Many of those outcomes were community-based outcomes. The kids were talking about profit for charities they were raising money for. They worked out very quickly that unless they were making a profit on the products, on the work that they were doing, they were not able to do the good work that they hoped they would be able to do by running this business. They recognised that they were valuable, that they were adding value to the business, and that value needed to be rewarded in order for them to do the work they wanted to with that money.

One of things that businesses tend to forget is that they tend to undervalue what they do. I have seen that time and time again. I know that I certainly did, although those who were buying my furniture at the time at the price they paid might not agree. People tend to undervalue the work they do when they work for themselves. They should not because the work they do should be valued and rewarded. I think it is a bit like those in the creative industries. Again, many small business operators in the creative industries are notorious for undervaluing the work they are offering to the community and their customers. People learn that it is important that they put a value on what they do for the survival of the business, for the success of the business, for their ability to employ more staff and for the business to grow.

Regarding the state of small business in South Australia today, I do fear for those people who have been running small businesses for a number of years and have got to an age where they are considering retirement and they are expected to use the goodwill of that business to sell on to somebody else, whether it be a butcher shop, a fruit and veg shop or a newsagent.

Up until recently, up until the Albanese government changed the Fair Work Act, if they had fewer than 15 staff they were exempt from redundancy payments when the business was sold or if they needed to close the business to retire. But the cruelty of this change in policy, unannounced and retrospective, is that for a small business that might only be worth \$200,000 or \$300,000 for the goodwill—you could be taking over the lease of a butcher shop, for example—that money now will be discounted from the price that the new owner will pay because they are taking on a liability that was not there before the Albanese government came to office—the liability of redundancies that they automatically inherit when they buy that company.

The other alternative, of course, is that it might be a condition for the new owner that they get all their own staff, so redundancies then have to be funded from the existing owner, which eats up just about all of the sale price that he or she is expecting for the business. It is not just butchers; it would be hairdressers and beauticians. You see these lining the streets wherever you see strip shopping, whether it be Semaphore Road, whether it be Unley Road, whether it be The Parade.

You see these small businesses that have been there for many, many years. You see the owners of these businesses who are looking as though they are in their senior years. They are still as enthusiastic as ever, but they are looking for options to retire or semiretire and do something else for the last decade or so of their working life. Now they are hit with this massive burden of unplanned and unexpected redundancy costs that will be forced on them when they sell that business to a new owner.

Consequently, you could argue it is the socialisation of the profit, if you like, of that business person when those staff who took on those jobs were well aware that there was no redundancy application working for a small business like that. People who work for small businesses tend to have a preference for working for small business because there is a completely different attitude, a completely different feel, a different environment than working for a big business. It is really a family environment with lots of flexibility. It is a friendly environment.

To wrap up, what we have seen from the new amendments to this bill are a reflection of how more complicated it is to do business in the modern world.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (17:18): I want to thank all the members for their support of this bill, including the members for Heysen and Unley from the opposition and the members for Adelaide, Dunstan, King, Hurtle Vale, Giles, Light, Elder, Wright and Playford. I want to acknowledge the incredible work of the Small Business Commissioner and I got the opportunity to talk about that in question time today in respect of her response to the Whyalla situation. I want to thank her for that and for her office's work in putting together all the work behind this bill. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (17:20): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. S.E. Close.

*Personal Explanation***LABOUR FORCE DATA**

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (17:20): I rise, pursuant to standing order 108, to seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Earlier this afternoon, I was alarmed and surprised to see that the member for Morialta raised a matter of privilege concerning remarks I had made yesterday in the house about labour force data produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In that matter of privilege, the member for Morialta said, 'It is clear that the Treasurer has knowingly and intentionally misled the parliament,' which is a grave allegation to make against another member. So I thought I might take the earliest opportunity to clarify what has happened here.

The member for Morialta says that I had said that the unemployment figures for South Australia had had a 3 in front of them 13 times in the last two years and that that is the only time they had been such. He went on to quote labour force statistics from December 2021, which he claimed showed the unemployment rate in that month as being 3.9 per cent, which would be inconsistent with the information I gave to the house. I was puzzled by that because both my office and I had checked those statistics before I gave that information to the house yesterday. So, after I heard the member for Morialta's contribution this afternoon, I checked again.

Of course, when the ABS releases this data, they also release an Excel spreadsheet, called Table 7, which provides labour force status by sex for South Australia in seasonally adjusted, original and trend terms. I went back and had a look at December 2021, and the figure that was there was 4.0 per cent, not the 3.9 that the member for Morialta had alleged and upon which he based his serious allegation that I knowingly and intentionally misled the house.

I thought, 'Hang on a minute, surely the member for Morialta has just made a simple error,' because imagine a former Minister for Education confusing the third and the fourth positive integer—a man who had a policy of numeracy when he held the office of Minister for Education. I thought not even he could be so inept.

So I went back and had a look at the ABS data. Those of us who are familiar with using the ABS datasets, particularly seasonally adjusted data, know of course that when a month's data is released it quite often can be revised in the next month, or in the month after that, or in the month after that. In fact, there is a disclaimer at the bottom of each ABS data release when it comes to seasonally adjusted data, and it draws the attention of the reader to the fact that of course this data is subject to change. In regard to seasonal adjustment techniques used by the ABS, they note in their methodology section in the report:

This process can result in revisions each month to estimates for earlier periods. However, in most instances, the only noticeable revisions will be to the seasonally adjusted estimates for the previous month and one year prior to the current month.

Where does this get us? From what I can deduce, the member for Morialta has gone back and looked at what was happening under the previous Liberal government when the December 2021 data came out, which of course would have been in January 2022. He had a look at their release, or had a look at the information they had at hand then, but of course completely ignored the fact that this data is subject to change and it has, of course, been changed within that first 12-month period since that data was first released.

So who is right? Well, as of yesterday and as of today, of course, the information I have provided to the house is correct, and the allegation that the member for Morialta has made to this place today that I knowingly and intentionally misled the house is wrong. Before I leave it there, I just thought I would remind the house what the test is of a matter of privilege being upheld in the house.

As the member for Morialta's close colleague and immediate superior, the member for Hartley, a former Speaker, has advised the house, the test, of course, comes from McGee in *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand*. It sets out what is regarded to be the best encapsulation of

the test for whether or not a matter of privilege is, defining it as whether it is genuinely being regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties.

I think the test now is, in the childish, schoolboy, tedious way that the member for Morialta came into this place this afternoon and made an allegation that I knowingly and intentionally misled the house: was it my behaviour, now demonstrated to be factually correct, which has done that, or is it the tedium and the pettiness of the member for Morialta? I think the rest of us can be judges of that.

Bills

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 25 September 2024.)

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (17:27): I am looking forward to this bill passing. We have had an extraordinary experience of climate change in the last few years across the world, and anyone who thinks that that is something that South Australia gets to sit out and does not have to respond to is, of course, misleading themselves and not looking at the harsh reality square in the face, which is not only that we will need to decarbonise rapidly in order to remain economically relevant to the rest of the world but also that we are going to be facing the serious implications of a warming globe and we need to prepare our infrastructure, social as well as economic, for that.

The good news is that as we make those shifts, and as we have already made those shifts, we will not only see improvements in our economic positioning and our moral contribution to the reduction in emissions but also we will see important shifts in the strength of our environment as we do this in a way that is cognisant of the challenges to nature that are occurring at the same time as climate change.

As we make this shift, we can see just beyond the horizon a new economy that emerges that is lighter on the earth, both in greenhouse gas emissions and also in the way in which nature is treated and respected. We see primary production that is healthy and based on the demands of our markets, and also reflective of the demands of the planet. That is just around the corner for us. There are many efforts that need to be made in many sectors, but the role of legislation is of note and of weight, and that is what we will be contemplating today. I thank all those who have made contributions and I look forward to going through the committee stage and passing this piece of legislation.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr PATTERSON: I refer to some of the information released via the South Australian government website and also more globally. A quite common graph used in the South Australian context says that in the 2005 year South Australian net emissions were approximately 36 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and, as at 2021-22, it is down to approximately 16 megatonnes. So that is a downward trajectory.

At the same time, as I referred to in my second reading contribution, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released their assessment report back in 2022 that gave figures up to 2019. One of those reports was the Mitigation of Climate Change. It showed that while in 2005 global emissions of CO₂ equivalent were 47,000 megatonnes, by 2019 these had risen to 59,000 megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent. That was at that time. Since 2019, there have been further

reports from different agencies, the International Energy Agency being one of them. Coal, oil and gas use have reached new records globally in 2022 and we have a similar trajectory in terms of gas, particularly in Asia.

Taking all that into account, and noting that there have been reductions made here in South Australia, have the reductions made by South Australia so far made a direct difference to the temperature here in South Australia? Also, have the effects of climate change been experienced in South Australia? If so, please explain, and also by how much?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: We had a similar discussion I think at either the most recent estimates or the one before, where the member questioned whether I had ever said in public that it did not make much difference to the world if we lowered our emissions or not. It was a question along those lines. I think the tenor of the question here is that, first of all, clearly we have a very small amount of greenhouse gas emissions in comparison to those contributed by the world—a very small proportion—also noting that, while ours have come down, the global emissions have continued to go up.

I think that the intention, if I understand it correctly, in asking what difference we have made to climate change is clearly—and I know the member is a very well-educated man—that the contribution of South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to the amount that is sitting in the atmosphere is tiny. Whether we turn off tomorrow or not will not stop climate change. That is accepted, and it is something that I say in public frequently. The next stage of the question is: so what? Do we just put up as many emissions as we want or not?

When you are talking about climate change, which is something that is caused in multiple places across the world and experienced in multiple places, very distinct say from a lead smelter, that if the lead comes out of that smelter it poisons immediately around that site, climate change, the emissions of fossil fuels into the atmosphere, occurs in a diverse number of places and is experienced everywhere because that is how the climate works, that is how the greenhouse effect works.

The purpose of South Australia setting stringent targets is not in order to save the world by ourselves, nor is it to get somehow permission to sit out climate change. What it is is primarily preparing ourselves for the economic requirements of a world that will recognise it needs to decarbonise rapidly. An example of that requirement is the way in which Europe is increasingly moving its trade restrictions to recognise that if they are going to be lowering carbon emissions, they are not going to give a free pass to goods coming into Europe that have not similarly had to do the same.

As those barriers to trade go up, we will see that those states and nations that have not responded to climate change by decarbonising their economy will pay the price. There is an economic rationale for doing it. There is also, of course, a leadership rationale for doing this. While South Australia is a very small place in the big wide world, we nonetheless lead the world in our contribution by saying that you can reduce carbon emissions from your electricity grid using intermittent sources. The most recent annual figure, being 74 per cent of our electricity generation coming from renewable resources, puts us at the forefront of the world because they come from wind and sun. There are jurisdictions that do better but they do it using hydro. We do not have a surplus of mountains, fast flowing rivers, the willingness to dam, nor rain. Because of that absence of hydro, the fact that we have been able to do this using wind and sun and, of course, storage to back those up, such as the big battery, demonstrates leadership for those other jurisdictions that are in the same situation as us.

So the question: how much has the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions contributed to climate change is a nonsensical question, with respect, because the very small amount that is produced here makes very little difference to how much is in the atmosphere. But the fact that we have been able to decouple economic growth from growth in fossil fuels, the fact that we have been able to do that in a resource-rich environment where we have no hydro power to produce electricity, the fact that we have been able to do that serves as an exemplar and it also sets us on the journey to be ready to be a place that can continue to trade in an increasingly carbon-constrained global economy.

Mr PATTERSON: Taking that into account, and the transition that is involved, how can farmers be reassured that unlike what has occurred in the energy industry where it has resulted in seeing power bills skyrocket as part of the renewable energy transition, that food production costs will not suffer the same fate and cause cost increases that will then flow on to the prices that South Australians pay for their food?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I read with some interest, although slight mystification, one of the amendments that the member has put forward. The impact on prices for our primary producers in not being able to demonstrate that they are coming from a low carbon and increasingly ESG environment will be significant. The impact on anyone producing, including our farmers, in not being able to demonstrate to the markets into which they are selling that they are responsive to the challenge of climate change will be enormous. That is why we need to make sure that we are preparing our economy in all sectors for that reality.

The truth is, as so often happens, the community and the economy—the businesses, the primary producers in the economy—tend to be ahead of politicians. It is certainly true when we compare the community and the economy with Canberra politicians; I will not say so much here, because there has tended not to be a fight over climate change here. If you talk to the dairy producers about the way in which they are preparing to track the carbon input for all of their dairy production, no-one is making them do that from a government perspective nor from a legal perspective, and this legislation does not require them to do that. They are doing that because they recognise the demands of the market and where it is going.

So what difference will this make to the price of food? It ought make no difference to the price of food; it is certainly not intended to do that. What it ought to do is say as a state we recognise the need to drop our carbon emissions and also to adapt to climate change. These two things are bigger than us and we do not get to choose.

We do not get to choose about the impact of climate change, which we see all the time in the intense bursts of weather that we experience, the fires and the overall drying—we are seeing that right now in the South-East, which is in quite desperate circumstances. We also do not get to say to Europe, 'We're not going to worry about your standards when we sell our wine, when we sell our wheat, when we sell our dairy products. We're just going to keep doing whatever we want and we are not going to tell you what our standards are.' We do not get to do that. That is happening anyway. What this does is give the picture overall for the state about where we need to be and the role that government plays in working with different sectors on how we get there together.

The CHAIR: Member for Morphet, you can ask your lucky last question.

Mr PATTERSON: Yes, thank you for reminding me, Chair. Just in terms of those sectors, let's talk about homebuilders. Regarding the situations that have occurred in the energy industry, where there have been increased costs and that has flowed through to power bills that South Australians are paying, which have increased massively, how can they be assured that this bill and the targets being set will not have an impact on construction material costs such as concrete, bricks and steel and that they will not suffer the same fate and have cost increases that will flow through to the prices South Australians pay for their homes?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I think that the foundation of the question is coming from a misunderstanding of what is happening with electricity prices. Electricity prices are not going up because of climate change; electricity prices are going up because for 10, 15 years we have across Australia experienced the most illogical argument about whether climate change is real and needs to be responded to, which has absolutely frozen the willingness and the capacity to invest in new infrastructure for electricity. We have ageing power stations interstate, coal power stations, that are well beyond their lifespan because no-one has known what to invest in.

I do not blame your side of politics in this house, because you have never publicly said you do not believe in climate change, but I will blame your side of politics in Canberra. The fact that someone who went on to become Prime Minister felt that it was amusing to bring a lump of coal into parliament and laugh about how inert and harmless it is says everything you need to know about their incapacity to recognise that there needed to be clear lines set and established for the way in

which infrastructure needed to be invested in. It is that immovability and that paralysis that has led to the increase in electricity prices.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

CASINO (PENALTIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION (PUBLIC REGISTER) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (SECTION 20A) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

No. 1. Clause 6, page 5, lines 1 to 5 [clause 6(1), inserted subsection (1aaa)]—Delete subsection (1aaa) and substitute:

- (1aaa) An employee or officer of an organisation, or of a branch or division of an organisation, must not be appointed as a member, or as a deputy of a member, of the Board while that organisation, branch or division (as the case requires) is under administration pursuant to the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* of the Commonwealth in respect of its operations in the State.

No. 2. Clause 6, page 5, after line 43—After subclause (5) insert:

- (6) Section 5(5)—after paragraph (e) insert:
- (ea) is, or becomes, an employee or officer of an organisation, or of a branch or division of an organisation, while that organisation, branch or division (as the case requires) is under administration pursuant to the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* of the Commonwealth in respect of its operations in the State; or
- (7) Section 5—after subsection (5) insert:
- (5a) The appointment of a person as a deputy of a member is, by force of this subsection, revoked if the person is, or becomes, an employee or officer of an organisation, or of a branch or division of an organisation, while that organisation, branch or division (as the case requires) is under administration pursuant to the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* of the Commonwealth in respect of its operations in the State.

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

Motion carried.

At 17:49 the house adjourned until Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 11:00.