

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13 May 2025

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

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

### *Bills*

#### **SUPPLY BILL 2025**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 May 2025.)

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11:01):** I am delighted to stand up to speak to the Supply Bill 2025, which is a great opportunity to reflect on the significant investments that we are making as the Malinauskas Labor government. As a person who gets to serve as the Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs, I particularly want to update the house on investments the government is making in these portfolios.

On 2 April 2025, the Premier and I were very pleased to announce that United Airlines will commence direct flights between Adelaide and San Francisco. The first flight will arrive on 13 December of this year. This will be the first direct route between South Australia and the United States. Of course, there are some opportunities here from a tourism point of view and, much more than that, we know that we are really looking forward to welcoming more Americans coming here—44,000 Americans come here every year. That connectivity will really assist us, and they particularly love getting out to the Flinders Ranges and enjoying our great food and wine.

United Airlines will operate a seasonal service with three direct flights a week, and that will go from 13 December to March 2026—and of course they will come back. The estimated worth of these three flights of the seasonal service is \$22 million to the South Australian economy annually in tourism and trade. Obviously, the ambition for us is to get year-round flights, which would be estimated at \$67 million, including tourism and freight. Of course, there are trade opportunities between defence and space and also our very high-quality food, wine and drinks. This is a great announcement and a great economic opportunity for us.

In thinking about other things that we have done this year, there is the tourism campaign Celebrate the Simple Pleasures, which I announced on 7 April, with the South Australian Tourism Commission launching our new destination marketing campaign. We did it to coincide with AFL Gather Round, so we had the eyes of the nation on us. Can I tell you, on that Thursday night—and I am not a Crows fan—I did go along to the first game. The way that the beautiful yellow was lit up around the oval looked absolutely stunning.

As an opportunity for us to lead quite strongly, this campaign came from a lot of conversations with South Australians about who we are and what we want to present to the rest of the nation and to the world. It was great to launch it at that time. We see South Australia as a sanctuary for the burnt out and overwhelmed, and we showcase South Australia as a place where the simple pleasures in life are abundant.

The first campaign content was about food and drink, featuring experiences such as long lunches, pristine produce, and wine. That content was called Harvest Eyes and The Simple Pleasure of a Long, Long Lunch. I have to say I was up in Brisbane for the Australian Tourism Exchange

(ATE), which, of course, we have just announced will be coming to Adelaide next year, and we had a great response from people who said they love the new campaign. It was on a beautiful billboard as we flew into Brisbane, and I got to see the ads on TV there as well.

We want to go out there about who we are and the fact that we are the answer to people leading more complex and challenging lives: come to South Australia, reconnect, have that time with your family and enjoy yourself here. That campaign is now live across South Australia's key domestic markets, and we will be rolling it out internationally from the middle of this year. Our focus will be on New Zealand, Singapore, China, the UK, Europe and North America.

It was the third time that we have done Gather Round, and it gets bigger and better every single time, understanding that people have this fear of missing out. The numbers are so solid: nearly 270,000 people—or just shy of that—came along, with fans attending across those nine matches. This time we got to showcase the beautiful Barossa. We had those premiership matches for the first time in the Barossa Park at Lyndoch, which was a collaboration between our government and The Barossa Council.

I went up earlier in the week to see how it was and spent some time with Bim Lange. They were working incredibly hard to make sure it was ready for that first match on the Saturday, but what was just as important was all the activations: the Bounce Around the Barossa, the 12 buses that we had there. I also went on the Saturday to watch a bit of the game and then also to Tanunda to see the activation there for the village that they had, pulling in lots of different producers. Obviously, the Barossa is incredibly well-known internationally for its wine, but it also is a fantastic producer of many foods as well, and, of course, the heritage and the culture is unique to the Barossa. It was fantastic.

When we think about it, it is the legacy that we can leave behind. We have seen it in Mount Barker and we see it now in the Barossa. The Gather Round is a great event. We have the eyes of the nation on us, but it also is an opportunity for us to get our kids more involved in sport. As a former championship netballer (Div 6) of the Barossa Bombers in the Barossa and Light League, I spent a bit of time on a Saturday, whether it be netball or tennis, playing in the Barossa. It is a very active sporting area and, of course, these new facilities will be very positive for them.

One of the things that we pitch with Gather Round is to make sure the timing is right, and so the 2025 Gather Round coincided with the middle weekend of the school holidays in Victoria and Queensland and the first weekend of our school holidays here and in Western Australia and New South Wales. What I see, from a tourism point of view, is the length of stay, and we have seen that change from the first Gather Round, when the average length of stay was just over two nights, to 4.5 nights in 2024, and I am expecting that is going to go up again.

What we see is this regional dispersal, not only going to the Barossa but going to other areas. Fifty per cent of people who come to Gather Round drive here, which means that we have worked really closely with the Limestone Coast to choose the two different routes in—the inland or around the coast—and activations on the way, so that everyone in South Australia can benefit from having Gather Round here. I would like to recognise the work of Mount Gambier council. They came to us last year to start their activations and we were able to lean in even further this time.

Once again, the Norwood Food and Wine Festival was incredibly well received. The day was beautiful. They had more than 90,000 people attend across the day. One of the key aspects when you do a major festival, of course, is public transport, and that was something we worked quite strongly on, with free shuttle buses for ticketholders from the city to Barossa Park, as well as the express train, and those free shuttles that came and looped to Norwood on the days of the events, and the matches as well.

For the second year, we also had the Festival of Footy associated events program. That is where we encourage regional businesses across the state to host an event and provide a special offer linked in. More than 100 businesses registered for that. They wanted to be part of this great celebration, this great time when the focus is on South Australia. I would really like to thank those businesses for activating that space.

Once again, the Footy Festival in Elder Park was really popular. Torp the Torrens and the zip-line were experiences that I think both sold out. We had 118,000 fans enjoy that festival. Every

year, the SATC does a great job working incredibly closely with the AFL to add new things to value-add to people coming, bringing their families and having a fantastic time. It is that length of stay that makes the biggest difference here in tourism, people wanting to spend more time in South Australia, driving here and then getting out to our regions as well.

I want to touch on Chihuly in the Botanic Garden. What a major success: 1.4 million people in attendance. I know a few times people looked at me and said, 'Glass art? Glass art in the gardens? Will that be something that is attractive to people?' Well, you had to see it. You had to see these fantastic sculptures. It was an exclusive in the Southern Hemisphere and never seen before outside the US. The only other places it has been seen outside the US were Kew Gardens in London and Singapore, so to have it here was absolutely amazing.

Ninety per cent of visitors surveyed said they were very satisfied with their experience. The ticketed side at night was incredibly popular, and we extended the time out to include Wednesdays through to Sunday, increasing the capacity. We also had a lot of school groups come in. What I loved was hearing about the ripples of movement after things like this happen, after you have had an event or during an event. One of the key things that Michael Harvey talked to me about was that they now have an additional 250 new volunteers at the Botanic Garden. If we had not had Chihuly and had not had the great focus around it, that would not have happened. Now, they have these additional volunteers.

I think one of the things to remember about Chihuly is that it was free entry. We do know that people have had some challenging times, and maybe it was not the first thing they thought of doing when they came to the city, but because it was free, it enabled them to bring lots of family. I have heard many people say they came back at several different times with different groups of people and that it was just a beautiful experience: 'Come and see this. It's great for photos. It looks exceptional.' So it was really well loved, and we think that was absolutely fantastic.

We recently hosted LIV Golf from 14 to 16 February. More than 102,000 fans attended across that three-day tournament. We have seen that growing year upon year: 77,000 in 2023, 94,000 in 2024, and we have increased that again. It was great news when the Premier announced that Adelaide would be the exclusive home of LIV Golf in Australia, with an extension agreement through to 2031 and, even more exciting, bringing it here into the city with plans to redevelop the North Adelaide Golf Course. That will be in collaboration with the Adelaide City Council, and the golf course is going to be designed by Greg Norman. It will then be one of the world's best public golf courses.

Once again, we talk about legacy. We have these great events where the eyes of the nation are on us or we have a big international event, but what is the legacy from that for South Australians? I think you will see that is something we will come to see in the future that we appreciate, that we can have something of that excellence. Already, it is great, but we will take it to that next level as well. There were a few new products introduced. There was the Family Fairway on the sixth hole, with dedicated family and child-friendly activities. It was an opportunity for children to get up close to the players. I thank the Grange Golf Club for their continued activation and involvement with us to develop that.

The Tour Down Under had its 25<sup>th</sup> edition in January this year. It was such a significant milestone and, once again, an opportunity for us to showcase South Australia in fantastic international coverage. It is estimated that we have had 12.5 million attendees over these 25 years and it has given more than \$1 billion into South Australia for their visitor expenditure, which is fantastic. Over those 10 days, we saw 765,000 spectators—and not just here in the city, because we push out every year to our different regional areas.

That footage beamed across the world. I had someone say to me, 'Did you actually plan for the kangaroo to hop across the causeway?' I said, 'No, that just happens.' It was a beautiful image and that is actually what our international tourists want to see. There are three things they want when they come to Adelaide: the food and wine, our events and festivals, but topping out the top three is connection to wildlife and the outback. They want to see Australian animals and they want to see the bush, and you can do that very easily in South Australia.

I recognise the focus over the last few years, including having the UCI Women's WorldTour race, which is a three-day race, and the six-day UCI Men's WorldTour race. We also added on the one-day UCI Women's ProTour race and the men's Criterium, which provided lots of diversity within that day. I had the opportunity to go and meet with the women who were competing. They train so incredibly hard and they fly all around the world, but they said the welcome that they have here in South Australia—staying at the Hilton, the same accommodation as the men, and being paid the same as the men—is something that they incredibly value. It recognises the work that they have done over those many years.

We had an opportunity to recognise some of the people who were so crucial over these 25 years and to recognise the work that they did to bring everything in. There was a special dinner to recognise this and to recognise the legends—and to recognise them quite clearly. The other thing that we brought back was the mass participation ride, which people really were keen to do. It was delivered by NX Sports this time and more than 1,600 people participated. That was something that was really welcome.

On a completely different note, I would like to talk about those new areas within Multicultural Affairs that we have been funding. One that means so much to me, which I hope and believe will shift the dial, is our Empowering African Youth project. I launched it just on Friday at ServiceFM, with the support of Football SA.

The African Communities Council of South Australia came to us in 2023, supported by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, to produce a report on their concerns about the increasing incarceration rates of young African youth. They raised these concerns, they have a public document, and this is our way of responding to that. As we know, we have a very young African population here. We are home to 23,500 African South Australians and 15,000 in addition who have one parent or more who was born in Africa. Africa is a continent, and we have people here from 45 countries from Africa.

This partnership program is with the Department for Education. Football SA have also been engaged. They have a targeted schools problem that they have introduced. Football SA have appointed an African youth program coordinator who is of African heritage and is focused on introducing and facilitating students' engagement and participation.

The key part of this program is connection to school attendance. Education is the biggest differentiator for anyone—here in Australia or around the world—and if you do not attend school you are not going to have those tools to support you in your life going forward, so we are connecting our program with school attendance. We will be looking at announcing some homework clubs.

I would also like to recognise Mentoring, Coaching and Counselling (MCC), a non-government culturally specific service. They are running these village programs, which are in six schools here in South Australia. We think this is a model that will work. It is about intensive case management, activating young people after school, talking with them, engaging them in sports. Football is a key part of it but so is the involvement of Basketball South Australia and the Eastside Rams as well.

Sometimes we meet some incredible leaders in the work that we do. Marial Machar started the Eastside Rams to get African kids involved in basketball. Already some of the people he has supported have received scholarships to go to the US to be in those sports colleges. More importantly, however, it is making sure our kids are involved, making sure someone is taking the time to understand what is going on in their life. So I recognise the work that they do. Within this program, of course, are also some one-off grants to African community organisations, who are already doing work around parenting programs and homework clubs. I am really pleased that they are doing that as well.

I also recognise the role of SAPOL, the Legal Services Commission, Mission Australia, STTARS and Basketball SA. To those schools that have higher proportions of African students, thank you for putting up your hand, and thank you for being part of that.

The last topic I want to talk about is the Ambassador Program. This follows our tabling of the Multicultural Charter, which is a wonderful set of words, but we wanted to activate the words of the

charter, looking at our multicultural community from where we were, where we are today and where we are going. What this means is inviting private companies and not-for-profits into the multicultural Ambassador Program to look at diversity and inclusivity in their workplaces. It is an opportunity to look at cultural content, to look at what they do but also to say how they might be able to achieve more with engaging people. Also, it is understanding that there are qualified people who have come here on visas, maybe as international students or skilled migrants, who are now not working in their areas, and to invite them in. There is a lot happening.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:21):** I rise to speak to the Supply Bill, which is the bill to keep government services operating in this state post June as we debate the budget. I note that it comprises \$7.681 billion to be appropriated. There are a couple of things I want to talk about in regard to local issues today. One is the growth that has been happening in Murray Bridge and will happen well into the future. I know I have raised this in this place before, but certainly Murray Bridge and surrounds will be a major part of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan moving forward, and it is great to see that opportunity will be realised over decades and decades to come.

A lot of this would not have been possible—in fact, most of it would not have been possible—if it was not for the fact that the Murray Bridge Racing Club went out to Gifford Hill all those years ago, from the seed that was sown back in back in 2003, about three kilometres out of the centre of Murray Bridge. So I guess there is a central icon that developers can build a new suburb around for Murray Bridge.

Certainly, I have met with Grange, the developers that are going to expand on this proposal. It was interesting last year, with the announcement of the 17,100 homes coming as part of this development of Murray Bridge, that the government did not even turn up. I had an excuse: I was away. Even so, it is a great opportunity to put housing where there is also such a huge opportunity for jobs. It is not just the hundreds of jobs available in that area but the thousands of jobs already operating in regard to food processing, value-added agriculture and in the prime agricultural sector. There are thousands of jobs, whether it is Thomas Foods, Costa mushrooms, Big River Pork, in the horticulture industry locally or in the chicken industry locally, which is not just about raising chickens but about the feed mill which takes so much local feed and gives farmers another option for their crops.

It is certainly going to be exciting moving into the future, on top of a lot of exciting things that have happened in recent times, and I look with anticipation at how that will unfold. Certainly, part of that growth that has been discussed as part of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan is the freight bypass and the environment and food production areas. It is interesting when we have proposed from this side of the house—and I know the legislation has moved to the other place—amendments realising more land that could be utilised. I am certainly glad to see that some land that has to be part of that project, not just at Gifford Hill but some of the land at Northern Heights, is being realised for that development into the future.

Certainly, the freight bypass is a much welcome thing that went into the recent federal election with support from both sides of politics, though I do note that the federal Labor Party only promised half of the money, \$525 million, in a fifty-fifty split. Whichever way it is going to end up, whether the state Labor Party can convince the federal Labor Party to top it up to 80:20, which we were going to do from our side of the ledger, I just want to see it done. I just want to see it done because not only does it get freight off roads in Adelaide but it creates efficiencies for those bigger truck combinations that cannot come down the hill anyway.

With the bypass, it is good to see the Swanport Bridge being duplicated, which is long overdue as it should have been done in 1979 when the first part was built. That duplication is necessary to get 53 metre or three-trailer road trains across legally and safely. Instead of running through Murray Bridge, through Hindmarsh Road and Maurice Road, around Cypress Terrace, around the back of Murray Bridge and then coming out at Mannum Rd, it will officially be part of Monarto where the turn-off comes off the freeway. They will need a new roundabout there.

They will need some works around crossing the main Melbourne-Adelaide railway line and also road upgrades around all of those roads heading around the back of Monarto through to around Pallamana and connecting up to the Murray Bridge-Mannum Road, noting that there are a couple of

T-junctions there, so it will be interesting to see what elements will be done to straighten out those T-junctions for these big combinations.

Certainly, it will need some work on the section from Mannum through to Halfway House, which is the turn-off point on the Sturt Highway. Part of that will be a bypass around Cambrai and Sedan. Obviously, the big bypass that needs to be done is up at Truro, where it looks like it will be a dual-lane bypass, heavy vehicle freight bypass, to get those heavy combinations around. Trucks are already using this route because anything bigger than a B-double has to use this route. To get it fully upgraded, to get the Swanport Bridge put in place over the next few years, will be a major uplift for freight efficiency and safety in this state.

I want to talk about another thing close to my heart in my electorate, which is Kalimna at Strathalbyn, which is a health precinct that people hold dear in Strathalbyn. Years ago, when I was not looking after Strathalbyn for a little period with the redistributions, it was shut down because it was supposedly noncompliant as an aged-care facility. Essentially, at the time, I was told that it was about firefighting and that people could have been bundled up in their beds, taken straight out of a large sliding door in every room and taken to safety. Evidently, that did not comply, so Kalimna fell out of favour. What was very interesting were the public meetings, attended by over 300 people, making the severe point, 'We want our Kalimna, we want something done with it and we want it as a health facility in Strathalbyn.'

After a long time, it is noted that there is a \$3 million upgrade coming that will bring outpatient and clinic rooms, health education places, staff offices and amenities. There will also be allied health, community health, nursing, medical, Aboriginal health and mental health services provided there. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. This is welcome news because the people of Strathalbyn and surrounding districts have raised the money not only for the land for Kalimna but also for the original building itself.

Another issue that greatly concerns me is the issue of MedSTAR and what is happening in regional areas. I am happy to be corrected if I am wrong, but I have not seen a helicopter come into Murray Bridge for many months now and I just worry what impact that has not just on the health of the citizens of Murray Bridge but on emergency department services way out in the Mallee, the Upper South-East and the northern regions out past Mannum and Callington, to get people their health care.

I have heard all sorts of reasons such as the pads have been upgraded, both at Mannum and Murray Bridge, and other areas across the state, and yet there seems to be an issue with the helicopters, for whatever reason, not coming in to conduct that vital life-saving work. I am very interested to see what is going on there because that is a vital service. The MedSTAR service has certainly assisted in saving many lives right across this state, and I would really like to know what is going on there.

In regard to other developments in my electorate, we have housing developments in Strathalbyn. We have Aurora Park, a \$180 million housing development, which is being done by the Hickinbotham Group, and I went to the launch of that. There are already some buildings and a \$2 million playground in place.

Certainly, part of the work that the Hickinbotham Group have done to cater for the growing population is to work with Catholic Education South Australia, and not just work with them but partner with them, to contract the first ever Catholic school in the Alexandrina Council area. What will happen over the next few years is St Francis de Sales College will open in 2029 for students in reception to year 6, with the possibility of expanding to year 9 if the demand is there over time.

In more recent times, we have seen about 20 hectares of land near the old Bull Creek Road, just outside of Strathalbyn, rezoned to pave the way for another housing development by Oakford Homes, with minimum block sizes of 450 square metres and potentially up to 275 new homes in total. They are welcome developments. I think there is a bit more planning going on in there than a lot of the work going on in Mount Barker, which is welcome news as well.

An issue I have been working on for what seems a long time now, years, is the searching out of a location for clubrooms for the Mannum Returned Services League. It has been a long

process. They were cohabiting with the Mannum Rowing Club down by the river. The rowing club was flooded, of course, in the flood nearly 2½ years ago and it has been through a process. I congratulate Tony Pasin, the member for Barker, on getting the funding to build the new rooms and obtain the site. There was a lot of toing and froing. There was some interest in a tree at the top of the site on the showgrounds which was, for whatever reason, controversial, but I will leave that alone.

Anyway, a place was found where the old cricket clubrooms were. It has been built for a couple of years now, the new building for the RSL, however, they have not been able to operate it because it did not have a sewer connection. Thankfully, through working with the council and working with opportunities that have come up with grant applications—I think it is about a \$90,000 job—that work will proceed fairly shortly and get it up to speed. The Mannum RSL have been really keen to properly move into that facility and have somewhere to call home.

In relation to drought, the Mid Murray Council had an issue with 14 standpipes and the way they were operated in the area. Obviously, there has been a far greater need for water from these standpipes for people to use not just for their homes but as stock water in these unprecedented dry conditions. It has been proven now in pretty well most of the state, if not all, that it is the driest time that has been experienced in recorded history.

Thankfully, there has been some grant funding allocated so that seven of these standpipes can be put into place and automated so you can use credit cards to pay for the water instead of the honour system that was in place and bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Obviously, that depends on phone coverage and that sort of thing to make that work. I understand that Tilt, which is proposing a wind farm in the area, and another company with a solar build are going to sponsor another couple of standpipes, and it is hoped that with some budget rejigging the Mid Murray Council will find the money to probably get 12 out of the 14 operational, which will be a great win for locals and will keep things on track.

I want to talk about energy just briefly. It seems obvious that nuclear will not be on the agenda now. That is disappointing for a range of reasons, not the least of which is getting to net zero by 2050. On the other side of the coin, we have had the state Labor government pushing its failed hydrogen plan, a proposed \$593 million project which was turning into \$1 billion-plus. Notwithstanding, there would have been plenty of people telling the government, from Premier Peter Malinauskas down, that it is just too expensive, that it will not work and that you lose so much power in the transition, because apart from the fact that you would need thousands of wind turbines and thousands of acres of solar panels to generate the so-called green energy you lose 80 per cent of that energy on the transition through to hydrogen.

It just does not stack up, and no-one in the private sector in recent times, whether Twiggy Forrest, Origin or even in government sectors, like the Queensland government, is going ahead with projects like this. The turbines that were bought recently would have had to run on four hours of gas anyway, so just hook up the gas, which is what they are going to end up doing anyway.

Something close to my heart is the agriculture sector. As I indicated, it is so dry, so darn dry at the minute, and that is causing headaches across the board, whether it is water supply for your stock or just water supply for your house. It is extremely, extremely tough and not just that, it is the severe lack of water for dryland farming. People are taking a punt investing—it would be hundreds of millions of dollars and heading into the billions over the last few weeks and moving forward.

The people farming my farm under a lease arrangement sowed the canola on Friday with a great cloud of dust behind the air seeder. Many farmers are taking that punt of reinvesting, upgrading machinery if they have the capacity to, maintaining that machinery, purchasing the fuel, purchasing the chemicals, purchasing the fertiliser and, as they always have, taken a huge gamble as a landholder to grow food, not just for this state but for this country and the world, and I just hope that we get rain soon so that we can get a year to pull everyone out of the situation we are in, which is diabolical, actually diabolical, moving forward.

I want to talk about the mining opportunities in this state. I have worked with three mines: Mindarie, Strathalbyn over time, which is shut down at the moment and has been shut down for about 10 years, and Kanmantoo where, apart from the open cut mine, they have gone underground now to realise the copper potential.

I found it interesting when the Woodside goldmine proposal was put up and went through. I think there were about 14 years of investigation. It is not just the mining department that do these investigations, the Department for Environment and Water, and a whole range of government departments feed into the compliance mechanism to see if the ore could be mined safely. It was interesting, to say the least, and disappointing, when there was going to be a goldmine at Bird in Hand, and the minister, as he has a right to under the legislation, said that mine was not going to go ahead and yet the recommendation from all the departments was that it was safe to do so under the heavy regulation involved.

I find that interesting with a minister, and Minister Koutsantonis, who talks about 'follow the science and you will get the result'. He certainly did not follow the science there. In speaking to the Supply Bill, I note that this will go ahead with no opposition because it keeps the function of everyone with any association with government going. I commend the bill.

**Mr DIGHTON (Black) (11:42):** As the newest member of parliament, I am excited and honoured to rise to speak to the Supply Bill and recognise the important areas of funding and investment that the Malinauskas Labor government have made in my community over the past three years. At the 2022 state election, as the Labor candidate, along with the Malinauskas state Labor team, I made a significant number of important commitments to support my local community. I am proud that a number of these have been and are being delivered.

The \$120 million Majors Road on/off interchange project was arguably the most significant commitment made for my community. The commitment was made jointly by the state Labor Party led by Peter Malinauskas and the federal Labor Party led by Anthony Albanese. In March 2022, I was proud to stand with the now Premier and the now Prime Minister for this important announcement. And, I have been very excited to see the progress that is occurring on this significant infrastructure project.

The project is important to my community for a number of reasons: it will support residents of Hallett Cove, Trott Park and Sheidow Park to access the north-south motorway and consequently it has shortened commute times. The project will also alleviate some of the traffic along Brighton Road, which will benefit residents in Marino, Kingston Park, Seacliff and Seacliff Park. The Majors Road interchange project will provide all commuters with improved access to Glenthorne National Park, the Sam Willoughby International BMX Facility, and the Southern Soccer Facility from the southern expressway.

The project includes the widening of Majors Road from the southern expressway to Lonsdale Highway, tree planting, putting the powerlines underground and the realignment of the Patrick Jonker Veloway to improve path orientation. I note that this project was promised by the former member for Black, who stated that it was his number one priority, but then, once he was in government, he and the Liberals abandoned it. Extraordinarily, he campaigned against the project over the past few years, demonstrating that members opposite and the Liberal Party have a disregard for the infrastructure needs of my community and the inner southern suburbs.

I am very excited that this project is on track for completion this year, and thank residents for their patience whilst roadworks are underway. I particularly want to recognise the impact on the Cove FC (football club), Sturt Pistol and Shooting Club, Southern Field Archers, Cove BMX Club and the O'Halloran Hill Metropolitan Fire Service.

Another project I was passionate to support was the redevelopment of the Cove Sports and Community Club. At the last election, I committed \$2.5 million towards the redevelopment of the Cove Sports and Community Club. This funding was used by the Marion council towards stage 1 of the redevelopment, which included building a new netball facility, including change rooms, administration, storage, an additional 347 car park spaces throughout the centre, along with the resurfacing of two of the netball courts.

It was wonderful to recently visit the netball facility and see both the Cove Tigers club and the Hallett Cove Netball Club in action, as well as see the new facilities being used to serve those who are supporting the players. Sporting clubs not only support personal health and wellbeing, they build stronger communities: communities where people feel a much stronger sense of belonging,



and I will continue to champion the clubs in my community and fight for improved facilities for communities to use.

Of course, building stronger communities is not just about sporting clubs and facilities. We need other good community assets and facilities, and one such example is the upgrade to the Marino Community Hall. At the 2022 election, the state Labor team and I committed \$500,000 towards the upgrade of the community hall, which includes various community spaces, an informal cafe space, a new frontage and expanded car parking, and is now going to be a facility that is capable of delivering a range of community programs. The hall will host a number of activities, including theatre groups, art classes, dance, yoga and Pilates classes. I am very excited that the upgrade is nearing completion, and I look forward to the activities and the cafe returning to the hall in the coming months.

Another commitment was made to provide funds to the Marion council to build the toilets at Fryer Street Reserve in Hallett Cove. You may be wondering why I am highlighting a toilet commitment. Well, let me tell you. The Fryer Street Reserve is located on the coastal walkway between the public toilets at Marino Rocks and those at Hallett Cove Beach. Given the significant number of walkers along the coastal walkway, I decided that it was an important piece of council infrastructure to be built and I note that many people are utilising these new facilities, particularly on weekends.

In addition, the state Labor government also provided funding to the Marion council to help complete the upgraded coastal walkways, which includes two suspension bridges. Many people now regard it as one of the most spectacular walking trails in our metropolitan area, and is a very popular tourist attraction. This was not an election commitment, but a decision to support important infrastructure in our community. I am lucky to live very close to the walkways, and my family and I enjoy walking along there. In fact, I host a 'walk the boardwalk' on the first Friday of every month, with my next walk on Friday 6 June, so feel free to come along.

Some other projects that we committed to at the 2022 state election that have now been delivered include constructing a wombat crossing facility on the Great Eastern Avenue in Sheidow Park, which supports children who are walking to Woodend Primary School to travel safely, funds to support the City of Holdfast and the rehabilitation of old tennis courts in Kingston Park.

At a macro level, the Malinauskas Labor government has made a significant number of contributions—most importantly, a generational investment in their health system, and I am delighted that the Minister for Health is in the chamber to listen to this. We are delivering more beds, doctors, nurses, ambos, allied health professionals, alternative care options and mental health services. This includes major investments in hospital and health services in the southern suburbs, so that my community has better access to health care closer to home.

We are expanding inpatient capacity in the southern suburbs by more than 20 per cent over the next four years with an extra 228 beds. Last year, an additional 72 beds were opened across Noarlunga Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre and the Repat Health Precinct, with another 58 this year, totalling 130 by the end of this year. This will be followed by a further 98 beds at the Flinders Medical Centre in 2028.

Other initiatives recently completed, planned or underway include opening two Medicare Urgent Care Clinics in Marion and Morphett Vale, building new ambulance stations in Edwardstown and Marion, upgrading the existing ambulance station at Aldinga, supporting the development of a kids' mental health hub, supporting the Marion Priority Care Centre, delivering alternative care treatment pathways for older people at the Repat, and establishing a 24/7 pharmacy in Clovelly Park.

Talking about a 24/7 pharmacy provides me with a good segue to talk about commitments that I and the Malinauskas Labor government made at the recent by-election last November, when I was elected as the member for Black. During the by-election, I advocated to the Premier and the health minister for my community to have a 24/7 pharmacy after seeing the fantastic success of the first three pharmacies at Salisbury Plain, Clovelly Park and Norwood. I want to list some of those successes: more than 170,000 people visiting, more than 69,000 scripts written and more than 7,000 phone calls from people seeking advice, all of which occurred during the extended opening hours since those pharmacies were opened the year before last.

These 24/7 pharmacies help to reduce avoidable presentations to busy hospital emergency departments by providing access to medicines, health advice and professional pharmacy services. Consumer feedback indicates that around 20 per cent of customers would have visited an emergency department if the 24/7 pharmacy was not available. I am excited that a Malinauskas Labor government has committed to a fourth 24/7 pharmacy in my community of Hallett Cove, Sheidow Park and Trott Park. I know from personal experience how important it is to be able to access medicines after hours, and I know my community will receive significant peace of mind from the soon to be announced opening of the 24/7 pharmacy.

Another exciting announcement that occurred during the by-election was one I made with the Deputy Premier, Susan Close, regarding the declaration and gazetting of one of the state's newest conservation parks, the Kauwi-marnirla Field River Conservation Park. The Field River Conservation Park is a 177-hectare conservation park between Sheidow Park and Reynella. The Aboriginal name, Kauwi-marnirla, translates to 'two good waters'.

The proclamation of the new park provides a significant opportunity to protect, restore and rewild the metropolitan river valley corridor along the length of the Field River catchment adjacent to the Glenthorne National Park. In total, consisting of in-kind and direct financial support, about \$13 million is being invested in the establishment of this park. This includes contributions from the Albanese Labor government Disaster Ready Fund to support the work of the Kurna Firesticks team who will help manage the park, including through fuel reduction works, seasonal cultural burning and targeted ecological restoration, and a South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service contribution for the purchase of land. Other investment is coming from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, the Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation and Green Adelaide.

The park will be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in conjunction with Kurna practitioners who will help deliver land management services that utilise traditional knowledge and practice. In the past, my family and I have enjoyed walking and exploring the Field River, and we are excited by the work that will go into new walking trails and signs to allow more people in my community the opportunity to explore and enjoy the unique Field River system and environment.

Recently, I had the opportunity to tour the Field River Conservation Park with Green Adelaide and the National Parks and Wildlife Service's rangers. It was terrific to see the work that has already occurred to clear weeds and introduce species, in particular olive trees, and revegetate the areas with natives. Thanks to Green Adelaide, the Kurna Firesticks team, Friends of the Upper and Lower Field River groups, the City of Marion and the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the work they have done to date.

It was also special to stand next to gum trees that predate European settlement and to gain appreciation for the history of this place for Kurna people. The old quarry and the Worthing Mine are also important historical sites, and these areas will undoubtedly make up important features of the management plan, which is currently in the development stage and will be released for public consultation later this year.

The Field River Conservation Park will be a wonderful addition to my community's reserves, open spaces and existing parks. I feel very fortunate to represent a community that has a number of parks, including the Marino Conservation Park, the Hallett Cove Conservation Park and Glenthorne National Park, which incorporates the old O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park. These parks are maintained by the National Parks and Wildlife Service but, in particular, I want to recognise the work of the fantastic friends of groups, almost all of which I have now had the opportunity to meet since I was elected last November.

Another commitment that was made during the by-election was the \$2 million upgrade to the Marino train station. This upgrade includes the installation of CCTV camera technology, 24-hour emergency phones, tactile paving installation and shelter and platform upgrades. I am excited to update the house that this project is already underway, with work starting over the Easter weekend, and it is scheduled to be completed later this year.

I want to recognise the work of the federal member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost, along with the campaign by the Marino, Marino Rocks and Kingston Park Neighbourhood Watch group

and, in particular, the former area coordinator, Mr Darren Bailhache, for the campaign that they ran to secure the funding for this upgrade. We want as many people as possible to feel comfortable and safe using public transport, and the upgrade is an important way that we can support more members of my community to use public transport.

Of course, it is clear that there is only one major party that will protect our public transport system, and I was proud to stand with our Premier and the Minister for Transport earlier this year on the day that trains came back into public hands. Our public transport is a critical public service and my community are both avid users and protectors of our transport system. I want to recognise the work that Rail Care teams at Seacliff, Marino Rocks and Hallett Cove do to preserve and look after those particular stations.

The Labor government's commitment to public transport stands in stark contrast to those opposite who, as soon as they got into government, sold off our trains. You have to question whether they want to be in government, given they do not want to take responsibility for providing critical services to South Australian communities, such as public transport.

I have been speaking about a number of election commitments, both from the 2022 state election and from the by-election last year, that have been delivered. However, I also want to speak about an exciting infrastructure project that was announced earlier this year, and that is new traffic lights that will be installed at the intersection of Brighton Road, Ocean Boulevard and Scholefield Road to improve safety for road users, pedestrians and cyclists.

The intersection is the primary access point onto the arterial network for the Kingston Park and Marino communities, and also for parts of Hallett Cove. I am very familiar with this intersection; I have driven it almost every day for the past nine years and I, like many in my community, have been increasingly concerned by how dangerous the intersection was becoming. I would never attempt a right-hand turn, given how dangerous it was, and there have been a number of near misses, including a truck going straight through the intersection and then through a nearby school crossing.

Given the substantial additional traffic that will be created by the Seacliff Village development, it was important that a solution to this problematic intersection was found. During the by-election, we committed to conducting a traffic study for this intersection and I was excited to announce earlier this year, along with the federal member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost; the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; and the federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, that an upgrade to this intersection will occur. It is exciting to already see that surveying works are occurring and construction will be starting next year—a great example of how a Labor government sees an issue, listens to the community and acts.

As a former teacher and school leader, I am very passionate about education and I am excited to highlight recent upgrades that have been made to schools in my local community. This includes a \$19.3 million upgrade of Seaview Downs Primary School that will deliver contemporary learning areas designed for collaboration and flexibility, along with new administration spaces.

There was also a \$5.2 million upgrade to Woodend Primary School that features new covered outdoor learning areas, a re-establishment of the existing library, home economics facilities, adjacent toilets and associated circulation, the refurbishment of the foyer entrance, general learning areas, the creation of two STEAM rooms, and a new general learning area. I was there last week and it was fantastic to see these spaces already being used and really appreciated by that school community.

Seaview High School has had \$17.6 million worth of upgrades, including a two-storey multipurpose creative design space, construction of a new single-storey performing arts facility and associated performing arts spaces, along with rehearsal workshops, amenities and outdoor spaces. I look forward to continuing to support the schools in my community so that we can make every school a great school.

I also look forward to Tonsley Technical College opening and welcoming students in 2026. The Tonsley Technical College, which will be located in the Tonsley Innovation District, will be run in

conjunction with the Adelaide Science and Maths School, and students at the technical college can get a head start to a career in one of three in-demand industry specialisations, including advanced manufacturing and engineering, automotive and energy, and building and construction. The technical college will support students in years 10 to 12 to complete their SACE while undertaking vocational education.

The state Labor government has made many significant investments in our health, in our education and in infrastructure projects and in my community of Black.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (12:02):** I welcome the opportunity to speak today on the Supply Bill 2025, which introduces \$7.681 billion of spending for the Public Service of the state for the financial year that will be ending next year. As is customary in this place, of course, the opposition will support the passage of the Supply Bill, which ensures that the government is able to continue to fund those very important services to South Australians across the state.

As we know, the state budget will be delivered in June and this will be an incredibly important signal in terms of where this state government is trying to take the state of South Australia. It will also be the last state budget before the state election, more so to the point. As it approaches this upcoming budget, the problem that this government has is one of its own making, and that is that it has become increasingly reliant on a windfall of revenue and, unfortunately, much of this revenue that the government is relying on has been sucked from everyday South Australians, hardworking South Australians and also businesses, and this is of course to prop up what is an absolutely eye-watering debt that this state is accumulating under this Labor government.

Over the last three years, the government has delivered budget after budget, and what we have seen from this government is not only increased spending but also increased debt. Concerningly for South Australians, with such high levels of debt, we do not seem to be seeing a sustainable level of debt from this government and no plan to repay the debt that ultimately South Australians will have to pay. On this side of the house, we believe that future generations are at least owed an explanation as to what that spending has delivered, especially given that they are being lumped with such a bill.

As debt and spending shoot up under Labor, households would also be right to ask themselves: if the debt is increasing and the spending is increasing, why under Labor are South Australians going backwards in terms of their standard of living? The fact is that this Labor government is taking more than it gives, and this Labor government is big on debt and small on delivery.

We know that South Australians have suffered enormously from an increase in their cost of living since Labor came to office in 2022. How has this government responded? What we see now is that they are extracting more money from the household budgets of hardworking South Australians through what are punitive government taxes, and increases in fees and charges as well.

On the weekend, I was in a small business in the seat of Dunstan, where we saw that there are around 55,000 people, just as an example, who are late in their repayment to SA Water. That represents an amount of money of around \$63 million. It shows that the cost-of-living crisis in South Australia is real and this government is letting down the people of South Australia.

Despite going to the last election with a claim to deliver no new taxes, we saw last year a government not shy about hiking water bills for South Australian households, and also businesses, to fund what they say is an underinvestment in water infrastructure in this state. Maybe this is a sign of more things to come under this government.

Hardworking families should not have to foot an extra \$85. Small business owners are telling us that they are paying hundreds of dollars more annually for their water bills because of what has been Labor's poor planning. They can slice it or dice it however they want, but the fact is we are coming into a period where Labor will have been in power in this state for 20 out of the last 24 years.

It was revealed recently that at the end of January 2025, as I mentioned, about 55,000 SA Water customers have that combined outstanding debt of around \$63 million with SA Water that has passed its due date, which is a significant issue. What we also have here is an

ever-increasing reliance on heightened revenue from government taxes, fees and charges, and the signal is pretty clear on how this Labor government might seek to repay what are ever-expanding debts. Clearly, what they are going to do is suck more money out of the economy, more money out of the hard-earned pay cheques of hardworking South Australians.

That is a significant issue, and it is the fundamental difference between those on that side of the chamber and us on this side, because we believe that South Australians know how to spend their money much better than this Labor Premier, this Labor Treasurer and also the Labor government. Conversely, those opposite in the Labor government have had no hesitation in pumping what is—we still have not seen the official last figure—tens of millions of dollars, over \$100 million, into what was a failed hydrogen vanity project, or over \$100 million into government advertising.

They went on to fund campaigns such as the ill-fated State Prosperity Project. We have not seen much prosperity from that. Regarding building a bigger health system, they forgot the bit where they said that they would fix ramping, and despite saying that went on to deliver what is now 35 months of the worst ramping in our state's history.

South Australians are tired of being spun a yarn through leaflet drops using their own taxpayers' money that appear to distract from the fact that this government has completely failed on its core election commitment to fix the ramping crisis. It is clear that this Labor government has let down the people of South Australia and that its priorities are wrong, despite a campaign slogan at the last election—we all remember the little thumbs up in the corner—that said 'the right priorities'.

We could go on talking about spending and debt in the economy. We could talk at length about the failings of this Labor government, but I really want to stress here today, as we consider the Supply Bill, the importance of monitoring closely where the government is currently taking the finances of this state, before the budget is handed down. There are current projections that show that South Australia's net debt is expected to reach around \$46 billion over the forward estimates.

As a lady pointed out to me, that is far, far greater than levels experienced in this state during, say, the State Bank disaster. We entirely expect this number to increase in the state budget, because we know that this Labor government especially has demonstrated what is a deep-seated problem with debt and spending.

This places an enormous burden on future generations. It is expected to result in a daily interest payment of approaching what will be \$6 million by 2028. It is taking us on a path where the debt owed will amount to nearly \$24,000 for every man, woman and child in South Australia. One would think that if this Labor government is going to burden our great state with \$46 billion of debt, there might be something to show for it, more to show for it—at the very least, a detailed debt repayment plan in place. We are yet to see that.

I can tell you that I, personally, do not think that South Australians are getting a good return on their investment. In fact, we spend, as a state, more money servicing interest repayments on state debt than we do basically funding our police services in this state. Have a think about that. That is an enormous amount of money, and it begs the question: what is this debt spending actually returning to the people of this state? What dividend are the people of our state getting?

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** That is right. The government continues to overrun budgets basically like it is Monopoly money. The health minister seems to be treating the finances of this state like Monopoly money. We saw what he recently did. The health budget alone blew out by almost a billion dollars last year—almost a billion dollars for one department. How does anyone still keep their job, spending that much over budget?

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport has also demonstrated extreme consistency, continuing to stick to this Labor government's theme of over budget and over time. Today we get a signal of what is to come from this Labor government, and it is shaping up to be more of the same.

If you look at some of the measurables, last financial year our gross state product per capita actually went backwards—minus 0.4 per cent. After countless parades and feel-good TED talks from

the Premier—and, yes, the member for Elizabeth laughs, but you know the ones I am talking about: loud music, everyone gets up and puts their hands in the air, and there are countless parades about how things are apparently going well. Well, why don't we look at the data?

Let's look at the data released in April's CommSec State of the States report. It shows that South Australia has dropped to sixth in the nation in real economic growth, and compounding the problem is that two of NAB's most recent business confidence reports—and I think there is one out today—show that South Australia had, in fact, the weakest business confidence in the nation.

According to the latest South Australian Business Chamber and William Buck 'Survey of business expectations', there was similar feedback there as well that showed that South Australian businesses are experiencing conditions actually similar to the peak of the COVID pandemic. How is that a good thing, given the pressures that existed during the time of the COVID pandemic? The report notes that South Australian business confidence actually fell 13.9 points in the March quarter to 80 points, and that was actually the steepest decline in confidence and the lowest score since June 2023.

Where does the problem lie? One explanation provided by the CEO of the South Australian Business Chamber notes that a 'force that can't be ignored is the impact of government policies, legislation, and compliance, commonly referred to as red tape'. He goes on:

This is now the second biggest issue for business after costs and has consistently climbed up the ranks for the past few surveys.

This is not just the opposition talking about this; this is the men and women who own and run small businesses, and this is what they are saying about this government.

The South Australian economy has a sickness, and while this government continues to spend big but also continues to shut its eyes to reality, I think it is only going to, unfortunately, get worse under Labor. We are seeing business closures across the board. We have all seen them—go for a walk through the city or in the suburbs at the moment. The number of businesses going into insolvency in South Australia, in some figures over the past three years, has actually more than doubled. It has more than doubled—it is a statement of fact.

We know that inflation, until recently, has run rampant through the government. We know that many things have gone up. By some measures things have increased by nearly 15 per cent in our state under Labor's watch, and reckless government spending we know has also only drawn out that inflationary pain for South Australian households. We know that South Australia is facing enormous debt and at some stage the government has to confront this issue. Big debt, big spending, big problems, more money, more problems—all because this Labor government simply is not listening.

In terms of cost of living, unfortunately the story is not better for families. Cost-of-living pressures are pushing South Australians to the brink. We saw this recently, on Sunday when we did media, when we went out to the electorate in the seat of Dunstan and we were spoken to by a couple who told us that their water bill has gone up significantly without any due explanation. Under Labor, the price of essentials is also far more than it was at the last state election. Let's look at some of the figures here: eggs are up 36 per cent, if you can get them, and bread is up 25 per cent. Insurance is the big one that people are talking about, including last night when I was at a dinner. Insurance is up dramatically—46 per cent—and of course there is electricity, which is up 44 per cent.

The only significant Labor Party policy in relation to energy was about this thing called hydrogen. What have they done? They have basically wasted three years and spent, what is it, over 100 million bucks, and continued to pay their mate Sam \$600,000 or so a year, despite the fact that this project has failed. What about that promise of reducing energy prices by 8 per cent? The last time I checked energy prices, the only way they are going under Labor is up; they are not going down.

Adding to the cost-of-living crunch was Labor's increase to water bills, as I said, despite a promise that there would be no new taxes and no new tax increases. When somebody gets a bill and it is replicated on every bill across the state, guess what? If it looks like a tax, feels like a tax, sounds like a tax, it probably is a tax. Instead of curbing its wasteful spending, the Premier has

chosen to squeeze even more money out of hardworking South Australians during a cost-of-living crisis. He has completely lost touch with the common person. The cost-of-living crisis has seen an immense decline in our standard of living here and ultimately what the government should be doing is helping to promote and increase our standard of living, not decrease it.

Even worse, Labor's GP payroll tax grab is making it more expensive for sick South Australians to get help. If you go into almost any GP practice at the moment, you will see the campaign that they are running there, and you will see the campaigns on the walls because people are sick and tired of how they are being treated by this government. South Australians are feeling the hit in all aspects of everyday life. Go and talk to some of the restaurant owners at the moment. Go and see how people's spending habits are changing. This Labor government has not done enough to provide them with assurances, relief, or just a positive signal that things will get better.

I have not even spoken about housing. We know that at the moment here in South Australia, after nearly the last 24 years under Labor in this state, we have a significant housing crisis, and we know that, here in South Australia, in terms of buying a home and renting a home, we have some of the worst rental conditions and arguably the worst when it comes to buying a home. There is such disparity between the income that is earned by South Australians and the median home price as well, and the Labor Party wants to paint this picture that this just sort of did not creep up on us. A lot of it has to do with a failure in policy under government and under this party that now occupies the treasury benches. This did not just happen overnight. It has been happening for an extended period of time.

The pain extends to young South Australians who are just trying to get ahead. If you have spoken to any university students and young adults lately, you will have likely noticed that they are overworked and under immense pressure. Many seem to be juggling not only a full-time study load but also a full-time job, just to try to get ahead, keep up with the cost of living, and put a roof over their head. It used to be that the average hardworking South Australian earning a decent average wage could afford a home and good food. Unfortunately, that dream has turned into a nightmare for many aspirational young people.

So to the young aspirational people who are out there trying to get a home, I say, 'We hear you and we will continue to work on policy that addresses that issue,' because we know that at the moment housing affordability is worsening, while the government's response remains muted, to say the least.

The average house price in Adelaide, believe it or not—we saw recent reports—cracked \$1 million for the first time last quarter, according to Domain. On those figures, this would mean that on the average home you could be paying almost \$50,000 in stamp duty—\$48,000 and a bit. The dirty little secret is this: the Labor government is running the state and they are continuing to have this spending problem, and the elevated prices in housing are delivering a record windfall in terms of revenue. That has also masked the problem.

You show me the incentive and I will show you the outcome. The incentive for this government, they think, has been to squeeze South Australians at every turn, and they are clipping the ticket on the way up at a rate of almost \$50,000 on the average home price, according to Domain. For what? They then have the temerity to force price hikes on household water bills to fund water infrastructure upgrades that they fail to make. It is outrageous to infer, in this decision, that they are not getting enough money to deliver essential infrastructure when revenue from stamp duty has absolutely skyrocketed.

A symptom of the problem now is that we are seeing more and more young, bright South Australians leave for what they perceive to be better opportunities interstate. Under this Labor government the brain drain is back—not for one quarter, not for two quarters, but for more than eight quarters now. The brain drain, unfortunately, is back under this Labor government.

Poor affordability is no doubt a factor that will continue to put pressure on our youth and also add to the brain drain. We know that in the last two years population data shows net interstate migration; we are losing people now. Labor is overseeing the biggest failure for young people in the history of this state. This is real, this is happening, and they do not care enough. Constantly, this Labor government has failed to address the needs of young people.

It is crystal clear in the failure of this government to deliver an affordable housing solution for first home buyers, as well. Under this Labor government, Adelaide has fallen into a housing affordability crisis; it is the least affordable capital city in which to rent and the second least affordable in which to buy in Australia. While all South Australians struggle with the cost of buying a home, this Labor government is more interested in boosting its coffers to pay down the debt.

In the remaining time I have—because I could go on—the housing crisis is not only gripping our state, but our regions are also suffering and still continue to be ignored in one of the worst droughts we have experienced. Under this Premier's watch we also know that crime continues to skyrocket, and I have spoken about health and how they are letting the people down. There is a better way, and it is a Liberal way. Only a Liberal government can undo the damage of this same old Labor government.

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (12:22):** I too, rise to speak on the Supply Bill 2025 and talk about key investments that are being made in my wonderful community of Adelaide.

In this place I often speak fondly about my upbringing in regional South Australia, in the South-East in the most beautiful town of Naracoorte and out on the farm at Bool Lagoon. When I talk about that, what I talk about is the pride I have in the community that is created down there. When you grow up in a regional community it really is in your DNA, whether it is going down the main street and running into everybody so it does take that two or three hours just to get a carton of milk or a loaf of bread, or the fact that volunteering is not really a word you spoke about when you were growing up in a country town but just something you did.

You just happened to be a Lions member or a Rotary member, or you were an umpire, or the canteen person at the local footy club. Volunteering was not even a word we used; it was just what you did when you grew up in a country town. So I have a real sense of responsibility, in my role as the member for Adelaide, to create that same sense of community that you would find in any country town in a capital seat.

I think some of the key election commitments I made to our community were about that. They were about growing community, about connecting community, about making sure that people stay fit, active and local in their community, because I really do think there is power in somebody knowing your name, whether that is at the local coffee shop or the footy club or at your local recreation centre.

For me, a real jewel in the crown of the election commitments that we are rolling out for our community of Adelaide is definitely our brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre, at \$135 million. Just last week, I had the pleasure of touring the site with our transport and infrastructure minister, Tom Koutsantonis, and our sport, rec and racing minister, Emily Bourke, just to see an update on the works—and it is just going full steam ahead. I really cannot contain my excitement about this project. We got to stand, literally, in the 50-metre pool and to make the announcement that YMCA Aquatic will be the operator of the brand-new centre. They are a highly experienced operator. They run the aquatic centre further down south, in Oaklands Park, so they come with a wealth of experience and knowledge about how to run aquatic centres well.

There was another element to that announcement, namely, that we will be creating 300 jobs at the brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre. What we will be doing is asking the former staff of the old Adelaide Aquatic Centre—they will be given the first opportunity to express their interest in filling those roles. We want to go out to them and we want to say, 'We want to welcome you back to what will be an absolutely first-class facility.' Once we have offered the former staff of the old centre the opportunity to express their interest, we can then undertake a wider recruitment process.

We were able to see how the new centre is coming along. It is going to be a real game changer for our community. I know that a lot of us, as parents of young kids during the summer, will often bundle up our kids and grab the beach bag with the picnic blankets, the sunscreen, the snacks and the beach huts and go down to the beach. But really, we now have a real opportunity, that in the future we are going to have this amazing aquatic centre where, in the summer and in the warmer months, we are going to be able to use the brand-new outdoor pool, sit on a picnic blanket under the beautiful trees in our beautiful Parklands, and get to enjoy summer right on our doorstep. That is one of the things I am so excited about with this project.



We will have our 50-metre indoor pool, which importantly is deep water. It gets raised with me a lot in our community: is it deep water? It absolutely is, so we will be able to welcome back our water polo players and also our deep-water aqua aerobics participants. Just before the centre closed, I was able to go along and join in on one of the deep-water aqua aerobics classes. It was exhausting, and I can see why they are so fit and active and healthy. It is an amazing class. So we will be welcoming them back to our 50-metre pool, which will also of course be available for lap swimming and a lot of our swim clubs.

We will have our outdoor pool as well, which will be available for lap swimming and just enjoying the water. There will be a dedicated warm-water rehabilitation pool, spa, steam room, sauna and also a dedicated learn-to-swim pool as well. My children attended the old Adelaide Aquatic Centre, so we were a part of the 1,500 or more children who learnt to swim and the other people who used the facilities who have gone to other pools while the brand-new centre is being built. I just want to say a huge thankyou to everybody who has found alternative locations while the new centre is being built. For myself, we transferred our children to Findon Swim School, which has been fantastic, but we are very much looking forward to my kids returning to the brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre to continue their swimming lessons there.

Swimming is such a vital skill. I myself went through all of my swimming, through to bronze medallion, at the Naracoorte Swimming Lake. I became a swimming instructor for VACSWIM and became a lifeguard at the Naracoorte Swimming Lake because I understood just how important water safety was. That is something that I really want to pass on to my children: the importance of that.

It is going to be a beautiful sight when we see hundreds and hundreds of local kids learning to swim at the brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre. Of course, my kids always ask me about it, and I say, 'Yes, it's happening. We are going to have brand-new water slides and splash play as part of the brand-new Adelaide Aquatic Centre,' so they are very excited and cannot wait to try those out as well as a lagoon pool outside and a splash pad and also kind of entry-level diving facilities.

We are really trying to create a community hub that is for everybody. It is very unique to find a special place like this, where people, from literally babies through to seniors—of all ages and from all walks of life—get to use a community facility like this. It is very unique, and it is very special, and that is something I am really proud to be able to deliver for my community.

Parklands is obviously a really big element of this as well. We are not only delivering a brand-new centre with better facilities, but we are also able to deliver 1,000 square metres of Parklands back to our community. At the end of this project, there are going to be more Parklands on Park 2 than there have been before, and I think that is a really important point for this new centre that we are going to have those Parklands. It is going to be a multiuse oval for various sports, which is fantastic as well, but just having that open green space on Park 2 is going to be a real game changer.

It is also going to be a better facility to run. The former facility cost the City of Adelaide to run it and to operate it, and one of the big elements of this is that it is going to be 100 per cent powered by renewable energy, so it is also going to be better for the environment. Parking at the centre is also often raised with me, so it is great to be able to let people know that there is going to be more car parks in the car park. It is going to be configured in a better way to be able to provide more parking. Parking will increase from 266 to 384, so that is more than 100 extra car parks. That will include 10 disability car parks as well, which is really important.

I want to give a huge shout-out to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), as well as the Office for Rec and Sport, which have been exemplary. They have been brilliant in the management of this process, both in the construction and also in managing the users of the facility. They have worked so diligently with so much attention to detail, and I want to give them a huge shout-out today. Everybody who has been working on the project should be incredibly proud of themselves, as well as Sarah Constructions.

I live nearby the centre, and so I drive past it almost every day. My partner and kids do have a bit of a giggle when every morning I say, 'Oh wow, the centre's really coming along.' And then they say, 'Alright, say the next bit,' and I say, 'Terry's doing a great job.' Terry the project manager is doing an absolutely incredible job at Sarah Constructions, so I want to give a huge shout-out to Terry. He

is fantastic. I know he probably thinks I should have my own little site office on the site because of how much I love going down there to check out the progress, but he is doing an excellent job. All the workers are doing an excellent job, so I want to give them a really big shout-out.

As well as the Aquatic Centre, just down the road in Walkerville we are also building in partnership with the Town of Walkerville a brand-new Walkerville Recreation Centre, which is around a \$10 million project. That is being built by Hutchinson Builders. Just last week I went and visited the site and it is coming along really well. We have some slabs going down and structural steel is expected to go up this week.

This site has a long history. It was previously the former Walkerville YMCA. It had been a part of the community for decades, but its lease did end under the previous Town of Walkerville council, and we really lost an incredible community hub in that facility. Whenever I go to Walkerville, whenever I am door knocking, whenever I am speaking to locals, everyone has a story about the YMCA, whether it is about themselves playing sport, their children playing sport or going along to the vacation care. It really was an amazing hub to bring the community together and so I knew that I wanted to make that commitment to the community that we would bring back a recreation centre to the heart of Walkerville. I was very pleased to have a partner in the Town of Walkerville, in the Mayor Melissa Jones and her councillors, who all are making an excellent team to be able to deliver this project.

It will provide a two-court stadium on the site at 39 Smith Street for basketball, netball, other indoor sports, and other community activities. Again, it is a unique community hub where people from all walks of life can come together to stay fit, active and local. This will not just be a benefit from a physical and mental health wellbeing perspective but also a benefit to the broader community. It might be the barbershop across the road, the fruit and veg place across the road, Nest Bistro or Coffee Institute, or the butcher inside the Woolies complex.

This is about extending the benefit of a community hub like this that draws people in and then draws them out to the local businesses that surround it. I am very excited to see the real excitement and beating heart of the community that I think that this centre will create. Once again, I want to give a shout-out to the staff at the Town of Walkerville and the elected members, and also Hutchinson Builders. We hope to have the centre open towards the end of 2025 and look forward to hearing the sound of squeaking sneakers and basketballs and also the sound of laughter when we get to open that incredible centre.

Another important project that I have been wanting to work on in my community and that we have made investments in is around increasing the open green space in our community, and we have been able to do that through the creation of pocket parks. We have already created a pocket park on the corner of Main North Road and Da Costa Avenue, which is also used as a dog park, which is quite popular. Currently under construction at the moment, almost finished, is another pocket park that I have been able to secure for my community on Churchill Road at Ovingham. We are literally in the final stages of that.

I drove past it yesterday. A lot of the trees are in, the footpath has been formed, the stairs are in. I have been working closely with a local greening group, Ovingham Greening, who have been quite dedicated in planning for a community garden on that site. We have been able to give them grants to support that endeavour. Once the Department for Infrastructure and Transport hand over the park to the care and maintenance of the City of Prospect, I do hope to work closely with that Ovingham Greening group to be able to develop a community garden on that site, hopefully with the support of the City of Prospect.

A little way away in Nailsworth, on the border of Nailsworth and Collinswood, we are also able to undertake, in partnership with the City of Prospect, an upgrade of RL Pash Park. We have been able importantly to retain the open green space and add in brand-new exercise equipment. We have kept the iconic little pirate boat that existed in the park before but created some improved amenity, exercise equipment and also a couple of activities for children as they grow older.

As I know as my kids start getting older, you do want to look at activities that keep their interest. Suddenly they might not want to go to the playground as much, but that is why it is about finding activities, like the climbing boulder we have at RL Pash Park, that will encourage them to still

want to go outdoors not just to use the playground but to kick a footy as well. It has been lovely to see the community really embracing the upgraded RL Pash Park. I thank the City of Prospect for working with me on that project.

Investing in main streets: as I was saying, the main street is the heart of a community. It is where people know your name at the local coffee shop or the butcher or the bakery. The investment has been made of \$1 million in Melbourne Street to create some aesthetic improvements because that street has so much potential. I have often said it reminds me of when I lived in London, some of the high streets that you would visit in the city, that real kind of village feel. I think there is so much potential with that wonderful street.

We have been able to declutter it, add in more consistency around colour and pot plants, etc., look at improving lighting and also better direct people to where they can find car parks as well. Recently, I was very excited to announce with the Lord Mayor, Jane Lomax-Smith, that we would be contributing funds to wombat crossings as well on Melbourne Street, both in the heart of the business district but also further down Melbourne Street in front of Ronald McDonald House. We have given them a grant towards two wombat crossings.

It is surprising how much a few white painted lines on the road can cost. It does give you a bit of a shock. Maybe we can get former member for Schubert, Ivan Venning, to come along with some paint and a paintbrush and do it for us for a much cheaper cost. That will really improve safety along Melbourne Street and slow down traffic, particularly in front of Ronald McDonald House. They have a lot of families that stay there on one side of the road and need to cross over to access the playground on the southern side of the road. I am looking forward to hopefully having those wombat crossings delivered by sometime within the first quarter of next year.

Another thing that often maybe does not get as much attention is the importance of our free City Connector bus. I was visiting St Ann's students last week and was the guest speaker at their formal dinner. I asked them, 'Do you catch the free City Connector?' and quite a lot of the students put up their hand.

I think people underestimate the power of this service. When the former Marshall Liberal government looked at cutting some of its funding, it was a great concern because it is a way of connecting people to services, to our cultural institutions and to their social networks. One of those stories that really hit home for me was my friend Robert Eckert, a local artist who used the City Connector. He has experienced homelessness, and the free City Connector was his way of reaching his social networks and reaching services.

When I first met Robert when I was the candidate for the seat of Adelaide, he was selling his artwork at the Hutt Street markets. I remember seeing one of his artworks and saying, 'I like that one, what's that?' and he said, 'I call that *Bumpalong*. I take a blank piece of paper, I sit on the free City Connector bus and I let the movement of the bus guide the pen on my page. Then I colour in the artwork in lots of different colours because the free City Connector means so much to me.'

It was probably about four or five years ago now, but I said to him, 'One day, Robert, you will see that artwork covering the free City Connector bus.' Just over a year ago today, we were able to wrap the free City Connectors in Robert's *Bumpalong* artwork. Next time you see the free City Connector driving around our city, you will see this beautiful multicoloured artwork. Just know that it is Robert's, and it is a way of us being able to celebrate the stories behind the free City Connector: how it is more than just a bus, it is people's lifeline to their friends and to the services that they need to connect with. Although that project did not cost a lot, it means a lot—and certainly to Robert. When we were able to unveil the bus, there were a few tears in the eyes when he was able to see his artwork covering the free City Connector.

Another project is around school safety. I think how cars are operating around our schools is coming up more and more as an issue. I was very proud to be able to deliver the 25 kilometre school zone in front of Gilles Street and Pulteney Grammar. I think that is an area that honestly does deserve more attention. I think we need better road safety around schools and more road safety around schools, not less. I look forward to working with council to make some improvements in that space.

I am very proud to be making these investments in my community that are all about creating a stronger, more connected, healthier and happy neighbourhood.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:42):** I rise to make a contribution to the Supply Bill. I am going to focus on regional South Australia. It is in the grip of severe hardship at the moment. As I hope many in this place would understand, severe pressure is put on the day-to-day machinations of living in the regions, being a primary producer and being part of South Australia's engine room—that is agriculture at large, but there are a number of sectors that are also under severe strain, even when not affected by drought.

Whenever there is an overall drought within any part of this country, it affects even those irrigated crops because we all need the contribution from the heavens to make our country more sustainable and more usable. What we are seeing at the moment is that many of my constituents—many of the constituency who I have talked to right around South Australia—are saying they have never had it as tough.

What we are seeing currently is that not only are we dealing with the drought but we are dealing with the global uncertainty of those who we rely on as our customers, as our trading partners, and as people who are buying our commodities and goods to generate an economy here in South Australia.

There are always different numbers that are pushed around. The \$18½ billion agricultural economy here in South Australia is a vital economy that continues to create jobs, create certainty, and it is all part of a renewable industry. Right around South Australia, if we look at mining, if we look at other sectors, they are in one way, shape or form digging a resource out of the ground that will not be renewed. Those resources, once they are dug out of the ground, are gone, and they are gone forever.

The ag sector is a renewable industry. Every year, we are great custodians to our lands. We plant, we nurture, we maintain, and then we harvest, and we continue to do that year on year. With the complexities of a farming operation, it is no easy feat. We have a variable climate that has put a challenge on the doorstep of a farmer every day of every season of every year. There is never one season exactly the same, and this year those challenges are immense. We have seen the drought that has been ongoing now for more than 18 months. In some areas we have seen the odd storm. It is quite unusual that we have one corner of the state that is underwater; the rest of the state is suffering significant hardship with the drought.

Over time, the current state government, aided by the federal Labor government, have been very slow to act. I am not going to push too many numbers around, but it is about the responsibility of government to put support mechanisms in train in a timely fashion so that those primary producers, those regional communities that are suffering severe hardship, financial strain and mental strain at the moment, are given adequate support in a timely fashion. That is probably one of my biggest beefs. I am not a politician who is looking for government handouts at every corner, but I am looking for the support that the primary sector needs in a time of uncertainty, and that is now.

What we have seen is a very popular Premier when it comes to handing out money and bringing popular sporting events into the state, and by and large they are good for the economy. They make people feel good, but the other side of the coin is that there is a sector that is doing it extremely tough. We have seen the Premier and his cabinet go to Whyalla to look at how they are going to bail out the steel industry up at Whyalla. We have seen the Prime Minister head up that way as well. They have come together and put a large packet of money—\$2.4 billion—on the table to support an industry that is critically important not only to Whyalla but to the service sector to that industry. What we saw 10 years ago was a very similar story: it was a bailout again. What we are seeing now is that the \$2.4 billion potentially will not be enough money to refloat a steelmaking industry in the Iron Triangle, if you like, of our state.

While they are experiencing hardship and uncertainty, we must remember that the former Labor government also installed GFG Alliance and put them into operations up at Whyalla, and it has failed, and it has failed dismally. I have listened to the workforce up there, I have listened to the community up there, and it has been a long time coming. It is almost as glaring as a spotlight in the

eye that Sanjeev Gupta and his company's business model has been to buy stranded assets, go to government, look for a handout, then rebuild or refurbish those assets. That is his business model.

What we have seen is that Whyalla has been exploited to the nth degree. It has been run into the ground. He has now walked away, making severe losses, but now the government has walked in, picked up the pieces, and is now going to bail out what is now, in its current form, an unviable business model. It is unviable for a lot of different reasons, whether it is the arc furnace, whether it is the infrastructure or whether it is the ongoing operational costs of a very aged piece of infrastructure.

I think history will tell us exactly what it means to South Australians and what it is going to cost every South Australian to refurbish an industry that has proved unviable at two iterations. By no means am I saying that Whyalla should not go ahead. Yes, it should. It has a unique opportunity in the steel products that it makes and exports, but what I must say is that, in its current state, in its current form, it is not viable.

On the other hand, I come back to the agriculture sector, where \$2.4 billion has gone into the steelmaking exercise. The support that has been put into agriculture, the first tranche of money, the \$18 million, some of it new money, some of it reannounced, was very disappointing. I am very happy to see the new tranche of around \$55 million that has been put on the table as a support package to help with water infrastructure and to help with looking after the mental health of our regional communities, our agriculturalists and all of the service sector to that industry. The money is there, but it is on a shelf too high for most people to be able to access and that support package that cannot be achieved is a real concern.

What we are seeing is that there have been many applications for that support money that they are not able to achieve. As I said, it is an \$18½ billion dollar economy that continues to get just a trickle of support—taxpayers' support, I might add, because when the government spends, we all spend. What we are seeing is that that sector is on its hands and knees.

My family farm in the Mid North, my horticulture operations in the Riverland, has never seen it so tough not only within ag but with the dry conditions we are seeing now. Speaking to a couple of cereal farmers and livestock producers this morning they said you would have to go back to the early 1900s to see it anywhere as tough as what it is today.

The cost of water for our livestock is becoming unsustainable. There are many farmers and livestock producers who are selling livestock to pay their water bills. It is just outrageous that the price of water is outstripping the viability of our food producers and our livestock breeders to make sure they can actually live with breeding stock to make sure they can be part of a viable economy.

Right next door to that we have the wine industry and I hear that the minister and his colleagues were out spruiking the wine sector and how buoyant it is and how great it is to see that it is bigger and better than it ever was before. My invitation to the trade minister is to come to the Riverland and have a look at what the engine room of the wine industry looks like. It is on its knees at the moment. Many small wine businesses are struggling big time. We have a few premium businesses that are going along okay, but the engine room of the wine industry is currently unviable.

We are seeing tanks that are full. We are seeing sales into our global markets that are well below the cost of production. I hear that a lot of wine is going into China at 40¢ a litre. It is unheard of. It is just outrageous that to create cash flow these particular businesses are looking to lose significant money, returning under the cost of production.

This is coming up to vintage number five that they have not received the cost of production, so what we are seeing now is that the attrition rate will be severe. We see that in the water markets the price of water has increased significantly, while in accounting we see that some of our Murray-Darling Basin suppliers' books have been closed, so it has put a limited supply of water into the marketplace and we are seeing prices for water skyrocket. That is now making it unviable for any wine grapegrower to be able to afford water to put into their water accounting balance, to make sure that they are viable for another year. I know that, sadly, we are seeing irrigation trusts in the Riverland that are locking off meters. In the vicinity of around 100 meters have been locked off. There have been threats of suicide and as the local member I am greatly concerned.

I have sent messages to the Premier, Deputy Premier and the Treasurer and had conversations with the trade minister because they need to give a listening ear and better understand exactly what the challenges are. It is all very well for ministers to spruik some of the great work that South Australian businesses are doing, but they have to put a fair balance into the conversation and currently we are not seeing that.

Yes, the world is changing its drinking habits, its styles and the type of beverage they consume, but we are seeing a year-on-year decline in consumption of around 7 per cent and that is really taking its toll, particularly on entry-level wine. The middle-class consumer globally is now also struggling with the cost of living. They are struggling with decision-making on what product they buy first: do they consume one bottle a week or do they consume two?

What it is seeing is that the Riverland product—that \$10 a bottle product, by and large—is now really under threat, not only with the consumption but also with the production of that product here in South Australia, which is a Riverland product, and it is really under the pump. So while the state government have issued a \$260,000 blueprint for funding, it is time for the Treasurer, the Premier and the primary industries minister to regroup and come together to look at how they can put a responsible support package in place.

I have said to a number of them that diversification is a potential partial solution. It is about how we diversify our farming properties away from total reliance on an ailing wine industry. I must say, it has been done before. The sugar growing area of Mackay in Queensland is underpinned by small family farms and in a crisis, more than a decade ago, there was a structural adjustment model put forward that was about putting diversity into that local economy.

Further south in the Burdekin, we see a lot of corporate farming and they were able to survive. They have deep pockets and investors' pockets that continue to underpin the uncertainty through that sector in the sugar industry, but for those small family operations they diversified and it was through some very clever creative thinking that gave them the opportunity to structurally adjust and move away from a monoculture, which was sugar. We have exactly the same issue here in South Australia, particularly in the Riverland, with the wine industry.

We did follow the government's wish to grow our economy by supplying global trading partners, but the former Prime Minister of Australia really did do that large investment on the head when we were growing and building trust with China and China shut the gate on us. It impacted on a lot of industries: seafood, grain, wine, timber, red meat and many more, the list goes on. Those industries are able to rebuild and people are still consuming those products, but, as I said, they are now not consuming to the level that they were with Australian wine.

I would also like to just touch on some of the other challenges that the primary sector is facing. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.*

*Ministerial Statement*

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA SOCIAL STATEMENT**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:00):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** My government has set an ambitious agenda for our state's economy, one that is fit for the future—a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. We have made significant progress towards realising this ambition by taking decisive action that has positioned South Australia to thrive in a turbulent global environment. We have been smart about the way we embrace technology to drive innovation, investing in education at every level—from early childhood to vocational education and our universities—to ensure our workforce can deliver. We have strengthened our global reputation as the destination for sustainable investment in business, leading

a green reindustrialisation that has deepened our renewable energy capacity for today and for generations to come.

Today, unemployment is low, consumer confidence is growing and our economy is consistently one of the top performing in the country, but the true measure of success is not found in economic indicators alone. It is about whether all South Australians share in the benefits of our state's prosperity, whether they can see themselves in the direction we are heading, whether they have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the community and whether they feel a sense of belonging to the future we are building for generations to come.

Inclusivity and economic strength do not exist in opposition. As South Australians, we know they go hand in hand. Our state is shaped by a long and proud history of leading social reform by thinking differently and taking decisive action towards inclusion, from being the first state to empower women to vote, to pioneering Indigenous land rights, to delivering our nation's First Nations Voice to Parliament, to banning political donations, to bringing civics into the state curriculum and to our strong and sustained advocacy to protect children from the harms of social media.

The social reforms our state has led make abundantly clear that the more effectively that we remove barriers to participation, the more our people feel connected to their neighbourhood and the more we invest our energy in giving our children and young people the best start in life, the better off we all become.

That is why today I announced that South Australia will develop the state's first social statement to realise our ambition for an inclusive economy where the wellbeing of our people is front and centre. It is proposed that the social statement will contain three priority areas for government that will underpin our collective efforts with the community and business sectors to progress towards a better future for all South Australians. Through this critical work, together we will set our children and young people up for life, build healthy communities and strengthen community cohesion, democracy and belonging.

I have instructed officers within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to progress this important work. My intention is to deliver the social statement by the end of this year. My government will continue to work with South Australian organisations and businesses about how we get there, building on the significant work already underway, to make our state an even better place for today and for the long term.

#### **ACCESS TO THE PORT OF WHYALLA**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:04):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** It has been almost three months since my government took decisive action to secure the long-term future of the Whyalla Steelworks by placing OneSteel Manufacturing into administration and appointing Mark Mentha, Sebastian Hams, Lara Wiggins and Michael Korda of KordaMentha as administrators. Since then, the administrators have been undertaking the process of identifying risks at the steelworks and prioritising them by reference to an issue's importance from a safety perspective in the first instance and the operational impact if left unaddressed, like critical maintenance.

To date, the administrators have spent millions on items directly attributable to critical maintenance and safety measures. This expenditure covers critical parts, materials, maintenance and other safety-related items designed to prevent equipment breakdowns, mitigate operational risks and protect worker safety. And this does not include expenditure on raw materials, such as coking coal, that are critical for the ongoing operations of the steelworks.

However, not all risks arise from the apparent lack of maintenance and capital spend by the previous ownership. The administrators have advised the state of a purported lease agreement granted by OneSteel to Whyalla Ports Pty Ltd, a separate company owned by GFG. The lease was entered into without the prior consent of the state of South Australia. Maintaining access to the Port of Whyalla is essential for the Whyalla Steelworks operations. Iron ore mined by OneSteel is exported

via the port and OneSteel receives key supply shipments from the port, including coking coal, dolomite and limestone, which are all required for steel production.

The state has seen fit to clarify the status of the land subject to the purported lease, of which OneSteel is the registered proprietor, for the purposes of operating the Port of Whyalla. That is why my government will give notice to the South Australian parliament that we will introduce the Whyalla Steelworks (Port of Whyalla) Amendment Bill 2025 to provide this clarity. The bill amends the Whyalla Steel Works Act 1958, formerly the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Steel Works Indenture Act 1958, which approves and ratifies an indenture between the state of South Australia and OneSteel relating to the operation of its steelworks in Whyalla.

The importance of pit to port operations is a key feature of the act and indenture, as well as the earlier indenture ratified by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Indenture Act 1937. The indentures require consent of the state for the transfer of rights, obligations, powers, benefits and privileges conferred on OneSteel by the indentures to another person or company.

The bill has been drafted out of an abundance of caution to clarify the effect of the failure to obtain prior consent and make it clear that the purported lease agreement granted by OneSteel to Whyalla Ports never had legal effect from the beginning. The bill also clarifies that the creation of an interest in the tramways, railway and other infrastructure constructed on the port facilities, other than by and for OneSteel, is void and that the infrastructure forms part of the land and is not personal property.

This reflects the terms of the indentures which vest in OneSteel the rights to construct and take the benefit of tramways and other infrastructure at the Port of Whyalla. Nothing in the bill prevents OneSteel or any prospective purchaser from entering into contractual arrangements in respect of the Port of Whyalla in the future, subject to the indentures and relevant consent requirements.

The state remains committed to Whyalla and the domestic production of structural steel in our state. Without sovereign steel we would rely on steel and capability from overseas amid an increasingly uncertain international climate and a national housing crisis. Sovereign steel is critical to our national interest and security, and my government is committed to its survival.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Legal Practitioners—Fees Notice-Fees (2025)

Return to Work Corporation of South Australia—Claims Management—

Contractual Arrangements

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Passenger Transport—Transit Barring Orders

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia—General

By the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs (Hon. A. Michaels)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment—Exemption



By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Local Council By-Laws—

Adelaide City Council—No. No. 10—Miscellaneous Amendment 2025

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to welcome to parliament today two of our federal colleagues from the national parliament: we have Louise Miller-Frost, the member for Boothby, and Claire Clutterham, the member for Sturt. They are guests of the Minister for Human Services. Congratulations on your recent wins at the federal election.

We also have Skyla, Stella and Sophie from the Sports College of South Australia who are guests of the Leader of the Opposition. We have years 11 and 12 legal studies students from Prince Alfred College, who are guests of the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place; and we have pre-service teachers from UniSA here doing professional learning on how to teach civics and citizenship. Welcome to parliament all of you. Hopefully, you will see some very civil interaction between both sides here today.

### *Parliamentary Committees*

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:11):** I bring up the 134<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Sturt Water Tank Rehabilitation Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 135<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Glengowrie Walk-Up-Flat Site Upgrade Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 136<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Heaslip Road and Curtis Road Intersection Upgrade.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 137<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Plympton International College Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 138<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled The Queen Elizabeth Hospital: 36 Additional Inpatient Beds Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**The SPEAKER:** Just before we go to questions without notice, it looks a little crowded up there in the visitors' gallery. If it helps to bring some of the PAC students down, there is room in the opposition side Speaker's Gallery.

### *Question Time*

### SA WATER BILLS

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier reverse his government's increase to South Australian water bills? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** The former Liberal government slashed water bills by more than \$200 for households and \$1,350 for small businesses. At the last state budget, this Labor government announced an—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Sorry—I do have leave.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education is warned.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** At the last state budget, this Labor government announced an increase of 3.5 per cent above CPI would be applied to all South Australian households and small businesses, costing the average household an extra \$85, and the average business \$350.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:14):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The Leader of the Opposition references the decision that we have made as a government around water pricing that reflects the challenge that exists within the community around a major housing crisis and shortfall of housing. The Leader of the Opposition would be well familiar with how urgent this need is.

We have one of the lowest rental vacancies in the country, if not the lowest rental vacancy of any mainland capital city. The reason for that is that we need to build more homes. We need to build more homes for more South Australians, and I am particularly thinking about young South Australians who should be entitled to have the same aspiration as so many of their parents.

One of the reasons why we have a shortage of housing supply though in South Australia is because we just haven't been getting enough water to the places where homes can be built. The reason in South Australia why water hasn't been getting to the places where homes can be built is because, under the leadership of the former government, of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member of cabinet—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Mr Speaker, they have asked the question and I am trying to give the answer in the most sincere and honest terms. The former government had relegated investment in water infrastructure to \$150 million. So they ran around to South Australians and tried to make a virtue of lower water prices and were simultaneously failing to explain to anybody how they were paying for it. They were paying for it by only delivering \$150 million of new money in new water infrastructure.

Now, in the parliament today we see a lot of young faces, and I would have thought it would require a degree of courage and honesty on behalf of the opposition to look those young people in the eye and say, 'We were chasing votes while denying you the ability to own a home.' That is not something that this government is willing to contemplate. We are going to deliver the water infrastructure.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left will come to order.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** We are going to make sure that the land that we release, the record amounts of land that we are releasing, in conjunction with thoughtful code amendments and in conjunction with the Housing Roadmap, also sees a plan to deliver the water infrastructure, because you can't build a home without sewer and water, so we are going to deliver both. That, of course, means it needs to be paid for.

We sat down with industry and other representatives of various groups around the state and crafted a thoughtful policy to make sure that we can take that \$150 million that you were spending on water infrastructure and take it up to over \$1.5 billion, a tenfold increase. We have done that by assuming some of the cost within the budget, assuming some of the cost on developers and then assuming some of the cost on a \$20-odd increase to the average quarterly water bill.

We do that because this is a government that isn't going to kick the can down the road on the tough decisions that need to be made to make sure that young people have the prospect of owning a home. You talk about the housing crisis and have blind indifference to actually doing anything about it, and we won't.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I remind members on both sides that interjections are disorderly.

**SA WATER BILLS**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier rule out any further government increases to household water bills?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:18):** I rule out draconian, backward, retrospective policy like those opposite seem to be committed to when it comes to addressing the housing crisis. That is what I rule out. What we know the Leader of the Opposition is doing is he is shaping up to maybe having a policy of his own, and I look forward to that contest. I look forward to going to the next election knowing that the alternative government of the state is telling young people that he is going to cut investment in water infrastructure, because that is what your plan is. Their plan—

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order: standing order 98(a). It couldn't be clearer. The question was very straightforward. The Premier has decided to debate tangential issues. He should answer the question. And the clapping is out of order for good measure.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** And it is not just about water prices. When it comes to addressing the housing crisis, you have to have a cogent and comprehensive policy that seeks to address a whole suite of challenges, and that is what we are doing: land supply, water infrastructure, tax reform. We are abolishing a whole tax in the form of stamp duty for first-home buyers on new builds. We know, of course, that we're doing more work around rezoning of land, planning reform and we have, in fact, restructured government in terms of how we tackle housing policy. We have done a lot of work with the Housing Trust as well. There is not a lever at our disposal that we're not willing to pull to make sure that we get somewhere when it comes to housing growth in South Australia. We won't be taking a retrospective negative approach, we will be making the tough decisions that are required.

Every time you hear someone from the opposition proffering a simplistic solution to a complex problem, you know that is a recipe for doing nothing. We know that is a recipe for doing nothing. We are making the tough decisions, and we are doing the hard work because this is a serious challenge that requires serious policy to confront it.

**TAX INCREASES**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his election promise that Labor would introduce no new taxes and no tax increases? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** In the last state budget the government announced that an increase of 3.5 per cent above CPI would be applied to all South Australian households and small businesses for water bills, costing the average household an extra \$85 and the average business around \$350.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:20):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question because it allows us to highlight the very thoughtful and measured approach this government has taken towards reform, including fiscal policy. What we saw in the previous term of government, prior to this one, was the former Marshall Liberal government committing to tax reductions on the one hand and then simultaneously creating or jacking up whole new taxes on the other hand.

We all remember the bin tax, we all remember the land tax changes, we all remember retrospectively chasing revenue because they did not have a serious tax policy. We made a commitment, we have stuck to that commitment—in fact, we have gone beyond that, Mr Speaker. Rather than introducing new taxes or increasing taxes we have actually cut them. We have cut taxes, and we have done it in a very deliberate way. We have abolished stamp duty for all new builds for first-home buyers in South Australia, and we have rolled out that policy in two iterations. In the first instance, in the budget before last, it was a tax measure that the Treasurer announced that had a ceiling on it, and in the last budget we abolished it altogether.

If you're a first-home buyer in South Australia and you build a new home, you pay zero stamp duty. That is the abolition of a tax with a very surgical focus on trying to stimulate the economic activity we are after. It's not a tax cut just for the sake of one, it's a tax cut with the explicit purpose of generating new stock into the system. You cannot tackle the housing crisis without a policy for more supply. It is only through more supply that will make a material difference in this regard, and that's why the tax reform that we have introduced is a tax reduction to stimulate a very particular activity. We know it is making a difference, it is making a difference for those people who deserve it most, and that is young South Australians who want the opportunity for home ownership.

#### **COST OF LIVING CONCESSION**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:22):** My question is to the Premier. How many South Australians are currently facing hardship paying their water bills and what will the government do to support them? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** It was recently revealed to the Budget and Finance Committee that 55,000 customers have outstanding debt to SA Water, amounting to almost \$63 million.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:23):** My advice is that we currently provide \$412 off annual water and sewer bills for average concession card holders. In the state of South Australia that equates to 190,000 different concession recipients. That is a measure that, of course, stands alongside other substantial Cost of Living Concessions that we have provided as a government. We have doubled the cost-of-living payment in previous budgets and, of course, we have rolled out other measures in terms of energy bill relief, because this is a government that doesn't pretend that there aren't challenging circumstances for many within the community. When it comes to cost-of-living relief we have been very progressive, in that we have made sure that we haven't gone for the broad-based Cost of Living Concession for everybody.

We said from the outset that as a Labor government with the capacity to be able to provide relief in the budget, we are going to provide support to those people who need it most. We would rather provide more support to those who need it most than run around chasing votes by cutting young people out of the housing market, by reducing water bills for everybody. We are being very deliberate—whether it be Cost of Living Concessions, whether it be targeting support through the Housing Trust, or whether it be one of the measures that this government has expanded its commitment around, which is for families who send their children to public schools, with the doubling of the relief around the school services charge that we provided at the last state budget, increasing it to \$200—and trying to find ways to make a difference.

Do all of these things on their own solve problems for families doing it tough in a cost-of-living crisis? Of course they don't, but when you add them up they do make a difference, and that is all we can legitimately seek to do. We do not pretend that we can fix every problem in this regard, particularly as a state government, but as a state government working in collaboration with the commonwealth government—which we have done in a number of fields, particularly around energy concession relief—these things add up and make a difference.

We will not apologise for crafting our Cost of Living Concession payments, whether it be around water or other vehicles, in a way that is progressive and targeted to those people who are on low incomes or fixed incomes who do not have the capacity, within a discretionary element of household budgets, to sustain the big increases that others might be able to do. We are deliberate about that, and we will be consistent about that principle because we believe it is the right thing to do.

#### **PORT PIRIE COMMUNITY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:26):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update my community on the current situation with the Port Pirie Regional Health Service allied health building? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain a bit further.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Recently in the media, on 9 May, it was stated that approximately 100 staff had to be relocated from the building. It would be appreciated if the minister could advise the reason for the relocation, what routine maintenance was previously carried out, and whether there were any official complaints regarding the building previously.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:26):** I thank the member for Stuart for his question and his passion for local health services. As the member said, there has been an issue identified by the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network in relation to the old community health building located on the Port Pirie Hospital campus.

I understand that within the Port Pirie community there are a number of issues regarding pigeons, and this is certainly one building that has sustained pigeon issues within it. There have been a number of issues raised over recent years about how to address this, and the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network have been trying a number of measures to contain and manage the pigeons. I am informed those have included using various types of repellent devices such as ultrasonic and strobe lights. All of that has come to nothing, and there is still quite a significant pigeon issue there.

Following a number of complaints that were made recently, I am advised that Yorke and Northern Local Health Network undertook some more examinations, looking into the roof cavity and finding that there were significant issues inside, above the ceiling. At that stage they undertook to do some testing and to relocate the staff who were in that building. The staff members who are in the building are predominantly community health staff; it is predominantly their office accommodation. There is one drop-in mental health service within the building, but the other services largely go out into the community to provide their services.

Those community health staff have been relocated elsewhere, and there is work being undertaken at the moment between the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to try to find more medium-term solutions for where they can go. Meanwhile, there is more testing being done. I understand the first batch of testing that came back in relation to bacterial testing was within normal limits, but there is further testing that is going to be undertaken, and we are expecting the results of that within coming weeks as well.

This is being taken seriously to make sure we do everything possible, and certainly it is my expectation of the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network Board and its management that they do everything possible in terms of maintaining their assets, but that if issues are identified then they make sure that staff safety is paramount. Obviously that is why these precautions are being taken.

Just this morning, I met with the Department for Health and Wellbeing's infrastructure team and asked them to make inquiries of the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network maintenance staff to make sure that everything that can possibly be done is being done in terms of this matter, and also to make sure that we can learn from this incident in terms of future management of our assets not only in that area but right across the state as well.

#### HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:29):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house of recent figures released by the ABS on South Australia's housing commencements and how they have been achieved?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:29):** I want to thank the member for Adelaide for her question. She lives in a community that I get the strong sense has significant components that care about this issue. A lot of renters live in the seat of Adelaide. The member for Adelaide is well attuned to some of the challenges that exist around that and understands that the only thing that matters here is increasing housing supply, as I referenced in my former answers to the Leader of the Opposition.

Last month, only in recent days, the Bureau of Statistics released some important data regarding housing commencements around Australia. The national average for dwelling commencements in Australia was a reduction of 4.4 per cent—a reduction of 4.4 per cent in commencements of new dwellings. In South Australia over that same period, it went up by 13 per cent. In fact, year on year we are up by 36 per cent.

During the December quarter there were 3,000 new dwellings completed in South Australia. The number of dwellings in South Australia that have been approved but not yet commenced also increased, rising by 8.8 per cent. In terms of March data for building approvals, for the month of March total new dwellings rose by 2.1 per cent in trend terms.

How does this compare to the rest of the country? In the national figures, new dwelling approvals fell by 0.5 per cent; in South Australia, up by 2.1 per cent. This is a great credit to absolutely everybody who is working so hard in South Australia, particularly within the private sector as well, to see the type of growth that is being experienced.

There is no way to address the housing crisis or housing shortage in South Australia without more supply. This is a set of numbers that this government is paying a lot of attention to, and it is not just us: it is the Housing Industry Association, it is the Master Builders Association, it is the Commonwealth Bank—all organisations that are independently verifying that the policy work that we have undertaken over the last couple of years is actually making a difference on the ground.

I would like these numbers to be higher again, we would like them to be higher again, and we will continue to work as hard as we can to make a difference where we can. When it comes to housing supply, you've got to not just have a plan for what is happening immediately now but you've got to be doing everything you can over the medium to long-term. The water infrastructure that is going in the ground, that \$1.5 billion investment, can only be rolled out at such a pace.

As a government, I don't mind saying that we are also turning our mind to what happens next, because when governments genuinely apply their effort to not just thinking about now but thinking about the medium and long-term, it can make the decision more efficient, more cost-effective and more productive in terms of real policy impact on the ground. That is what we are determined to do with respect to this issue.

But these are not our numbers; these are numbers from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. They verify that if you are a young person living in this country and you want the prospect of owning a new home, then you had better be moving to South Australia, because this is where the homes are being built. They are being built because we are doing the hard work of making the tough decisions because we are serious about the challenge.

### SA WATER BILLS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:33):** My question is to the Treasurer. What does the Treasurer say to South Australians like Mr Andrew Costello about their water bill increases? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** It was reported in *The Advertiser* that media personality Andrew Costello received an unpleasant surprise when he was hit with a water bill of approximately \$1,000, more than 60 per cent up from his average cost of \$600.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:34):** Can I thank the member for Flinders for his question because, as the Premier has just articulated to the house, the government has taken a decision to ensure that we have the capacity in our state to invest in the water infrastructure that is required to bring thousands of additional new homes onto the market so that young South Australians have the opportunity to get into affordable housing in the future.

We are very conscious as a government that for other places around the nation, particularly places like Sydney, that have very high median house prices, home ownership for young Australians feels completely out of reach and so we are taking the decisions that are required to put home ownership back within grasp for young people. As the Premier has articulated, an increase to water bills to ensure that we are able to generate the revenues to invest in that water infrastructure into the future, as well as the very significant contribution from the state's balance sheet, as well as the significant contributions from developers, are making sure that we do that.

Andrew Costello is one of the most loved South Australians. He spends an enormous amount of time travelling the breadth of this state, including a number of incredibly picturesque locations in

the member for Flinders' electorate, highlighting the opportunities that are available to South Australians—and, indeed, all Australians—to come and visit our state and experience what we have to offer. He has undoubtedly turned that really noble endeavour into a terrific career and we are really grateful that he has had the opportunity to do that.

I saw the media article that reported on Mr Costello's bill, more than \$1,000 for a quarter of water use. I don't remember the details of the article verbatim, but I do recall part of his reflection on the water bill being a common refrain for parents of young children, that there was also a higher than normal level of water consumption involved in generating that bill. This is something that regrettably I have become familiar with, with three children under the age of 10, and of course, regrettably trying to do my bit for the Deputy Premier's endeavours, spending the winter just gone planting out my garden with all sorts of verdant foliage and trying to keep it alive during the current unseasonably dry conditions.

While I recognise that the increase in water prices that the government has decided to pursue so that we can keep home ownership within reach of young South Australians is part of it, I also think we need to recognise that in these times, when South Australia hasn't experienced drought conditions for a good 15 to 17 years, going back to the Millennium Drought, those are the conditions that we are unfortunately now starting to experience across the state that are seeing water consumption levels increase, particularly in households.

I share Mr Costello's pain, but, as the Premier has said, we have a deliberate focus on extending the more than \$800 million of cost-of-living relief to those South Australians who need it the most. I am not sure that in this case Mr Costello is one of those recipients, but we are doing what we can to assist South Australians in need.

#### SA WATER BILLS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:38):** My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. What does the minister say to small business owners Steven and Laura, owners of Exotic Botanic in Royston Park? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** Steven and Laura's water bill was up 70 per cent on the same time last year. The increase of almost \$1,000 is forcing them to make the difficult decision to either put up their prices or reduce working hours for casual staff.

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:39):** I am very much concerned about the situation with the increasing costs of doing business—and I reiterate what the Premier and the Treasurer have just enunciated—but we see there are two main issues here. One is a significant investment in infrastructure that will allow us to deal with a housing crisis that our young people want us to deal with. The infrastructure we need in the north and south is something that was lacking in the former Liberal government. They did nothing to deal with the housing crisis that was emerging. We are taking action here on this side of the house with a very targeted policy.

The second issue, of course, is what the Treasurer touched on, and that is we are seeing a significant drought, we are seeing excessive water use. As the Treasurer said, these are the two main issues that are contributing not only to household water consumption bills but also to small businesses. They are the issues at hand. If there are any policies coming out from those opposite to deal with either making it rain or building houses, we would love to hear about them.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right! The Minister for Education is on his final warning.

#### SA WATER BILLS

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:40):** My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. What support is the small business minister providing to businesses who are now facing water bills that have doubled and in some cases tripled in price? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: the member has stated a purported fact in his question, so I ask him to rephrase it.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Flinders, could you—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Elder and the member for Newland are warned.

**Mr TELFER:** My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right, I want to hear the question and I can't if you are yelling out. Minister for Trade, final warning.

**Mr TELFER:** What support is the small business minister providing to businesses who are facing increased water bills? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** Last week *The Advertiser* reported that a small business owner whose business is based in Kensington had received a water bill that had almost tripled from \$1,200 to \$3,000 compared to the same period last year. The business owner described this increase as 'unsustainable'.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:42):** To assist the opposition, what is occurring at the moment is a record consumption. In fact, it's the second-highest level of consumption since the turn of the century. To the end of April this year, we have consumed 166 gegalitres, and normally in Adelaide the average over the last five years has been 155 gegalitres. What is driving these increases in people's bills is an increase in consumption of water, so let's just understand it's a dry year and we have consumption going through the roof. You can wilfully misunderstand, if you like, or you can accept the logic that if you use more water you will get a higher bill. For any small business or any customer, we would encourage them to contact SA Water to get advice on how to lower those by lowering usage.

#### BEACHPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister invest in school infrastructure at Beachport Primary? Mr Speaker, with your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** Beachport Primary is in extremely poor condition and the governing council needs funding for its plans for an integrated school, preschool and early learning centre.

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:43):** I do think I answered this question in the last sitting week but I am happy to reiterate that I visited Beachport only a few weeks ago at the request of the local member and the school and the governing council to have a look at their infrastructure there, which I did, and I said quite frankly it needs work but it is not the only school in that category. I made a commitment to go away and work with the department on what can be done, and that's exactly what I am going to do.

#### NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:44):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister update the house on National Road Safety Week?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:44):** I thank the member for her question because this week is National Road Safety Week, and along with the other states and territories, of course, South Australia is ensuring that we are working hard to reaffirm the message to motorists as well as to other road users and those people around our roads the absolute necessity of being more careful and being safer about our roads.



Across our country approximately 1,200 people are killed every year and another 40,000 Australians are seriously injured on our nation's roads. Traffic collisions are, regrettably, I am advised the biggest killer of Australian children under the age of 15 and the second biggest killer of Australians aged between 15 and 24. Already this year 30 people have lost their lives on South Australian roads. So this week, especially during National Road Safety Week, the government and I in particular are pleading for South Australians to be safer on our roads, whether it is in the car, on a bike or as a pedestrian. Many in this place would know the fatal five, as they are called by South Australian police and emergency services workers: drink and drug driving, speeding, distraction, seatbelts and dangerous road users or those people who drive with a blatant disregard of the road rules.

Our government has continued to invest in further measures to try to reduce and prevent road trauma from occurring on our roads. We released a comprehensive new Road Safety Action Plan aiming to reduce lives lost on our roads by 50 per cent and to reduce serious injuries by 30 per cent, with a target date of 2031. This includes the introduction of time-based 40 km/h zones in school zones to protect some of the state's most vulnerable road users. This is particularly important around our schools that are located on arterial roads that have a standing speed limit of either 60 km/h or 50 km/h, higher than what we see across an increasing number of suburban streets, where the default speed limit is 40 km/h. These time-based 40 km/h zones in these school zones will be progressively rolled out from the middle of this year.

Another key prevention measure which has been extremely effective has been the deployment of mobile phone detection cameras to identify those motorists who are not paying attention to the task of driving on our roads while behind the wheel but instead are looking away and entirely distracted, looking at a mobile phone or a similar device. If you are driving a vehicle, you are behind the wheel and you are looking at a mobile phone you may as well be driving blindfolded. It is such a dangerous practice to be entirely distracted from the task of driving while behind the wheel. The evidence indicates that a person is four times more likely to be involved in a crash while using a mobile phone, even when it is a hands-free unit.

The latest data has shown that the number of drivers caught using their mobile phones has dropped by 86 per cent at locations where cameras have been introduced. While we realise that there is a behavioural modification element to that, it is encouraging that motorists are being made more aware to stay focused on driving and the task at hand.

#### **SA WATER BILLS**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:48):** My question is again to the Minister for Small Business. Did the minister undertake any modelling with respect to the impact of the government's water bill increase on small businesses and, if so, what was the overall impact?

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:48):** What we looked at when we were looking at water bills is to moderate the increases against what the demands were. What we needed, as the Premier and the Treasurer outlined to you, and what should have been blindingly obvious to the opposition is not only did you not release enough land when you were in government but you did not put in any water infrastructure.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** You did not put any water infrastructure, and in fact what you engaged in was the ultimate false economy.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** Just listen. You engaged in the ultimate false—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Flinders, you have asked your question. Listen to the answer or you will be listening to it from your office.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** You all engaged in the ultimate false economy, which is to artificially lower water bills because you didn't put any infrastructure in place. What good is that to the average person on the street or the average business person if your housing prices are going through the roof because there is no greenfield front under the previous Liberal government? What we have done is put in a moderate increase, a sensible increase in water prices, to pay for infrastructure.

If you look at the \$1.5 billion worth of infrastructure that we are putting in the ground, six and a half thousand metres of that pipe is already in the ground. If you go to Supple Road, if you go to Angle Vale Road, Petheron, Heytesbury, Bishopstone, Woodford roads, if you go to Craigmore Road, if you go up to Sandy Creek, if you go to any of these places, you can see pipes going in the ground. Where are they going in the ground for? For Roseworthy, for Riverlea, so that we can expand housing supply. All of you opposite did none of that—you did none of that.

**Mr TEAGUE:** Point of order. This is all very interesting but it's contrary to standing order 98(a). The question goes to modelling of a price increase. Was there modelling done? The answer is debating the point about water infrastructure generally. The question goes to modelling.

**The SPEAKER:** I would have thought if you are going to model anything you have to look at the situation and I think the minister is explaining the situation that they faced when the modelling needed to be done, and part of that situation was based on what had happened in four years of the previous government. I think, from my listening to what the minister is saying, he is on track with his answer. Minister.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** I am just trying to alert the opposition to the consequences of not putting infrastructure in the ground. It's completely reasonable to say—and I have found that whenever I have talked to people they're happy this infrastructure is going in the ground, they're happy that new-home buyers can get a chance to buy their part of the great Australian dream. Because as the Premier points out, you can't build a home—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Infrastructure is warned for a final time.

**The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION:** —if you don't have a sewer and water network and I am telling you all the places we are putting the infrastructure in. There it is for you. It's very, very clear. Now, a bit of good news: in the last 12 months, SA Water has executed 152 Development Agreement Formal Instruments (DAFIs) for a record number of 5,350 allotments. That's the consequence: if you put more infrastructure in the ground, you can release more allotments and that means more homes. That is good for the state economy, it's good for every small business, every big business and every homebuyer.

## BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:52):** My question again is to the Minister for Small Business. Has South Australian business confidence decreased and, if so, why? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** According to the latest SA Business Chamber survey, South Australian business confidence fell another 13.9 points in the March quarter, the lowest since the depth of the COVID pandemic.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:52):** I am aware, of course, that the National Australia Bank Monthly Business Survey has been released today. It is important to put in context because while those opposite revel in the opportunity to highlight bad news, it is also true that there are other banking surveys that show that business confidence is positive in South Australia, such as BankSA, the bank more commonly known for representing banking customers here in South Australia.

I am the last one to try to claim that business conditions have not been difficult in a national environment of high inflation and escalating interest rates. As I advised the house in the last week

when we met, in May 2022 when the Albanese government was first elected, the inflation rate was already running at more than 5 per cent per annum and interest rates had already commenced their increase. That was what was left to our incoming federal government at May 2022: runaway inflation and increasing interest rates.

As I said last week, it is absolutely remarkable that within one three-year federal term not only is headline inflation back within the Reserve Bank's target band but so is the trimmed mean inflation, at 2.9 per cent. That is absolutely remarkable, and we have already seen interest rates start to fall. Most economists and financial market commentators in Australia are expecting a further reduction in interest rates next week at the Reserve Bank's next meeting, and many economists are forecasting further interest rate reductions over the next 12 months.

It's not surprising in that context that, if you are a small business operator and you have just been bashed about by the vagaries of COVID, the rapidly changing COVID restrictions which were placed on our state—and of course, Mr Speaker, you were representing your electorate with the hundreds of small businesses, particularly in tourism and hospitality; we had such gems as it being okay to consume an alcoholic beverage while at an altitude of three and a half feet or lower but being illegal to consume an alcoholic beverage at five feet or higher, for example, because apparently the predilection of the virus was to target those people consuming alcohol while standing rather than being seated. So if you have come through that, through those really challenging circumstances when margins in hospitality are already tight, and then a federal Coalition government—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley will be quiet.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** —leaves the national economy with soaring inflation and escalating interest rates, it is not unexpected that in the course of doing business people are not feeling particularly confident about their conditions. The difference is things are on the improve nationally and here in South Australia, regarded as the best place in the nation to do business by none other than the Business Council of Australia.

### **BUSINESS INSOLVENCIES**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:56):** My question is again to the Minister for Small Business. Why are more businesses failing under Labor? With your leave, sir, and that of the house—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: standing order 97. That involved purported facts and argument in the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Flinders, did you want to rephrase?

**Mr TELFER:** I can try, thank you. With your leave, have business insolvencies increased in South Australia and, if so, why? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** According to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, business insolvencies have more than doubled in the last two years.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:57):** I am pleased to report to the house that the number of businesses trading in South Australia has not only never been higher but has continued to increase year on year under this government. The ABS reports the business openings and closings data, and they do it on a regular basis. That data shows that there are more businesses operating in South Australia now than there were a year ago, and at that point in time—more than 12 months before that date, and so on—the number of businesses continued to expand here in South Australia.

The member asked about insolvencies and, of course, during the period of COVID the then federal Treasurer did ensure that the regulatory environment enabled businesses across the nation to effectively put off insolvency, put off going into bankruptcy or going into administration, recognising the significant challenge on their operating accounts as they tried to trade through the COVID period. But, of course, those times are over and so, for those people who read national media like the Financial Review and have been doing so over the last two years, as those temporary remissions

have been removed by the commonwealth you are now seeing a catch-up effect across the nation of high levels of businesses becoming insolvent and ceasing to trade as a result.

But the good news here in South Australia, as I said at the commencement of my remarks, is we still see the total number of businesses in our state continue to increase. I think when you are the state that is regarded by the National Business Council of Australia as the best place in the country to do business, then it sends a pretty clear signal to the state's economy and to the nation's economy that if you want to get into business, if you want to open up your own operation anywhere in the country, this is the place to do it.

South Australia is the place to run a business. We are the lowest taxing state on the mainland. These are not my figures and not South Australian Treasury's figures but the figures that are reported in every state and territory's annual budget papers, some 32 per cent below the national average on tax effort per capita. That is because, to put a finer point on it, we are regarded as having the best payroll tax regime in the nation.

When the member for West Torrens was the Treasurer, he was the first Treasurer and the first government in the nation to abolish stamp duty on commercial property transactions—the first one in the nation—and that led to an absolute boom in commercial construction. In fact, if you look at construction figures in the pipeline, again reported nationally by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there was a huge spike in construction work in the pipeline, because this is regarded as not only the place to do business but the place to invest in commercial property.

So, yes, there is a national trend for higher levels of insolvency post COVID. Yes, we are seeing the Australian Tax Office commence their enforcement regime, catching up after two or three years of taking it easy on the business community in Australia. But here in South Australia, as the best place in the nation to do business, we are still seeing the numbers of businesses in total continue to grow.

#### **SOLID WASTE LEVY**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:01):** My question is to the Treasurer. Could the Treasurer explain to the house what has happened to the Marshall Liberal government bin tax, and how are these funds being spent? Mr Speaker, with your leave and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** This bin tax was reported to bring in around \$52 million a year. Of this, \$48 million was sand replenishment for Henley Beach and other Adelaide beaches. This left \$4 million for regional beaches, which means from Ceduna to Port MacDonnell. My councils in MacKillop—Wattle Range, Robe and Kingston councils—are desperate for funds for erosion and sand issues.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (15:02):** Yes, I remember the former Premier and one of the former leaders of the opposition and their involvement in rolling out a huge increase to the solid waste levy, on the basis that a significant portion of that funding would be invested in a sand pumping pipeline in metropolitan Adelaide. The member is right in his question that the bulk of those funds was to go into sand replenishment for areas like Henley Beach, West Beach and other beaches in the middle of the metropolitan area.

What we have continued to do is to ensure that budget after budget we have made more money available for sand replenishment for beaches in those areas, which are not only used recreationally, of course, but are also the interface between the Gulf St Vincent and many thousands of residential properties, and businesses for that matter, located in that part of metropolitan Adelaide.

We took a very honest approach with the people of South Australia at the last election. We absolutely recognise that the sand replenishment tasks are required and are necessary, not just to ensure the amenity of these areas but to ensure that we have that buffer or that interface between the gulf and the built-up parts of the western suburbs in that part of metropolitan Adelaide. We sought to have a scientific evidence-based review of what the options were for replenishment. That review has recommended the trialling of a dredging solution in order to take some of the sands that drift

north along the coastline of metropolitan Adelaide and, rather than scrape them off the beaches of Largs Bay, Semaphore and Semaphore Park, take them from those available offshore deposits and replenish the beaches in the member for Colton's electorate, for example—and those efforts continue.

That is what has happened. It's something that I made reference to, I think, in my last two budgets and budget speeches to this place—that the government recognises the importance of this effort and the high expense of this effort. We are trying to make sure that we have a solution which protects these beaches appropriately into the future.

That is not to say that we are not, as a government, up to supporting regional beaches. The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport has committed many millions of dollars partnering with local councils for seaside infrastructure, in particular jetties, to try to make sure that those councils that cannot afford to maintain them, can afford to maintain them. The minister has made a whole range of different offers to regional councils across the state to help them with that task.

We realise that these are expensive endeavours. We are committed to working with communities, whether they be metropolitan in the member for Colton's electorate or whether they be regional in the member for MacKillop's electorate or even the member for Flinders and the member for Narungga's electorates, for example—not to exclude anyone else, of course, but we will continue doing what is necessary to look after our regional communities in this way.

#### **NORTH-EAST ROAD SAFETY AND CONNECTIVITY**

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:06):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Can the minister update the house on works being undertaken by the Malinauskas Labor government to improve road safety and connectivity in the north-east?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:06):** I really want to thank the member for King for her question and her ongoing advocacy for improving traffic safety and easing congestion in her local community. She fought pretty hard for it at the last election and continues to fight for it. She has been a strong advocate for improving roads and infrastructure in the north-east since the 2022 election. She started earlier than that as a candidate.

I joined the member for King, along with the hardworking members for Wright and Newland, at a recent community cabinet forum hosted by the Premier in Golden Grove. I have to say that South Australia is building, and this couldn't have been more evident than in the north-east. We are trying to get on with the job as fast as we can of upgrading local intersections and removing bottlenecks, beginning with the intersection of The Grove Way, Atlantis Drive and Aeolian Drive, and The Grove Way and The Golden Way intersection in Golden Grove.

Since 2019, there have been 14 crashes at the intersection of The Grove Way, Atlantis Drive and Aeolian Drive—including, tragically, one fatal crash in February 2024—and 22 crashes at The Grove Way and The Golden Way intersection. The member for King knows that that is unacceptable and in partnership with the Albanese government, with the Black Spot program that the Albanese government funds, these intersections have now been upgraded.

The intersection of The Grove Way and The Golden Way have created an additional right-turn lane from The Grove Way to The Golden Way for traffic heading west, to ease congestion and improve connectivity. Connectivity was something we put in our policy documents at the last election as a way of making sure that communities don't just use roads in their vehicles but also use roads as pedestrians and as cyclists to make sure that the communities remain connected. It's a very, very important philosophy that my department is coming to grips with.

We also installed new right-turn arrows for motorists on Aeolian Drive and Atlantis Drive at The Grove Way to improve safety and the ease of movement at a very busy intersection. The upgrade was much needed, given the unfortunate fatality that occurred at this intersection earlier last year. The intersection of The Golden Way with The Grove shopping centre access has also been upgraded as part of a \$2 million upgrade to improve pedestrian safety, particularly for pedestrians accessing Gleeson College, Golden Grove High School and Pedare Christian College.

The upgrade bonanza in the north-east has not ended there. We are now taking this another step further. We are also working to upgrade three other local intersections in the member for King's electorate as part of a \$15 million package, which includes the intersections of The Grove Way and Canterbury Drive, The Grove Way and Green Valley Drive, and Main North Road and Target Hill Road, the last of which is starting works today and which gives locals the ability to turn right onto Main North Road—something the member for King has advocated for long and hard, and she is delivering now. Further down the road, works are also well under way to install signals at the intersection of Wynn Vale Drive and Bridge Road in the member for Wright's electorate.

So we are building, and these works would not be possible for the local community the member for King represents, the member for Newland represents, the member for Wright represents without those local members who listen to their constituents and deliver for their local communities. They have a Premier who understands the concerns of our MPs and our communities, and we get things done to deliver these commitments for our local communities.

### PAYROLL TAX

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:10):** My question is to the Treasurer. Will the government raise the threshold for payroll tax at the upcoming state budget; if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr TELFER:** An overwhelming number of respondents to the South Australian Chamber of Business survey stated that payroll tax was a significant constraint on employment and productivity.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (15:10):** I am familiar with the advocacy of the SA Business Chamber, Mr Speaker. The SA Business Chamber—or Business SA, as most people have been familiar with it—has been advocating for payroll tax changes since payroll tax was introduced, and that will not change, regardless of the payroll tax tax-free threshold. It will not change regardless of the payroll tax rate. It is expected that a chamber of commerce will always advocate for their members paying a lower tax burden. That is very orthodox.

However, as I explained to the house just previously, not only is South Australia regarded as the best place in the nation to do business, not only are we regarded as having the best payroll tax regime in the nation, we are also in a period of historically low unemployment and, of course, correspondingly high employment levels—966,000 employees, I think—and the bulk of the jobs that have been created since the last state election are full-time jobs, not part-time jobs or casual jobs but full-time jobs. There is less youth unemployment, there is less underemployment.

So when you are running at historically low levels of unemployment, when you are running at record levels of employment, when you have got the best payroll tax regime in the nation—as conferred on you by a national body of the standing of the Business Council of Australia—when you are the lowest-taxing state on the mainland and, overall, the best place in the nation to do business, while I hear the call from the chamber—

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** The member for Flinders said, 'Well why is business calling for this?' We have known, in the labour movement, that business will always call for a reduction in the burdens that it faces in the community. It does not matter what those burdens are, they will always seek a reduction of them: they will seek a minimisation of wage increases and they will seek a reduction in their tax burden. That is well understood; that has been orthodox in the Australian polity for more than a century, and we would not expect any different.

However, the evidence is clear, across those five different points I have made, that payroll tax is not throttling businesses here in South Australia from taking on more employees. South Australia has the highest number of job vacancies per capita in the nation; there are still businesses wanting to employ a further 20,000 additional workers in our state, according to the latest job vacancy data.

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** The member interjects; 'Well, that data set is not supporting my argument so I'll jump onto the participation rate. I'll keep clutching at different figures until I can find something that sounds like a credible argument.' We have amongst the best-performing economy in the nation, we are the best placed in the nation to do business, we have the lowest tax burden of any state on the mainland, we have the best payroll tax regime in the nation, we have the most number of people in jobs in the state's history, and we have amongst the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded in the state. If the member for Flinders doesn't think that is enough, I am looking forward to his election platform, because we haven't seen one yet.

*Grievance Debate*

**SA WATER BILLS**

**Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:14):** Well, look at that: if you are a small business in South Australia and you are listening to what the Treasurer is saying, I think you would be in despair. What we are seeing around South Australia is that business confidence is the worst in the nation, and what we have heard from the Treasurer today is, 'This government doesn't care.'

Firstly, we hear about the challenges people are facing at the moment with the steep increase in their water costs. Last year, the Labor government announced that it would be increasing water bills for South Australian households and small businesses by 3½ per cent above inflation, which means on average \$85 for a household and \$350 for a business.

Do not forget that Labor have spent almost 20 of the last 24 years with their hands on the Treasury coffers and their hands on the amount that people are paying in South Australian water bills. It is their poor planning policy that has led to the lack of SA Water infrastructure, which they are now charging South Australians for in the middle of a housing and cost-of-living crisis. They are going to South Australian water bill payers and saying, 'You come and you make up for the mistakes that we've previously made.'

We do know that the former Liberal government slashed water bills by more than \$200 on average for households and approximately \$1,350 for small businesses because we were listening to the impacts that those water bills were having on everyday lives: on individuals, on families, on small businesses. We have also committed to reversing the ridiculous price hike over and above CPI that this Labor government has forced onto South Australian water bill payers. They should not be the ones who are having to foot the bill for the mistakes that have been made by previous Labor governments.

We hear the Treasurer and the Premier saying they are using every lever they can in a cost-of-living crisis. Well, their words do not match their actions. What we are actually seeing them doing is getting more and more tax out of the pockets of South Australians: we have highlighted the water bill, but they are also reaping the rewards of ever-increasing stamp duty and payroll tax. They are the ones who are getting the heightened amount of money into their budgets, and South Australians are starting to see through the spin that this Labor government is putting forward.

It was revealed at the end of January 2025 to Budget and Finance that there are around 55,000 SA Water customers who have a combined outstanding debt of \$62.9 million with SA Water that is past its due date. We have seen the history of this Labor government, and we have seen the runs already on the board when it comes to adding extra cost and impost on South Australians.

We are starting to see that hit SA Water bills now, and that is why finally they are starting to recognise that: 'That increase does actually have an impact, but don't worry, it's all to do with the pipeline for housing. We're doing all that good work. We're making existing SA Water customers pay for mismanagement in the past and for future plans, if and when they may come.' South Australians with this extra cost that has been imposed on them by this Labor government are starting to question why: why are they having to fork out for mistakes that have been made in planning for the future?

The water bills that we have seen from some of the small businesses and individuals around South Australia are really concerning. I asked a question today, and unfortunately I did not get an answer from the small business minister. We heard a story about Steven and Laura, who are the owners of Exotic Botanic in Royston Park, and what they are facing as small business operators. Their water bill has gone up by 70 per cent compared with the same time last year.

We did not get an answer from the Minister for Small Business. What was the answer we got? We got the so-called 'super minister'—I have not seen those actions yet—and the answer from him was, 'Try to reduce your water usage.' What a slap in the face for small businesses who are having to pay more, and the answer from this Labor government is, 'Well, use less water.' That is an absolutely disgraceful response to the challenges being faced by small businesses and families during a cost-of-living crisis.

I also asked the question about media personality Cosi. He has got a platform to be able to put forward what every South Australian family and SA Water bill payer is having to face themselves. He has got the platform so he is able to put it forward. Every single person who is having to pay an SA Water bill is facing exactly the same thing: the unpleasant surprise when they receive their water bill. Cosi had one of approximately \$1,000, 60 per cent more. This government has got their head in the sand when it comes to the impact that their decisions are having on everyday South Australians, individuals, families and businesses.

### NURSES AND MIDWIVES

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:20):** I rise today to speak in honour of two vital dates on our national and international calendar and they are International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife. These days offer more than a symbolic recognition. They are a powerful reminder of the essential work that nurses and midwives do every single day, quietly and professionally, often without the recognition that they deserve. Here in the gallery today we have many nurses and midwives who deserve to be acknowledged and celebrated.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge two remarkable women from my electorate of Davenport whose careers embody the very best of these professions, and they are Sharon Lothian and Sheralyn Leong. I hope they are sitting up there somewhere. Sharon is an organ donation coordinator with DonateLife, playing a crucial role in some of the most complex and emotional moments families may ever face. Her work helps to ensure that a gift of life can be given, even in the midst of unimaginable grief.

But this is just the latest chapter in her extraordinary career. Before joining DonateLife, Sharon worked in South Australia's COVID response team, from the very beginning of the outbreak, on the frontline of a public health crisis that we will never forget. Prior to that she cared for our sickest patients in the ICU at Flinders Medical Centre.

Sharon began her professional life as an electronics engineer in the British Army, before becoming a nurse in the late 1990s. After studying in the UK she moved to Australia in 2012 and has now spent more than 25 years in the profession. Sharon, your adaptability, your service across disciplines and across continents and your deep commitment to patients are nothing short of remarkable.

Sheralyn Leong's nursing career spans more than 50 years. She began her traineeship at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and went on to work at Blackwood Hospital before taking on a role as an ECG technician at Flinders, at a time when cardiac diagnostics were just beginning to ramp up. Her job was to record, manage and send data to cardiac specialists, playing a vital behind-the-scenes role in patient care.

Sheralyn later spent three decades working at Ashford Hospital, but as a smaller person physically the demands of her nursing heavier patients eventually made the role unsustainable. So instead of stepping back, she retrained. She completed a mothers and babies course and moved into maternity nursing, a role she has described as incredibly demanding but deeply rewarding. Sheralyn, your resilience and your versatility and your decades of service represent the absolute heart of nursing. We thank you for your quiet strength and dedication to others.

These women are extraordinary, but they are also part of a broader extraordinary workforce, many of whom are sitting here today. South Australia is fortunate to be home to tens of thousands of nurses and midwives, who deliver care and compassion day after day, shift after shift. And I speak today not just as a member of parliament but as someone whose life, like so many others, has been touched deeply by their care.



When I had my children by caesarean at Flinders it was the midwives who supported me through those early days. Through the fog of surgery recovery, mixed with the shock of suddenly being responsible for a tiny human, especially that first time round when you feel completely unqualified for the job, they were there, you were there. They helped with feeding, answered every question—often twice—and offered kindness at a time when I really needed it. Their reassurance helped me to take those first shaky steps into motherhood and I will never forget that.

And then when my mum reached the final stage of her life, it was the incredible nurses at Laurel Hospice who surrounded her with tenderness and dignity. I will never forget how gently they spoke to her, how they found humour, how they cared for all of us, how they sat with us in the silence and the sorrow. In one of the hardest moments in my life they brought light and peace and I will never be able to thank them enough. These are the stories that so many South Australians could tell, moments of quiet grace and strength from the people that we entrust with our lives.

But recognition must go beyond kind words. If we truly value our nurses and midwives, we must continue to fight for the conditions that they deserve: fair pay, safe staffing levels, access to training and career progression, and a health system that supports their wellbeing as much as they support ours.

So, today, let us thank you, not just with applause but with action, not just with afternoon teas but with investment, respect and genuine appreciation. To every nurse and midwife in South Australia, thank you for your care, your strength and your service. Our state is healthier, safer and more compassionate because of you.

#### **DROUGHT CONDITIONS, KANGAROO ISLAND**

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:25):** I want to speak about drought in this state. At a time of severe drought and enormous stress, the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board, driven by general manager Will Durack, has insensitively proceeded with a water compliance program flying totally at odds with what was agreed and opposite to every other landscape board in South Australia.

Livestock producers on the island are experiencing the worst drought conditions like most of the rest of the state and many of these farmers have been carting water for several months at crippling costs to keep their stock alive. They are bewildered by Mr Durack's obsession in pushing letters out across Kangaroo Island warning and threatening landholders about the water holding capacity in dams on properties in a show of bureaucratic bullying. The board indicated letters would not go out until July but I understand the letters went out in the last few weeks.

A few weeks ago, I was on the island and saw for myself the impact of the abnormally dry conditions. I barely saw a dam with any water in it, it was dry from one end to the other and the feed height was as high as the floor in this house. What is ridiculous about this is that most of the dams on Kangaroo Island are dry. Kangaroo Island farmers do not need Mr Durack putting the boot in on this issue. They are predominantly graziers and make provision for water storage in a sensible and balanced way as they have done for generations.

In the lead-up to the 2026 state election, the last thing Minister Close would need is an employee of hers causing chaos in a Labor-held electorate. It is an act of political madness by Mr Durack who has been tone-deaf on this matter and shows no compassion whatsoever for the Kangaroo Island community as they battle to survive drought.

Enough is enough. The minister needs to step in and put a moratorium on this matter on Kangaroo Island until conditions improve. It seems that Mr Durack is pushing a philosophical agenda of his own. His staff are abandoning ship and not comfortable. I am told he is not ready for this role and is showing no compassion at all for the farming community of Kangaroo Island and the unprecedented drought conditions they are dealing with. People on Kangaroo Island feel it would be best if he was moved on to a city office to avoid political embarrassment. Leave island farmers to manage the situation and let families farm without this pressure. It is un-Australian and totally at odds with common sense and decency to pursue draconian policy in the middle of this severe drought we are currently undergoing.

Minister Close, I urge you to put an immediate stop to this nonsense. Use your ministerial powers to put in place a moratorium and start the water security policy actions, if needed, at a much

later date. I will add that if it were not for the previous Marshall Liberal government putting a desalination plant on Kangaroo Island, the island would have run out of water and be in a more dire situation than they currently are.

I was shocked when I toured the island. I have been over there a couple of times since 2020 when I went over to assist with the CFS mopping up after the bushfires. To see the state of the island, it is as with many dryland farming communities right across the state—no feed, hundreds of thousands of sheep to feed, tens of thousands of cattle, most of the dams dry, and a terrible situation for farmers and their families to put up with. And this is happening only five years since that unprecedented fire activity of 2019-20.

Farmers have enough to battle with the vagaries of the weather without the vagaries of the government and this bureaucratic nonsense of putting restrictions in place when there is literally no water falling from the sky. There is literally no water falling from the sky, yet people are trying to put in rules to manage the situation when it is not even happening.

Farmers are spending a fortune to keep their stock alive not just with water but with carting hay and grain in from the mainland, and this is not assisting with the mental health of farmers and their families. They need to prosper into the future, and they need support from this Labor government and not these draconian rules that the local landscape boards are trying to implement.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call on the member for Kaurana I would like to acknowledge in the gallery today the following people: Adjunct Associate Professor Jennifer Hurley, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer; Adjunct Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars, CEO and Secretary of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation of South Australia; Professor Marion Eckert, Director of the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre; and nursing and midwifery leaders from our universities and local health networks. They are the guests of the members for Hurtle Vale and Kaurana today.

#### *Grievance Debate*

#### **NURSES AND MIDWIVES**

Debate resumed.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:30):** It is my pleasure as well, as Minister for Health and Wellbeing, to address the subject raised by the member for Davenport, and that is the celebration of our incredible nurses and midwives across South Australia. As you have noted, Deputy Speaker, it is delightful to have so many nursing and midwifery leaders from across the state joining us here in the parliament today. I particularly highlight, of course, both Professor Dabars, the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation SA branch, and also Jenny Hurley, the Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer for South Australia, and there are so many other leaders of the nursing and midwifery professions that we have across the state.

Both yesterday, International Nurses Day, and last week on the International Day of the Midwife we have been busy celebrating the countless hours of care and dedication that nurses and midwives bring to patients across South Australia. So many patients, so many families, have their own stories of the nurses and midwives who have gone above and beyond to provide that care, to provide that service for them.

In fact there are some 40,000 nurses and midwives in South Australia, the majority of which we are lucky enough to have working in SA Health. Of course, they are working not only in SA Health—in our hospitals, our healthcare services across the state—but also in the private sector, in the aged-care sector and in the community sector. Wherever you look in health care, there are nurses and midwives working day in, day out to provide that care.

Care is really at the forefront of what the nursing and midwifery professions are all about: putting the patient first, making sure that they have that care that they need. That is what sets this profession apart from all others.

Certainly from a government perspective we have been very keen to do everything that we can to further these professions, to make sure that we can progress the scope of practice that nurses and midwives can operate at, to progress the research agenda for nurses and midwives in this state and also to progress in terms of recognising that work.

A couple of weeks ago, both the Minister for Human Services and I were delighted to join so many hundreds of nurses and midwives across the state at the annual excellence awards, where we recognised 13 different categories of recipients of excellence awards for nurses and midwives. Some of the notable award winners included from Limestone Coast, Barbie Sawyer, Excellence in Practice—Nurse Practitioner. That is the first time that we have had that award here in this state, recognising what is an incredible part of our profession in terms of nurse practitioners and that advanced practice that they can provide. The Excellence in Practice—Team award went to the NALHN Clinical Placement Collaborative, a really important project where NALHN have been working to make sure that we can provide those placements closer to home and working with our regional partners in Yorke and Northern to deliver that.

We recognised Darryle Barnes from Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network with the Excellence in Practice—Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife award. We recognised Tina Bode from the WCHN with the Excellence in Practice—Midwife award and Karen Gregory from Resthaven with the Excellence in Aged Care award.

We also announced the Premier's Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships: Charlotte Grove from FUNLHN, Jessica Walkley from SAAS MedSTAR, Paula Medway from the Department for Health and Wellbeing, Rochelle Griffin from Yorke and Northern, and Sally Neumann from Limestone Coast. All those nurses will use that opportunity from their scholarship to meet with international leaders and implement their learnings locally and bring that back home to their South Australian health services across the state.

I would also like to recognise Marion Eckert, who was also a recipient of an award and obviously heads up the Rosemary Bryant Foundation. I know that it was a real honour for her to receive that award from Rosemary Bryant. Both Minister Cook and I are very familiar with her work and that is a tremendous honour for her in the work that she does.

In closing, and following what the member for Davenport was saying, not only do we want to recognise this but we want to put it into action. I am really delighted that there has been a lot of work happening behind the scenes on a very fundamental piece of recognising our regard as a government for the nurse and midwifery profession, and that is to bring to the parliament within coming months—this year—the legislation to establish nurse/patient ratios for the first time. I thank the ANMF for the work that they have been doing constructively on that. I look forward to bringing that to the parliament. That will be another day, no doubt, when we celebrate and bring lots of nurses into the parliament to celebrate that legislation coming before the parliament at last.

## HISTORY MONTH

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:35):** On behalf of the opposition, while there is an opportunity to acknowledge our nurses who are visiting today, as the shadow minister for regional health services I would like to extend my gesture to you: I clock four nurses within my own family, whether it is paediatric, CAFHS, ageing or rural. To all of you, as we recognise International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife, thank you for everything that our nurses do.

Moving on to a topic that is a bit closer to my electorate of Frome, I want to give a promo to History Month. It is something that I look forward to every year in the month of May. There is an opportunity before me to recognise the services of the outgoing chief executive officer, Greg Mackie OAM. He notes in his farewell foreword within the compendium within the book that with great regret he sees the final months looming before him with his retirement, if you like, in July.

I thought I would take an opportunity to recognise Greg's own penmanship, his own words, and to reflect on what History Month brings to South Australia and in particular to our regional

communities. I am a broken record when it comes to sharing my view that every country town and country hall across South Australia gets to participate, often for free, in a festival like this. Greg noted that having previously served on the boards of several cultural organisations, and then for a number of years as Head of Arts SA and Deputy Chief Executive, Cultural Development, he absolutely understood what a challenge it would be, back in the day, 20 years ago, to take small-scale organisations dedicated to history and museums and then increase their relevance and impact. We know through History Month now that he has achieved that.

For 22 years, the History Trust has provided an annual platform for South Australia's historians and museums, for both professionals and enthusiasts. In 2004, the first ever History Week was presented by the History Trust, and it attracted 150 registered offerings. Fast forward to 2011, the year of South Australia's sesquicentenary, the program had grown to a month-long duration, with 500 events and 400 presenters, and the significant cultural collaboration continues to prove its relevance. It has certainly grown its overall audience engagement with every year of recovery since the pandemic. It is my privilege and honour to note and recognise Greg Mackie's own contribution and to farewell him in this current role and to thank him for his service to History Month.

Within the electorate of Frome, of course, what does it look like? As I said, every postcode, every peace hall and institute and history group has an opportunity to put itself forward into a festival that is very much for the regions where some festivals are not, often at low cost, which is also important. While I have already undertaken some activities with different groups, I want to put on the record what it looks like to be involved in History Month in my electorate.

The Tarlee history group is well served by Alison Tilley Carter who, at a memorial service just a couple of weeks ago honouring returned soldiers, has documented all of their stories for us to remember and cherish, and I thank her for the work that she has done there. The Mintaro Progress Association will celebrate the Festival of the Lamb organised by Simon Millcock and others, and Libby Brady has an activity underway in Mintaro.

I love going to the Balaklava ag museum. It comes alive with the stump-jump ploughs, and all of the machinery that I grew up with, but this year it will be focusing on the Caterpillar, and Grace Wade is responsible for that. Brinkworth Primary School has an activity that involves students, which is great, and Helen Weckert is to be commended for her work. We see our merino sheep stations—Bungaree, with Vicky and Mark Stewart, and Anlaby Station, with Andrew Morphett and Peter Hayward—always front and centre in these events.

The Clare Regional History Group is led by Gerald Lally and many locals who I bump into at the coffee shop, but they have a focus on our pioneers this year. The little township of Penwortham has John Horrocks Cottage, and both Meredith McInnis and Leonie Moore do outstanding work in maintaining that piece of history. I caught up with Andrea and Philip Brow in Dublin on the weekend, and there is no limit to the opportunities that we have. Whether it is Back to Burra marking 180 years, History Month is to be commended. Its theme is Decisions, and I think the challenge is: which one do I choose to go to?

### NURSES AND MIDWIVES

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (15:41):** I give a huge welcome to parliament to my midwifery and nursing friends and colleagues. You represent the beating heart of our healthcare system here in South Australia. Many of you I have worked with, many of you I have played with, and we have shared some of the best and some of the most difficult times together over decades.

I will avoid naming individuals so as not to miss anyone; however, I would really like to shout out to the ANMF who are represented here today and support all of us—a union for our nurses and midwives. I congratulate Elizabeth Dabars, current secretary and CEO, on her reappointment since last year following elections. I think she is now in her 18th year at the helm; she must have been a very, very young CEO at the time.

Since 1986, my first year nursing, I have experienced five wonderful union leaders: Marilyn Beaumont, Leena Sudano, the Hon. Gail Gago, Lee Thomas and Elizabeth—such stability, only to be matched by that of the SA branch of the Labor Party, also with only five leaders since

1986. Today, we mark two of the most important days in our calendar: the International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day here together. This year, we are guided by two powerful themes. For midwives, Critical in Every Crisis, and for nurses, The Health and Wellbeing of Nurses.

Themes provide guidance, a target or aspiration in a way, forged through incredible and determined professionalism, dedicated service and lived experience. They are from before and during the start of life as well as, in some cases, the end. Midwives are not only caregivers—midwives, you are protectors, planners, responders, advocates and educators. Midwives are calm in a crisis. They work hard to ensure the safety of mothers and newborns, even in the most fragile of circumstances.

During the COVID pandemic, I met with and advocated on behalf of midwives and their families who were struggling to achieve dignity, choice and control of birthing experiences, and particularly regarding family presence during birthing, be that in our large teaching hospitals or in the most remote of communities. Nurses work across the most diverse places and always put themselves last in the most acute to end-of-life settings: ICU to aged care, emergency to mental health units. You face challenges; you provide constant support to those who need it.

This year's theme speaks so urgently to your own health and wellbeing. Nurses and midwives must practise self care, but most will not do this without a push. We need a healthy workforce to deliver a strong health system. While we are again celebrating you, we know the government, the parliament, must do more than celebrate and offer our thanks. The Labor Party is the party for workers. We always prioritise safe working conditions, we always help fight for fair wages as well as for real pathways for leadership and development.

Our government, and indeed our federal government, has invested in mental health support and policy frameworks that centre your voices and wellbeing. Our team here in South Australia has supported our federal colleagues recently in achieving an enormous win to secure a second term of government in which to continue important reforms across health care, across aged care, across disability, across housing, across the community in general, and particularly around the prevention of domestic and family violence. With this comes a huge responsibility.

Importantly, we will never forget our First Nations people. Our party acknowledges the significant impact of colonialism. When I hear from people about the challenges or the barriers that they face accessing services or delivering services in our city and in our suburbs, I always ask people to consider what happens to these challenges when you go to the regions? What happens to these challenges when you go to remote parts of our country?

My midwifery and nursing colleagues, you are all critical every single day. You deserve all the thanks, respect and support you can be offered. Your expertise must always be celebrated and never taken for granted. Today, we, our government, and in fact the parliament, reaffirm our commitment to you as we commemorate two international days. Your presence here is humbling and inspiring. I thank you for your friendship now and always. Happy International Day of the Midwife and Happy International Nurses Day 2025.

#### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:46):** I rise today to provide an update to the house and to my community on the fourth edition of the Cowdrey Cup, a game of football between the Lockleys Demons and Henley Sharks, which was probably not quite as close as we would have liked last weekend. Henley scored a grand total of 17 goals, 10 behinds, 112 to defeat Lockleys 9 goals, 11 behinds, 65 to win their third Cowdrey Cup of the four that they have taken part in.

Part of this game is to highlight the local rivalry between two clubs that are not too far apart in distance. We have people who went to school together and people who are neighbours living streets apart taking part in a game and to highlight two great clubs that have a tradition in history of supporting grassroots participation in our local area.

The most valuable player of the game is always chosen by the opposing coaches, and for this particular game Matthew Broadbent, well known to many in this place, was selected. Brogsy and

the broader Broadbent family have made huge contributions to the Henley Football Club for a large period of time, so we thank them again for their contribution and to Brogsy for being recognised.

Part of the game is that donations are made to the charity of choice for the player of the game, so we look forward to that and to the next iteration later in the year where the Sharks and the Demons go head to head for the fifth time.

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:48):** I rise today to recognise the new reverend, Reverend Andrea McDougall, at St Jude's church in Brighton. It was an absolute honour to speak at her commissioning just a few weeks ago. Reverend Andrea comes to St Jude's with a heart for service, commitment and a vision for how St Jude's can continue to be a light in our community. But of course the occasion was not just about Andrea, it was about our whole community, the people of St Jude's.

In particular, I acknowledge and give thanks for the extraordinary social impact of St Jude's outreach programs. Whether it has been through support for the vulnerable, care for the lonely, engagement with young people or the many unseen acts of kindness that happen daily, the parish of St Jude's has made and continues to make a real difference in people's lives.

In a world that can so often feel fragmented and isolating, St Jude's has been a place of belonging, a shelter of hope, and I know that this is a community that will walk alongside Reverend McDougall, support her and challenge her as she leads them in their parish service. Welcome, Andrea.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:49):** I would like to talk about the celebrations on Saturday night at the Royal Flying Doctor Service 'Wings For Life' Gala Ball—and what a night it was. Everyone was dressed up to a theme—black tie but with a touch of pink or green—and the room was electric. There were over 1,000 people at the Entertainment Centre. The room sold out in 10 minutes, and the calibre of the entertainment and the calibre of the night was second to none.

I want to thank Tony Vaughan, the CEO, and Peter DeCure, the Chair of the RFDS, and Ali Clarke who was the emcee for the night who did an outstanding job entertaining people and making sure that the night ran nice and smoothly. But I really want to pay tribute to the staff, the volunteers and the sponsors for helping to make the night the great success that it was. It had a 'Wicked' theme, and Ding Promotions were the entertainers within that section. That really did get the night off to a great start.

The thousand people were engaged right from the word go. As I said, there was a great silent auction with lots of donations, and there was a live auction where there were many destinations and experiences, all there to raise money. The Robbie Williams cover band was quite unusual, for anyone who does go to the odd black tie ball. They had the crowd onto a packed dance floor before the main course. That is quite unusual. Normally people like to get their food in and then get out on to the dance floor and let it rip.

The lucky dip and the wine wall were also well patronised, and it really did see people engaging on the night to raise much needed money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and its operations. Some great stories were told. There were people who had their lives changed by the RFDS, there were lives impacted and, in some way, shape or form how those regional and remote communities had a great opportunity to be touched by the Royal Flying Doctor Service—it really did show how important are the services and safety they provide to regional communities.

The runway light project was also a hit for the night. That was about people donating money to light-ups for airstrips right around regional and remote South Australia and into the Northern Territory. It really was a highlight of the night. The RFDS is one of the great spectacles of the year. It is an event that I always like to attend to help raise much-needed funds for regional and remote South Australia and to provide them with a vital health service.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:52):** Understanding a community's history helps to explain why a community is the way it is today. Communities are more than the sum of their people and events, they are the result of the interaction between both. During May, History Month enables communities to share their history with the broader community, and helps our understanding of the way they are.

It does more than just explain our local history, it helps us to understand by educating through a range of activities and events. I love local history and I enjoy the opportunity to immerse myself in the histories of the communities in my region. To date, I have had the opportunity to see how the arrival of water enabled the development of the Dublin community. The community's history group is now exploring how it might restore the government-built wells as a forerunner to their 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations next year.

The Mallala Museum is showcasing its huge collection which reflects that community's contribution to the war effort and demonstrates how earlier generations lived and worked. It is a fantastic collection, well presented by the local committee.

On Saturday, I had the pleasure to hear one of Sam Doering's journeys into the history of Lutheranism in the Point Pass area and how that parish, Immanuel Church, laid the foundation for what we know today as Immanuel College at Novar Gardens. The presentation on Sunday is part of a book that will be published to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Lutheran parish in Point Pass. Over the coming days I look forward to walking further paths walked by those who came before us.

### *Bills*

## **SUPPLY BILL 2025**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:54):** Resuming my supply contribution, I was talking about the opportunities within trade and the challenges, particularly here in South Australia, of living on the land, dealing with the vagaries of the seasonal changes and, sadly, the drought that the majority of South Australia is currently experiencing.

I did talk about the US tariffs, and I did talk about the opportunities I think that will present to our commodities, to our industries, particularly into the US. However, it is also giving us the opportunity to create greater relations with other trading partners that are also impacted by increased tariffs by the USA. Again, we talk about China; the majority of that headwind has disappeared, but it has changed. COVID has changed the world. Consumption of beverage is continuing to decline and, as I said, year on year it is about 7 per cent. That is going to have a significant impact on entry level wine, and the majority of that product comes out of the Riverland, which is really experiencing a very tough and uncertain future.

Some of the other challenges we are facing that I think the state government has gone missing on is shipping and the challenges of those shipping lines. There are four main shipping lines globally and one has said that it will not come below the equator, but what we are seeing now is that a lot of those shipping lines are not heading to Adelaide. We are having to move freight over to the Port of Melbourne, and that is adding cost to our exporters, it is adding a level of complexity, just like the container shortage is.

Touching on some of the other issues that I am really concerned about, we have a state government that continues to prioritise Adelaide. The freight corridor is looking like it is on ice at the moment. The Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass is a piece of infrastructure that will be timesaving, productivity saving, that will give production and efficiency gains. It is absolutely paramount that that Greater Adelaide Freight Bypass be started; it does not have to be finished all in one go, but it needs to be started.

Just like the Truro freight bypass, the majority of the freight that comes along the Sturt Highway out of the Riverland, and from the eastern seaboard, needs to have an easier passage down to the port, down to the distribution centres. It is also somewhat galling that this current state government continues to ignore the condition of our regional roads. Rather than building highways and doing upgrades on significant roads what we are seeing is that they are fixing a few potholes but nothing else.

The regional support in South Australia is ailing. Health, PATS, the education system have been put on the backburner in preference to Labor seats sandbagging in what is now a detriment to regional South Australia.

Time expired.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:57):** I would like to speak briefly in support of the Supply Bill, and in doing so just highlight some of the expenditure that has been undertaken in my current electorate. I would also like to highlight some of the expenditure either undertaken or planned to be undertaken in the broader region.

I am proud to say that all the election commitments I made, and the Labor Party then in opposition made before coming into government, will be delivered in this term of government. In fact, all but two have already been delivered, with one currently under construction and one, I have been informed today, that will be fully constructed by November this year. It is important to highlight those projects, because I think they are important for the community.

There are a broad range of projects which deliver a whole range of services across health, safety, and recreation. There are also opportunities about sport, etc. These are all things that actually improve the wellbeing of our community, and I would just like to talk about some of the highlights.

During this term, in partnership with the Gawler council we have been able to deliver a new netball court facility. The state government invested \$4.8 million and in partnership with the Gawler council, who undertook to manage and deliver the project, we now have a new netball centre with 10 brand-new courts. They are important.

First of all, the existing courts were of a quality which meant they could not have competitions on the site—the local club was not able to host events there in Gawler. These new courts are of an Australian standard, which means they can hold regional events and other events there, which is really important not only from a sporting and recreation point of view but also for attracting visitors to the town. It is also a facility which will hopefully attract more young women and girls to play sport on weekends and at other times.

One of the projects that is currently under construction is the new car park and kiss and drop adjacent to Mark Oliphant College, in conjunction and partnership with the City of Playford. This particular project will enable a safer place to drop off children near the school and also remove some of the congestion along some of the roads near Mark Oliphant College. Sadly, when we build schools we do not seem to cater for the needs of children being picked up and dropped off and for people to park.

This \$2.5 million project not only will serve the school but, more importantly, is part of a bigger plan to develop a sporting precinct adjacent to the college. This car park will have a dual purpose, which means that every dollar we spend goes a lot further and serves that community. As I said, that project is currently under construction and I understand should be ready for use around August or September this year.

This car park and kiss and drop is just adjacent to the recently opened Newton Boulevard Road, the extension of Newton Boulevard from the existing development to Stebonheath Road. You might think, 'What's the importance of just a road being opened up?' It is really important because it actually connects two communities—the Munno Para community and the Munno Para West community—in a more direct manner.

This enables people living in Munno Para West, which is in the south-western part of my electorate, and also parts of Taylor to connect to a whole range of important social infrastructure. For example, people can access the local schools, local shops and the health centre without having to actually traverse Curtis Road.

From the point of view of access, it is going to improve access but also it is a much safer route. That was officially opened only yesterday and will be a well-received road extension. That road extension is also part of a bigger picture, which is to provide more affordable housing in that area, so certainly in the northern areas of this state we are delivering on housing to make sure that we do our part as much as we can to reduce the housing crisis.

One of the things that is under construction as well, and will hopefully be opened by the Minister for Emergency Services in the near future, is the new SES station in Willaston. Even though



the station has not opened, it is doing gangbusters when it comes to volunteers—they actually have a record number of volunteers for this particular station.

The station will service those areas in between where existing services are available at Salisbury and Kapunda. The huge influx of volunteers means that we can help that community to meet the challenges of the impact of climate change in terms of weather and extreme weather, and they also do quite a bit of work in rescue and road accidents. It is good to see this facility being built, after a long campaign by some volunteers from the Salisbury SES, and it is great that we have invested over \$4 million to build this facility.

Again, talking in terms of health and safety, under construction at the moment is also the new ambulance station at Willaston, which was a commitment made by the government that we are delivering on. There is a whole range of things happening in my electorate at the moment, which actually shows this government's commitment to the wellbeing of our community and, in particular, the commitment to my electorate.

Again, along the lines of health and wellbeing and also in the context of sport and recreation, recently we officially opened the new change rooms at the Karbeethan Reserve, which is a \$1 million investment by the state government in sport and recreation. It was important for a whole range of reasons. The existing clubrooms were quite inadequate, having been built some decades ago, and there were no facilities for women to change in the existing centre.

This new centre enables both girls and young women to have an appropriate facility in which to change and not have to go home or change in cars, etc. If we are to encourage people, particularly young people, to participate in sport, which is important, we need to make sure we have the facilities to match. I understand from the president of the soccer club, which is probably the major beneficiary of the facility, that it is working well and is greatly appreciated by the hundreds of people who actually play sport in my electorate.

We also invested during this term over \$680,000 for some major pedestrian works at what we call the Redbanks roundabout. That was predominantly to make a safer route for all those students who go to Xavier College to traverse this area: those who catch buses nearby, get picked up or walk home.

Unfortunately, previous governments said the standards were sufficient enough, but when you see young people walking between trucks and cars you get the impression that they were not; it was more by luck than design that nobody was actually seriously injured. This pedestrian crossing investment has made it much safer and by all reports students are doing the right thing and are using it. The college is very happy with it. The council again partnered with the government to deliver the project and we made the investment.

When building new housing areas, we do it better today. However, in the past we have built homes but often we have not built the infrastructure to support those communities. One of my communities that was in that category was the Reid community. There is a whole range of areas. It is a reasonably isolated community, but it had no infrastructure for children. That was identified through a number of surveys in that community, that the need for a playground facility and equipment was probably a high priority. The government has invested \$600,000 in a new playground facility. Again, it was helped to be delivered in conjunction with the Town of Gawler.

At this point I would like to personally congratulate and thank the staff and management in the Town of Gawler's works department who have done a sterling job in not only managing projects but working closely with my office and other government agencies to make sure they have actually consulted and delivered the projects that the community wanted. This playground has been an extremely successful playground. It is used constantly and the parents are very happy.

One of the projects regarding equity and safety is the building of a new car park and kiss and drop next to the Tambelin Railway Station. That, I understand, is now going to tender, the tender closes at the end of this month, and that project will be delivered later this year. Again, we are investing hundreds of thousands of dollars. The project has actually come in a little bit higher than the original estimate some five years ago. There are a whole range of factors that have lead to that

increase, but the government has honoured that commitment and actually made an additional contribution to the council to deliver this project.

The costs went up because the project itself was rescoped to make it a better project. For those people who understand civil costs and building costs, these were quotes made pre-pandemic; there were occasional increases since then. This will deliver a much safer parking area, encourage people to park and ride on our public transport and the train provides a major network to the city but also has improved facilities for people living with disability and also an improved area where buses can actually drop off students and pick up other passengers next to the station. Safety will be improved by additional lighting. At the moment it is just an unmade road. It will be sealed and therefore it will be much better for all the users and will encourage people to use it.

One of the projects that is about to go to tender for building is one where the process has been a little bit drawn out but I think is worth mentioning. I would also like to acknowledge, before I start on this one, the contribution made by the SES management to this project. The SES identified some land that was surplus to their needs and were happy to make it available for community use.

Part of that land was being used by the local Apex club for their facilities, meeting hall and storage. To their credit, the Gawler Apex Club were happy to share the actual site with two other organisations for community use. They are the Gawler car club—its official title is much longer but for brevity I will just say the Gawler car club—and the Black Ops garage. The Black Ops group helps men predominantly who have returned from service overseas who are finding it hard to cope with the trauma of having been involved in a conflict. That is nothing new but it is something that we need to address better.

There are a whole range of different models to support returned service personnel and this garage is where men, if you like, tinker with things and while they tinker with a whole range of things, as the name suggests in the garage, they benefit from the interaction with other men but also the interaction of actually talking through their issues. This garage will be built this year and it will be a great facility for that group. Until now they have been operating from somebody's backyard in a tin shed, so this group will actually be able to grow and provide a better service to our returned service personnel.

I would also like to acknowledge as part of that project the contribution made by Gawler Rotary Club who have supported this project and the former president of the Gawler Rotary Club who works for Ahrens engineering company that has provided enormous support. Mark Smeaton has provided enormous support for this project and I would like to say that, if it were not for his involvement, this project would actually not be in the state it is now.

The other part of the project is the Gawler car club. They are funding their own development but the land is being made available through a long-term lease through the SES and they have now set up a separate managing committee to manage the site, ABC Incorporated, and that reflects the Apex club for A, the Black Ops for B and the car club for C. They will jointly manage the site and this will become a community hub in Gawler to service and support hundreds of individuals and people in our community. By working together through this grant of \$250,000 to the Black Ops group, we are able to make our contribution not only to our returned servicemen but to other people in our community.

In terms of some smaller projects, we have contributed \$81,000 to the Bacton Street Reserve at Evanston, \$15,000 to upgrade the Gawler West play area and also an additional \$30,000 for the Nolan Reserve in Munno Para. These grants are designed to provide, again, both recreation and also wellbeing in these areas. They are designed to provide cover for these playgrounds so kids can actually play safely when it is hot in terms of SunSmart play. Those things are really important.

One of the other contributions we made in conjunction with both the council and also the federal government was to upgrade one of the existing play areas adjoining Apex Park to make it much more disability friendly, particularly in terms of autism. This park has now been redesigned to enable all children, irrespective of their ability, to participate and have fun there. It has a really strong focus on nature, and therefore young people can actually have a greater sense of fun.

These are the some of the things which we have been able to deliver in this electorate, and I am proud to say that I have been able to support these projects. Also, more importantly, every commitment, every promise, made by this government to that community has been or is in the process of being delivered, and by the time the next election comes they will all have been delivered 100 per cent. It was interesting to note that some of these programs were actually criticised by those in opposition, though I thought that honouring a commitment was not something you would oppose but applaud.

The other thing I would just like to also mention very quickly is in terms of the greater region. The region to the north of my current electorate is doing it really tough because of the drought conditions. I would like to commend the government for making a range of funding available to assist farmers and, in assisting farmers, also assisting small businesses, sporting groups and other community organisations. It is really important to understand that when farmers—whether it is agriculture, viticulture; it does not matter what type of activity they are in—are not doing well those communities which serve them also do not do well.

So it is not only the farmers who actually do it tough; it is all the small businesses that do not have the cash flow because the farmers are not spending the money, it is the sporting groups that do not have the sponsors and, often, it is the people who actually do not have the money to actually be involved in sport. So it is not only the farming communities but also those communities throughout the area that are doing it tough.

That is why a range of programs and grants have been introduced specifically for the drought-affected areas. Only last night the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing from the other place was in Riverton with me, and we were meeting with a whole range of sport and recreation groups to explain to them the grants which are available and how, also, they can access those. Those groups are now doing it tough because the local economies are doing it tough, and therefore as a result we need to support them.

Importantly, they are not competitive processes. If you are eligible and meet the criteria, you actually get the grant. The idea is to make it simple. A lot of community organisations often get burdened by the amount of paperwork they are required to fill in for small amounts of money, but these grants make a difference and in the end government is about supporting our communities for their safety and wellbeing.

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (16:18):** I rise to speak in support of the Supply Bill and to highlight some of the initiatives of the Malinauskas Labor government in my electorate and also in my portfolio areas of responsibility. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs and Minister for Arts over the last three years. I have had the privilege of being able to enrich the lives of our community through our state's cultural life, while also enacting policies to protect our community and our small businesses.

Firstly, I am pleased to share with the house our recent announcement within arts, and that is the long-awaited South Australian cultural policy A Place to Create. This has been the culmination of the thoughts and ideas of more than 2,000 passionate artists, creatives, organisations, institutions, businesses and actually, most importantly, everyday people in our local communities. This policy stands on three pillars: (1), to strengthen our communities; (2), to enliven our places; and (3), to connect us through arts, culture and creativity.

A Place to Create will ensure all South Australians can participate and benefit from artistic, cultural and creative expression. Our state is a world leader that supports and celebrates home-grown artists and creatives, cultivating their careers through every stage of development. The arts, culture and creative industries sector enriches the lives of every South Australian and this policy will drive arts in South Australia forward for many years to come.

A Place to Create reflects the state government's commitment to supporting artists and creative practitioners, those people who are the heart of our state's cultural life. The policy outlines a vision for ensuring we have thriving arts organisations, cultural institutions and cultural businesses, with \$81 million being invested initially to support the ambitions of this landmark policy. That includes

\$13 million of new money over four years to support the delivery outcomes that build upon the existing \$149 million annual budget.

The policy will be realised through a series of short-term delivery plans, the first of which covers 2025 and 2026 and will include a First Nations first approach with more than \$2.3 million being invested to support our First Nations artists and increase opportunities for children and young people, with a \$2½ million investment to develop their creativity through Carclew, the Adelaide Youth Orchestras and a new fantastic interactive experience for children being built at the State Library of South Australia.

We are boosting music by injecting \$1½ million into original local music and live music venues. Artists will be directly supported with more than \$1 million to increase grants and funding programs and \$15 million will be invested to support our beloved Art Gallery of South Australia to bring world-class programs and build new audiences. Further, we are providing an in-kind contribution of \$4 million of land to establish the new creative hub at the Adelaide Central School of Art on the back of the federal Albanese government's \$7 million investment in the project.

There are many more exciting initiatives and I encourage everyone to read the full delivery plan that goes hand in hand with A Place to Create. I want to thank everyone at the CreateSA team who has been part of building and forming this incredible policy. I look forward to working with the sector to realise the potential of arts and culture and creative industries and to share in the benefits with all South Australians.

I turn to my portfolio of Consumer and Business Affairs. I would like to discuss the government's investment aimed at stamping out the illicit tobacco and vape trade. I have spoken about this many times. I will continue to do so because the Malinauskas government is serious about protecting our communities. Today, I want to focus on the work in our regional areas and I want to note the member for Stuart who has been and continues to be a hardworking advocate for his constituency in the regions across our state.

We are not alone in this fight. We are not the only state dealing with this threat, but we are determined to be at the forefront and show everyone that the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes is not welcome here in South Australia. The Malinauskas government is cracking down on these illicit products in conjunction with the Albanese Labor government. As you might be aware, Mr Acting Speaker, on 1 July 2024, new national legislation came into effect banning the retail sale of non-therapeutic vapes, making it illegal for retailers. Alongside this, our government passed our own suite of legislative changes to position our state to tackle this unlawful trade.

We have identified that this trade is not isolated to the metropolitan area but has made its way into our regions. CBS has undertaken over 100 inspections in regional and remote areas. Of all inspections conducted by CBS, more than 21 per cent have been conducted in our regions and 38 of those regional inspections have resulted in seizures by CBS, with a total street value of more than \$2.8 million.

I am pleased to inform the house and the member for Stuart that as a result of 36 inspections conducted by CBS and SAPOL in the Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla regions—and the member here would appreciate this—five interim closure orders were issued, one was in Risdon Park, two were in Port Augusta and two were in Whyalla.

As a result of these inspections and closures, CBS and SAPOL have seized more than 1.3 million cigarettes, over 400 kilograms of loose tobacco and over 800 vapes. These seizures have taken more than \$1.3 million worth of illicit products from our regional streets, taking the total seized by CBS and SAPOL in the regions to over \$6.6 million. We are tackling this problem head on. In fact, since 1 July 2024, CBS has conducted about 500 inspections across metro Adelaide and the regions. About \$30 million worth of illicit tobacco and vapes has been seized by CBS and SAPOL.

In early February, CBS had its single biggest haul in which it seized more than \$1 million worth of illicit product from a single business in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. Furthermore, the Adelaide CBD is a particular area of interest for the CBS. Of all the suburbs across the city, CBS has undertaken the greatest number of inspections in the Adelaide CBD, including 32 inspections in the CBD and multiple premises in the West End.

Since these provisions commenced on 13 December 2024, I have issued 33 interim closure orders to businesses, and we have had two successful long-term closure orders approved by the Magistrates Court driving home the message that the Malinauskas government will not tolerate the sale of illicit tobacco and vape products in our communities. Our government is committed to this important issue, and I am always happy to update the house on this very important topic.

As I have said many times in this place, small businesses are the driving force of the South Australian economy. We have around 160,000 small businesses, comprising nearly 98 per cent of all businesses in the state. In fact, 13,000 new businesses have opened since we came into government. Together, they generate \$49 billion for our economy and employ almost 40 per cent of our workforce.

Since I established the Office for Small and Family Business, we have achieved some incredible milestones. I am very proud to say we have had over 10,000 businesses through our programs, covering everything from business fundamentals and sustainability to cybersecurity and mental health. One program I am especially passionate about is our \$4 million Women in Business program. As someone who has been a small business owner, I understand that there are particular challenges and barriers faced by women who want to start and run—and grow, in fact—their own businesses. That is why the Women in Business election commitment was key for us, and why we are investing in and empowering women to succeed in their businesses.

Through our Women in Business Program, we are providing coaching, tailored mentorship and peer networks to help female business owners grow and scale. Our Women in Business Foundations Program, being delivered by the Adelaide Business Hub, focuses on building management skills and expanding into new markets.

Meanwhile, our Women in Business Advisory Program, delivered by Behind Closed Doors, offers one-on-one coaching, group coaching and mentorship for women leading high-growth businesses, helping them strengthen their leadership and entrepreneurial skills. This year, I was thrilled to expand the Women in Business Advisory Program, to introduce a fully funded First Nations stream, offering tailored coaching and mentoring. So far, this \$4 million investment has supported over 3,100 women to build their businesses and chase their goals, and we are just getting started.

Our inaugural Small Business Week last year was a huge success. We had over 1,400 registrations and held over 30 events, workshops, and we had a full-day small business expo. I am very excited to say that planning is well underway for this year's Small Business Week—mark it in your diaries—being held on 22 to 26 September, right across Adelaide and in our regions.

We understand that energy costs are a big concern for small businesses at the moment. That is why last year we announced a \$20 million Energy Efficiency Grants program through round 2 of the Treasurer's Economic Recovery Fund. These grants, ranging from \$2,500 to \$50,000, matched dollar for dollar, help small businesses invest in energy-efficient equipment like solar panels, batteries and energy-saving appliances. We received almost 1,400 applications, well surpassing \$30 million worth of grants being applied for. Given the huge demand, with the approval of the Treasurer—which I am grateful for—we decided to remove the round 2 cap to allow all eligible applications to be considered.

So far, over 1,000 applications have been approved for a total grant value of more than \$23 million at the moment. These grants are estimated to provide an energy cost saving of over \$24 million per annum for our business sector—that is over \$24 million back in the pockets of South Australian small businesses each and every single year.

We are also standing shoulder to shoulder with the Whyalla community during this tough time. To support local businesses impacted by the uncertainty at the steelworks, we quickly announced the Whyalla Small Local Business Support Grant program, offering \$10,000 grants to businesses that faced a drop in their turnover. We have already delivered \$370,000 to local businesses there and I have heard firsthand the positive impact that this program is having. We also introduced the SA Business Creditor Assistance Scheme, helping businesses that were owed money by OneSteel by covering debts up to \$5 million per creditor.

Whyalla businesses are being prioritised and, as of last month, in April, we approved over \$14 million worth of grants. On top of the financial supports, I made sure there was support for businesses on the ground in Whyalla. We made sure there was a business support officer from the Office for Small and Family Business there on the ground to assist businesses with access to government services and supports. The Attorney-General in the other place and I have expanded the Legal Services Commission in Whyalla to provide free on-the-spot legal advice for small businesses.

We have also made some important changes to strengthen the role of the Small Business Commissioner's office. We made amendments to the Small Business Commissioner Act that were passed through the parliament last November and will come into effect later this year. These changes give the commissioner broader powers to compel mediation where needed, not just for industries covered by existing codes but across all sectors.

On top of that, we are ensuring a faster, more straightforward way to enforce agreements made through the commissioner's mediation process. Businesses will be able to go straight to the Magistrates Court to enforce agreements without having to relitigate the whole issue. It is about providing certainty, saving time and keeping legal costs down so that small businesses can focus on running their businesses and not fighting in courts. While we are working hard behind the scenes to support businesses, it is great to see others recognising our efforts too, with the Business Council of Australia naming South Australia the best place to do business across the country for two years running.

We also lead the nation for hospitality growth, with the latest quarterly ABS data showing SA had the highest net restaurant and cafe openings. We had 141 restaurant and cafe openings in the 2023-24 financial year, and this represents that an incredible 28 per cent of all restaurants and cafes opened around the country were opened here in South Australia. In fact, since the 2022 election, as I mentioned, there are now 13,000 more small businesses operating in South Australia. We have major investments underway, from building homes to delivering infrastructure projects and bringing major events, and our government is making sure that South Australia is buzzing with opportunity.

As someone who has walked the small business journey, I know it is not easy and there are highs and lows, but ultimately it is hard work and perseverance that shapes your success. In terms of now being in government, being able to work with the small business sector very closely has been something that we have seen success with, and that is what we are seeing right across South Australia with the improvements that we have made in the last three years.

Lastly, I want to speak to some of the initiatives that the Malinauskas government has delivered in my electorate of Enfield. Recently, the Minister for Education and I officially opened the \$21 million Roma Mitchell Sports Academy gym. The new facility has a two-court gymnasium of international competition standard, change rooms, additional classrooms, teacher prep areas, a first-aid room, a canteen and a cafeteria.

It will accommodate an additional 180 students, which increases the total school capacity to 2,114, and it provides a world-class indoor venue for students and also for the local community to utilise. I know the school has a really great relationship with its neighbour, Football SA, which will utilise the space to help train our future soccer superstars.

I want to acknowledge and thank principal Toni Carellas for her leadership and all the wonderful staff for their hard work in helping see this project come to fruition. Toni's commitment and hard work does not stop there. She is very keen to further enhance the school offering and plans for a performing arts centre, and I am keen to advocate alongside her and the school community.

We committed to a number of projects across the Enfield electorate to address some of the inequities and provide a pathway forward for a number of our community groups. I really want to see more young women playing sports, and that is why we are improving access to sporting facilities and opening up new opportunities for young women to become involved in team sports for not only physical but also mental, social and broader wellbeing benefits.

I had the pleasure to officially open the Blair Athol Reserve upgrade, which is home to the Kilburn Football and Cricket Club. A \$750,000 election commitment has transformed the facility with

upgrades to change rooms, female toilets, a new digital scoreboard, upgrades to the bar and social area, and new tables and chairs. A fresh coat of paint has given the facility a new look, and many minor upgrades have helped make this community facility a really wonderful space for everyone to enjoy, and there is a really good buzz around the club at the moment. The investment has helped to create a safer and more welcoming environment for everyone to get involved in their local sporting club.

The Broadview Oval Community and Sports Hub opened early last year and the new facilities offer our community a wonderful space to connect. The government, along with the City of Prospect and Broadview Football Club, invested over \$5 million to build the function centre, change room facilities and clubrooms to cater for cricket and football activities. The multipurpose facility is great for community functions, weddings, networking events—and I have even myself used the facility for my community forums.

While we have made significant investments in our sporting clubs' infrastructure, the Malinauskas government has also doubled the Sports Vouchers program and expanded it to include musical programs, dancing, and learning to play instruments as well. We are very pleased to be able to expand that program and we know how valued it is. I was also able to commit \$125,000 to my community in Walkley Heights for the upgrade of the RM Williams Drive Reserve, which officially opened last year. The upgrades include a new inclusive play space with additional play equipment, shelter, picnic area and shade sail.

The Malinauskas government's investment has seen a significant increase in the usage of the playground and, as a result, the City of Salisbury has decided to invest additional money for the construction of public toilets and a dog park. I want to thank the City of Salisbury staff and elected members for their support of this project.

My electorate office recently moved into the Lightsview Village centre, which is located on Folland Avenue, and that is exactly where the Lightsview Go Zone bus service operates. This was also an election commitment, and I want to thank the Minister for Transport for helping us to see this come to life. In fact, we have had increased patronage of some 44 per cent from July 2023 to July 2024, thanks to the Go Zone. Of course, we are offering free public transport for seniors at all times, and that is a great initiative of the Malinauskas government, something that I am really proud of.

I was very pleased to be able to establish the Go Zone running from Lightsview through to the city, and we are making significant investments in our public transport system. I am very grateful to be able to represent my local community to work towards putting measures in place to improve my electorate and to make sure that we have a better future for the people of Enfield. With that, I commend this bill to the house.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (16:38):** I also rise to speak on the Supply Bill. I guess I come from an electorate that has been more than generously funded. The amount of assistance provided in both Whyalla and Port Augusta has been significant, but especially in Whyalla given the challenges we faced with GFG and the steel industry—a package of \$2.4 billion in order to support the steelworks, the mines and, indeed, the broader community and the contractor base in Whyalla.

It has been said before that what happened in this parliament with that particular bill was unprecedented. Both the nature of the bill and the speed with which it was passed was, in a sense, unique. I do not think it has happened in any other parliament in Australia, a bill of this nature. Of course, you all know that the element of surprise was needed, and fortunately that element of surprise worked and enabled us to push the steelworks and the mines in Whyalla into administration.

I would like to acknowledge, when it comes to this \$2.4 billion package, both the Premier and the Minister for Energy and Mining, and indeed the cabinet, given the incredibly important decision they had to make, as well as the Labor caucus. There are also a lot of people in my community who need acknowledgement: the union movement, our contractor base, the workers at the steelworks and the mines for the difficult period they went through and the uncertainty about the future.

This \$2.4 billion package was massive, and to see the Albanese government join in partnership with the state government to provide a significant amount of funding was a wonderful thing indeed. The Prime Minister arrived in Whyalla on 20 February, and the Premier was there. We addressed contractors, we addressed a mass meeting of workers. I did say to the Prime Minister that I did not know how my family was going to compete: 20 February is my birthday, and here we were getting \$2.4 billion for the community to sustain jobs, sustain the Whyalla community and sustain what is the last integrated steelworks in Australia that produces structural steel and rail. So 20 February was an incredibly big day, built on the big day the previous day and the events that occurred in this parliament.

Of that \$2.4 billion, \$1.9 billion will be available for a new owner, and it is encouraging to hear that companies are looking. There are always going to be one or two tyre kickers, but there are some very credible companies looking at what Whyalla has to offer. Indeed, Whyalla does have a lot to offer, albeit we do have an ageing steel plant. At the end of the day we have billions of tonnes of magnetite on our doorstep, we have a port, we have a workforce, and we have the industrial infrastructure in place.

There are a number of options when it comes to that \$1.9 billion and that will, in part, be determined by whoever the new owner is. We did flag those options—electric arc furnace, direct reduction ironmaking, potential upgrade to the mill, and the potential need for gas supply infrastructure. If we are to make a transition, the odds are it will be to direct reduction ironmaking and an electric arc furnace and that, by its very nature, assumes the availability of gas at a price that makes the production of iron and steel viable.

A lot has been said about the hydrogen power plant. That was a difficult decision, but I think you have got to be principled and pragmatic, and that is what happened. The hydrogen power plant was essentially a peaking plant. It would have assisted to firm renewable energy capacity in South Australia, allowing further investment in renewable energy. However, for the hydrogen power plant itself, even though it was an enabling technology and it was getting our foot in the door when it came to producing hydrogen and the long term uses potential uses for that hydrogen, especially in the steel industry, that money, close to \$600 million, had to go to supporting the steelworks.

When you look at a peaking power plant, the employment would be limited. Maybe for a modern peaking power plant we might be talking about 30 people or so, albeit there was enabling technology that would have allowed other developments to happen. But the various reports over recent years on the steel industry in Whyalla indicate a number of around 4,000 direct and indirect jobs supported by the steel industry in Whyalla. So in a sense, when it came to opportunity costs, it was a no-brainer decision that the money had to go into the steelworks.

That \$1.9 billion is on the table for a potential new owner. With the period of administration, we are looking at \$384 million to maintain the current plant. I know, and a lot of the people who work down at the plant know, that the place was being run into the ground when it came to critical maintenance. That \$384 million will initially be spent on critical maintenance that needs to be done and, as part of that critical maintenance, addressing some of the issues around safety, which always has to be a priority. That \$384 million is going to be money well spent, albeit on maintaining the current plant so it continues to operate until such time as a transition starts to happen.

One of the other elements of funding in that package was the \$100 million to support businesses and community infrastructure in Whyalla. I was incredibly proud of the effort made to support the contractor base in Whyalla and further afield. We are essentially talking about the small contractor base: we are not talking about the Goldings of the world or the other big operators that are national or international companies. We are talking about an industrial ecosystem that has developed over many years in Whyalla, often small family-based businesses that have provided specialised services. A lot of those businesses were owed money—in some cases, a lot of money—by GFG.

During the previous administration, many of these businesses went through that whole cash flow issue, and at that time it was once again a Labor state government that stepped into the breach to provide support in the form of loans. The federal Liberal government, the Coalition, was absolutely nowhere to be seen when it came to providing that support for small businesses—we did. But there



were some valuable lessons that were learned from that process. It was a good process; it worked—I think 19 companies at the time received support. But this time, we have decided to take a grants-based approach so that these companies are not having debt just hanging over them forever and a day.

I have to say, the intervention when it comes to the contractor base has been impressive. When I was there with the Premier on the morning of 20 February, we spoke to a large gathering of contractors of companies that were facing an existential threat to their futures. When the Premier went through what was on offer, there was initially silence. The Premier said, 'I thought you would be happy.' They were, but they were stunned about the degree of support that they were going to receive, so they burst into applause. A whole industrial ecosystem—in Whyalla and further afield, because there are other smaller or medium-sized South Australian companies involved—has now been incredibly supported.

There was also just over \$32 million for infrastructure projects in Whyalla. I will not go into detail about all of them, but probably the most important was a partnership—once again, between the federal Albanese government and the state Malinauskas government—to ensure that we had an ongoing airport in Whyalla.

Qantas were shifting over to larger planes. This was a national process so there was no way we were going to get out of it, but the current airstrip could not sustain the nature of the planes that were going to be introduced. That required nearly \$30-odd million in investment for the new runway and the various upgrades that were needed to accommodate the larger Qantas planes.

That was quite controversial in my community, but the consequences would have been that, if that money had not been made available, there would have been no commercial flights anywhere in the Northern Spencer Gulf, and the implications were very serious for businesses, for our health services. We would have seen the loss of visiting specialists—health services, in all probability—to Whyalla and indeed to Port Augusta, given that practitioners also fly into Whyalla to service Port Augusta. So the implications of the loss of that one remaining commercial service would have been very serious.

It is a pity that we still do not have two services. We did lose Rex, and I will not go into the arguments here, but it is never a good thing when you have got a monopoly. I think the Fels report, when it looked at gouging in the corporate sector, identified that with the airlines where there is no competition, and Qantas in particular, inevitably prices are higher. The prices at times to fly to and from Adelaide from Whyalla can be very high to the point where, as a local member I am not prepared to have the public pick up the cost of me flying. I now drive to and from Adelaide for parliament.

There is an issue there and I hope the current federal government—the previous one failed to address it and it has not been addressed yet by the federal government, but one way that the cost of a flight can be reduced is if the federal government agree to smear the security costs that they impose in small airports across the whole national aviation system.

We have been talking about cents, but what we are talking about when the burden is placed on a community like Whyalla, and other smaller communities, it is around about \$40 to just cover the cost of security and there is a fundamental inequity there. I do acknowledge that the federal government generously came to the party to sustain a commercial airline flying into Whyalla, so that is a positive, but we need to address the cost of security.

There are a number of other initiatives. The job matching and skills hub have a \$6 million hub for Whyalla that also services the region and there is the deferral of state taxes and the government business charges for companies in Whyalla that have faced some major challenges.

Clearly, there is a long way to go, but I have always argued that the underlying fundamentals in Whyalla are good on-the-line fundamentals. As I said, there are the billions of tons of magnetite on our doorstep in the Middleback Range, a port, and a port with the potential for expansion. And, of course, we had the announcement of the initiative today to legislate to ensure that GFG does not control the port. It is one of those things which could not be addressed in the legislation that we originally put through the parliament but which will now be addressed.

The situation was that one GFG company leased the port out to another GFG company and in so doing did not consult with the state government as required under the indenture. So we will take control of the port. I have always been a long-term advocate, going back over 20 years now, that the Whyalla Port is an underutilised strategic asset that, with the right investment, could do far more than what it does at the moment with potential customers in the north of the state, both as an export facility and an import facility. Indeed, there are already third-party users utilising the port but that could grow. It is good to see that the port is now going to be shifted into the hands of administration.

There are a number of other initiatives. Some of the important ones are in the health sector. The investments in the Whyalla Hospital and the Port Augusta Hospital are positives. I was a bit of a consistent writer to the previous government about the delays when it came to the response from ambulances to people often in dire need—no fault of that great workforce but it was the fault of being under-resourced. So a new ambulance station in Port Augusta, with additional crews, and that is now going to be replicated in Whyalla as well. I think the additional crews are about to start and we have it now, so it will be a new build in Whyalla to accommodate those additional crews.

We have seen smaller communities lose birthing services. We lost a birthing service in Whyalla due to internal factors and at the time I called on the support of the minister for an independent review to look at what happened. I acknowledge the work that has been done by a number of people in rebuilding that birthing service, and indeed we have some great midwives now. We had fantastic midwives before and we have some great midwives now, a couple of whom have come from the United Kingdom. They love Whyalla; they want to stay here.

One has bought a house but, because she does not have permanent residency, because they wanted to get her here as quickly as possible, the Foreign Investment Review Board has slugged her \$40,000 for buying the house. They are treating it as a foreign investment, which it is not, it is her home. So we have written to the federal government about addressing that and it is my view that we need to address a range of issues when it comes to visas for skilled workers in Australia. Systems in place like Canada's seem to be far more efficient. I know that the current government, once it was elected over three years ago, started work on bringing the system up to scratch but it still has some way to go.

One of the other great announcements was regarding the historic wharf at Port Augusta, which has been fenced off now for years—an incredibly important attribute for that community with a fascinating history. The old photos of Port Augusta, looking down what was the main street and all the sailing boats, the clippers and the other boats that would service the agricultural industry and other industries are fascinating to look at. Now money has been allocated towards the wharf, once again in a partnership between the federal and state government, to get that wharf back in use close to the central business district so that that use can be maximised and turned into what could be a very attractive area indeed.

There is other funding. There is the ongoing funding for the Arid Lands Botanic Garden. That is \$750,000 a year over a four-year period, so that is a real plus. There is a range of other projects that I would like to mention but I do not have the time.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (16:58):** I rise to speak to the Supply Bill for 2025. It is certainly an important time in the parliamentary calendar to address what is the accountability for the government of the day and the parliament as we ensure that the machinery of government keeps working to deliver what we would say are essential services, and we do that until we bridge the gap until the next financial year's state budget is finalised. To support supply is to support South Australians who have to maintain their confidence in government services and certainly those services that they have funded as taxpayers. So it should be with great interest that not only do taxpayers pay attention to the conversations we are having here; we also have a duty to share with them our conversations on their behalf.

I have reflected on the matters relating to my electorate of Frome—next year it will be called Ngadjuri, but to bridge that divide the electorate of Frome, as it is now—and it is a pretty sombre picture. I know I am a glass-half-full kind of girl, and there are always positives to find: this is an opportunity to speak to government about their management of the financial year budget that we are

operating in still and the needs of my communities. They are vast, they are disparate and they are different.

What I find as I reflect on the advocacy services and support that I provide my communities is that there is an underlying theme of a lack of safety or a question mark over standards and risk and how a lack of investment by government, particularly in its assets if not in its community, can lead to increased risk and a lack of safety.

There is no better example than to kick off with a reflection of some primary schools that I have strong connections to. I am deeply concerned when I visit schools. I see them in the country, which formed the better part of 15 years of a previous career for me: country schools that are in a state of disrepair, that are dilapidated and that are ignored or put in the too-hard basket by the department.

I will preface that by saying that our public servants who work in our agencies, particularly in the education department, are there because they are passionate about outcomes for students and outcomes for teachers. I have no question that the department is working towards investing in schools every day of the week. But we know the adage 'Squeaky wheels get the oil,' and I think the further we are from the city the more difficult it is to even find the trades and the local service centres that can support our schools; it is so centralised.

I have spoken previously about Two Wells Primary School, which concerned me greatly from a safety point of view, where students were definitely at risk of getting caught up in a game, chasing a ball out beyond an imaginary fence line and finding themselves in a rail corridor with no provision for a barrier that would keep them safe.

I am really proud that the parents and the caregivers of the Two Wells Primary School through 20 years of raising this matter have finally unlocked a great level of advocacy from members of parliament and a fence that is promised, which pleases me—and to speak on behalf of the Two Wells community, I note the pleasure and the delight they have taken in seeing the government commit \$10 million to investing in a country school. We see it invested in city schools, and it is welcome. The former Minister for Education, John Gardner, oversaw record spending in our state assets—in our state schools—and it is important that that continues.

The Freeling Primary School had also raised concerns with me through the parents and the governing council as well as the principal. I met with them on site a number of times to observe something I had never seen in my previous teaching career, and that is the largest number of asbestos stickers I have ever seen on a site anywhere. That is not to say that there is not something that we can do about that.

Freeling Primary School has 10 transportables on site, 10 classrooms, and 70 per cent of them are littered with asbestos stickers. There has been a productive conversation I have been able to have with the current Minister for Education to demonstrate, firstly through his own staff and then a visit by the minister in person, that this is a school, again in the country, that needs significant investment.

We understand when there needs to be a staged approach but at the heart of these appeals to government—and it does not just take my advocacy—it is really disappointing that the tipping point for this government is when the local and mainstream media get involved, but the outcome is worth it. Investment from this government into government assets actually should not be commended; it is what they are meant to be doing. However, it is satisfying when we can achieve these outcomes and when we can unlock that from opposition by rocking up, by being advocates, by being available for the community, by identifying need—and who could possibly turn their back on safety issues in primary schools?

The third example just defies logic. I take this opportunity to implore the member for Wright, the Minister for Education, to fast track the department's attention on Manoora Primary School. They are a community without mains water. It is a rural remote township, a happy, thriving, proud, hardworking, football playing, MinMan supporting community, but the school and the students who attend this primary school do not have access to mains water.

At the moment, in drought conditions, things are exacerbated. As I have said before, bores are salty, dams are empty and there is great pressure on water carting at the moment. For this primary school, which has done everything it can to maintain its bore and have generators available and rainwater tanks on site—they have a fantastic veggie garden—when the bore is offline, when the power is out and the bore pump does not work, then we are talking about students in a state public school who cannot with dignity use the bathrooms and flush the toilets properly or have access to appropriate drinking water. Here are examples of how the government spends its money. I argue that in my community more can be done when it comes to managing a government asset.

Following on from my Freeling Primary School example, there are other things happening in Freeling around government assets that I think the government has turned its back on. The Freeling Country Fire Service, the CFS station, again is another legacy issue for this government where, through rotating ministers and a couple of letters here and there, we find that we are still waiting for any real sign that the Freeling community are going to be respected, the volunteers of the CFS are going to be respected enough to see the construction, delivery and handover of a four-bay station.

They continue to volunteer and train in a hay shed that has three sides to it and a lot of dust. Sadly, there is not much mud because there is no water. When we ask our volunteers to protect their communities, then I think they are entitled to provide that service with a degree of dignity. I again implore the latest Minister for Emergency Services to look closely at this site and progress that build. Volunteers like Captain Ricky Noakes, Neville Kernick, Gavin Schuster and advocates like Phillip Earle are really out of breath from begging.

This is a community that is one of many that will be sombrely marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pinery bushfire that raged through the Adelaide Plains, Balaklava, Mallala, all the way up to the edges of the Barossa, and I know that as a state we will commemorate that time with them through this year. This is again a community that has demonstrated great need for these services.

Regional health also falls under the banner of safety standards escalating risk, and the non-operational helipads is a factor that has a lot of my colleagues scratching their heads. It is not just in this chamber where the government might think it is white noise and they do not need to listen to us: we stand representing 30,000 people at a time and across country SA there are a number of helipads that the government wants to politicise as being the hero for the next thing that needs to be upgraded.

CASA was very clear that helicopters would need to be upgraded and that, through load-bearing issues, helipads would then need to conform. We have seen that work, and I have asked the minister questions in this chamber to seek an update for my community at least about what appears to be a completed construction site but the helipad is still non-operational, and the safety risk as follows: on the weekend at Balaklava, a football match was interrupted because the chopper had to land in the middle of the oval. We are so lucky in our state to be looked after by our MedSTAR pilots, our paramedics, to have better facilities than most, but just a few minutes down the road at the hospital is a helipad that has been newly completed but is non-operational.

Thirty minutes towards the Clare Valley and it is the same story: the helipad at Clare Hospital remains completed and is non-operational. The helicopters are still landing out at the aerodrome, and we see that in Victor Harbor and we see it in Murray Bridge. The question I want to put to the government is: what is the hold-up? What is the industrial issue or the compliance flaw? Are the reports right that fencing that has been constructed around the helipad is too high? The helicopter pilots are concerned about risk to them and their patient, and so money that has been spent on fencing these helipads, perhaps to keep citizens safe, has really been a wasted investment and a false economy.

Communities are beside themselves at the idea of their loved one in the back of an ambulance being shuttled around between hospital, ambulance and chopper. In fact, the ambulance—if it had left Balaklava on the weekend—would have got to the Lyell McEwin faster than what was required to stabilise that patient and get them in a chopper. It does not make sense, and the government really needs to account for the non-operation of these helipads.

Another growing concern that I think speaks to safety for the community is mental health, particularly in the regions. I want to recognise, finally, the financial commitment that the government

made to Lifeline Connect centres in Clare and Port Pirie of \$250,000 that is to help their bottom line for the next 18 months. These are services that are life-saving, but they are living off crumbs. They are ably led by Rob Martin as the CEO, but funded by op shops around the state.

What makes me really sad is that our trained volunteers and our social workers who support these centres, which are no fee, no referral, walk-in support offered in business hours, are also having to find time to fundraise, to run raffles, to go to local country fairs, to set up stalls and to rattle the can to try to underpin their work. There is an opportunity ahead of us in the budget for us to see more money being invested in mental health. It is not just a service like Lifeline but it is also the anxiety that is bubbling away in regional communities where we continue to feel the impact of the drought, and that is not going away anytime soon.

We know it has not rained and we know that nothing can be done about that, but it is how governments and local members of parliament respond to those circumstances. I see an opportunity for more money to be invested in services closer to home and closer to where people live. That would go a long way to contributing to reducing the anxiety, the tension and the despair that some families are experiencing. There are real examples, like Safe Haven at Salisbury, or Lifeline in Clare and Pirie, or the fabulous work of the KM Foundation, as well as our Suicide Prevention Network, particularly the Mid North SPN in Jamestown. I thank them for the work that they do.

When it comes to the drought, the most recent relief package of \$55 million showed a breakdown that \$2½ million would be allocated to an immediate and comprehensive strategy for mental health services. What I am hearing from industry is that that is still being written. We have not seen the details, we do not know what it looks like and we do not know how people can access it. If we can understand how to support farmers with their day-to-day frustrations and worries, then I do believe we will also be able to alleviate some of the mental health pressures. One of my farmers recently corresponded with me in regard to the drought package, saying:

I have been waiting almost 13 weeks to hear back about the On-farm drought infrastructure rebate scheme, my dams are dry, and I am now relying on a well and I don't know how long that will last...If we are successful with the grant, we still may face a lengthy wait for the bore driller...We have no access to mains water at Manoora.

I thank Rob Willmott for being prepared to share into this chamber real-life examples of how the government might release or make funding available, but if it is not flowing back to our communities then for all intents and purposes it is Monopoly money.

Small business is struggling. They continue to feel the pain from persisting drought, and they are often the forgotten people. We are not seeing that discretionary spend. Main streets are hurting. I worry when I see a business make a decision to fold, but it is not even that. It is the business that continues to rack up debt hoping for better times to come. Clare has a lovely lady called Erin Pearce of Urban Fringe, and of course fabulous Buff Burn from Logo Co., both of whom have recently reported in the media slower spending at their Clare business.

There are a lot of issues that I think speak to the government absenting itself from its responsibilities by investing in the regions, and it is of deep concern. I think there is an opportunity for the budget coming forward to send a better message. I support the bill.

**Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (17:18):** Representing a community like Dunstan is both an immense privilege and a responsibility I take very seriously. The best part of this job is getting out and listening to people on the doorstep, at the shops, at school pickups, at local businesses and community events. It is where the real priorities come from and it is what should guide everything we do.

My community tells me they are very appreciative of how accessible I am, because my community likes to let me know what is on their mind, and I respect and, of course, encourage and welcome that. We are a community that is proud of its heritage, with strong values and a deep investment in the wellbeing of our people.

When I think about the role of government and what our work in this place is really about, I think about the people I meet every week in my electorate. I think about the families I see taking their kids to school, the local business owners who have been in the area for decades, the new businesses

that regularly choose to open their business in our electorate, the people enjoying retirement and the young people thinking about their future and how they will get a start in life.

That is why the Supply Bill is so important, because it ensures that the essential services we all depend on—health, education, jobs, housing and more—continue. It keeps the lights on and the doors open in the services that make our state function. Australia has the best health system in the world, and while we have our challenges, as we adapt to an ageing population and other factors that have an impact on healthcare delivery, I am particularly proud of the massive investment the Malinauskas government is making in health.

Recognising this challenge, this government has invested well over \$7.1 billion, including a planned more than 600 extra hospital beds and, at the same time, a substantial investment in addressing demand pressures and, importantly, an extra 1,400 health workers have joined the system, including nearly 700 nurses and 330 doctors.

One of the most significant investments in our local health system has been the brand-new Norwood Ambulance Station located on the corner of Portrush Road and Magill Road. This investment is not just in a building, it is a commitment to safety, responsiveness and care. I have spoken to locals who now feel that extra peace of mind knowing that we have an ambulance station in the east.

I also want to recognise the paramedics and ambulance officers who work in incredibly high-pressure situations with compassion and professionalism. They do not get to choose when or where they are needed, but with the resources we are now putting in place, including an extra 278 paramedics, we are backing them the way they back us.

Equally transformative has been the introduction of the Norwood 24/7 pharmacy. I have heard from parents who needed medication for their child in the middle of the night and were so relieved when they could get it when they needed it. I have been there with young children, and I know that the alternative was often heading into the Women's and Children's. I have heard from carers, shift workers and elderly residents who now have much better access to the medications and advice they need. I have used it myself. There is no doubt it has made a big difference for our community. That is what good government should be: responding to people's needs with practical solutions.

One of the things I find most rewarding as the member for Dunstan is spending time in our local schools. Whether it is presentations, plays, book week or talking about leadership to student leaders, every time I visit our local schools I walk away smiling having seen so much enthusiasm and spark emanating from the beautiful, bright students. At Norwood Primary School, principal Mel Evans leads a school that is warm, inclusive and full of energy.

The students are engaged and curious, and the school's connection with the wider community is strong. You can feel it when you walk through the gates that this is a school that genuinely values every child. My own daughter was a student there, and she is now doing so well in high school because of the excellent grounding she received at Norwood Primary School.

Trinity Gardens Primary School is also doing outstanding work. Under the leadership of principal Brenton Conradi, the school is focused on both academic achievement and fantastic student wellbeing. I have attended student performances and, in fact, the Premier and I went on a morning run with these beautiful kids. I have met the parents and spoken to teachers, and what always strikes me is the strong sense of pride and shared purpose. Whether it is sustainability projects, their kitchen garden, the beautiful produce they make from their own kitchen garden, their inclusiveness or leadership opportunities for students, Trinity Gardens is preparing young people to thrive not just in school but in life.

I also want to mention East Adelaide School and Marryatville Primary School. Both are integral parts of our public education system and each is making a unique and meaningful contribution to our community—their local communities. The staff at these schools are doing a remarkable job. They are not just delivering the curriculum, they are creating learning environments where children are safe, challenged and cared for.

Then there is Marryatville High School, a real jewel in our public education system. Every time I visit Marryatville High School I am impressed by the way principal Julie Ferguson and her team approach education. It is thoughtful, it is innovative and it is grounded in respect and student wellbeing. Whether it is in the music centre, the science labs or on the sporting field, Marryatville students are being encouraged to stretch their thinking and believe in themselves, and are achieving at an incredibly high level.

The parents and students in the Dunstan community can be confident they are getting the best education money can buy. These are not just good schools; they are producing confident, socially aware and ambitious young people who will shape South Australia's future, and they do it because they are supported by dedicated staff, active families, and a government and a local member that believes in the power of public education.

When I think of our children's future I also think of the importance of secure, well-paid jobs. Nothing is more important to a family's stability than having secure, meaningful and well-paid work. I have spoken to young people starting their apprenticeships, mid-career workers, and small business owners working hard to build a thriving business, and they all want the same thing: a fair shot, a steady income, and confidence about the future.

Under this government we have a strong economy and a strong jobs market. We are investing in the industries of the future—renewable energy, health, education, advanced manufacturing—while also ensuring our traditional sectors have the support they need to thrive, with the most notable recent example being the massive transformative commitment of \$2.4 billion to secure the future of the Whyalla Steelworks.

In Dunstan, local jobs are being supported by investment in future industries and targeted grants. Small businesses benefit from our incredibly liveable city, with sensible and strategic medium density housing creating more foot traffic. There is a real sense of energy in our local economy right now. The recent Eastside Business Awards just demonstrated that, with businesses rewarded each year for 20 plus years of business and many businesses receiving awards over multiple years, demonstrating their success and support in the community.

In fact, not only is South Australia the best mainland state in which to do business, the City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters has been recognised as the best council area in Australia, out of 58 council areas, in which to do business. However, we do not take that as a job done. We need to ensure we maintain momentum so that workers, whether they are public servants, tradies, educators or carers, can continue to do the vital work they do.

One issue of continuing importance is our community housing. We know that stable, affordable housing is the foundation for everything else. Without it, people cannot focus on their businesses, their jobs, their studies or their health. That is why the Malinauskas government is prioritising housing, not just as a policy issue but as a moral responsibility. We know we need more supply, and that is why the government is pulling out all stops to open up record amounts of land for new homes.

The importance of this cannot be overstated, because what this means in practice is less urban infill in our suburbs. This is important because it means we can be more strategic in looking at how we implement medium density housing, ensuring it is done in a thoughtful and well-planned way, and making sure we protect our heritage and design values in the process. These are issues that have come up time and again for me. People have asked for these policy areas to be addressed, and they have been.

We are building more public and affordable housing. We are helping first-home buyers enter the market, and we are working closely with the community housing sector to help those most in need. It means that when a child falls ill in the middle of the night, the pharmacist is at hand. It means that when children go to school, they are getting an excellent education locally. It means that young people can believe that they can get into the housing market again. The progress we have made in jobs, in health, in education and in housing goes on.

Supply means communities like Dunstan—vibrant, engaged and full of potential—continue to receive the support they deserve. I want to thank the teachers, nurses, paramedics, public

servants, construction workers, carers, small business owners and all those who keep our state running. The Supply Bill is about making sure they can continue to do their work without disruption and with the backing of the parliament.

There is more work to do, but we are on the right track. I am proud of what we have achieved already, I am proud to be part of a government that listens, is thoughtful, that acts and leads with compassion. I will continue to work every day for the people of Dunstan and for the vision of South Australia we all believe in—respect for the past, an eye on the future, a great way of life, and full of opportunity. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

At 17:30 the house adjourned until Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 10:30.