

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**Wednesday, 19 March 2025**

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

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

*Bills***STATUTES AMENDMENT (ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS) BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 5 March 2025.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:32): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes25
Noes.....15
Majority10

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Piccolo, A.
Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.J.

Boyer, B.I.
Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Picton, C.J.
Szakacs, J.K.

Brown, M.E.
Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Pearce, R.K.
Savvas, O.M.
Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
Ellis, F.J.
McBride, P.N.
Pisoni, D.G. (teller)
Teague, J.B.

Brock, G.G.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

Cowdrey, M.J.
Hurn, A.M.
Pederick, A.S.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (SEXUAL PREDATION OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 30 October 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:39): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

While the division was in progress:

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: While the counting is underway, I would like to welcome Karlene Maywald to the gallery today, former member for Chaffey and Minister for Water. Good to see you, Karlene.

Bills

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (SEXUAL PREDATION OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Ayes25
Noes.....14
Majority11

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Piccolo, A.
Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.J.

Boyer, B.I.
Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Picton, C.J.
Szakacs, J.K.

Brown, M.E.
Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Pearce, R.K.
Savvas, O.M.
Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
Ellis, F.J.
McBride, P.N.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

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

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

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:48): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes25
Noes.....16
Majority9

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
 Champion, N.D.
 Cook, N.F.
 Hildyard, K.A.
 Hutchesson, C.L.
 Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
 Piccolo, A.
 Stinson, J.M.
 Wortley, D.J.

Boyer, B.I.
 Clancy, N.P.
 Dighton, A.E.
 Hood, L.P.
 Koutsantonis, A.
 O'Hanlon, C.C.
 Picton, C.J.
 Szakacs, J.K.

Brown, M.E.
 Close, S.E.
 Fulbrook, J.P.
 Hughes, E.J.
 Michaels, A.
 Pearce, R.K.
 Savvas, O.M.
 Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
 Cregan, D.R.
 Hurn, A.M.
 Pederick, A.S.
 Tarzia, V.A.
 Whetstone, T.J.

Brock, G.G.
 Ellis, F.J.
 McBride, P.N.
 Pisoni, D.G. (teller)
 Teague, J.B.

Cowdrey, M.J.
 Gardner, J.A.W.
 Patterson, S.J.R.
 Pratt, P.K.
 Telfer, S.J.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

*Motions***BIOSECURITY**

Ms PRATT (Frome) (10:59): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises the importance of biosecurity to South Australia, in particular with regard to the state's primary industries, and the potential impact on production;
- (b) acknowledges the significant and ongoing concerns from industry sectors regarding Biosecurity SA's preparedness and response capability;
- (c) calls on the Minister for Primary Industries to establish an independent review into the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia's response to the tomato brown rugose virus incursion, and its capacity and capability to deal with future pest and disease incursions; and
- (d) tables the report of the review as well as the government's response upon completion.

I take great delight in bringing back to the chamber an update for 2025 on the tomato brown rugose fruit virus that struck the Adelaide Plains in August last year, and therefore giving it an opportunity to have an airing in the house today to make sure that we are not losing sight of a really important food bowl, a workforce and a primary industry that are significant to not just the local economy but the state economy.

In August last year it was discovered by a business in the Adelaide Plains, in Two Wells in my electorate of Frome, that the tomato brown rugose fruit virus had been detected not just in South Australia but in our nation for the first time. I recall the shock waves that extended through the local community.

I want to make sure that I am always on the record as representing primary producers as understanding the very important approach that we have as a nation to biosecurity. There is no question that our primary industry—our farmers, our primary producers—are as successful as they are because as an island nation we have done our very best to maintain standards that are world leading, I think, when it comes to protecting our capacity to farm organically if we choose to.

Biosecurity is important; that was never in question. But the opposition has maintained its fierce commitment to growers in the Adelaide Plains and its strong advocacy for growers, pickers and the supply chain as we walked alongside them, experiencing for the first time the arrival of this virus and the impact that it was to have on the industry.

In the last month, it has been made public that Michael Simonetta, the CEO of Perfection Fresh, has announced his retirement from the largest greenhouse in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a fantastic business based at Korunye at Two Wells. I want to take this opportunity to recognise the input, the leadership, the innovation and the work ethic from Michael Simonetta and thank him for the extraordinary work that he has done in leading this industry.

It has been innovative. Many people will recognise familiar terms that were coined and are now trademarked by Perfection Fresh during his leadership, like broccolini, which is a fantastic addition to most meals and a quick way to prepare fantastic green, fresh veggies. There are also the baby Qukes that are a very popular snack and are bite-sized for lunchboxes, and I am sure they feature in many refrigerators across South Australia. The lunchbox Quke is a big hit.

To return to my celebration and recognition of the work that Michael Simonetta has done, it is so important to celebrate someone like Michael, who has brought Perfection Fresh to the rest of Australia, for his endeavours and his capacity to support a business that employs so many people at the local level. While it was with great regret that a number of businesses were quarantined as the virus was detected across the Adelaide Plains, it really was only detected in three locations. Michael's approach to responding to this biosecurity threat was measured, it was mature, and it was one from a leader demonstrating a capacity to reassure a workforce and to maintain communication lines with interstate counterparts and stakeholders.

I know from the number of times that I have interacted with Michael that he felt keenly the very difficult decision that he had to make on behalf of his business when the management of the virus and the processes and protocols implemented by PIRSA ground his business down to minimal production of other products as many tonnes of plants were ripped out and destroyed. The virus never killed one plant. Protocol required the plants to be ripped up and destroyed. While we are many months on, one fateful day last year Michael Simonetta had to make a very big decision and demonstrate what leadership looks like when managing a wicked problem, which was to stand down 500 employees who were part of the Perfection Fresh family.

People who live locally in Lewiston, Korunye, Two Wells, Virginia and Angle Vale had to be given the hard news that there was no work for them at the time. While the government, including the Premier, did make contact, I think it has been a missed opportunity by the government to demonstrate its commitment to primary production, to have boots on the ground, to be available, to show up, to follow up, to keep calling, to check in and to manage the welfare, the wellbeing and the human element of what was taking place across that community. These were jobs. These were families who did not have money then to pay their bills. These are very simple concepts to understand.

We heard a similar story of 250 people losing their jobs in Whyalla, and the government's response was very different. There has not been a word of complaint from Perfection Fresh. I do not mean to put any words in their mouth. My observations have been of how the government has responded to workforce challenges that we have seen in the last six to 12 months taking place in our state, and it has been a chalk and cheese response.

What does it mean if you are the CEO of the largest greenhouse production facility in the Southern Hemisphere, to lead your workforce, to remain positive, to be always looking for opportunities to innovate and enhance, to coin phrases that are now household terms, to promote from within, to create or build capacity that allows other people to succeed and be promoted? Perfection Fresh deserves more recognition than I am worthy of giving it. It is the privilege that I get to have, to offer my humble reflection on the many decades of leadership that Michael has brought to Perfection Fresh.

In farewelling him from his very formal role, of course, we note that he is not going anywhere. After 40 years of transformative leadership in that industry, Michael will continue to be involved in a number of ways, and that will include keeping a close eye on the board. We welcome the appointment of Rod Quin as the new CEO. He will be commencing very shortly, through a transition period, his role in leading Perfection Fresh into the future. He has an extraordinary background and global experience with agribusiness and food production, and we welcome the leadership that he is going to bring.

The motion that I am bringing to the house today is trying to achieve a number of things. Biosecurity is important and there would not be one primary producer in South Australia who would want to see any vulnerability in how we manage biosecurity for primary production. Those protocols and our approach to biosecurity were tested last year by the discovery of the tomato brown rugose fruit virus, and I think we have seen many examples where PIRSA has been found wanting or caught short.

An under-resourcing of the agency itself has meant we did not have the workforce to stand up the labs that we needed to urgently conduct those tests. When the rubber hit the road, we found ourselves in a queue behind Victoria, because we were dependent on their lab and the testing that needed to take place interstate. Fair enough, they said, 'We will test our plants first, thank you very much.'

We have not excelled in our agency response to a really significant industry that extends across the Adelaide Plains and therefore the bottom end of my electorate. There is a human toll, the collateral damage from our lack of preparedness to manage the arrival of this virus that has been known by the sector for over a decade and that is being managed in Europe, and not in the ways that we have quarantined; the fruit is edible.

The collateral damage has been to businesses, to family businesses, to mum-and-dad businesses like Oriana and Peter Petsios, whom I think of often. Their tomato nursery business has really been at the epicentre of our inability to manage our relationships with other states. We are still locked out of Queensland and WA, according to national protocols, and it is the Petsios family business that is now closed, stood down and suffering the consequences of yet more jobs that have been lost to the industry.

Who is looking after them? Who from PIRSA is standing up to say, 'We've had to do our job, but we understand the consequence that has had on this business and we are here for you.' They have not done anything wrong. There has been no malicious intent in their desire to rebuild their business, respond to the virus, supply interstate growers and be part of a supply chain that is so crucial to the Adelaide Plains food bowl.

I hope that in bringing back to the house this important example of where biosecurity protocols have a real-life impact on our growers there is a reminder to the government that, while they may not be talking about it anymore, the industries through Lewiston and Two Wells are still hurting. It does not stop at the Gawler River; it extends into my neighbouring areas represented by members opposite. There is an opportunity, when the government deems the timing is right, to call for and establish an independent review of how PIRSA has responded to this virus, to make sure that the questions that we ask get some answers for those who are suffering.

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (11:14): I move the following amendments to the motion:

Retain paragraph (a)

Replace paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) with:

- (b) acknowledges the importance of a bipartisan approach to biosecurity, as a matter of state importance, rather than political opportunism that undermines confidence;
- (c) recognises that a national review occurs after any national disease incursion and this will occur once the ToBRV response in South Australia has been completed and eradication is achieved;
- (d) acknowledges that both the national review and PIRSA input to the review will be used for continuous improvement for responses to the many exotic pests and diseases that are creating increasing risks to Australian primary production.

I am advised that the state government, as a signatory to the national Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed, is obliged to respond to exotic diseases like the tomato brown rugose fruit virus under national agreement. The Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed is a formal, legally binding agreement between Plant Health Australia, the Australian government, all state and territory governments, and national plant industry bodies. As a government industry partnership, the deed outlines national governance and investment in responding to and eradicating emergency plant pests, and it has provided a consistent and agreed national approach for managing incursions since it was ratified in 2005.

I am also advised that the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regions is leading the nationally coordinated and funded response to the virus under an agreed national response plan to eradicate the disease. I am also advised that a Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Eradication Response Plan was approved in November 2024 by the National Management Group, which is comprised of all Australian governments and affected industries who are also signatories to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

I am advised that the response plan includes agreed measures, including ongoing testing, surveillance and monitoring, to achieve eradication and to support a pathway back to production and the trade of tomatoes. The National Management Group has committed \$5 million to achieve the response objectives. Clause 11.5.1 of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed states:

11.5.1 Plant Health Australia must monitor and report to its members on:

- (a) resource usage in the implementation of a Response Plan;
- (b) Deed policy issues;
- (c) the implementation of Biosecurity measures; and
- (d) the implementation of the provisions of this Deed relating to Owner Reimbursement Costs.

In order to fulfil this obligation, I am advised, Plant Health Australia holds debriefs in order to gather, analyse and report on information arising from incidents and response plans. These debriefs are conducted in accordance with the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience's Lessons Management handbook. In addition, PLANTPLAN, which is part of schedule 5 of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed, guides activities under the deed. It states in part 1, page 32:

Incident debriefs are a critical component of the stand down phase as they provide an opportunity for participants to highlight areas requiring improvement as well as positive outcomes.

Incident debriefs will be held at local, state and national levels following termination of the EPP response. It is essential that relevant personnel involved in the response are included in the debriefing process.

[Plant Health Australia] and the [Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer] will coordinate a debriefing in regard to the operation of the [Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed] and PLANTPLAN to help inform any appropriate changes to PLANTPLAN or the [deed].

Debrief reports contain confidential information under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and, for this reason, cannot be made public.

This side of the house is satisfied that the independent oversight provided by Plant Health Australia and the Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer through the debriefing and reporting process is sufficient and appropriate for identifying areas requiring improvement and positive outcomes of incident responses and will update its processes as required to incorporate new information and address gaps identified by the outcomes of relevant debriefs.

In addition, and in response to requests from industry nationally, the requirement for the efficiency order has been built into the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus Eradication Response Plan and agreed by all parties. This is a routine independent assessment applied to national responses to ensure that they are being applied as efficiently as they can be. I commend the motion in its amended form to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:20): I rise to support the original motion from the member for Frome:

That this house—

- (a) recognises the importance of biosecurity to South Australia, in particular with regard to the state's primary industries, and the potential impact on production;
- (b) acknowledges the significant and ongoing concerns from industry sectors regarding Biosecurity SA's preparedness and response capability;
- (c) calls on the Minister for Primary Industries to establish an independent review into the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia's response to the tomato brown rugose virus incursion, and its capacity and capability to deal with future pest and disease incursions; and
- (d) tables the report of the review as well as the government's response upon completion.

The impact of this tomato virus on our state's primary industries has been severe, to say the least. That is not to say that we do not need to have a protocol in regard to biosecurity, but I think it is quite timely that we are talking about this because this had a severe impact, especially on the glasshouse industry, and the glasshouse industry is not the glasshouse industry of 50 years ago. It has gone into an industry where tomatoes are vertically grown under a completely different setting from just being planted in the ground. They are in a very controlled environment with nutrients and water pumped through the system.

Many, many millions of dollars have gone into various operations throughout South Australia—obviously, the ones at Two Wells and Port Augusta, just to name two amongst the many others that are operating in this state. We met at multiple times with growers who were heavily impacted by what was happening with the testing protocols in regard to whether or not they had this tomato virus impacting their crops. It was not just the people growing the crops; it was the nurseries that were impacted as well, and it took a long time to get that activity working.

As the member for Frome indicated, we had to get laboratories operating in Victoria, and we became second stringers in the line-up to have tests done to see if their operations had been infected or not. What we saw over time is private laboratories coming on line, and I commend Ray Borda and his team from Macro Meats who set up a private lab so that they could assist their fellow primary industry people in this state in getting those turnarounds a lot quicker.

If you are running any business and you are impacted by something where you are waiting on test results, you want them done as quickly as possible and turned around in three days if that is possible, not three to four weeks. We saw these delays that were heavily impacting on people's livelihoods, and not just the owners of the businesses who would have paid a heavy psychological price as they had to walk into their operations. As we heard with Perfection Fresh, they had to put off 500 workers. Even though there are 500 workers, these businesses are essentially like a big family working together to grow this great produce, not just for South Australia but for sending around this country as great produce from this state.

We do need to make sure that we have a proper review of how these sorts of viruses can be tested—and it is not just this tomato virus. We need to check that we have all the appropriate procedures in place and what can be done to do these things in a timely manner because we do need to make sure we get things right.

As we see with fruit fly outbreaks and what happened at Glynde the other day—and we saw some Berri producers, because it is the national protocol with Queensland fruit fly—they were encased in the 15-kilometre boundary and they have essentially thrown in the towel and given up business. They have said, 'We can't deal with it, we can't sell our fruit the way we did and so we're chucking it in.' That is a huge outcome for those people and I acknowledge that is under a national protocol, but we must continually keep checking to make sure that we have the appropriate protocols in place.

Just reflecting on fruit fly, I look at the many years that we have been working, both colours of government, in the Riverland to make sure that we can stay fruit fly free. There are many hundreds and thousands of hours of work going in with people visiting properties throughout the Riverland and many millions of dollars being spent to keep that status up and there has been some good work done over time in that regard.

I know some people get upset about the no-tolerance protocols with fruit going into the Riverland, but unless you have those no-tolerance protocols, you are never going to get the result that the state needs and the Riverland needs and what we desire.

We just need to make sure the protocols are right. We see in the livestock industry where farmers have Property Identification Codes (PICs) and the electronic identification which has been used for years now in the cattle industry. It is an expensive process as it transfers through to the sheep industry, because obviously there are a lot more hooves and bodies on the ground. It does come at a huge cost for primary producers and especially if you are running, say, 10,000 sheep, which is not that unusual—maybe not during the current drought we are in, because people would have destocked heavily—but there would be producers in a normal year who would be running up to that level of stock and more, so it can be a significant impost.

Just like the tomato brown rugose fruit virus, whether the farmers are in the tomato industry, whether they are in the fruit industry or whether they are in the livestock industry, they will do their bit. But they need to know that they are getting backed up by the appropriate protocols endorsed by the Minister for Primary Industries and the government of the day to make sure that there is a problem, because it does come at a huge cost to the owners of these businesses throughout South Australia no matter what section of primary industries they are in.

They want to know that they have the backing of the government of the day and to know that those protocols can be instituted in a timely manner so that they are not going out of business completely—and some leave entirely—or it has such a huge impact that it puts, as we heard in one case, 500 people out of work for a significant amount of time. People need to know that the protocols are in place.

The government needs to have protocols heading into the future, where people like Ray Borda and his team at Macro Meats can utilise their labs and make sure there are other labs in place that are already operating in the food sector which could be amped up in a really quick amount of time to make sure those tests can be rotated quickly. I think that was the biggest issue in regard to this tomato brown rugose fruit virus impacting growers and their staff across the state.

It came at a huge physical cost and a huge mental cost to these operators. As I indicated before, the primary producers of this state—no matter what they are involved in as far as primary production is concerned—need to know that as long as they are doing the right thing, if things do go pear-shaped, as they did here, they have the backing of the government so things can turn around a lot more quickly than they did with this virus incursion and they can get on with their job of producing quality food for this state and this country.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:30): I stand to support the amendment, and I support the amendment because I think it is much more productive, focusing on the importance of biosecurity and also on what needs to be done in the future. In doing so I think it is also important to perhaps focus on what the amendment states.

Before I do that there are a couple of things I would like to pick up on that the member for Hammond said. There are some things there I agree with and I think they need to be reinforced, and I am happy to do that.

Having said that I can understand why but was disappointed that the member actually supported the motion, because part of the motion was discussed when we were discussing the biosecurity bill and an explanation was provided. I was chairing the committee stage, and I understood that the member for Hammond understood the answer provided at the time, which very clearly contradicts paragraphs (c) and (d) of the substantive motion. Putting that aside, as I said I understand, and that does not detract from the other comments he made which I think are worthy of supporting.

The honourable member mentioned that biosecurity should be a bipartisan thing; to use his words, 'both colours of government' have made this a priority—and quite rightly so. Certainly the member for Chaffey did when he was primary industries minister; I remember him being very strong on zero tolerance on that as well, and that was a reasonable approach.

The member for Hammond also referred to testing, and this is where I think we need to do more work. If there is capacity in this sector, whether it is in government or private hands, we need to make sure we ramp up that capacity. I have had discussions with a private testing firm and suggested that perhaps if they were not ready this time what they should be doing is making sure they get nationally accredited.

It is not a case of whether we in this state accept their testing; we are part of a national scheme, and if their testing is also accepted at the national level then they can be utilised. I think it is very important to do that, and I certainly encourage them to go to the national bodies and get their testing regime accredited so that should we actually need it in another incursion it would be available to utilise. I am hoping they have done that.

In terms of the amendment and why I support it, it is important to reinforce how important biosecurity is, because it underpins our whole primary industries sector. Lack of primary industries

can actually wipe out regional communities and also whole industries, and reduce our good reputation internationally for having clean, green and disease-free foods, etc. It is really important to have that, because our trading partners look to that when they purchase their products. We need to do that, and that is why I differentiate between the amendment and the original motion: the amendment is a much more positive and clear statement of what we believe in and what we should be doing.

We also acknowledge the importance of the bipartisan approach, which I have touched upon. It is important that we retain a bipartisan approach in biosecurity because the costs of getting it wrong are too high, as has already been mentioned by the member for Hammond.

Paragraph (c) of the amendment recognises that a national review occurs, and again that was fully explained when we had debate regarding the Biosecurity Bill. I remember, as I said, because I was in the chair and we had quite a lengthy discussion about that. The member for Hammond—and I cannot recall if it was the member for Chaffey but certainly the member for Hammond asked a number of questions regarding that. They were quite detailed questions that were provided with answers, and quite rightly so because the questions were relevant, and the answers were, I think, on point as well.

There is a range of protocols in place nationally, and we are part of the national system because viruses do not recognise state boundaries, and so we need to make sure that we play our part in national protocols to protect the industries in our state. The sorts of things that have been raised are happening or will happen in due course.

Paragraph (d) of the amendment acknowledges that both the national review and PIRSA input to the review will be used for continuous improvement for responses to the many exotic pests and diseases that are creating increasing risks to Australian primary production. The reality is that we are a much more mobile society, people travel more globally and there is obviously going to be more risk, so it is important that we learn from each incursion.

There is another thing I would like to touch on which is to look at, and do better at, the times when governments have to make some really difficult decisions. It does not matter which party is in government, there will be some really important decisions to make regarding a breakout. In the end, the government of the day will try to protect the industry or the sector and sometimes that comes at a cost to some individuals because of the action they take. What we have to do there, though, is make sure that burden does not fall purely on those individuals.

We need to make sure, as the new Biosecurity Bill makes quite clear, that biosecurity is everybody's responsibility. It is not just the growers' but everyone in the community's responsibility, so we need to share that responsibility at the appropriate time because it is for the common good that often very difficult decisions are made. We need to make sure those people who sometimes carry the greatest burden of a government decision are recognised in some way, and that we share that burden. Whether it is tomato brown rugose fruit virus or any other decision, I think that principle should be right across the board.

If we do not, the perverse thing will happen and if something goes wrong people just will not report things. If they are going to carry the full burden, they are less likely to actually report things in the early days so that we can make quick responses. We need to have a scheme and policies in place which encourage people to do the right thing and so, if something goes wrong, it gets reported and action is taken, and then we make sure that the appropriate financial assistance schemes are in place to make sure that that burden is shared across the community.

They are just a few comments I wanted to make in support the amendment. As I said, the amendment is worthy of support. It is a better indication of where we are at on reflection, and it takes out some of the politics of it. If we are going to be bipartisan then we need to take politicking out of this and make sure that we all look after our primary production sectors.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (11:38): I rise to make a contribution to the member for Frome's motion. I think the member for Frome has rightly stated that the level of frustration that she and her constituents experienced through the tomato brown rugose fruit virus was demonstrated by the government's, I think, lack of action quickly enough. As I have said throughout the debate on the

Biosecurity Bill, governments have to be nimble and they have to act accordingly. There is no biosecurity outbreak, risk or breach that should not be reported and acted upon immediately.

I am a little alarmed that the member for Black, obviously a new entrant into this place, has had a brief prepared by the minister's office, no doubt. It would have been good if there was a little bit of background that he might have experienced before coming into this chamber and giving a verbatim explanation by the minister's office.

It is no secret that I have been critical over a number of breaches and, as I have said previously on the Biosecurity Bill, the way that governments have been slow to act and slow to input. A number of concerns that have been raised with government have been basically pushed under the carpet and run over, which equates to a lack of transparency.

The tomato rugose virus has been very well documented. It created a lot of hardship for a number of businesses that felt unfairly dealt with and that had their business doors shut. It also flowed on to the nursery stock.

I might add that the tomato rugose virus is a seed-borne virus. It comes out of imported seed. It is a virus that has been around for a very long time, but it raised its head through the circumstance of seasonal variation. What it has done is push breeders, seed breeders particularly, into action mode. They are going to breed seeds that will be tolerant to that virus and we will move on, but we continue to see the pressures on our borders that are giving our horticulture and food production facilities heartache and heartburn at every opportunity.

The reason that the member for Frome has raised this issue over and over again is because her constituent, as I said, felt harshly dealt with when it came to transparency and when it came to understanding what the impost of this virus meant.

Yes, it is a visual downgrade of fruit, and yes, there was a lot of repatriation of those facilities that was put in place. A lot of seed stock was destroyed, a lot of nursery stock was destroyed, a lot of planting material was destroyed and a lot of produce was destroyed in preparation to eradicate what is now very well documented.

I did see the amended version of this motion and it does not mention industry. It does not mention the consultation process of industry input. It talks about PIRSA, it talks about the commonwealth bodies and it talks about everyone else who was impacted. For everyone else who was impacted, it does not appear that they will get the opportunity to appear in front of a committee hearing to make sure that governments do a better job next time, because there is always going to be a next time. There are always going to be ways that governments and industry can better prepare or better respond to biosecurity threats.

As a former tomato grower and former horticulturalist, I have had a number of issues when it comes to growing seed stock out, growing nursery stock out and eradicating any form of virus, whether it is wilt, whether it is spot or whether it is a psyllid that will come into a growing area. I must say that growing quality produce nowadays requires a lot of controlled environments. In a controlled environment we see more pressure on growing a disease-free product because the environment is contained within a glasshouse, a poly house, a carbonate house or whatever the structure may be to control the environment, to control the temperature and to control natural impacts on those fruits, and it has to be dealt with in a different way.

That is why the Biosecurity Bill should have been amended. It was, but I think it should have gone further because we are facing more and more pressure every day, as I said, importing seed stock and having material come in from overseas. We are now also propagating much more sophisticated tech when it comes to growing food and growing produce. The days of just growing a seed and growing a nice tomato bush—it is much more complex than that.

We are growing rootstocks now that have a host root, and it has a bud implanted into its cell and then it grows and becomes more resistant to some of these diseases. We look at ways that we can actually better prepare a plant and grow a plant without the pressures of having those diseases that we occasionally have to experience, and those incursions are costing much more money nowadays because of the inputs and the infrastructure that food is now grown under.

It is a responsibility of government to be more transparent, to work closer with industry and not just be reactive to these incursions and outbreaks. Our facilities like the Waite facility, which is a world-class facility, are losing funding at every opportunity. PIRSA is losing funding at every opportunity because primary industries is not in this current government's DNA. It is clear that it is not. The funding that has dried up over a long period of time is alarming.

The food economy, the export economy, the dependent economy around growing sustainable, renewable products has never been more important. The tech sector has never been more important, and yet it is not in this government's DNA to actually enact new measures, new ways in which we can respond to biosecurity outbreaks, prevent biosecurity outbreaks, and make sure that we have the expertise here at hand so that we can respond more quickly, better and be more engaged with industry.

What I did witness with the tomato brown rugose fruit virus outbreak was a lot of catastrophising around shall we, shan't we, when do we, now, tomorrow? There was a lot of he-said, she-said along the way. There needs to be much more dedicated leadership in making sure they attack a biosecurity outbreak so it does not send a huge wave through that industry and bring it to its knees. We saw businesses go broke, we have seen a lot of reputations scarred, and we saw a lot of heartache, particularly in the markets.

Of course, then the flow-on effect is price spikes. We are in a cost-of-living holocaust at the moment and yet what we saw was a blanket approach to closing down the industry just so we could work out what we were going to do next. I think there needs to be more preparation, there needs to be more funding and there needs to be more resources put in to better prepare for these biosecurity outbreaks. There are many biosecurity threats to food production here in South Australia but, by and large, South Australians should hold their heads high because we are doing a good job in preventative maintenance, and we are doing a good job in growing some of the best produce on the planet.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (11:48): I rise to say a few words on this motion. I think parts of the motion are incredibly important and both sides have referred to the importance of bipartisan support when it comes to biosecurity and I think that is essential. Whenever we have any incidents, especially ones that have a major impact, there is that need for a review and for a critique to see how we can improve things, irrespective of which government happens to be in power.

We stand here today on this carpet that reflects the importance of our primary industries in this state. Indeed, we have a motion after this one that goes into some detail about how much our primary industries generate for the state. We are talking about a multibillion dollar industry so, when it comes to biosecurity, it is incredibly important that we get it right.

As has been said, there is a whole series of threats when it comes to our primary producers, but not just our primary producers. There is also the potential with some of these threats for a jump over from mammalian infections. It could be cow herds or bird flocks, whether it is chickens or turkeys or whatever. There is always that potential, especially at the moment with avian flu, for that jump over, so it is incredibly important that we address biosecurity threats.

Obviously, there have been mistakes made in the past in Australia, but largely our approach to biosecurity is a fairly tight one, both at a national level and at a state level. That is something that I do not think we will retreat from, but it is interesting to reflect on what is going on in the United States at the moment. They see our initiatives, our programs and our policies when it comes to biosecurity as being a non-tariff form of protection, and there will be pressure on to actually reduce the degree of biosecurity that we engage in in this country. That is something that we should strongly resist, as we should strongly resist the other attacks that are going to be made on non-tariff options that we pursue in Australia to make us a better society. Biosecurity will be targeted by the Trump regime when it comes to Australia.

I briefly mentioned avian flu, which is inevitable. There are some variants already in this country and there are some real variants of concern. When we look at what has happened overseas, once again we can talk about the United States, where it has jumped from bird flocks, both wild and domesticated bird flocks, over into mammals. The dairy industry in parts of the United States has been seriously impacted as a result of that jump over to mammalian species.

When we talk about biosecurity, there is that threat to primary industries but, with some of the virus variants, we are facing prospects of something far more serious. We have been fortunate so far. There is a variation of avian flu that has been around for 30 years and it still has not become easily transmissible amongst human beings. However, given the level of mammalian infection now, there are some real risks. The reason it has not become something that is easily transmitted amongst humans is that it has not been able to bind to the cells in the upper respiratory tract. If we get a variant that can do that, we could be in all sorts of trouble globally, and it might well make COVID look like a hiccup.

We did have an outbreak back in 1997 in Hong Kong, and there was a 50 per cent mortality rate. There was a very particular set of circumstances that occurred at that time but, with the rate of infection now across a whole range of species, it is one of those areas that we need to pay very close attention to, and it will be an area that will probably initially impact primary industries in Australia, so we need to recognise the potential threat here. Hopefully it will not eventuate, but we know the way viruses operate; they are total opportunists and there are a lot of variants around now, so it is a concerning thing. It brings home that sheer importance when it comes to biosecurity.

Initially, it is about our primary industries and ensuring that we do the best that we can. When we have incidents—whether it is with tomatoes, whether it is with other crops or livestock—we should always be in a position to review what has happened to look at how we can improve the situation, and it should be something that goes from one government to the next of different persuasions, because bipartisan support is incredibly important. When a critique is made about what has been done, being part of this government I have no issue with having a look at it in a dispassionate and objective way to see how we can improve things.

As has been said, we have some great research institutes here in Australia. In South Australia we have the Waite facility, which is an incredibly important facility. It is one of those things that is also incredibly important when you look at how best to support primary industries. A lot of that is going to come down to the investment, the funding, for good quality research in order to develop a greater degree of resilience amongst primary industries in South Australia and, indeed, in Australia. For many years, South Australia was a bit of a leader when it came to arid lands/semi-arid lands agriculture. We were a bit of a trailblazer. So it is an area where investment is needed, and sustained investment, over an extended period of time.

I just want to touch on one thing. It was a bit of a triggering event when I heard the member for Frome comparing what was happening in Two Wells and elsewhere with what was happening in Whyalla, that the government reacted when, I think she mentioned, 250 jobs disappeared in Whyalla. Well, there are over 700 direct jobs in Whyalla, but the reason for the intervention in Whyalla is that a whole community was going to be wiped out. We are not talking about 700 jobs: we are talking about 4,000 jobs and an industry that is not replicated anywhere else in Australia. It is the only integrated steelworks that produces structural steel and rail. So the comparison, I think, was a very unfair comparison.

The tomato industry will get back on its feet, but what we were facing in Whyalla was the Gupta regime running that plant into the ground to the point where it would no longer be viable. We still have major challenges there, but that intervention—that incredibly creative intervention, that incredibly smart intervention—was a massive circuit breaker for the community of Whyalla. So I do not think it is a fair comparison, but I will finish on a positive note and say, yes, it is incredibly important that we have a bipartisan approach to biosecurity in this state and, hopefully, nationally.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:57): I really want to thank all the members who have contributed to the debate on this motion today and to name specifically the member for Black, the member for Hammond, the member for Light, the member for Chaffey and, with concluding remarks, the member for Giles, who I thought brought a really thoughtful, insightful and informed response to the two motions that are before us, and I thank him for his contributions.

While we might disagree on my comparison between the government's response to jobs lost in Two Wells versus Whyalla, it is appropriate for any government of the day to respond to a mass jobs loss. For the current government to recognise the pressures that were being felt in Whyalla is

not my criticism. The challenge that I put back to the government is that the community around Two Wells, Lewiston, Virginia and the Adelaide Plains felt invisible, felt unseen.

Primary producers—whether they are grapegrowers, farmers experiencing drought or tomato growers in the Adelaide Plains—complain about what they perceive is a lack of compassion from the government when it comes to responding to these biosecurity threats and these weather events that impact large farming districts. So I take the feedback—and it will not surprise the member for Giles that perhaps I do not disagree—but I think the motion that has been put forward today has, if nothing else, highlighted a joint concern and interest in our primary production from this state.

As the person bringing the motion on behalf of the opposition, I declare already that we cannot support the amended motion for a number of reasons. The word 'bipartisan' is being thrown back at us from the government. We welcome a bipartisan approach to farming industries, if for no-one else the member for Giles, representing such a large part of regional South Australia. We share this state together.

To test the motion or to challenge my original motion as being riddled with political opportunism really affords me the opportunity to push back on this particular issue about the tomato virus strangling and crushing an industry on the Adelaide Plains. As far as I know, when those jobs were laid off, the Premier picked up the phone in good faith, reached out to the CEO of a very large business, said everything that was appropriate and, on the next day, got on a plane and went off to the AFL and has been absent from this primary industry challenge that his government is managing. So the bipartisanship is missing from this space. There have not been boots on the ground. It has to be two ways. There has not been evidence—and not only is it my observation, it is the feedback that I am getting from those communities.

I do not represent Virginia, but when I talk about Peter and Oriana Petsios, who have effectively lost their business called SA Tomato, that leads me to challenge the next clause around the government's suggestion that instead of a localised state-based review that we can control, that the government can control, we are going to rely on this loosely worded clause that says that the government, we the state, the house recognises that a national review occurs after any national disease.

We have learned through this experience that we are a small player as a state when it comes to national protocols and negotiations. If you grow a sapling, like the Petsios family do, when it comes to compensation you are part of a national deed, but if you actually grow the fruit you are not. So there are flaws in the discussion or the debate that is coming from the government about this being a national opportunity to review—yes, but when? When? These businesses are going to get the answers too late; they have already closed. We reject and oppose the amendment.

The house divided on the amendment:

Ayes23
Noes.....16
Majority7

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E. (teller)
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Savvas, O.M.
Thompson, E.L.

Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Pearce, R.K.
Stinson, J.M.
Wortley, D.J.

Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K.
Picton, C.J.
Szakacs, J.K.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.

Brock, G.G.

Cowdrey, M.J.

Cregan, D.R.
Hurn, A.M.
Pederick, A.S.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

Ellis, F.J.
McBride, P.N.
Pisoni, D.G.
Teague, J.B.

Gardner, J.A.W.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Pratt, P.K. (teller)
Telfer, S.J.

Amendment thus carried; motion as amended carried.

ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:09): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that March is Endometriosis Awareness Month;
- (b) encourages the community to show their support for all who suffer from this invisible illness by wearing yellow throughout the month;
- (c) recognises that this is a common disease that impacts more than 11 per cent of Australian women, girls and those who are gender diverse, and that figure is likely to be much higher given it takes on average 6.5 years to get a diagnosis; and
- (d) thanks the members of the South Australian Select Committee on Endometriosis, including the parliamentary staff who spent much of 2024 inquiring and learning about the impact of endometriosis, current research and practice.

Today we take a moment to acknowledge a disease that affects hundreds of thousands of people in Australia and millions worldwide but often goes unseen, and that is endometriosis. I have spoken about endometriosis many times before in this place. I moved a motion to establish a select committee to inquire into the effect endometriosis has on its sufferers, and I am an endo warrior myself. Our committee has worked hard in what has sometimes been an emotional journey, and this afternoon we will table our report.

March is dedicated to raising awareness about endometriosis, which we know has a real impact on Australian women—14 per cent of Australian women, girls and those who are gender diverse. While this may sound like a significant number, the reality is this is likely much higher because it takes such a long time to get a diagnosis—sometimes 6.5 years—and for many that road is fraught with uncertainty, frustration and often feelings of isolation and helplessness as they wait to get a diagnosis. The symptoms are invisible, yet they cause intense physical pain and emotional distress and can have a profound impact on every part of a person's life.

Endometriosis is often misunderstood. It is not just bad cramps or a heavy period; it is a chronic and often debilitating condition where tissues, similar to the lining of the uterus, grow outside it, leading to inflammation, pain and, in some cases, infertility. For those who live with it, it is invisible, hidden from the world yet constantly present, affecting their day-to-day life. Whilst it is hidden—although, if you know someone well enough you will detect that they are going through their monthly pain cycle—to a passerby they look normal, but you might know.

It may be hard for bystanders to recognise or accept that someone can look fine but on the inside they are feeling torn apart. But I can speak from personal experience: it is the worst pain outside of contractions that you will ever feel. Worse, it can be monthly and every month you know it is coming; there is no avoiding it. For some, there is no break and for many it is life-changing.

Recently, I was disgusted and disappointed to learn of comments made by radio host Mr Marty Sheargold in February who claimed endometriosis was made up. He said:

...God, don't ladies carry on. Jesus Christ, there is no end of it. Honestly, endometriosis, and this is controversial...

His fellow host tried to cut him off, but he continued:

No, I'm going to say it. It's controversial, it's made up.

I invite him to feel what women feel: that your insides are being torn out bit by bit. The impact of your mental and physical health, the exhaustion, the helplessness you feel when medication does not

even hit the sides—Marty, you are welcome to try it. However, I doubt it is something that you would be able to deal with. It is people like you who have caused this condition to be spoken about only in private, and it is why the science has only now started to unfold into its causes and treatments.

I do not think there is possibly a way to artificially create what a week of endometriosis pain and suffering feels like, but, again, you would not cope. You might think it is a laughing matter, and women will laugh, but that is only after they have finished crying, because they have run out of tears. And they are not laughing with you, Marty. They are laughing because there is nothing left for them to do.

This afternoon we will be laying on the table the report of our Select Committee on Endometriosis. We have prepared a very impressive report, and the recommendations that we put down I hope are taken up by those we have asked to take them on board. We welcome 50 witnesses and those who made submissions to this place to join us tomorrow when we table and talk about that report.

I would like to take a moment to thank the members of the committee: the member for Dunstan, the member for Torrens, the member for Unley, the member for Frome, the member for Lee and, of course, the Speaker of the house, the member for Mawson, who was on the committee at the start. I would also like to thank our parliamentary staff, Alison and Jennefer, who worked so hard to help us with the committee, and our Hansard fairies, who were there to record it all.

I encourage anyone who still thinks that endometriosis is made up to read that report and the submissions from sufferers to really get a grasp on the disease and its life-changing impacts—you may just become more understanding. As a community who does care, it is crucial we show our support for all who are suffering in silence, and one of the simplest ways we can all contribute is by wearing yellow through the month of March in recognition of those living with this disease. By wearing yellow, we are showing our solidarity, we are raising awareness and telling those affected that they are not alone and telling those who do not believe where to go.

Let's take a moment to acknowledge the personal suffering many endure as they navigate this condition. Behind the statistics are real people; they are our friends, our daughters, our sisters and our loved ones who experience immense physical pain, emotional stress and often feel misunderstood and unsupported.

The road to diagnosis can be long, and the impact of endometriosis can sometimes feel endless; however, awareness and understanding can be powerful tools for change. Through shared experiences and conversations, we can ensure that those with endometriosis are seen, heard and supported. We can encourage earlier diagnosis, better treatment options, and, most importantly, create a society that acknowledges the validity of this painful, invisible illness.

To those who are living with endometriosis, know this: you are not alone; your pain is real, and your journey does matter. By supporting this cause today, by wearing yellow, by talking about endometriosis, we are working together to bring visibility to a condition that has remained in the shadows for far too long.

March is the month of awareness, compassion and action. Tomorrow, let's all wear yellow as our committee presents its report and provides commentary, and then we will celebrate with all of our witnesses and those who provided us with submissions as we look to our recommendations becoming realities. Then let's ensure that those with endometriosis feel seen, understood and supported every day of the year.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:16): I also rise to support the motion that this house acknowledges that March is Endometriosis Awareness Month and that by wearing yellow for what remains of the month, it is just another opportunity to raise awareness, to signal our support and to bring attention to a disease that, while common, has been misdiagnosed, misunderstood and, as the member for Waite has suggested, kept in the shadows.

As a committee member, I look forward to the report being tabled this afternoon and a second opportunity tomorrow to bring perhaps a more fulsome response to the committee's experience, the recommendations and the plight that women experience once they become aware of the reality of their symptoms and they start navigating the health system to seek support and relief.

The committee has learnt a lot about that process over the last 12 months since we convened and to consider that, once awareness has been raised or once a sufferer starts to seek diagnosis, the diagnosis can take up to seven years from first approach to final recognition. It has been informative, to say the least, to sit on the committee, to take submissions, to sit with witnesses, and to appreciate what it means to live with chronic pain as a woman.

I mentioned that I am a committee member and I am proud to be speaking on behalf of the opposition today to this motion. Absent from the chamber is my colleague the member for Unley, but I also want to recognise people across the chamber I am looking at now and celebrating with, and those are the member for Waite, the member for Dunstan, the member for Torrens and, as we have reflected on today, in addition to the member for Unley, the member for Mawson and the member for Lee, who, as men, added their own experience, compassion and understanding as people who live in households with women, so that we could undertake this research journey together as we tried to develop recommendations that would bring awareness to this common disease.

I hope they get used to the compliments but, as the member for Waite has already remarked, we are very grateful for the assistance that we have had in that secretarial support from Alison, Jennefer and—I am happy to steal the phrase—our Hansard fairies, wherever they may be, who joined us on our road trips.

It was really important for this committee to commit to the time and commit to the research and education we would benefit from by going to the regions. A regional trip to Berri in the Riverland, in the member for Chaffey's electorate, really was quite an extraordinary two-day experience. We also spent time in Mount Gambier, but I think it was our first venture to the Riverland when we started to appreciate what it is about regional health services that, many hundreds of kilometres away from the city, stands out as communities that remain self-sufficient. They are educated, qualified, experienced experts in their field and they are problem-solvers.

During the time we spent in Berri, we met with a vast number of people who are practising in the space of endometriosis awareness, treatment or therapy: from exercise physiologists to GPs and the role that the hospital is playing. Certainly there is a long way to go and we hope that our recommendations add to that, but I felt that the committee discovered in Berri a community that understood this and was trying to tackle endometriosis—a long way from the city and doing its very best.

In a similar way, our trip to Mount Gambier brought awareness, perhaps, to city MPs of the broader challenges that we see in regional health services generally. Again, I hope that the recommendations from this report go some way to improving resourcing and awareness for the allied health services and the practitioners who are associated with chronic pain management and endometriosis diagnosis and also that it starts to improve outcomes for people who live with it.

I was really taken by the number of expert witnesses we took submissions from who demonstrated to me that South Australia is nation-leading when it comes to research, cutting-edge practices, innovation, and some of the education programs that I will reflect on tomorrow. I want South Australian women living with endometriosis—and the workforce, through health, tied to treatment—to pat themselves on the back and understand that while endometriosis is a really debilitating disease, South Australia is well positioned to continue to lead the nation.

We want to see funding continue to pour into research and funding to support the workforce that need to make themselves available. There are challenges that we are going to elaborate on around the GP workforce, access for patients, delays for treatment, and the challenges that young teenage girls face when they are first experiencing these. These issues will be more fully debated tomorrow as we celebrate the tabling of the report. With those remarks, I support the motion.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:24): I rise in support of the motion moved by the member for Waite, who is also the Chair of this parliament's Select Committee on Endometriosis. The motion states:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that March is Endometriosis Awareness Month;

- (b) encourages the community to show their support for all who suffer from this invisible illness by wearing yellow throughout the month;
- (c) recognises that this is a common disease that impacts more than 11 per cent of Australian women, girls and those who are gender diverse, and that figure is likely to be much higher given it takes on average 6.5 years to get a diagnosis; and
- (d) thanks the members of the Select Committee on Endometriosis, including the parliamentary staff, who spent much of 2024 inquiring and learning about the impact of endometriosis, current research and practice.

It is timely that this morning, during Endometriosis Awareness Month, we had the final meeting of the South Australian parliament's Select Committee on Endometriosis, initiated by the member for Waite one year ago this week, and that it is to be tabled in this place this afternoon.

The recent commitment by the federal government to fund an additional 11 specialised endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics, bringing the total to 33 across the country, demonstrates that there now exists a genuine understanding of the urgent need to improve access to specialised care for hundreds of thousands of Australians living with endometriosis. This will also assist in early diagnosis, resulting in sufferers with this life-altering condition avoiding years of doctors' visits and hospital presentations and being told that the days of monthly agonising pain are normal and that they will just have to put up with them.

It is no wonder that not only the physical but also the mental wellbeing of so many girls and women has been seriously impacted. It can affect the daily life of a sufferer, their work, their career, their relationships, their participation in sport, their ability to achieve life goals and, sadly, in many cases, their ability to achieve and maintain a pregnancy through to the delivery of a healthy baby and healthy mother.

Shining a light on endometriosis, bringing discussion about it into the public sphere through parliaments, like we are doing today, in the media and social media, community forums and printed material at medical clinics and through education in our schools and universities, is an important milestone that we hope to achieve. This will deliver early diagnosis, less damage, ways for reducing its impact and, hopefully, one day in the not-too-distant future, a cure.

As a member of the Select Committee on Endometriosis, I look forward to the tabling of the report and speaking to it and seeing the implementation of its recommendations. I would like to acknowledge the committee members who worked diligently over the past 12 months to deliver the report and its recommendations: the members for Waite, Frome, Unley, Dunstan, Mawson and Elizabeth. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the commitment by the secretary, Ms Alison Meeks, and the research officer, Dr Jennefer Bagaporo. I commend the motion by the member for Waite and acknowledge her commitment to making a difference to the lives of sufferers today and into the future.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (12:27): I will not be extensive in my remarks, so heads-up to whoever is speaking next: I am only going to take a brief amount of time. I am probably known for my longer speeches, so this one will be a short one. I just want to take this moment to congratulate the member for Waite. I think she has done an excellent job not just with the inquiry, which we are all looking forward to seeing the recommendations of and hopefully getting those into motion, but really with her overall work on raising the profile of this issue.

I think that endometriosis is still something that is not widely understood. I think that the word 'endometriosis' is getting out there more and more, but I certainly come across people in my community who do not actually know what it is, how it affects women, medically what the definition of it is and, of course, certainly do not know where to get help, how to support a loved one who might go through it, what it means for women in the workforce and what measures we should be taking as a community both on the medical side and also on the societal side to try to address endometriosis and make life better for those people who suffer it.

I really do think that this house owes a debt of thanks, a debt of gratitude, to the member for Waite for the incredible effort that she has put in over not just this last year but many years in raising what endometriosis is and putting it in the spotlight in this place. I give heartfelt congratulations to you on what you have managed to achieve already.

I think the other thing that can be really awkward when discussing these things, but should not be, is that these things, obviously, for many people are very personal medical issues. It can be a bit of a stretch and take us out of our comfort zone to be out there talking about quite private, and sometimes even uncomfortable or invasive, medical issues. I myself, obviously, the year before last led the inquiry into UTI medication and making sure that we could get UTI medication at our pharmacies. We have just gone past a year now of that being the case in South Australia. For more than 12 months, women have been able to go and see their local pharmacist, have a consultation and, if appropriate, get access to UTI medication.

It seems like such a simple thing now. Once things are done, we look back and we think, 'Why didn't we do that earlier? That seems like a really obvious thing to do.' Of course, previously people would have to get into the GP, which unfortunately is quite difficult at times and in certain parts of our state. That wait means that people are kept in a state of pain, are kept away from their workplaces. It makes parenting duties difficult when you are in pain, and it is just unnecessary when there is medication that is available, and of course now it can be prescribed by pharmacists.

I have gone through that experience of having to assess whether I wanted to tell my own story about my own medical experiences, which I would not really talk about in a public forum prior to starting an inquiry on it, and I imagine the member probably had to assess whether she wanted to be out there and talking about these quite private medical concerns to the whole wide world. But, certainly for me at least, it felt like that was a good thing to do, to be out there and talking about something that is so common.

Fifty per cent of women will, unfortunately, suffer a urinary tract infection in their lives, and that is across all age brackets. It is something incredibly common, and yet we do not talk about it. I think that has a similarity with endometriosis, though I think incredible work is being done, including by the member, to try to break down those barriers and let people know that it is something they can talk about without having that ick factor every time they talk about it publicly.

I commend the member for her bravery in stepping up and saying, 'Hey, this is something that I suffer. I know it's something that lots of other people suffer as well.' That is really the first step to being able to convey to people the difficulties of living with endometriosis and just what we need to change to make life better for sufferers of that condition.

I also wanted to say that maybe we would not have had a focus in this place on getting UTI medication at the pharmacy and of changing some of our laws and practices around endometriosis—which I am sure is imminent—if we did not have more women in parliament. The fact is at the last election we had an influx of women coming into the parliament, and I really think that our mere presence here is putting issues like women's health on the agenda.

We as women know that these things have been part of our lives. It is part of being a woman that you do face some of these medical concerns. Our presence in this chamber means that we do have the platform to be able to raise these matters and, most importantly, get change on these things. We have the ability to break down the stigma and the barriers to talking about women's health issues, because we are here, we are living it, and we are representing others who are going through the same medical experiences as us.

More than that, obviously as elected members of parliament we have the power to be able to achieve change. I am incredibly proud that this chamber—and in particular, I have to say, this side of the house—has women who have been bold enough to step up, talk about difficult issues and talk about some of those icky or embarrassing things to normalise them and make them something that we do discuss as part of public policy, and that we do work hard to make change for the betterment of not just ourselves in here but of course for all the women right across South Australia who need us to step up and make change for their lives to be better.

The other thing I want to mention is that women's health is community health. When a woman is sick, a woman is often the one who is carrying a lot of the family responsibilities, who is in the workforce contributing and who is a leader in her community and doing things—they are movers and shakers in our local communities. When a woman is afflicted by endometriosis or another women's health condition, it takes them out of their environment and hinders them from contributing fully to society in the way that they may want to.

Of course, women are often the supports in families: for men who are working, for their children and also in the role of carers, looking after older members of our community. All of that is impacted—the experiences of those men and children and older members of our community are impacted—when women are not healthy. When women cannot do the things that they want to do, whether that is caring responsibilities or being in the workforce, in business or in leadership roles, it has an impact right across the community.

It would be easy to say, 'Women's health affects 50 per cent of the community.' That is just not true. It affects almost 100 per cent of the community every time women are having to navigate these issues, so the more we can do on women's health to support women the better. We can make them feel, firstly, like they can talk about the issues that they are confronting and also that we are putting up viable solutions—maybe not in some circumstances, as we are not at the point of cures or absolute remedies for some of these conditions.

If we are making it as easy as possible for women to obtain relief and obtain support when they are suffering such conditions, it is good for our whole community. It is good for the productivity of our whole nation, not just that of our state. It is good for our economy. It is good for our social cohesion and our family cohesion, and it is certainly good for the welfare of those women who are juggling all those different aspects of their lives.

Even though I said I was going to be brief, look at that: the clock has ticked down already. You cannot trust politicians; they say they are going to talk for five seconds and they just keep going. Lastly, I just want to say that, if you do not know what endometriosis is, now is the time to go and find out. It is Endometriosis Awareness Month, and there is no better time to do a bit of a google search and to chat with your female friends, colleagues and relatives to find out what endo is and how it affects your loved ones. If we are all on the same page about what endometriosis is, that is the first step to making change. I absolutely, wholeheartedly congratulate the member for Waite on this motion and on her work, and the members of the committee as well.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (12:38): I rise in support of the motion and thank the member for Waite for bringing this important issue to the chamber. I also extend my gratitude to all members of the select committee and to the parliamentary staff who travelled throughout the state, in particular to regional areas like Mount Gambier, to ensure that regional communities were involved and their voices heard. Living regionally and accessing specialist health care and support services presents unique challenges compared to metropolitan areas. It was essential that this committee took the time to listen firsthand to the experiences of those affected and those working in the field, ensuring their concerns and needs are properly considered in shaping future policy and support.

I was first made aware of some of the many difficulties that women with endometriosis face when my office was contacted by a local resident, Lynette, who was in her late 40s and had suffered from endometriosis for over 20 years. Lynette was first diagnosed in her early 20s and has since endured countless hospital visits, doctors' appointments, surgeries and, at times, debilitating pain and symptoms. Alongside this, she has faced days off work, long travel for appointments and significant financial costs as many of the treatments are not covered by Medicare.

Lynette came to our office after finally connecting with a specialist who understood all of her symptoms and proposed a new surgery that could be performed as a public patient. The problem was this surgery was in Victoria and she was rejected by the hospital because she was from interstate. We lobbied the state health minister at the time and eventually the federal health minister became involved. As a result, Lynette was able to have her surgery in Victoria as a public patient. Nearly five years on, she is still living with endometriosis, but her pain has reduced dramatically. She has since become a vocal advocate, raising awareness of the condition.

Through the committee's submissions, we have heard firsthand more and more stories like Lynette's—some who have had success with treatments, and others who are still struggling every day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals in Mount Gambier who took the time to present submissions to the committee: Sarah Coshan, a pelvic physiotherapist from Embody Women's Health, and Eloise Zanon, a physiotherapist from iCAN physio. Both Sarah and Eloise have invested time and expense to specialise in women's health and pelvic physiotherapy, providing vital services locally, services that women would otherwise have to seek in Adelaide or interstate.

Emma Dempster is an accredited exercise physiologist at Pro Active Health for Endometriosis. Emma's role is focused on symptom management and the prevention of comorbidities associated with chronic pelvis pain. She recognises the need for a multidisciplinary approach to ensure all aspects of the disease are addressed.

Dr Monique Kanters is a clinical lead for women's health at Hawkins Medical Clinic, a GP-led initiative aimed at improving the quality of care for women in the Limestone Coast. When Dr Kanters transitioned from hospital work to general practice, her primary goal was to enhance GP provision of care for women through in-house education sessions in obstetrics and gynaecology, ensuring a holistic approach to women's health.

Lucy Lines is an embryologist with over 25 years of experience in women's fertility. She has worked with countless women experiencing infertility as a result of endometriosis and has conducted extensive research on environmental factors and toxins affecting health.

Stacey Seedon, Gayelene Allen and Lucy Savage, a current Year 12 student, all bravely shared their own journeys and experiences with endometriosis, and Dr Colin Weatherill, Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, has been the resident O and G specialist in Mount Gambier for 22 years—an incredible achievement in a regional area where attracting and retaining specialists for such a length of time is rare. His dedication has provided stability and invaluable care to countless women in our region.

The stories and expertise shared with the committee reinforce the urgent need for improved access to diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care for women with endometriosis, particularly in regional areas. Women should not have to endure years of suffering, financial strain or travel long distances to receive the health care they need. I urge all levels of government to continue prioritising research, education and support services to ensure those living with endometriosis, no matter where they are, have access to the care they deserve. I again commend the member for Waite for bringing this important issue to this house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (12:43): I am pleased to support the motion and commend the member for Waite for bringing it to the house. As she mentioned, she has spoken on a number of occasions since her election to the parliament about the challenges that she has personally seen with endometriosis and, in doing so, has spoken on behalf of many women and girls in South Australia, many of whom, of course, have felt unheard at times, sometimes for extended periods of time in their lives, where they have maybe not been taken seriously by not just family members or members of the community but also medical professionals who ought to know better and, in too many cases, think that they know better.

Endometriosis is a condition which causes extraordinary pain to many people on a regular basis. I think the member for Waite described it very well, and I commend the member for Frome and other members who have given their description of the impact on somebody's physical wellbeing.

When that physical pain is repeated and profound, it has impacts on people's mental health as well; that dread, that fear of the return of the condition, the return of the pain and sometimes, of course—in the experience of a number of my friends and colleagues who have spoken to me about their personal experiences with endometriosis—that unending return of the chronic pain, of the profound pain and the significant challenges that has on their daily lives; the days when it is very difficult to get out of bed.

There is the experience of undergoing treatment, which can be, of course, really profoundly challenging in itself, and then the uncertainty of knowing whether or not that will have significant lasting improvements to the quality of life thereafter, or whether they will be consigned again to further pain and financial cost as well. I have extraordinary sympathy for those endo warriors who continue to press on despite their pain and despite their condition.

I look forward to reading the committee's report. I did not serve on the committee. The Liberal Party was represented by the member for Frome and the member for Unley on that committee. It is being tabled this afternoon and I look forward to reading it in due course. I do not think I am going to be in a position to be in the chamber to participate in the debate tomorrow when I understand there are some people coming into the chamber, into the gallery, to hear the discussion about that report,

but I can promise members—and, indeed, those other people who are interested—that I will be taking a keen interest in it going forward and what the recommendations are and how the government responds to them.

Based on the discussion that has come in this debate today from members of the committee and, indeed, members such as the member for Mount Gambier, who observed the work of the committee particularly the way that it engaged with people in regional areas, I am confident that it will have addressed some of the issues that I have raised and will raise in my brief remarks now.

I trust, firstly, that one of the key aspects that hopefully is being addressed is the standards expected of our doctors, of our healthcare professionals. I was very fortunate to be the son of a midwife, somebody who did their nursing training at St Thomas' Hospital, who worked all over this planet as she worked her passage on holidays and ultimately her travel to Australia. She has worked in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. She has worked in multiple states of Australia and ultimately in Adelaide where she found her home. I was very fortunate that she decided to settle in Adelaide and it is the greatest privilege of anyone's life to be born in South Australia and given the opportunity to live in this amazing state.

Prior to her coming to Adelaide, as I say, she worked all over the world in all sorts of conditions. My mum—how can I put this respectfully to my friends who are doctors—always encouraged me in the belief that a doctor is obviously a very smart person, they have done a lot of work to get there. But sometimes there are doctors who feel that because of the eminence of the position they hold and the training they have gone through and the years and years of being told that they are the smartest person in the room—there are occasions on which they miss things and have blind spots on the things that they do not necessarily know.

Mum's reflection was not to do with endometriosis, but it strikes me as valid in the criticisms that I have heard from a number of people who have suffered from endometriosis—and I use the word 'suffered' advisedly—in the lack of empathy, the lack of belief of the description of their pain as they have been talking to medical professionals who they feel have let them down, and in every sense from what I have been able to gather from the circumstances I have heard, it certainly sounds like they have been let down.

There is obviously research into the condition itself, but there is also the education of our medical professionals about where that research is up to and the best ways to provide treatment. However, apart from anything else let's start with empathy, and let's start with understanding, and let's start with the acknowledgement that women and girls presenting with symptoms—pelvic pain and other symptoms—of endometriosis should be taken very seriously.

One of the small measures, and one in which I hope I have played a positive role in assisting as we confront this, is through education processes. In 2018 when I was made Minister for Education, given that extraordinary honour and privilege where I served for four years, one of the first people who came to see me was a woman called Libby Trainor Parker, who I am sure is known to many members. She worked in this building for a while—unfortunately, not for somebody represented on either side of this chamber, but we will forgive her for that.

Libby is a tremendous South Australian, a former teacher, a broadcaster. She has been an advocate, she has been an entrepreneur; she is an extraordinary woman. Libby, using her social enterprise initiative and her teaching qualifications, was a key player in delivering the PPEP Talk program along with the Pelvic Pain Foundation. Libby came to the education department with a proposal that had some level of support from Health and the federal government, but that really needed the education department to provide both some extra financial support and a willingness to work with the foundation to get this program into our schools.

It was not a cabinet document so there is nothing that prevents me from sharing that the advice from departmental officials was that this was not great value for money, and their recommendation was not to proceed with it. They made vague recommendations and suggestions to me that the department could maybe do some better work or the department could work something out, but I was convinced that the advice was incorrect.

There were some tremendous people in the department, some of whom may have agreed with me at the time—and I certainly think some of them came to agree with me—that with a bit of extra resourcing and working with those other departments, as I said, as well as the foundation, particularly with the education department helping the foundation get that education program out into as many schools as we could, it was going to have an important role.

It may have been a start, it may have needed further scale than the original grant was able to develop, and it needed to be proved up. It needed to be proved up because not only did the young women who were receiving those PPEP Talks and parts of those programs need to hear that information, especially those who might have been suffering pain that they did not understand and that their doctor did not have a solution for, but also the boys in their class too.

Endometriosis is a condition that may only affect women—I think one of the other speakers said it affects everybody—but young men, or men in general, in a sufferer's life who might not take their condition seriously has a serious impact as well. After the session I spoke to some of the young men who were in the course and they said they really appreciated learning more. People enjoy learning things, they enjoy learning about the things that impact upon their friends' and their family members' lives. That was tremendously valuable too.

I want to congratulate all those who were involved in developing the course. I know it was not just Libby, but Libby was the person who came to speak to me in my office so I singled her out. All those endo warriors, those endo friends—I am not up with all the latest jargon, but I commend all those people who continue to work, as the member for Waite does, to enhance education and improve the lives of people living with endometriosis in South Australia and acknowledge this important month.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (12:53): I will be very quick, because I understand the member for Waite would like to close this. There has been a lot of talk here today from members of both sides of politics, and it is absolutely fantastic, but one of the things I want to do is thank the member for Waite for doing this, and also the select committee for all their work out in the regional areas. As we commemorate this, I would like the house to commit to the following:

- educating ourselves and others about endometriosis;
- offering support, empathy and understanding to those experiencing this issue; and
- advocating for research by developing initiatives that fund research and influence policies to improve the quality of care for those who suffer.

In closing, I spoke about this before when it was current last time, and I think it was a condition that my late wife may have had when we were living in Port Augusta. I did not understand that, I did not understand that women could suffer from this condition. As the member for Morialta indicated, husbands and boyfriends also need to understand this condition because we have to be very considerate. Again, I commend the member for Waite for bringing the motion to the house.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:55): I would like to thank all members who provided their comments and their support for this motion today. It is something that I am incredibly passionate about, and it is really special to me that everybody feels the same in that it is a really important issue that we all need to constantly be talking about.

Our committee embarked on an incredible journey, and I look forward to talking more about that tomorrow. However, I will acknowledge the work that we did in the regions and the feedback and the information that we gathered there. What they do with what they have is incredible but obviously more support is required throughout the area.

Also, in terms of PPEP Talk, our kids need to be hearing about this, they need to know what is normal and what is not normal. They need to make sure that they are not just dismissed when they go to the doctor because treatment for younger women is harder to create and get diagnosed, so we need to make sure that we do not have young people normalising pain and just feeling like, 'Well, this is just my lot in life.' There is a lot that can be done and, through our research, through our inquiry, we have heard from many different researchers and clinicians.

As a sufferer who pretty much did it on my own or with Google, I am surprised and really delighted at the amount of research that is going on. As the member for Frome mentioned, South Australia is ahead of the game. We are leaders in this space and we would like to stay that way. I thank everybody for all of their comments today, and I look forward to tomorrow's discussion around the committee's report. I want all of our endo warriors to know that we are listening and we are acting. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (12:57): By leave, I move my motion in an amended form as follows:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that World Autism Awareness Day will be held on 2 April 2025;
- (b) encourages everyone to understand and promote the awareness of autism;
- (c) promotes World Autism Awareness Day throughout various government and non-government locations; and
- (d) ensures that we are working towards a state where autistic individuals can live their best lives, and their families and communities are supported and valued.

I would like to just quickly talk about autism and related issues. This is something that we do not talk about very much but there are a lot of people out there with autism and ADHD, and some people do not understand the challenges and the issues they may have. One thing I want to be able to do is to promote the fact that in April 2025 we will observe World Autism Awareness Day, a day designated by the United Nations to promote understanding, acceptance and support for individuals on the autism spectrum.

As we approach this significant day, it is an opportune moment to reflect on our collective responsibilities and the actions we can take to foster an inclusive society. Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a range of neurological conditions characterised by differences in social statistics.

The report states that in 2022 there were 209,900 (1.1 per cent) autistic Australians, a 41.8 per cent increase from the 205,200 (0.8 per cent) autistic Australians in 2018. This rise underscores the necessity for enhanced support systems and resources to accommodate the growing number of individuals and families affected by autism. Despite this increase in diagnoses, research suggests that autism has been underdiagnosed, particularly among girls, women and gender diverse people. There is no definitive test for autism. Diagnosis is made on the basis of developmental assessments and behavioural observations.

Debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2025

Message from Governor

Her Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:07): I bring up the 58th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Mr ODENWALDER: I bring up the 59th report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received and read.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENDOMETRIOSIS

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (14:09): I bring up the final report of the committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Report received.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before we get to question time, I would like to welcome students from Harvest Christian College who are with us today and they are the guests of the member for Narungga. I hope you have a good time in Adelaide and enjoy your time in question time today.

Question Time

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10): My question is to the Premier. Has the government provided any guarantee to fund the Whyalla Steelworks administration? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: By her affidavit dated 17 March 2025, Ms Lara Wiggins, Administrator of OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd stated:

The administrators do not currently have sufficient funding to continue operations for 12 months.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:10): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question on what is an important subject and will be an important subject I suspect for some time to come. The short answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question is that yes, we have signed an agreement with the federal government around the funding of administration of OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd. The funding agreement between the South Australian government and the commonwealth is that we are sharing on a fifty-fifty basis the funding of administration. The first tranche of funding through administration is just under \$400 million and that is equally shared again between us and the federal government.

I can't speak for the commonwealth, clearly; but in respect of the South Australian government, we are committed to fully funding the administration with our federal partners for the period in which it takes to transfer the business from administration into the hands of a new owner. We take some comfort in the fact that there has been already a number of organisations, highly credible organisations, that have been in touch with the administrator regarding the potential sale but, of course, it is very early days. There will be a considerable piece of work that needs to be undertaken to separate tyre-kickers from those who are serious operators.

We have made it very clear to the administrator that it is the state government's, and, I think it is fair to say, the federal government's strong preference that we don't just get a new owner but we get the right new owner for the steelworks. It is very important for the whole economy around the Upper Spencer Gulf. The best thing we can do to ensure that occurs beyond funding the administration and ensuring it has got working capital to get it stabilised and ready for sale is to have a comprehensive package sitting there from government for the would-be new owner. To that end there is \$1.9 billion available: \$1.5 billion from the commonwealth, \$400 million from the state.

We anticipate that the administration process will not be short. We know that the last time the organisation went into administration—and we hope this is the last; certainly we have a plan for that, but the last time it occurred it was 17 months. We don't think there is any reason to believe it won't be in that vicinity. We are at pains as a government to make clear that it is not going to be short, it is not going to be quick, it is going to take time. How long exactly is impossible to predict.

That will ultimately be determined by the market but the amount of due diligence that needs to be undertaken before a new owner is going to buy it is going to be very substantial indeed, particularly given what we have learned since the business has gone into administration.

We suspected before we got access to the site that it had been run down and degraded. We suspected it had been under-invested in and we suspected it was unsafe in many instances. We had that intel, not just from the member for Giles who was talking to people on the ground there every single day, but I, the minister and others, in fact, senior members of the cabinet in a number of different portfolio areas had been on the ground talking to people who worked at the steelworks and they were telling us as much. So we are not surprised by what we have realised since then but it has become official that the business needs working capital, it needs to be invested in, it needs to have even the most basic of maintenance done to get it into a state where it is able to be sold.

That means a lot of cash is being worked through as a function of that. We knew, though, that the first part of the administration process would be the one that would utilise the most cash before we get into later in the process.

The good news is that much of the investment that is taking place isn't just about care and maintenance, it is actually about generating more revenue. Our initial stages of the MEP1 program, the magnetite expansion program, is a good example of that, and that is in train. We anticipate that it will not just stabilise the business but put it in a strong stead ready for sale.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:14): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. How much, if any, taxpayer money constitutes a top-up and how many, if any, top-ups will the government provide to fund the Whyalla Steelworks administration? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: The ABC reported yesterday that the Minister for Energy and Mining said, and I quote, 'If there needs to be top-ups, there will.'

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:15): I thank the shadow minister for in some respects answering his own question with the minister's remarks.

Mr Patterson: What is the top-up?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: A top-up—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education is warned. Members on my left will come to order.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: A top-up is an additional investment over and above what is occurring in the first tranche. This government has been transparent about the fact that the administration process—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: If you're transparent, how much is it?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We have been very clear about the fact and transparent about the fact that the administration process will last longer than six months, in our view. We don't have reason to believe that it will be shorter than 12 months, in our view. I hope it is. That would be good, but I think it would be unwise to assume that will be the case. Therefore, there will need to be extensions of the funding associated with the administration.

The \$400 million figure was nominally allocated towards the first six months and then it will be extended from there. In terms of how much that will be, of course that will be a decision for us, in conjunction with the commonwealth, as time evolves because that number will move. The reason it

will move is we always anticipated that the first part of administration would be more expensive than the second, for the reasons I alluded to earlier.

We went in with more than a sense, but certainly a view or a considered opinion, that there would need to be money expended quickly in the business to do the most basic of functions: care and maintenance in the first instance which, once it is done, hopefully doesn't need to be done as frequently in the future.

One of the reasons why the business was becoming more uneconomic or unprofitable was because it was starting to rob Peter to pay Paul and, because basic work hadn't been done in the capital sense, it was becoming more expensive and more inefficient to run. By investing in the business, including with the good news that the steelworks is now employing more people—they are out in the market seeking to employ people so that, rather than spending all the money on overtime, they are actually spending money on basic rates on a day-to-day basis.

These are elementary things, but they bring with them costs. Recruiting staff is more expensive than retaining staff. We always anticipated that the first part would be particularly expensive. KordaMentha are keeping us regularly advised of that but, when those decisions evolve and as those times come, we will be doing that.

But what matters most to people in Whyalla and everyone associated with this enterprise is that we are here as a steady hand in government. We will allocate the resources that are required to achieve our strategic objective, and the strategic objective is stabilisation of the business, get it in a state where it is ready for sale and then partner with a new owner so that we can see the whole business transformed so it is able to stand on its own two feet and wash its own face. That is the plan.

Now, there are a million things that could go wrong along the journey, because it's complex, it's a big enterprise, world steel markets are in a state of flux and we see decisions being made around the world, around steel in particular, because it is so important for individual countries' economies. We have got obviously the Trump administration making decisions around tariffs. There is a lot happening, but all of that only demonstrates why we need sovereign steelmaking and why the government has got a role to play.

To that end, I think this government has demonstrated its bona fides and just how serious we are to invest in sovereign steelmaking in this country, and I am very, very grateful that we have got a partner in the federal government to that end. I also take the chance to acknowledge that the alternate Prime Minister of the nation has said on the record that he too is committed to sovereign steelmaking, which hopefully demonstrates that this is an important area of policy where all governments of all persuasions should be committed.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:19): My question is to the Premier. What, if any, provision has been made by the government for any additional taxpayer commitments to fund the Whyalla Steelworks administration? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: By her affidavit, Ms Lara Wiggins, the administrator of OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd states that in February 2025 the Treasurer entered into a deed under which the state agreed to fund the administration to a level of \$400 million or, and I quote, 'such other amount that the parties may agree in writing from time to time'. The Premier said on radio today, and repeated again, that the administration would run for around 18 months. On the current rate, according to the affidavit of Ms Wiggins, funding for the administration alone could be around \$2 billion.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:20): I thank the shadow treasurer for his question. As I enunciated in my earlier answer, we always anticipated that the first part of the administration would be the most expensive, for all the reasons I have given, amongst many more, and that is the point. The run rate, at which they use cash in the first instance, was always going to be higher. We anticipate it to decline. The other reason is this: through various arrangements that GFG had entered into when it owned OneSteel Manufacturing, we saw a lot of things that were—

how do I put this?—compromising the cash flow. I am trying to choose my words carefully; others might be able to interject and help me out more freely—but compromising the cash flow.

By committing to pre-purchasing, and orders put in advance and various arrangements, there was reason to believe that they were chasing their tail. We know that to get the business in a stabilised position that it's not just about the amount of money going out the door to invest in the steelworks and employ people, and those other functions; it's also about the cash that comes in through the front door. That is to say, cash coming in from sales and revenue—whether it be from the mine or the steelworks itself—and that's going to take time to stabilise.

The order book of the business is going to take time to establish, because when the blast furnace went into shutdown last year that, of course, meant that other people who used to buy steel from Whyalla started to explore other options in the market, including importing steel, which is not good for the country. That has had an impact. So all of these things combined mean that it's going to take time for the administrator to stabilise the amount of cost that has been going out the door and get it sustainable, but also be able to start to generate the revenue that would negate the volume of cash that is required from the state during the administration process.

The other big variable in all of this isn't just the steelworks. Understandably, we spend a lot of time talking about the steelworks but then, of course, there is the mine. We know from data that is now publicly available that over \$7 billion—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: It is 7.8.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Seven point—which is over seven—so \$7.8 billion of iron ore was expended. That's \$7.8 billion worth of cash, and we want to see that number as big as possible because it is cash that is generated for the business. More than that, there is an opportunity to grow the yield, so to speak, by virtue of going into magnetite, but that requires the magnetite expansion program which GFG did not have the capital to bring to life. We want to see that come to life as much as possible during the course of administration, and KordaMentha is spending \$15 million in just that first stage to start to generate that revenue.

So while I appreciate the simplicity—and I don't say that as a criticism, but it's a simple option just to extrapolate the run rate we see in the first instance—that isn't the way that KordaMentha advised us it will play out over the course of the period of administration. But again, while it is perfectly reasonable for the opposition to ask legitimate questions about what is the top-up, what's the plan around the top-up, and so forth, I would also hope that the line of questioning isn't seeking to draw a policy distinction between the opposition and the government about whether or not we think this is the right course of action.

If the opposition have other ideas, we are open to hearing them. We know what the position has been in the past—give Gupta 50 million bucks. Well, we are not doing that.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We are not doing that.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Whoa, whoa, whoa. Me thinks you protest too much in that instance.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is on his final warning and the member for Unley is as well—one from a bit earlier on.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): My question is to the Premier. What is the full level of support that the government will provide to farmers across South Australia?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:24): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. We have got a package—I want to answer to the question in a short form and then I will extrapolate the answer so as to satisfy the opposition that I'm not seeking to avoid it.

Currently, there is obviously an \$18 million package that the government announced some time in the lead-up to Christmas, in conjunction with myself, the Treasurer and the Minister for Primary Industries. But we are on the record as saying—and I am happy to reiterate here today—that this government is turning its mind to additional support.

We are in the process of developing a budget. There are a range of calls on the budget, as is the case every year, and we are looking at the budget settings. We see that the federal government is handing down its budget next week. That will give the state government an even greater degree of clarity and visibility in terms of our budget position to inform decisions that we may make.

What I would say is that this morning, as it turns out—so last week we convened, and in fact, it might have been the week before last, but we convened an emergency management council meeting. The Deputy Premier and I spoke about the necessity for a consolidated effort within government to look at all the ramifications of the extraordinary hot and dry conditions. The main focus of the EMC meeting today was two things: the impact of drought on the agricultural sector and also the implications around water security for the state and what actions the government needs to take in that regard.

I was very grateful for the advice and the presentation that we received from PIRSA with respect to the very subject that the Leader of the Opposition refers, along with contributions from Treasury officials in assessing where the state is at in relation to other drought packages that we have seen in the past. What I would say is that in the presentation received from PIRSA it is very clear, if you look at the immediate 12 months to where we are now, that in many parts of the state—not all, but in many parts of the state—we have seen the driest 12 months we have ever seen since records have been kept. Places like the Yorke Peninsula, parts of the Eyre Peninsula, but not exclusively there. We see that, in terms of general dryness, it's really throughout the state, including even in the South-East, where members who are far more close to those communities than I am will be able to attest to the fact that we are seeing some unusually dry conditions in the South-East, but also in the Mallee and elsewhere, as I am sure the member for Hammond will attest.

Ms Pratt: And the Mid North.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: And the Mid North, indeed. We had country cabinet in the Mid North a few weeks ago, and I travelled to Mallala, amongst other places, as the member for Frome would know, along with the member for Light, and we met with people on the ground who were experiencing this hardship, which is real.

So yes, again, to come back to the essence of the Leader of the Opposition's question, this government has already announced a package. We are very happy to acknowledge that this is a very concerning situation that requires active government attention. We are doing that, as evidenced by the meeting we had this morning, and we will actively contemplate any way that the state government can show more support beyond the measures that we have already announced, which I am happy to enunciate if required.

EMERGENCY WATER PROVISION

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (14:28): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier provide any information to the house on any changes to emergency water provision arrangements in my community and whether hardship pricing arrangements are being considered?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (14:28): I thank the member for his question. The member joined me and a number of other members of parliament who represent areas that are affected by this particular issue within the larger drought, the issue of the need for supplementary water supply while the water carting market begins to work more effectively. The timeline for people waiting for water carting blew out from two or three days to six to eight weeks and that was of deep concern to us. We took action, as I have raised in this chamber in the previous sitting week, and at the end of last week we had a meeting with the relevant members of parliament, and I thank them all for being there.

The changes that we have been making recently to the emergency bulk water collection points, which is part of our response, has been to, as I indicated early on, be responsive to the

changing information that we get about where there is need. We started with three sites in the Hills and talked about one on Fleurieu Peninsula. We were then able to open up that fourth one in McLaren Vale, and that has been able to offer water to a number of people. We have then recognised that there is a need around the One Tree Hill into Elizabeth Park area for a bulk water collection point, so we have added that one and taken away Brukunga, recognising that it is 10 minutes from Woodside and that it had lower use, comparatively, than Woodside—so, spreading our resources in the right direction.

I was grateful for some of the feedback from people at that meeting with the MPs on the question of whether down further on Fleurieu Peninsula, around Victor Harbor and so on, might be a useful point to add. We are working on whether there is a site down there. There is a particular challenge with Yankalilla, which is a little stranded in terms of water sources, so we are working on whether there is a way to assist with the tank that might be provided to be a central location point. That is the variation in those offerings.

We have had about 200 people come for about 200 kilolitres thus far, which indicates that it is meeting a need, but we recognise at the same time that it is not sufficiently easy for people that they are replacing water carting orders. For some people it will, I think, be a challenge enough to get to the collection point and to have the kind of water storage that is easy for them to take back. We are trying to work out whether there are ways in which we can assist, and we are very hopeful that community members are helping their neighbours and recognising their needs.

The member raises the question—and it was raised on that day also I think by the member and also by Rebekha Sharkie, who is the member for federal parliament who attended. They first raised the issue with me about the pricing of water and were then joined by others also questioning that. We have set the price at being the average of the water carting price because initially we were concerned that we didn't want to be undercutting the water carting industry, creating a perverse outcome where tankers would queue up at our areas and cancel their orders.

If someone brings a 200-litre container, which is not that hard to handle, the pricing is \$6. When you think about that in comparison to going to a supermarket, it is \$4 or \$5 for 10 litres. So it is cheaper. But what I have also been able to confirm is that concessions are available. The way that you can get a refund currently if you are getting water carting is exactly the same if you are getting water at these points. We are making sure that that is much more publicly known so that people are aware of their rights to get funding from the Department of Human Services.

NORTHERN SUBURBS PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:32): My question is to the Premier. How is the Malinauskas Labor government ensuring that families in the north will have access to quality public education facilities into the future?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:32): I thank the leader—sorry, I thank the member for Elizabeth; he is the leader in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. I thank the member for Elizabeth for his—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: One of a number. The member for Elizabeth knows full well the implications of rapid growth. He has seen it in his own community, as have other representatives here from the northern suburbs. During the course of this week, the state government has been outlining, I think, considerable plans to accommodate the growth that we know the state is experiencing and is likely to continue to experience for some time.

I am at pains to make clear that this is not a policy of the government seeking to pursue population growth for population growth's sake, but rather to acknowledge the fact that because we have a stronger economy the population is growing at a faster rate than we have seen previously, and we anticipate that that should be maintained. Therefore, we have to accommodate and plan for that. The northern and southern suburbs will be particularly important, and also places like Murray Bridge. The Murray Bridge council has been very engaged in the exercise, for which they deserve credit.

One of the key planks of the policy that we have announced this week is the principle of land reservation before the fact rather than after it: land reservation that says, 'Right, if this is a community that is set to grow, whether it be in Two Wells, whether it be in Kudla, whether it be in Murray Bridge or wherever it might be, let's make sure that we are reserving land rather than retrospectively trying to work out where the school is going to go or the health service is going to go or how people are going to move in the area.'

On Sunday I was with the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, making clear that we are reserving the rail corridors—not selling them off but reserving them. On top of that, I was very grateful to be with the Minister for Education yesterday identifying the parcel of land that is now in the possession of the South Australian government, where we will be building in the northern suburbs of Adelaide, in a parcel of land in the area of Eyre in the north, a brand-new school, a high school, which is a big investment from the South Australian government—over \$150 million for a 1,300 student school. It's going to be a good one.

We know that Riverbanks up the road is a very popular school. It is well attended and is in demand. We want to replicate that effort with a high-quality facility so that kids in the northern suburbs get access to a school that is of the standard that we see in places like Adelaide Botanic. We are going to see that in the northern suburbs of Adelaide and it speaks to two things: it speaks to a government that is serious about getting this right, learning from the mistakes of the past and making sure that this is not seen as a cost, but, rather, as an opportunity.

When families move into a place like the northern suburbs, with nice surrounds, with tree-lined green areas like we saw yesterday at the development at Andrews Farm, when they get access to a high-quality education facility that is of the best standard and of the appropriate size—we are very deliberate about the size of this school; the Minister for Education is making sure that we are not going down the path of having an unnecessarily large school; we think 1,300 is the sweet spot for a high-quality high school—there is an opportunity there to educate the kids in a family-friendly environment, participating in an economy that is growing and requiring increasingly higher skills.

We do not see growth as a cost, we see it as an opportunity to get it right, which, of course, is an economic policy for the state because we need the labour and we need the homes to unlock programs like AUKUS. We are getting on with this task. We are putting our money where our mouth is, and schools is just the beginning.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My question is to the Premier. Are farmers having to wait until June for additional support from the government? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: At a press conference on Monday the Premier said the government was turning its mind to providing relief to farmers in the context of the state budget in June.

Mr Teague: He said it again just now.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:36): Yes, I did say it again just now and I am happy to say it again: yes, in the context of the budget in June. That means a number of things. It means that in this government we are quite proud of the fact—but not excessively proud—we take some satisfaction that we have been able to deliver three budget surpluses. It's been a while since many governments around this country have delivered three consecutive budget surpluses.

The way you deliver budget surpluses is that you make sure that when you make spending decisions, expenditure decisions, you know how one links to the other, how one affects the other. We have had significant expenses on the budget more recently, particularly because of Whyalla. Obviously, we announced the package that we did before June of \$18 million and what we are making sure we do is that when we approach the challenge of drought and how we expend funds, you have to make sure two things are true: firstly, that you are spending the money in a way that makes the biggest difference, and then secondly, you are making sure that you are accommodating it in the appropriate budget settings.

So in terms of the decisions that we have made up until this point, we particularly look at the things that have been oversubscribed already. So the on-farm drought infrastructure grants, for which there is \$5 million allocated, we know they have been extremely popular. If that popularity, in terms of the number of applications, speaks to the fact that there is a policy, it speaks to a policy that is in demand and worthy, potentially, of further investment.

But there are other areas, of course, where we have already shown considerable support, including the \$2 million that we have provided to charities to assist them with the support of freight, particularly hay or other potential forms of fodder, to regions that are doing it tough. There are a number of organisations that have been the beneficiary of that. The charities—and these are good people: Need for Feed, Rapid Relief Team, Rural Aid, Farmers Relief Agency—have all been beneficiaries of that, along with one that I think deserves a lot of credit and that's Aussie Hay Runners who have been doing a lot of work across the state.

We know that there is potentially an opportunity to see yet more feed get to critical locations, which is important for livestock at the moment. We have allocated \$2 million to that already, and there may be an opportunity to unlock more opportunities through that funding.

I note that Aussie Hay Runners themselves have put out a statement today; they only put it out this morning, I understand. I won't read it verbatim, although I am happy to. It goes into a bit of detail about the work that Aussie Hay Runners are doing with the state government to address the need that is in the community. We are also working with the local government sector, which is important.

Whether you talk to people on the ground who are operating in our primary production sector across the state or whether you are reading a brief on the matter, it's impossible for the severity of the circumstances, and the need that is clearly there, not to jump off the page at you. As a government we have responded to that. We did that at the very end of last year, and we stand ready to do that again. If we can do that in way that is expedited in advance of the budget but in the context of the budget, then we will obviously grab that opportunity.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): My question is to the Premier. What additional support is the Premier prepared to provide to drought-affected farmers today? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Corbin, the owner of EzyBale hay and straw, who has travelled from Freeling to be with us here today, has had his business decimated by frost and drought, with yields of less than 75 per cent of what was planted. Corbin is one of many farmers who has joined us today, from far and wide across the state, who simply cannot wait three months until the state budget to receive that support.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:41): As I said in my previous answer to the Leader of Opposition, I hope that Corbin need not wait that long. I am sure Corbin—I acknowledge his presence here—along with any other members of the primary production sector, does appreciate that while it is true there is an appetite for expedited decision-making, they would also expect of their government responsible decision-making, and that is what we are seeking to do as best as we can.

No-one, least of all myself, lacks an appetite to do more. We are turning our minds to how best we can do that, in as quick a way as possible, to acknowledge the set of circumstances and the need in the community, but we want to make sure we do it in the right way. That is important too. We don't want to unnecessarily hurry it to suit the needs of an immediate question here in the parliament, but we do want to do it right, and that is the work that we are undertaking.

Like I said, we had that important EMC meeting this morning. It was set to be on another topic. The Deputy Premier and I, like I said, spoke last week—or the week before last week; I can't remember—and changed the topic of this meeting to be exclusively towards drought and the impacts that it is having. That being said, there is one thing that I hope for more than anything else, and the

one thing we know about whatever government support we can provide, is that it's very much second best to having a bit of rain. That is what we all hope for, particularly as we get to the lead-up to ANZAC Day.

But we are not sitting around crossing our fingers—we are not crossing our fingers. We are doing the work. We are doing the work, and we will continue to do that until such time that we are able to make an announcement, which I hope will make a difference to Corbin and any other person who is impacted by the situation.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:43): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier consider his government's response to the drought has been sufficient? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Drought-stricken farmers have told the opposition that they have waited up to three months to learn if they have been successful in receiving a \$5,000 rebate. Meanwhile, farmers have been scrambling for feed, have been forced to de-stock and are losing significant amounts of their crops. Farmers and community leaders, including Elden Osten and Mark Schilling, have supported dozens of their farming neighbours to complete online drought application forms, and all have been advised of a minimum 10-week wait.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:44): We always want to do as much as we can, and I think that's true for anyone in elected office. In fact, on a sort of unrelated subject, only earlier this morning when I was in the car I was on the phone to some senior public servants trying to make sure that we are getting dollars out the door as quickly as we can in some of the processes regarding Whyalla, which you were referring to earlier.

Wherever taxpayers' money is being handed out in the form of cash or grants or assistance, there is always a process that has to be gone through. It is necessary and important that when we hand out taxpayers' money to other people in the community, regardless of their circumstances, that there is a bit of rigour around that, but there is always an opportunity to expedite it, make it more efficient and faster where we can.

I think anybody who has sat on the Treasury benches on these types of matters is always trying to make sure we are doing more and faster. Ten weeks may be able to be improved upon and I am more than happy to take that question and get on the phone and see if we can't apply a bit of pressure in the same way that I did on a similar subject this morning because that is the function of leadership for those who find themselves on the Treasury benches and are more than happy to undertake to do that.

But, of course, as reasonable people would appreciate, there is always a process when it comes to handing out cash or grants and that is always going to be true. It's about making sure that we are doing everything we reasonably can to make it as quick as possible.

REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister please advise my constituents on how the government is endeavouring to address the critical shortage of psychologists in regional areas, and when my constituents can expect improved access to affordable and timely mental health care? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Constituents in my regional electorate are facing significant challenges in accessing psychiatric care, particularly for ADHD medication prescriptions. The few local specialists available have lengthy waitlists, leaving many with no choice but to seek costly telehealth consultations, often with interstate specialists, with fees up to \$700 with only minimum Medicare rebates.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:46): I thank the member for Stuart for his question. It is an important question in terms of our mental health workforce for his community and across the state and country as well. The member's question was in relation to psychologists, which is an important issue. The explanation then went to the issue in terms of prescribing medication for ADHD. It would be psychiatrists who would provide that service, although with both psychologists and psychiatrists there are workforce needs and I will address both of those.

In terms of psychologists, we have been working with the relevant workforce groups and unions in terms of the development of a psychology plan for SA Health in particular, but understanding as well that the psychology need is not just in terms of SA Health. My colleague the Minister for Child Protection employs many psychologists, the Minister for Education employs many psychologists and of course in the community there are many psychologists who provide important services under the Better Access Medicare scheme and other private referral services that people need to be able to access.

Right across the country there are issues in terms of the availability of psychologists, particularly since NDIS services have become an increased user of those services as well. So we are working in terms of how do we unleash a further pipeline of psychologists, understanding that there is a large number of people who go in to undertake bachelor's degrees in psychology but it's a very small number of people who end up at the end of that funnel who are able to provide services as a clinical psychologist.

The key issue is how we can create that capacity for the university in terms of the master's degrees and other pathways for people to go from that bachelor's degree to being able to provide clinical practice. A lot of that comes down to supervision and I give credit to the Albanese federal government which has invested somewhat in terms of increasing that capacity for additional supervised places to happen, but we would like to see more of that.

In relation to ADHD, which is an increasing need in the community, we have seen an increasing amount of demand for those services and for that medication that has put more strain in terms of the psychiatric workforce across the country. That is why one of our election commitments, in fact, was to develop with The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists a dedicated workforce plan for the availability of psychiatrists, understanding not only the needs such as the ones you have outlined but also the increasing number of mental health beds we are putting in in terms of our public services and also other private services, in particular the increasing need for child psychiatrists as well. So again, it is about how we create that training pipeline. We have been working on that plan. It's very close to completion and I look forward to releasing that shortly, which will chart the way for how we can increase the number of psychiatrists here in South Australia into the future.

In terms of ADHD in particular, one of the issues that has been raised by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and also by a number of other stakeholders, and which has recently been raised in Western Australia and to which the Western Australian government have made a commitment is: could the scope of practice for general practitioners be increased to allow them to make those assessments in terms of ADHD and the prescribing of that medication?

That is something that we are interested in exploring and looking at whether there's a change that we could make in South Australia. We are talking to Western Australia about the work that they have done in this area and ultimately that would unleash a big additional capacity for people to access that ADHD assistance.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister update the house on state government cost-of-living support?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (14:51): I thank the member for their question and their interest in the area. Along with all members of this place, we have deep concerns about cost of living for South Australians. I want to acknowledge my colleagues who have worked together to bring this to fruition, including the Treasurer, the Minister for Education, the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, the Minister

Infrastructure and Transport and the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, and also the Premier, for his leadership in this space in order to reform and review our concession system.

We took up the challenge across the board by abolishing stamp duty for eligible first-home buyers, releasing more land for housing, giving more help for school parents, slashing bonds for rentals and making public transport free 24/7 for 415,000 Seniors Card members. All that before we got to our critical work in concessions. At the election, we did make two promises around concessions and we have over-delivered on both of those. These commitments were in stark contrast to what the public was being offered from those opposite where there were no promises in regard to improving the concession system at all.

We promised to double the cost-of-living payment in 2022. We did that, but also brought that payment forward for renters by eight months and also for self-funded retirees, so they got paid at the same time as homeowners. We promised to fully review our concession system and we completed that review in 2023. We could have just left it there and said 'job done', but we have not done that and that's not how we roll. The team cares deeply about our community and as the cost pressures and cost-of-living crisis has emerged, we have responded and put our money where our mouths are.

We over-delivered on that promise to review the system by responding to its recommendations with \$115 million in our 2024 budget. It included the one-off additional cost-of-living payment in June 2024, and then permanently doubling the cost-of-living payment for renters from July 2024. This year, we are expanding eligibility for household concessions such as cost of living, energy and water for people in shared accommodation and also for asylum seekers. The total of all this means more people who need it getting more support.

In between over-delivering on those commitments, we have partnered with the commonwealth on the funding and delivery of energy bill relief payments. There was up to \$500 for eligible households and \$650 for small businesses. My latest advice is that the Department of Human Services has arranged payments totalling \$290 million under this program, with \$145 million of this coming from the state government.

This is the three-year report card on our targets and how we are addressing and responding to the needs of the community when at this time cost-of-living pressures are really hurting. But the simple story is that we have delivered hundreds of millions of extra dollars because of this policy in concessions alone, and we did this with one leader and one Minister for Human Services. I think, in contrast, those opposite will know that they are now on their third leader since the election, with the latest one appointing a shadow minister for human services while also having a shadow minister for community services and a shadow minister for cost of living. And with such a big team in the area, I am really wondering where their policies are.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right will come to order. The member for Morialta will leave until the end of question time.

The honourable member for Morialta having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: I think it's been a very good question time so far, with the way everyone has calmly listened to the questions and answers about two important issues for our state, the statewide drought and, of course, Whyalla, two massive issues that affect every electorate directly or indirectly. The member for Hammond.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:55): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier support the advice given by his Minister for Primary Industries? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PEDERICK: By a letter dated 4 March 2025 to the federal member for Barker, the Minister for Primary Industries wrote, and I quote:

...drought support must not encourage farmers to maintain stocking rates that are not sustainable in the present conditions.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:55): I haven't seen the correspondence to which the member refers, but what I would say is this: Minister Scriven is one of the more diligent people I have come across in public life. I know that she's been regularly engaging with primary producers, South Australian grain producers, Livestock SA and regional councils. She has travelled extraordinary volumes across the state to talk to people about the implications of drought. I have every confidence that the minister is addressing this challenge in a really honest and earnest way. I will refrain from making any particular commentary about the member for Barker for reasons that I am sure others—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Indeed it is, which is why I will refrain from entering into a political or any sort of thing. I thank Minister Scriven for her efforts. I am speaking to her frequently about the issue, and I have every confidence that the work that she's putting in, she's doing in accordance with the advice that she has received not just from her own agencies, like PIRSA, which is a pretty well-led organisation, I think, with one of the high-quality public servants in its operation, but also in conjunction with the advice that she receives from all the critical organisations that contribute to her policy development.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:57): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to farmers in Chaffey like Steve who is having to sell his livestock to stay on top of his water bills? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr WHETSTONE: Steve reports that his water bill has risen from \$2.60 a kilolitre to \$3.21 per kilolitre in the last 12 months and that his cattle are now smashing new fences to eat the roadside vegetation due to dry conditions.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (14:58): I would like to seek more information from the member about Steve's circumstances to better understand what's driving that price change. I would take the opportunity to put on record the concern that we have for the way in which primary producers are managing through this drought.

Seeing the data in retrospect of what the last year's rainfall across most of the state has looked like is very sobering. There are people on the land who have just lived it. I think going down to the South-East several months ago, during winter, seeing what ought to be paddocks that are sopping with water being green but otherwise dry was shocking to me. To have, through the Feast property, a drain that has never run dry in their living memory, no water at all, and seeing the way that Piccaninnie Ponds is drying up and under threat, therefore not holding back the seawater coming back through, was, again, shocking.

However, we are seeing this all across the settled areas. The impact is different in different areas depending on what the water security is and what the water supply is for people, but it's difficult in every single part. Now if SA Water is changing its pricing, I will not speak for the agency, but what I will do is undertake to understand why that's happened and to see not only what the cause is but what the remedies might be.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What further mental health funding will the government provide as part of any additional package to support the mental health of farmers experiencing this drought?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:00): I thank the member for Frome for her important question, and it is an important question in terms of the mental health impacts from this drought event. We know that those impacts will be going for a long time and

potentially a lot further past the actual drought itself. Just yesterday or the day before, I met with the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention, the member for Elder, with the Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley, the Department for Health and Wellbeing, and the Mental Health Commissioner, Taimi Allan, for my regular mental health meeting.

One of the issues we talked about was the drought response. They are working together between the Mental Health Commissioner and the department with advice from Dr Brayley in terms of what additional responses we can have in terms of mental health. Sir, as you know particularly well from the response in terms of the fires on Kangaroo Island, this will need to be a long-term response. It will not be a quick action that will need to take place. There will need to be work in communities for a long period of time, in terms of addressing our response.

One of the things that we will be looking at in terms of that work is the response that we made in terms of mental health for the Riverland flood event as well. The government invested additional funding put into both state and non-government services in the Riverland region to address mental health impacts from the flood. One of the things that we will be doing in our assessment is looking at what worked well and what didn't work as well from that Riverland event, and where we can stand up services more quickly as opposed to the development of services taking months or years down the track.

So that work is ongoing. I know the member is aware that we did make an announcement last week in terms of the funding that the state government has made available for Lifeline for services in both Clare and Port Pirie as well. I know the member for Stuart particularly strongly advocates in terms of Port Pirie services, and I know the member for Frome as well as the member for Light advocated in terms of the Clare services. So we have been able to continue those services with \$250,000 from the state government that will be made available for that service over the course of the next 18 months, and those services have been very well received in those communities.

There are drop-in services enabling people to come forward to speak to volunteers but also trained counsellors in those services, and also referral to other appropriate services. When I was at the centre in Clare last week, I was speaking to the team about what the impacts had been so far from the drought. They are starting to see some mental health impacts in relation to that, and they have been able to work with other services. Of course, there are some services that exist already through PIRSA where they have been able to work with people in terms of PIRSA's wellbeing team. But we know that that need is going to increase, particularly as the extent of this becomes more apparent and as the impacts become more apparent over coming months and years, and that is why we are doing this very important work.

YORKE PENINSULA POWER OUTAGE

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Mines and Energy. Can the minister confirm that ElectraNet and SAPN perform proactive routine cleaning of key insulators along our power network? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: I have heard from a former linesman who worked for SAPN who claimed that whilst he was an apprentice he used to regularly clean insulators in January, but that no longer happens. A farmer with transmission lines that run through his paddock says he hasn't had a notice of a helicopter clean for at least three years.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:04): Yes, I note that the member has excellent contacts with people who work in the industry and I am very keen to hear from them. Just to give the house a brief update, South Australia Power Networks, which is the distribution arm of our electricity system which delivers power to your home from substations, have a guaranteed service level that they must meet. Transmission lines do not. They are given incentivisation packages by the Australian Energy Regulator to try to meet service reliability. Now, at the end of any regulatory period the periods of time with or without power are assessed, which depends then on the level of incentive paid.

I am very concerned by what happened on the weekend. The first object should always be to get power back on as fast as possible, especially during the day, especially when it is hot,

especially in communities where there are a lot of people who are reliant on air conditioning and businesses that are relying on electricity for work. If there needs to be a planned outage later to fix the substantive issue, you do that as a planned outage later on.

Now, I will be entirely frank with the house: if I find out or discover that there was work being done to fix a substantive issue rather than get power on as quickly as possible, I think that is not the appropriate way to have gone about the restoration of power on Yorke Peninsula on the weekend. Right now I do not have evidence that that was not done, but the more I talk to the member for Narungga the more concerned I get about what he is hearing on the ground about what occurred that day. I will be following this up not only with ElectraNet but also with the Australian Energy Regulator.

To be fair to ElectraNet, I think their executive leadership is just as concerned as we are about what occurred that day. If there haven't been helicopter cleans recently, that is concerning. If there has not been the regular cleaning and maintenance that has been done, that would be something that the regulator would have had to tick off to make sure that we could sustain a level of service.

However, the unfortunate part about regulating privatised monopolies is that the regulator works on a risk-based approach. If this was a government operation and the government ran the transmission lines, we would have had people cleaning those lines regularly. What the private sector will do is work on a risk-based approach about rain doing a lot of the work naturally and then, if there is dust, pollution monitors to work out when cleaning should be done on a risk-based approach.

I hope—and if I find evidence to the contrary I will act—that this is not on the basis of there being some type of exercise where they are collecting revenue on the basis that this cleaning is occurring and then not doing it and just pocketing it for their shareholders. I can't imagine that ElectraNet would operate that way. If they have, there are severe consequences.

I encourage the member for Narungga to continue to talk locally. Often the local information on the ground is very important, especially from people who actually work on the infrastructure, who care about the communities that they are in. I also say this: I am not here to defend ElectraNet, but I have had a lot of contact with the chief executive of ElectraNet over the last 72 hours about what has occurred at Yorke Peninsula. He is just as angry and just as upset as you and I are about what occurred, because it is unacceptable to have what occurred that weekend in that type of weather occur, and it cannot happen again.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (15:08): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister inform the house on the progress of the Malinauskas government's infrastructure build?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:08): It was three years ago today that the Malinauskas government was elected in a remarkable feat of defeating a one-term government. We progressed on a massive infrastructure spend, and that infrastructure spend has been daunting. Just in the last budget, over the next four years this government will spend \$25.9 billion on infrastructure across South Australia, whether it is building new tech colleges, upgrading schools, building a new Women's and Children's Hospital or getting the tunnels in the north-south corridor right the first time rather than having to go backwards and forwards. So what we are seeing is a lot of infrastructure being spent, and it is difficult work but it is employing thousands and thousands of South Australians.

The member for Black would be very keen on one piece of infrastructure that is on track to be delivered by the end of the year, and that's the Majors Road on/off ramps.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is a key priority. This is a project that was, of course, championed by the former member for Black, and then abandoned and then argued against, but I think what we are seeing now is the community understanding the importance of the Majors Road upgrade. The duplication of Main South Road is an important piece of infrastructure that you fought

very, very hard to get done, and get done properly—not with roundabouts, but with proper grade separations throughout the entire length all the way through to Aldinga. The Speaker fought hard for those and we are delivering that work.

But there's more to be done, and I want to thank the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for the work that they are doing. We just opened up the part of the Augusta Highway duplication to Lochiel. That was an exceptional piece of work initiated by the previous government, and it is a good piece of work. We want to see that work continue because the resilience in our regions and the resilience with our infrastructure helps our economy grow.

The important part about making sure that we get all this infrastructure right feels like the tram grade separations. We are not just doing the South Road grade separation: we are doing Marion and Cross, and of course we are doing Morphett Road as well, to try to decongest those left-hand turns on Anzac Highway and ease traffic congestion on Morphett Road in the morning—projects that were ignored by the previous government and were never even talked about under the previous government. But there were two projects that they did champion, that they worked very, very hard to get delivered, and they were the intersection upgrades on Fullarton and Cross road and Magill and Portrush road.

Congratulations to the member for Hartley who fought very hard to upgrade the Magill Road-Portrush Road intersection. Do you know why? Better freight efficiency to get more trucks along Portrush Road. That was in their business case to the commonwealth government. The other person who championed the upgrade of Fullarton and Cross roads was Nicolle Flint. She worked exceptionally hard, even to the point of razing the Waite Gatehouse. Remember they wanted to demolish that?—and why did they want to expand Fullarton and Cross? Better freight access: their secret plan to get more freight onto Cross Road.

In fact, we discovered that they had a plan to grade separate Unley, Belair and Cross roads and Goodwood and Cross roads, demolishing 190 homes and businesses along Cross Road to make Cross Road a freight corridor. We ruled that out. Across there is the guilty party.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to welcome to parliament today primary producers from around South Australia and acknowledge the difficult times that they are going through, and also some mayors and council CEOs who are here as well, including the Mayor of Kimba, Wattle Range, Grant, Goyder, Mid Murray and the CEO of Wattle Range. I just put on the record, too, my thanks to the councils of Yankalilla and Kangaroo Island, who I met with last week. The local government who are at the coalface are doing a great job with those primary producers and also interfacing with the government departments responsible, so thank you all for being here today. This is the people of South Australia's house, and it is really important that we have our farmers in here today.

Grievance Debate

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:13): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the call and I want to echo your sentiments. I thought that the house had forgotten its manners there for a while, but we welcome our friends from Salter Springs, Burra, Kimba, Saddleworth, Riverton, Marrabel and Manoora. You are welcome in this house and we thank you for giving up your time today, stepping off farm, leaving your work behind to come and share an important message with us today, and that is to bring awareness back to the chamber, back to the government, back to the city about what it means to be a primary producer at the moment.

We have seen the chamber emptied—government members have got other places to be—but the Liberal Party is with you all the way. In regard to the comments that we have heard from the Premier today—questions about where is the relief coming from, when will it come, how long do you have to wait—our challenge back to the government is that they need to do more, they need to do better, and they need to do it faster.

You cannot wait, our primary producers cannot afford to wait, until the budget. They are hurting now. This is not a drought that has taken place in the last six months. This is not a drought that has just appeared over the last 12 months. We have seen a decline in rainfall for up to 18 months and, for some farmers in lower rainfall territory, it extends for years, and the government knows this.

We have ministers who are getting briefings from bureaucrats. You are getting advice—some of it I would contest is misguided—but the advice is clear: we are in a drought. That dirty D word: it took the government a long time to use it; they were not prepared to use the word 'drought' last year. We are in drought conditions now and we want to see a better, faster response from the government by comparison to some of the relief packages that they are quick to offer on other issues.

The word 'emergency' has applied to a reduction in water supply in the Adelaide Hills, and there are members in my team who represent those areas. But there is an emergency elsewhere. It is statewide and this government does not have an answer to the water infrastructure crisis that we are facing. We see it in pricing, we see it in quality, we see it in supply, we see it in pressure. For the farmers who are here today representing their regions, the government needs to put boots on the ground, come out, meet you where you are at and have conversations with you about what you need.

It is a nuanced response. There is not one answer. We cannot have a single sentence on a document that says, 'This is the fix'. We need funding, but we need the Minister for Primary Industries to get out into regional South Australia, not in a car that is driven by a driver that has public servants in the back telling her what the answers are.

The farmers who are here are representing groups that have been hurting for a long time, and I do not get any feedback that they are seeing their Minister for Primary Industries where they are at. It is dusty, it is dry, and there are details that might sound little, like clothes which are difficult to wash and gardens that are dying, bores that are salty and dams that are empty, and families that are paying a levy for the privilege to pump no water from an empty dam. These are the kitchen-table issues that families are facing.

We have a fantastic representation from people who have come off farm today to come to the city, come to the government, meet the government here in this chamber because they are not seeing the government out on the ground. The Premier wants to pat himself on the back for a country cabinet coming 40 minutes out of the city, but that is not dryland farming.

We are amazing in our capacity to farm dry land. To think that on rainfall alone we can get up to seven tonnes off prime arable farming land without irrigation puts South Australian farmers at the top of the pack. But they are struggling at the moment, and we are hearing really sad stories of farmers who know they have to diversify their income—they are driving buses, they are contract fencers, they are teachers—we even have mental health workers who have to stay on the farm. This government needs to do more, needs to do better, and it needs to do it faster.

There being a disturbance in the gallery:

The SPEAKER: I think they are clapping for you standing up there, member for Mount Gambier.

COMMUNITY CRICKET AWARDS

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:18): I rise to congratulate two outstanding individuals from my electorate who have made a tremendous impact on grassroots cricket in South Australia. Chloe Mackenzie and Ben Johnson have both gone above and beyond to foster inclusivity, develop young talent and build stronger communities through their dedication to junior cricket. Their recognition at the recent 2024-25 South Australian Cricket Association Community Cricket Awards is not only well deserved but a testament to the lasting difference they have made to the lives of young cricketers.

Chloe Mackenzie, the recipient of the Young Leader of the Year award, has transformed the landscape of junior girls' cricket in the South-East region. At just 22 years of age, she has identified a significant gap in opportunities for young girls to play cricket in a supportive, female-only environment. She established the first ever South-East junior girls cricket community, giving girls the opportunity to train, learn and develop their skills alongside their peers.

The impact of Chloe's work speaks for itself. Young girls who once had no choice but to play in mixed-gender competitions now have a space where they can thrive and build confidence. The words of her players—praising her kindness, coaching ability and dedication—demonstrate just how much she has inspired them.

Hailing from a regional area, Chloe's commitment sees her conduct sessions all over the South-East, at times driving up to 200 kilometres after work to conduct a training session to ensure these young girls have a pathway to continue their cricketing journey. Her dedication, leadership and tireless work have laid the foundation for a sustainable future for girls' cricket in the South-East. This was further recognised last week with the announcement on International Women's Day that Chloe was a recipient of the Power of Her Emerging Leader award. Her recognition for both awards as a young leader is a testament to the lasting impact young adults can have on a community.

Equally deserving of recognition is Ben Johnson, this year's Cricket Blast Coordinator of the Year. Ben has been a driving force behind junior cricket in Mount Gambier, dedicating countless hours to coaching and developing young players. Managing two under-10 teams and running a Cricket Blast program for 30 children, Ben has ensured that every child, regardless of their ability, has the opportunity to enjoy and develop their love for cricket.

What makes Ben exceptional is not just his coaching skills but his ability to connect with people, whether it is the young cricketers, their parents or siblings on the sidelines. Ben's enthusiasm and energy are infectious, his sessions are engaging, his coaching is adaptable to different skill levels and, most importantly, he makes cricket fun. He understands that sport is not just about competition—it is about community.

Recognising a gap in the junior cricket pathway, Ben established an under-10s program to bridge the intimidating gap between Cricket Blast and under 12s. Thanks to his leadership, more young players are staying involved in the sport, families are far more engaged and the local cricketing community is stronger than ever.

It is leaders like Chloe Mackenzie and Ben Johnson who ensure that grassroots cricket can continue to flourish. Their dedication, leadership and passion for the game are inspiring and I have no doubt their impact will be felt for years to come. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them both.

While we are on the topic of cricket, I would also like to congratulate the West Gambier Cricket Club, who were successful in taking out back-to-back titles in the Mount Gambier and District Cricket Association's Barber Shield, with a dominant win over Penola. Sam Willis was player of the match, with an impressive seven-wicket haul that even included a hat-trick. West also took out the B-grade title, with Yahl Cricket Club claiming the C-grade honours.

The SPEAKER: Yahl, the home club of test spinner Peter Sleep and a great Redback. We wish the Redbacks all the best next week in the final of the shield. The member for Colton.

GAMES LEGACY COMMITTEE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:23): Thank you, sir. I think you might like this one too. Earlier this week I wrote to the new sports minister with a positive, proactive proposal to stand up a Team SA 2032 Games Legacy Committee. What does that mean? It means bringing together MPs from across both sides of the aisle and representatives from business, sports and government. I propose that we task this committee with developing a strategy to maximise the economic benefit and actively promote SA as the place to be prior to the games.

There is a huge economic opportunity that sits before us ahead of the 2032 games, with thousands of athletes from right across the world requiring a pre-games base. I think South Australia is uniquely positioned to make the most of that opportunity, if we work together and start planning early. Why do we need to start this planning now? There are a couple of really important reasons. The decisions are being made earlier and earlier by national Olympic committees and national sporting organisations because of the complexity that comes with organising these games.

It is clear that there is a huge opportunity for us with the many advantages that our state has. We have incredible infrastructure here. We already have the best indoor swimming facility in Australia, we have the brand-new SASI facility, we have a world-class velodrome and we have a

range of other top-level sporting facilities here in South Australia. There are a range of other reasons that South Australia is uniquely positioned, such as ease of transport and proximity by air travel to Brisbane, the host of the games, making South Australia an attractive proposition for other countries that are considering coming here.

But what does it really mean in terms of economic opportunity? Teams usually come and set up for three to six weeks prior to a games. In the period of July through August, sometimes some of the more difficult months for our hotels to fill rooms, this is a fantastic opportunity. For many who were here in Adelaide prior to the Sydney 2000 games, they can remember some of the athletes coming out and visiting schools and spending time with young athletes. The opportunity for us to have the best of the best here in Adelaide, interacting with our schoolchildren, again, is something that I think is an exciting opportunity.

On top of that, it is not just an opportunity for Olympic sports but also an opportunity for our professional sporting leagues to share skills, to learn from the best of the best, whether that is biomechanics or dietitians or the other ancillary services that come with athletics at the highest level. It is not just me that thinks this is a good idea. I was very pleased to see Chris Jarmer, a well-renowned chef here in Adelaide, who was part of Swimming Australia's preparation prior to the Paris Games, recognise the opportunity as well.

In fact, in a radio interview on Monday he cited that he thought we were right on the money with this proposal and that Adelaide, South Australia is uniquely positioned to be successful if we were to pursue this. He thought, and I quote, 'I'd be targeting some of the big countries like France, the US, Canada, UK, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands, who have big teams and are always quite successful.' Noting some of the significant infrastructure that I have just listed, he thought we had a unique opportunity that we could make the most of and recognised that it would make sense for government to approach some of these countries because these things are planned well in advance.

I have had some pretty positive feedback already from the likes of Sport SA's Chief Executive Officer, Leah Cassidy, making very clear that she is very supportive of this position. We have also had feedback from other state sporting organisations who similarly are fully supportive and approve of the approach and the proposal, saying it sounds like a fantastic initiative and that they would be interested in being involved and think that it is a very reasonable and sensible approach.

So the question is: why not? Let's get on with it. Business leaders and industry groups think this is a good idea. State sporting organisations think that this is a good idea. So let's bring Team SA together. Let's get planning, let's build a strategy and make SA the place to be before the games and make the most of this once in a generation economic and social opportunity that is before us.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Colton and, of course, that nation-leading pool that you referred to is the Matt Cowdrey pool down there at Marion, a wonderful facility. And just on the subject of getting countries to come here: we had England all lined up to come here for the 2026 Commonwealth Games and about the week or so before it was to be announced Victoria pulled out of hosting the Commonwealth Games, which was a great pity because we were going to have 800 athletes here and coaches and staff for weeks in what would have been February next year. In a former role I had a fair bit to do with that, as well as talking to Team GB about coming down here as well for 2032. The member for Stuart.

EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:29): Today I would like to talk about the many emergency services volunteers who serve in regional South Australia, and in particular those men and women who are serving in their particular units across the whole of the electorate of Stuart. They not only give up their own valuable time voluntarily but also, very importantly, leave their employment to go and attend to whatever emergency may occur, not only in their own backyard but anywhere in the state and perhaps sometimes interstate and overseas, where their great and valuable service is greatly appreciated. Their service is appreciated by not only the members of the unit they might be assisting but, more importantly, the communities that are involved with the emergency.

The business operators must also be acknowledged here, as at times their employees would have to attend an emergency at the drop of a hat, sometimes causing disruption to that particular

business. These volunteer services will, and will continue to, endeavour to save properties, farmland and whatever area might be involved. In many cases these volunteers are also risking their lives and health by assisting those who may be in the direct line of the incident.

There was an incident just recently at the fire at the Mount Remarkable National Park, where just over 40 local brigades participated in this event over the long and hot period. I would like to acknowledge these brigades, whose volunteer members participated: Crystal Brook, Wandearah, Warnertown, Mundoorra, Wards Hill, Napperby, Redhill, Koolunga, Port Broughton, Wilmington, Melrose, Port Germein, Wirrabara, Appila, Booleroo Centre, Mambray Creek, Gladstone, Jamestown, Georgetown, Laura, Gulnare, Caltowie, Narridy, Yacka, Yongala, Peterborough, Orreroo, Stirling North, Quorn, Middleback, Snowtown, Terowie, Spalding, Hallett, Whyte Yarcowie, Roxby Downs and Andamooka. Of those 40 brigades, 20 were from my electorate.

I monitored the progress of the situation at the national park and visited the ground crew at Wilmington on several occasions, where it was very evident that not only the crews from my electorate but also crews from all over regional South Australia, as I mentioned, were present as part of those 40 brigades.

Wilmington and other areas of my electorate, plus other parts of the state, have been suffering dramatically from the drought. However, the townspeople, in Wilmington in particular, were forever bringing food and drinks and other assistance for those hardworking volunteers. This just shows that country people on many occasions think about others before they think about their own needs.

Unfortunately, in circumstances like these there is always a chance of a volunteer being injured. Unfortunately, in the fire at the national park at Mount Remarkable, Michael Wigg from Wilmington sustained some injuries and had to be flown to Adelaide for treatment. Very thankfully for him and his family, the injuries were able to be overcome.

To show my gratitude to those dedicated volunteers in my electorate, I sent a congratulations letter to each of the 20 brigades in my electorate. Sending the congratulations letters is very small in comparison to the time, the suffering and also the heartbreak that the families and the volunteers had to go through to fight those fires. In many cases the fires were in very inaccessible locations, and at times they had to have the water tankers flying in. From memory, there were 70 each day that had to be refuelled at either Port Pirie or Port Augusta. It is an issue that we need to be very aware of in particular, in addition to the challenges that our regional people are facing with the drought and also other things, such as the loss of water pressure.

Again, I cannot speak highly enough about the great and dedicated volunteers in all avenues of emergency service across all the regional areas in South Australia. I have said this before: people in regional areas have to not only go out to bushfires but also go out with the SES—they have to go out and attend an accident on the highway and things like that. On many occasions those people go out there and know that, when they get there, they cannot be sure of what they are going to confront or what is going to come before their eyes. In many cases it is their friends, and sometimes it has been their family.

I will relate this again: years ago, my late wife was driving from Port Pirie to Crystal Brook on the Port Broughton Road. There was a head-on crash there, and several emergency services went out there. Even though it is many years ago, those people still have that memory in their minds—and it is always there. So we need to be very aware of the challenges and also the mental health and the emotional stress that these volunteers experience.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:34): I rise today to acknowledge a number of people and organisations that were involved in the massive circuit breaker at Whyalla on 19 February. I believe that 19 February is going to be seen as a historic day. What happened in this chamber and what happened in the upper house was unprecedented. The amendment that we moved to the 1958 steelworker act on that day enabled the state government to push GFG in Whyalla into administration. That power was unprecedented. It gave the state government the power that banks

have when it comes to administration and the fact that this chamber, the upper house and the Governor signed off on it in a very short period of time was something amazing to behold.

I would have to say that prior to it I was very nervous. If something had gone wrong or if Gupta had got wind of what we were up to, it could have all come unstuck, so I would like to congratulate everybody in this chamber and the upper house on the work they did on that particular day.

Obviously, the last year or so has been very challenging in Whyalla, but I was always very confident that we were going to find the way through. There is still a long way to go and a lot of challenges, but, as I said, this was a major circuit breaker. The reason I was confident was that I knew that especially the Premier and the Minister for Energy and Mining, Minister Koutsantonis, always had the back of my community. I knew their commitment was unwavering and I knew the quality of the work that was being done behind the scenes to secure the future of the steelworks.

As a local member, it was difficult having to repeat the line that, 'We are playing our cards close to our chest. It's an evolving situation. When we know what the ultimate set of circumstances will look like then we will act.' To repeat that line and people not see anything happening was a frustrating process. Obviously, some people were highly critical, but a lot of people understood that stuff was going on behind the scenes.

I would like to thank the Premier, the Minister for Energy and Mining, the cabinet and also importantly the raft of advisers, public servants and lawyers who were involved in putting together the strategy that enabled us to push Sanjeev Gupta into administration in Whyalla because by doing that it then enabled the \$2.4 billion package to start to flow. The state government and the federal government were not going to put money into the GFG operation in Whyalla. Sanjeev Gupta had to go.

But there are a lot of other people who need acknowledgment, such as, obviously, the workers and contractors in Whyalla who held that place together, often in incredibly difficult circumstances. One of my sons is a maintenance fitter at the steelworks. I knew what the state of that plant was, and it was not in a good state. I want to acknowledge the two union officials on the ground in Whyalla, Steve McMillan who headed up the AMWU in Whyalla and Shane Karger who headed up the AWU, for all their work and for always being available when I needed to speak to them and also all the delegates and all those individual workers who would come to see me to raise issues so a lot of that information was passed on.

A lot of contractors did it incredibly hard in Whyalla. They were facing closure and one or two did. I think they were very surprised about the nature of the package that we delivered for the contractors in Whyalla and the level of support so that the important contractor ecosystem in Whyalla could live for another day and make its contribution to the steelworks. We have \$384 million to fund the administration at the plant at this stage and, as I said, there might be more money available in the future. But what we are able to do now gives us a real fighting chance to build on those fundamental underlying strengths in Whyalla and the region so that we can make steel for generations to come.

YORKE PENINSULA POWER OUTAGE

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:39): I rise today to draw to the house's attention the absolutely farcical situation that the good people of Yorke Peninsula found themselves in on Friday 14 March. We had the extraordinary situation where the power went out before most of us woke up on Friday morning and did not come back on until most of us had gone sleep that night. It was a really extraordinary situation where we were without power for almost 20 hours and the impact that had on our community was immense.

In the time since that occurred, I have taken calls from numerous businesses that have outlined to me the cost that has imposed upon them. There has been stock they have had to discard because it has spoiled, there has been lost trade, missed out on because they could not turn the lights on, and there have been clients who have had to be rescheduled because they can no longer be fitted in.

Truthfully, I had my car booked in for a service on Friday and it was not able to be done then obviously, so now that garage has had to bring in mechanics early every day this week to make up for the backlog they missed on Friday. That is an extra cost to that business owner that he would not have had to incur otherwise that will not be compensated because it is a fault of the transmission service rather than the service provision.

That does not matter one iota to the people on the ground. It does not matter to them how the power went out. It only matters that they did not have it for near on 20 hours and it has an extraordinary impact on our community. I have mentioned the business impacts, but it also impacted individuals.

I had a call from a gentleman who relies upon medication that needs to be refrigerated to stay good. He was beside himself because of the litany of power outages that led up to Friday and then, of course, the main outage on the Friday, and he was worried that his life-saving medication would spoil and he would no longer be able to use it. Now that is an expense that he would have to incur to replace it, but further to that it puts him in an invidious position where he might be without the medication that he needs. He had to make a mercy dash to Adelaide to find a fridge that he could put that medication in to keep it and prevent it from going poorly.

This has had an extraordinary impact on our community, an extraordinary impact on our local economy and something needs to happen to make sure it does not happen again and also that we can provide recompense to those people who lost income because of it. I think most galling for our community, perhaps, was the explanation given by the powers that be—pardon the pun—for the reason the power went out. We were told that the power went out because the insulators on the transmission lines were dirty after a long and hot summer.

Well, I can tell you that we live in the driest state on the driest continent in the world, and the fact that we rely on rainfall to clean our transmission lines is an absolute farce. Why we would rely on the variety of our natural climate to clean and make sure that we can continue to have access to reliable power is just beyond me. I think it is an extraordinary situation and one that should be rectified immediately, so I am calling on ElectraNet and SAPN to immediately institute proactive routine cleaning of key insulators along our network. This cannot be left until it is needed. This cannot be left until it is imminently going to break down. We need to do this proactively and routinely to make sure that we are never put in this position again.

I also take issue, and I think the community also takes issue, with this argument that there was maintenance booked in for Sunday 16 March, two days after the power went out for 20 hours, and that they were coming around to it, they were going to get to it, but unfortunately it happened before they could get there. Locals will tell you that the power has been going on and off for weeks leading up to this. If I had a dollar for every call I have had from a constituent who has told me a story about a Stobie pole arcing and a fire starting directly underneath it, or it glowing and hissing as they drove past, I could almost pay the person to do the cleaning to make sure that our electricity reliability was there.

There are stories aplenty of people who have seen arcing powerlines and Stobie poles glowing in the dark and have real concerns about what that meant for their local power supply. I talked to a gentleman from Port Clinton and we went through his phone and the messages from SAPN about the power outages that he had put up with in the week leading up to Friday 14 March: for 12 hours on Tuesday 11 March, according to his phone messages, he was without power; from 7am to 1.20 on Wednesday, according to his phone messages, he was without power; and Friday, obviously, he was without power for some 20 hours. Then again on Monday just gone, he was without power for a few hours again. It is this extraordinary situation where we have had all these incidents and it has not done anything.

I got a message just today from a person in SYP. They had fires underneath Stobie poles in December, February and March recently. One of those incidents was nine fires along a line of Stobie poles that CFS crews were actively trying to put out while other fires started around them. It is an extraordinary situation, and plenty of notice for those powers that be to make changes.

There are three things that I am calling for going forward. One, we need to find a way to provide compensation for those people who have lost out, like they would have done if it was a

service fault; two, we need to institute immediately proactive and routine cleaning of our insulators along the network; and three, we need a serious review of the adverse community outcomes that occurred—no phone service, no cool rooms around the entire peninsula on a hot day—to ensure that those things never happen again and that we have contingencies in place.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:45): Impacts of the lack of rainfall are having a significant and ongoing impact on regional communities around the state, but especially in my part of the state. Many have not had rainfall of any substance for months and months. Rainwater tanks are running out, stockfeed levels have all been exhausted. Many parts of my electorate have faced their second or third year with less than average rainfall. I want the Premier to know it is real tough out there at the moment, and our communities are crying out for attention.

It cannot wait for the next budget's considerations that the Premier talked about today. We need attention now. We hear that there is hay interstate that has been paid for, donated, but it has not been trucked over because the government is being tardy in their considerations. We cannot sit and wait. Farmers need that hay desperately, and they need it now—please. I hear from farmers that they are either having to sell off their stock or having to put down their stock, because otherwise they would be starving in their paddocks. It is utterly heartbreaking.

If breeding stock is sold off, they cannot be readily replaced. It will mean a substantial and long-term issue for regional communities. Please, Premier, every year our regional communities and farming businesses pay so much into our state's economy, and we need to see that recognised and reflected with more support at this time when they need it most.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:46): Last night, many locals in my Prospect community came together in Vine Street Plaza to celebrate and recognise a wonderful woman in our community, Anita Muntin. For the past 20 years, Anita has been running our local Prospect Cibo, and she has really been a remarkable person within our community. As I have said during the week, reflecting on Anita's 20 years at the cafe, she is really the magic ingredient that makes a suburb a community. Whether it is coming in for a chat, just for a laugh, for a smile, even during the COVID years, she was a real beacon of light and love and laughter for our community.

Only a week or so ago, Anita announced that she would be closing her cafe and moving on to another chapter in her life. It is a testament to the incredible woman she is the number of locals who have come out to support her, to thank her for the incredible special memories that have been made at Cibo Prospect for so many of us. We just really want to thank her for her service to our local community.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:47): Last night, a series of five memorial seats, or benches, were unveiled at the Gums War Memorial by the Governor, Frances Adamson AC. We are grateful to Her Excellency for her support of our community. Along with Liberal leader Vincent Tarzia, I was very pleased to be able to participate in this event. As the Magill RSL and, in fact, the state RSL president currently, Meredith Burgess, said last night:

Memorials like this remind us that remembrance is not just about history—it is about gratitude, respect, and ensuring that the stories of those who served are never forgotten. These seats will now offer a quiet place where future generations can sit and reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who came before us.

They are very attractive seats. They pay respect to the service clubs whose efforts facilitated their construction, and I am confident that their convenience, their comfort and their dignity will enhance and increase opportunities for members of our local community to pause, pay their respects and potentially find solace.

Highest commendations to Pauline Hill of the Magill Sunrise Rotary Club for her vision and to all the other groups who came together to make them a reality, including Campbelltown council, Magill RSL, the Rotary clubs of Campbelltown, Morialta and Magill Sunrise, the Lions Club of Athelstone-Rostrevor, as well as the artists at Plasma Art. Magill RSL were also particularly pleased that their member, World War II veteran Mario Giovine, who turned 100 last year, was able to attend.

Mario still lives independently in the area, with little to no support other than that of his family. He was accompanied by his grandson Drew. Lest we forget.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:49): I recently had the privilege of attending two inspiring community breakfasts that celebrated the incredible contributions of women in our regions. On 7 March, I attended the Gawler International Women's Day breakfast at Nixon's Function Centre. This year's theme, Accelerate Action, reminded us of the urgent need to close the gender gap, a task that at the current pace may take over a century to achieve. Dr Naomi Rutten, the guest speaker, shared her groundbreaking work in developmental and complex trauma, and her leadership in mental health education. Her dedication to improving psychological care truly inspired all in attendance.

This event would not have been possible without the efforts of the Zonta Club of Gawler, Gawler VIEW Club, Gawler Girl Guides, Gawler council and a number of community members whose commitment exhibits the power of collective action. The following day, I had the pleasure of joining the South Australian Country Women's Association's Auburn branch for their long weekend breakfast.

The event, along with their Auburn shop, raises the vital funds to support rural women through education, advocacy and local initiatives, and strengthens connections across the community. Offering goods like homemade jams, which I could not resist purchasing, I must say community spirit has never tasted so good. These events highlight the extraordinary work of women who tirelessly give their time to make a difference. By involving, hopefully, more younger people in these events, we can ensure that the legacy of these brave women endures.

Bills

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD PRODUCTION AREAS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:51): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:52): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This week, we have seen a change in the way we approach land use planning and infrastructure within South Australia. To echo the comments of the Premier on Monday at the launch of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan, if we identify a problem, we act. And act we have in response to the mounting challenge of providing housing supply within the Greater Adelaide region.

People are choosing South Australia to live here and rightfully so. There are almost 12,500 more businesses operating in South Australia compared with at the 2022 state election; and 73,000 jobs have been created since 2022, 54 per cent of them full time. We are a city that will reach 2.2 million people by 2051. We have also seen the commencement of AUKUS, the great building of Osborne, which is driving employment and innovation in our state, and our mining and minerals sector continues to be strong.

This government is both serious and steadfast in its commitment to putting our people first. We are the custodians for future generations, and we must plan accordingly, and we must develop our communities to ensure Adelaide remains one of the most liveable cities in the world. That is why we have acted through the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the bill before us today.

A key initiative in the government's Housing Roadmap and the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan is to ensure there is an appropriate supply of serviced land to meet both current and emerging housing demand. The GARP identifies sufficient land over the long term to accommodate this growth. There are limited options for where greenfield growth can occur and how much land is identified for

medium to long-term growth, and much of the land identified for the medium to long-term growth is within the Environment and Food Production Areas.

Based on GARP investigations, there are likely to be approximately 61,000 dwellings developed on land that is currently within the EFPA. That is 61,000 dwellings in proximity to existing urban areas which have been locked up and unable to be developed for a significant period of time.

When the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 was first drafted, government policy at the time strongly supported urban consolidation, with a target set for 85 per cent of all growth to occur through infill development. On this basis, the act is currently drafted to ensure that new greenfield land is released from the EFPA only where urban consolidation opportunities have been exhausted.

As intensive and directed urban infill is no longer government policy, the GARP identifies ample greenfield and infill land over the next 30 years. On this basis, there is a disconnect between the existing EFPA provisions in the act and the GARP. I grew up in Kapunda and attended high school there. I know firsthand how important the agriculture sector is to farming communities outside of Adelaide. Primary producers are one of the key pillars of the South Australian economy. We have listened, we have consulted and we have acted decisively.

One of the misconceptions in the public debate is that we are cutting away and removing highly productive agricultural lands, or our food bowl, from the EFPA, and that is not true. Existing use rights are as important as ever. There is no requirement or mandate for farming activities to cease just because land has been removed from the EFPA.

What we are seeking to do is coordinate Adelaide's growth plans with the EFPA and to drive forward our response to ensure our city's growth is appropriate, logical and affords protection to existing land uses. To overcome any disconnect, this bill amends the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 to vary the Environment and Food Production Areas so that they align with the GARP. The bill also provides a mechanism to ensure that the EFPAs remain consistent with the GARP for new growth areas over the next 30 years and the years that come after that. The bill achieves the following. It:

- amends section 7 of the Act to designate a revised GRO Plan setting out new EFPA boundaries based on the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan;
- confirms that any land that is removed from the EFPA on commencement of the bill has the Limited Land Division Overlay applied to it through the Planning and Design Code. This will prevent unordered fragmentation of land, resulting in it becoming harder to develop at a later stage;
- removes the current urban consolidation test for future variations to the EFPA boundaries;
- ensures that future variations to the EFPA are consistent with the GARP and ensure a 30-year land supply; and
- inserts new provisions in section 64 of the act requiring the GARP to consider population growth and to identify land to be developed in the short term. This is to ensure that there is an appropriate methodology for land releases within Adelaide.

The areas being removed from the EFPA will still need to be rezoned before they can be used for residential development, and this will occur in a staged manner over the next 30 years to ensure orderly development. Rezoning would occur based on current demand and specifically take into account infrastructure provision and costs.

The government will also be looking to update its policies around the urban and rural interface. This is to ensure that agricultural activities can still continue. These policy investigations will take into account additional issues, such as bushfire protection, dust and noise between residential and farming areas.

Infrastructure is a key challenge for servicing new greenfield urban growth areas. What the GARP sets to achieve is a logical and coordinated approach to the identification of key lands which

can be used for vital community infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and emergency services. We are identifying the land now to ensure the maximum benefit to these new emerging communities and that there are appropriate structure plans in place as part of the code amendment process. We are continuing to invest in water infrastructure, particularly in the north and south, to supply development-ready housing estates that respond to market and community expectations.

The revision of the EFPA still ensures that the key agricultural lands surrounding Greater Adelaide are protected. The changes to the EFPA that were based on a comprehensive analysis represent a loss of less than 1 per cent of key agricultural lands in the GARP area. This, together with the current character preservation districts and the Hills Face Zone, ensures that we retain strong boundaries between residential and environmental and food production areas.

Existing communities are protected, especially for key areas such as the Barossa and McLaren Vale, where our commitment to character protection remains. With 30 years of land now identified, there should be no cause to radically revise the boundaries of the EFPA in the future. It should be noted that, while the bill varies the test to amend the boundaries of the EFPA to ensure that they remain consistent with the GARP, it does not seek to amend the process to vary these boundaries in the future.

The commission will still be required to conduct a review of the EFPA every five years to determine whether changes are necessary. In doing so, the commission must give consideration to the GARP housing and employment growth over 30 years, and protecting areas of rural, landscape, environmental or food production significance within the Greater Adelaide area from urban encroachment. Following the commission's review of the EFPA, it must continue to provide me (or the Minister for Planning) with a report detailing the outcome of its review and highlighting any changes made. The minister will continue to be required to table the details of any changes along with the commission's report in both houses of parliament, either house then having 14 sitting days to pass a motion of disallowance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their tireless efforts and their work on the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the bill, and other bills yet to come to this house. First is David Reynolds. He is an extraordinary public servant. He has served the state in many roles, but in his role as Chief Executive of the Department for Housing and Urban Development he is responding to longstanding issues of housing supply, the housing crisis, and bringing with him a range of experience in the Public Service which is vital to resolving an issue that nearly every member in this house acknowledges is of vital concern. Good quality Public Service advice is vital to any minister and it is vital to the public interest. So I would just like to put on record my thanks for his advice—not just policy advice but advice of how best to make the machinery of government work in the interests of the people of South Australia.

I also have to thank Craig Holden. Craig Holden has served as the Chair of the State Planning Commission for both the previous government and for this one. Craig has had a different experience in life. Craig has been an architect and he was the lead singer for a short period of time for the band The Angels—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: Yes, a little-known fact; I do not think he will thank me for sharing that with the parliament, but it is true. I thank all the other members of the State Planning Commission who have been so dedicated.

This is such a big piece of work and, while we have been doing this big piece of work, there have been many other pieces of work that we have asked them to do not just on housing but on bushfire code amendments, flood protection code amendments, heritage protection and a whole range of things, which is so very important to the development of the state. This has probably been one of the busiest times for any state planning commission, and Craig Holden's leadership has been vital.

Sally Smith is the Deputy Chief Executive of DHUD but was formerly the executive director in charge of planning in the state and, again, served governments of various persuasions with really excellent advice on the planning act. She has also been a sort of ex officio member of the Planning

Commission for many years and so has been at the heart of not just the new planning act but the implementation of the code under the previous government and, of course, under this government the really vital preparations around the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the government's plans to amend this legislation.

Sally's really terrific advice and her diligence and commitment to the state I think should be acknowledged by the house, along with her team, Brett Steiner, Ben Sieben and Mark Voortman, who has just recently joined us from Mount Barker council and brings with him some really vital experience from a growing area. It is important that we acknowledge that. I hear the Deputy Speaker talking about it, and everybody can point to some of the really pressing issues in Mount Barker and Angle Vale. We all know that we should not repeat the mistakes of the past, and it is vital that we have people who have been at the forefront of addressing some of those issues on the ground, people like Mark, in our departments and giving us good advice about planning and infrastructure provision in the future.

Both Brett and Ben have been tireless workers for planning and so I thank them for their efforts, along with the team within Planning and Land Use Services which is second to none. I know that at the end of this process I will probably have to go down to Harry's Bar for knock-off drinks on a Friday, and they will deserve them. They really are a top-quality department and that is evidenced not just through the quality of work that they are doing but the recognition of that work by many people around the country, of South Australia having a very, very good planning system which serves the state. So I would just like to put on record my sincere thanks for their efforts.

In concluding, I would say that without the changes outlined in this bill, South Australia's growth will be stifled and there will be confusion in the community because the EFPA will prevent urban growth as outlined in the GARP. It is very important that this bill passes the parliament in order to, in the interests of the state, provide housing supply, a clear, defined housing supply that will stretch out in the decades ahead of us. I commend the bill to the house and look forward to members' contributions. 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.

Part 2—Amendment of *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*

3—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

The amendment to the definition of *statutory instrument* is related to the amendments to section 7.

4—Amendment of section 7—Environment and food production areas—Greater Adelaide

Section 7 currently establishes environment and food production areas. The amendments substitute the current plan of environment and food production areas with a new plan.

Section 7(3)(a) is amended so that subparagraph (i) of the power to vary environment and food production areas provides that the variation is consistent with any relevant provisions of the regional plan for Greater Adelaide under section 64 and subparagraph (ii) refers to 30 years.

Other amendments are technical or consequential.

5—Amendment of section 64—Regional plans

Section 64 is amended to insert considerations applying to the preparation of the regional plan for Greater Adelaide.

Other amendments are consequential.

6—Amendment of section 125—Time within which decision must be made

Section 125 is amended to provide that the section does not apply to development that involves a division of land that would create 1 or more additional allotments in an environment and food production area or character preservation area.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

Schedule 1 provides for transitional provisions for the purposes of the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Teague.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (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 2, page 3, after line 4—After subclause (3) insert:

(3a) Section 3(1)—after paragraph (b) insert:

(ba) to promote transparency in relation to the operation of this Act, including through the public reporting of information; and

No. 2. Clause 3, page 3, after line 35 [clause 3(3)]—After the definition of *net greenhouse gas emissions* insert:

net renewable electricity generation means the contribution of renewable electricity generated in South Australia after taking into account non-renewable electricity generated in South Australia and interconnector flows over the course of a financial year;

No. 3. Clause 4, page 5, after line 10 [clause 4(1), inserted subsection (2d)]—After paragraph (b) insert:

and

(c) consider whether zero net greenhouse gas emissions within the State can reasonably be achieved before 31 December 2050.

No. 4. Clause 4, page 5, line 16 [clause 4(4), inserted paragraph (ba)]—After 'calculating' insert:

the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the State,

No. 5. Clause 4, page 5, line 18 [clause 4(4), inserted paragraph (ba)]—After 'offsets' insert:

from outside the State

No. 6. Clause 6, page 6, lines 18 and 19 [clause 6(3)]—Delete subclause (3) and substitute:

(3) Section 7(2)(f)(i)—delete 'energy' and substitute:

and non-renewable electricity sources

No. 7. Clause 6, page 6, after line 19—After subclause (3) insert:

(4) Section 7—after subsection (2) insert:

(2a) For the purposes of subsection (2)(f)(i), information on the levels of greenhouse gas emissions must include—

(a) the level of net greenhouse gas emissions within the State; and

(b) the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the State, without taking account of any removals of greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere due to activities within the State, or any emissions offsets from outside the State.

No. 8. Clause 6, page 6, after line 19—After subclause (3) insert:

(4) Section 7—after subsection (2) insert:

(2a) For the purposes of a report under this section, without limiting the manner in which levels of greenhouse gas emissions or renewable electricity generation or use may be expressed, the report must, in providing information in relation to those matters, where relevant, express the information using an appropriate unit

of measurement (and not just express the relevant information by reference to a percentage).

No. 9. New clause, page 6, after line 19—After clause 6 insert:

6A—Amendment of section 9—Premier's Climate Change Council

Section 9—after subsection (3) insert:

(3a) In making an appointment under this section (being an appointment required to fill a vacancy in the office of a member of the Council that occurs after the commencement of this subsection), the Minister must have regard to the desirability of including, within the expertise of the Council's membership, a person or persons who have an understanding of—

(a) the calculation, assessment, measurement or reporting of greenhouse gas emissions; and

(b) science related to climate change.

No. 10. Clause 9, page 8, after line 3—After subclause (4) insert:

(4a) Section 14(2)(b)—after 'emissions,' insert:

which may include consideration of a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target or targets,

No. 11. Clause 10, page 8, after line 33 [clause 10, inserted section 14A(2)]—After paragraph (a) insert:

(ab) without limiting any other matters that may be taken into consideration, should be prepared having regard to—

(i) the impacts of climate change on biodiversity; and

(ii) the impacts of climate change on water management; and

(iii) measures mitigating the effects of climate change, including measures to progress towards a circular economy; and

(iv) the impacts of the transition to lower greenhouse gas emissions; and

No. 12. Clause 11, page 11, after line 29—After subclause (3) insert:

(4) Section 16—after subsection (6) insert:

(7) A register of sector agreements under subsection (6)(a) must be kept available for public inspection, without fee, on the Department's website.

No. 13. Clause 14, page 12, line 17 [clause 14, inserted section 20A(3)(a)]—After 'section' insert:

including in relation to the reporting of the level of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the operations or activities of the agency

No. 14. New clause, page 12, after line 25—After clause 14 insert:

14A—Amendment of section 21—Review of Act

Section 21(2)—after paragraph (a) insert:

(ab) insofar as is reasonably practicable, the extent to which measures adopted by the State Government to facilitate climate change adaptation have been implemented; and

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: If it is convenient to the house, I would like to move all en bloc, please.

The CHAIR: Are members of the opposition comfortable with that—that we accept all the amendments and you can speak to them as you wish?

Mr ODENWALDER: I draw your attention to the state of the house, sir.

A quorum having been formed:

The CHAIR: Member for Heysen, I redirect my question to you: are you comfortable moving them en bloc and then speaking to them?

Mr TEAGUE: Yes.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

Motion carried.

CRIMINAL ASSETS CONFISCATION (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 March 2025.)

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:16): It is a pleasure to be able to rise to speak on the Criminal Assets Confiscation (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill today. This is a bill that keeps the act effective and efficient by supporting the aim of the scheme to both hit commercial drug offenders where it hurts the most, that being their hip pocket, of course, and then using these seized funds to be able to help address the social issues that their profiteering impacts.

I myself have been a victim of crime a couple of times now in my adult life, one of those being a home break-in many, many moons ago before I had children. It happened in the middle of the day. It was one of those things where someone came through the front door, grabbed what they could and left.

The second time had a bit more of an impact on myself and my family. It was when we were in the midst of moving and someone actually broke into my car and took what they could. Unfortunately, I had all my office works and gear in there at the time and a personal laptop was taken from that car. That laptop actually had a lot of personal photographs and videos of family members who are no longer with us, and also photos and videos that I cannot get back unfortunately.

I know firsthand how important it is not only to ensure that justice is sought but to also be comforted in the knowledge that the actions that have been taken act as a deterrent against future behaviours occurring and repeating themselves, and also so that others do not feel incentivised to take up such behaviours, knowing full well the impact they can have on an individual family and the community alike.

Community safety is something that I engage with my local community on quite regularly, as to what we need to be doing to make it as safe and comfortable as possible and for it to be one of the best places to live and raise a family. We have suggestions raised on a plethora of areas: from having more police presence out on the beat, which is something we are certainly working very hard towards, to ensuring that the laws we have in place are adequate and reflective of what is being experienced in communities, but just as importantly ensuring that they are acting as a deterrent and as a lesson for those who may be considering those behaviours in the first place.

Just as importantly, I have been really pleased to hear from local communities as to the piece around rehabilitation as well, addressing why these behaviours are occurring in the first place and looking to break down those systematic failures that are being experienced in local communities and the like.

When we come to think about crimes in the sense of what we are looking at today through the recommendations of this bill regarding commercial drug offenders, time and time again we hear that there needs to be a really clear message sent that there is not short-term pain and long-term gain for those entering into this behaviour. We want people to think twice about dabbling in the first place, and we certainly want to make it very clear that there are harsh penalties should they take this behaviour up.

If they are going in for a short period of time or are being penalised quite minimally, they are more likely to return later on, knowing full well that the benefits and the assets they have are waiting on the outside for them as well. So we are now working where we can to help to break that down and to make a very strong stance that you lose everything if you go down this avenue and that you do not get to benefit from other people's pain and misfortune through the actions and behaviours that

you are undertaking. We have done some work in this space previously, having seen through a number of recommendations coming out of the review, which include amendments that:

- provide that home detention is within the definition of government custody;
- clarify that property can be under the effective control of a PDO, even if it is subject to a restraining order; and
- clarify that forfeited property can also be destroyed.

Going back to where we are today, there are a number of procedural amendments in this bill, including the scope of freezing orders placed on banking accounts that belong to offenders, as well as a reduction in the timeframes that banks have to respond to notices from police with information as to the assets they hold in relation to PDOs. This comes in response to the fact that things happen instantaneously these days: funds and the like can move around very quickly, which makes it a lot harder to be able to achieve efficient processing in these cases and also for justice being sought as efficiently and promptly as possible.

It comes in response to the instant nature of banking, which has occurred since the beginning of this act in the mid 2000s. As I have stated, money can be transferred very quickly, both inside and outside of our country, and PDOs will do so to try to conceal their true assets and to avoid justice being sought.

Similarly, a new power to demand answers from offenders regarding legitimate third party interests in any confiscated assets forms part of this bill, to be able to ensure that the property of innocent parties is protected whilst not sending law enforcement on a wild goose chase in following up warrantless claims made by the PDOs. We certainly do not want to accidentally capture people who have had no involvement in the behaviours that have taken place and are being investigated, recognising full well that this can be quite a destructive process for those who are caught out in that process.

As I have said a couple of times, these amendments seek to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme. That includes the delegation of certain powers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Chief Recovery Officer of the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit, and an amendment that will allow the costs of administering the act to be taken from forfeited assets prior to the remainder being placed into the Justice Rehabilitation Fund.

I want to focus on this a little bit further. As I mentioned earlier, one of the key priorities that has been reflected from my community is about what we do, not only in terms of penalising someone and making it as much of a disincentive as we possibly can but also in terms of making sure that we have an eye on rehabilitation to do what we can to help break the cycle of crime and the occurrences that are happening. To have these funds coming into such a fund is really going to help many within the community—victims and perpetrators alike—to help break the cycle that is being experienced, and it will lead to the road of recovery where it possibly can. This is identical to how assets are seized from other non-drug offenders and used to pay administration costs prior to being placed into the Victims of Crime Fund.

The Justice Rehabilitation Fund is a dedicated fund for the provision of programs and facilities for the benefit of offenders, victims and other persons that will help aid further crime prevention and rehabilitation strategies. There are a lot of great programs out there across our state, with a wide range of focus and support being provided. It is nice to know that there will now be funds going through to help support these causes all across our great state.

The bill does also clarify that simultaneous convictions will be taken into account for the purpose of the definition of a 'prescribed drug offender', which does echo the reasoning of the Supreme Court of South Australia in the matter of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Donnelly. Several noncompliance penalties under the act are increased in this bill. By doing so, we are recognising that often it is high-value assets that are being dealt with and penalties need to be able to reflect a punitive outcome.

Following feedback from SAPOL, it also extends the time for police to return property that is initially seized but does not become the subject of a forfeiture order and can be returned to the owner

from 25 to 60 days. This is really important because we want to ensure there are thorough investigations that take place, that all i's are dotted and t's are crossed, but also ensure that we are taking on board the feedback we have heard from SAPOL. They are on the ground. They are the ones who have been working in this realm and are able to recognise where there are improvements that can be made and it has certainly been reflected in this bill that we have before us today.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill keeps the Criminal Assets Confiscation Act effective and efficient. It supports the aim of the scheme to both hit commercial drug offenders where it hurts the most and to use these seized funds to address the social issues that their profiteering impacts. I know firsthand that it is something the local community I represent is happy to see reflected in terms of the work that we are doing in this place and we thoroughly look forward to seeing the impact it has in local communities all across our state.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (16:26): I am pleased to close the debate on this and I will not speak for long, but I would like to add some thoughts about the way in which crime and drug taking are so inextricably linked in our society because that really is the context for this bill which is seeking to not only deter people from being engaged in the supply of drugs but remove the reward for so doing and also use the assets that have been amassed to be invested in rehabilitation work and several of the speakers have given some detail about that work.

I just had a look at some of the studies that have been done on the deadly relationship, the harmful relationship, between drugs and crime. There was a study done in the US some time ago that drew on a number of nations but had this to say about Australia. In 2004, a survey was done of arrested individuals in Australia. Eighty-two per cent of them had a drug abuse history, 69 per cent had abused drugs within six months of having been arrested and 62 per cent said they were frequent drug abusers. So, all too often, if you are involved in drugs, you are likely to end up in court and then in prison.

Of course, the majority of those criminal charges relate to drug use, but close behind are property crime, fraud and violence. These are crimes that affect people who have nothing to do with drugs and therefore it engages all our interest in reducing the amount of drug use in our community.

In more recent data, there is also in Australia an illicit drugs reporting system, which is intended to identify emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. It consists of annual interviews across Australian jurisdictions with people who inject drugs and then it analyses the information that comes from the trends that emerge from those interviews.

But what struck me in reading about this was that for 2024, so just for last year, of those on that reporting system 44 per cent had engaged in criminal activity. So in an attempt to have a survey of people who are engaged in heavy drug use, in class A drug use, 44 per cent had engaged in criminal activity and 28 per cent of them had engaged in property crime. This just underscores that concern that it is not simply because drugs are illegal necessarily that people taking drugs are likely to get caught up in the criminal system but in fact it is because drugs require such a change in your lifestyle and so much money that often people fall into other forms of crime. With that I would like to underscore again the importance of this piece of legislation. It is a short bill but a very powerful one.

I would like to acknowledge and credit the work done by the Attorney-General, his office and the department, members of whom are here in order to offer guidance should that be necessary. The work that they do in trying to make our community safer and healthier is honoured and respected by this chamber and I therefore commend this bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (16:30): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 27 November 2024.)

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (16:31): I rise in support of the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. This act has served as a cornerstone of our state's emergency management framework for nearly two decades, establishing the legislative principles that guide us in responding to and managing a full spectrum of emergencies from major incidents to large-scale disasters. Since its inception, the act has not only provided a clear set of responsibilities and accountabilities for all stakeholders involved but also granted the necessary authority to facilitate a coordinated and effective response and recovery in times of crisis.

As we know, this legislation has been instrumental in guiding our state through some of the most challenging and catastrophic events in recent history. From the devastating River Murray floods to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the 2016 statewide blackout and the ravaging bushfires such as the 2005 Wangary fires, the act has proven its worth by protecting South Australians and ensuring that we have a structured and responsive approach to managing emergencies.

However, the world around us is rapidly changing, and so too must our approach to managing these challenges. Climate change is now an undeniable reality, and it is contributing to more frequent, intense and prolonged emergencies. We are seeing natural disasters like floods, fires and storms becoming more severe and occurring more often and even at the same time.

Over the weekend, we saw a large bushfire at Fox in the South-East, an incredibly hard to control blaze that has only just come under control in the last day or two, and at the same time there was a blaze burning out north near Gawler. Whilst these are now under control, had the weather continued to be hot and windy there could have been a different outcome. A very big thank you to all our firefighters who battled these blazes in horrible conditions, including some from my own community who went on strike teams to assist.

This summer we have seen quite a number of blazes and I can only think that with the changing climate we will see more. In addition to environmental challenges, we are now facing new and emerging threats that once were unimaginable, such as cyber incidents, which have the potential to cause widespread disruption to our communities and our economy. In response to these changing circumstances, it has become evident that our current legislative framework must evolve to address the complexities of a modern emergency landscape.

In order to address this changing environment, our government commissioned an independent review of the Emergency Management Act, the first full-scale review since the act was introduced. This review, conducted by PEG Consulting, was a comprehensive and thorough examination of the existing framework, with the aim of ensuring that South Australia is best placed to manage and respond to future crises effectively.

The review process involved extensive stakeholder engagement, reaching out to those on the frontline of emergency management, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations, volunteer groups and the general public. This broad consultation ensured that the proposed changes to the act reflect the diverse perspectives and expertise of those who will be directly impacted by it.

It is good to know that the final review received widespread support, and our government has carefully considered the recommendations made in that final report. In response to the findings of the review, our government has chosen to accept, or accept in principle, all of the recommendations outlined. The amendments are directly informed by these recommendations, and I am confident that these changes will significantly strengthen our state's ability to respond to future emergencies.

There are two key amendments, both of which are designed to enhance the flexibility, the responsiveness and the effectiveness of our emergency management framework. The first amendment sees the introduction of the role of the powers of the State Recovery Coordinator. As we all know, recovery efforts are a critical component of any emergency management operation. In the past, recovery has often been treated as a secondary concern, something to be addressed after the immediate response phase has concluded. However, we now recognise that recovery is just as important as response and that effective recovery efforts are essential to ensuring that our communities are able to rebuild and return to normalcy as quickly as possible, which is crucial for long-term recovery and wellbeing.

Being able to activate a strong and timely response builds trust between government agencies, emergency services and the affected community. This is especially important when people are feeling vulnerable. Experiences with effective disaster response can also encourage communities to take proactive steps to prepare for future events. The role of the State Recovery Coordinator will be central to this effort. This individual will be responsible for leading state coordinated recovery planning and operations, ensuring that all levels of government, non-government organisations and the private sector are aligned in their recovery efforts. The State Recovery Coordinator will also have the necessary powers to act outside of the declared emergency period, should the need arise, to ensure that recovery efforts are unimpeded.

This change is particularly important, given the reality that recovery operations often require urgent action even when a formal declaration of an emergency has not yet been made. For example, after an incident like a severe storm or a cyber attack, recovery efforts may be necessary immediately, even though the situation may not warrant a formal declaration of a disaster. In November 2022, a vortex tornado tore through my community from the bottom to the top, tearing up trees and throwing them around the place, including those that landed on residents' houses. It was a huge response from our local SES and CFS, who were joined by crews from around the state, including MFS, SA Power Networks and the local council. It took some time to clean up all of the debris, not to mention there were some areas that were without power for more than five days. There was also damage to one of our mobile phone towers that saw no 4G available within Coromandel Valley.

Much of the response was managed by the SES from their Metro South headquarters and local council. There are still remnants of this storm to be found in my community today. Having a State Recovery Coordinator who is able to act even if there is no emergency declaration called will only assist in situations such as the storms in November 2022. By recognising the role of the State Recovery Coordinator in the act and providing them with the powers to take action when needed, we are ensuring that the recovery efforts can proceed without delay, regardless of whether or not an emergency declaration has been made.

The second significant amendment is the introduction of the new declaration category, a state of alert. This amendment is designed to provide greater flexibility in how we respond to emergencies. As we know, the current declaration system is somewhat blunt. We are either in a declared emergency or we are not. This rigid framework has proven problematic, particularly in situations like the COVID-19 pandemic, where the threat level fluctuated over time. The state of alert declaration will allow the government to activate certain emergency powers, such as border closures, quarantine measures or other restrictions, without the need for a full emergency declaration. This will give us the ability to respond in a more proportionate and nuanced way, aligning our response with the actual risk level at any given time.

The state of alert will allow us to manage the public messaging around the threat, while maintaining the necessary powers to protect the community. For example, during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic there was a perception that the threat was diminishing before the emergence of new variants like Omicron. A state of alert would have allowed us to maintain some level of control over border restrictions and quarantine measures without sending the message that the crisis had passed. Not only will this new declaration category help us respond to pandemics more effectively but also it will be useful in managing other complex emergencies where the threat may not be immediately life threatening but still requires significant management and control measures.

In addition to these two key amendments, the amendment bill also addresses a number of other important issues, including the mobilisation of the public sector workforce in response to an emergency. A recommendation from the review was to include an explicit mechanism in the Emergency Management Act that facilitates the mobilisation of public sector workers when necessary, not just during a declared emergency but also in preparation for one.

This recommendation has been incorporated into the bill and will allow the government to activate public sector resources quickly, ensuring we have the manpower necessary to respond to emerging threats. It is important to note that while we are making these changes, the bill preserves the core strengths of the existing Emergency Management Act. This legislation has long been a trusted tool for agencies and organisations involved in the state's emergency management arrangements and the proposed amendments will enhance, not replace, these valuable provisions.

The flexibility of the act has always been one of its greatest assets, allowing us to respond to a broad range of hazards and challenges. These amendments will ensure that the act remains fit for purpose as we face new and evolving threats in the future. The proposed amendments to the Emergency Management Act are critical to ensuring that our state is prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead.

By strengthening our ability to respond to emergencies, improving recovery efforts and introducing greater flexibility in how we manage crisis, we are ensuring that South Australia remains resilient in the face of disaster. These changes will not only represent a forward thinking and comprehensive approach to emergency management but help safeguard the wellbeing of our communities, protect our economy and enhance our emergency management capabilities for many years to come.

I would also like to take a little minute to talk a bit about the emergency responders I have in my community, and can I just say at the outset that we are very lucky to have people who will put their hand up to go out and protect us in times of emergency. I encourage everybody who is within our community to look out to your neighbours or your friends or your family if they are first responders, and thank them for doing that because without them, we would not be able to respond to emergencies and protect community as much as we do.

On the weekend, I attended an event at the Blackwood Library and it was called Big Map. Disaster Resilience Australia put it on and they effectively had a massive map of our community on the floor and everybody took their shoes off and you could walk around and you could find your house. You could see where it was located in comparison to other houses but also vegetation, topographical issues, where the water was, where emergency service was, etc.

We were able to talk through different scenarios: if a fire was approaching, who would be impacted; and what were the assets that we thought were important to protect. It was a fabulous opportunity to really nut out what you might do in an emergency and quite a lot of community members came along and took a lot from it, and I very much thank Disaster Resilience Australia and the City of Mitcham for having that program.

On Monday night, I attended the Cherry Gardens CFS with the member for Davenport where we presented them with a new flag. They are a fabulous brigade who know only too well the challenges of an emergency. With the Cherry Gardens fire that happened a couple of years back, they were the first to respond. They were also the first to work out what the challenges were in facing that fire and to help direct other emergency responders.

They are an awesome group of firefighters along with many of the others in the Sturt group and also our Upper Sturt CFS of course, which is my own brigade. I was really happy to see when I turned up for training on Monday night that some work that we really needed done in terms of fixing our driveway had been done by Adelaide Hills Council. We need to keep our volunteers safe. We need to make sure that they have safe egress out of their stations, and I was very glad to see that that work had finally been completed for the Upper Sturt CFS.

Our Belair CFS will hopefully soon receive their Quick Response Vehicle, thanks to the member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost, for that commitment at the last election to provide those units to our area. They are incredibly important to get out of the door quickly. We know we have quite

a lot of driveways that are quite narrow and some streets that are very narrow, and these vehicles are incredibly important to be able to get to an incident quickly and get onto it fast while other resources are being dispatched.

Last Sunday I also brought together, with the help of our Sturt SES, our SES women and our CFS women for the inaugural Orange and Yellow International Women's Day Afternoon Tea. It was a fabulous event and really lovely to see women who put their hand up and maybe do roles that originally were not something that you saw very many women doing. In fact, Jane from the SES mentioned in her speech that women were not even allowed on trucks not that long ago, so it was really great to see so many strong women who put their hand up to not only play a role on the fire front or in chasing down storms but also work on comms and support the crews as well. It was a fabulous event and we look forward to doing it again next year and making it bigger and better.

Finally, I want to address an issue that has been going on in my community around the Blackwood CFS station. The Blackwood CFS station was flooded in late 2023 and it has taken some time to be able to get the work done to fix that, mainly because, in discussions with the CFS, the insurance company and the City of Mitcham, who are the landlords, we need to make sure that the flooding will not happen again because the station has been flooded a couple of times.

There has been a lot of planning and a lot of work going into trying to get everything set up so that that flooding will not happen again. It has taken a little while, but all of that process has been in place and it has been planned out, and they will soon hopefully be able to get started on that. I understand that there is a petition being put around my community by the candidate for Boothby saying that she is going to help fix it. Well, it is already under control by the CFS, and I encourage anyone who feels they need to sign a petition to look into whether or not things are actually happening already. I am glad to hear that Blackwood station will soon have that fixed.

I recently was able to share in Blackwood station's 75th celebration and I also visited there last weekend with the Minister for Emergency Services and our member for Boothby to show our firefighters that we are fully there to support them and hope that going forward those works can be done and that they are not impacted. My community know that our firefighters do all that they can. We know that, irrespective of whether or not that work is going on in the station, they are quick to respond. I have seen them out and about in the last couple of days, so I can guarantee our community that our Blackwood firefighters are ready to respond when we need them. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (16:46): I rise in support of the bill. In doing so, the act has been so important in protecting South Australia in times of emergency, particularly in recent years. With bushfires, the pandemic and floods, the Emergency Management Act has been used a lot more in recent years. As many of us currently in this place would have experienced, the emergencies are becoming more complex and they are lasting longer.

I make the point that there have only been 10 declarations made in the act's 20-year history, and three of them were in the last four years. Prior to COVID, the longest emergency declaration period lasted just four days. Obviously, COVID was a significant event in our modern history, which was 793 days, then on the back of COVID came along the River Murray flood event of 118 days.

We had the first full-scale review since the act was created in 2004. The independent review was completed in June 2024. It had presentations from 15 government stakeholders and 74 public submissions, and there were submissions from the former Premier Stephen Marshall, former Minister for Health Stephen Wade and the local member for Finnis, David Basham. I would like to commend them for their work. They went the extra mile to put in those submissions because of concerns raised and the emergency situations that we faced over the last short period of time.

I commend the work of the report to bring the act up to date, and we must acknowledge that it did need to be brought up to date. There were 28 recommendations, and it is important to renew such an instrumental piece of legislation. As legislators, we need to better understand that legislation is a piece of movement—it is law, but it is fluid, and the Emergency Management Act is exactly that.

The introduction of a dedicated state recovery coordinator I think is the centrepiece, and one is always appointed in an emergency. But now the role will exist outside of the emergency period

also, and a new declaration category will present as a state of alert for upscaling and downscaling emergencies. It is also important for sending the right message to the public. It is taking the public on the journey when emergency declarations are announced or when we have these emergencies. We are able to be quick, nimble, and bring the public on that journey so that they are well informed and we do not have any conspiracy, we do not have any detractors from the messaging that we want to get out there.

Particularly during COVID, that was a very clear demonstration of just how quickly things can potentially go off the rails. It is very important to understand how quickly we need to respond as a government in making sure that we keep our public safe, but it would be better described that there were waves of uncertainty during that emergency. It also would have been beneficial to have the ability to downscale and upscale as necessary and to manage those public expectations much better.

In my electorate, most recently we have seen the powers of this act play out in the Riverland—of course, that was the flood. It was almost a one-in-a-century flood; 1956 was a massive flood event. I know that there has been documentation put out there that river levels got to a point of just under 200 giganlitres per day, but I would say that there were areas of the river corridor that experienced more than 200 giganlitres. That is where there needs to be better leadership, there needs to be better monitoring and there needs to be a better and quicker response to that emergency, particularly in the Riverland with the River Murray floods.

So it does help to save lives and to assist those emergency personnel during that time of need. The emergency service units play an extremely important role, especially in remote and regional communities, but the danger of operating in floodwaters was also a significant stress point. There are a lot of people out there who were impacted with rising rivers, but there were also the impacts of the uncertainty, and the strength of that floodwater should never have been underestimated. You had to see the might and the power of that water body moving down through the system.

I was fortunate enough to have a direct link with upstream farmers, upstream community members, who were giving me day-to-day information and commentary on the impacts and where the water was emerging from. Certain areas of administration within government were clearly not listening to the movement on the ground. They were simply resting their decision-making on modelling. I think that was potentially one of the mistakes that I hope was a lesson well learned.

As I have said, the construction of the levee banks, the DefenCell, the reinforcing of roads, the plugging of stormwater—all of these actions were part of an emergency response to what could have been real issues that would have severely impacted a number of large communities. Here in South Australia, it must be noted that we are on a flood plain. We are the delta of the Murray-Darling Basin.

With those waters coming down, we have very much a differing landscape when the river and the water body enters, in particular, western New South Wales, western Victoria and into South Australia. It has already entered that delta system, and that is another way to explain it. Wide, shallow water bodies are coming across the landscape, unlike the northern basin and the northern system where we have very deep water bodies. Yes, the flow into the river system was where we saw the damage and we saw the heartache, but once it entered that river system, it was much more contained than it was once it entered that very flat and shallow water body.

I want to also acknowledge the tireless efforts of our emergency service personnel. I want to acknowledge the efforts of our local government, the state government and the community that rallied together, keeping an eye on one another. They were the eyes and ears of what was going on, where we saw if there were any breaches in flood banks and levee banks. By and large, anything above Lock 2 I think was very well managed.

There are a number of complexities below Lock 2, and that is where we saw a very narrow corridor for that river and that is where we saw significant impact and damage, particularly on the shack communities. Some of the river town communities were also impacted, but we saw significant damage and water levels rising up over seven metres in some of those more narrow corridors of the river.

I saw immense bravery and selflessness from all of the emergency personnel and all of the employees of those council organisations. We saw a number of private landowners having to take matters into their own hands. We had a number of issues that I think could have been much better addressed, particularly with power issues.

I think SA Power Networks came out of the blocks and fumbled. They were slow to react and made a lot of mistakes, but I do acknowledge that they did pick up the parcel pretty quickly. We had to amend some of that power transfer, some of the water gaps between powerlines and water. I think there was a lot of amended legislation that was made every 10 years and a lot of that amended legislation I think was made with good intent, but in practical terms it was flawed and flawed severely.

Again, for their dedication, I want to thank not only the paid personnel, those personnel who came up to defend our towns and our communities but, as I said, the private landowners who I think did exceptional work. They came out, they rallied and they helped one another. Heavy earthmoving equipment was very much rallied together quickly. A lot of the right material was sourced. I think there were a lot of approvals given on the spot. Some of those approvals that were given on the spot in a normal day-to-day exercise might have taken weeks if not months to get approval but it does show what can be achieved when we really have to get things in place to save towns, to save lives. The around-the-clock work was very much noted and appreciated.

I also want to make a note that, for our emergency services, those volunteers are becoming much, much harder to attract. Our volunteer base is becoming older, people are becoming busier and, having a number of conversations over recent months, it is quite an awakening when we realise that through fires, through floods—not so much through the pandemic—but some of our emergency responders are becoming that aged and frail that they are not able to undertake the tasks that have been asked of them. What it is showing us is that we are going to have to look at ways that we can attract those volunteers, that we can attract younger personnel.

I want to acknowledge Peter from the Duke of Edinburgh program, who I met only yesterday. He came into the parliament and was looking at ways that we can attract volunteers. He gave me a number of scenarios for how we can get volunteers into our emergency services. I will just touch on it briefly, but it is very important to understand that in today's modern world we are not seeing the baby boomers come to the fore like they used to; we are not seeing some of those gen X, gen Y, gen Z or millennials come to the front and give their time and their dedicated commitment to volunteering. It is not just emergency services—it is right across the board.

We did have quite a conversation about gen alpha. Gen alpha is a really interesting conversation, I must say. As I understand it, gen alpha are in the age group between 14 and 20 and are controlled by all things that are not emotional: they are controlled by their devices, they are controlled by peer group pressure and they are controlled by algorithms. What we are seeing now is that there is that culture that is not as forthcoming with giving time to their community, their service club or their sporting club. It really is a worrying sign.

What the Duke of Edinburgh program and award program are looking to do is to incentivise. Should there be a program put in place, I think that all of us as representatives in South Australia—all 47 of us—should come together and look at ways we can incentivise school leavers to give some dedicated time to volunteering and give their time without actually having to be paid.

It was put to me that there is a program that has been put to all levels of government, and it is around giving service after leaving school. It is not national service, but it is a program that will help fill the void in those volunteering numbers. Should that program be awarded, there is a pilot that I believe is going to be started up in New South Wales very shortly that is about reducing HECS debt or reducing some of that long-term financial burden that is placed on some of our young ones. That is a little bit of food for thought.

I think all of us, as a collective, are wondering how we incentivise the volunteer base in our communities and make them bigger and make them stronger. It is very evident, particularly in marginal areas of our state. Our regional and remote areas are finding it much harder to man a CFS/SES station, to man the canteens at sporting clubs or to put people into our sporting clubs and make them sustainable. We are seeing that some of those first responders' stations now are not

manned at all. We have to think a little bit more seriously about how we are going to attract that volunteer base.

The opposition is going to move some amendments. We have consulted quite widely with the SA SES Volunteers' Association. I have been out and spoken to those volunteers on the ground, particularly in regional and remote areas, because we know that they are the ones who are much more marginalised. While we go over the legislation, we want to ensure that the voices of the volunteers are heard loud and clear. We also want to make sure, through the parliamentary counsel, that we correct a few areas in the draft bill. We have submitted some amendments to help clean up the legislation a little, just to correct those mistakes.

In closing, I have a couple of concerns—those questions will be asked in committee—such as fewer restrictions on recovery operations, particularly on private property; new powers for gathering information; higher penalties (I want to delve into that a little bit deeper) and fewer protections in legislation that protect obligations to secrecy. We want to ensure that this piece of legislation is meeting the expectations of the review and its recommendations, making sure volunteers are adequately represented and making sure that our volunteers make up a huge part of the state emergency response effort. It is only right to give them the recognition they deserve.

I also want to ensure that there are protections for vulnerable people and we know that vulnerable people are at much higher risk in an emergency, particularly the aged, people with disability, people with chronic illness, those who are sleeping rough and those who are homeless. I think as we enter the committee stage, we will delve into that to make sure that this emergency management bill is the best it can be.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (17:05): I also rise to speak on the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. This is legislation that we have had in place for close to 20 years now and over that time it has seen us through major incidents, emergencies and disasters, from floods and fires to pandemics and everything else in between.

It is a mechanism that helps ensure we are able to create adequate response and recovery operations for the safety and wellbeing of our state and the people who live within it. It has achieved this by providing us with key accountabilities and authority. In doing so it provides South Australians with peace of mind, clarity and a plan to move forward and through a major event, emergency or incident.

It is no secret that the world has changed quite drastically over the past couple of decades. The threats we face are changing in terms of the frequency, pattern, severity, and even the location in terms of where we traditionally have anticipated and encountered such experiences in the past and we can largely thank climate change for that. Our climate-related threats are more frequent, more intense, they last for longer and at times they have been concurrent with other emergencies that we have been experiencing in both our state and also nationally.

But that is not all that we have encountered. There are threats that we face today that simply did not exist 20 years ago. Take, for example, cyber incidents. This is a realm that has come leaps and bounds from the days when I was using dial-up all those years ago. In fact, the most recent report into cyber threats by the federal government outlines the cyber threat posed to the Australian government's critical infrastructure, businesses and households. It goes to show how malicious state actors and cyber criminals are continuing to adapt their tradecraft in an attempt to compromise Australian networks. While we are fortunate that work is being done to safeguard our national security and cyber resilience, we do need to ensure that there are adequate levels in place and that they are adaptive to the current and emerging possibilities that we may be faced with moving forwards.

In order to ensure the state is best placed to deal with future challenges, an independent review of the act was conducted by PEG Consulting. This was the first full-scale review of the Emergency Management Act since its commencement 20 years ago. The proposed legislative amendments have been informed by the extensive stakeholder engagement that was undertaken throughout the course of this review. Feedback was informed from the emergency management sector at multiple levels of government, non-government and volunteer organisations, as well as members of the general public, and I would certainly like to thank all of those who participated in that process.

I am very pleased to share with them all, and all those in this house and those who may be listening, that this amendment bill incorporates all 28 of the recommendations that were made in the final report of the independent review. The work and the contributions of those involved in the review is helping to make a tangible difference in terms of the safety and the wellbeing of South Australians moving forwards.

There are two significant amendments being sought through this bill. The first is in relation to the role and powers of the State Recovery Coordinator. As we can all agree, recovery efforts are just as important as navigating through the emergency itself. We want our state to return to normality as efficiently as it possibly can. The provision of a state recovery coordinator within the act will help to strengthen emergency management arrangements in this sense. They would be responsible for leading state-coordinated recovery planning and recovery operations when it is determined that a state recovery response is required for an emergency outside of a declaration period, among other tasks.

It was reflected in the review that this role is identified, as are the powers that come with it. We as the government have accepted that, during a declaration period, an authorised officer role will have powers available to it as delegated by the State Coordinator, similar to the current arrangements for the Assistant State Coordinator—Recovery. It is important to note that the scope and the details of power required will vary, depending on the type of emergency that is encountered outside of a declared emergency, which is why regulations could specify the powers that are available, the regions that are captured, the purpose for which the powers may be deployed, and the period for which the recovery declaration applies.

It is important to note that, during a declaration, the State Recovery Coordinator will report to the State Coordinator to maintain authority and a control-and-command dynamic. Other powers the State Recovery Coordinator will have are the ability to share information as required and to request information to support recovery.

The second significant amendment that is being sought is in relation to a new declaration category that would help support the scale up and scale down of emergencies. For an emergency declaration to have impact, we need to ensure that a message on the seriousness of the emergency is sent to and received in communities. We need to ensure that, for maximum impact, we are able to reach as many people as possible. It is important in terms of making sure that people are consistent about the steps that need to be taken and also that there are not any misconceptions about what people need to be seeking out, doing and abiding by during these times.

For that to be successful, we need to ensure that there is a high threshold for an emergency declaration. What we have learnt is that the current declaration is a fairly blunt instrument, as we are either in a declared emergency or we are not. But, as we all know, emergencies are much more complicated than that. There are often different stages within an emergency that all need equal consideration and planning. One only needs to look back at the recent floods that we experienced across our state to understand how many situations were experienced within the emergency as a whole. All needed adequate attention and planning, both when going through the situation and also during the recovery we went through following the event.

As such, we have a declaration framework within the act in which we have identified major incidents, from a major emergency through to a disaster. Each category brings with it a different understanding of the severity of the situation to help give communities greater awareness and preparedness for the situation: they know what is coming, they know what is expected and they know what levers and actions will be put in place in the communities that they live in. Through these categories all the powers remain the same, except in the case of a major emergency or disaster declaration being made where the powers are retained by the State Coordinator.

The need for this change was really highlighted when the challenge of COVID presented itself. As we all know, there were various peaks and troughs that occurred during the emergency, and it was found that the traditional understanding of a major emergency declaration was at odds with the reality that we as South Australians were living and experiencing during that period.

The review agreed that a State of Alert may have allowed for the powers required to manage the pandemic to be in place—for example, things such as border closures and also quarantining—

while community messaging around the threat could have been more proportionate. One only needs to look back at, for example, the time prior to the Omicron variant, when there was a view that the COVID-19 threat was diminishing. This caused a lot of confusion and perceived mixed messaging around the steps that needed to be taken and the severity of the situation that we were still in and facing, particularly when it came to threats to possible vulnerable cohorts and how that protection may have occurred, and then also the flow-on effects from that as well.

A step-down to a State of Alert may have allowed for the restrictions required to maintain certain protections while simultaneously messaging that while at that time the risk to the community was not on par with a major emergency, the state was on alert for what could be a rapidly changing situation at hand.

It is important to note that one recommendation was accepted in principle. This, of course, was to incorporate an explicit mechanism in the Emergency Management Act to facilitate the mobilisation of the public sector workforce when necessary to respond to a declared emergency. This recommendation was included within our amendment bill, but it is proposed that this mechanism will also specify the need for public sector mobilisation responses outside of a declared emergency, in accordance, of course, with amendments being made to the South Australian Public Sector Mobilisation Policy.

Importantly, the bill preserves the key elements of the act that are highly valued by stakeholders. The act is well understood by the agencies and organisations involved in the state's emergency management arrangements. It also maintains the flexibility provided in the act to carry out emergency management activities across a broad spectrum of hazards, which is absolutely core to its utility.

At this point it would be remiss of me not to mention the incredible work that is done by emergency services personnel across communities all over our state. I am quite fortunate to have some incredible emergency services personnel based in and supporting my local community, all the way up from the One Tree Hill CFS, the Salisbury CFS, the Salisbury SES, the Tea Tree Gully SES, the Salisbury MFS and the Golden Grove MFS, just to name a few, and of course our SAPOL that is based in Golden Grove and our paramedics that are now based in the heart of Golden Grove as well.

All personnel do an incredible job of keeping our communities safe at times when we are most vulnerable and are facing threats. It is during the storms, the fires, the floods, the pandemics and the like that we see these emergency services personnel really coming together to protect and look after our community. Many of them are local volunteers who have lives, jobs and the like, but they still give up this additional time and we are really appreciative and fortunate to have the structures that we have in place and the amazing people that support them as well.

I believe that these amendments will help strengthen the act and ensure our legislative framework provides a basis for effectively managing all stages of emergencies well into the future. Through that it provides emergency services, governments and communities the clarity required to help foster efficient response and recovery systems should we encounter another major incident, emergency or disaster. We may not know when it will strike or what it will look like, but we can certainly take comfort in knowing that we have taken the steps to ensure we are as prepared as we possibly can be and for that I commend the bill to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:17): I rise to make a contribution in regard to the Emergency Management (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. It was introduced on 27 November 2024, noting that in 2023 a review of the Emergency Management Act 2004 was undertaken, given its increasing use and the complexity of emergencies in recent years. Only 10 declarations have been made in the act's history, with three declared in the last four years. Similarly, prior to 2020, the longest declaration was in place for four days, but declarations have since been in place for 793 days for COVID-19 and, one that was particularly close to home for myself, 118 days for the 2022-23 River Murray flood.

In June 2024, the final report of the Independent Review of the Emergency Management Act 2024 was completed. It was the first full-scale review since the commencement of the act and considered the findings of previous independent South Australian reviews, the framework of other states, engagement with 15 government stakeholders and responses from 74 public submissions.

This included submissions from the former Premier, the Hon. Steven Marshall; the Hon. Stephen Wade; and David Basham MP, the member for Finniss.

The review made 28 recommendations of which the government accepted 26 and the remaining two in principle. The two most significant recommendations highlighted in the review are the introduction of a state recovery coordinator and a new declaration category State of Alert to support the upscale and downscale of emergencies. The review's findings and all 28 recommendations form the basis for the bill.

Of the 43 proposed amendments to the act, the majority of clauses implement the review's recommendations or are consequential to their implementation. The most significant amendments of the bill, supported by the review's recommendations, are as follows:

- the appointment of a State Recovery Coordinator to assist the State Coordinator during emergencies and lead recovery operations;
- a new State of Alert emergency declaration category allowing the powers of the act to be exercised to prevent or prepare for an emergency or to facilitate response and recovery following an emergency;
- new powers allowing the State Coordinator to require information and documents to make declarations or plan for emergencies;
- reinstating the temporary powers that were used for the COVID-19 response;
- new powers allowing regulations that modify procedural requirements during an emergency;
- a new mechanism allowing the Premier to mobilise the public sector workforce for the purposes of an emergency, preparation or recovery;
- new victimisation protections for volunteers and employees carrying out emergency management responses; and
- penalty increases from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for administrators or enforcers of the act disclosing sensitive information.

While the government indicates that all 28 recommendations are addressed in the bill, some are only partially accepted or require further scrutiny during committee. In committee, there will be a look at amendments involved in recommendations around the act's guiding principles that reference that specific planning requirements are needed for vulnerable people but the amendment only gives regard to particular needs of persons at risk.

Also, new information-gathering laws may remove obligations to protect an informant's identity under legislation, such as the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993, the Police Complaints and Discipline Act 2016, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 and legal client privilege. The minister may overturn some procedural safeguards themselves via regulations, which may still be rejected by the parliament. As the shadow minister, the member for Chaffey, has indicated, we will be in support of this bill with some questions raised during committee and some amendments put forward for the parliament.

Witnessing emergency situations around fires, and obviously COVID, which impacted us for so long in this state, I do not know if any government—and I hope it never comes to this—will be able to enforce the lockdowns like we had. The state using the state lines was very difficult. Me being one of, I think, five boundary MPs, border MPs, on the eastern side of our state, it was a very difficult process working with communities, trying to work with people so that they could not only still function as a community but also do their appropriate jobs.

I have mentioned in this place before the simple fact of the biosecurity control at Pinnaroo, where most of the biosecurity officers lived in Murrayville, across the border. Schoolteachers, school assistants and nurses were trying to get through to Pinnaroo to do their functions. Not only that but Murrayville has no fuel service, so they always came through to the On the Run to get their fuel in

Pinnaroo. There were some emergency processes put in place by some enterprising individuals to get fuel in Murrayville over time.

It certainly caused some unhappiness during the football and netball season, I can assure you, when the Victorians got locked down deep in the finals and could not play in the finals of sport. That was distressing to the Murrayville community. They now play, I think, in the Riverland independent league. It certainly caused discussion all the way up to the SANFL and the netball association here in South Australia, because they were the ones that managed what was the Mallee league, now the River Murray league. It caused a lot of angst, and I fully understand that, but at the time I was part of the government, and we were doing our best to keep people safe.

Moving forward, the big impact was the 2022-23 flood of the River Murray, which caused significant impact. It was something that could be sort of planned for because we all knew it was coming, and it was just a matter of people heeding the information that was coming down.

The issue with the warnings is that, apart from giving a spread of flood heights—and I guess there are reasons for that—it gives a bit of a false economy on how much water people thought was coming down. Also, the simple fact is that, since some of the last major flooding—especially 1956 and then 1974—there has been a lot more infrastructure put in the river that has altered those measuring guides by up to half a metre. The constraints in the river have altered the measurement by up to half a metre, which obviously affected flood heights as it came through the Riverland and then through to the Lower Murray section of the river.

I was obviously interested in both sections, as the shadow emergency services spokesperson at the time and certainly in my home role in my home electorate as the member for Hammond. It was an interesting process and an enlightening process in one way, where what we saw, with the Emergency Management Act being instigated, was that things could happen in real time. We see too much—and it happens with both colours of government, so I am not trying to get too political here—the bureaucracy that grinds in normal speed, which is very slow—

Mr Whetstone: Glacial.

Mr PEDERICK: —glacial is a good word—to get things done, get decisions made and see that things are right. One thing I will say is that what I found—and I am sure other members did, like the member for Chaffey—is that when we as local members had direct access to people that we needed to talk to and they talked to us as well, it all helped the process, in a bipartisan way, to try to get the best outcomes for communities because this flood event was having a significant impact, and it was going to have a significant impact. It was about getting the best outcomes so that we had fewer areas flooded, more people assisted, and the relevant information through to communities as well.

I certainly want to acknowledge the direct conversations I had with Chris Beattie, the head of the SES; John Schutz, who was the head of the Department for Environment and Water at the time; and Superintendent Scott Denny, who is now based in Adelaide with the police force. They were fantastic contacts to have. You could contact them with whatever situation was going on, or when there was a little problem you could deal with it. I know I have talked about these things in here before, but it is really significant when you can actually get something done in a hurry.

My office had a call—I think it was late morning or around lunchtime on a Friday—that we needed to get out to Mypolonga to look at the situation there, where there was a temporary levee that needed to be built. Previously, we had not had any direct information that that was happening at this stage. We got out there and talked to some of the locals and could see—and they were telling me—that from the predictions the water was going to come through and it was going to flood the school and the bottom end of the town of Mypolonga.

Anyway, I started making some phone calls, communicating directly with John Schutz from DEW and then that instigated a whole range of conversations over the weekend. I know I have mentioned before—and I will probably get his name wrong, so forgive me, Con—that Con Babaniotis from SA Water was talking to me over that weekend, on the Friday and Saturday night as my direct contact, regarding what we do. Essentially what we had to do was form up where we were going to get the clay to build this 700-metre bund at the levee bank at Mypolonga, and it was great to have those direct conversations with the people you needed to talk to, like John Schutz.

John said to me, 'What about native title? What about this? What about that?' I said, 'Look mate, the pit we have identified was a pit in 1974. There's nothing there. It is intersected with a whole heap of irrigation pipes and SA Water pipes, so there will have to be some care taken.' Anyway, we got that cleared in fairly prompt time because the trucks were carting clay an hour and a half turnaround to the registered pit, and because it was emergency management, we could use the unregistered clay, and I am still not sure what the difference is apart from perhaps it has not been tested as much, but I will leave that alone for the moment.

Then I got a phone call on the Sunday close to lunchtime which said that there was one pit we needed to access clay and it had a mining lease over it. I contacted the mining minister, Tom Koutsantonis, directly and he, to his credit, had that rectified in quick time, by Monday morning. But it just goes to show that when it is hitting the fan, and it literally was hitting the fan, you can get things done, and it did happen right throughout that stage.

Down the track, we had contractors working on the Jervois levee bank and a couple of trucks slipped a bit one afternoon and people were getting a bit nervous about liability and suchlike. I got a phone call from John Schutz who said, 'Adrian, we can't keep funding it as the government, it's a bit risky, but you can approve the local contractors to keep operating on the bank.' At that time it was a \$1,000 fine per head if you were not supposed to be on the bank. So, anyway, we went ahead with that. The trucks were authorised to go over the weekend. The next thing I get a text. I think it was on Saturday, and one of the truck drivers said the police were there. I thought that was interesting and I found out what was going on.

The police were just exercising what they thought was their duty in telling these people to stop working on the bank because they were contravening legislation and they would be fined. Anyway, I made a quick call to Scott Denny and I asked the police to just hold for a little while. Within 40 minutes we turned that issue around. It was just a little bit of miscommunication from the command centre in Loxton, so I was really pleased with those direct outcomes that happened then.

Then we had other issues. Like I said, people manage risk in different ways. I said to the racing club, 'You might need to put a bit more clay down at the river.' They have a water allocation, so I lined up some DefenCell bags through Chris Beattie, but then, because of the risk profile, the Rural City of Murray Bridge would not fill them up, which I found interesting. I will leave that there. What happened was that we got down there with three truckloads of sand from Spry contracting, and myself and one of my staff went down there for a couple of hours assisting volunteers bag up sandbags to help protect the pump for the racing club, which could have turned into a severe animal welfare issue.

As I said, it was very pleasing in real time, and I hope that always happens in these situations, where there is that flexibility. With the usual process, things get bogged down in bureaucracy, the checks and balances, but it was good that we could work with the people we needed to work with at a very senior level to get things done because we were there to protect communities.

Once the emergency was over, as quick as could be, as soon as the Emergency Management Act was lifted, we went back to standard procedure, which took a while to get used to. It is certainly legislation that we need in place. It certainly shows how it can be used for the benefit of people all fighting for the common good, whether it is pushing back against bushfire threats, whether it is COVID-19 or whether it is a flood or other events that our emergency services do so much work for.

The CFS has been very busy, especially in the Mid North, in the South-East and in various areas around the state. There was Birdwood last night or the night before. They do a massive amount of work in protecting our state. I want to acknowledge that we have had CFA volunteers from Victoria over as well assisting us down in the South-East, which is an exceptional thing. The air wing add so much more capability, and it seems there is more every year, which is a good thing to assist the members on the ground. They seem to have more flexibility these days in when they can drop and in helping to assist firefighters on the ground.

Of course, the SES do such a magnificent job across the state with their volunteers in rescuing people. We had a couple of stupid things happen on the river. We had some people who thought they could use something like a pump-up mattress to go down the river, and they had to be

rescued, which just causes angst. They do marvellous work. Obviously, the MFS as well, with either their full-time firefighters or their retained firefighters, help to keep our community safe.

On this side of the house, we certainly support how the Emergency Management Act works. With the bill coming through now, with the review done and with the amendments that will hopefully go through, we will get a better outcome for emergency management into the future. It is a serious thing that involves not only the government from the top down but also volunteers from right across the state, and it can impact communities right across the state, depending on the emergency that is in play at the time. I will be interested to see the commentary in regard to the bill, and I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of S.E. Andrews.

At 17:37 the house adjourned until Thursday 20 March 2025 at 11:00.