

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**Wednesday, 14 May 2025**

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

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 5 March 2025.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:31): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
Noes.....10
Majority13

AYES

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

Bettison, Z.L.
Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Picton, C.J.
Thompson, E.L.

Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Pearce, R.K.
Savvas, O.M.

NOES

Batty, J.A. (teller)
Ellis, F.J.
Pisoni, D.G.
Whetstone, T.J.

Brock, G.G.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Pratt, P.K.

Cowdrey, M.J.
Pederick, A.S.
Telfer, S.J.

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.
Hurn, A.M.
Mullighan, S.C.

Tarzia, V.A.
Wortley, D.J.
Basham, D.K.B.

Szakacs, J.K.
Teague, J.B.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**SUMMARY OFFENCES (HUMILIATING, DEGRADING OR INVASIVE DEPICTIONS)
AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Mr BROWN (Florey) (10:37): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill proposes to make amendments to the Summary Offences Act 1953 to ensure that our state's laws appropriately reflect and respond to the contemporary landscape—in this case, in relation to humiliating, degrading or invasive material that has been generated through the use of AI technology.

Many people refer to such material as deepfakes. Members are likely familiar with the term, but for the benefit of any who are not, 'deepfake' generally refers to an image, video or audio of a real person that is used to create a realistic depiction of that person doing or saying something that they did not, in fact, do or say. Deepfake can also refer to wholly AI-generated depictions of persons who do not exist in real life.

Deepfake technology can be used in any number of ways. A particularly sinister type of deepfake material is sexually explicit deepfakes: that is to say, pornographic or otherwise prurient material. Such material is generally produced without the consent of the person that it appears to depict. Humiliating, degrading or invasive deepfake material has the potential to cause very significant negative impacts for a victim, including but certainly not limited to significant emotional, psychological, reputational and economic harm.

The Malinauskas government made a commitment to legislate to ban the creation and distribution of sexually explicit deepfakes, including where such content has been wholly generated by AI. The passage of this bill will serve to fulfil that commitment. The Malinauskas government has been pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the other place on this bill. I recognise and commend Ms Bonaros for her dedicated efforts in pursuing these important reforms.

One reason it is important to pursue reform in this area is because AI-generated content broadly, and deepfake material specifically, is being produced with increasing frequency and ease and, unfortunately, the incidence of explicit deepfake material is increasing. Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, cited in July last year that the presence of explicit deepfakes on the internet has increased by over 500 per cent year on year since 2019.

For the benefit of anyone who is not familiar with the current landscape around these technologies, in 2025 it is unequivocally the case that a person does not need to possess high-level technical or computer skills in order to create AI-generated content, including content that is humiliating, degrading or invasive. On the contrary, it has become relatively accessible to do so. Especially if a person seeking to create such content does not mind if the material is fairly rudimentary in nature, all that person really needs to possess is malice.

Very reasonably, there is a substantial level of concern in the community about sexually explicit deepfake material and its potential to cause harm. It is widely understood that such content can readily be used by deplorable people to humiliate, degrade, harass, intimidate, threaten, blackmail or extort victims who become the subject of deepfake material. While it is the case that any person can become a victim, it is worth recognising that in practice the victims tend, overwhelmingly, to be women and girls.

The significant escalation in the prevalence of sexually explicit deepfake material that we have seen over the past few years merits strong action by government to make sure that our legislation is appropriately responsive and fit for purpose. Part 5A of South Australia's Summary Offences Act currently includes a number of filming and image-based offences that make it unlawful to distribute a humiliating, degrading or invasive image of a real person that has been edited or altered by digital technology, including deepfakes. However, it is not clear whether those offences would be sufficient to capture the creation or distribution of a simulated depiction of a real person that has been wholly generated by AI technology.

To address this potential deficiency, the bill proposes to create new offences in relation to the creation and non-consensual distribution of a humiliating, degrading or invasive depiction of a simulated person, including the creation of a humiliating or degrading depiction of a simulated person, creation of an invasive depiction of a simulated person, distribution of a humiliating or degrading depiction of a simulated person, distribution of an invasive depiction of a simulated person, a threat to distribute a humiliating or degrading depiction of a simulated person, and a threat to distribute an invasive depiction of a simulated person.

Notably, for the purposes of the legislation, a simulated person means a person who is depicted in artificially generated content that either purports to be a depiction of a particular real person or so closely resembles a particular real person that a reasonable person who was familiar with that real person would consider it likely to be a depiction of the real person. This means a claim such as that of coincidental similarity to a particular person is intended not to constitute a defence against a charge of each of the offences.

The bill does provide that it is a defence to establish that each real person shown in the depiction gave their own written consent for the content to be created or distributed. This apparent consent will not, however, be effective for the purposes of each of the offences where it has been given by a person who is under the age of 17 or has a cognitive impairment, or where consent has been obtained from the person by duress or by deception.

Having served as the Chair of the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence, I want to mention that these legislative efforts are broadly in line with recommendation 14 of the report of the committee. The cross-partisan support that this bill attracted in the other place is a positive signal that all sides of politics in South Australia are in broad agreement in relation to the need for our laws to adapt to the rapidly changing landscape of AI and digital technologies, to protect our community.

AI and its virtually boundless range of applications, both beneficial and detrimental in their impact, are part of the world in which we now live. That fact will not change, and nor should it. There are enormous benefits to be realised from AI for our community and our state, but we must make sure that we do all we can to manage and mitigate the risks. As the pace of development and the sophistication and complexity of AI technologies continue to gain momentum, we need to take measures to ensure that we are legislating to respond to AI's challenges in addition to acting to make the most of its opportunities. Our laws must maintain fitness for purpose in order to be effective both in deterring and in appropriately penalising the misuse of AI.

This bill intends to make it very clear to the South Australian community that creating, non-consensually distributing or threatening to distribute humiliating, degrading or invasive depictions of a person, whether such content has been altered or wholly generated by AI, is unlawful and will not be tolerated. I am pleased to commend the bill to the house and I urge members to support it.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (10:43): I rise on behalf of the opposition to make a brief contribution to the Summary Offences (Humiliating, Degrading or Invasive Depictions) Amendment Bill 2024 and to indicate that the opposition will be supporting this bill, just as we did in the Legislative Council.

I am really pleased that we could use private members' business today in the way that I think it is intended, which is indeed to make laws. I commend the new Assistant Minister for Artificial Intelligence for having the bravery to debate an issue in private members' business today. If only other ministers opposite were just as enterprising and brave, we could have had today stronger protections for police officers who—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir: my young friend is reflecting on votes of the house, which is inappropriate.

The SPEAKER: Yes, perhaps if the member for Bragg sticks to the response on behalf of the opposition.

Mr BATTY: Quite right. It is just another example of the leader of the house trying to shut down debate in private business' time, and trying to prevent these sorts of issues being raised, but I will return to this issue.

The SPEAKER: I do not think that is what was happening, member for Bragg. I think you were out of line and you were breaching the long-held standards of this House of Assembly. I will bring you back to my initial ruling, which was that you were to continue and without reflecting on others and votes of the house.

Mr BATTY: I would be delighted to because it is a very good use of private members' time to be debating this very important bill today. It is very important that our legislation stays up to date with evolving technology and new technology, particularly in the artificial intelligence space. We know of the world of good and opportunity that artificial intelligence can bring to our state, to our country and to our communities, but we also know and need to be aware of the potential dangers, particularly when it is weaponised by the wrong people to humiliate, to harass or to exploit.

I think it is incumbent on all of us as legislators to make sure that our laws are keeping pace with that rapidly evolving technological situation and modern methods of abuse, which I think, sadly, so often target women and also young people. I am pleased that we can be legislating today to try to add some extra protections to combat what I think is a particularly insidious form of abuse, one that strikes at dignity, one that strikes at autonomy, and one that strikes at personal safety. We will always, in this place, stand up for victims of such disgraceful acts.

The bill seeks to add some further protections in a number of ways. It creates a number of new offences, including the new section 26G, which makes it an offence to create a humiliating, degrading or invasive depiction of a simulated person. That carries fairly significant penalties of \$10,000 or imprisonment for two years. It also creates a new offence in new section 26H, being the distribution of such humiliating, degrading or invasive depictions, again carrying a penalty of imprisonment for one year. Finally, new section 26I creates a new offence of threatening to distribute humiliating, degrading or invasive depictions. That carries a penalty of \$5,000 or imprisonment for one year.

In supporting this bill, I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the other place, who has been working at this for some time, and I am pleased now that the government can finally come to the table as well and seek to legislate this today. It is really an issue where we do need to act swiftly. We do need to have decisive action because we owe it to victims of these really disgraceful acts. We owe it to future victims to make sure we have strong protections in place and that is what I hope this parliament can achieve today through passing these new laws.

Mr BROWN (Florey) (10:48): I just want to take this opportunity to thank the member for Bragg for his contribution and to pass on how much I appreciate his kind words about myself.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Connie Bonaros from the other place. You just missed the member for Bragg giving you high praise. Welcome to the House of Assembly.

Bills

SUMMARY OFFENCES (HUMILIATING, DEGRADING OR INVASIVE DEPICTIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr BATTY: I appreciate this is a bill that has come from the other place, but I am just curious as to whether the assistant minister has conducted any consultation himself on this bill and, if so, what the outcome of that consultation was.

Mr BROWN: I have not personally conducted any consultations. I know the Attorney-General's Department has conducted some consultation, but mostly with people such as South Australia Police and others, to get their input on the bill. I should indicate that this bill comes as a result, largely, of evidence that was given to the select committee from SAPOL themselves about how this conduct is becoming more and more prevalent in South Australia. They also agreed that there were some concerns about whether existing state legislation covered this conduct.

Mr BATTY: The assistant minister mentioned the select committee, which I think he chaired. Was this a recommendation from that select committee, a bill in this form?

Mr BROWN: The bill itself was not necessarily a recommendation. It should again be pointed out that this particular entity that we are dealing with is actually a private member's bill that was introduced by the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the other place and has now come down to us, but it is correct that at least the examination of potential legislation in this space was a recommendation of the select committee.

Mr BATTY: On the select committee recommendations, has the assistant minister implemented any of the other recommendations of that committee since becoming the Assistant Minister for Artificial Intelligence?

Mr BROWN: We might be straying a little bit away from the bill there, Acting Chair, but that is okay. There are a number of recommendations that are currently being considered by government. Off the top of my head, this is the first one that we have implemented, or are seeking to implement, but from memory all of them, other than this one, are currently underway. Most of them call upon the government to consider particular things, such as investments in AI and other things like that. They are all being actively considered by government.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder): Member for Bragg, any more on clause 1?

Mr BATTY: Perhaps just one more, coming out of that answer. When will the other recommendations be implemented? I assume, from your answer, the government now accepts all of the recommendations. When can we expect them to be implemented?

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder): Before the assistant minister answers, that is outside the scope of this bill. He can answer it if he wishes to, or he does not have to.

Mr BROWN: I think it is an important issue that the parliament should be made aware of, regardless of whether the member for Bragg is in fact inside the standing orders or not. There are a number of recommendations of the select committee. In fact, as the former Chair of the committee I thought they were good recommendations. The government is actively considering all of them.

When will they be implemented? When they are ready. Has the government made a decision on them? Not necessarily. My advice to the member for Bragg is to wait and watch, and you will be told when we have made a decision on them. I would anticipate that there would be a result from the government, a formal response from the select committee report, in the not too distant future.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

Mr BATTY: Can the assistant minister explain this clause and why we cannot simply have a commencement clause on assent?

Mr BROWN: Far be it from me to explain to the member for Bragg how commencement clauses work, but the reason why it is not on assent is, firstly, I understand it is generally the policy of parliamentary counsel to encourage you to do proclamation rather than assent, because proclamation gives you flexibility. We would not want a situation where we try to hold up assent to this bill because police and others tell us they are not exactly ready to enforce it just yet. That is one of the reasons why proclamation was chosen rather than assent. There is nothing nefarious there.

There is no ulterior motive. It simply creates extra flexibility for those people who actually have to enforce this law.

Mr BATTY: Have the police or others told you they are not ready to enforce this bill that we are debating today?

Mr BROWN: No, I have not been informed that SAPOL are expressing the view that they are not currently ready. It is simply a matter of weighing up whether you have a bill that takes place on assent or whether it takes place on proclamation and weighing up which one of the two you want to choose. In this particular case, because of the flexibility it introduces, proclamation was chosen.

Mr BATTY: Is the assistant minister able to share any detail on when he expects the legislation to commence if we pass it today?

Mr BROWN: No, I am not able to inform the parliament of that today, but if it is something that is very important to the member for Bragg, I am sure I can seek to get an answer and indicate to him when it will be proclaimed.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Is it the intent of the legislation to prohibit the production or the display of such material and—

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder): Member for Unley, we are debating clause 2 at the moment, which is the commencement date.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: This is a preamble to my question.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder): Alright, I will hear the preamble.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: The reason I ask that question is that, after proclamation, if content has been produced and is being displayed, will it be an offence for that to continue to be displayed? Is it an offence to produce such material after proclamation but not display it?

Mr BROWN: All I can give the house is the commencement provision, which I am happy to read out again if you like: 'This Act comes into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.' This clause, which we are currently debating, means that, as it says, this particular bill will become the law of the land on a day fixed by proclamation at some stage. On that day when the proclamation takes place, this bill, in whatever form it passes the parliament, will be enlivened.

Clause passed.

Clause 3.

Mr BATTY: This is the bulk of the bill, including the new offences and a definitions clause. I am interested in some of the definitions around, critically, 'humiliating depiction' and also 'invasive depiction' on page 3 of the bill. It includes almost the exemption that an invasive depiction is not taken to be an invasive depiction if it 'falls within the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by reasonable adults'. Is the assistant minister able to share any examples of what might fall into that sort of category?

Mr BROWN: Far be it from me to advise the member for Bragg about what morality, decency and propriety means for the general person. I take it he is a relatively upstanding member of the community, so I think he is capable of knowing where that line stands. It should be pointed out that the bill largely carries on from existing legislation that is in this space. I am not today able to furnish the member for Bragg with any case law on this particular subject, but I understand that the law is relatively well settled in this particular regard.

Mr BATTY: So that sort of morality and decency generally accepted—for example, under humiliating depiction we have exclusions for minor or moderate embarrassment—is not novel drafting; it is in existing legislation?

Mr BROWN: That is my understanding, yes.

Mr BATTY: There is a number of new offences created in this bill. Is the assistant minister intending an education campaign around the new offences? If so, when will that campaign commence and what is the budget for that campaign?

Mr BROWN: No budget has been allocated for a specific education campaign at this stage, but I absolutely agree with the member for Bragg that if you are going to pass laws that are supposed to have an educative effect you would probably want to educate people about it. I have already made some inquiries about an education campaign on this particular part of the law, but it is certainly something I will be continuing to progress if and when this bill passes.

Mr BATTY: Thank you for indicating that you will look into a budget for an education campaign. Does the new assistant minister have any new budget or staff attached to his new portfolio?

Mr BROWN: Sir, this is not estimates. I do not—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BROWN: I would like to say to my colleagues, please: I know the member for Bragg is a big supporter of this particular area and he has said many fine words about me before, and I am happy to take that. I am cognisant of his inquiries and keenness to know and understand what I am up to, which is great, fantastic. Unfortunately, this is not the forum for such questions.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Can the member explain what safeguards exist to ensure that subjective interpretations of humiliation and degradation are applied consistently under this legislation?

Mr BROWN: I have great confidence in not only SA Police but also the prosecutorial authorities in our state. I reject any assertion that they do not apply such things consistently. Again, I have confidence that they will do so.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Can the member explain why content under part 5A is excluded, and could this unintentionally allow harmful content to escape regulation?

Mr BROWN: Sorry, which part of the—

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Part 5A of the act itself is excluded under the amendment, the clause we are currently debating. I am referring to the act itself, and the act itself is referred to in this clause. It provides, 'but does not include content that consists of or incorporates an image within the meaning of part 5A'. If you go to the act there is a description of what part 5A is referring to. The question I am asking is: could this exclusion unintentionally allow harmful content to escape regulation? Is that something you have reviewed, and are you able to advise the committee?

Mr BROWN: I can check the act for the member, but I should point out it is probably not necessary for us to debate clauses that are already in existing legislation, whether they should be accepted or not. If the member is asking me about the interplay of the existing bill to part 5A exemptions that exist, I should point out to the committee that the exemptions that currently exist will continue. Again, the intent of the legislation is simply to extend the current humiliating and degrading provisions to wholly generated AI content.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:03): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Motions

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:12): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that the month of May is Domestic Violence Prevention Month, and the urgent need to raise awareness, stand with survivors, and take meaningful action to prevent domestic and family violence in all its forms;
- (b) recognises that domestic violence is not a private matter—it is a pervasive social crisis that affects individuals across every community, regardless of age, culture or social and economic status. Domestic Violence Prevention Month is a time to remember those who have lost their lives, support those who are rebuilding theirs and recommit to creating a future where every person feels safe in their home and relationships;
- (c) reflects on the role that individuals, especially men, must play in challenging the cultural and systemic norms that allow violence to continue. Domestic violence is not just a 'women's issue'—it is a societal issue, and it is every man's responsibility to speak out against it, call out abusive behaviour and contribute to a culture of respect and accountability;
- (d) condemns in the strongest possible terms all forms of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and financial abuse, and recognises that such violence disproportionately affects women and children;
- (e) acknowledges the profound and long-lasting harm that domestic violence causes to individuals, families and communities, and the urgent need for systemic action to prevent it;
- (f) affirms that violence against women and children is never acceptable, never excusable and must be treated as a matter of urgent national and social concern;
- (g) recognises that ending violence against women requires a whole-of-society effort, and calls on all men—as brothers, fathers, partners, friends and bystanders—to actively challenge sexist attitudes, call out abusive behaviour and speak up when they witness or become aware of violence or the threat of violence against women;
- (h) condemns the persistent societal tendency to disbelieve, discredit or subject women's reports of domestic or sexual violence to disproportionate scrutiny compared to reports of other crimes;
- (i) commits to supporting survivors of domestic violence through robust legal protections, accessible support services and public education campaigns aimed at prevention and accountability; and
- (j) calls upon the government, institutions, communities and leaders to foster a culture where women and children can live free from fear, and where silence in the face of violence is no longer tolerated.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, this house acknowledges the urgent need to raise awareness, stand with survivors, and take meaningful action to prevent domestic and family violence in all forms. Domestic Violence Prevention Month serves as a vital reminder that domestic violence is not a private matter: it is a pervasive social crisis that affects individuals across every community, regardless of age, culture or social and economic status.

It is a time to remember those who have lost their lives, support those who are rebuilding theirs and recommit to creating a future where every person feels safe in their home and in relationships. It is also a time to reflect on the role individuals, especially men, must play in challenging the cultural and systemic norms that allow violence to continue.

Domestic violence is not just a women's issue: it is a societal issue, and it is every man's responsibility to speak out against it, call out abusive behaviour and contribute to a culture of respect and accountability. With this in mind, this house:

1. Condemns in the strongest possible terms all forms of domestic violence, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and financial abuse, and recognises that such violence disproportionately affects women and children.
2. Acknowledges the profound and long-lasting harm that domestic violence causes to individuals, families and communities, and the urgent need for systemic action to prevent it.
3. Affirms that violence against women and children is never acceptable, never excusable and must be treated as a matter of urgent national and social concern.
4. Recognises that ending violence against women requires a whole-of-society effort, and calls on all men—as brothers, fathers, partners, friends and bystanders—to actively challenge sexist attitudes, call out abusive behaviour and speak up when they witness or become aware of violence or the threat of violence against women.

5. Condemns the persistent societal tendency to disbelieve, discredit or subject women's reports of domestic or sexual violence to disproportionate scrutiny compared to reports of other crimes.

6. Commits to supporting survivors of domestic violence through robust legal protections, accessible support services and public education campaigns aimed at prevention and accountability.

7. Calls upon the government, institutions, communities and leaders to foster a culture where women and children can live free from fear and where silence in the face of violence is no longer tolerated.

Today I rise in unwavering support for this motion and recognition of Domestic Violence Prevention Month. This is a time of solemn reflection, fierce advocacy and renewed commitment to eradicating one of the gravest social crises facing our nation, domestic and family violence.

Domestic violence is not a private issue. It is not confined to the four walls of a home, nor is it a matter for silence, secrecy or shame. Domestic violence is systemic, a deeply rooted social plague that affects individuals from all walks of life, across all ages, cultures, genders and socio-economic backgrounds. It is a scourge that tears at the fabric of our communities and leaves behind a devastation that spans generations. Today this house acknowledges the urgent need to raise awareness, stand with survivors and take meaningful action to prevent domestic and family violence in all its forms, because inaction is complicity. Silence is not neutral: it is dangerous.

To grasp the magnitude of this issue, let us consider the current data. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics in a 2021-22 personal survey, one in four women, 23 per cent, and one in 14 men, 7 per cent, in Australia have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15. More than one woman a week is killed by a current or former intimate partner. Over the years, the number of women who have been killed in gender-based violence in Australia has been: in 2020, 62; 2021, 44; 2022, 56; 2023, 64; and 2024, 78. I seek leave, sir, to insert a table into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Women killed in gender-based violence in Australia

Year	Number of deaths
2024	78
2023	64
2022	56
2021	44
2020	62

Source: Counting Dead Women, Destroy the Joint.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: More than 2.9 million Australian adults have experienced physical and sexual abuse by a partner in their lifetime. This is not just a series of unfortunate incidents: this is a national emergency. Beyond physical injury, domestic violence leaves deep psychological scars. Victims often endure years of emotional, financial and verbal abuse, forms of violence that are less visible but equally destructive. Emotional abuse, which includes manipulation, threats, degradation and isolation, was reported by 31 per cent of women who had experienced partner violence. Financial abuse, where an abuser controls access to money and resources, affects nearly 16 per cent of women and is one of the leading barriers to escaping a violent relationship.

The impact does not end with the immediate victim. Domestic violence has devastating effects on children who witness it. These children are at increased risk of experiencing mental health problems and behavioural issues and becoming either victims or perpetrators of violence themselves in later life. We cannot ignore the generational trauma domestic violence causes. We cannot be passive witnesses to a cycle that repeats itself over and over because we fail to intervene.

It is our collective responsibility to stand with survivors, to believe them, to support them and to ensure that they are not retraumatised by the very system that is meant to protect them. Tragically, too many survivors face disbelief, victim blaming and indifference. They are asked, 'Why didn't you leave?' or 'What did you do for him to do that?' This reversal of accountability is not just misguided, it is dangerous. It sends a message that abusers can act with immunity and that survivors will face suspicion and shame rather than support.

Survivors need more than sympathy, they need action. They need services that are fully funded, legal systems that respond with urgency and communities that support them, not isolate them. They need safe housing, trauma-informed care, financial assistance and culturally appropriate support. Let us be clear: while domestic violence can affect anyone, the overwhelming majority of victims are women and the overwhelming majority of perpetrators are men. In Australia, 95 per cent of all victims of violence, whether physical or emotional, report that the perpetrator was a male.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-Indigenous women. Women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience partner violence as women without disabilities. Migrants and refugee women often face added vulnerabilities due to cultural and language barriers, visa insecurity and lack of access to support services.

This is not a coincidence, it is the result of an entrenched gender inequality and power imbalance that normalises male control and entitlement over women. We must recognise domestic violence as what it is: a manifestation of a broader culture of misogyny and discrimination. This is why we cannot treat domestic violence prevention as a standalone issue. It must be tackled in tandem with efforts to dismantle sexism, challenge gender stereotypes and promote respectful relationships from an early age.

Men must be part of the solution. Domestic violence is not a private issue or just a women's issue, it is a societal issue, it is a men's issue, and it is every man's responsibility to speak out. Men must be more than passive observers. They must be active participants in ending violence. This means calling out sexist jokes and behaviours, challenging harmful stereotypes, and holding other men accountable. It means being allies, not just in words but in action.

Every man is a woman's brother, son, friend or father. If you truly care about the women you love, then the time to act is now, not when it is convenient, not when it goes viral, but every single day, in your workplace, your homes, your sports clubs and your social circles. Addressing domestic violence requires more than awareness, it demands systemic change. We need to coordinate a more resourced and whole-of-society approach. This house has an opportunity to reaffirm:

- The condemnation of all forms of domestic violence, physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and financial. No form of abuse is ever acceptable.
- Recognition of the long-lasting trauma caused by domestic violence, not just to individuals but to entire communities. We must address not only the immediate harm but the root causes.
- Commitment to ensuring that violence against women and children is treated as a matter of urgent national and social concern. Every act of violence is a failure of our system to protect.
- Engagement of men and boys in prevention efforts. Let us challenge toxic masculinity and foster a culture of empathy, respect and accountability.
- Support for survivors through robust legal protections, accessible support services and trauma-informed care. No-one should have to choose between staying in a violent home or becoming homeless.
- Refusal to tolerate the persistent societal tendency to disbelieve or blame victims. We must treat reports of domestic violence with the same seriousness and urgency as any other report of a violent crime.

- Leadership from government, institutions and communities to create a culture where safety is a right, not a privilege.

Australia has made progress in recent years but it is not enough as words must be matched by action. I welcome the increased investments in crisis accommodation, women's legal services and frontline programs, but I also call for greater attention to prevention: education campaigns, school-based programs and community-led initiatives.

We need trauma-informed training for police and judicial officers. We call for Family Court reforms that prioritise the safety of children and survivors. We call for data collection and research that reflects the lived realities of domestic violence. We must move beyond reactive models and invest in prevention, because by the time we are responding the harm has already been done.

This is Domestic Violence Prevention Month; let us not just raise awareness, let us raise our standards. Let us raise our voices and let us raise a generation that does not tolerate abuse in any form. Every name on the list of women killed this year represents a life cut short, a family shattered and a future stolen. We owe it to them and to their survivors to do more.

Let this house send a clear and unequivocal message that domestic violence is not inevitable, it is preventable, but prevention requires more than words, it requires courage, commitment and collective action. The time for that action is now. I commend this motion to the house.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (11:24): I rise today to support this important motion and acknowledge the critical importance of Domestic Violence Prevention Month this May and to express my unequivocal support for the Malinauskas government's steadfast commitment to addressing one of the most pressing social crises of our time: domestic and family violence.

This month is not only a time for reflection; it is a call to action. We recognise that domestic violence is not a private matter. It does not discriminate by postcode, income, culture or creed. It weaves its destruction through our communities in silence, in secrecy and too often in shame. While its victims suffer behind closed doors, we as leaders must ensure our response is loud, visible and uncompromising.

Domestic Violence Prevention Month is a solemn reminder. We remember the lives lost—women and children whose names should never have become headlines. We stand beside those survivors who are courageously rebuilding their lives. And above all, we recommit ourselves to a future where every person feels safe in their home, in their relationships, in their workplace and in their communities.

We must speak plainly: domestic violence is a societal issue. To change society, we must first change culture. That begins with men. Not in theory, in action: men have a crucial role to play in challenging the cultural and systemic norms that have for too long enabled violence to flourish. It is not enough to say, 'I don't hurt women.' We must actively challenge sexism, call out abusive behaviour and refuse to remain silent when we witness harm.

To be clear, we condemn in the strongest possible terms all forms of domestic violence, be it physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial. We acknowledge that this violence disproportionately affects women and children and that its trauma is long-lasting, reverberating through generations. There is no excuse. There is no justification. There is only the imperative to act.

This government has taken real and meaningful steps, strengthening support services, investing in prevention and pursuing legal reforms to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account. These are not small efforts. They are life-changing and, in many cases, life-saving. But there is always more to be done, because until no woman lives in fear and no child sleeps in danger, our work is not finished.

Let us also acknowledge the ongoing and damaging societal tendency to disbelieve, to discredit or to silence women who come forward. We do not subject other victims of crime to the same scrutiny, and we must interrogate why that is. We must believe survivors, support them and centre their voices in our policy and public discourse. I commend the Malinauskas government for

its commitment to robust legal protections, accessible support services and public education campaigns that target the roots of abuse, not just the consequences.

Ending domestic violence will not be achieved by governments alone. It requires a whole of society effort. It requires courage, in homes, schools, workplaces and on our streets. It requires a culture where violence is not hidden, tolerated or excused, but confronted, exposed and eradicated. Let us in this chamber and beyond be leaders in that cultural shift. Let us foster a South Australia where silence is no longer tolerated, where survivors are met with support and where every person, regardless of gender, can live free from fear. This is our shared responsibility, and it is a responsibility we must all meet. I commend this motion to the house.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:29): I rise to commend the motion. I thank the member for Unley for bringing it to the house, particularly at this time, as the house is sitting in the month of May, being Domestic Violence Prevention Month. I want to draw particular attention on this occasion to the vigil led by Embolden, this year on the grounds of Government House, just last week. On 7 May, the vigil occurred again, and those of us attending from I think all parts of South Australia gathered to recognise, to respect, to mourn and to express a solidarity that domestic violence, family violence, is intolerable.

When we gather to express that we know we are taking our share of responsibility for doing something to end it, to change what, unimaginably, has been described by those who are working day by day in this environment as getting worse, not better. As the member for Unley has emphasised, it is something we have all got to do something about, but especially men.

I am very proud to have a number of portfolio responsibilities in opposition. As shadow minister for child protection and for Aboriginal affairs and as shadow attorney, there are important responsibilities. I was particularly proud to be our party's spokesperson for the prevention of family violence and domestic violence, and I will continue to shine a light on the role especially men need to play in what should not be something that is talked about among only a part of the community.

I am thoughtful, in the course of the debate on this motion, of the life of service that South Australian heroes, perhaps chief amongst them Helen Oxenham, have provided in an original way in bringing to attention that social norms over the better part of the last century have needed to be turned on their head. When Helen was starting to provide a shelter for young women who had nowhere to turn and was being chased up by an angry father or partner with 'Where is she?' and Helen was saying, 'She's safe, and it's not on for you to be somehow exerting your rights. She needs protection and your behaviour is not on' that was something that needed to be stated in the most basic form back then. Helen Oxenham made a life of speaking up for necessary change.

Respect is a very important part, of course, but I stand here to emphasise paragraph (b) therefore in particular—that it is not a private matter—and paragraph (c): that it is a role for individuals, especially men, to play in challenging what might be cultural and systemic norms that allow violence to continue. To the extent that there are norms out there, they need to be changed. It is unacceptable.

There is a royal commission that has now long been underway, led by Natasha Stott Despoja AO. I cannot think of a better person to be leading that work, and I have seen the important work that is being undertaken as Natasha Stott Despoja continues with it, including all around the state. We bumped into each other in Port Augusta a little while ago, where she was travelling with the commission to take that work all the way around the state. I am glad Natasha is leading the royal commission. As I understand it, as presently advised, the royal commission is to report in July this year. We look forward to that report from the royal commission.

Just as every paragraph of this motion urges action and change, the royal commission—which I am sure will advance our awareness of what we can do to change and I am sure will make recommendations for improvement and change—cannot be something that is just allowed to sit. Indeed, the government will have a responsibility and this parliament will have a responsibility to grapple with the results of that important work.

Emphasising those matters in particular, I commend the motion. I thank the member for Unley for bringing the motion and those members in this place who are contributing to the debate

and are continuing the work towards necessary improvement. Let's all do more and keep Domestic Violence Prevention Month very much to the fore in the coming days and weeks.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (11:35): I am very pleased to have the opportunity to rise and make a few comments in support of the motion. I want to acknowledge the words of the deputy leader there and also the words of the member for Gibson. I thought they were very well put. This is obviously an incredibly serious topic, but I think it is really powerful to see people from both sides of the chamber getting up and joining together to make a commitment to it.

I want to make particular mention of the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and the work that she has done, but also a lot of other members on both sides of the chamber. Again, I want to point out the member for Gibson, who always speaks up on these issues, as do a lot of her colleagues.

I feel that it is important for me to put a few things on the record today as the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Obviously, in the privileged position that I have as the Minister for Education, representing what is a really feminised workforce, I have been proud to continue the work of education ministers who have come before me in making sure that we do a lot to support our own staff—who, as I said, are vastly and overwhelmingly women—around making sure there is support available to them as teachers or SSOs or principals or people who work at 31 Flinders Street.

Some of the things that we have done—I do not seek to take credit for these; these are things that may well have been done before me but I seek to continue the support for them—include 15 days of paid domestic and family violence leave per year. Specialist domestic and family violence counselling is made available by the Department for Education, which is a free and confidential service that is provided and includes referrals to other professionals if that is needed outside that first session of counselling. The department also has a domestic and family violence workplace procedure that is in place to support its employees.

I like to think that, given the role that not just public education but education plays in making sure that we teach young South Australians about respectful relationships, we need to model that in terms of the support we provide to our own staff. That is really important. I think we do need to lead the way, and I think we are doing that.

I also want to make acknowledgement of the work of TAFE in this area as well. We often have debates around TAFE: the place of TAFE and how TAFE is funded. I am always quick to remind people in this chamber and elsewhere that, yes, TAFE is funded differently. It is funded at a higher rate and, because of that, there is work that I expect TAFE to do as our public training provider that I would not expect other training providers to do. I think TAFE in South Australia does that very well in terms of not just fee-free options but the extra wraparound support that it provides for people who are often disproportionately struggling with issues around maybe domestic and family violence or maybe poverty.

It can also be things like—and this is very well modelled at the Elizabeth campus and has been for many years—providing creche services for often single and young mums who are trying to get in and get access to training and do not have childcare options so they can go and do that. TAFE has a women's education program and it is the only TAFE program of its type in Australia. Yes, other TAFEs offer something like that, but the South Australian program is worthy of really special mention, I think, and I am very proud of the work that TAFE does in that respect as well.

I want to finish by saying that although I give my remarks today as a member of parliament who is proud to represent the north-eastern suburbs, and also as the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, I am also the father of three young daughters: two nine year olds and an 11 year old. When I listen to people like the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence talk about these issues, I think about what it would be like for my wife and me if one of our daughters fell into an abusive relationship. It would break our hearts to think that they could be in a situation like that where they were being abused in some way and where they felt they could not reach out for support or talk to people about it.

I think it is great that we are having motions like this and talking about it and making sure that it is something that we all call out in the privileged positions that we hold. I want to commend the motion and also acknowledge all the work that is done by people in this chamber every single day to bring attention to these issues.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) (11:41): Thank you very much to the member for Unley for bringing this really important motion to this place, and to the member for Gibson, the Minister for Education and the member for Heysen who have spoken to it.

This year provides us with unprecedented opportunity to advance generational change as we go about tackling the horrific prevalence of domestic, family and sexual violence. This Domestic Violence Prevention Month gives us further shared opportunity to raise community awareness about domestic violence, its drivers, how we can help prevent it and the support available to those affected, and to call everyone to action.

As part of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, across the breadth of the nation candlelit vigils were held on 7 May—Domestic Violence Remembrance Day—including at Government House attended by many members of parliament, government officials, sector representatives, frontline workers and community members to honour those who have tragically lost their lives to violence. Last week's beautiful and deeply moving vigil enabled us to be together; to hold the women who we honour in our hearts; to stand with community members like Lizzie, who spoke so bravely and so powerfully about the murder of her beautiful sister; and to acknowledge our grief and our anger at the loss of too many South Australian women to domestic violence and the seemingly endless stories of harm and debilitating lifelong health and wellbeing impacts on those who experience it.

Together today in this house, we continue to honour all women who have been brutally killed by their partners or former partners: precious women, women who were loved, women who worked, contributed and lived amongst us. We hold their families and all their grieving loved ones in our collective arms and resolve to continue our efforts to stay the course until there is not one more.

We also recognise and closely hold courageous survivors of violence, including those currently experiencing it: the many women who are right now subject to terrible control and abuse, having their safety, autonomy and sense of self-worth stripped away; the many women for whom it is just too hard to come to a vigil or indeed any other event; and those for whom just continuing is difficult.

On Saturday, hundreds gathered and stood together here on the steps of parliament as part of the national What Were You Wearing? rallies to continue to show their support for the prevention and eradication of violence against women—again, to raise awareness and to encourage everyone to speak up, act and play their role and tirelessly demand change on violence and the misogyny that leads to it.

As I said to the rally on Saturday, our journey has been long and hard and sometimes deeply frustrating, but we must continue to strive for a future where every woman feels and absolutely is safe wherever she walks, wherever she works, whatever time of the day or night she is out, whatever she is wearing, when she is online and absolutely when she is at home. Where she is equally included to participate in community life, in our economy and decision-making bodies is so important because when we see women as powerful, strong and equal, and they are treated as such, it helps us to shift how women and the roles they can play are seen and helps us stamp out the disrespect that leads to violence. We have to be absolutely deliberate about encouraging women into all positions, to encouraging equality in our systems.

For too long, violence has been something that just happened out of sight, or something that just happens behind closed doors. We have rightly begun to change this to no longer have it seen as a private matter, and through continuing to speak up, continued rallies, discussions and continued actions we are together ensuring that times continue to change. This month encourages us to intensify our actions and it requires us to encourage those who are not yet acting, who are unclear on their role or have not yet accepted it, to get active and involved.

Preventing violence is everybody's responsibility. We all have a role to play and people and programs to help you play it. There are ways to have conversations that pull mates up when they disrespect women, resources you can access to give details about support, programs you can access that are being run in local sporting clubs, and ways that you can talk and act and send a message to community that violence and disrespect towards women is utterly unacceptable.

In your own minds you can question your thinking. You can help to shift stigma and shame to the perpetrators to whom that stigma and shame absolutely belongs. You can create environments and ways of being that empower people to speak up and act. Everybody, everyone has a multitude of ways in which they can get involved and those of us who have been on this journey for a long time are very happy to help you work out how. We need this movement for change to be bigger, louder and stronger than ever. We need to keep respecting those remarkable women who for many years have held this movement together, working at the frontline in services across our state, honour what they do and how they do it and absolutely back them in.

I urge everyone in this place to deeply listen to these experts and find out more from them about how you can help. And help everyone we must, because every time we take interest, every time we act with compassion, every time we ask a question, challenge behaviour, ensure our kids are not tuning in online to abhorrent, misogynist views perpetuated through the likes of Andrew Tate, and every time we offer support, we are refusing to accept the horrific, pervasive prevalence of domestic, family and sexual violence and we are making things better. And through each action we take we are saying that enough is enough and showing leadership about what will not be tolerated in our community.

The state government takes its role very seriously. We are determined to play our part, to act, and we are. We have and we will continue to progress significant domestic, family and sexual violence reform across prevention, intervention, response and recovery and healing, with significant legislative, investment, program and policy change already delivered. This includes introducing legislation to criminalise coercive control, passing legislation mandating electronic monitoring in bail conditions, enshrining 15 days paid domestic, family and sexual violence leave in the South Australian Fair Work Act, including the experience of domestic violence as a ground of discrimination in the Equal Opportunity Act, while also establishing crucial support systems through new prevention and recovery hubs, support for perpetrator intervention programs and court assistance services and through addressing housing insecurity.

We have taken huge steps forward, but we know that more needs to be done, that we must stay the course until there is not one more. Our Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence is well underway. Led by Commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja, the commission is assessing all parts of our system and how our efforts across government, sector and community are coordinated. It is contemplating the terrible impact of DV on children, how we can best tackle those insidious emerging forms of online abuse, and the perpetuation of misogyny. It has the powers to recommend policy and legislative, administrative and structural reform.

Very importantly, this royal commission is giving courageous survivors and the loved ones of those who did not survive a chance to be heard. This commission is for them and their voices are at the heart of its work, and they will be amplified and acted upon. This royal commission is sending a very clear message about what we as a community stand for, and that is that we do not accept gender inequality, disrespect and violence toward women, we do not accept outdated and offensive gender stereotypes, and we know that every single death or act of harm as a result of gendered violence is preventable.

We know that not one person, one minister, one government can do this alone. We must all work together to truly see a generational shift to prevent and end this violence. This month and with this motion we are reminded to encourage everybody to think deeply about their sphere of influence and all they can do to contribute to change. I encourage everyone here to keep thinking about that and who else they can ask to be part of this movement and to keep going in this movement until there is, indeed, not one more.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:51): I rise in support of this motion and also commend the member for Unley for bringing this to the house. Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is

a timely reminder of the urgent need to stand with survivors, remember those who have lost their lives and work collectively to prevent violence in all its forms. It is also an opportunity to shine a light on the vital work being done in the communities to support those affected and drive meaningful change.

In my electorate of Mount Gambier, there are two instrumental organisations doing just this—the Limestone Coast Family Violence Action Group and another called The Haven. Last week, members of our community gathered under the verandah of the Mount Gambier Library for a candlelit vigil, one of many held across the country to mark National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day, organised by the Limestone Coast Family Violence Action Group in partnership with our City of Mount Gambier council and Uniting Communities.

The vigil honoured the 14 women who have already lost their lives this year in Australia due to domestic and family violence. Community members stood side by side to light candles, share in a minute of silence and reflect on the toll this violence takes on individuals, families and also communities. This vigil has turned into an important annual event and is part of a broader effort by the Family Violence Action Group to raise awareness, educate the public and advocate for prevention. This group is made up of passionate local service providers, community members and government stakeholders. Together, they work to change attitudes, provide support and build a regional culture where violence is not tolerated.

Complementing this advocacy work is The Haven, a domestic violence support service located inside the Mount Gambier Library. The Haven was launched in 2021 as part of South Australia's network of regional safety hubs. It provides a welcoming, safe and confidential space for women and people of marginalised genders to access support and information.

Staffed by trained volunteers and delivered through partnership between the Office for Women, Centacare, and the City of Mount Gambier, The Haven offers practical on-ground assistance, whether it is connecting someone to legal services, counselling, housing support, or simply being there to listen. It is a model of accessible community-embedded care and an example of how local solutions can have a real impact.

Domestic violence is a social crisis that affects every community—urban, rural and regional. It is a whole of society issue and requires all of us to take responsibility for changing the norms and attitudes that allow this to persist. As fathers, brothers, partners and colleagues, we have a responsibility to speak up, to call out harmful behaviour, to listen and to believe, and to actively foster a culture of respect and accountability.

This motion rightly recognises that ending violence requires systematic action; that survivors deserve robust legal protections, access to support services and a society that believes them; and that violence is never acceptable, never excusable and must never be ignored. I thank the member for Unley for this motion and reaffirm my commitment to working alongside government, community leaders and organisations like the Limestone Coast Family Violence Action Group and The Haven to ensure that every person in our region can live free from fear and with the dignity, safety and respect they deserve. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:55): I rise to make a very brief contribution to this motion brought by the member for Unley. I do want to acknowledge the member for Unley. In my time with him in this place, he has been a man who has always raised these issues and always been on the side of women in these particular issues. I want to commend him for that. I think that is worth acknowledging once again.

I missed some of the debate, but a lot of it has been quite stirring. I want to reflect on the member for Gibson. Other people have made the observation as well, but the member for Gibson made it very strongly, and I have heard her make it very strongly before, that it is important for men to speak up about these issues, whether we are talking to our friends, calling out sexist or misogynist behaviour, or whether, like me, you are a father of boys.

I have three sons, two of whom are under 10, and my wife and I think it is very important to have continual conversations about gender stereotypes, about violence against women, about

consent. Those conversations can be difficult and complicated at times, but they are really important to have with our sons, so that we raise them to be excellent young men, like my oldest son is.

When I reflect on my brief time as a police officer, some 20-odd years ago—I have made this observation in the house before—the police, who are really at the frontline when domestic violence gets critical, often, without impugning anybody at all and certainly not the organisation, did not take domestic violence as seriously as they do now. I will not go into any anecdotes, but there was certainly a lack of recognition amongst some police officers of the importance of acting decisively on domestic violence, and I am pleased to say that that has changed very much over the last 20 years.

A lot of that was driven, it has to be said, by the late Detective Chief Superintendent Jo Shanahan, whom we remembered here several years ago, but also others in the organisation, including the commissioner and the deputy commissioner, who drove this over the last 10 or 20 years or so. We have seen, as a result, changes in legislation, and some of those the minister has gone through, whether it is interim intervention orders or things like MAPS, the Multi-Agency Protection Service, which is a great initiative. I have not seen the latest stats, but I understand it is working very well.

A point of pride for me, in my time as a less experienced backbencher in the Weatherill government, was raising the idea of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, which—perhaps due to my inexperience—did not get pushed along as much as it should have and was lost in the machinery of the Attorney-General's office for a while.

I want to acknowledge the work of the former Attorney-General, Vickie Chapman, in bringing the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme into being in this state. It is an excellent initiative, allowing women not only the opportunity to actively seek information about a potential partner but also to be told proactively by police when they may potentially be in danger. I am pleased that times have changed. It is up to all of us, particularly men, to ensure that those changes continue, and hopefully we can create a society where women truly are equal and truly are safe.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:59): I am truly thankful to those members who contributed to the debate: the member for Heyesen, the member for Gibson, the Minister for Education, the Minister for Child Protection, the member for Mount Gambier, and the member for Elizabeth. It is not very often in this place that you see genuine concern and genuine resolve on a topic, and this topic unites us all.

I said in my speech that men must call it out when they see it, and so I will take the opportunity to call out what I was outraged about when I read the story about the member for MacKillop, charged on 14 April with three counts of assaulting his wife. In his statement to the media, he said, 'This is a private matter.' It is not a private matter. I was so pleased that so many members reiterated that in this place today: it is not a private matter. I challenge the member for MacKillop to come in here and rephrase and retract that statement and send a message to men that domestic violence is not a private matter, because it is not.

We have heard that from every speaker in this place this morning. It is very much a community matter, it is a public matter, it is a matter of interest. If somebody was arrested for a violent crime in any other situation and that person made a media statement saying that it was a private matter, the media would challenge them. There was no media challenge to the statement from the member for MacKillop that it was a private matter. I was flabbergasted that there was no challenge to that statement, so I am challenging that statement now, and I am challenging other men that when they see it, they call it out. I thank the parliament for its support, and I support the motion.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to take this opportunity to welcome school leaders from across the Narungga electorate. Welcome to Adelaide and welcome to Parliament House. I hope you enjoy your time here. You come from a beautiful part of the world. You are, of course, the guests of the member for Narungga, who is very proud to have you in here today.

*Motions***DEMENTIA AWARENESS**

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:01): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that 21 September 2025 is World Alzheimer's Day, coinciding with Dementia Action Week, a time to raise awareness and challenge stigma surrounding dementia;
- (b) recognises the extraordinary work of Dementia Australia in supporting individuals living with dementia, funding vital research and advocating for greater awareness within our communities;
- (c) commends the Malinauskas Labor government's unwavering commitment to strengthening our state's health system, including delivering more beds at the Repat and expanding services through the Geriatric Evaluation and Management Unit to enhance care for older South Australians;
- (d) honours the families and carers who selflessly support their loved ones living with dementia and remembers those who have passed; and
- (e) encourages the continued development of dementia-friendly initiatives across South Australia, including enhanced community support, carer assistance programs and dementia-inclusive public spaces.

This morning, alongside Minister Picton and the member for Frome, I was proud to co-host an event for the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia. We heard from people whose lives have been profoundly shaped by dementia, not just those diagnosed but those who have loved and cared for them. We are very fortunate to have some of them in the gallery with us today, representatives from Dementia Australia and also advocates.

Dementia Australia continue to lead the nation in awareness, advocacy, education and support services. Their helpline—which was referred to today as 'a big gasp of oxygen after a deep dive'—the educational programs, the community toolkits and the resources reach thousands of Australians each year and often serve as the first point of light for families navigating an uncertain path after diagnosis.

They fund vital research into diagnosis, treatment and, importantly, prevention and care, looking not only for a cure but for ways to improve quality of life for people living with dementia now. Initiatives like BrainTrack, Talk with Ted and the D-Esc VR tool for aged-care workers, which many of our members have been able to have a play with today, demonstrate their commitment to using cutting-edge technology to foster an understanding and better care.

Importantly, Dementia Australia has driven the Dementia-Friendly Communities movement, empowering councils and businesses, schools and, of course, electorate offices—including mine and the member for Frome's and I think 16 other electorate offices in our state—to become safe, welcoming places for people with dementia. They have trained advocates, they have supported carers, elevated lived experience into every conversation and have helped break down stigma. In South Australia they have worked closely with us, through the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia Action Plan, to deliver real change in our communities.

As a government, we know that words alone are not enough: action matters. That is why the Malinauskas Labor government is investing significantly in the infrastructure and services needed to support South Australians as they age, including those living with dementia. At the Repat Health Precinct we are delivering 96 new subacute beds, including 48 specifically for geriatric evaluation and management (referred to as GEM), 24 for dementia and cognitive support, and 24 psychogeriatric beds. These are critical to supporting older South Australians with complex needs in a specialist environment that prioritises dignity and quality of life.

This expansion builds on our commitment to better care for people with dementia and cognitive decline. The GEM units, for example, provide multidisciplinary care to help prevent functional decline, support rehabilitation and reduce unnecessary hospitalisations. These services are essential not just for patients but for families and carers who often bear the greatest load.

We have also increased investment in Hospital at Home services, mental health supports for older people, and workforce development initiatives to ensure aged-care workers and health

professionals are better trained in dementia care—a point powerfully raised today by Deidre. These are the kinds of reforms that do not just treat illness: they protect wellbeing, independence and community connection.

Today's event showcased just how powerful the voice of lived experience is. We heard from Vern, whose experience comes from caring for his late wife, Rosemary, from Deidre, whose story of courage, isolation and advocacy after her husband Warren's diagnosis moved us all, and from Ann, who lives with dementia and reminded us that meaning, contribution and brain health do not end at diagnosis, and that parliamentarians must lead by example when it comes to prevention and awareness.

Thanks to the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia Action Plan we are already seeing change. As I mentioned, there are 18 MPs who have become Dementia Friends, multiple electorate offices are now recognised as dementia-friendly organisations, MPs are raising awareness at forums, community events and, of course, here in parliament. Resources from Dementia Australia are now widespread in our regions and they continue to offer us more and more to include in our offices, and through tools like the National Dementia Helpline we are connecting more people to help faster.

Dementia is not someone else's issue: it is ours. It touches every electorate—in fact, this morning each of our electorates received one of these sheets from Dementia Australia, which highlight how many people are living with dementia in each of our electorates. I know I was certainly surprised—I am sure other MPs were as well—that there are 35,000-plus people in South Australia right now living with dementia, and 684 of those are in just my electorate of Davenport. I think in the member for Frome's it is over 700, and in her speech this morning she mentioned that then means there are 700-plus families who are living with dementia in her electorate alone.

It is definitely something that we need to be paying attention to, and we need to be providing those families with support and respect. We need to ensure that they are heard and that we are listening. So let us continue the work to destigmatise, to care, to invest and to plan for a dementia-friendly future. I thank all of those who shared their stories today and who care for their loved ones, who advocate, who educate and who stand beside us as we do this work. I commend the motion to the house.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:08): I rise as the lead speaker for the opposition, but I note that we will be introducing an amendment to the original motion today. For our guests in the chamber, there is a parliamentary convention when motions are introduced by private members that where there is an opportunity to test or to challenge some of the motion we take that opportunity.

I think, when we reflect on the discussion and the speeches we previously heard on the topic of domestic violence, there is a resolve in this chamber—across the floor, from the opposition to the government—not just in terms of domestic violence but in the pursuit of creating awareness for dementia, that we are all seen to be working towards this. The amendment to the motion that I put forward today is to delete paragraph (c). Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not sure if convention requires me to read the motion in full?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, just the bit you want to change.

Ms PRATT: I wish to delete paragraph (c) and insert instead:

- (c) recognises the essential role of the Repat Health Precinct in the provision of service delivery for some of the most vulnerable South Australians suffering extreme behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia which is only possible because of the investment and commitment made by the former Liberal government to save this hospital and establish the Repat Neuro-Behavioural Unit;

Having put that amendment forward, I want to return to the essence of the day. It starts with the member for Davenport introducing this motion and bringing to our chamber an opportunity to mark the very important annual date of 21 September 2025 as World Alzheimer's Day. The government's motion captures some very important elements that, through our morning event, we share in common; namely that:

- this day, World Alzheimer's Day, is certainly a time to raise awareness and challenge the stigma surrounding dementia;

- this motion recognises the extraordinary work of Dementia Australia in supporting individuals living with dementia, funding vital research and advocating for greater awareness within our communities;
- this motion honours the families and carers who selflessly support their loved ones; and
- this motion encourages the continued development of dementia-friendly initiatives across South Australia.

That was apparent this morning, through an event that was full of friendliness, compassion and care. I join the member for Davenport, as a co-convenor of this parliamentary group, in welcoming guests today from Dementia Australia, from our Dementia Australia advocates. As we separate individual roles, we pay attention to not just those living with dementia but the very special support network that we identify as carers. We acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Dementia Australia, the national body dedicated to supporting individuals living with dementia, their families and their caregivers. Dementia Australia plays a pivotal role in funding essential research, providing trusted information and advocating for policy changes that promote a dementia-friendly society.

With approximately 433,000 Australians currently affected by dementia, and an additional 1.7 million people involved in their care, love and support, it is crucial to recognise that dementia, particularly Alzheimer's disease, is the second leading cause of death in our nation. As of 2024—and of 2025; we have those statistics now—it is estimated that 34,000 to 35,000 individuals in South Australia are living with dementia.

Both the member for Davenport and I are—I think 'shocked' might be too strong a word, but we are certainly stopped in our tracks when we see a data breakdown. When I gesture towards 34,000 to 35,000, it is too flippant a response, because we are talking about individuals who, as expressed today in conversation, have a significant moment in time when their diagnosis is imparted by, often, a GP. Time stands still perhaps as the weight of that diagnosis is evaluated. We must not throw numbers around but tie each statistic, each data point, to a person and their family, and, in my case as a country member of parliament, perhaps to their community and town.

For the electorate of Frome, the data shows that 704 people are living with dementia in the Mid North region, and hopefully with family support. Yes, I reflect on the 704 meaning a house with a driveway and a car, and perhaps a pet. What are the family needs that go with the 704? In regional South Australia, the question then is: what services do they have access to? What services do they not have access to? What does it look like when we talk about the growing demand on aged-care beds that might be attached to a country hospital? For some towns, there may be a standalone residence or organisation that is providing care, and I will touch on some of those shortly, but 704 is not a number to dismiss, and I am grateful to Dementia Australia, to the CEO Tanya Buchanan and David Edghill for breaking down those numbers to impress upon us as parliamentarians, particularly those who have dementia-friendly electorate offices, that we pay attention to what that means.

I am really proud to be a part of establishing the Parliamentary Friends of Dementia group with the member for Davenport, and long may it continue. As our research develops and informs us, I am sure that there is a cure ahead of us, but what has been apparent today from the conversations at our recent event is that it is not a death sentence. There is an opportunity through the support of the national helpline, and support from Dementia Australia, to navigate what services are available to return to the life you are living, perhaps better aware of what it is you can do to improve those protective factors.

It is clear through The Lancet Commission's research that both the government and the opposition are paying attention to the data that demonstrates through preventive measures that there are 14 risk factors that we can start to address. I think of the 14, there are six that we are going to pursue with great vigour to start to halt and arrest the disease, and build awareness in the community that there are opportunities to prevent its development or progress.

Perhaps with the time that I have left, I just want to formally recognise all of the groups, particularly around regional South Australia, that are dementia-friendly communities with ongoing activities in local communities: Barunga West; Careship Coorong; Nature and Natter in the Barossa; Taillem Bend Community Centre; Port Lincoln Library; Murray Bridge Community Centre; Blue

Illusion in Port Lincoln; I love The Caring Choir, wherever they may be; and the dementia-friendly Gawler group established by Anthony Pollock. Thank you to our advocates. Thank you, Dementia Australia, and I commend the amended motion.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:18): Thank you to the member for Frome for her comments. Our Parliamentary Friends of Dementia have enjoyed bipartisan support for the best part of the last three years, so it is quite disappointing that the member for Frome has put forward this amendment, which we will be opposing. The amendment is clearly just a bit of political game playing, which is extremely disappointing given the guests who we have in the house today.

I stand by my original motion and particularly the part that the member for Frome is wanting to remove, which reaffirms our government's commitment to strengthening our state's health system. We have done a huge amount of work in this space since coming into government, delivering more beds at the Repat, expanding services with the Geriatric Evaluation and Management Unit—things that did not exist or did not get supported by the former government.

So we will be proceeding with the original motion. I hope that we can continue to have bipartisan support with this friends of parliament group, because we have been able to achieve a lot to date and I hope that we continue to have a strong partnership going into the future. I commend the original motion to the house.

Amendment negatived; motion carried.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Mr FEDERICK (Hammond) (12:20): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that the value of South Australia's primary industry and agribusiness is of significant value, an estimated \$18.5 billion in 2022-23;
- (b) recognises that the current drought is, for many districts, the worst in living memory and is causing significant financial and mental stress across rural and regional communities in South Australia;
- (c) agrees that the Malinauskas Labor government's \$8 million 'new' funding in response to this drought is grossly inadequate considering the magnitude of hardship and suffering currently being endured by the sector;
- (d) urges the Malinauskas government to explore all possible measures to ensure water and fodder supply to farming communities that desperately need it around the state;
- (e) calls on the Malinauskas Labor government to urgently provide meaningful assistance to South Australia's farming sector to underpin its ongoing viability or the benefit of all South Australians; and
- (f) recognises that failure to provide meaningful assistance immediately will result in terrible human and animal welfare outcomes.

I would just like to acknowledge the great work that our farmers and our rural communities do in producing this many billions of dollars of produce, so that they can get on and not just forge outcomes for themselves but forge great outcomes for this state.

Agriculture is one of the leading providers of income in this state and it needs support, when we have unprecedented drought conditions like we have at the moment. There is hardship in most areas of the state, although I do acknowledge there is a different sort of hardship in the Far North in areas where the floodwaters have come across from Queensland, at up to 1,000 giganlitres a day, but that is in the outback.

The main farming areas and grazing areas of the inside country have been terribly affected by the weather conditions that we have seen over more than 12 months. We had such a diminished rainfall year last year and it was just amazing to see what producers could produce on very limited rainfall in South Australia.

We had the Grain Producers SA grain awards, where a farmer who received an award from up towards Loxton said, 'Well, what do you do with 62 millimetres of rain?' At least people had a sense of humour and did give a slight laugh to that because they thought, 'What do you do with it?' If it were not for the updated technologies that people are using now with the one-pass farming, the

spraying out of country, long before it is cropped, to brown it out—at great cost, I must say—to make sure that every drop of moisture is salvaged, people could not get the right outcomes to grow the maximum amount of crop that they can. But it is still subject to making sure that the farmers put themselves in the right position to make use of every drop of rain when it comes.

Last year was extremely tough where people saw terrible yields, but if it was not for the farming methods that have been introduced over the past 20 or so years, with better practices in saving soil moisture, the no-till or minimum-till farming techniques, we would not have had the outcomes we did. I say that because if the farming practices that were utilised even 30 years ago were used, we would have seen far more dust clouds than we did last year, if not for the conservation farming methods where you retain the stubble to grow those crops.

The drought has obviously heavily impacted on the income that farmers could receive, and it is a multimillion dollar business now. There are many farmers in business now and some are spending a million dollars just to put their crop in. Some have been sowing for a month with virtually no rain. I think we had three millimetres the other day at home, and there has been more, or less, in other areas, and some have had none. That is very minimal rain and people are essentially on a wing and a prayer.

The farmer who farms my property under a lease arrangement sowed the canola last Friday and had been sowing that on other farms. I am not sure if they have gone on this week with other crops but plenty of others have. They have put in some legumes, some canola and wheat crops. They are reinvesting, as I said, and some are spending \$1 million to put in crops and are totally reliant on rainfall. They will be really putting it out there knowing that it is not just the first rain that comes in, but they will need rain ongoing.

It is not just for the people cropping, it is for the people trying to hang on to stock, people who have not had access to hay and fodder in an easy way because it either has not been available or it is too expensive. We have certainly needed those hay runs that people like Aussie Hay Runners and different Rotary clubs organised. I think there are about five or six different groups that have been supporting hay runs into South Australia, and I really salute the work that they have been doing to keep stock alive.

People have to make a really huge decision. I know some people have said, 'We are going to hang onto as many sheep or cattle as we can,' and they have put in maximum effort, extended overdraft and really gone hard on spending a lot of money so that they still have a cheque for that stock later on when they produce lambs or calves, or a wool cheque later on. If you sell everything off, there is nothing to come in the future for you to have any form of a viable income. In the meantime, they are spending a fortune—many tens of thousands and sometimes many hundreds of thousands—to buy feed for this stock.

As I indicated yesterday, I was on Kangaroo Island recently and I could not believe how bare it was over there. At the western end, near Flinders Chase, which is the so-called wetter end of the island, there was still nothing. Hundreds of thousands of sheep are grown over there, as well as tens of thousands of heads of cattle. They have to freight in hay and grain over the water at huge cost to operate. Certainly, there is a lack of access to water. There were not too many dams with any amount of water in them. If it was not for the desalination plant that the former Liberal government put in several years ago at Penneshaw, there would have been some far more significant problems there.

It is absolutely troubling to see this ongoing drought and to see that the season has not broken yet in this state. As I said, it is not just about the break in the season; we need action to move forward. We need the rain to continue through so that the feed can grow. As time moves on, not just the feed for stock but the crops as well, with the cold weather coming in, things take longer to grow, so it is a real catch 22 situation as time goes on.

I call on the government to put in more significant support. I note since I put this motion to the house about the \$8 million of extra funding, where it was \$18 million that was allocated, about \$10 million of that was already funded through Rural Business Support programs. I really commend the work of Brett Smith and his team in looking after people who may need rural household support or may need that financial guidance moving forward.

The reality is only about 8 per cent of farmers are eligible for any of the money under the droughtproofing schemes. I note that money has been increased recently, but the problem has been that to get some of this money people have had their applications in for 10 or 12 weeks, and they are having to make a commitment with their own money. Next thing, one scheme gets usurped by the previous scheme, and it becomes a bureaucratic nightmare. There needs to be more staff allocated, because thousands of applications are going in, as I understand, to be approved. The government needs to make sure they have the staff in place to assist people so that they can get real outcomes moving forward.

We have called for low-interest loans and other measures so that people can get real relief moving forward. There needs to be more general relief that goes across the sector right across the board, because what is happening now is there is only a small percentage of people eligible for that relief, and that relief is taking so long to come. People are having to make huge decisions with their cropping programs. In fact, someone said to me the other day, 'If you were farming in your own right, would you still put a crop in?' I said, 'Absolutely. What a going to do, sit there and just not do anything?'

It is especially the case when a lot of farming machines these days, if you are at a scale where you are buying new plant, are around \$1 million. It is close to \$1 million for your main tractor pulling your air seeder. Air seeder combinations with seeder bins and air seeder bars are close \$1 million. Spray units are close to \$1 million. Headers are heading towards \$2 million. It is a major capital spend so that people can do their cropping program and move on. It is not unlike the situation with stock. As I indicated, people are having to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep their stock alive, or they are having to make that heartbreaking decision to sell a lot of stock off.

I do want to commend the work of Rural Business Support, who move people and give them the direction to get perhaps the mental health support they need. I note the many barbecues that have been held previously—and some are still being held—where people get together. I went to one where there must have been about 140 or 150 people in the Mallee at peak. It is just a reason for people to get together to acknowledge that they are not alone.

I think that is something that there needs to be more of, especially in these tough times, so that people do not feel alone. Sadly, sometimes people think they are the only ones, and they do not want to go out and talk to people. But everyone is in the same boat. If it does not rain, even though everyone's financial situation is slightly different, we all end up with that terrible outcome of the potential of people losing their land and losing the ability to grow food for the state and the nation and for export.

We produce billions of dollars of produce in this state. The state's agriculture sector is crying out for more support. We need the Malinauskas Labor government to be serious about the support going to our growers, because they are putting their livelihoods on the line. They are putting their lives on the line, literally. And they are putting many hundreds of millions of dollars on the line right now, dry seeding and purchasing hay and grain so that they can do their bit to feed this state and this nation and feed our export potential. I commend this motion and would be interested in the further speeches in the house.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:35): I rise to speak on this motion, but I also indicate that I seek to amend the motion as follows:

Delete paragraph (c) and replace it with:

- (c) acknowledges that the Malinauskas government is providing targeted support to farmers and regional communities affected by drought through its \$73 million drought support package announced on 8 April 2025;

Delete paragraph (d) and replace it with:

- (d) recognises that the Malinauskas government engaged extensively with industry, regional communities and farmers to ensure that the measures covered in the drought support package were thoughtfully designed in direct consultation with those affected by the drought;

Delete paragraph (e) and replace it with:

- (e) agrees that the Malinauskas government's \$73 million drought support package is comprehensive, effective and addresses an array of areas in need, including water and fodder accessibility, immediate financial assistance, mental health and wellbeing support, pest management and future drought preparedness and resilience.

Delete paragraph (f).

Certainly, the government supports the essence of the motion. What we have sought to do is to provide an update by amending the motion to reflect what is actually happening today and the response of the government to that drought situation.

The state government knows the importance of primary producers in South Australia. As well as providing food and fibre for the state, the nation and the world, primary producers also generated \$18.5 billion of revenue in the last known year, 2022-23, with direct employment and associated processing of around 78,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

The state government is acutely aware that significant parts of South Australia are experiencing drought conditions, with most agricultural regions now experiencing lowest-on-record or severe rainfall deficiency since February 2024. The current estimated grain production for 2024-25 has been revised to 5.2 million tonnes, which is 43 per cent below the five-year average and the lowest total since 2008-09, which was 4.9 million tonnes. The farmgate value of grain in 2024-25 is estimated to be \$2.1 billion, down from \$3.3 billion last year.

The government acknowledges that primary producers and regional communities are experiencing extremely challenging times. However, Mr Pederick's motion fails to mention that the government has now invested \$73 million in comprehensive drought support through the combined packages. The first tranche of drought support was announced on 26 November 2024, which comprised \$18 million in a range of financial and community assistance measures, and the further \$55 million announced on 8 April 2025 was developed following extensive engagement with primary producers, industry leaders, local government and regional committees affected by the drought.

As promised, after the first drought support was announced last year we continued to monitor conditions and levelled up our support when it became clear that the drought had not abated. I can attest to the consultation. I actually sat in on some of those meetings with a whole range of industry organisations and farmers themselves to make sure that the second package was appropriately targeted and met the needs.

I have more to say because, as the member for Hammond has quite rightly said, when the farmers are doing it tough the whole community does it tough in those areas, whether it is small business people or sporting organisations, etc. That is one reason why the second package had a broader range of measures to support the community as a whole, not just the farming people directly.

The additional \$55 million comprises both extensions to the existing drought support measures and a range of new schemes. We are extremely pleased to have allocated a further \$13 million to the \$5 million On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Rebate program. The additional funding also means that we could open a second tier of grants, so now producers can apply for either up to \$5,000 and provide a 25 per cent co-contribution or up to \$20,000 with a 50 per cent co-contribution.

We have also extended our transport rebates for charities to deliver donated fodder to producers in need. Hay runs of donated fodder to farmers with government transport rebates have been running since January and have been providing much-needed relief to livestock producers.

The Connecting Communities Events Grant also has an additional \$250,000 in funding allocated. This has been well received, with 36 approved events held across the state. Most recently, the Adelaide Plains FarmHers were able to put on an incredible rain event called 'Dancing in the Dirt' for women, which I think the member for Frome attended. That was funded through the state government program.

On top of the extensions to the measures under the original drought package, we have invested funds into new schemes, including a regional drought relief fund round of the Active Club Program, providing up to \$5,000 for sports clubs in regional areas affected by drought. This is very important because when people are affected by drought, clubs often find it hard to find sponsorship

and the people themselves find it hard to meet the costs of various things like equipment and the like for sporting groups.

This grant is non-competitive—in other words, if your group is eligible for the funding and meets the criteria, it actually gets the grant. It is not the case that some people miss out. If you meet the criteria, you receive the funding. We had an information session in Riverton just the other night. I am certain the sporting groups which attended that information session in Riverton found it very helpful, and also appreciated the fact that this grant round has less red tape around it and it will be much easier for people to apply and succeed.

Other new schemes include:

- commercial vehicle registration and emergency services levy rebates;
- bulk water collection from the Bundaleer Reservoir;
- financial support for camps and excursions to support country students at public schools financially impacted by drought;
- pest animal management schemes;
- a grant program for regional councils to upgrade publicly accessible standpipes; and
- rural support grants of up to \$1,500 to support primary producers and rural small businesses in financial hardship.

Madam Acting Speaker, as you can see, the revised and upgraded Malinauskas government's \$73 million drought support package is comprehensive, effective and addresses an array of areas and needs, including water and fodder accessibility, immediate financial assistance, mental health and wellbeing support, pest management, and future drought preparedness and resilience, with various programs designed to support people to put new water security measures and infrastructure on their farms.

The state government continues to work closely with industry to monitor conditions and take advice on the support measures. Having said all that, farmers are doing it tough and those communities are doing it very tough at the moment. There is not much rain in sight, which means that things could actually get worse. I am aware that the government is also already exploring what it may have to do in the near future, should those rains not come.

It is not only a case of the rains coming, because once the rains come there will also be a recovery period for many of the farmers. For example, the farmers who I have spoken to who had to reduce their stock levels will then need time to restock their farms to get to the sorts of levels they have had now. So even if the rains came tomorrow, there would be some time before farmers could actually start producing at the levels they were prior to the drought. The government is completely aware of that and is putting measures in place. As I said, it is also starting to explore and plan for what could be another round of assistance, should this drought not break.

I am mindful of those farmers I have spoken to in the Mid North area who have taken the risk and started to seed the ground in the hope that the rains do come—but if they do not come, as the member has rightly pointed out, they will lose that money and also various fertilisers and other things. One of the things I heard the other night at a meeting with some farmers was that there is some concern about some banking institutions not being prepared to support our farmers. I am not sure how widespread that is, but certainly if that is the case I think it is something we need to address to make sure we provide support to get farmers across this really bad patch.

As I said at the start, we acknowledge as a government the importance of primary production industries to this state via the contribution they make to state revenue and the economy and also employment. With these comments, I think the amended motion better reflects where we are today.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (12:46): It gives me great pleasure, but also sadness, to speak on this motion. I thank the member for Hammond and I also thank the member for Light for his amendments. I am going to play the middle road and say they both have good motions here, but one

of the things I will highlight is: why are we talking about this in regard to the toughness out there in the regional areas of South Australia?

This is a financial crisis out there in our regions. It is not just a 12-month period and it is not just a dry period; this extends from a collapse of commodity prices that started in 2023, in about June, when we saw lamb, beef and mutton collapse and correct by over 70 per cent from the heyday and the prices we saw prior to this period. We have seen a number of seasons since then that have made it even harder for rural businesses to cope.

You have to then add what everyone is suffering in Australia: a cost-of-living problem. What does that have to do with farming? There are inflationary problems that have occurred since 2023 and, really, since COVID that have made it much more expensive to be in business compared to what it used to be. We have not seen prices for our commodities on the world market to cover those extra costs and we are wondering why we are finding it so hard to be financially viable in these tougher times.

My electorate of MacKillop extends from some very high-rainfall areas down towards Mount Gambier—but not Mount Gambier—all the way up to Pinnaroo, Lamerloo and Tailem Bend, and they have all suffered in this dry period. There are areas in the Limestone Coast area of MacKillop that are on record levels of non-existent rain; in other words, they are depleted, rain has not fallen and it is a record dry period. It has been described in maps of red, but where that red is darkest is record territory for landowners.

With that acknowledgement of how tough and dry it is, what can we say and what can we do? All I would say is that I thank the government for, first of all, recognising this dry period. I would think that it is not just a state government issue, though. I wonder why the federal government is not mentioned here because this really does come back to a lack of income. I can tell you that we do not have a tax problem anymore in the regional areas, because you have to have a profit. The federal government will be missing out on revenue because we are not paying tax because of the losses that are being incurred right across areas like MacKillop and elsewhere in regional South Australia.

One of the things that I would ask be given due consideration is: how do we actually help people financially when things fail? We have heard from the member for Hammond about how people are outlaying \$1 million to put their crops in on the wish and the dream that it may rain and it might give them a crop, and they have to do it to be in business—come a good spring, come a good winter and a good harvest.

If they do not put in the million dollar crop, they cannot participate in that outcome. The problem with that is that million dollar outlay does not have a guarantee towards rainfall and it does not have a guarantee that they will be harvesting a crop in October, November or December. That is the risk that the agricultural sector finds itself in.

I have just explained that we had a commodity collapse in 2023 and we have seen hyperinflation and costs go exorbitantly high. We are now seeing dry periods with record rainfall deficiencies right across the regions, not only in the area of MacKillop but right across the southern region. Actually, I will extend it: I know it is an area from Melbourne to Perth on the Mediterranean southern winter rainfall. It has been deficient in that area. There have been some pockets that are okay in Western Australia but in general it has been really tough.

It has been exemplified by the technology that is out there. The crops that were harvested last harvest actually indicate the developments we have made. As the member for Hammond described, had we been through this dry period that we have just been through during the seventies and eighties, we probably would have seen record dust storms and the tillering that used to take place during the summer to maintain weed control. That does not happen anymore.

I also thank the government. I know that the supports that they put in such as Rural Business Support and Rural Financial Counsellors are absolutely beneficial in this area. I am already hearing around the football fields from locals that farmers are so busy feeding, working, cannot find staff, cannot afford staff, that they are not participating like they used to. They are becoming introverted in their stresses and worries. These are dangerous times, times when we have to be very much cognisant. I want all rural families and people to reach out to make sure that people are engaging,

they are communicating and they are getting together at those normal sporting events on Saturdays and the like.

I mention an interesting reach out by a lady named Mrs Linda Cameron from Bairnsdale, East Gippsland. Most recently, she travelled from East Bairnsdale towards Robe in my electorate. She had made 11 boiled pineapple fruitcakes and dropped them off at mailboxes on the way. One of the McBride properties was lucky enough to receive one of these boiled fruitcakes. It was a kind gesture from a regional mother, I would imagine, from Bairnsdale understanding the toughness of dry periods and reaching out to say, 'We do care. We appreciate everything you are doing. These are tough times that we all have to work through.'

I also want to highlight the cost and severity of this drought. When I belonged to a business called A.J. & P.A. McBride I saw that the cost is exemplified by the size of this business. On a weekly basis they are feeding out 400 tonnes of barley per week on these southern properties, costing \$160,000 a week until it rains and there is actually grass. These funds that we are spending we are not making; they are adding to our losses in the financial year that we are in and it will probably make it even tougher for the financial year we are moving towards in 2025-26.

They are serious figures. They are across the board. We are not alone in this. Livestock producers are all going through that pain. It is something you have to maintain or you sell. If you sell then you do not have anything to feed but then you have to buy back. You then take the risk of what that buyback price is and normally it is exorbitantly high, so you usually maintain a nucleus breeding flock to make sure you do have a flock to go into what hopefully will be a good winter. We do not even know. Winter is in June, which is less than a month away, and it still has not rained significantly or properly right across this state. Some areas have received some showers and there are some green pockets, but in general it is really tight and tough out there.

I thank the member for Hammond and I thank the member for Light. I am going to leave a couple of minutes up my sleeve to allow the member for Flinders to have his say. I hope in this place and federally it is recognised that these are tough times and I hope that everyone in this chamber realises the severity of what is going on out there.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (12:53): I rise to speak on this really important motion, a really important one, and every week until it rains I am going to be on my feet bringing the truth to this chamber about what is actually happening. It is a slap in the face for my people to see the rewording of this motion from the member for Light to say, 'recognises that the Malinauskas government engaged extensively' and then to use the words, 'the drought support package is comprehensive and effective'.

I am here to tell you at the moment, for my people, it is absolutely not comprehensive or effective. What we are having to deal with at the moment is some pretty unprecedented conditions right across the whole state. For this government to be patting itself on the back at a time when farmers are crying out for a better concentrated effort for those who are really doing it tough at the moment is indeed a slap in the face. It shows the lack of awareness about what is actually happening at the moment.

I was honestly distressed to hear—even just this week I have had word—that PIRSA have decided in their ultimate wisdom that they would not be renewing the contracts for the Drought Hub node coordinators at Minnipa and Orroroo. If you actually take the time to go to Minnipa, to go to Orroroo, you will see the desolation that they are having to deal with at the moment.

The drought coordinators' contracts are finishing up at the end of the financial year and they have been told, 'No more.' Their job on the ground is to connect farmers with services directly and this government has decided that it is not necessary. Minnipa and Orroroo in particular are two of the areas hit hardest by drought at the moment in our state. They are central parts of both sheep and crop growing areas that are facing multiple years in a row of drought.

If you have been to Orroroo, you know, talking to the people on the ground, the challenges they are facing. If you go to Minnipa, to Streaky Bay, or up to Ceduna like I did last week, you will see the desolation in the paddocks. There is absolutely nothing on the ground except for the white

limestone rocks that are poking out. For the government to decide that we do not need a Drought Hub coordinator in those places anymore, I think is—

Mr Pederick: It's a slap in the face.

Mr TELFER: It is more than a slap in the face, it is an utter show of disrespect for those communities. When it comes to those supports that are supposed to be comprehensive and effective, let me just say that the promises that have been made about supports for fodder and feed have been misguided and, unfortunately, we are now seeing communities having to try to directly go to these providers to actually get help on the ground.

If you have taken the opportunity to read *The Advertiser* this week, an advocate for regional communities is actually putting herself out there. Suzie Kenny from Streaky Bay has been putting together a perspective from farmers all around the state—not just the West Coast but predominantly in my area and across the whole of South Australia—and some of the stories that she is hearing about what is actually happening on the ground are truly distressing. One message in particular I think summarises what is being faced at the moment. I will not share this person's name but they say:

We are not sure what to do. We are lambing at the moment. It won't be long before they (ewes and lambs) are going to need more than they are getting now. The last lot of feed which we were lucky enough to get, we had to borrow money for. Next thing is to sell off future breeders.

This is a situation not just for these growers but for the over 100 who already have their feedback into this campaign. We need to put more effort into saving our sheep because this is not just the present, it is the future of the livestock industry in South Australia. Although there has been a lot of patting themselves on the back, this government is missing the mark when it comes to actually delivering for regional communities in particular.

As I said, to be able to deal with this as an individual business is hard enough, but to deal with it as an individual community, like the community of Orroroo or the community of Minnipa—it is not just those small communities these drought coordinators are having to deal with, it is the wider community as a whole.

Last week, as I have said in my regular visits through my electorate, I covered several hundred kilometres, and saw sheep standing in paddocks with nothing to do because there is no feed for them. I spoke to farmers who could not find hay anywhere in the state. I have spoken to farmers who are trying to talk to some of the groups that the department say they should. They have no feed either.

It is so frustrating for me to see how PIRSA have been so hands off with the actual management of this. They have left that responsibility up to the charities involved. To hear the backslapping around the concessions for ESL or for registration—well, can I just say, as with the question I asked last time in this place, that only hits 800 farmers out of the more than 9,000 farmers in South Australia. It is not actually helping those who are really doing it tough in our regional communities. It needs to be better.

You need to be listening to what is actually happening on the ground for those affected by these drought conditions. They are facing this challenge every single morning. They are having to make decisions about the future of their business, the future of their farms, the future of their families, which generations have contributed to, and they feel they have been let down by the government and been forgotten, especially those who are within my electorate.

I think that is really a disservice from us as decision-makers to our community and especially at a time like this when decision-makers should be doing what they can to proactively support people who are really doing it tough and are in distress. It is a real kick in the guts, a slap in the face. However you want to describe it, it is not good enough, especially for my community on Eyre Peninsula.

Debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Primary Industries and Regions, Department of—

Adelaide Hills Wine Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Apiary Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Barossa Valley Wine Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Cattle Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Citrus Growers Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Clare Valley Wine Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Grains Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Grains Industry Research and Development Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Langhorne Creek Wine Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
McLaren Vale Wine Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Pig Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Riverland Wine Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
SA Grape Growers Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24
Sheep Industry Fund Annual Report 2023-24

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: We have some visitors with us today who I would like to acknowledge. Firstly, Dr Kee Beng, Executive Director of the Penang Institute, who is the guest of the Deputy Premier—welcome to parliament. We have students from Concordia College, who are guests of the member for Unley. We also have guests from Norwood International High School, who are guests of the Leader of the Opposition, and Grant High School students, who are guests of the member for Mount Gambier. Welcome everyone to parliament.

*Parliamentary Committees***LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:09): I bring up the 62nd report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

*Question Time***NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10): My question is to the Premier. Was the Women's and Children's Health Network governing board given an update from the executive lead of the new Women's and Children's Hospital project on 14 November that the new hospital would not be completed until 2033-34? If so, why?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:10): Thank you; I appreciate the opportunity to answer a question in terms of what is a very exciting project for the future of our state in building the new Women's and Children's Hospital. This is a hospital that is going to be bigger and better and meet the needs of our state for many, many years to come—as opposed to the previous plans, which were for a hospital that was going to have one extra bed and not be fit for purpose whatsoever.

Obviously I was not at the Women's and Children's Hospital meeting where that took place, but I have spoken since to various people since the newspaper article this morning, and all the advice to me is that we are still on track for our expected completion date by 2031. We are working as hard and fast as we possibly can on this project, and the evidence is there. Just go down and have a look on Port Road: you can see for yourself the progress we have made of clearing the site, of construction works underway already.

This is a project that has been talked about for decades, through a series of different governments. When the Leader of the Opposition was around the cabinet table, they promised that the hospital was going to be open by 2024; well, when we got to government in 2022 this was a hospital where not one sod had been turned. Nothing had been done to start the construction of this hospital, even though, supposedly, it was going to be complete by 2024.

We are absolutely serious about delivering this hospital, but also making sure that it meets needs both now and into the future. Building a hospital with one extra bed just would not have met the needs of this state; it would have been full on the day it opened. We have learnt the lessons from previous investments in hospitals that we need to make sure we have additional capacity in them now, but also the capacity to expand into the future as well.

That is why we ordered the Hallion review when we came to government, that is why the Hallion review very clearly set out that we needed to look at an additional new site in the biomedical precinct, and that is why we adopted that site.

Mr TEAGUE: Point of order, sir: standing order 98(a). The question to the minister was whether the governing board had given an update. The minister has said he wasn't at the meeting, but he is now going on to debate the question and avoid the answer. The minister needs to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: He is answering the question, and you will sit down, thanks, Deputy Leader. The Minister for Health, please continue your answer.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you very much, sir. This is a hospital that is on that new site, allowing us to increase the capacity of those additional beds. It also means that we can keep the additional expansion space for the Royal Adelaide Hospital, which we know, at some stage in the future, will need to expand as well.

The government has taken the delivery of this project very seriously. Cabinet appointed, in 2022, an executive steering committee of the most senior levels of public servants to have oversight of the delivery of this project, that being the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Chief Executive of the Department of Treasury and Finance, and the Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing. They are the executives who have oversight of delivery of this project. They meet very regularly to examine the project's progress, examine the issues in relation to this project, and make sure it is on track.

We will continue, obviously, to make decisions along the way in terms of meeting the needs of clinicians, of patients, of making sure that we get this hospital right. As the Premier and I have both said clearly in the past, of course there are bumps along the way in terms of delivery of a major project like this, but when it comes to the delivery date, the advice that we have is that that is on track by 2031, as we originally said.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier and/or his team received any advice that there is a delay in the completion date of the new Women's and Children's Hospital?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:14): As I previously said, the advice to us—and we have not only been getting those updates through the executive steering committee, those three most senior public servants, but also we get very regular updates through cabinet committees, including the Health Cabinet Committee and the Government Performance Cabinet Committee as well, on this progress. We certainly haven't received advice that we are any different from that 2031 date.

Of course these things will have to be managed, and of course there is always a risk with such a major public works and infrastructure project, which is so complex and has so many interests involved to get it right. But we continue to receive advice in terms of the timeframe, and we are still aiming for 2031 and it's on track for that.

We will continue to work as hard and fast as we can to deliver it, and the evidence for that is plain to see. Down on Port Road, you can see that the construction of that huge car park of 1,300

spaces is now underway. The first floor of that has been completed, the second floor is now underway, two huge tower cranes are part of that project now, the barracks site has now had all of the demolition works cleared, and major earthworks are beginning in terms of the delivery of the earthworks on that major site. We will continue to make sure that we can progress this hospital as fast as possible but also make sure that we get it right, because we want to make sure that this is a project that will deliver in the long term.

I am not sure what counterfactual the opposition would want. What is their policy prescription in terms of what they would do differently? Would they go back to putting it on the smaller site next to the Royal Adelaide Hospital? Would they say, 'We want to go to the smaller site'? We know that when we announced the bigger site we had the shadow minister out there criticising us, saying that it would have been fine on the site next to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Maybe that is what this is all about: putting the groundwork there for them to cut this project, put it back next to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, cut costs and leave kids and women in this state with a hospital that isn't going to meet the needs of the future.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question is to the Premier. What completion date for the new Women's and Children's Hospital is accepted by the government? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: The Women's and Children's Hospital Network governing board received an update from the project lead in November 2024, which noted a completion date of 2033-34. On ABC radio the Premier gave a date of 2031-32, and the minister later on, on FIVEaa, stated a completion date of 2030-31.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:17): The advice is the same as the previous two answers. In terms of the advice to the government, we are expected to have that delivery by 2031, as we have previously said. Of course, there are always risks with a project of this nature, and of course we will try to manage those risks in the best way possible, but we will also put delivering the best possible outcome for women and children as the first and foremost priority, both now and into the future.

We have progress underway on that site already, we have construction underway, working with Lendlease and our partners on that site already: they have undertaken the clearance work, they have undertaken the remediation work on the car park site, construction is underway, the tower cranes are in place, the earthworks are underway in terms of the main hospital site, and the advice to us is that we are still on track for that 2031 date.

But we will continue to monitor it: we will continue to have the state's most senior public servants having oversight of this project, we will continue to make sure that we receive regular updates through the cabinet process, and we will continue to make sure that, ultimately, we put the interests of women and children first and deliver a hospital that is going to meet needs now and into the future.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): My question is to the Premier. Were there any errors identified in the report provided by the executive lead of the project team of the new Women's and Children's Hospital? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Minutes from the Women's and Children's Hospital Network meeting held on 5 December confirm the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 November 2024, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:19): The answer is the same as for the previous three or four questions, in that the advice to government is

still that we are on track for the 2031 date. Of course, there are risks with any project and of course we will continue to manage them, and the oversight of this project is not through the Women's and Children's governing board but through the Executive Oversight Committee where we have the state's most senior public servants having oversight of the delivery of this project.

COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:19): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Is the minister content with the environmental approvals for coastal infrastructure like boat ramps? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: To the credit of the Yorke Peninsula Council they have redone the Marion Bay boat ramp, which was long overdue for a renovation. Despite passing all the environmental approvals, the ramp is constantly full of seaweed and is considered by locals to be basically unusable. There have been other projects that have left those ramps unusable, like Black Point for example, and it has left us wondering whether the approvals are appropriate and doing what they are meant to.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (14:20): I appreciate the question and the concern for the local community that it expresses. If I can just explain to the chamber the way in which the approval decisions are made for most coastal works, such as a boat ramp.

The vast majority of them are considered by council as the approving authority, so in the Marion Bay case the council was the one that decided yes or no. But what happens is that it goes out to the Coast Protection Board for advice, and unless it is a major project, or one of the other versions of a major project under the Planning and Development Act, the Coast Protection Board has the power of direction. It can say, 'Do not do this.' Most times it does not say, 'Do not do this.' Most times it will say either, 'That work is fine,' or 'That work is fine, but here are some conditions that we think ought to be put on any approvals, and be aware that if you approve this there may be challenges.' With Marion Bay, to the best of my knowledge, that's the path that was taken.

It is an area that will have a lot of seagrass wrack movement and the council was informed, as part of the advice given by the Coast Protection Board, that it was likely that there would be a problem with seagrass wrack, that there would be a need to manage that, that there ought to be a management plan and some advice given about what that would look like, and then with that clarity it would in fact be for the council to make a decision whether it wanted to proceed or not.

There have been other decisions along the coastline. There was one for Cape Jaffa several years ago where that had a major project status which meant that the Coast Protection Board did not have the power of direction, it only had the capacity to advise. It advised against. It said that this is likely to make the management of coastal processes very difficult. And, of course, it went ahead anyway where subsequently it has been demonstrated to have been a very difficult project with sand movement constantly and a real burden of cost for the Kingston District Council.

So even in the instance where the board is not able to direct, it is capable of giving advice and saying, 'Do not do this.' As I say, for most developments it is most likely to say, 'Recognise the risks that you have and choose if you are capable of managing them.' As the member points out, that has not been as effective as the locals would like it to be with Marion Bay, and the council, I believe, is well aware of that feedback, but it is up to them. It is clearly legally their responsibility and it was clearly, in approval terms, their decision. Despite knowing that seagrass wrack is likely to be a challenge they decided to proceed in any case.

INDUSTRY CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:23): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the house on the recent Industry Climate Change Conference?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce

and Population Strategy) (14:23): I am very pleased to update the chamber about the second Industry Climate Change Conference. Some 700 or 800 people came. The first one was two years ago. There was a survey that went out afterwards, with the very highly competent and effective Martin Haese at the helm. He suggested that we do this. He said that we must get out and ask people, 'Do you want this again, or is this a one-off?' There was very clear feedback that we should do it again. We decided to do it every other year and, again, another 700 or 800 people showed up for two days to attend the conference.

It was a very successful conference in the sense that not only were there many people there but they came from a wide range of organisations. Business was there, agribusiness was there, as well as local government, scientists and people who were concerned about ways in which we can shift our economy as fast as possible to recognise the demands of the emerging economy in the world, which is one that rewards being decarbonised. Also, of course, running alongside that, is the need for ESG credentials to demonstrate that you are not doing harm to nature.

Small businesses in particular, which is the vast majority—small to medium business is about 98 per cent of South Australian business—naturally understand and can see that climate change is real and can see that it is having an impact, but find it slightly overwhelming to appreciate the ways in which they can respond and what does it mean for them. That was the gap that Martin Haese saw was able to be filled in part by having this biannual conference, to allow people to come along and hear it to get ideas.

We had an excellent presentation on green finance, for example. Guy Debelle, who is associated with Funds SA, the Deputy Chair of Funds SA, gave a very good presentation about the way in which green finance is shifting fast and the way in which you can get investment to make the changes required. There were also some slightly terrifying—but terrifying because it's real—presentations from scientists who were pointing out the extent to which climate change is gathering pace.

The year 2023 was the hottest on record by far, not only on record but through ice core samples able to determine probably for tens if not hundreds of thousands of years in the different months. The year 2023 was eclipsed by 2024 globally, so we have now had a prolonged period of the global temperature average being 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial times; 1.5 being, of course, the level that the Paris Accord was attempting to hold us back to as a decadal average.

The year 2025 is not quite tracking as badly as 2023 and 2024, so it is likely to be the third hottest year on record. So the three hottest years on record are likely to be the three years we have just gone through. No-one needs to be told that in South Australia experiencing the drought right now, no-one needs to be told that in South Australia watching the impact of *Karenia mikimotoi* as the algal bloom off our coast, almost certainly a direct result of the marine heatwave we have been experiencing.

We cannot, however, allow ourselves to be paralysed by this information. We have to acknowledge it, we have to understand its implications, and then we have to act. Helping our businesses decarbonise and respond to the risks that are represented by climate change is one constructive and proactive way that we can respond. I would like to pay tribute to all of those who organised it, all of those who participated, including Tim Jarvis, former South Australian of the Year from a year ago, who spoke very, very well at the dinner but in particular, of course, to Martin Haese who is an absolute gem of South Australia.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH NETWORK

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Does the minister read the Women's and Children's Health Network governing board minutes?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:28): I regularly meet with the Women's and Children's Health Network governing board chair and the CEO and am briefed by them in relation to issues that arise from the governing board and the health network more broadly.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH NETWORK

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:28): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister advise how frequently the agenda and minutes for the Woman's and Children's Health Network governing board are uploaded to its website? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The Charter for Local Health Network Governing Boards requires the approved minutes of a board meeting must be published on a website accessible to the public within seven days of the meeting at which the minutes were published, and yet no minutes or agenda have been uploaded for 2025.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:28): I will have a chat to the board chair of the Women's and Children's Health Network in relation to making sure that they are keeping their website up to date. I do recall that I raised similar issues with the previous minister from time to time in terms of keeping their website up to date, and I will continue to make sure that the current governing board chairs keep their websites up to date.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is on his final warning.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:29): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Who is the architect for the new Women's and Children's Hospital?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:29): As members opposite would probably know, there was a tender that happened when they were in government, back in the days when they wanted to build a smaller, squishier Women's and Children's Hospital, where they appointed a panel of architects to lead that project. That is currently still in place for what is stage 1 of the works. We have gone out to tender for stage 2 of those architectural works. Those tenders are being evaluated at the moment, and we are expecting to be able to announce who is the recipient of those stage 2 works next month.

BUS SERVICES

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:30): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. What is the minister doing to address serious safety issues on the Murraylands LinkSA school bus service? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: My office has been contacted by parents whose children use what is essentially a school bus service that members of the public can also use. A survey of more than 40 families has shown that children are being subjected to dangerous and threatening behaviour from adults under the influence of either drugs or alcohol. There have also been reports of children being offered gifts from adults, raising fears from the parents that their children were being groomed.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:30): I thank the member for his question. It is a topic he has written to me about previously, except for that final assertion he has made. I would say to him that the appropriate place for those types of accusations is to South Australia Police, and I think he should make those immediately if he hasn't done so already. They are concerning accusations.

My department has advised me that LinkSA have reviewed the safety policies and procedures. I have also been advised that LinkSA were to retrain their drivers in dealing with inappropriate passenger behaviour prior to the commencement of the 2025 school year. Additionally, the department met with LinkSA and Unity College to discuss actions that may be implemented to increase safety on these services.

However, the crux of the issue, I think, is that parents want a separate bus service for their children, and this is something that is being considered as part of our regional review of public transport. I would encourage the school to make a submission to the department seeking a regulation 7 exemption if they haven't already done so. What this would do is allow the department to make an assessment on that application. My office can help facilitate with the member and the school and the department and work through this process.

I also point out to the house that the government has moved swiftly to give itself the powers to bar people from public transport who exhibit antisocial behaviour. I can't tell you how frustrating it is for me, for the government or for members of this house and members of the public when they see unruly and disruptive behaviour on public transport. Parents expect public transport to be safe for their children when they use it. They want their children to behave on public transport. They expect adults who use public transport to behave.

People who abuse this essential service should be barred. They should be prosecuted. People who graffiti on public transport should be dealt with. People who assault on public transport should face aggravated offences if they do so, and people who fare evade should also be punished to the full extent of the law. Behaviour like this on public transport, especially amongst our most vulnerable in our community, is just not tolerable under any circumstance.

The good thing about a full bus is that it is a safe bus. Full buses are a better than empty buses. The more people we get on our public transport system, the safer it is. More importantly, the more people who catch public transport the more money we all save. We save money in taxes, and we save money in unnecessary capital programs that grade separate road infrastructure where we have to spend more and more money to alleviate peak hour traffic. We are spending fortunes on grade separations to try to deal with peak hour traffic, while in the off-peak periods these roads are largely empty. Public transport saves us all money, so making it safe, clean and reliable is a priority of this government.

We will have more to say about that in the weeks and months ahead, but the first real steps in this matter are: (1) any MP who has heard of accusations like the one made by the member for MacKillop should report that immediately to South Australia Police and (2) I am happy to try to facilitate that change in regulation for his school.

CRIME STATISTICS

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister update the house on crime figures in South Australia?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:35): I am grateful to the member for Torrens for her question, because I know that community safety is front of mind for her and her constituents. It has been pleasing to see in today's release of the latest crime statistics that, yet again, over the 12-month rolling period to March we see another overall reduction in the amount of crime in South Australia: in the 12-month rolling period to March, a 5 per cent reduction. This is the eighth consecutive month that we have had in South Australia where the rolling 12-month period has shown a reduction in overall crime. I am sure that that is very welcome news to everyone in this chamber representing communities across our state.

Of course, part of this is also directly attributable to the additional efforts that have been put in place by South Australia Police to focus on specific types of crime in our community. In particular, we have seen a significant drop in the number of robbery and related offences, with reported crimes down in every category and a 13 per cent drop in theft offences, with theft from motor vehicles down 23 per cent—really encouraging. I am advised that house break-ins have also dropped for the ninth successive period, whilst serious criminal trespass is also down.

The rolling yearly data reveals that the incidence of shop theft has dropped for the fifth time in a row. The fifth month of monthly statistics is showing that shop theft has dropped: down a further 5 per cent with 1,500 fewer offences reported, which I am sure will be welcome news to those South Australians engaged in the retail industries, in particular the workers. Commonly, a lot of this theft is happening opportunistically and happening in bottle shops and drive-through bottle shops,

where staff are placed in an invidious position where to keep themselves from harm they have to stand back. So it is good to see such a significant reduction in those offences.

These results come some months after the police commissioner's dedication of additional resources to Operation Measure, which is the targeted operation dedicated to combating shop theft. We had the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs report on the success of Operation Eclipse, which is yielding significant results in tackling the illicit tobacco trade, with latest searches resulting in over \$7.3 million worth of illicit tobacco being seized. This is extraordinary. In fact, I think in total now we have had over \$25 million of illicit tobacco products that have been seized by South Australia Police and compliance officers in Consumer and Business Services.

It is really important to continue these efforts: not just tackling crime generally and tackling crime across those areas which are of high priority to the community but tackling those types of crime which are being perpetrated by serious and organised crime—and, of course, the illicit tobacco market is one of those areas.

We are equipping our police with the additional resources they need to combat crime—more than \$334 million since coming into government—and it is paying dividends.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. When did the minister last receive advice on the project cost of the new Women's and Children's Hospital?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:39): I continue to meet regularly with the project team, the project director, the executives overseeing the project. I am also part of various cabinet discussions that we have through various cabinet committees that have oversight of the project on a very regular basis.

In terms of the cost of the project, the budget is still \$3.2 billion. But as both the Premier and I have said on a number of occasions, we know that construction costs across the world continue to be under pressure. We know that there is continued pressure on all major projects everywhere and we continue to make sure that we are doing everything we can to try to maintain that within the budget. But the contracting arrangements will be in place mid to late next year—that's when the major tenders will be finalised with construction companies—and between now and then we will do everything we can to make sure that we can keep it within that budget. Obviously, we will be doing everything we can with the main priority of making sure that we can deliver a hospital that meets the needs of women and children long into the future.

One of the key reasons we are confident about doing that is because we are doing it on this new site, which is a bigger site, which allows future expansion space, which allows us to not have one extra overnight bed as part of the hospital. That's in stark contrast to everything that we have heard from those opposite, including the shadow minister who asked me the question. When the Premier and I announced the new site, she went out and criticised that, in fact, and she said that the old site was 'stacked up ready to go' apparently. Apparently we were stacked up ready to go on construction on the old site next to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

I don't know if you remember this guy, but health expert David Speirs—do you remember him; David Speirs used to be in here until the current member for Black came in doing an excellent job—said this was 'shovel-ready' and that 'it was shown that this site could fit the new hospital' which is exactly the opposite to what we had. We had expert advice from the Hallion review which very clearly said that that RAH West site 'significantly limits, almost extinguishes, any future expansion of the RAH—

The SPEAKER: Minister, there is a point of order.

Mr TEAGUE: Standing order 98(a). The question was: when did the minister last receive advice on the project cost? He said he is regularly receiving advice, he hasn't gone near the answer, he is now straying into completely irrelevant territory. He needs to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: The minister is halfway through his allocated time to answer the question. I am sure he is getting to that point while providing some background to this construction of the hospital.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: And this is a critical point in terms of the decision that we have made in terms of the new site of the hospital, and obviously cost is one of the impacts. We wanted to make sure that we have a hospital that meets the needs for the long term, and that's why we had the Hallion report which looked at what the options were for us in terms of delivery of this hospital and it said that building the new women's and kids' hospital on the RAH West site 'significantly limits, almost extinguishes, any future expansion of the RAH, while at the same time preventing any future expansion of the new Women's and Children's Hospital at the RAH West site'. So far from being shovel-ready, far from being able to fit on that site, far from being ready to go, according to the shadow minister, we needed to take this action to make sure that this hospital is going to meet the needs for this state long into the future.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:43): Just a supplementary, if I may: just noting the meetings that the minister has about the new Women's and Children's Hospital project, has he specifically asked for an update on the project cost this year?

The SPEAKER: That's a separate question.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:43): I regularly as part of cabinet discussions—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left, if you are going to ask ministers questions, it would be great if you didn't disregard the rules of this place by interjecting.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Of course as part of any discussions, whether they are cabinet discussions or discussions I have with my officers, cost is one of the factors that we talk about in terms of this hospital project as well as importantly what the delivery is going to be for patients, for clinicians, making sure we get this hospital right for the long term.

As I have already answered, the tenders for this construction project are going to be mid to late next year. We will be doing everything that we can to make sure that it keeps within that budget, bearing in mind, of course, the construction costs being experienced across the world in terms of escalation that we are seeking to manage as best as we can.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH NETWORK

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:44): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Has the Women's and Children's Health Network board amended its minutes from 14 November 2024 or 5 December 2024?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:45): I will certainly make inquiries of the Women's and Children's Health Network in terms of the minutes, just as I will make inquiries in terms of the updating of their website, following your previous question that you have raised before.

PORT AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Can the minister update the people of my electorate on the recent visit by the minister to Port Augusta and any outcomes regarding support for children and families? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Last month, along with the minister, I attended a meeting with the mayor, Linley Shine, for the Port Augusta City Council, and I understand that the minister was then able to meet with other government services on her visit, which I greatly appreciated and understood a lot more about the issues.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) (14:45): Thank you so much to the member for his question, for his engagement on this really important visit, and for his outstanding work and care for his community. It has been a pleasure to undertake several regional visits of late and, following invitation from the council and the local member, a visit to Port Augusta. During this particular visit, I held really important meetings with local council, DCP staff, Aboriginal community-controlled organisation KWY and, of course, the member himself.

The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to our regions and as minister, like all other ministers, I have made it a priority to visit and hear directly from various communities. What was clear from all of my meetings was how community in Port Augusta works together to support families and children, particularly those most needing our support.

We know that regional and remote communities often have to tackle the complex situations families face differently to how these situations may be approached in metro Adelaide. I wholeheartedly thank Port Augusta mayor, Ms Linley Shine, and the CEO, who spent time discussing with the local member and with me the challenges Port Augusta families face and how the government can help ensure effective, coordinated support is available.

Government participation in local initiatives, connections with the local DCP office and the importance of family group conferencing for the region were discussed, and I really appreciated our very frank and important conversations. Hearing from the mayor regarding the difference that family group conferences are making for local families reaffirmed the priority that I as minister have put on family group conferencing and the investment our government has made. With a success rate of 90 per cent at the end of last financial year, we know they work. We know they empower families and we know that they help make things better for children.

I have spoken with my CE since the visit and there will now be a focus on building more capacity to provide local level family group conferencing for Port Augusta. I look forward also to developing the collaborative work we identified we can do to strengthen awareness and action in relation to domestic, family and sexual violence prevention.

I visited the local DCP office and spoke at length with outstanding workers about how we can continue to support them in the crucial work that they do. What was very clear is their dedication to families in Port Augusta, with many workers having worked there for 10-plus years. One particular story that stuck with me was the story of a mother and daughter who both work for DCP, utterly dedicated to supporting local families and children.

ACCOs and NGOs in the region are vital to ensuring that support is offered in a timely and effective way to support families. One particular organisation that offers outstanding support to women and children experiencing violence is KWY, and it was great to sit down and chat with their team about their work with community.

It was also excellent to witness the impact of the Port Augusta safety hub in providing services local and relevant to their community. Through partnership with the federal government, utilising our allocation of the 500 frontline DV worker program, we have boosted resources in all of the regional safety hubs, including in Port Augusta. Our government is really proud to support KWY's regional Women's Safety Contact Service, which supports Aboriginal women in Port Augusta experiencing violence. I, of course, took the opportunity to meet one on one with the member and, as we all know, his work in his community is extraordinary.

The SPEAKER: Your time for the question is up, minister.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the house on any government investment in suicide prevention initiatives targeted at men and the construction industry?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:50): I thank the member for Giles for this very important question. I note both the member for Giles's interest, and so many other members of parliament, and I particularly highlight the member for Elder as the Premier's

Advocate for Suicide prevention in their interests in terms of doing everything that we possibly can to combat suicide, prevent suicide and help people's mental health and wellbeing across the state.

The sad truth is that 190 construction workers die by suicide in Australia each year—that's one every second day across the country. They are eight times more likely to die by suicide than from a workplace accident. Young construction workers are two times more likely to die by suicide than other young Australian men. Of course, each suicide affects so many people. Up to 135 people for each suicide is estimated, and men are less likely than women to access mental health services.

We know that there is an amazing organisation in this state that provides dedicated suicide prevention work for construction workers, and that's MATES in Construction. For many years, they have piloted and developed and rolled out absolutely well-targeted programs that speak to those construction workers in their own language and make sure that we are training up other construction workers to help their colleagues and help prevent suicide.

Previously, many years ago, they received an amount of government funding that was through the industrial wing of government in the order of \$50,000 per year. That was funding that continued for many years. Unfortunately, that was cut under the previous government. It was something we were particularly concerned about at the time, and raised our concerns, and we promised to restore that when we came back to government. We have delivered on that, and of course that money has been restored.

The Hon. B.I. Boyer interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes, it was cut.

The Hon. B.I. Boyer: Who cut that?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The previous Marshall government cut that funding. We know, of course, that MATES in Construction can reach even more people. So not only have we restored that funding that was cut by the Liberals but now we have made a commitment to go even further. Just in the past week or so, we had a big MATES in Construction event that was joined by the member for Elder, the Deputy Premier, the member for Wright and also, of course, by the Premier when the Premier announced that we are investing additional funding in MATES in Construction. Through Preventive Health SA, we have now committed \$389,000 in additional funding across this and next financial year, and this will enable them to roll out the blueprint for a better mental health and suicide prevention program.

This is an industry-led peer based program: mates supporting mates, colleagues supporting colleagues. It's going to build mental health and suicide prevention into their workplace cultures across these industries, address alcohol and drug use as a contributor to distress, promote early intervention, stigma reduction and help-seeking. It will help them to fund a new full-time liaison officer, and it's already being rolled out at a number of major works across the government. A number of the construction peak bodies that we have spoken to are highly supportive of this, as are union members, in terms of what this means and what this is delivering on the ground.

This comes on top of that funding that we have already committed—some \$60,000 a year—which is going to allow MATES in Construction to reach more people, help more people and prevent suicide happening in construction workplaces, which sadly affects and ripples right through the community, which is obviously such a traumatic event for so many people involved.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:54): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Did any board member raise concerns with the minister or his team about advice given by the executive lead of the new Women's and Children's Hospital at the Women's and Children's Health Network meeting on 17 November?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:54): No, not to my knowledge.

WHYALLA PORTS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:54): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house about Federal Court of Australia action number VID420/2025 between Whyalla Ports and Mark Mentha and others. With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: By the order in the matter dated 29 April 2025, the court ordered, amongst other things, that Golding Contractors Pty Ltd has leave to intervene, and Whyalla Ports has leave to file and serve a cross claim, and the proceeding is set down for trial on an estimate of 3½ days, commencing 2 June 2025.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:55): These are matters before the court and the government will not be commenting.

WHYALLA PORTS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:55): My question is again to the Premier. Did any party in the matter request that the South Australian government make legislative change?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:55): The parliament is the master of its own destiny. The government and the parliament will consider any legislation put through to the parliament. I do not want to breach standing orders, sir—because I have given notice of me moving legislation in this place—other than to say that the government believes it is on very firm ground outside of this parliament and inside this parliament.

REGIONAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister consider extending the length of time students need to stay in regions if they are on a regional health scholarship? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: To be eligible for the Regional Health Scholarship Program the recipient must commit to working in their nominated regional LHN for a minimum of 12 months within six months of study completion. Constituents believe that by extending this minimum requirement, more health employees would stay in regional communities.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:57): I appreciate the question from the member for MacKillop and, obviously, his interest in regional health services and workers. I would be interested to hear more from the member in terms of his thoughts and have a further discussion with him, including some discussion with the health workers he has heard from as well.

This is a program that is very important, a program we have been delighted to see roll out across the state, and one we have also made some changes to recently. I think our first thought would be to make sure that the changes that have been made recently are meeting the needs before we undertake further changes; however, obviously I am always happy to look at advice and to make sure we have our program settings correct.

The Regional Health Scholarship Program is a very important program in terms of making sure we can recruit healthcare workers right across the state. We know that the further you get away from the GPO anywhere, in terms of the country there are additional workforce pressures. We are delighted that we have been able to recruit additional doctors and nurses above attrition across regional South Australia since we have come to office, but we know that there is more that remains to be done.

This scholarship program, which is run through our regional local health networks and the Rural Support Service, provides financial support to students from regional areas who are undertaking health-related university studies or who are currently employed with a regional local

health network. This year 57 regional health scholarships have been offered to support future health professionals living and working in regional South Australia, an increase from 47 last year. So this is a program we are expanding.

We did have a recent look at this program and we have made some changes, including that there are now seven scholarship categories that support university students and existing employees, including school leavers, Aboriginal students, and employees and regional employees undertaking studies. Eligibility criteria vary; however, all applicants must either ordinarily reside in an eligible regional location prior to undertaking tertiary studies or be currently employed in a regional local health network.

The Regional Bonding Scholarship, which is one of the seven categories, requires recipients to commit to working in their nominated regional local health network for a minimum of 12 months, as the member referred to in his question. This employment must commence within six months of completing their study. The recipients of the Regional Bonding Scholarship receive \$10,000 each, made over two payments, to support them in their final year of study. Prior to this year, the bonding period for regional undergraduate scholarship was equivalent to the duration of the scholarship agreement. However, following a review of the program, we have updated the eligibility criteria to target final-year students, as this group is more likely to have established career plans and are considered better placed to transition into working in regional LHNs under a 12-month bonding period.

In 2024, 26 undergraduate scholarships were offered. Fourteen recipients are still receiving funds under their current arrangements, and all eight of the undergraduate recipients who completed their scholarships in 2024 are currently employed in a regional local health network. That is obviously good news that we want to see continued, and so we are obviously keen to see how the rollout of those changes we have made to this program bed down and how they work in practice. I look forward to further discussions with the member for MacKillop, and I am obviously keen to hear from the people he is hearing from in terms of any changes that we might want to consider in the future.

WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister update the house about the team SA selection for the upcoming WorldSkills national event in Brisbane?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:01): I am happier than you would know to be up and answering this question today. I had a wonderful afternoon on Saturday, spent in Belair with South Australia's Skills Commissioner, Cameron Baker, where we had the absolute privilege and honour of presenting blazers and uniforms to those young people who will be representing South Australia in the national WorldSkills competition in Brisbane in June.

This year, the number of young people who will be representing South Australia in the national competition is 36 in the open section and 19 in the VET in schools section. That compares to the numbers from just 2023, which were seven in the open section and two in the VET in schools section. We are seeing enormous growth here, which is fantastic news. We presented the uniforms to young people from right across the state—and there is one particular person who I will mention in a second—who will be competing in areas including baking, beauty therapy, graphic design, landscape construction, motorcycle mechanics, painting and decorating, wall and floor tiling, welding, plumbing and heating, plastering and drywall applications, fitting, electrical installations, and cookery.

They will all be wearing their South Australian uniform and getting the opportunity to go to Brisbane in June and compete for a gold medal. I have my fingers crossed at what we will see out of those 36 competitors in the open section and the 19 in the VET in schools section. We might win gold and, if we do, they will have the privilege of representing Australia in Shanghai next year.

People in this place will have heard many of us say, on a number of occasions, that you don't need to go to university for a great career. I say it and the Premier says it, and it's absolutely true. This is where we make it real if we want to offer inspiration to young people, including some of the ones who are here today with the privilege of listening to question time. This is how we inspire other

young people to take on a career in a trade or a vocational education and training pathway instead of a career that might be a university pathway.

I am painfully aware, as a minister who has visited hundreds of schools and has spent probably more time in classrooms with year 9 students than I would care to have had—talking to them about their futures and what they might want to do with their lives—and I can tell you that they aren't particularly interested in what I have to say or in what any other adult has to say. But if they can see other young people who have chosen that pathway and who perhaps represent South Australia in WorldSkills, that is the kind of inspiration that they need to say, 'I might do that too.'

There is one particular young person who I want to mention, who I thought was absolutely inspirational. It was an honour for me to present him his uniform on the weekend. He is a young man from Whyalla Secondary College who is competing in commercial cookery in Brisbane. He is undertaking a school-based apprenticeship. He has a single mum, he is one of a number of siblings, and he has basically not left Whyalla (where he lives) ever before. He was incredibly nervous about coming to town to be a part of this and incredibly nervous about travelling to Brisbane in a few weeks' time and competing in a national competition.

But that is his story, and when other young people like him, when other South Australians hear about someone having the opportunity to go and compete and represent their state, and possibly go and compete and represent their nation in some of these trades—they are the stories that we need to tell. I really hope that I am able to come back to this place later and tell some success stories about some of those competitors who will get a chance to go to Shanghai and represent Australia.

EMPLOYER STANDARDS

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:05): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier think—and, if so, why—it is appropriate that private employers are expected to adhere to one standard and his government to another? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: In the reasons for decision by Deputy President Eaton, and I quote from those reasons:

The employer here is the Crown. That it has failed over such an extended period to comply with its own legal obligations is disturbing.

The SPEAKER: There were a couple of questions there. There was a question and then if that was the answer—there was another question. I will leave it to the Premier to see if he can work out what the question was.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:05): I thank the deputy leader for his question. I am more than happy to look into the matter that obviously the deputy leader has a degree of familiarity with, and I will seek some advice in regard to that quote that he selected from a particular matter that obviously the deputy leader is referring to.

WAGE THEFT

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:06): My question is again to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his election promise on wage theft? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: At the 2022 election, Labor's IR policy stated, and I quote:

The fundamental bargain with work is that you get paid—on time and in full.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:06): Thank you to the deputy leader for his question. Yes, of course. I think the values of the government are plain and our expectations are clear that wherever someone is providing their labour, then it is the expectation of everybody on our side that people get paid in accordance with their entitlements. Now, if there is an

instance where that isn't occurring and it is worthy of examination, then the government would be committed to looking into that, as is appropriate.

METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:07): My question is again to the Premier. Did the South Australian MFS comply with its legal obligations and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: He is asking the Premier for a legal opinion, which is out of order.

The SPEAKER: Can you repeat the question, deputy leader?

Mr TEAGUE: I will put it this way then. The question is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of the decision of Deputy President Eaton in the matter of the MFS in the South Australian Employment Tribunal and, if so, what is the government going to do about it? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: It was noted by Deputy President Eaton in her reasons for decision, and I quote:

I am concerned about the priority given to SAMFS senior management to compliance with its legal obligations to its employees.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (15:08): To just bring the house up to date with the matter that the deputy leader is asking a question on, albeit somewhat opaquely from the beginning, in late 2024 the MFS became aware of an administrative error which had led to the non-payment of some travel allowances. That error related to staff responsible for the manual processing of travel allowances changing roles and misunderstanding the extent to which that task was automated by the MFS rostering software.

Unfortunately, there were delays by the MFS in the correction of that error and processing outstanding payments, which led to orders being made by the South Australian Employment Tribunal, including for the payment of arrears and the payment of interest. The MFS acknowledged that firefighters were entitled to payment of those allowances. The chief officer wrote to the firefighters acknowledging the administrative error, apologising for the delays in fixing it, and confirming that the MFS was working to resolve the issue. The chief officer also provided a number of updates to firefighters about the matter as it progressed.

The Minister for Emergency Services and Correctional Services has placed on record in parliament the government's deep regret that firefighters were delayed in receiving payment for those travel allowances. While the Attorney-General was advised that the situation was the full result of an administrative error rather than any deliberate intention by the MFS to withhold payments, the government acknowledges that it should not have happened, it took too long to correct, and it is not good enough.

The MFS has advised that it has taken active steps to put processes in place to ensure this does not happen again, and has advised that all outstanding travel allowance payments following the orders of the tribunal have now been processed to Shared Services for payment, and that a dedicated email has been provided so that any firefighters with concerns about travel payments can contact a staff member within the MFS.

Every worker in South Australia deserves to have their wages and entitlements paid in full and on time, not least our hardworking firefighters. The government unreservedly apologises that this did not occur in this instance.

The SPEAKER: Before members leave, I would like to remind everyone that you have been invited to an important session tomorrow delivered by the Our Watch Institute. The presentations focus on the primary prevention of violence against women, and is a key part of the parliament's

commitment to implement workplace and equality standards. There are three different sessions available throughout the day, and the expectation is that we will get as many MPs to those sessions as possible. Please RSVP if you have not done so already.

Grievance Debate

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:11): Today we have seen a scandalous revelation, absolutely scandalous revelation in relation to the new Women's and Children's Hospital, where board minutes were leaked to the media unveiling that there is a delay to the completion of the new Women's and Children's Hospital.

Of course, what we see is sheer incompetence from this government, this minister and this Premier, the same government that in recent times—not that long ago—led changes such as Transforming Health, and we have seen how that has gone. Do not forget that it is also the same Premier that shut down the Repat hospital many years ago. Today, generally he does not struggle to get off his feet and actually say a few words but, alas, he sent out the defender in the health minister to answer the most basic of questions about this very, very important matter.

The minister could not say with any certainty when he got the most up-to-date cost estimates in relation to what will be the biggest build not only in South Australia but the biggest building in Australia. He could not answer basic questions in relation to whether he actually reads the board minutes of said hospital, and also told us that he meets regularly with the CEO. If he was meeting about this particular hospital and meeting that CEO and there were some issues with the minutes, would you not identify those minutes?

Alas, what has happened is that many months have gone by and it is only through these events being leaked to the media, and the minister acknowledging that he has a serious problem, that we finally get a discussion about this very important topic today. Overnight we have seen official government documents—and this is not just any whistleblower, these are the minutes of the board that have been leaked to the media—disputing claims from the minister about when the new Women's and Children's Hospital will actually be completed.

We are not talking about delays of months; we are talking about delays of years. As we have been told, every month that there is a delay could cost millions and millions of dollars. A delay of three years might well cost the taxpayers of South Australia anything from \$300 million to \$400 million.

What is this Labor government really trying to hide? Today we saw three dates that were given in terms of the completion of the hospital. One date was provided by the minister, another date was provided by the Premier, and then we had another date provided by the board of this—

An honourable member: The experts.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: That is exactly right, the experts. Do not forget, these are apolitical board members doing their job as stewards of this critical project to the state's future. It is the same minister who overblew his budget and many millions and millions of dollars in the last budget. How does this guy keep his job is what I want to know.

Meanwhile, this government is running interference, playing spin the message, gaslighting the South Australian public, saying 'There's nothing to see here.' Well, this Labor government are having a laugh if they think that they can continue to hoodwink the people of South Australia. You should have heard the radio this morning. We heard the Premier. He said in regards to procurement that:

...absolute final procurement for the project with whoever builds the main components of it isn't until the second half of next year and that's when we'll get absolute clarity on the cost...

Make no mistake about this. What this government is doing is acting completely politically. It is all about the political game. They are kicking this can down the road because they know they are running this state into the ground. They are running up the debt. First it is the tunnels that go from \$9.9 billion to \$15 billion. This project here was at \$1.9 billion and is all the way up to \$3.2 billion. Wait until their mates in the CFMEU get involved. They are just kicking this can down the road, beyond the forward

estimates, beyond the next budget, beyond the next state election, and it is the taxpayers of South Australia that will pay. They will pay dearly.

And it is not just the taxpayers of South Australia. Unfortunately it is sick kids in this state that are going to pay, and it is the mums and babies that need this hospital and need it built, but instead they are being treated as a political pawn by this minister and this government.

Shortly after, the health minister said on radio that the completion date is 2030-31. Well, which one is it? Is it 2030-31, is it 2031-32 or is it 2033-34? Which one is it? This is the same Labor that botched Transforming Health and caused chaos in the health system, and it is the same Labor Premier who as health minister shut the Repat hospital. Unfortunately, what it does feel like is it feels like Groundhog Day. It is Groundhog Day.

I think most people in this house all want the same thing. We want a brilliant, state-of-the-art hospital that is befitting the brilliant state that we live in. But on the current timeline, unfortunately, a child born in 2013, when Labor first announced a hospital, will celebrate their 21st birthday before it is built. Our hardworking doctors and nurses, our sick children and their families deserve far better than the chaos that is currently reigning under this incompetent minister.

YORKE PENINSULA POWER OUTAGE

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:16): I am up again to talk about the electorate-wide blackout that we experienced on the Yorke Peninsula on Friday 14 March. Members might be sick of it: I have been up during every single sitting week since that blackout occurred. I am calling for action from government to compensate businesses that lost money from that blackout through the loss of the opportunity to trade, through stock that wasted or through a variety of other adverse effects that arose as a result of that electorate-wide blackout.

There is another issue that I want to raise, and it is not because it is a secondary issue that is not as important. It is just through virtue of the lack of opportunity that I have had that it has had to wait a few weeks. This other issue is of critical importance to our electorate, that being the fact that within a few hours of the blackout occurring we lost all phone reception across the entire Yorke Peninsula. It was a truly dangerous situation to put the residents of our electorate in, and it was one that could have had literally life-or-death consequences.

It seems that the batteries that offer a backup plan for our phone towers only last a few hours. So the power went out in the morning, and by lunchtime across the entire electorate we had no phone service for anyone to use, and we could not make contact with loved ones to check in on them.

It is not an exaggeration to say this is life or death. This is a seriously dangerous situation we put our residents in. Imagine if you had an elderly neighbour or relative who lives some way away, who you were worried about on a hot day—because it was a hot day—and you wanted to check on them. Well, you could not. You could not call them. You had to get out there and go and see them, and if they were not approachable or easy to get to then there was just no way to check in.

What if you wanted to rely on the device that they wore around their neck that would set off an alarm in the case of emergency? Well, those operate on a 3G network, and they would not have worked either. There would have been people who had paid good money for these devices to sound an alarm in case of emergency, and those alarms would not have worked because the phone towers were out and those services were unavailable. So there is another cross; that would not have worked.

What if a bushfire had started? It was a hot day. It was a windy day. It was an extremely hot day, actually, from memory, and what if a bushfire had started and begun rollicking across our electorate? My understanding is that CFS volunteers in this day and age rely on their phones to receive a notification on their app to get a call to the station so they can go out and fight a fire. Well, those notifications would not have come through, because there was no phone service across the entire peninsula. So if a bushfire had started, if there was an ambulance call-out that was required, if there was a police incident that occurred, none of those emergency services would have been able to get the notification to respond to those incidents. This is a terribly dangerous situation and something that we as a parliament and telco providers need to investigate doing better.

It extends to more than emergency services and health situations. We have with us today guests from different schools across the peninsula who were dropped off, in large part, at school on that Friday morning because parents did not know at that point that there was going to be a 20-hour outage and who by lunchtime were unable to contact their parents to arrange a pick up or, if there was an incident that occurred at school, to arrange for their parents to come and get them.

That is an incredible situation that left teachers and schools in a really unenviable position of trying to organise something with parents and teachers that was just not possible to do. I was talking to some of the teachers whilst we were up here doing tours just before, who outlined some of the stories that they had to deal with on that outage day.

This is a situation that we need to combat. I have written to Telstra and outlined my concerns and had a response and I have brought it up now in this chamber, but it is something that we need to investigate. I strongly believe that there needs to be an allocation of community batteries and/or generators across the state at key points so that we can access some service if we need it. It might not be that we can power every phone tower across my electorate in the event of a blackout, but surely we can ensure that there are some that are working so people can drive to and check in on people when they need to. As I have said, without exaggeration it is a matter of life and death.

I will be taking that up. I will be continuing to pursue that, just like I am for compensation for businesses that have lost out as a result of this outage and just like I am for the general upgrade and repair of our phone towers. I am very pleased to confirm to this house that we have a new tower incoming at Port Rickaby. It has been some years since that funding was promised, and it could not come quickly enough.

I have to report that over the new year, a gentleman was unfortunate enough to pass away at the Port Rickaby Caravan Park in December. Such is the ineptitude of that phone tower that currently exists there, the emergency services who responded to that caravan park had to huddle around a payphone to talk to their superiors at different places because the mobile phones were not working to call out. We had this extraordinary situation where ambulance officers and police officers were taking turns to use a payphone to report the difficulties they had in retrieving a deceased person from a caravan park. It is well overdue that that new phone tower is built, and it will be well welcomed by that community.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICES

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:21): On ANZAC Day last month, South Australians and Australians right across the country gathered, often in small groups on street corners or at war memorials, to commemorate all of those who have served, who are serving and, indeed, those who have paid the ultimate price. Some of those local ceremonies occurred in my own community, and I wanted to take a moment in parliament today to acknowledge those community groups and individuals who have helped put together ANZAC Day ceremonies in the eastern suburbs.

I include the Friends of Rose Park War Memorial, who each year organise an ANZAC Day ceremony at the Rose Park Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial, which is quite a striking memorial. It celebrated its centenary last year. We had a ceremony that I attended, along with many members of the community and Her Excellency the Governor, to celebrate the centenary last year. Each year we gather at dawn at that memorial to mark ANZAC Day. I want to acknowledge the Friends of Rose Park War Memorial who each year put that together, and really it is a small committee of no more than about half a dozen people.

I want to acknowledge their work, including Steve Larkins OAM, who is the honorary Chair of the Friends of the Rose Park War Memorial and was also the MC on the day and did a terrific job; Pauline Silins, who is the Secretary of the Friends of Rose Park War Memorial and has been serving in that role for a very long time; Reverend Ruth Brogan, who is the minister at Gartrell Church very close to the memorial and was the officiating minister for the service this year, as she has done in previous years; Lyndon Stacy; and Geoff Walsh. This is a small group of people who do a really important thing for our local community, which is put on at that ANZAC Day ceremony each year at the Rose Park War Memorial.

I had the honour of going along and laying a wreath this year, as I have done in previous years, and I have to say just how moving and encouraging it has been over my lifetime going to this particular ceremony and seeing the number of people who attend that event actually grow, particularly the number of young people who attend that event coming in their hundreds at dawn to mark ANZAC Day.

The Friends of the Rose Park War Memorial have also asked me to particularly acknowledge the piper on the day, Eric Gittens, and also the bugler who was Ben Spitty, and also those who helped in various other capacities on the day, including the catafalque party No.10 Squadron Edinburgh; the City of Burnside, which assisted with traffic control; and Sing Australia Burnside, the choir for this year's ceremony, which was a very nice addition to have and they sang beautifully.

Students from Rose Park Primary School participate most years, including this year with a couple reading out some prayers; the Rose Park Norwood Scout Group assisted with handing out programs; and various volunteers from the Gartrell Church assisted with setting up chairs and speakers and other items that were needed for the ceremony. So for all of those who helped out organising that special ANZAC Day ceremony I say thank you and acknowledge your contribution here in parliament today.

I also want to acknowledge the Kensington Gardens RSL. I went along to the RSL following the Rose Park ceremony and enjoyed a barbecue and a breakfast beer. They had a very well-attended service as well, led by Bishop Tim Harris. But I want to acknowledge the President of that RSL, Peter Lloyd. The remembrance address was delivered by Ellis Wayland. Rod Graham helped with the program and Steven Roberts with the sound system.

The day before ANZAC Day the Linden Park RARA held a ceremony at the Regis Aged Care facility that I was able to visit and I want to acknowledge Mal Allen, Colin Abel, Lou Khorasanee and Gino Arendic for their contribution to that, as well as Pipe Major Andrew Fuller. In particular, I acknowledge 103-year-old World War II veteran Cecil Ireland, who I had the opportunity to meet on the day, who served in World War II and we commemorated on ANZAC Day. Thank you all for your contribution.

PARAFIELD GARDENS SOCCER AND SPORTS CLUB

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:27): I rise to mark a truly special occasion, the 60th anniversary of the Parafield Gardens Soccer and Sports Club, a place that has meant so much to so many and continues to be the heart of the Parafield Gardens sporting community. Founded in 1966 by members of the local Dutch community, the club has become much more than a sporting venue. It stands as a symbol of inclusion, teamwork and community pride.

Central to the club's identity is the remarkable relationship between its two main sporting codes, cricket and soccer. Sharing facilities can often be a challenge, yet here they have built a partnership grounded in mutual respect and cooperation, serving as an inspiration to others across South Australia.

Both sports have enjoyed impressive success. I was going to list every title, but having a glimpse at their lengthy records I think I would need a good 10 minutes to list them all. But what shines at the top of their long list of accolades is the fact the soccer club remains the only team in the Amateur League's history to win the Division 1 amateurs Double Double twice.

A little over 10 years ago, the club opened its new clubrooms, a significant investment that has truly paid off. Facilities improved greatly, creating a welcoming and functioning space for members and visitors alike. The club now boasts a membership of 650. The support it enjoys from the Parafield Gardens community is heartwarming and unwavering. The energy, the commitment and the camaraderie shown by players, volunteers and supporters alike is what keeps the spirit of the club alive.

Another exciting development has been the rise of the Raptors softball team, who now use Bradman Oval for training. It is yet another example of the club's inclusive and forward-thinking approach. Bradman Oval has never been busier and never more important as a home to our sporting community.

One of the club's greatest strengths is its multicultural heritage. What began with strong Dutch roots has evolved into a welcoming, diverse community. No matter where you were born, what your background is or your skill set, everyone is welcome. That sense of belonging is something locals are deeply proud of.

The evening of 3 May did not just coincide with the election day results; it was also a night to honour the club's remarkable history. It was wonderful to see so many past and present members come together, reconnect and share memories. It served as a powerful reminder that this club is not just about sport; it is about people, family and community.

I had the privilege of helping to unveil the club's new black and gold honour board, a project that I had worked on with several club luminaries for a few years. It looks striking and modern and takes pride of place inside the clubrooms, recognising those who have given so much over the decades. I want to thank club president and life member Adam Gallagher for the kind invitation and the warm welcome that Saturday evening. His dedication to the club and its members reflects the values that truly make community sport so special.

Parafield Gardens Sports Club also proudly claims to be the original home of Nestory Irankunda, who is now making his mark at Bayern Munich. But this is not just a club for future stars; it is a club for everyone. Whether you are dreaming big or just looking to be part of a team, you will find a place here.

Later this year, I look forward to welcoming club members at Parliament House for a special dinner. It will be a chance to celebrate again, share stories and recognise the contribution it has made to so many lives. In the meantime, I have been asked that special mention goes to Matt Marsden, Vice-President and Cricket Director; Jess Hatch, Secretary and canteen bar manager; Izaak Wilson, Men's Team Manager, Junior Coach and Committee Member; and Phil Palmer, who helps in the kitchen, cleans and serves as Team Manager for the Women's Soccer Team.

Finally, in discussion with Adam Gallagher it was agreed to dedicate this speech to the memory of Ray Coull, who sadly passed away last week. Ray was at the celebration, and the community was so glad that he could be there. A former club captain, South Australian Amateur Soccer League life member and cherished friend to many, his impact on the club and its culture was profound. His legacy will live on in the friendships and spirit that he helped build. To everyone who has been part of the Parafield Gardens Sports Club over the past 60 years: thank you; this celebration is yours.

MARINE WILDLIFE DEATHS

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:32): I rise today to speak about an issue of great concern to my community and many others around South Australia. Frankly, there have been disturbing scenes both on my local beaches and also more broadly across the state over recent times. The instances of marine life and fish deaths occurring over recent weeks are certainly unusual and significantly increased compared to historical and recent memory, in particular on suburban, highly patronised beaches.

Just in the last few weeks, we have had the occurrence on 5 May of a great white shark washed up on the shore at Henley Beach South, and despite the attempts of passers-by the shark died on the beach. On 6 May, a shark was found washed up on the beach at Port Jackson as well. On 7 May, a deceased penguin was found on the shore at West Beach. On 7 May also, numerous cuttlefish were found washed up at Henley Beach South. Other deceased marine life, including fish, has been found along the coast over that same period of time.

More broadly across the state, we have seen instances of sharks being found washed up on the shore at Ardrossan, at Aldinga and also at Port Noarlunga. Thousands of dead and dying fish have been found on the east and south-east coast of the Yorke Peninsula, and one marine biologist involved in this discovery was seriously injured by a distressed eagle ray. Thousands of cockles have been found washed up dead at Goolwa Beach, and dead blue-ringed octopuses have been discovered at the Edithburgh jetty, as well as hundreds of dead fish found at Waitpinga Beach and Parsons Beach on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Clearly, images such as the one of the great white shark at Henley Beach South are disturbing and confronting scenes. The primary apex predator of the sea washed up on our shoreline deceased is clearly troubling, troubling to the extent that many in my community are rightfully concerned and are keen to understand exactly what is going on. It is why I wrote to the Minister for Environment urging that an independent inquiry, separate of the government, be established to get to the bottom of those deaths. Clearly, there is a strong hypothesis that the algal bloom that has appeared in SA waters has contributed; however, there are also other factors that have been raised that may or may not have contributed to this issue, and clearly we are at a point where we need to see answers.

These issues along our coastline compound the ongoing concern my community has when it comes to our local beaches. Now, nearly six months after the dredging trial was conducted and now finished, we are still none the wiser on the results or the next steps that this government will take. Once again, I stand here in this place, on behalf of my community, calling on the government to release in full the results of the dredging trial and make it clear to my community what the next steps will be and what their plan is for coastal management in the western suburbs.

In the meantime, the trucks continue to take sand onto our beaches; and I do not like in any way to be negative about the much-needed sand coming in and being placed on our beaches, but the scenes this week of a significantly sized earthmoving truck bogged at the Torrens outlet emphasises exactly why a new approach is absolutely needed. The call from my community is very clear: get on with it, tell us what you are doing, be transparent and please get to the bottom of what is occurring on our beaches. It is clear that we need answers as to the ongoing issue around marine life and fish deaths, but also clarity on the other hand in terms of what the government's proposal and plan is for coastal management into the future.

PALESTINE

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:36): On 14 May 1948, Israel declared independence, leading to a war with adjoining Arab nations and also leading to an escalation of violence perpetuated on the Palestinian people. Nakba Day, as requested by the United Nations General Assembly, is observed on 15 May each year—tomorrow. Between 1947 and 1949, approximately 15,000 Palestinians were killed in a series of mass atrocities, including dozens of massacres. June the 5th 1967 was the first day of a six-day war resulting in another wave of displacement occurring, known as the Naksa. An additional 250,000 to 300,000 Palestinians became refugees, some for the second time.

The Nakba anniversary is a reminder of not only those tragic events of 1948 but the ongoing injustice suffered by the Palestinian people. The Nakba had a profound impact on the Palestinian people, who lost their homes, their land and their way of life. As terrible as these statistics are, they do not convey the sheer horror, injustice, pain and grief experienced by the Palestinian people for over 76 years.

In the most recent conflict, which continues today, over 50,000 Palestinian people have been killed. While these figures should haunt every political and community leader in the Western world, it is the lack of empathy shown by some, including some in Australia, that is most disturbing. Such is their moral indifference that their words, for short-term political gain, inflict further pain and hurt on a community already decimated by senseless war. Nakba Day reminds us that the current conflict did not have its origins on 7 October 2023.

I mention this because the events of 7 October 2023, as horrific as they were, do not define the history of this conflict. Those who only reference this event are betraying not only history but humanity itself. Whether it is through ignorance or political expedience matters not. It is when we understand and accept this fact that the Palestine-Israel conflict can be finally resolved.

The occupation of Palestine does not just kill people—it silences voices, erases images and buries the truth. We see many examples where the truth has been buried to the extent that in Palestine numerous journalists have been killed in this latest conflict to ensure that the story does not get out. However, most of the politicians, academics and journalists in the West have deliberately chosen not to notice.

This kind of ignorance is first and foremost the result of the successful Israeli lobbying that thrived in the fertile ground of a European guilt complex, racism, and Islamophobia. In the case of the US, it is also the outcome of many years of an effective and ruthless lobbying machine that very few in academia, media and politics dare to disobey. That is a very important point. Those in this country, for example, who try to put an alternative view about the Israel-Palestine conflict are often torn down and silenced in many ways.

In the name of balance, our media gives credibility to this Israeli propaganda. No-one would think of giving equal treatment to those who deny the Holocaust, neither should we give balanced media coverage to those who deny the enormity of the devastation in Gaza and the West Bank today.

October 7 did not occur in a vacuum. It was the result of a decades-long Israeli occupation, never-ending violence, and the oppression of the Palestinian people. Destroying Hamas will not destroy the Palestinian cause for a homeland and a peaceful and prosperous future, because it is a just cause. One day history will prove them right.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:41): It is National Road Safety Week from 11 to 18 May, and it is an opportunity for me to draw the parallel between the importance of road safety, where we will note the presence of SAPOL, our South Australian police force, targeting road behaviours to ensure that our drivers are obeying the road rules—but in my area we also remain particularly vigilant about the standards of the road.

There is a particular road in my electorate of Frome that gives me grave concern, and it is raised frequently. Between the communities of Robertstown, Point Pass and Eudunda, locals are very concerned about the state of a road we know locally as World's End Highway—which should not become a self-fulfilling prophecy and contribute to the angst in the way that it does. There is great concern that if you are in a vehicle, caravan, bus or truck passing another of those, it is a white-knuckle journey.

In National Road Safety Week it is not just about the behaviour of road users but also the state of the roads. I hope during this week all drivers in South Australia remain vigilant and safe.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:42): Next week is Volunteer Week, and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a community organisation called the Light Country Community Centre Inc. Last week I attended an event I was invited to by this group, based in Kapunda, which is a registered not-for-profit charity helping people of our greater community who are finding the cost of living difficult to live with.

Currently this group has three functions. One is that they provide assistance in terms of food relief to people and families who are struggling to afford food after paying the bills, so they actually support the people in most need in our community. Most of the food is donated to the group by generous businesses, churches, groups, and individuals. They pass this food on for free to those in need.

They also provide meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and also have an open-door policy where people can come in and enjoy the food and friendship offered to anybody in the Kapunda Institute on the Fridays. As well, they have services which operate from the centre, like Services Australia, to assist those who need support through various ways.

The group currently has 26 volunteers, five of whom comprise the leadership board: Christine Thomas, her husband Ken Thomas, Carol de Vries van Luewen, Bruna Jaffa, and the Chair, Allan Fahlbusch. The event was about volunteering, about volunteers supporting and thanking other volunteers. I pay my tribute to them.

Time expired.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:44): Last year, thousands of locals signed my 'Fix Morphett Road tram crossing' petition. This grassroots campaign delivered funding for an overpass for the very congested Morphett Road tram crossing. It is a huge win for the local community. I have

been fighting for a solution since before I was elected as the member for Morphett in 2018, and I have talked about this in parliament many times, with the aim being to reduce congestion and improve road safety at this intersection.

With construction of the overpass commencing later this year, locals are concerned about part of the design, which plans to move Stop 13 towards Morphett Road by 250 metres. The existing location of Stop 13 is well used by locals and it provides convenient access for locals, both from Glengowrie and also from the Glenelg East side, with the car parks being full every day. Local residents are calling on the state government to keep Stop 13 where it is.

Earlier this year, Alan Herman started a petition to retain Stop 13. The petition attracted 417 signatures from concerned locals and commuters. On behalf of all petitioners, I have now given the petition to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and have urged him to reconsider moving Stop 13 and to listen to the commuters who live in and around Glengowrie and Glenelg East and who regularly use this stop. Thanks go to Alan and the many residents and tram commuters who use Stop 13 who have asked that their voice be heard.

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:46): I am pleased to share with the house that I had the great pleasure of visiting Golden Grove High School just this Monday with the Minister for Education, who is also the neighbouring member for Wright, as well as with Education chief executive Professor Martin Westwell, to meet with an incredible group of year 10 and year 11 students who are currently driving a Golden Grove leadership group within the school community. I would really like to share just how incredible the work is that these students are leading.

First and foremost, they have raised an incredible amount of funds for the Big AI Foundation. Not only have they raised the funds but they are doing what they can to promote awareness about this really important initiative that focuses on mental health and helping to support and activate members in the community to provide a support for those whom they see might be needing a little bit of extra assistance. I understand that they have now raised over \$7,000 in a very short time for this very important cause, which will actually be going back into the school for a program led by this initiative, regarding breathing and peer mentorship.

That is not all, though. These amazing students are doing plenty in terms of Backpacks 4 SA Kids, as well as organising a festival in the school community to help raise community pride within the area. I commend them and thank them for all their work and efforts.

Personal Explanation

COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (15:47): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Earlier today in question time I answered a question on the Marion Bay boat ramp. I have since received revised advice that states that the approval authority for the boat ramp was the State Planning Commission and the proponent was the local council; that the planning approval was given with conditions imposed by the Coast Protection Board, particularly on seagrass wrack management; and that the council remains legally responsible for that seagrass wrack management.

Bills

BIODIVERSITY BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (15:48): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to provide for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity in the state for the benefit of current and

future generations, to make related amendments to various acts, to repeal the Native Vegetation Act 1991 and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

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

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am so pleased to be introducing this Biodiversity Bill. The bill repeals the Native Vegetation Act and parts of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It fulfils the government's pre-election commitment to introduce a Biodiversity Act into parliament in this term of government and to make sure that conservation outcomes are fully integrated into how we all live sustainably and prosper for the long term.

It also represents Aboriginal South Australians in the management of land and respect for its ecosystems, recognising Aboriginal South Australians have been managing country and living sustainably on our lands and waters for more than 65,000 years.

Biodiversity is the foundation of life. Humans are not separate from the environment, we are part of it. The food we eat, the air we breathe, the industries we depend on, they all rely on the delicate balance of nature. Sadly, biodiversity loss is a crisis faced across the world. The World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2025 identified biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse as the second highest long-term risk facing the globe, second only to extreme weather events.

This pattern is reflected at a state level in South Australia. The 2023 State of the Environment Report found that South Australia's biodiversity is continuing to decline rapidly. Over 1,100 species of South Australian flora and fauna are listed as being at increased risk of extinction. Extinction is not just about losing a single species. When a species disappears, the entire ecosystem is disrupted: the plants that depend on it, the animals that feed on it, and even the microbes within it. Biodiversity loss is like removing threads from a web—eventually the entire system collapses.

The loss of biodiversity is not just an environmental issue, it is an economic risk. More than 80 per cent of our exports and over one third of the state's employment depends on nature. Industries like food, wine, tourism and agriculture all depend on healthy ecosystems. Our major trading partners are setting ambitious biodiversity targets and many are linking environmental standards to trade and investment. If SA fails to act, we risk being left behind in the global green economy.

Since colonisation South Australia's environment has changed dramatically. Some changes have driven progress, but others—habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution and unsustainable resource use—have harmed our ecosystems. At the same time, the displacement of Aboriginal communities has not only affected people, culture and heritage but also weakened traditional land management practices that protected biodiversity for tens of thousands of years. A business as usual approach is no longer an option. If we do nothing, the damage will become harder and more expensive, or even impossible to reverse.

Just as South Australia has led the way on climate action, committing to net zero emissions by 2050, we must now take the same ambitious approach to biodiversity. That is why I stand before you today to speak in support of the Biodiversity Bill 2025, a crucial piece of legislation that will modernise and strengthen protections for South Australia's biodiversity to benefit us and our future generations.

Arresting biodiversity loss and capitalising on a nature-positive green future for South Australia involves two key actions: protecting what we have left and restoring what we have lost. These reforms have been the subject of extensive community engagement and input by key sector groups, government partners and Aboriginal representatives and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the journey.

The draft bill was made available for public consultation between January and February 2025 and received a total of 1,249 responses. Overall, the community indicated strong support for the objects and principles of the act.

This bill establishes a new framework for how we protect, restore and interact with biodiversity in South Australia. It will consolidate biodiversity considerations previously spread across several pieces of legislation. The bill brings together the Native Vegetation Act and key biodiversity provisions from the National Parks and Wildlife Act, ensuring that they work together to provide stronger, clearer protections for nature. The bill also introduces significant improvements, including:

- a new general duty ensuring that all South Australians play a role in protecting biodiversity;
- stronger native plant laws providing clearer regulations to safeguard native vegetation;
- tougher penalties to create stronger deterrence against environmental harm;
- critical habitat protections, by introducing a new process to identify and safeguard habitats vital for the survival of threatened species; and
- a new process for listing threatened species and threatened ecological communities, which aligns with other Australian jurisdictions and receives expert input from the scientific committee.

The bill will also be supported by four committees, each appointed on the basis of their skills and expertise. At the heart of this bill, and enshrined in its objects, are two key pillars: we must protect the biodiversity that we have left, and we must begin to restore and put back what we have lost. We know we are facing two clear threats to the planet and consequently our way of life: climate change and biodiversity decline. While both are independent challenges to our collective future, they exacerbate the effect of the other. This bill includes actions to guide conservation and restoration of nature and to build the resilience of our remaining biodiversity to include climate change.

This bill also seeks to enshrine, respect and acknowledge Aboriginal South Australians and the role that they have played in caring for and living sustainably on country. Native plant and animal species hold considerable meaning to Aboriginal South Australians. The wisdom they hold provides important understanding of our ecosystems, providing unique and valuable insights into biodiversity and how we can live with nature.

The bill ensures that Aboriginal knowledge is considered alongside science and local expertise in shaping conservation policy and restoration projects. An Aboriginal biodiversity committee will be established to provide environmental and cultural perspectives to the operation of the act. Recognition of culturally significant biodiversity entities will be established and determined voluntarily by Aboriginal groups to help guide policy and conservation efforts at a landscape level. This recognition will not inhibit individual land use decisions such as development approvals, instead it will help shape long-term environmental policy and restoration efforts.

Biodiversity is not just the government's responsibility, it belongs to all of us. That is why this bill introduces a general duty to not cause harm to biodiversity, ensuring that individuals, businesses and governments take proactive steps to prevent harm. This is intended to encourage individuals, businesses and governments to take all reasonable prevention or minimisation measures before engaging in activities that could harm biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Bill contains a range of offences that regulate harm to biodiversity. The general duty acts as an extra layer of protection, a failsafe for unanticipated harms. If someone breaches this duty it is not a criminal offence but it does trigger corrective action. Compliance orders, reparation orders or civil court proceedings can be issued to ensure that any harm is swiftly rectified or prevented.

The introduction of a general duty for biodiversity presents a unique opportunity to acknowledge and encourage best practice across a range of industries and the community generally. The bill allows for biodiversity policies to outline what constitutes reasonable measures, providing clear guidelines for compliance.

By accrediting industry practices as compliant with the general duty, the bill gives land managers and others certainty that their actions align with government expectations. Accreditation of industry practices will also enable businesses to maintain access in export markets as global trade

increasingly values nature-positive practices. As I previously stated, the bill will be supported by four committees:

- The biodiversity council, which will set the policy direction for biodiversity protection and restoration in the state and provide the government with advice. The bill requires that in appointing members to the biodiversity council, peak bodies are able to nominate qualified people to ensure that a strong mix of skills and relevant experience is brought together to provide balanced advice to government.
- A clearance assessment committee, which will review and assess land clearance proposals.
- The Aboriginal biodiversity committee, which will ensure that Aboriginal knowledge informs biodiversity management.
- A scientific committee, which will provide technical and ecological expertise.

While the biodiversity council's composition is detailed in the bill, the other committees will be defined through regulations to ensure that expertise aligns with their roles.

The bill is also supported by three funds. The Biodiversity Restoration Fund and Biodiversity Conservation Fund are largely rolled over from the Native Vegetation Act and the National Parks and Wildlife Act, respectively. The bill establishes a new Biodiversity Administration Fund to provide better transparency and accountability in the expenditure of funds.

For more than 30 years the Native Vegetation Act 1991 has played a key role in preventing the broadscale clearing of South Australia's landscapes. At the time it was progressive and effective in halting widespread destruction; however, over time amendments have made it complex to navigate and administer, and some of its protections have become outdated. The National Parks and Wildlife Act also contains plant protection provisions, mostly for public land. The Biodiversity Bill combines these with those of the Native Vegetation Act, simplifying and strengthening biodiversity protections across all lands.

Under the new act, clearance consent will be required for all plants indigenous to South Australia, regardless of species or size. Indigenous plants from the rest of Australia will also be protected if they meet the regulated tree size under planning laws, are a prescribed species and are part of a biodiversity agreement. Currently, most planted native vegetation is not protected under the Native Vegetation Act. The Biodiversity Act changes this: native plants that were planted at least 20 years ago will now have the same protections as naturally occurring native vegetation. This reform acknowledges and safeguards decades of restoration efforts, ensuring that habitat restoration projects continue to contribute meaningfully to biodiversity conservation.

The bill defines activities that require consent as regulated acts. It also lists some activities that do not require approval, which are mostly carried over from existing native vegetation regulations to ensure continuity. However, all activities, whether regulated or not, must still take steps to minimise harm to biodiversity. The bill also adds new exclusions to support the 20-year planted vegetation rule, ensuring that home gardens can be maintained, commercial forestry and farm forestry operations (including windbreaks) can continue and that commercial floriculture is not disrupted. These are in addition to existing exclusions that exist under the Native Vegetation Act for a range of other activities.

The bill will require stricter application of the mitigation hierarchy. The hierarchy requires applicants seeking to clear native plants to demonstrate that they have as far as is practicable restored, avoided and minimised any harm to biodiversity and where there are remaining adverse impacts that these will be offset. The bill also requires prioritisation of on-ground offset projects before allowing payments into a biodiversity fund. The existing Native Vegetation Act includes a requirement for people clearing native plants to achieve a significant environmental benefit as a means of offsetting their impacts. This is a well-established process but needs revision in line with emerging science and best practice.

The bill requires a new Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) policy to be developed with extensive consultation. This process will begin following the bill's passage. Importantly, the SEB

policy will ensure that offsets genuinely compensate for the impacts and loss and leave biodiversity in a better state. At the same time, development of the policy will have regard for the practical implications for business and industry.

Feedback received through public consultation advocated for revising the principles of preservation, which are carried over from the Native Vegetation Act and are used to guide decision-making. Feedback suggested these need to be updated to reflect current ecological science and be framed to have an outcomes focus. In order to properly consult on these principles and ensure that we receive the correct expert input, revision of the principles will be undertaken as a future project and any proposed changes will need to be brought back to parliament for consideration.

The bill introduces an appeals process for native plant clearance. If a clearance request is denied, the applicant can request a review by the Biodiversity Council. If they are not satisfied, they will then have the option to appeal to the Environment, Resources and Development Court. Existing protections for the taking of native species, such as seed collection and flower picking on public land or for prescribed species, will continue to apply.

The Biodiversity Bill carries forward key protections for native animals from the National Parks and Wildlife Act, while modernising and improving how we manage species at risk. Certain activities, such as taking from the wild, killing, or keeping native animals, will continue to require ministerial approval. These provisions will ensure that interactions with wildlife are properly managed and do not threaten biodiversity.

Currently, the National Parks and Wildlife Act contains an outdated list of unprotected animals that can be controlled or dealt with freely without oversight. The Biodiversity Bill removes this list, replacing it with a more balanced approach to manage species that may cause environmental or economic harm. Provisions within the bill will allow for the continued keeping or managing of those previously unprotected species without any additional regulatory burden.

Instead of a blanket approach, the bill introduces mechanisms such as ministerial declarations which allow for the targeted management of specific species. This will ensure that species that can be problematic, such as little corellas, can be efficiently controlled without requiring individual permits for land managers.

The bill recognises that serious and organised wildlife crime is an increasing threat. It introduces the concept of trafficable quantities, allowing for stronger penalties for activities related to illegal poaching. While existing permit systems for protected animals remain largely unchanged, they have been streamlined and updated to improve clarity and ease of compliance.

At the heart of the Biodiversity Bill is a fundamental goal to prevent extinctions and stop biodiversity loss before it is too late. Species are declining globally, nationally and in South Australia at an alarming rate. What is even more concerning is that we do not fully understand the extent of the loss. Every extinction has an unpredictable ripple effect that could affect our food production, health and industries.

The bill adopts a nationally consistent approach to identifying and listing species at risk of extinction, ensuring that South Australia's approach aligns with best practice. The bill goes beyond listing—it provides new tools to actively protect and restore threatened species and ecosystems, including action plans and threat abatement plans.

Importantly, the bill includes new provisions to recognise and protect critical habitat, which is habitat that is essential for the survival or recovery of a threatened species or ecological community. Without habitat, species cannot survive. Protecting the right places is essential to arresting biodiversity decline and giving species a chance to recover.

The bill describes that the responsible minister must, within six months of listing a species or ecological community, decide whether or not to make or amend a critical habitat declaration. This decision trigger will ensure that we understand and respond to the conservation needs of our most vulnerable biodiversity. In making a critical habitat declaration, the minister would be required to consider the relevant biodiversity policy which would step out the criteria for what constitutes a critical habitat and undertake consultation.

A critical habitat declaration will be spatially explicit so that you can look at a map and understand whether you are within a critical habitat declaration or not. The critical habitat declaration will also be required to describe the features that make it critical. Destroying, damaging or disturbing a critical habitat feature is an offence, and if it is undertaken without authorisation, an authorisation can only be given where the clearance assessment committee is confident that the impacts to the threatened species or threatened ecological community are addressed and offset with on-ground action. Paying money into a fund to offset harm is not an option when it comes to these important features.

By defining these features, the bill seeks to encourage compatible land uses that maintain biodiversity in the landscape. For example, paddock trees with tree hollows may be the critical habitat feature for threatened woodland bird species in a spatially explicit area in our agricultural landscape. By being explicit that tree hollows are the feature that needs to be maintained, the bill allows for surrounding appropriate grazing regimes to continue.

The bill acknowledges that private landholders play a crucial role in protecting and restoring biodiversity. The bill formally recognises and supports these efforts with new tools and agreements. Existing sanctuary provisions from the National Parks and Wildlife Act are carried over, ensuring that these areas remain protected. The bill establishes biodiversity agreements, which replace heritage agreements from the Native Vegetation Act. These agreements offer greater flexibility, allowing conservation to be integrated into working landscapes. They recognise that biodiversity can thrive in diverse landscapes, including farms, woodlands and urban green spaces.

The bill introduces a framework for creating new types of conservation agreements. This ensures that the law can adapt to emerging conservation finance models, such as nature markets, and new scientific understandings of biodiversity conservation. To ensure compliance with biodiversity protections, the bill introduces modern enforcement tools that allow efficient and responsive action. Authorised officers will have contemporary enforcement powers, including the ability to investigate breaches and issue compliance orders.

The bill enables faster enforcement actions to ensure that biodiversity damage is stopped and addressed quickly. For the first time, the bill introduces third-party enforcement provisions, allowing people who are affected by a breach to take legal action in cases of biodiversity harm. Concerned citizens who are not directly affected but have a legitimate interest may also take action with the court's permission. Safeguards are included against vexatious litigation, but this provision is an important way of empowering the public to uphold environmental protections. The bill also includes stronger sentencing considerations and courts will be required to consider the sensitivity of the biodiversity affected, such as harm to a threatened species or critical habitat and the scale of the impact, as well as impacts on Aboriginal people's cultural connections.

Good decisions start with good data. The bill establishes a state biodiversity data system to improve how South Australia collects, manages and stores biodiversity information. The minister responsible for the Biodiversity Act will oversee data collection, management and accessibility. The bill will require government agencies to share biodiversity data, ensuring better coordination. The availability of accurate data will support land use planning, allowing for quicker approvals and stronger conservation planning. To ensure South Australia's biodiversity is protected for future generations, the bill introduces the requirement to develop a state biodiversity plan which will be a strategic road map to protect and restore biodiversity. It will set the long-term vision for biodiversity protection and define statewide biodiversity indicators to track progress.

The plan will also guide conservation investments, ensuring that funding goes where it is needed most. It will use more advanced planning tools, including spatial mapping, to guide regional conservation efforts. It will align South Australia's biodiversity goals with national and global conservation standards. It will also give greater certainty for developers and landholders by clarifying biodiversity priorities to guide development and restoration planning. The bill introduces biodiversity policies to provide guidance on practical implementation of biodiversity conservation measures. These policies will guide the community on issues such as how to comply with the general duty to protect biodiversity and how culturally significant biodiversity entities will be recognised.

A formal procedure for creating policies included in the bill and community consultation will be required before policies are finalised. Guidelines that currently exist under the Native Vegetation Act will be revised to align with the Biodiversity Act. This process, conducted through consultation, will ensure that they remain effective and inclusive. Transparency and accountability are key to protecting biodiversity. The proposed Biodiversity Register will ensure that key decisions and their rationale are documented to enable appropriate scrutiny. This register will highlight our state's green credentials, responsible decision-making and high-value biodiversity areas, including restoration projects. It will assist in supporting nature markets and philanthropic investments in key projects.

The bill makes several related amendments to other pieces of legislation that have the potential to affect biodiversity. The intent is to mainstream consideration of biodiversity in the objects of the Biodiversity Act across sectors and portfolios in recognition that we all share this responsibility. In particular, some amendments are made to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act to establish the Biodiversity Act as a special legislative scheme and to enable better and timely interactions with the new critical habitat provisions such that they appear in our planning system and can inform decision-making at the outset.

A new provision will require the minister responsible for administering the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act to seek the concurrence of the minister responsible for the Biodiversity Act when approving a code amendment to a zone or overlay that is prescribed in the regulation to be of importance to biodiversity. Such zones or overlays could include those that offer protection to biodiversity or those that are likely to contain areas of high biodiversity value.

Through this legislation, we commit to three simple but profound objectives: protect what is irreplaceable, repair what is damaged and share the responsibility. We cannot afford to let biodiversity decline any further on our watch. Our children and grandchildren deserve a future where South Australia's natural landscapes are thriving, where our industries are resilient and productive, and where our unique plants and wildlife are adequately protected.

Before I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard*, I would like to thank the people who have been involved at the core of preparing this very significant piece of legislation. The biodiversity legislation team—Brett Simes, Sophie Gordon, Emma Ginman and Tina Brew—have done an extraordinary job over the last three years. OPC has put in an outstanding effort to help us as well—Karina Dearden and Aimee Travers. They were supported by Jason Higham and Lisien Loan—above all, Lisien Loan, who has come for so many meetings with me to talk through all of the detail of this legislation—and of course Grant Pelton as the chair of the internal steering committee. There are many, many others in the department who have done an extraordinary job.

I would also like to thank Emily Gore in my office. She is a significant part of the reason that this legislation is so good in content and has also guided the very thoughtful consultation process across the community with stakeholders and across government. I will thank two external people as well. Tim Jarvis, former South Australian of the Year, environmental hero and adventurer, has acted as an ambassador and advocate for this legislation and has shown extraordinary leadership and exceptional communication skills.

I also wish to thank Ken Henry, who came and addressed cabinet to explain his understanding, which is a very profound understanding, of the need for our economics to take account of the importance of nature and to capitalise on the opportunities that are before us, when we get this right, to capture funds from around the world as well as within South Australia to help restore our nature. I commend this legislation to the house and I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines certain terms used in the measure.

4—Interaction with other Acts

The measure is in addition to and does not limit or derogate from the provisions of any other Act. A requirement to obtain authorisation under the measure to carry out or undertake an act or activity applies despite the fact that the act or activity may be authorised under another Act or law.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* will prevail to the extent of an inconsistency with the measure.

5—Act to bind Crown

The measure binds the Crown but does not impose criminal liability on the Crown.

6—Operation of Act

This clause sets out the territorial operation of the measure. It also provides that nothing in the measure prevents a native title holder from carrying out or undertaking an act or activity in the exercise of their native title rights and interests.

Part 2—Objects, principles and general duty etc

7—Objects

This clause sets out the objects of the measure.

8—Principles

This clause sets out principles that a person or body engaged in the administration of the measure must seek to give effect to.

9—Acting consistently with State Biodiversity Plan

A person or body engaged in the administration of the measure must act consistently with, and where appropriate give effect to, the State Biodiversity Plan.

10—Aboriginal knowledges

A person or body engaged in the administration of the measure must, as far as is practicable, seek Aboriginal knowledges and, where available and endorsed by the holders of the knowledges, consider and apply the knowledges in certain specified matters.

11—General duty

A person must not carry out or undertake an act or activity that harms or has the potential to harm biodiversity unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise any resulting harm. The clause also contains provisions to assist in determining what reasonable and practicable measures are required to be taken in accordance with the clause.

Part 3—Administration

Division 1—General

12—Delegation by Minister

This is a delegation power.

13—Ministers not to administer Act

The measure must not be committed to certain Ministers (responsible for mining and planning).

Division 2—Statutory bodies

Subdivision 1—Biodiversity Council

14—Establishment of Biodiversity Council

15—Composition of Council

16—Functions of Council

These clauses establish the Biodiversity Council and set out its membership and functions.

Subdivision 2—Clearance Assessment Committee

17—Establishment of Clearance Assessment Committee

18—Composition of CAC etc

19—Functions of CAC

These clauses establish the Clearance Assessment Committee and set out its membership and functions.

Subdivision 3—Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee

20—Establishment of Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee

21—Composition of ABC etc

22—Functions of ABC

These clauses establish the Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee and set out its membership and functions.

Subdivision 4—Scientific Committee

23—Establishment of Scientific Committee

24—Composition of Scientific Committee etc

25—Functions of Scientific Committee

These clauses establish the Scientific Committee and set out its membership and functions.

Subdivision 5—Other committees, advisory bodies and trusts

26—Other committees and advisory bodies

The Council may, with the approval of the Minister, establish committees to advise or assist the Council and the Minister may also establish any committees and advisory bodies for the purposes of the measure.

27—Ability to establish trusts

The regulations may establish a trust for the purposes of the measure.

Subdivision 6—Conditions of membership, remuneration, procedures and other matters

28—Conditions of membership

29—Remuneration

30—Procedures

31—Application of Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act

32—Staff

33—Annual reports

34—Delegation

35—Validity of acts of Council, committees, advisory bodies and trusts

These clauses establish general procedural and other matters applying to the Council and any committee or advisory body established by or under the measure.

Division 3—Funds

Subdivision 1—Biodiversity Restoration Fund

36—Biodiversity Restoration Fund

37—Accounts and audit

Subdivision 2—Biodiversity Conservation Fund

38—Biodiversity Conservation Fund

Subdivision 3—Biodiversity Administration Fund

39—Biodiversity Administration Fund

Subdivisions 1, 2 and 3 set up various funds and outline the sources of money that are to be paid into each fund and what each fund is to be applied towards. The Biodiversity Restoration Fund (which is subject to the management and control of the Council rather than the Minister) also has provisions about accounts and audit.

Subdivision 4—General

40—Ability to establish other funds

The regulations may establish a fund for the purposes of the measure.

41—Investment

Money in a fund under the Division may be invested in a manner determined by the Minister.

Part 4—Native plants

Division 1—Preliminary

42—Regulated acts or activities

This clause defines the acts and activities that will be *regulated acts or activities* for the purposes of the Part.

43—Clearing and taking of plants by Aboriginal persons

Except as may be prescribed under subclause (1), nothing in the Part prevents an Aboriginal person from clearing or taking a native plant for the purposes of using the plant for a non-commercial cultural or spiritual practice (which may include using the plant as food in the course of that practice).

44—Declaration to clear and take certain native plants

The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette in accordance with the clause, declare that native plants of a specified species that are not indigenous to the State may be cleared or taken, or both cleared and taken.

Division 2—Offences

45—Offence to carry out or undertake regulated act or activity without authorisation

Subject to the measure, a person must not carry out or undertake a regulated act or activity unless the person is taken to hold an authorisation under clause 48 authorising the person to carry out or undertake the regulated act or activity.

46—Contravention of condition of consent

A person must not contravene a condition attached to a consent given under Division 3.

47—Illegal possession of native plants

A person must not have in their possession or control a native plant that has been illegally taken or acquired.

Division 3—Authorisation

48—Authorisation to carry out or undertake regulated act or activity

This clause sets out when a person is taken to hold an authorisation to carry out or undertake a regulated act or activity.

49—Application for consent

This clause sets out requirements relating to an application for consent to clear native plants.

50—Matters CAC must have regard to when determining application

This clause sets out the matters that the CAC must have regard to in determining an application for consent.

51—Circumstances in which consent may be given etc

This clause sets out circumstances in which consent to the clearance of native plants may, or may not, be given by the CAC under the Division.

52—Consultation and representations

The CAC must, before giving its consent under the Division undertake consultation in accordance with this clause and allow people to make representations.

53—Conditions of consent

This clause details the sorts of conditions that can be imposed on a consent. Conditions imposed on consent to clear native plants are binding on, and enforceable against—

- the holder of the consent; and
- the owner, and any subsequent owner, of the land to be cleared and any other land to which a condition relates; and
- an occupier of the land to be cleared and any other person who acquires the benefit of the consent.

54—Assignment of consent

The CAC may, on application, assign a consent to undertake clearance to another person.

55—Other matters relating to consents

Consent under the Division must be given in writing and remains in force for 2 years or for such longer period (which must not be more than 5 years after the consent is given) as the CAC may fix. The CAC must—

- observe the rules of natural justice;
- provide the applicant with a written statement of the reasons for its decision;
- publish its decision and statement of reasons on the Biodiversity Register.

56—Consent of Minister required if biodiversity agreement applies

Native plants that are growing or situated on land that is subject to a biodiversity agreement that does not allow the clearance to be undertaken cannot be cleared unless the Minister has also given consent to the clearance.

57—Application of Division if referral under Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act

This clause applies certain clauses to circumstances where the CAC is considering a development application referred to it under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

58—Avoidance of duplication of procedures etc

This clause makes various modifications to procedures and compliance requirements in order to avoid unnecessary duplication with requirements under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* of the Commonwealth where the clearance of native plants requires consent under both this measure and approval under the Commonwealth Act.

Division 4—Environmental benefit credits

59—Environmental benefit credits

This clause allows a person to apply to the CAC to be credited with achieving an environmental benefit. The CAC must not grant an environmental benefit credit unless satisfied that the land that is the subject of the credit is, or will be, subject to a biodiversity agreement and biodiversity management plan.

60—Use of environmental benefit credit

This clause allows for assignment of the whole or part of an environmental benefit credit and for application of the whole or part of a credit against a requirement under the measure to achieve a significant environmental benefit.

61—Other matters relating to environmental benefit credits

This clause sets out requirements in relation to applications under the Division, provides for establishment of a trust for the purposes of receiving money required by clause 60(6)(b) and its disbursement in the prescribed manner and provides for other matters to be prescribed by the regulations.

Division 5—Review etc of clearance refusal or revocation

62—Review by Council of clearance refusal or revocation

This clause:

- allows an applicant for consent to clear native plants to apply to the Council for review of a decision of the CAC to refuse to give consent to the clearance; and
- a person whose consent to clear native plants has been revoked to apply to the Council for review of the decision of the CAC to revoke the consent.

63—Appeal to ERD Court against review by Council of clearance refusal or revocation

This clause allows for appeals to the ERD Court against a decision of the Council to confirm a decision that was the subject of a review under clause 62.

Part 5—Protected animals

64—Regulated acts or activities

This clause defines the acts and activities that will be *regulated acts or activities* for the purposes of the Part.

65—Offence to carry out or undertake regulated act or activity without permit

Subject to the measure, a person must not carry out or undertake a regulated act or activity unless the person holds a permit.

66—Taking of animals and eggs by Aboriginal persons

Except as may be prescribed under subclause (1), nothing in the Part prevents an Aboriginal person from taking a protected animal or protected egg for the purposes of using the animal or egg for a non-commercial cultural or spiritual practice (which may include using the animal or egg as food in the course of that practice).

67—Illegal possession of protected animals etc

A person must not have in their possession or control a protected animal, protected animal product or egg of a protected animal that has been illegally taken or acquired.

68—Management plan in relation to harvesting relevant protected animals

The Minister must prepare a management plan, in accordance with this clause, in relation to the harvesting of each relevant protected animal.

69—Declaration to take certain protected animals

The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette in accordance with the clause, declare that protected animals of a specified species, or protected eggs of a specified species of protected animal, may be taken.

Part 6—Threatened species, threatened ecological communities and listed ecological entities

Division 1—Designated lists

70—Threatened species list

The Minister must establish and maintain a threatened species list in accordance with this clause.

71—Threatened ecological communities list

The Minister must establish and maintain a threatened ecological communities list in accordance with this clause.

72—Ecological entities list

The Minister may establish and maintain a list in respect of any ecological entity (other than a native species, ecological community or critical habitat).

Division 2—Eligibility

73—Eligibility criteria

The regulations may prescribe the criteria to be applied to determine the eligibility of a native species, ecological community or ecological entity to be included in a designated list and in a particular category of a designated list.

Division 3—Processes

74—Establishing or revoking designated lists

This clause provides for establishing a designated list and for revoking an ecological entities list.

75—Listing decision

This clause specifies what a *listing decision* is.

76—Listing process

A listing decision may only be made in accordance with the process set out in this clause unless clause 77 applies.

77—Expedited listing process

This clause sets out circumstances in which the Minister need not follow the process set out in clause 76.

78—Provisional listing

This clause sets out circumstances in which the Minister may make a provisional listing.

Division 4—Protection of threatened species, threatened ecological communities and listed ecological entities etc

79—Action plans

This clause sets out provisions relating to action plans which may be prepared and published by the Minister in respect of threatened species, threatened ecological communities, listed ecological entities or critical habitats.

80—Declaration of key threatening process

The Minister may declare a threatening process to be a key threatening process in accordance with this clause.

81—Threat abatement plans

The Minister may prepare and publish *threat abatement plans* in respect of key threatening processes in accordance with this clause. The Minister must take reasonable steps to implement a threat abatement plan and must report on the implementation and effectiveness of the plan.

82—Extinction inquiry

Under this clause the Scientific Committee is required to undertake an inquiry into the potential extinction of a native species or the potential collapse of an ecological community in certain circumstances.

83—Protection of threatened species of fish

This clause requires the Minister to consult with the Minister responsible for the administration of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* when a species of fish is added to the threatened species list.

Division 5—Protection of critical habitat

84—Declaration of critical habitat

The Minister may declare habitat of a threatened species, threatened ecological community or listed ecological entity to be critical habitat in accordance with this clause.

85—Minister may enter into agreement or arrange for action plan

The Minister may engage with the owner of land on which critical habitat is located to protect the habitat by entering into a biodiversity agreement or arranging for the preparation of an action plan.

86—Offence to destroy, damage or disturb critical habitat without authorisation

Subject to the measure, a person must not destroy, damage or disturb critical habitat features of critical habitat unless the person is taken to hold an authorisation under clause 88 authorising the person to carry out or undertake the destruction, damage or disturbance.

87—Destroying, damaging or disturbing critical habitat by Aboriginal persons

Subject to regulations under subclause (1), the Division does not prevent an Aboriginal person from destroying, damaging or disturbing critical habitat features of critical habitat for the purposes of using the critical habitat features for a non-commercial cultural or spiritual practice (which may include using the features as food in the course of that practice).

88—Authorisation to destroy, damage or disturb critical habitat features

This clause sets out when a person is taken to hold an authorisation to destroy, damage or disturb critical habitat features of critical habitat.

89—Application for consent

This clause sets out requirements relating to an application for consent under the Division.

90—Circumstances in which consent may be given etc

This clause sets out circumstances in which CAC can give consent to an application to which clause 89 applies where the proposed destruction, damage or disturbance of critical habitat features of critical habitat is, in the opinion of the CAC, likely to negatively impact on, or hinder the recovery of, the threatened species, threatened ecological community or listed ecological entity that was the basis for the habitat's eligibility to be declared as critical habitat.

91—Consultation and representations

The regulations may set out consultation requirements relating to applications for consent and the clause provides an entitlement for a person to make representations in writing to the CAC in relation to the giving or refusal of consent to an application to destroy, damage or disturb critical habitat features of critical habitat.

92—Conditions of consent

CAC may impose conditions on a consent in accordance with this clause and the conditions are binding on, and enforceable against—

- the holder of the consent; and
- the owner, and subsequent owner, of the land on which the critical habitat is situated and any other land to which a condition relates; and
- an occupier of the land on which the critical habitat is situated and any other person who acquires the benefit of the consent.

93—Contravention of condition of consent

A person must not contravene a condition of a consent given under the Division.

94—Assignment of consent

The CAC may, on application, assign a consent under the Division to another person.

95—Other matters relating to consents

Consent under the Division must be given in writing and remains in force for 2 years or for such longer period (which must not be more than 5 years after the consent is given) as the CAC may fix. The CAC must—

- observe the rules of natural justice;
- provide the applicant with a written statement of the reasons for its decision;
- publish its decision and statement of reasons on the Biodiversity Register.

Part 7—Conserved areas

Division 1—Sanctuaries and other conservation areas

96—Establishment of sanctuaries

A sanctuary may be established by the Minister in accordance with this clause.

97—Other conservation areas

The regulations may establish, or set out processes for establishing, conservation areas on private land, with the consent of the owner of the land.

Division 2—Biodiversity agreements

98—Biodiversity agreements

The Minister may enter into a biodiversity agreement with the owner of land in accordance with this clause.

Division 3—Financial and other assistance

99—Financial and other assistance

An application may be made to the Council for financial or other assistance in accordance with this clause for the purposes specified in the clause.

Part 8—Enforcement

Division 1—Authorised officers

100—Appointment of authorised officers

Authorised officers under the measure are—

- persons appointed by the Minister;
- police officers;
- wardens appointed under the *National Parks Act 1972*, other than wardens whose appointments are limited to a particular provision or provisions of the *National Parks Act 1972* or to a particular reserve or reserves.

101—Identification of authorised officers

This clause provides for the issuing, and production, of identity cards.

102—Powers of authorised officers

This clause sets out the powers of an authorised officer under the measure.

103—Issue of warrants

This clause provides for the issue of warrants by the Magistrates Court or a justice.

104—Provisions relating to seizure

This clause sets out how things seized under the measure must be dealt with.

105—Offence to hinder etc authorised officers

It is an offence to hinder, obstruct, abuse etc an authorised officer or to refuse or fail to comply with a requirement or answer a question or to make a false representation. It is also an offence to assault an authorised officer.

106—Self-incrimination

It is not a reasonable excuse for a person to fail to answer a question or to produce, or provide a copy of, a document or information as required under the measure on the ground that to do so might tend to incriminate the person or make the person liable to a penalty.

Division 2—Power to require or obtain information

107—Information discovery orders

An authorised officer may, for the purpose of obtaining information reasonably required for the administration, operation or enforcement of the measure, issue an information discovery order to a person who is reasonably suspected of having knowledge of, or documents dealing with, a matter. Failure to comply with the order is an offence.

108—Obtaining of information on non-compliance with order

If a person fails to furnish information as required by an information discovery order or furnishes information that is inaccurate or incomplete, the authorised officer who issued the order may take such action as is reasonably required to obtain the information and may recover reasonable costs and expenses incurred.

109—Appeal to ERD Court

A person to whom an information discovery order has been issued may appeal to the ERD Court against the order or any variation of the order.

Division 3—Administrative remedies

110—Interpretation

This clause defines *designated authority* for the purposes of the Division.

111—Compliance orders

A designated authority may issue a compliance order, or an emergency compliance order, in accordance with this clause for the purposes of securing compliance with a requirement imposed, or duty created, by or under the measure. Failure to comply with the order is an offence.

112—Reparation orders

If a designated authority is satisfied that a person has caused harm to biodiversity by breach of any requirement imposed, or duty created, by or under the measure, the designated authority may issue a reparation order in accordance with this clause requiring the person to take certain action. Failure to comply with the order is an offence.

113—Action on non-compliance with compliance order or reparation order

If the requirements of a compliance order or reparation order are not complied with, the Minister may take any action required to give effect to the order in accordance with this clause and may recover reasonable costs and expenses incurred.

114—Registration of orders by Registrar-General

The Minister may apply to the Registrar-General for the registration of a compliance order or reparation order issued in relation to an activity carried out on land, or that requires a person to take action on or in relation to land.

115—Enforceable voluntary undertakings

The Minister may accept a written undertaking given by a person in connection with a matter relating to a breach or alleged breach of the measure. Failure to comply with the undertaking is an offence.

Division 4—Enforcement proceedings

Subdivision 1—Civil enforcement

116—Application to ERD Court for enforcement

Various specified persons may apply to the ERD Court in accordance with this clause for an order to remedy or restrain a breach of the measure.

117—Order where native plants have been cleared

Subject to the clause, if the ERD Court is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the respondent has cleared native plants in breach of the measure Act or has not complied with certain kinds of condition attached to the consent, the Court must make an order against the respondent requiring the respondent to make good the breach.

118—No development orders

If the owner of land is convicted of an offence against clause 45 or clause 46 in relation to clearance of native plants, the ERD Court may, in addition to imposing a penalty for the offence, order that no development of the land in relation to which the offence was committed may be undertaken during a period (not exceeding 10 years) fixed by the Court except for the purpose of re-establishing or restoring native plants cleared in, or otherwise making good any

damage to native plants caused through, the commission of the offence. A person who undertakes development contrary to such an order is, in addition to liability for contempt of the order, guilty of an offence.

119—Interim order

The ERD Court may make an interim order if it is satisfied that is desirable in order to protect biodiversity or to preserve the rights or interests of parties to the proceedings, or for any other reason.

120—Enforcement of ERD Court orders

A person who contravenes an order of the ERD Court under the Division is, in addition to liability for contempt of the order, guilty of an offence. If the ERD Court makes an order requiring a respondent to make good the breach and the respondent fails to comply with the order, the Minister may cause any work contemplated by the order to be carried out, and may recover the reasonable costs and expenses of that work.

121—Miscellaneous provisions

This clause makes various provisions in relation to orders of the ERD Court under the Division.

122—Commencement of proceedings

Proceedings under the Subdivision must be commenced within 1 year after the date on which the respondent expiated, or was convicted or found guilty of, an offence to which the proceedings relate or, in any other case, within 5 years after the date on which the breach is alleged to have occurred or, with the authorisation of the Attorney-General, within 10 years after the date on which the breach is alleged to have occurred.

123—Initiating civil proceedings to require offender to make good clearance of plants

If a court finds a person guilty of an offence against clause 45 or clause 46 in relation to clearance of native plants, the CAC must, within the prescribed period, initiate civil proceedings under the Subdivision in order to require the offender to make good the breach of the measure unless such proceedings have already been commenced in, or an order has already been made by, the ERD Court under the Subdivision in relation to the matter, or the finding of guilt is overturned on appeal.

124—Recovery of civil penalty in respect of breach

The relevant authority (being either the Minister or CAC) may, as an alternative to criminal proceedings, recover, by negotiation or by application to the ERD Court, an amount as a civil penalty in respect of a breach of the Act in accordance with this clause.

Subdivision 2—Criminal enforcement

125—Jurisdiction of ERD Court

Offences constituted by the measure lie within the criminal jurisdiction of the ERD Court.

126—Applications during or after criminal proceedings

This clause allows a court that is or has dealt with criminal proceedings under the measure to also deal with an application for an order under the measure.

127—Commencement of proceedings for offence

Proceedings for an offence against the measure may be commenced at any time within 5 years after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed or, with the authorisation of the Attorney-General, at any later time within 10 years after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

128—Offences by bodies corporate

Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence against the measure, each member of the governing body, and the manager, of the body corporate are guilty of an offence and liable to the same penalty as is prescribed for the principal offence.

129—Sentencing considerations

This clause sets out matters that a court is to have regard to in imposing a penalty for an offence under the measure.

Subdivision 3—Defences

130—Application of defences

A person charged with an offence against the measure bears the legal onus of proving, on the balance of probabilities, any defence under the measure. Any challenged statement of fact or opinion in support of a defence must be substantiated on oath.

131—Notice of defences

A person who intends to rely on a defence may only do so if the person gives notice in writing of that intention to the Minister.

132—General defence

It is a defence to a charge of an offence against the measure if the defendant proves that the alleged offence was not committed intentionally and did not result from any failure on the part of the defendant to take reasonable care to avoid the commission of the offence.

133—Acts authorised under legislation

It is a defence to a charge of an offence against the measure to prove that the defendant acted in compliance with a requirement of, or in accordance with a power under, this measure or another Act or in prescribed circumstances.

134—Defences in relation to Part 5

This clause sets out various defences that are specific to the protected animal offences.

135—Defence in relation to hunting

This clause sets out various defences that are specific to the hunting offence.

Subdivision 4—Evidentiary provisions

136—Interpretation

This clause defines terms used in the Subdivision.

137—General evidentiary matters

138—Documents and data

These clauses specify various ways in which matters can be proved in proceedings under the measure (by allegation in the application or information or evidentiary certificate etc).

139—Possession

This clause defines the concept of *possession* for the purposes of the measure.

Subdivision 5—General provisions

140—Classification of offences

This clause specifies when offences are classified as summary or as minor indictable for the purposes of the measure.

141—Aggregation of offences

Certain protected animal offences may be aggregated (so that the quantity of the protected animals, protected animal products or eggs concerned for the purposes of the offence is the total quantity of the protected animals, protected animal products or eggs in respect of the different separate offences).

142—Culturally sensitive information

A court may dispense with any formalities it considers appropriate in order to facilitate the hearing of culturally sensitive information.

143—Interest

This clause specifies how interest accrues on certain unpaid amounts.

144—Sale of land for non-payment

An amount payable under the measure, or interest in relation to such an amount, is a first charge on land and if it has been unpaid for 1 year or more, the Minister may sell the land in accordance with this clause.

145—Constitution of ERD Court

This clause makes provision in relation to the constitution of the ERD Court when exercising jurisdiction under the measure.

146—Assessment of costs and expenses

The reasonable costs and expenses that have been or would be incurred by the Minister in taking any action under the measure are to be assessed by reference to the reasonable costs and expenses that would have been or would be incurred in having the action taken by independent contractors engaged for that purpose.

147—Vicarious liability

For the purposes of the measure, an act or omission of an employee or agent will be taken to be the act or omission of the employer or principal unless it is proved that the act or omission did not occur in the course of the employment or agency.

148—Statement of officer evidence against body corporate

A statement made by an officer of a body corporate is admissible as evidence against the body corporate in proceedings for an offence under the measure.

149—Recovery from related bodies corporate

Related bodies corporate are jointly and severally liable for amounts payable under the measure.

Subdivision 6—Appeals

150—Appeal to ERD Court against prescribed order

A person to whom a compliance order, reparation order or order to comply with an enforceable voluntary undertaking is issued may appeal to the ERD Court against the order or any variation of the order in accordance with this clause.

151—Appeals to Supreme Court

An appeal lies to the Supreme Court against an order made, or a decision not to make an order, under the 'Civil enforcement' Subdivision.

Part 9—Permits

152—Prescribed matters

This is a regulation making power relating to permits.

153—Permits—general matters

This clause sets out the general matters relating to permits such as applying for a permit, grounds for refusing a permit, variation of a permit, suspension or revocation of a permit and the term of a permit.

154—Permits—conditions

This clause sets out some of the matters that may be dealt with in permit conditions.

155—Permits—fees

This clause makes provision in relation to permit fees, which will be prescribed and may exceed the Minister's costs in granting the permits and administering the measure in relation to the permits.

156—Permits—provision of information

The holder of a permit must provide the Minister with information in accordance with this clause.

157—Permits—certain areas

This clause creates special provisions for permits relating to an act or activity that is to be, or may be, undertaken within a River Murray Protection Area or an act or activity that is to be, or may be, undertaken within the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary.

158—Permits for commercial purposes relating to native plants

This clause provides a process for the declaration of a species of plant that may be the subject of a permit authorising the taking and sale of such plants for commercial purposes.

159—Permits to take native plant that is critical habitat feature

This clause imposes a restriction on the grant of a permit that relates to the taking of a plant that is a critical habitat feature of critical habitat and is, in the opinion of the Minister, likely to negatively impact on, or hinder the recovery of, the threatened species, threatened ecological community or listed ecological entity that was the basis for the habitat's eligibility to be declared as critical habitat.

160—Permits to carry out or undertake regulated acts or activities under Part 5

The Minister may only grant a permit to take a protected animal or a protected egg in accordance with this clause.

161—Permits to hunt

A permit cannot authorise hunting within the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary.

162—Review by SACAT of certain permits

A person who has applied for a permit in respect of taking a protected animal or a protected egg may apply to SACAT for review of certain decisions of the Minister.

163—Contravention of condition etc of permit

A person must not contravene a condition of, or requirement, restriction or limitation applying in respect of, a permit granted to the person.

164—Royalty

A permit granted under the measure may require the permit holder to pay a royalty.

165—False representation

It is an offence for a person to falsely represent that they are the holder of a permit granted by the Minister under the measure.

Part 10—Miscellaneous

166—Offence to hunt without permit

Subject to the measure, it is an offence for a person to hunt unless the person holds a permit.

167—Hunting by Aboriginal persons

Nothing in the previous clause prevents an Aboriginal person from hunting for the purposes of using the hunted animal for a non-commercial cultural or spiritual practice (which may include using the animal as food in the course of that practice).

168—Unlawful entry on land

This clause creates various offences in relation to being on land for a specified purpose.

169—Restriction on use of certain devices

The Governor may, by proclamation, restrict or prohibit the use of firearms, ammunition or taking devices of a specified class for the taking of specified species of animals or for the taking of animals generally and it is an offence to contravene such a restriction or prohibition.

170—Noting of conditions or agreements against title to land

This clause provides for the Registrar-General noting conditions imposed under the measure, or noting an agreement, a variation or termination of an agreement or the expiration of a term of an agreement under the measure, against the relevant instrument of title for the land or, in the case of land not under the *Real Property Act 1886*, against the land.

171—Minister may sell or dispose of surrendered animal, animal product or egg

The Minister may sell, or dispose of as the Minister thinks fit, any protected animal, protected animal product or egg of a protected animal surrendered under the measure.

172—State biodiversity data

The Minister is responsible for compiling, maintaining and updating State biodiversity data and for providing access to such data in accordance with this clause.

173—State Biodiversity Plan

The Minister must prepare, publish and maintain a State Biodiversity Plan in accordance with this clause.

174—Council guidelines

The Council may prepare and adopt guidelines in relation to—

- the clearance or taking of native plants;
- damaging, destroying or disturbing critical habitat features of critical habitat;
- any other matter required by or under the measure.

175—Biodiversity policies

The Minister may make biodiversity policies for the purposes of the measure in accordance with this clause.

176—Biodiversity management plans

A biodiversity management plan required for the purposes of the measure must be prepared in accordance with this clause.

177—Biodiversity Register

The Minister must establish and maintain a website for the purposes of the measure which contains the following:

- the information in respect of applications received by the CAC for consent to clear native plants and for consent to destroy, damage or disturb critical habitat features of critical habitat;
- prescribed information in relation to clearances in respect of which the CAC must be notified;
- certain matters relating to environmental benefit credits;
- biodiversity agreements;
- each prescribed area of land;
- each Culturally Significant Biodiversity Entity;
- any management plans adopted under clause 68;
- the threatened species list;
- the threatened ecological communities list;
- an ecological entities list established and maintained under clause 72;
- an action plan made under clause 79;
- a threat abatement plan made under clause 81;
- habitat declared to be critical habitat;
- records of compliance orders and reparation orders;
- records of proceedings in respect of enforcement and any decision, order or determination of a court in such proceedings;
- enforceable voluntary undertakings accepted by the Minister;
- any management plans adopted under clause 158;
- a record of any notice in the Gazette required by or under the measure;
- Council guidelines;
- biodiversity policies;
- any other document or matter required by the measure to be published on the register or prescribed by the regulations.

178—False and misleading information

This clause creates an offence of providing false or misleading information under the measure.

179—Service of notices etc

This clause specifies that manner of giving notices and other documents as required under the measure.

180—Concurrence under Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act

If a request is made for the Minister's concurrence under section 73 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, the Minister must, in determining whether to grant concurrence have regard to, and seek to further, the objects and principles of the measure and act consistently with the State Biodiversity Plan.

181—Reports of public sector agencies

An annual report that is required to be prepared by a public sector agency must, to the extent that it is relevant to the operations or activities of the agency, include a report on the manner in which the agency is addressing matters relating to biodiversity conservation, restoration and enhancement.

182—Waiver etc of fees

The Minister may waive, reduce or remit a fee imposed under the measure if the Minister considers it appropriate to do so.

183—Regulations and fee notices

This is a regulation making power and power to make fee notices.

184—Review of Act

The Minister must cause independent reviews of the measure to be undertaken after 5 years and at further intervals not exceeding 10 years.

Schedule 1—Regulated clearance area

This Schedule provides for the definition of the regulated clearance area by a plan or plans deposited in the GRO and identified by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

Schedule 2—Native plants—regulated acts or activities exclusions

This Schedule specifies acts or activities that are not regulated acts or activities for the purposes of clause 42(2).

Schedule 3—Principles of preservation of native plants

This Schedule sets out the principles of preservation of native plants in accordance with the definition of that term in clause 3.

Schedule 4—Protected animals—regulated acts or activities exclusions

This Schedule specifies acts or activities that are not regulated acts or activities for the purposes of clause 64(2).

Schedule 5—Related amendments and repeals

This Schedule updates references and makes other necessary related amendments to the following Acts:

- *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*
- *Arkaroola Protection Act 2012*
- *Biosecurity Act 2025*
- *Coast Protection Act 1972*
- *Community Titles Act 1996*
- *Criminal Assets Confiscation Act 2005*
- *Criminal Investigation (Covert Operations) Act 2009*
- *Crown Land Management Act 2009*
- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
- *Energy Resources Act 2000*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*
- *Firearms Act 2015*
- *Fisheries Management Act 2007*
- *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*
- *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*
- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*
- *Land Tax Act 1936*
- *Livestock Act 1997*
- *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*
- *Marine Parks Act 2007*
- *Mining Act 1971*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- *Parliamentary Committees Act 1991*
- *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- *Real Property Act 1886*

- *Recreational Greenways Act 2000*
- *River Murray Act 2003*
- *Strata Titles Act 1988*
- *Unexplained Wealth (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2021*
- *Wilderness Protection Act 1992.*

The Schedule also repeals the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and the regulations under that Act.

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

WHYALLA STEEL WORKS (PORT OF WHYALLA) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:17): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Whyalla Steel Works Act 1958. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:17): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

The Bill I am introducing today seeks to clarify matters regarding parcels of land for which OneSteel is the registered proprietor for the purposes of operating the Port of Whyalla.

It 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 them operation of its steel works in Whyalla.

The importance of pit to port operations is a key feature of the Act and Indentures that apply to OneSteel. The Indentures require consent of the State for the transfer of rights, obligations, powers, benefits and privileges conferred on OneSteel by the Indenture.

The State has never granted a consent to OneSteel to enter a lease or any other form of unregistered interest with any party relating to the land housing the Port of Whyalla.

OneSteel is currently in voluntary administration, with KordaMentha appointed the voluntary administrators.

The Administrators have advised the State of a purported lease agreement granted by OneSteel to Whyalla Ports.

The Bill has been drafted out of an abundance of caution to clarify the fact that such a purported lease that was entered without the State's consent is void, and to make it clear that the purported lease agreement granted by OneSteel to Whyalla Ports never had legal effect from the beginning with the effect that that and any other unregistered interests in the prescribed land entered without the State's consent are extinguished.

The Port of Whyalla is essential for the Whyalla Steel Works 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 (all required for steel production).

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 alone the rights to construct 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 to the Port of Whyalla in the future, subject to the Indentures and relevant consent requirements.

I commend the Bill to Members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Whyalla Steel Works Act 1958*

3—Insertion of sections 6A and 6B

This clause inserts new section 6A into the Act. The new section clarifies the effect of a contravention of either of the Indentures in relation to an assignment or purported assignment of certain interests by the Company.

Specifically, the section makes it clear that the assignment or purported assignment is void and of no force or effect unless the State granted consent to the assignment prior to the Company assigning the interest.

The new section provides a regulation making power to exclude certain assignments from the operation of the section.

The clause also inserts new section 6B into the Act, which provides that no compensation or other payment is payable in relation to the operation of new section 6A or new Schedule 4 as inserted by this measure.

4—Insertion of section 21

This clause inserts a general regulation making power into the Act, in particular providing a power for saving or transitional regulations to be made where the Act is amended.

5—Insertion of Schedule 4

This clause inserts new Schedule 4 into the Act.

The new Schedule clarifies the status of the lease identified in clause 2 of the Schedule, namely by providing it is void and of no effect, and always to have been void and of no effect.

The Schedule makes further technical provision in respect of its application.

Clause 4 of the Schedule makes similar provision in relation to certain interests in infrastructure on or relating to the land to which the lease relates and the Port of Whyalla, including tramways, railways, jetties, wharves and so on.

Clause 6 of the Schedule clarifies the effect of the Schedule on future dealings in the land to which the Schedule relates.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Patterson.

STATE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION AND FACILITATION BILL*Final Stages*

Consideration in committee of the Legislative Council's amendments.

(Continued from 30 April 2025.)

Mr PATTERSON: Chair, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

Amendments Nos 1 to 3:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I move:

That amendments Nos 1 to 3 of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

Mr TELFER: I appreciate the consideration of this set of amendments from the upper house and the thoughtfulness with which they have been considered by the other place, and by the Treasurer as well, in getting to a point where this can be a functional piece of legislation which I hope will be a forward-looking one and a proactive one, as we have spoken about in the debate previously.

The amendments that were put forward by the Hon. Michelle Lensink, on behalf of the opposition in the upper house, really were trying to fix a couple of the aspects that came up during the last time this bill was in committee in particular. There was also an aspect which, especially as a regional MP, I thought was especially important, and that was the amendment which considers the changes to the Mining Act which we discussed last time around. Indeed, I think that there is an extra

level of responsibility for government in particular when it comes to officials entering onto land to do different aspects within the Mining Act, and especially how the Coordinator-General bill fits in with that.

In my electorate in particular, throughout recent years, and even in the medium term—indeed, across other areas of agricultural land in particular in South Australia—there have been mining exploration activities which have happened. Some have not had a level of accountability, it is fair to say, that met the expectations of landowners, and there was damage done to land. There were aspects of that exploration which were not done efficiently and effectively, and landowners in the end had the repercussions.

The amendment which the Hon. Michelle Lensink put in the other place really was around trying to have a level of accountability which is over and above what I think is existing for exploration companies in the Mining Act. That is especially around the Coordinator-General, or the designated power within that legislation, entering land and the onus for proof of damage, for instance, when the official enters onto the land.

I absolutely respect and understand the government not wanting to reverse that onus, that burden of proof, but I certainly appreciate the Treasurer's consideration of trying to add in some extra assurances, some extra measures, for landowners in particular to make sure that they are not disadvantaged by what is basically going to be a power given through this legislation to the Coordinator-General or an entity which has been given the power by the piece of legislation. In summary, on this side we do appreciate the willingness to be constructive with looking at amendments from both the other place and also the government in this place.

Motion carried.

Amendment No. 4:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 4 be disagreed to and that the alternative amendment, as circulated, be made in lieu thereof:

Amendment No 4—

That the House of Assembly disagrees with the amendment made by the Legislative Council and makes the following amendment in lieu thereof

Clause 38, page 28, after line 29—Insert:

- (9a) If an owner of land suffers loss or damage as a result of a person entering or temporarily occupying land under this section, the Minister must pay the reasonable costs incurred by the owner for either or both of the following:
 - (a) the owner obtaining an assessment by a qualified valuer of the loss or damage suffered;
 - (b) the owner obtaining legal advice for the purposes of making a claim under this section for compensation.
- (9b) In subsection (9a)—
qualified valuer means—
 - (a) a qualified valuer under the *Land Valuers Act 1994*; or
 - (b) a valuer with qualifications or experience of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

I will just make some brief remarks. I think the member for Flinders alluded to the point of the amendment, and the government acknowledges the sentiment that motivated the original amendment that was passed by the other place. However, as the member for Flinders has just said, reversing the onus of proof in relation to a situation where the Coordinator-General or their delegate enters onto a private property to undertake one of their statutory functions when it comes to damage and so on is not something the government is prepared to accept.

What we are proposing to do, with an alternative amendment that I am asking the house to consider now, is to recognise the concerns of property owners as they have been articulated by the member for Flinders and the Hon. Michelle Lensink in the other place, and try to arrive at a regime

where we can provide a bit more comfort both to those members and the parliamentary Liberal Party but also to the people they represent given, as the member for Flinders said, the concerns that were raised separately in the amendments we have seen previously in the Mining Act. That is as far as I can go without breaching standing orders referring to a debate on another matter.

What we are really proposing to do here is replicate part of the arrangements we have in the Land Acquisition Act where, in that separate circumstance, the government takes on a responsibility to provide the landowner with some financial resources to enable the landowner to best engage with government in respect to that particular scenario; if we can pick that up out of the Land Acquisition Act and try to replicate a similar regime here. That is, sensibly, where we would provide some financial support to landowners to have a qualified valuer undertake an independent assessment of any damage caused to the property by the Coordinator-General or their delegate in performing that function, and also to obtain some legal advice about how to progress that claim against the Coordinator-General or the state more generally.

I think that is a pretty reasonable way forward, that the state will become responsible for those costs that a landowner might bear if they need to make a claim against the state for any damage that occurs to their property as a result of the Coordinator-General accessing their property. I encourage the house to consider that amendment. Hopefully, it seems a suitable compromise between the original amendment as put by the Hon. Michelle Lensink and the original bill.

Mr TELFER: To continue on with my broad comments about the amendments as a whole, once again I thank the Treasurer for being constructive with this process. The specific amendment that was put by the opposition in the other place was really about making sure that there was not a disadvantage to a landowner. When these things happen there is often not thought given to perhaps take photographs of the areas that are going to be impacted; retrospectively that might be considered, not proactively. That is why the amendment that we put, which the government does not agree to, put the burden of proof, the onus of obligation, onto the body that was coming onto the piece of land, as opposed to the owner of the land. As I said, I understand the reasons that the government does not agree to that.

The wording that has been inserted into this amendment as a replacement for that states that, if there is loss or damage as a result of a person entering or temporarily occupying land under this section, under the CGO act the minister must pay the reasonable cost incurred by the owner for either or both of the following: the owner obtaining an assessment by a qualified valuer of the loss or damage suffered—so that is retrospectively looking back and trying to make an assessment of that loss or damage—or the owner obtaining legal advice for the purposes of making a claim under this section for compensation.

As I have said, there have been cases of mining companies, but also cases of some of the energy expansion that has happened. Often, when there is someone coming into a regional community in particular, they do not have the same awareness of seasonal conditions. There is damage that is done to land, whether that is damage done to crops or whether that is damage done to topsoil because there have been people going through an area that they should not have been, and it was too wet and there are bog marks. That sort of retrospective work is then needed to be done, which could have been proactively avoided.

What we were trying to do is make sure that there are proper protections in place for landowners with no involvement in this and who are maybe inadvertently impacted by the actions of the CGO. This is a middle ground. Like I said, I appreciate that the Treasurer, who has the numbers in this place, did not need to put this in place. I think it is recognising that the goal of this is to make sure that landowners are not disadvantaged, and I think that is what this compromise still manages to put in place: a mechanism for landowners to have those supports, both from a valuer or from the legal advice that may be necessary in such a case.

Motion carried.

Amendment No. 5:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I move:

That amendment No. 5 of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

Motion carried.

SUPPLY BILL 2025

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 13 May 2025.)

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (16:33): The residents of Upper Sturt have had a few restless nights as they have listened to the sweet sounds of their main road being resurfaced. One local texted me, claiming, 'Sorry, it's late. What an awesome sound: trucks and bitumen.' When I agreed that it was an excellent outcome but apologised for the noise, she responded with, 'What noise? Who cares? Thank you for your hard work on this.'

From Fairway Drive to Footts Hill Road there has been a full resurface, including fixing the camber on one of the main bends, which has been a huge problem for the community. As a member of the local CFS I know this only too well, because we have had to attend many car accidents there. So I was really pleased to point that out to the department staff when they came out, and I am pleased that it is being fixed.

There is also significant patching between Footts Hill Road up to the CFS station, and also along Upper Sturt Road down to Belair Railway Station as well. I know from many in the community who travel that road that they are very pleased with how it is going, including removing a very dangerous bump over a tree root, which has caused all sorts of problems for our cyclists. I am very pleased to be able to see that this road is finally getting the work done that it needs. It was a crumbling state of affairs and it is being rectified. Having advocated for this very strongly, I am very happy to put up with the interrupted sleep. This morning my son called me and asked me to pass on his approval for the work done as well, so thank you to all involved.

These are not the only residents and motorists enjoying new surfaces, or the prospects of them: Old Belair Road and James Road have had significant patching making the drive a much smoother ride. Main Road Coromandel Valley was also resurfaced and Shepherds Hill Road has had resurfacing as well.

Recently we got on with fixing Belair Road and its stability. The previous government managed it with some patching, but over the last few months we have carried out significant retaining works, including being able to use gabion walls, which are very sympathetic to the area and to the view from the flat, with beautiful rocks in there. It is holding the road up and it is now in a much better position to last. Now that this retaining work has been done, over the next few weeks Belair Road, from Windy Point down to the bottom, is also receiving significant surface restoration. I drove on it last night and I can tell you it has made a huge difference.

There are also upcoming bridge works on the Sturt Bridge in Bellevue Heights and the state roads around us are looking and feeling good. These are all excellent investments and we all need to continue to work to make sure our roads are safe. This week there are also site investigations occurring at the Grange Road railway crossing to inform the department for the best steps forward to make this rail crossing safe. It is part of a larger project to make our rail crossings as safe as they can be and to keep our communities and all those who travel—whether by train, pedestrians, cyclists or motorists—as safe as possible.

Speaking of train stations, the Belair Railway Station heritage shelter was finally restored last year and I was really pleased to be able to advocate to get this work done. It is something that the Friends of Belair have wanted for a really long time. It is an incredibly beautiful shelter and with the work done, through the department and Keolis Downer, we were able to completely restore the shelter.

We had a fantastic celebration there, inviting the whole community to come along, including a beautiful cake made by the excellent Banana Boogie Bakery. It was fantastic to see the smiles on the faces of the volunteers. They really felt that all the work they do in that station was brought together by the unveiling of this station. Last week we were finally able to unveil the plaque as well. I want to thank all the Friends of Belair Station and all the stations that we have along the way, who

take such good care of the gardens and the stations. We really benefit from the work that they do, so I thank them. There are a lot of road improvements and rail improvements, and I am glad to see them finally occurring.

Last year, also within the budget, I was very pleased to share the news that Bellevue Heights Primary School were receiving funding to construct new classrooms. After years of not even being able to use their classroom block due to asbestos, they are very excited about what this means for their school. Like many of the schools in my area, they are relying on transportable buildings, and having a new building with new facilities will allow them to continue to deliver the excellent and inclusive program that they do.

Our community of Waite is actually very well positioned when it comes to health care and when they need it, they get it. Having given birth to my child at Flinders Medical Centre, supported him through a tonsillectomy and more recently an emergency visit when he broke his foot, Flinders is never far away for us. With family who have worked and continue to work there, I am often furnished with ideas of how things can be improved and I am very much looking forward to seeing some of the incredible infrastructure improvements there.

With the expansion of the Margaret Tobin Centre supporting our community members who struggle with their mental health, it is fantastic to know that we continue to be able to build on what we have there. The plans for the rooms are really thoughtful with a relaxed environment and modern facilities, which will definitely assist those who are seeking help. We are increasing the number of beds at the Margaret Tobin Centre from 38 to 48, which includes a new 12-bed psychiatric intensive care unit, and this expansion will make a big difference to those who need to access care within our community.

In a much bigger asset renewal, the state and federal governments together are investing in the new wing of the Flinders Medical Centre, which will be a real game changer for health access in our community. Partnering with the Albanese Labor government, we are delivering a major \$498 million expansion of the Flinders Medical Centre, which will establish 160 more hospital beds across the centre, including the Repat. This suite of works has already delivered 32 beds, specifically for older persons at the Repat, as well as 46 more beds at Flinders.

Nearby, our community members are also benefiting from the increased number of ambulances and paramedics that are available with the opening of the Edwardstown Ambulance Station. Along with the Mitcham and Sturt stations, members of our community have the help nearby when they need it. If they do not need to go to hospital but they do need medication in the middle of the night, it was fantastic to see our Clovelly Park 24/7 pharmacy open. That is not very far away from us. You never know when sickness will strike. It is usually in the middle of night if you are the parent of a young toddler, and I am really grateful that this pharmacy is not too far from us so as to be able to go down and get the medication that is needed.

Speaking of pharmacies, I was really proud to be part of the select committee looking into the UTI medication prescription and working to have it able to be provided at a pharmacy level. With the member for Badcoe as our Chair, we have recommendations to have not only the medication available without having to go to a GP but also the education that comes with it, letting more of our community know that if they have a problem they will not have to wait to see their GP, when getting onto the appropriate medication is imperative to limit the impact of the illness. I appreciate the work that the health minister did with the member for Badcoe to be able to make this happen.

From one select committee to another that I have been involved with—and this is the one that I chaired, the inquiry into endometriosis. It was an incredible journey, as a sufferer, to hear from other women and those who are gender-diverse as to their experiences. Impacting one in seven women it has been long overdue that this is in the spotlight, and I was very pleased that our government accepted all the recommendations of our committee in principle, and I am very much appreciative of the support that I have from the Minister for Health and I look forward to seeing the outcomes of our recommendations.

My Friends of Parks and Nature groups have been very busy within our community. The work they do and the hours they give adds up to so much, and we are incredibly fortunate that we have so many dedicated volunteers. Our government continues to support all of our friends groups

bringing through the 2024-25 grants program, and I was really pleased to see many of the groups in my area being successful with their applications.

The Friends of the Shepherds Hill Recreation Park received just short of \$15,000, the Friends of Blackwood Forest received \$15,000 to help them refurbish the Minnow Creek and East West Creek, and the Friends of Belair National Park were successful with their application also for \$15,000 to help control boneseed, the infestation of which I remember has been a problem for a really long time. As an attendee of the Belair Primary School we used to walk down to the national park to pull out the boneseed weeds. That was quite a long time ago and I am glad that we are able to support our volunteers to continue the work to eradicate that pest. It is a challenging job and they really need to anchor down because being able to pull those weeds out is a lot of hard work.

The Friends of Belair National Park were also successful with a further \$5,000 to help them with small bulb weed control. These groups deserve all the help they can get, and we are eternally grateful for the work they do. I am also pleased to note that many of the wonderful sports clubs in my area have been successful with Active Club grants and I look forward to catching up with them to celebrate in the next few weeks.

In our 2024-25 budget we allocated the money needed to do a proper audit of CFS stations to ensure the greater picture of what the needs are across the state. There are well-known stories of stations that are in desperate need of upgrades, and having a road map of priorities is important to ensure that no station is left behind. Our volunteers give so much and deserve to have the best equipment, trucks and PPC to keep them safe, and I continue to advocate to whoever will listen about how we can better support our firefighters.

In June last year our Eden Hills brigade welcomed the new 34P urban pumper and before too long the Sturt group will receive their two new quick response vehicles. These vehicles are incredibly important, and I want to thank our newly elected member for Boothby, Louise Miller-Frost, for committing to these. We were lucky to check them out a few weeks ago, and I know that the brigades are very keen to have them delivered.

As a TAFE alumni, and the mother of another TAFE alumni, I am very pleased that as a government not only do we value our TAFEs and all that they deliver but we are investing in them to ensure that if you want to pursue a career in building, cooking, in all of the different industries, then there is a course for you and, in some cases, it is free.

Having a son in the construction industry, who will be completing his apprenticeship this year, it is important that we recognise that it is a tough role. It is also dominated by young men who, we know, are not very good at looking after themselves. I am very pleased that earlier this month the Premier announced that the South Australian government will provide \$384,000 in funding to MATES in Construction South Australia to support the expansion of their mental health and suicide prevention program for South Australian construction workers.

This is such an important program, and the 'Blueprint for better mental health and suicide prevention'—that is its name—will be expanded across South Australia's construction and allied industries as well as businesses located in areas with a higher prevalence of suicide. This is really important and I am really pleased that we have been able to support this initiative.

We are delivering for the people of South Australia, and I continue to work hard for my own community and advocate for the things that we need, the improvements we need now and into the future. I look forward to the budget announcements as we continue to support the people of the state to live their best lives and to live in the best state, South Australia.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) (16:45): I am really pleased to speak in support of this Supply Bill, a bill that will enable our government to build upon the investments made over the past three years across all parts of government, investments which will enable us to continue to respond to the needs of South Australians and to advance our state.

Every single day I am deeply honoured to be Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, and the member for Reynell. I often feel heartbroken as I see some of the really difficult and complex issues that children, young

people and families can face. That heartbreak makes me even more determined to use every minute to make bold, lasting change that genuinely improves people's lives and the fabric of our community.

The task ahead to progress this most important and utterly urgent change for children and young people is huge, but what I know and feel deep in my heart and mind is that the only way we progress meaningful change is together across government, across sectors and with our community.

Our investments as a government have already made a difference, and this Supply Bill ensures we can continue to advance our ambitions for our state and with and for its people. Our government wants to help ensure equality of opportunity, fairness and inclusion for all, and we want our economy, environment and community to thrive. Our government is committed to drive reform that helps to create a state where all people can equally and actively participate in our economy and in every aspect of community life.

Part of that ambition is to support and empower children and families facing complex challenges, and we are doing so. We are working to drive transformative reform designed to improve outcomes for children and young people engaged with the child protection and family support system whilst also empowering birth and carer families and the workforce.

All of these changes and this work towards improved outcomes are as a direct result of the additional and targeted funds our government has invested in the system. Through the Mid-Year Budget Review an additional \$129.1 million was provided to the Department for Child Protection, bringing the total new investment to \$580 million since coming to government.

I am really proud of the investments our government is making in this space. They are utterly focused on the children, young people and families who most need us having the best possible system and supports in place. Our investment and our significant reform is indicative of our steadfast commitment to building the capacity of the system and ensuring resources are available to implement far-reaching change in ways that help improve children's lives.

Each time we talk about our investment the opposition have contradicted themselves, on the one hand calling for increases to the child protection and family support budget and then categorising our investment as a budget blowout. I note that in his words on the Supply Bill in this place the member for Heyden made utterly baseless accusations, utterly baseless. In those words in this place the member for Heyden made no policy announcements; gave no clarity about what they would cut from the budget, given they do not like money being spent in this space; and refused to acknowledge the really important steps forward we are taking, steps forward that are backed up by evidence, steps forward that the community and sector are glad are being made.

While those opposite try to work out their messaging, what they stand for and what they intend to cut, we are getting on with the job of listening to children and young people, birth and carer families, workers and the sector, driving change and putting meaningful measures and investments in place that are achieving outcomes.

Through our government efforts, we have seen a reduction in the rate of children coming into care from 7.9 per cent in 2018-19 to 2.5 per cent in 2022-23 and 0.64 per cent in 2023-24. The early growth figures for this financial year as at 31 March are now minus 0.3 per cent. As I have spoken about in this place many times, this reduction speaks to the robust policies, practices and investment of our government, which is utterly dedicated to improving the child protection and family support system to help ensure children and young people can grow up feeling and being safe and supported in a loving environment.

We know we have more to do, but we are so proud of the progress that we are beginning to make. Some of the specific programs we have made investments in that are beginning to make a difference include:

- family group conferencing, which is proven to be a very effective program in supporting children and families to safely stay together. Additional funding of \$13.4 million was provided as part of the 2023-24 budget process to expand the program, and 2023-24 saw success rates of 91.5 per cent and 90.4 per cent achieved for the hundreds of children who remained in the care of their families after the family group conference;

- \$3 million in new funding to extend the Next Steps program for another three years as part of the 2024-25 MYBR to support young people with really complex needs to age 21 who are transitioning from residential care;
- continued support of the Child and Young Person's Visitor program originally funded as part of the 2022-23 budget for \$1.87 million over four years, providing an additional safeguard for children and young people in residential care. On top of this, an additional \$4.8 million has been invested into the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People;
- ongoing support of \$723,000 per annum for the independent Aboriginal community controlled peak body Wakwakurna Kanyini for Aboriginal children and young people, a body the Aboriginal community has called for for decades that we proudly have finally funded;
- \$997,000 per annum indexed from 2024-25 to fund an additional seven full-time equivalent staff to undertake additional kinship care assessments. This is helping to ensure kinship placements are explored for children and young people to support them in keeping strong connections with family, community and culture; and
- to support carers, we introduced a new flexible respite payment to carers of \$200 each quarter from the start of last year. We also increased carer payments by 2.5 per cent in the 2024-25 budget, which is in addition to the increase provided in the previous budget of 4.8 per cent, as well as an additional \$50 per payment to eligible carers for children under 16 years.

We are proudly seeing an increase in our carer numbers, with both the count of primary foster carers and the count of kinship carers increasing year on year. Increases to carer numbers is partly attributed to a recruitment campaign, Foster the Feeling, which saw a 200 per cent increase in inquiries from prospective carers.

There is a clear, relentless focus from our government to begin to increase our numbers of carers and ensure they are better supported. We are also focused on reunifications where possible and safe, seeing over 230 completed in a 12-month period. This is in comparison to the opposition who in their time in government increased the number of children in care by over 1,000.

The MYBR provided ongoing funding of \$2.1 million over four years to expand the therapeutic carer support team by a further 4.4 FTE to provide additional support to carers. This team provides evidence-based therapeutic supports to children and young people under guardianship who reside in family-based care. Alongside this investment, we are making changes to policy and practice to continue to drive transformation across the system.

A critical focus of our generational reform is ensuring that children and young people are meaningfully involved in decisions about their care by privileging children's voices and consulting them on all that impacts their lives in a way appropriate to their age and understanding. This shift toward a more inclusive approach with children at its centre reflects the government's commitment to empowering children and young people to play an active role in decisions about their lives, fostering their agency and dignity.

To progress this further, we have various mechanisms to better do this in our bill before the other place. I have also recently instituted a youth advisory council made up of extraordinary young people in care who provide me with direct, excellent advice about changes to our system that could make a difference in their lives.

Our government is committed to improving the system's cultural responsiveness for Aboriginal children and families. Through collaboration with relevant peak bodies, the government is getting on with the work needed to fully implement in policy and practice the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. We want this work to help ensure that active efforts are made to place Aboriginal children in culturally appropriate care where it is needed away from family or birth family.

Another key reform focuses on including carers in decision-making, including work towards ensuring carers have the opportunity to attend annual reviews of children in their care, with case

plans to be reviewed during these sessions. This will help ensure carers are active participants in the care planning process and help to improve the stability and wellbeing of children in care. This work sits alongside the crucial work of our Carer Council, which is providing advice on a range of matters important to carers. Their advice is invaluable.

It is really clear that our government is focused and so determined to support children and young people to reach their full potential, to help ensure their voices are amplified and to help support and strengthen families. We are beginning to make progress in this difficult, complex area as families continue to confront sometimes generational, interconnected and challenging issues. We will not resile from the task ahead. We will stay the course.

Whilst we have made significant strides toward advancing gender equality and tackling the horrific scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence, there is still so much more to be done. I was proud to stand on the steps of parliament just this last weekend, surrounded by hundreds of people calling for the end to violence against women and children, amongst them families, friends and supporters of women—women who walked and worked and contributed amongst us, women who were loved, women who were brutally killed. I hold them in my heart each and every day and to all who grieve, to all who are experiencing violence and to survivors of violence, we see you and know that as a community we must do better.

To touch on just a few of the recent initiatives and investments we have driven in this space, we are proud to have provided \$1.5 million for a central response unit to the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and \$3.3 million to continue a range of domestic violence pilot programs, including holistic support to Aboriginal families, earlier and trauma-informed assistance for survivors, wellbeing and recovery services for survivors, and preventative education and behaviour change programs for perpetrators.

In response to increased demand, the 2025 Mid-Year Budget Review approved almost \$1 million in additional funding per year for the Domestic Violence Crisis Line and the personal protection app. This increase in funding will assist the Domestic Violence Crisis Line's capacity to respond to calls and will enable support through the personal protection app for an additional 120 individuals.

We have funded and opened the northern and southern prevention and recovery hubs over the past couple of years, and we have passed a suite of legislative measures, including legislation to electronically monitor perpetrators on bail who violently breach DV-related intervention orders. Legislation has passed to provide paid domestic violence leave in the South Australian Fair Work Act and to include the experience of domestic violence as a ground for discrimination in the Equal Opportunity Act.

Legislation has passed to strengthen the laws related to strangulation in a domestic setting and we have introduced legislation to criminalise coercive control, alongside our highly successful See the Signs public awareness campaign on coercive control. This is, of course, in addition to our partnership with the commonwealth on the national plan, which includes investments such as \$12.2 million to recruit 38.6 full-time equivalent new frontline community workers in the domestic, family and sexual violence sector; \$3.4 million to trial new projects to support perpetrator responses; and the negotiation of a renewed five-year National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses that will commence on 1 July 2025. The agreement will comprise over \$700 million in new matched investments from the commonwealth and all states and territories.

We have done much, but again there is more to do. We know that the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence will absolutely give us the full evidence base to drive profound generational change that enables us to institute a strong, coordinated response to domestic, family and sexual violence and has the potential to transform the efforts in our community by addressing the root causes of this violence.

I look forward to the budget ahead and I also take a moment to celebrate the many advancements that have been made in our beautiful southern community in and around the electorate of Reynell. I am so proud that since our last budget, since our last debate on a supply bill in this place, the revitalisation of Knox Park for our community is now open, which also provides a home, finally, to the incredible people of the Southern Athletic Club.

I am absolutely thrilled, as are so many in our community who have campaigned for so long alongside the member for Kaurana and the federal member for Kingston, that the Witton Bluff Base Trail is now partly open, and the last part of it will be open in a few months. It is impossible to speak about the Witton Bluff Base Trail without mentioning former Councillor Bill Jamieson, an absolute legend of the South, who has campaigned for decades for this incredible trail that finally connects our beautiful Christies and Port Noarlunga beaches.

We have opened, through investment, the upgraded bowling club green at the Morphett Vale bowling club. As I mentioned, the Southern Domestic Violence Prevention and Recovery Hub is now open. There are vast improvements at The Wineflies and at the Emus sporting complexes, including new cricket nets for the Reynella Cricket Club. Of course, there is the incredible upgrade to the O'Sullivan Beach boat ramp which has been opened. It is very well frequented by local people in our community.

In closing, I mention a particular group of mates in the community who frequent the O'Sullivan Beach boat ramp every single day to go fishing and have continued to engage with me in really important conversations about how we can make this beautiful place even better.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (17:05): I welcome the opportunity to speak on the Supply Bill 2025 which, when approved by the parliament, will supply the government with sufficient funds to carry on the business of government in the lead-up to the budget being passed. In doing so, I want to shine a light on some of the achievements and plans we have for South Australia, including those specifically for the electorate of Torrens.

As a parent, former teacher and a member of parliament, for me the education of our children and young people is a high priority, and I am so very pleased it is a priority of the Malinauskas government. We understand the transformative power of education, and we strongly believe that all children and young people should have a quality education, regardless of their age, postcode or the challenges of learning they are dealt. To that end, we are making considerable progress on delivering to our state on education.

I know I have said it in this place before, but it is my view that education is a window to the world and that through education comes knowledge and opportunity, that it is only right that all people should have the opportunity to access good quality education at all levels: as children, as youth and as adults—an education that will enable them to develop and to fully realise their potential throughout their lifetime. This is delivered through quality school leadership, teachers and support staff, along with the necessary infrastructure to support their learning.

I want to commend the Premier, the Minister for Education and the Hon. Emily Bourke for their foresight in addressing some of the issues in our education system that have been overlooked, sidestepped or swept under the carpet, in some cases for generations, while acknowledging also that while we have come a long way there is still more that can be done.

We are committed to doing all we can to ensure that our students at all levels get the best education foundation possible. Our commitment is not just for today or tomorrow, but for ongoing access to quality early childhood education, through to primary and secondary years, vocational training and university. We value our teachers, we value our educators and support staff, and we value their incredibly important role in assisting in delivering our next generation of South Australians.

The Malinauskas government has South Australia leading in making our schools more inclusive and accessible through the introduction of autism inclusion teachers in every public primary school, including R-12 schools. This important role is seeing autism inclusion teachers build their own knowledge and expertise to influence the practice of other staff at the school. It includes advice on setting up calm spaces, emotional regulation techniques and other learning expertise to support a best school learning environment for neurodiverse students.

In the lead-up to the introduction of these specialist roles, there was considerable consultation with the autistic community, those with lived experience, parents and carers, educators, school students, families, experts and community organisations on the autism inclusion teacher role, to ensure that it fits the need of the community. We know that there is a huge benefit for students,

families, the community and for South Australia, more broadly, by improving the support we put around autistic students, and we can see that in many of our public venues today.

Further education initiatives actioned by our government include the numeracy guarantee. This focuses on upskilling teachers and providing resources for parents, an improvement reform that makes up part of the recently signed Gonski agreement. This numeracy guarantee includes:

- upskilling for all primary school maths curriculum leaders to drive whole school maths improvement;
- a new academy to support all early career teachers in teaching maths more effectively;
- more professional learning for teachers in maths, starting at preschool and going across all year levels;
- free online numeracy resources for all parents to use with their children;
- an improved South Australian mathematics curriculum so students gain the mathematical knowledge and can find real joy in maths; and
- the rollout of the numeracy check for all year 1s at public schools.

The additional funding is also tied to:

- supporting students through anti-bullying and violence prevention initiatives—this is extremely important;
- supporting a strong and sustainable workforce through attraction and retention initiatives, training and mentorship opportunities;
- increasing attendance rates; and
- supporting transitions from school to the workforce.

It does not end there. The government's commitment of \$3.5 million a year over four years has been made to establish new special options, with specialist classes and disability units at schools to better meet student demand. This will go some way to ensuring students have access to suitable supports, resources and infrastructure to support their education.

That brings me now to my electorate of Torrens. This week I visited two of my schools to see the progress on the delivery of our election commitment to them. The first school, Hillcrest Primary, is receiving a much-needed school hall. The school proudly claims a diverse growing school community, with students arriving from across the world and families moving into the area so that their children can attend the school. It has an outstanding reputation, and is a school of choice.

Hillcrest Primary School currently has limited access to the North East Community House building next door for assemblies and school graduations and occasionally, when it is available, for indoor sports and drama lessons. However, the restricted access to the sessions means that the students miss out.

The building of a new school hall is a win-win situation for Hillcrest Primary School and for the North East Community House as it will free up available time for the North East Community House to include additional community programs. I know how excited the school community is about the opening in the not too distant future. I was speaking to parents after Monday night's governing council meeting about their ideas and plans of the school hall, which seem endless.

The state-of-the-art facility is designed to accommodate over 400 students, providing them with a dedicated space for physical education and a variety of sports activities. It features four toilets, including an accessible bathroom with a shower, ensuring accessibility and convenience for all students. Additionally, a storeroom will be available to house a wide range of sporting equipment, supporting diversity of physical education programs.

The new hall will include a kitchen, allowing for the preparation of refreshments during events and enhancing the overall functionality of the space. Beyond regular physical education lessons, this gym will host specialist programs for students in basketball, netball and volleyball. With these

comprehensive facilities Hillcrest Primary School aims to provide an enriching environment that promotes physical fitness and a love for sports among students.

In addition to sports, the hall will be utilised for whole school events and will also enable the inviting of the wider school community to be part of these occasions, including for assemblies, end of year concerts, science showcase events, art exhibitions and award ceremonies. Exciting to members of the community is the fact that the school will be available for broader community use.

I was speaking with the director of North East Community House, Farah, only last week about how excited they are about having more available time for their community group programs, with the freeing-up of access time at their facilities. They are in the process of finalising plans that will benefit some of the most vulnerable in our community through the introduction of some new and exciting programs.

The second school I visited this week is Avenues College. I did a walk-through of the \$4 million upgrade with school principal Hamish McDonald and the year 12 college captains, Devina and Muskan. Avenues College is the amalgamation of two schools—Windsor Gardens Secondary College (formerly known as Gilles Plains High School) and Windsor Gardens Vocational College—with Gilles Plains Primary School. They are all together now on the McKay Avenue site.

Avenues College is a birth-to-year 12 school that incorporates early years, preschool, primary school and secondary school in addition to being a centre for deaf education. First Nations students boarding at Wiltja in nearby Lightsview also participate in the education programs offered at Avenues College.

The upgrade to the secondary campus represents a significant investment in modernising the learning environment of Avenues College to meet the needs of 21st century education. The redevelopment includes the transformation of traditional classrooms into six contemporary learning communities that are grouped in pairs and connected by flexible breakout spaces that support collaboration, creativity and differentiated learning. These areas are designed to foster student agency and engagement through open, adaptable environments that reflect current best practice in secondary education. In addition to the learning communities, the upgrade includes:

- a dedicated technology suite to support digital and design learning;
- a purpose-built year 12 study and learning common room that provides senior-year students with a focused, flexible space to support independent learning and preparation for post-school pathways;
- enhanced staff work areas to better support collaboration and professional practice; and
- external upgrades to air conditioning systems, filtration and windows, ensuring comfort, efficiency and improved air quality across the facility.

It was wonderful to do the walk-through on Monday with the year 12 school captains, Devina and Muskan, who told me how excited they were to be the first year 12s in the school's history to have access to a dedicated year 12 area.

The third school that benefited from investment by the Malinauskas government was Wandana Primary School, which received a \$500,000 upgrade to existing infrastructure. I recently visited the school and did a walk-through with the principal, Robyn, and some students. I cannot begin to tell you what a difference this upgrade has made, not only a difference to the presentation of the school but to the learning environment and the play opportunities for the students. The principal and the staff, along with the students, are thrilled with the improvements, which have resulted in the provision of much-improved socialisation opportunities.

While I am speaking about education in schools and with National Volunteer Week just around the corner, I want to make mention of all those in our school communities who give so freely of their time in volunteering in our schools: in classrooms, in libraries, on working bees, on school excursions, supporting sports teams and in fundraising committees—and the list goes on. This includes parents who serve on our state school governing councils at Hillcrest Primary School, Klemzig Primary School, Hampstead Primary School, Vale Park Primary School, Wandana Primary School and Avenues College.

There are also those who serve on the governing boards and committees of our Catholic and independent schools, including Kildare College, St Paul's College, St Pius X School, St Martin's Catholic Primary School, Pinnacle College and Heritage College.

Then of course there are the parents who volunteer on the boards and committees of our childcare centres and our kindies and preschools, including Gilles Plains children's centre, Klemzig Kindergarten, Hampstead Preschool, Vale Park Preschool and Holden Hill Kindergarten.

I want to also acknowledge and thank the many dedicated parents, grandparents and other members of the community who coach, umpire, manage, administrate and serve on the committees of all our local sporting teams.

I extend a huge thanks to all other organisations in Torrens that rely on the dedication of volunteers to deliver our community services, along with the work of our multicultural communities, in particular, members of our Indian, Nepalese and Chinese communities in Torrens who work to continue to be a significant voice for the more vulnerable in our shared community. I will speak further on our volunteers at another opportunity.

The need for swimming pools, for water-safety education, learn-to-swim programs, exercise and recreation is something I have spoken about and advocated for in this place on many occasions. It is fantastic to see the progress on the new Aquatic Centre, a commitment from the Malinauskas Labor government. The Aquatic Centre will serve our state for generations.

Locally, the opening of the Oaks Swim Centre, on the See Differently with RSB site in Gilles Plains, has been welcomed by our community. It is amazing what the \$150,000 election commitment has delivered. It stands as an example of what people who care coming together can achieve. And to add to that, a successful grant application has seen the completion of family change facilities, which really improves the experience, particularly for members of our neurodiverse community.

Without doubt, Royal Life Saving SA's water safety and therapy programs will save lives. The drowning statistics are devastating, so too are the near drownings, the non fatal, with often lifelong consequences for the survivor and their family. The inclusive nature of the Oaks Swim Centre, operated by Royal Life Saving South Australia, is absolutely welcomed by our community.

Delivering on health initiatives is a priority for our government. This includes the delivery of 48 new beds at the Lyell McEwin Hospital and plans and progress to build an extra 32 more. I recently had the opportunity to visit, with the minister, the Modbury Hospital to see the progress of the construction of the upgrade, which will see delivery of 44 new mental health beds, a brand-new cancer centre and a five-storey multi-deck car park. Residents in the North-East are absolutely thrilled. Every time I knock on a door, or I am at a shopping centre, that is one of the issues that gets raised. The fact that our government has brought Modbury Hospital back into the 21st century, with the new developments, the mental health facilities, the cancer centre and the car parking facilities that are available.

We have heard from other members, particularly from the south, about the construction on the major redevelopment of Flinders Medical Centre mental health inpatient unit and we know, as we look across the state and we see the new beds being delivered in mental health, in urgent care, in all of these areas, that that will impact significantly on availability around the state and so that is something that really needs to be taken into consideration when we perhaps step outside of our own area, our own patch.

The Margaret Tobin Centre expansion in the south will increase mental health bed numbers from 38 to 48 and will include a brand-new 12-bed psychiatric intensive care unit, up from eight beds. Scheduled for completion by the end of the year, it is part of the \$498 million redevelopment, jointly funded by the Malinauskas and Albanese Labor governments, that will see 160 extra beds delivered across Flinders Medical Centre and the Repat.

This construction milestone comes as the For Work. For Life recruitment campaign is ramped up, specifically targeting mental health professionals from interstate and from overseas and future vacancies across regional and metro SA. In addition to the recruitment campaign, recruitment

strategies in place, or part of future planning, include an increase in training and specific strategies for sub-specialist areas, including child and adolescent psychiatry and also for rural areas.

Since being elected, our government has recruited more than 1,400 additional health workers above attrition, and opened extra mental health beds helping to create more capacity in the system as a whole, reducing bed block. While implementing these measures, and making long-lasting change will take time, the Malinauskas government is working towards establishing a better health system from which both current and future generations can benefit.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication here of the Minister for Health in all of the work that he does. I think that it is probably the most difficult portfolio. In saying that, I commend the bill to the house.

Mr BROWN (Florey) (17:25): It is a pleasure to rise to speak to the Supply Bill 2025. The opportunity to make a contribution on this important bill offers a chance to reflect on the commitments to the South Australian community that the Malinauskas government has fulfilled since being elected, as well as to contemplate what is on the horizon as we continue our work to deliver results for South Australians.

Achieving good outcomes for the deserving communities and the people of our state is the great privilege of being in government. Having the task of determining how public money is spent is both an extraordinary opportunity and a profound responsibility that must never be taken lightly. Whether it is state building expenditure into the billions, or local projects involving more modest sums, every single dollar of government spending brings with it a meaningful opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of South Australians.

This is the power and the privilege of government, one that I have never taken for granted and never will. In recognition of the important responsibility that this government bears to the South Australian people, and that I bear to my constituents, I would like to highlight a few of the commitments the Malinauskas government has delivered within the Florey electorate and across the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Local institutions such as sporting clubs and community organisations play a vital role in keeping residents physically healthy and socially connected, and the quality of the physical and social infrastructure in our communities that underpins our shared experience of daily living matters a great deal. They are elements of human life that are highly influential to both collective and individual wellbeing in any society. It is well understood that appropriate investment in local infrastructure strengthens the fabric of our communities and has the potential to make a significant positive impact on the quality of life for residents. I am proud of what we have achieved so far during this term of government, and I am grateful for the opportunity I have now to share some of them with the house.

The Para Hills Bowling Club is a wonderful and inclusive social and recreational space for residents of all ages and all skill levels. The club openly encourages the local community to come and have a go at one of the varieties of sporting activities regularly on offer. Back in March 2022, I was very pleased to make a commitment to the Para Hills Bowling Club that the Malinauskas Labor government would support them with a grant of up to \$300,000 for the installation of new artificial turf. This was one of the many community projects that I looked forward to helping to deliver with the support of our local community, and I was delighted when this commitment was fulfilled in August 2023.

Even before I was elected as the local member of parliament, the Para Hills Cricket Club welcomed me into their grassroots family. I have been fortunate to enjoy discussions with the club secretary and its head coach about the growth and future of the club, and I am very proud that a Malinauskas Labor government has supported this club with \$80,000 of funding for new training nets that were delivered in August 2024, in collaboration with the City of Salisbury, the South Australian Cricket Association and the federal government. The new nets are getting very good use, and the club has expressed that this important upgrade will have a significant long-term impact on the quality of the experience for the community of people who gather to use and enjoy the club's facilities.

The Ingle Farm Sporting Club is another wonderful local institution in my community. The club provides facilities for various sporting activities within the immediate and adjacent communities,

including but not limited to senior and junior football, senior and junior cricket, softball, golf and netball. It is also a popular social hub and many love to gather over shared passions, especially relating to sport.

Some time ago I caught up with the president of the Ingle Farm District Cricket Club, as well as other members of their executive team, to discuss how I could help to improve local sports participation and strengthen their connection with the local community. I was very pleased to inform them of the Malinauskas government's commitment to help fund new change rooms. This \$650,000 investment is one that will make a great difference to the many clubs, groups and individuals who use the Ingle Farm Sporting Club, an investment that I am proud to say has been matched by the City of Salisbury. Construction is underway, and I have every confidence that the end result will bring welcome benefit for the club, its members and all who use the facilities.

Public safety is very important to me as a representative, and it is a keen area of focus for the Malinauskas government. We recognise the vital part it plays in supporting community wellbeing. It is important for South Australians and for residents within my community not only to be safe but to feel safe. It is my pleasure to work closely with local businesses, community groups and residents to discuss and implement means by which we can prevent crime and enhance public safety in our area.

In response to community concerns about antisocial behaviour and hoon driving, I was very pleased that in June 2023 we delivered on our commitment to provide funding to install CCTV at Henderson Square as well as further along Henderson Avenue in Pooraka. CCTV cameras in public places offer a number of important benefits. They deter antisocial and criminal behaviour by increasing the likelihood of being identified in court, and they can also provide evidence for investigations and allow for quicker emergency responses in the event that an incident has occurred.

The ability to move about the community easily and safely is also of crucial importance to residents' wellbeing. During the 2022 election campaign, the Premier and I committed to a \$2 million footpath upgrade program for our community in Pooraka and Ingle Farm, to be undertaken in cooperation with the City of Salisbury. I am delighted this commitment has now been delivered. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 17:32 the house adjourned until Thursday 15 May 2025 at 11:00.